



Frequently Asked Questions

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

Please refer to the following link to review the 2019-2020 RUSD independent audit report, the 2020-2021 RUSD Adopted Budget Book and a video overview explaining where RUSD is at today:

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

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. You can view our most recent RUSD Annual Audit Report here:

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

3. Why \$1.5 million 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).
- Projected enrollment growth is used to develop our multi-year budget. This year, student enrollment has decreased by nearly 800 students due to the pandemic..

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 to remain solvent, the Board of Trustees are considering difficult budget reductions.

District staff will made proposed budget reduction recommendations during the February 10, 2021 Board Meeting. District staff have made every effort to use input from students, families, staff members and community members in making the recommendations. Action is not scheduled to take place until the March 3, 2021 Board Meeting

4. How have students, families, and staff members given input on their funding priorities to date? [Click here](#) to view the February 10, 2021 Board

Meeting presentation with information on the District's financial situation, previous budget reductions, and the current budget reduction recommendations with input from stakeholders.

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 and 2019-20, [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 and an additional elimination of ten additional District Office and administration positions in 2020-2021, for a total of 16 positions eliminated.

These 16 District Office and administrative position eliminations are a significant portion of the cuts that were made district-wide (16 out of the 27 positions eliminated). This is 58% of the positions that have been eliminated during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Administrators, including principals, and District Office staff make up only 9% of the RUSD workforce.

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

The Board of Trustees will take action at the March 3, 2021 Board Meeting.

8. 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/DCCrmsVAmq86YAPbA>

9. What happens at the March 3, 2021 Board Meeting?

Once our Board of Trustees reviews and considers all feedback they receive, a vote will take place at the March 3, 2021 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 and any additional state or federal one-time pandemic funding.

10. 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 each year. 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 (2023-2024). This will result in the Placer County Office of Education not approving RUSD's adopted budget.

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

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

Date	Action
December 15, 2020	At our District Leadership Meeting, RUSD administrators provided input on budget priorities, areas of possible reduction, and must-haves to continue to fully support all students.
January 8, 2021	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 4-10, 2021	Survey to Families and Staff members The annual Local Control Accountability survey with a budget priorities addendum was sent to all families and RUSD staff. The budget portion of the survey elicited input from families and staff related to budget priorities, requested information, and allowed for open-ended responses related to budget.
January 20, 2021	Once the Governor's budget proposal was released, district office staff reviewed and presented the proposal and potential impacts for RUSD to the Board.
January 19-29, 2021	RUSD Board Members and District Administrators met with families at all schools and students at all high schools to share budget information and get

	input on budget priorities for each site. Click here to view their input (slides 18-20)
January 27, 2021	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 ongoing adequate funding from the state that budget reductions would be required for the district to meet its financial obligations.
February 10, 2021	<p>Recommendations were shared with the Board of Trustees and public for discussion and input.</p> <p><i>*An online portal is included in this communication to gather further input from all RUSD stakeholders.</i></p>
March 3, 2021	<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 then required by California Education Code to issue preliminary layoff notices to certificated employees (teachers, administrators, etc.) who may be laid off by March 15, 2021. 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 2021	The Governor presents a revised budget proposal. District staff will review this for impacts and work to incorporate changes into the budget development process.
June 9, 2021	The Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at the regularly scheduled board meeting to

	discuss the proposed annual budget and receive input from the public.
June 23, 2021	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.