



## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PUSD BUDGET**

### **Why is PUSD facing a budget deficit?**

The Governor's proposed budget would cut education funding statewide by about \$6 billion. This would result in a reduction in state funding for PUSD's general fund budget in the amount of \$5 million. The proposal would also cut funds for special programs, resulting in additional losses for specific programs.

### **Why is PUSD receiving fewer dollars from the state?**

The Governor's budget proposal released in January would give PUSD less money than was previously allocated. The Governor is also proposing to suspend the requirements of Proposition 98, a law approved by the voters of California that ensures a minimum level of funding for school districts.

### **What process and criteria have the Board and Administration adopted to identify possible cuts?**

Both the Board and Administration will try to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible, meaning that direct classroom services, such as teachers and textbooks, will be protected as much as possible. The Board and Administration will approve spending based on priorities established in the Approach to Excellence II, and the decision-making criteria developed through the Strategic Planning process.

### **What cuts have been proposed so far?**

To date, no cuts have been proposed. In study sessions over the next several months, the Board and Administration will receive updates on the status of the State and PUSD budgets. Staff will also evaluate information and present recommendations for achieving the \$5 million reduction. We strongly encourage members of the public to attend these meetings to stay informed about the budget reduction process and to provide input to the Board and Administration.

### **What is the deadline for making cuts?**

The District must submit a balanced budget for the 2009-10 school year by June 30, the last day of the fiscal year. Thus, any final decisions regarding cuts will take place during the month of June.

### **How can I stay informed about the PUSD budget reduction process?**

For regular updates, please refer to the PUSD website at [www.pusd.us](http://www.pusd.us), watch or attend the Board meetings and study sessions, and attend any other public meetings scheduled to discuss the budget process with the public.