

2010-11 Budget Guidelines

PURPOSE:

Budget guidelines provide the overarching set of instructions that staff will use in the creation of the fiscal year budget. Guidelines set consistent parameters and goals that drive the formation of the budget.

GENERAL:

1. At a minimum, the primary consideration in developing the budget is the provision of an effective and contemporary educational program, which meets District and State standards and regulations at all grade levels.
2. Budgeted expenditures shall not exceed income plus any carry over from prior years.
3. Budget assumptions shall be developed, reviewed, and updated on an on-going basis.
4. A budget calendar shall be created and used as a planning guide for budget development.
5. Board goals, directions, and priorities will be a driving force in the development of the budget, to the extent allowed within the available funding.
6. When the Board authorizes or approves a new goal, project, or program, it shall specify the allocation or reallocation of resources required to appropriately execute the new initiative.
7. When new projects, plans, or programs are presented to the Board for approval, the estimated fiscal impact of the project and available funding sources shall be included.
 - 7.1 Upon approval, the budget shall be adjusted as deemed appropriate based on the availability of funds and the Board's priorities.
8. The budget shall include a General Fund Reserve for Economic Uncertainty of no less than 2% of the total General Fund appropriations in classes 1000 through 7000.
9. Staffing shall be maintained so as to appropriately carry out Board policies, support future growth, and honor collective bargaining agreements.
10. The Cafeteria Fund, Child Care Fund, and Associated Student Body funds shall be self-supporting and, where allowable, shall include allocations for direct, indirect, and support costs.
11. The district will utilize a Multiple Year Projection tool in order to facilitate the compilation of the current and out year budgets.

12. The budget development process will include user friendly information that provides disclosure of anticipated beginning balances, revenues, expenditures and ending balances for all nine of the District's funds. This information will be provided to highlight the intended uses of these funds during the budget year.
13. Expenditures related to opening, operating or closing schools shall be identified and budgeted within sufficient time to allow for the adequate transitions.

REVENUE:

14. One-time sources of funding shall not be used to facilitate ongoing expenditures
15. Intentionally left blank.
16. Intentionally left blank.

EXPENDITURE:

17. Funds shall be made available in the budget to support current and anticipated collective bargaining commitments in accordance with AB 1285.
18. All employees will be provided competitive salary and benefits packages that reflect a level of incentive sufficient to continue to attract and retain qualified people.
19. Any/all debt service or leasing obligations shall be included in the budget.
20. All categorical programs shall be self-supporting and, where allowable, shall include allocations for indirect and support costs. Special Education, Transportation, and maintenance are not recognized as self-supporting at this time; however, a goal of self-support shall be maintained. Each of these programs shall be monitored to ensure as much of a reduction in the use of General Fund dollars as possible.
21. Supply and equipment formulas in effect for the current year shall be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.
22. Allowance shall be made for increases and/or decreases in the cost of services and supplies; e.g., gasoline, natural gas, electricity, insurance, water, postage, trash collection, telephone services, lease agreements, debt repayment, employee retirement contributions, or benefits mandated by law.
23. Furniture and equipment replacement will be funded to the extent that can be justified in relationship to available resources.

OTHER:

24. The Deferred Maintenance transfer shall be budgeted up to the maximum allowance to take full advantage of the statutory state match when funds allow.

- 24.1 As part of the multi-year Tier III flexibility provisions of SBX3 4, the Deferred Maintenance program has been designated as an unrestricted program. To take advantage of this provision, the transfer from the General Fund to Deferred Maintenance will be suspended during 2010-11.
25. All carryover funds in Federal categorical programs are considered restricted balances and will be continued as deferred income.
26. As part of the adoption and review of the District's fiscal year budget and related financial activity, the District is required to prepare specific reporting documents. These documents, and their associated filing deadlines, are indicated below.

Adopted Budget	(Prior to June 30)
Revised Budget	(Within 45 days of the Governor signing the State Budget)
First Interim Report	(Within 45 days of October 31)
Second Interim Report	(Within 45 days of January 31)
Independent Audit Report	(Prior to December 15 after the close of the fiscal year)