



Information Regarding Reductions

On January 11, 2011, the members of the District 97 Board of Education approved the list of recommended reductions that were presented to them during their meeting on December 14, 2010. This list featured the following two categories of reductions:

- Reductions that will be made at the start of the 2011-2012 school year regardless of the outcome of the referendum in April. The money saved from these reductions will be used to improve the efficiency of the district's operations and enhance the educational experience for our students.
- Reductions that are tied directly to the outcome of the referendum. If the referendum passes, many, if not all, of the programs and positions in this category will be restored/reinstated following the April election. If the referendum fails, these reductions will be implemented prior to the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Below is the list of the reductions sorted by these categories. Any items that include Reduction in Force (RIF) for certified tenured staff or release of certified non-tenured staff will require additional board action. RIF of tenured teachers and release of non-tenured teachers is scheduled to come before the board for approval on March 8, 2011, and RIF for non-certified support staff is scheduled to come before the board for approval on April 12, 2011. All staff members who are subject to RIF or release will receive notification in February.

If the referendum passes, the board will take action to rehire certified and non-certified staff positions subject to RIF and to reinstate programs that it voted to reduce or eliminate if the referendum failed. This action will occur at one of the board meetings that will be held following the confirmation of the election results. The deadline for confirming the results is April 26, 2011.

On January 25, 2011, the Oak Park Teachers' Association announced that District 97 teachers accepted a wage freeze for the 2011-2012 school year that is expected to save the district more than \$1 million. While the district anticipates these savings will reduce its structural deficit, it is still analyzing the impact this freeze, as well as the one accepted by the administrators last year, will have on its financial future. In addition, the reductions below were identified using feedback from multiple stakeholders during a process that took several months. Any changes to these reductions will be thoroughly studied before being made. Lastly, the wage freeze, while significant, will not close the structural deficit. Reductions will still need to be made if the referendum fails.

Reductions in 2011-2012 regardless of the outcome of the referendum

- Reduce Web producer stipends by 50 percent
- Restructure district-sponsored festivals – seek external sponsorship to fund festivals on a rotating annual basis
- Remove movie license agreement
- Eliminate funding for curriculum implementation leader stipends
- Reduce year two technology plan tech integrationists from three to two
- Eliminate the alternative education teaching position
- Administrative salary freeze for the 2011-2012 school year
- Eliminate one clerical position in the superintendent's office (implemented July 2010)
- Reduce district office support staff positions
- Reduce district office administrative positions
- Eliminate funding for school improvement plan stipends
- Reduce textbook adoption budget

- Reduce funding of the strategic plan
- *Restructure the Multicultural Department
- *Restructure summer school

Total Reductions

\$1,295,340

*The reductions associated with restructuring the Multicultural Department and the district’s summer school program will be implemented at the start of the 2011-2012 school year. However, these reductions will require further analysis, as well as the development of a formalized plan that clearly defines the roles the department and program will play in the educational experience we offer our students in 2012-2013 and beyond.

- Multicultural Department – Downsize the department and simultaneously develop a plan to restructure its programs and seek outside funding to support its activities.
- Summer school program – The initial plan is to resize and repurpose the program to effectively address the needs of students who are most at risk. After implementing this plan, the district will study all aspects of the program (effectiveness, potential to enhance it through the integration of technology, financial capacity) to determine if it can develop one that is more robust and cost effective.

Reductions tied directly to the passage of the referendum

- Eliminate district-sponsored events
- Eliminate middle school sports and after school activities
- Eliminate permanent substitute positions
- Eliminate summer school
- Eliminate the Multicultural Department
- Reduce one assistant principal at each middle school
- Reduce special education teacher assistants
- Eliminate CAST and BRAVO programs
- Eliminate four middle school elective positions
- Eliminate student support specialist positions
- Eliminate fourth and fifth grade instrumental music
- Reduce media specialist positions by 50 percent
- Reduce gifted and talented positions by 50 percent
- Eliminate one secretarial position per school
- Eliminate elementary school foreign language program (FLES)
- Eliminate elementary art positions

Total Reductions

\$4,488,600