

Dear Families,

Following is a message from Boulder Valley School District regarding impending budget cuts to our district and to our school. Stay tuned for more information from our School Accountability Committee for your opportunity to provide feedback.

A Statewide Fiscal Crisis is Hitting all 178 School Districts throughout Colorado

Large budget cuts must be made by every school and department in Boulder Valley School District

According to state elected leaders and the media, Colorado state government is now in the second year of its worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression. Until now, BVSD has generally been able to shield the schools from budget cuts, but the news from the Capitol has gotten worse in the last few weeks. The reductions in state funding for BVSD are now much too large to be managed without significant cuts to school budgets.

BVSD Superintendent Chris King and district budget and finance staff began meeting with all 54 BVSD principals, assistant principals, and department directors in January to talk about how to manage this budget crisis. Because BVSD cannot be certain that the cuts for 2010-2011 will not go even deeper, this group was presented preliminary plans for 1) a best case scenario (\$12 million in BVSD cuts), 2) a middle case scenario (\$18 million in BVSD cuts) or 3) a worst case scenario (\$25 million in BVSD cuts). For schools, the amounts needed to be cut to meet each of these three targets are 2.25 percent, 5.25 percent, or 8.25 percent. Each department in BVSD's central administration will make cuts of 7.5 percent, 13.50 percent or 19.75 percent, depending on how large the final funding cuts end up being from the state.

Difficult decisions will need to be made during the next couple of months. Parents are encouraged to provide input to their School Accountability Committee (formerly called the "SIT" or "School Improvement Team") about proposed cuts at their school. Each school's accountability committee will report back to the District Accountability Committee in April on the input they received from parents. In addition, the superintendent will be scheduling more superintendent/community budget meetings than ever before. The meeting schedule will be sent to all BVSD parents as soon as it is finalized. It will include daytime and evening meetings.

"These budget decisions will be reached through a process of collaboration," Superintendent Chris King reported to the Boulder Valley Board of Education during its Jan. 12 meeting. "This will not necessarily be a process of consensus, but it will very much be a process of input collection and analysis."

Cuts this deep cannot help but affect almost everyone in the district, including students, but we are committed to maintaining the excellent and equitable educational experience that BVSD is known for, no matter what.