



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is information about the District's budget?

Please refer to the following link for various budget information for the Rocklin Unified School District (RUSD):

www.rocklinusd.org/Departments/Business-Services/Budget-Information.

Below, you will find a guide to the information available at this link.

- Budget Information at a Glance (*published November 2019 and sent to all district families, staff in the November edition of the RUSD Report newsletter.*)
- Multi-Year Budget Information: Deficit Spending (*published December 2019 and sent to all district families, staff in the December edition of the RUSD Report newsletter.*)
- Business documents including the District's independent outside audit report December 2019, 2019-20 RUSD Adopted Budget

2. Is Rocklin Unified District's budget audited?

Yes. Our District is required to have its financial statements audited annually by an independent firm. The Placer County Office of Education also reviews our annual budget as part of its legal responsibility for fiscal oversight of school districts in the county. For the past 8 years, Rocklin Unified has received audit reports without any findings-validating the accuracy of RUSD's financial statements. You can view our most recent RUSD Annual Audit Report here:

www.rocklinusd.org/Departments/Business-Services/Budget-Information

3. Why 3 million dollars in budget cuts: How did we get here?

RUSD needs to make budget reductions due to various factors including:

- Increases in state funding do not cover the district's increasing costs (for example, increasing pension costs, special education costs and other required expenditures).
- Receiving less funding than projected by the state.
- While more students attended our RUSD schools than the previous year, our projected enrollment growth used to develop our multi-year budget, has slowed.

These factors have created a budget deficit that needs to be addressed, which is why we have chosen to engage in these tough budget recommendations now. These cost pressures are not unique to Rocklin. In fact, they have been detailed in publications like West Ed's "Silent Recession: Why California School Districts

Are Underwater Despite Increases in Funding”. You can view the full report here: www.wested.org/resources/silent-recession/.

In Rocklin, we know how important all programs are to our district and to the education of our children and recognize the positive outcomes that such activities have provided for RUSD students. However, in order to continue to meet the District’s legal fiscal obligations, the Board of Trustees must consider these difficult recommendations.

It is also important to note that no final decisions have been made regarding the proposals presented by district staff during the February 11, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. District staff have also made a deliberate effort, to the extent possible, to keep reductions away from the classroom and schools, which is why increasing class size, reductions in mental health support and reductions in safety measures are not being recommended.

4. What is happening now, following the February 11, 2020 Board Meeting, where many students, families, staff and community members expressed their concerns over possible reductions?

By following the link below, you can find the original presentation from the February 11 Board meeting. This includes information on the District’s financial situation, previous budget reductions, and the current budget reduction recommendations.

www.rocklinusd.org/Departments/Business-Services/Budget-Information

Please see Page 13 of the presentation for the list of possible budget reductions. Currently, our staff members and the Board of Trustees are looking at all feedback and encouraging more.

5. Is this the first year of budget reductions?

No, the Board of Trustees made ongoing budget reductions beginning in **2018-2019**. These cuts included ongoing cuts in District Office and administration personnel. There were also reductions made to facility maintenance, transportation, technology services, and professional learning. To view the exact budget reductions approved by the Board of Trustees in 2018-2019, [click HERE](#).

6. Why don’t you make the cuts from the top first?

We did. In fact, the Board of Trustees eliminated six District Office and administration positions in 2019. In addition, the current budget recommendations call for the elimination of six additional District Office and administration positions in 2020-2021, for a total of 12 eliminations.

These 12 District Office and administrative position eliminations are a significant portion of the cuts to be made district-wide (12 out of 27 positions). This is 45% of the positions that have been or are being recommended for elimination.

Administrators, including principals, and District Office staff make up only 9% of the RUSD workforce.

7. Is VAPA (Visual Arts/ Performing Arts) being cut?

The only recommendation is 5th and 6th grade instrumental music. All other elementary Visual and Performing Arts, as well as middle and high school VAPA programs, are not being considered for reductions. Items 18 and 23 on the recommendation list state the following:

Item 18-- Eliminate 2.0 FTE Elementary Music Program (staff)

Item 23-- Eliminate district Music and VAPA program equipment replacement (This totals \$30,000 for music equipment and \$15,000 for other VAPA program supplies excluding music.)

8. Is Special Education being cut?

No, RUSD Special Education programs or positions will not be eliminated by these budget recommendations. Item 20 on the recommendation list states the following:

Item 20--Reduce special education (SPED) staff discretionary supply budgets by 10% (in addition to 10% already reduced)

These are extra discretionary dollars for Special Education certificated staff (i.e. teachers, psychologists, speech language therapists) that amounts to approximately \$430 each for materials and supplies.

9. When is the RUSD Board of Trustees meeting again to make decisions about budget reductions?

The next RUSD Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Typically, Board Meetings are held in the Board Room at the district office, but due to the attention received by this agenda item, we plan to move the meeting to the Granite Oaks Middle School Gymnasium.

10. How can I share my feedback with the school district and the Board of Trustees?

We encourage and value your feedback. Please share your feedback with the RUSD Board of Trustees by clicking on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/G1yc6WGKqgso7MZo7>.

11. What happens after the March 4, 2020 Board Meeting?

Once our Board of Trustees reviews and considers all feedback they receive, a vote will take place at the March 4, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. The Board

of Trustees will take action on the recommended budget reductions needed to keep the district fiscally sound.

Important: Some of these actions might need to be changed if the Governor's revised budget in May and state adopted budget result in a change of funding for Rocklin Unified.

12. What is Fund Balance and Reserve? Why does the District hold money here?

Fund Balance represents the starting and ending points of each year's financial activity. It also represents a crucial parameter for financial planning and budgeting, indicating fiscal solvency of the District. California state law requires that every school district of our size hold at least 3% of its overall general fund expenditures in an unrestricted reserve. RUSD must submit a three year budget each year to the Placer County Office of Education. Currently, if the District does not make cuts, the overall reserve will dip below the required 3% in the third budget year (2022-23). This will result in the Placer County Office of Education not approving RUSD's budget.

13. What was the process used to develop budget reduction recommendations?

Below, please see a general timeline of the budget development cycle:

Date	Action
January 10, 2020	The Governor's budget proposal was released. Generally, this is the beginning of the budget development cycle for RUSD and other California school districts.
January 2020	Once the Governor's budget proposal was released, district office staff reviewed the proposal and potential impacts for RUSD.
January 22, 2020	The Board of Trustees discussed the impact of the Governor's budget proposal and its impact on RUSD in a public study session. It was shared that because of the district's structural deficit and continued lack of adequate funding from the state that budget reductions would be required for the district to meet its financial obligations.

February 2020	<p>The Superintendent's Cabinet and District Leadership Team-- including principals-- reviewed budget reduction recommendations for the Board of Trustees and the public to provide feedback on. These recommendations were developed by looking at the impact of the proposed reductions while also looking closely at data surrounding all the potential reductions.</p>
February 11, 2020	<p>Recommendations were shared with the Board of Trustees and public for discussion and input. At this meeting, significant input was received by students, parents, staff and community members and continues to be received.</p> <p><i>*An online portal is included in this communication to gather further input from all RUSD stakeholders.</i></p>
March 4, 2020	<p>The Board of Trustees will consider taking action on the budget reduction recommendations and any possible revisions to the original recommendations.</p> <p>If potential layoffs are part of the budget recommendations, the district is required by California Education Code to issue preliminary layoff notices to certificated employees (teachers, administrators, etc.) who may be laid off by March 4, 2020. These are not final notices. Final notices must be issued by May 15.</p> <p>Preliminary layoff notices may be rescinded by the Board of Trustees as the final budget is developed and other factors such as retirements and resignations impact the need for layoffs. Classified employees (custodians, aides, computer technicians, etc.) require 60 days notice prior to their position being eliminated.</p>
May 2020	<p>The Governor presents a revised budget proposal. District staff will review this for impacts and work to incorporate changes into the budget development process.</p>
June 10, 2020	<p>The Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at the regularly scheduled board meeting to discuss</p>

	the proposed annual budget and receive input from the public.
June 24, 2020	The final budget proposal is voted on by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the Placer County Office of Education for review and approval. This must be done prior to July 1 each year.

Please note, as the Board and staff work to develop the budget over the next few months, they will continue to take input from all RUSD stakeholders.