

**Budget Impact to SVUSD
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is Proposition 98 and what does it mean?

Information about Prop 98 can be obtained at

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2005/prop_98_primer/prop_98_primer_020805.htm

2. Where can I find the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) analysis of the Governor's proposed 2008-09 Budget?

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/main.aspx>

3. What does it mean to move from Option 1 to Option 2 in grade 3 Class Size Reduction (CSR)?

Currently under the Option 1 format the student ratio is 20:1. With the Option 2 format the student ratio is 30:1 for 50% of the instructional day and 20:1 or smaller the other 50% of the day with a second teacher during reading/language arts and math instruction. This change will save the District over \$500,000. Option 2 will also require that some of the smaller classrooms created when CSR came into effect be converted back to larger classrooms.

4. Is a "push-in" or "single" Option 2 program a possible consideration if CSR Option 1 is eliminated in grade 3?

No. A "push-in" or "single" program with one classroom teacher and one Option 2 teacher is not cost effective because it does not reduce the number of teachers or the number of required classrooms. If we move to an Option 2 model, a "pull-out" or "shared" program with two classroom teachers and one Option 2 teacher will be utilized. While the increased complexity of having three teachers communicating about the instruction of students should not be minimized, having additional credentialed teachers on site to work with children has always been a positive factor in our schools.

5. Do the proposed budget cuts have to be made at all school sites?

Yes. The proposed cuts will affect all SVUSD schools. Districtwide programs or positions that appear on the list will be eliminated at all schools equitably.

6. Will music remain at the elementary level?

Instrumental and vocal music will continue be offered at the elementary upper grade levels (4-6); however, primary chorus will be eliminated for the 2008-09 school year.

7. Will the elimination or reduction of elementary music have an impact on the Secondary music program?

The only impact the reduction of elementary music may have on the intermediate and high school music program is in staffing. This is due to the "bumping rights" of employees based upon seniority and the appropriate single subject credential. The process and procedures for establishing seniority and "bumping rights" are Education Code requirements.

8. Will elective courses such as, foreign language, art, music, band, drama, etc. be eliminated at the intermediate or high school level?

No. Elective courses will continue to be offered at all secondary schools as long as student interest remains and courses meet the required level of capacity.

9. Will the proposed budget cuts affect the Two-Way Dual Language Immersion program?

No. The Two-Way Dual Language Immersion program will continue to be offered. However, as a Charter School, Gates Elementary will be equally affected by the proposed budget cuts as all other District Schools. This includes student programs, services, clerical and certificated staff reductions, as necessary.

10. With the approved budget cuts, how will the graduation requirements change?

The reduction in SVUSD graduation requirements is based upon changing the 4-year Social Science graduation requirement to a 3-year requirement with the elimination of the Cultural Geography course. Course credits required for graduation will be reduced from 230 to 220. To realize a budget savings beginning in 2008-09 and phased-in over time, the number of courses (periods) in which students can enroll may need to be capped; however, students with impacted schedules will be allowed to take additional courses as necessary. Currently, 30% of SVUSD high school students take the minimum required number of credits. This change in District graduation requirements will not jeopardize any student's ability to graduate and meet the necessary University of California A-G college entrance requirements; this includes incoming ninth grade students. Student class offerings and schedules will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary before the start of school in September '08. The UC A-G requirements may be accessed at <http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ag/a-g/welcome.html>.

11. Is Home-to-School Transportation being eliminated in 2008-09?

Home to school transportation will be reduced in the 2008-09 school year and not eliminated. The proposed reduction in transportation will affect some bus routes, and there will be a slight increase in fees for 2008-09. Parents of changed routes will be notified prior to the beginning of school.

12. Will JV sports still be fielded in 2008-09 considering the coaching stipends have been eliminated?

Yes. Funds may be raised to reinstate the coaching stipends for JV sports, much like the current practice for Frosh/Soph sports.

13. Why is so much being spent on school facilities?

In March 2004, registered voters within the boundaries of SVUSD approved a \$180 Million School Improvement and Facilities Bond. This allowed SVUSD to apply for matching funds with California's Office of Public School Construction. By law, all proceeds from the sale of bonds may only be used for District school facilities. No money can be spent on administrators', other employee's salaries or student programs.

14. What is the total District budget? What percentage of the budget do the proposed budget cuts represent?

The SVUSD budget is \$262 million. The proposed \$13.2 million in cuts represents 5% of the budget.

15. What is the best thing to do to unite parents during this budget crisis? Have any groups formed to reject these budget cuts?

For advocacy activities and information, please contact the SVUSD PTA Council at <http://www.svpta.org/>. For fundraising activities and information, please contact the Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation at phillipsellen28@cox.net or carol419@cox.net. Additional information may be found on the District Website at www.svusd.org.

16. If my school wants to fundraise in an effort to reduce the impact of the proposed budget cuts or save a school program, what are the guidelines?

Board Policy 3295 states, "When funds are raised by private sources that would affect the certificated staffing ratio, the District shall accept funds only on the condition that they are sufficient to allow the program to be offered at all schools." This applies to all curricular programs. Please refer to the District Website, Budget Crisis area to view Board Policy 3290 & Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 3295. You may also contact the Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation at phillipsellen28@cox.net or carol419@cox.net.

17. The State of California claims that over \$11,000 is spent per pupil. Please confirm the dollar amount that SVUSD receives per pupil.

The Base Revenue Limit SVUSD receives per pupil is \$5784.66. The \$11,000 figure includes non-general fund and restricted monies rolled out to various departments within the California Department of Education and County Education office, which do not directly benefit all SVUSD students. The Base Revenue Limit is based on a state formula that was determined well over 30 years ago.

18. How much of our budget goes toward salaries?

In SVUSD, salaries make up 66% of our budget, and salaries combined with benefits are 85% of our budget.

19. How can I follow legislative budgetary action and find out when critical voting will take place?

You may access Senate/Assembly action and track Bills at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.