

Los Angeles Unified School District

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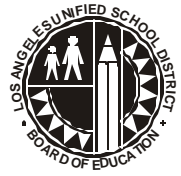
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News Release

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LA BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES REDUCTIONS TO 2004-05 BUDGET

Budget Preserves Classroom Improvements; Deepest Cuts Made at Administrative Level

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education today voted to approve \$427.7 million in reductions and general fund savings in the District's 2004-05 budget. Another \$61.3 million in further reductions must be identified before April 9 in order to meet the District's total deficit of \$489 million.

Although faced with severe challenges, the 2004-05 budget carries out the District's core mission of improving classroom instruction. The budget avoids teacher layoffs and preserves the instructional programs that have resulted in improved student achievement in the last few years. The deepest reductions were made in the District's administrative offices, which account for 8 percent of the District's entire budget.

The Board voted to approve a motion authored by School Board President José Huizar and Board Members Julie Korenstein and Marlene Canter that authorized the \$427.7 million reduction.

"The Board and the Superintendent are taking bold steps to ensure the financial stability of this District in order to continue our efforts to improve student achievement," said Huizar. "We are taking decisive action to preserve our instructional programs and to allow our schools to begin planning their next school year."

"Although we face real challenges, our top priority is improving instruction in the classroom," said Superintendent of Schools Roy Romer. "Much remains to be done, but we have a clear mission: to continue with the improvements that have resulted in dramatically improved student achievement."

The Board also approved issuing notices to 29 permanent certificated employees and 154 non-permanent certificated employees. One of the factors driving the budget process is the need to issue employee notifications by March 15. These must be sent in accordance with the State

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Education Code should certain release/reassignments become necessary for the next school year, which begins July 1, 2004. Those receiving these notices include certificated personnel such as administrators and teacher advisors. There are also classified employee categories that require a 45-day notice.

Approximately 480 positions will be eliminated at the administrative level, which include 47 positions in the accounting division, 54 in information technology and 65 in human resources.

The Board's motion also directed the Superintendent to identify another \$61.3 million before April 9, with \$3.5 million of this total to be expended to augment the District's School Police in 2004-05 as part of a plan to increase school police coverage at middle and senior high schools.

In May, when the Governor releases the State's revised budget, more information will be available which may affect the District's budget. The board will take final action to approve the budget by June 30, 2004.

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