



**Amador County Public Schools**  
Amador County Office of Education  
Amador County Unified School District

**FAQ: Our Financial Current Reality**  
**November 20, 2018**

The following questions were collected from various stakeholders during the past few weeks. The questions are in response to three messages to all staff from Dr. Slavensky. For reference, the dates of the three email messages are September 21, 2018, October 19, 2018, and November 9, 2018.

**1. Where are we in the problem solving process right now?**

ACUSD/ACOE Administration is in the process of working with the Board of Trustees, managers/principals, labor leaders, and the Business Services team to identify cost savings solutions. We are still early in the process and decisions made so far are related to those shared in the 9/21/18, 10/19/18 and 11/9/18 email messages to all staff. These decisions are related to attrition, management lay-offs, and reducing spending where possible. Additional lay-off decisions are pending Board of Trustees approval.

**2. What reductions are being considered?**

Positions that are not required by law or contractual obligations or that are not necessary to ensure student safety are being considered. Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) actions and services that are not required by law or which are considered not essential or which can be postponed are being considered.

**3. What is FCMAT's role and timeline for support?**

The Fiscal Control and Management Assistance Team, the premier state agency that assists school districts and county offices of education in related matters, has been contracted with Board of Trustees approval to assist us. The scope of their work will be to: (a) review the ACUSD and ACOE 2018-19 adoption General Fund budget, (b) use the analysis as a baseline to develop a multiyear financial projection (MYFP) for the current and two subsequent fiscal years, (c) validate the district's and county office of education's financial status, and (d) make recommendations for expenditure reductions and/or revenue enhancements to help the district and county office of education rebuild its required reserves and maintain financial solvency. The MYFP will be a snapshot in time of the district's current financial status.

**4. How much is the state expecting us to cut from our current budget? How much are we expected to cut this year?**

The shortfall is \$1.5 million in order to meet the state required, minimum 3% reserve for districts and 4% for county offices. Given this, we must reduce a minimum of \$500,000 this year and another \$500,000 each of the next two years. FCMAT, School Services of California and experienced Chief Business Officials recommend reserve levels of 8-10% in order to be prepared for economic uncertainties and collective bargaining.

**5. How much money do we anticipate saving through attrition?**

Considering both attrition and some unexpected budget increases (for example, more column salary increases for teachers due to increased levels of coursework than expected, health assistant positions for new students with diabetes and other health needs), the amount captured through attrition and reduced spending will become more clear as the financial plan required by the state is more fully developed. (See question #7 for more information about the required plan.)

**6. Does attrition really help the long term of our students and schools? It seems that some positions will need to be filled.**

Yes, attrition helps because not all positions are absolutely necessary – important, but not required. Some positions will need to be filled based on legal and contractual requirements as well as student safety needs, and we are making decisions accordingly.

**7. When is the state required financial plan due to the California Department of Education (CDE)? What does CDE require in the plan?**

The plan is due to CDE in December with the required submission of the First Interim Report. The plan must include the district's and county office of education's specific plan to reduce expenditures for the current school and the next two years in order to rebuild the required reserve levels. The plan must include specific Board approved actions to reduce expenditures and administrative actions to reduce spending and increase revenues. Memorandums of Understanding with financial implications and reduced encroachments of other funds on the General Fund will be key components of this plan.

**8. Is the data and report information for this public? Where can I see this information?**

The Unaudited Actuals Report, which includes the details of our shortfall and was presented to the Board of Trustees in a regularly scheduled public Board meeting on September 26, 2018, is posted on our public webpage at [www.amadorcoe.org](http://www.amadorcoe.org). There will be a public update at the December 12, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting when the state required First Interim Report is made to the Board.

**9. In the first email, you mentioned stakeholders are invited to help in this decision making process. What stakeholders are involved and how did they become involved?**

Any and all stakeholders are invited to ask questions and give input. Interested individuals and groups are invited to reach out to Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Jared Critchfield at 209-257-5345 or Superintendent Amy Slavensky at 209-257-5353. We are also meeting regularly with our labor presidents and school leaders to gather their input, ideas, and questions. In the coming months, we will bring the topic to other groups such as the Amador Parent Advisory Committee (APAC), the Superintendent's Advocacy Leadership Team (SALT), and the LCAP Advisory Committee.