



CENTRAL VALLEY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ***News Release***

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### ***Central Valley School Board Adopts Budget Reduction Plan Staffing and Programs Trimmed to Close \$3.4 Million Funding Gap***

**Spokane Valley, Wash.** – The Central Valley School District Board of Directors has approved a plan to trim \$3.4 million from the 2009/10 budget. The plan includes the elimination of 20 teaching positions, four central office administrators and a reduction in hours for classified employees. The reductions are necessary due to a corresponding shortfall in state funding for the upcoming school year, including a 79 percent cut in I-728 funding.

Although implementation details are not yet finalized, the district is not anticipating teacher layoffs. Instead, the elimination of 20 teaching positions will be accomplished through attrition and non-renewal of one-year teaching contracts. One district administrator will be laid off, two will return to classroom teaching positions one position will be left unfilled. The impact on classified employee positions is not yet known.

In addition to staffing reductions, the budget reduction plan includes a number of program reduction measures, operating efficiencies and the elimination of a portion of student transportation services. The approved plan includes \$2.2 million in cuts to I-728 funded programs and positions.

“These are very sobering and difficult decisions for the board,” said Cindy McMullen, school board president. “I sincerely wish these reductions weren’t required.”

The budget reduction plan approved by the School Board on May 11 is the culmination of a three-month process involving community and staff input using a structured prioritization model, careful analysis of this stakeholder input, development of program and financial impacts if specific educational programs were to be reduced or eliminated, and identification of operational efficiencies. The planning effort was led by Superintendent Ben Small and his 35-member Budget Leadership Team.

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“This has been an intensive, deliberate, difficult process,” superintendent Small said. “We’ve worked diligently to protect the learning environment for children in classrooms and have put forward reductions which largely accomplish this primary objective. We have also worked hard to be precise in staffing numbers to avoid layoffs and unnecessary reduction-in-force notices. The reality of the situation is that every bit of this hurts the quality of education for Central Valley students.”

The Budget Reduction Plan is organized into three prioritized tiers totaling \$3.4 million. Among the 18 reductions outlined in the plan:

- Reduce district office administrative staff by four positions (\$435,000)
- Eliminate busing within one mile radius of school – impacts six routes (\$51,800)
- Remove small appliances from classrooms/offices to cut utility costs (\$25,000)
- Eliminate activity buses (\$52,400)
- Reduce district-wide extra/co-curricular expenses by 5% (\$100,600)
- Reduce school building/department budgets by 5% (\$169,250)
- Reduce K-12 media assistant time by 25% (\$68,000)
- Reduce paraeducator time for kindergarten programs by 21% (\$349,000)
- Reduce I-728 funded instructional coaches/academic support staffing allocations by 50% (\$1,380,000 or 20 Full Time Equivalent positions)

The Board also reviewed an additional \$445,000 in proposed “tier 4” reductions which may be necessary if state revenues continue to decline in the coming months. The proposal includes a reduction in custodial time spread evenly across the district and an additional reduction in extra/co-curricular expenses.

An action plan is in place and administrators are working within each category to implement the reductions for the upcoming school year. The \$3.4 million in reductions follow \$1.5 million in cuts to the current 2008/09 budget taken last year to close a funding gap created by legislative action. The Board will adopt the final 2009/10 budget in August.

Central Valley School District serves more than 12,000 students residing within an 80 square mile area in the Spokane Valley. The district operates 22 schools and three learning centers, employs about 1,600 and has a current operating budget of \$111.4 million.

The Budget Reduction Plan for 2009/10, related documents and other information about the community input process are posted online at [www.cvsd.org](http://www.cvsd.org). ###

