



## **Impact of the Governor's Proposed Cuts to School Funding on Local Districts**

*February 21, 2008*

**The Governor's proposed cuts to education funding are already having a dramatic impact on school districts throughout California, as they struggle to plan their budgets based on worst-case scenarios and uncertain numbers. The following is a sampling of specific impacts in local districts based on media accounts.**

**Acalanes Union High School District:** This district estimates a potential \$2.5 million funding gap if proposed cuts are approved, and has asked local education foundations and parent clubs to contribute \$1 million to help keep counselors, low class sizes and electives. [*Contra Costa Times*, 2/8/08]

**Alameda County Schools:** Officials from districts throughout Alameda county recently met to highlight the devastating impact that cutting an estimated \$4.5 million from their budgets will have on local instruction. They met at Westlake Middle School in Oakland, which alone faces cuts of \$436,000, and whose students were adopting the motto "Governor, you're breaking our hearts" and creating Valentine's Day cards to express their concerns about such cuts to the Governor and legislators. [*KGO-TV*, 2/13/08]

**Alameda Unified School District:** Officials in the district are especially concerned about the impact that the proposed cuts will have on special education programs, which could lose \$285,000 under the governor's plan. Overall, the district could lose over \$4 million over the next year and a half, and has recently considered closing a middle school to save the district money – a move that was vehemently opposed by parents. If the district made such cuts across-the-board as the governor has proposed, it would require a cut of 46 teachers, 16 office or clerical staff, six maintenance and food service workers and four administrators. [*San Jose Mercury News*, 1/22/08, 2/15/08]

**Anaheim Union High School District:** The district faces a \$17 million shortfall, and has already notified three counselors that they may be laid off. District officials are currently holding individual meetings with other staff members who may be laid off, not certain how many cuts may be necessary. [*Los Angeles Times*, 2/21/08]

**Antioch Unified School District:** Schools in the district are facing a possible loss of \$8.7 million under the governor's budget proposal. [*Contra Costa Times*, 1/29/08]

**Beardsley School District:** The small district with 1,700 students projects that the state's fiscal crisis could translate into 15% cuts for the district, which is also in declining enrollment. [*The Bakersfield Californian*, 1/28/08]

**Berkeley Unified School District:** The district estimates it will lose \$2.5 million in state funding under the governor's proposed budget. The school board has indicated that the district will likely be forced to lay off counselors and college advisors, and to reduce or eliminate nutrition programs, after-school programs and transportation. The superintendent recently warned that everything but bare necessities is "on the chopping block." [*The Daily Californian*, 2/5/08; *The Berkeley Daily Planet*, 1/25/08; *Oakland Tribune*, 2/13/08]

**Black Oak Mine Unified School District (Placer County):** The district anticipates cutting 6% from its budget in 2008-09. [*Auburn Journal*, 1/27/08]

**California State University System (CSU):** The California Faculty Association estimates that the "ripple effect" that would be caused by the governor's proposed \$313 million in cuts to the CSU system would mean that at least 10,000 students would be refused access to CSU campuses. And with community colleges also required to close courses and increase class sizes due to cuts, the influx of students rejected by the CSU system could cause the community college system to "bust at the seams." [*The Daily 49er* (CSU Long Beach student newspaper), 1/28/08]

**Capistrano Unified School District:** At a recent school board meeting, district officials unveiled a list of \$28 million in proposed cuts to the district's budget in anticipation of the governor's proposed cuts in state funding. The cuts could result in the loss of 300 teachers, an increase in the number of students in classrooms by 33 percent, the elimination of most of the district's busing budget, the elimination of 20 administrators and 40 support staff, and cuts to other programs. These cuts are on top of numerous budget cuts since 2001. If the projected cuts come to bear, the district will have been forced to cut \$63.5 million from its budget over the past eight years. [*The Capistrano Dispatch*, 2/15/08]

**Carlsbad Unified School District:** With the district facing \$4.5 million in cuts, the superintendent vows to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible, but is looking at possible cuts in personnel, including counselors, nurses, teachers aids, maintenance staff. The school board president notes, "Frankly, I see no easy cuts, which every dollar cut is going to negatively impact our students and staff." Since learning of the proposed cuts, a group of parents, teachers, students and business leaders in the area have implemented what they call a "full-court press" of lobbying, letter-writing, phone calls and letters to the editor in an effort to persuade the governor and legislators to protect Prop. 98 funding. [*North County Times*, 1/21/08, 1/29/08, 1/31/08]

**Castro Valley Unified School District:** While district leaders anticipate being in a better position than most to weather proposed cuts due to a fiscal reserve it built up over the past two years, they anticipate a loss of \$540 per student in state funding, for a total of \$4.6 million. [*Castro Valley Forum*, 1/29/08; *The Daily Review*, 2/11/08]

**Colton Joint Unified School District (San Bernardino County):** District leaders fear a \$5.6 million reduction in revenue for 2008-09, and are currently convening a committee to make recommendation on how to address the shortfall. [*San Bernardino County Sun*, 2/12/08]

**Conejo Valley Unified School District (Thousand Oaks):** The district superintendent expects \$42 million to be cut from the district's budget, and points out the need for a more stable source of funding for education, stating frankly, "How much more blood can we squeeze out of a turnip?" [*The Simi Valley Acorn*, 2/7/08]

**Corona-Norco Unified School District:** The district expects to lose \$1.5 million this year, and another \$15 million next year. And that doesn't include the potential elimination of \$16 million for cost-of-living increases to employees. [*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 1/17/08]

**Dixon Unified School District:** The district, already facing a \$1.14 million deficit, is facing \$500,000 in cuts from the current year budget, and as much as \$1.3 million in cuts to next year's budget. The district's Budget Advisory Committee has discussed cuts that include elimination of staff, cuts to transportation, and even possible school closures to bridge the gap. [*The Vacaville Reporter*, 2/5/08]

**Dublin Unified School District:** District officials in Dublin have started meeting to prioritize needs in anticipation of a \$1.7 million cut in state funding, noting that they are "planning for the worst and hoping for the best." [*Contra Costa Times*, 2/8/08]

**Eureka City Schools:** Humboldt County's largest district was already facing a \$1.4 million deficit before the Governor's proposed cuts, and now facing the loss of another \$3.5 million in funding for 2008-09. The district anticipates that they may need to give 50 teachers pink slips come March 15<sup>th</sup>, and warn that even mandatory programs such as special education and transportation may be affected by these cuts. The transportation dollars are of particular concern to officials, given the number of rural school in the district. [*Eureka Times-Standard*, 2/9/08]

**Freemont Unified School District:** If the governor's proposed cuts are enacted, Fremont expects to lose \$1.3 million from the current year budget, and another \$3.3 million in 2008-09. Business official with the district warn that such cuts would likely lead to cuts in special education, transportation, child mentors, child development programs, physical education, and English learner programs. One official notes that "this is one of the more draconian budgets I've seen during my time in education." [*Freemont Bulletin*, 2/21/08]

**Fresno Unified School District:** Fresno officials hope to offset proposed cuts to the district from their reserves, thus avoiding laying off teachers or increasing class sizes. But they note that the possible cuts of \$27 million from the district budget will have definite impacts on programs in the district. [KMPH-TV, 2/12/08; KSEE-TV, 2/13/08]

**General Shafter School District:** This small district in Kern County anticipates having to shave \$100,000 off of a \$1.6 million budget, and "knows it will be notifying staff of potential layoffs" as a result. [*The Bakersfield Californian*, 1/28/08]

**Hayward Unified School District:** Hayward schools are projected to lose at least \$16 million in state funding, and the district is currently reviewing possible cuts. [*The Daily Review*, 2/11/08]

**Healdsburg Unified School District:** The school board is discussing the elimination for 17 teachers in the district to bridge at \$2.2 million deficit. The cuts are expected to increase class sizes, and further complicate a district budget already facing pressure from declining enrollment. [*Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, 2/7/08]

**Humboldt County Schools:** Schools in the county are facing \$13 million in cuts under the governor's proposed cuts. And as one local paper points out, "students will have more classmates, but not as many teachers, nurses, librarians, bus drivers and new books" according to county officials. [*Eureka Times-Standard*, 2/9/08]

**Jefferson Elementary School District (San Mateo County):** Facing the possible loss of as much as \$5 million over the next two-and-a-half years due to proposed state budget cuts and declining enrollment, district trustees recently received a list of possible reduction measures, including eliminating jobs, possibly closing one school, elimination of physical-education aides, and increasing class sizes in grades four through six. The board may also consider putting a \$100 parcel tax on the ballot to generate additional revenue to help offset cuts from the state. [*Inside Bay Area.com*, 2/12/08]

**Kern County Schools:** Parents, teachers and local educators recently sounded the alarm on the impact that the governor's proposed budget would have on students in county schools. The cuts would translated into a loss of \$40 million to county schools, which could mean layoffs of staff, larger class sizes, loss of programs and other direct negative impacts in the classrooms. [*CBS29-TV* (<http://www.eyeoutforyou.com>), 2/20/08]

**Kern High School District:** The district is anticipating a loss of \$23.6 million next year if proposed cuts are enacted. One district official notes that it would be "the steepest decline in funding in the shortest period of notice since we've seen since Prop. 13 of the early '80s." [*The Bakersfield Californian*, 1/28/08]

**Lake Elsinor Unified School District:** The district has frozen the salaries of all district administrators and managers, reduced department budgets by 10% immediately, and at a recent special board meeting approved the elimination of the K-3 class size reduction program and the issuing of 141 layoff notices to teachers. The district moved earlier this year to eliminate about \$3 million from its budget in anticipation of future cuts. But another \$6 million more may need to be cut from next years' budget, and the district recently asked teachers and classified employees to accept a wage freeze to help balance the district's budget in upcoming years. [*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 1/17/08, 2/1/08; *North County Times - The Californian*, 2/1/08, 2/9/08]

**Las Virgenes Unified School District (Calabasas, Westlake Village):** The district stands to lose \$7 million in funding next year based on budget projections, in addition to \$325,000 in cuts this year. The district's Chief Business Official remarked that "The size of this is really leaving everybody speechless. It's quite amazing that this is being proposed in light of the fact that 2008 is supposed to be the 'Year of Education'." [*The Simi Valley Acorn*, 2/7/08]

**Liberty Union High School District:** District officials estimate that the combination of per-student-funding cuts proposed by the governor, and 10% proposed cuts to various state grant programs, would equate to a total loss of \$2 million. [*Contra Costa Times*, 1/29/08]

**Lompoc Unified School District:** The district faces \$600,000 in mid-year reductions this year, and another \$2.5 million in revenues in 2008-2009. And due to declining enrollment, Lompoc had already experienced a \$1 million shortfall this year and was expecting an additional \$1 million shortfall next year *before* the governor's proposed cuts. The school board has implemented an immediate hiring freeze and has mandated that all school sites and departments set aside a minimum of 10% in reserves. [*The Lompoc Record*, 1/17/08, 1/31/08]

**Long Beach Unified School District:** Proposed state cuts would translate into “deep and damaging” cuts to Long Beach schools of about \$3 million this year, and nearly \$56 million next year. The board of education recently voted to close an elementary school to save the district about \$1 million. But the cuts still threaten teachers, class sizes, meals for disadvantaged children and special needs education. As one district official noted, “Our schools are being held more accountable than ever before for producing measurable gains in student achievement. Ironically, we are supposed to do that with revenues far below what most other states provide for educating their youth, and now the governor proposes cutting that funding even farther.” [*Long Beach Press-Telegram*, 1/22/08; *Gazette Newspapers*, 1/24/08; *Los Angeles Times*, 2/21/08]

**Los Angeles Unified School District:** The state’s largest district is facing \$560-million in potential cuts to its budget through 2008-09. The combined sums, according to news reports, would amount to the district’s biggest shortfall ever, and would be equivalent to closing 22 high schools, firing 5,750 employees or instituting an 8% pay cut for all employees. The district’s superintendent notes, “When I first saw the governor’s proposed budget, quite frankly, I was in a state of shock.” [*Los Angeles Times*, 2/21/08]

**Manteca Unified School District:** The district has implemented an immediate hiring freeze – the first of a series of preemptive cutbacks it plans to make to prepare for the anticipated “massive” drop in state funding. District leaders pointed out that these proposed cuts follow \$2 million in midyear cuts the district suffered in 2003-04 and another \$4.4 million in cuts in 2004-05, neither of which the district has completely recovered from. [*Lathrop-Manteca Sun Post*, 1-18-08]

**Modesto City Schools:** Facing the need to cut \$12 million from its budget, the school board in Modesto will be meeting soon to consider possible reductions to staff and programs. Proposed cuts being considered include laying off 53 teachers; laying off school nurses, librarians and counselors (increasing the high school counselor ratio from 520:1 to 625:1); increasing class sizes in grade K-3 and in high schools, and cutting funding for music programs and extracurricular activities. In fact, educators and other members of the community are so concerned about the devastating impact these cuts may have that the school board meeting planned to discuss the cuts had to be rescheduled because crowd grew too large for the capacity of the room, prompting the fire department to raise safety concerns. [*Modesto Bee*, 2/19/08, 2/20/08]

**Monterey County Schools:** Should the governor’s proposed cuts be enacted. Schools in Monterey County would be hit with roughly \$15 million in cuts, leading to cuts that local officials say would have “potentially disastrous effects on local schools and children.” One school official noted, “We’ll be cutting out a lot of basics that a whole child needs.” A local parent noted that “Ten percent sounds reasonable. But it is devastating in the field of education. It is horrible.” [*The Salinas Californian*, 2/14/08; *Monterey County Herald*, 2/15/08]

**Morongo Unified School District:** This district anticipates that if the proposed cuts are enacted, they will end next year \$1.3 million in debt, and “the train wreck would continue into school year 2009-10, which MUSD would bleed a projected \$3.7 million.” [*Hi-Desert Star*, 1/25/08]

**Mt. Diablo Unified School District:** Leaders are preparing to cut \$14 million from a \$300 million spending plan – the equivalent of 300 full-time employees. [*Contra Costa Times*, 2/8/08]

**Mt. Shasta Union School District:** The district's superintendent says that if the governor's proposed cuts are enacted, the district is looking at \$520,000 in cuts, which would "require significant cuts, layoffs and programs." [*Mt. Shasta News*, 1/23/08]

**Murrieta Valley Unified School District:** Staff in the district recently outlined \$7.8 million in proposed cuts to programs, only part of the \$10.8 million budget gap they anticipate during the 2008-09 school year. As one official noted at a recent school board meeting, "If what you heard tonight hurts or is distasteful, there's a whole set of Level II things that are worse." [*North County Times*, 2/9/08]

**Napa Valley Unified School District:** The district's school board recently unanimously adopted a resolution urging the state legislature to reject the Governor's proposed education funding cuts, and is currently meeting to determine the impact that the proposed cuts might have on the district's budget. [*Napa Valley Register*, 2/10/08]

**Nevada Joint Union High School District [Grass Valley]:** The district is facing a possible \$1.75 million in cuts in 2008-09 – and a total of \$2.3 to \$2.5 million over the next two years – prompting early retirement packages for teachers, possible layoffs and other cost-cutting reductions. The district's assistant superintendent notes, "We are all in a state of shock. In my 20 years, I've never seen anything this dramatic." [*The Union*, 1/18/08, 2/13/08]

**New Haven Unified School District:** In a recent op-ed in a local paper, the district superintendent noted that the governor's proposed cuts mean the district must make \$377,542 in immediate cuts, an amount that could increase to over \$755,000 by June 30<sup>th</sup>, and prepare for an additional loss of \$7 million in funding in 2008-09. She notes that, "In New Haven, as in most other districts in the state, these cuts won't mean 'trimming the fat.' They'll mean cutting the meat and muscle of an educational system that already was woefully underfunded." [*The Fremont Argus*, 2/4/08]

**Novato Unified School District:** This year, the district will need to slash \$211,256 in spending as things stand now, and would see \$2.5 million in additional reductions in 2008-09 if the proposed budget is enacted. The areas affected will be class-size reduction, special education, funding for at-risk students, and categorical programs such as GATE and the district's library improvement program. [*Novato Advance*, 1/23/08]

**Oakland Unified School District:** The state-run district, which has been struggling to regain local control, may be forced to cut programs and services such as electives, counseling and athletics if forced to cut the projected \$15 million from its budget. [*Alameda Times-Star*, 2/14/08]

**Oceanside Unified School District:** Estimates of possible cuts for Oceanside range from \$8.8 to \$14 million in recent news reports. To deal with this possibility, the district is considering proposals that include laying off teachers, increasing class sizes, cutting counselors and literacy coaches, eliminating full-day kindergarten and elementary music programs, and reducing busing. The district superintendent says, "This is my 33<sup>rd</sup> year in education and this is about as bad as I've seen." [*San Diego Union Tribune*, 2/6/08, 2/13/08; *North County Times*, 1/21/08]

**Ojai Unified School District:** District planners are preparing for reductions in funding sources for 2008-09 that could reach \$2 million. [*Ojai Valley News Blog*, 2/7/08]

**Orange County:** Orange County public schools could lose as much as \$152.5 million in state funding this year, and nearly \$500 million countywide in 2008-09 under the governor's proposal, which could place some of the county's 27 school districts at risk of state takeover due to threat of bankruptcy. A member of Irvine Unified's Parent Teacher Association noted that "we already don't have enough nurses, counselors and librarians to support student needs." That was echoed by a high school science teacher from Costa Mesa, who noted that "if I don't have certain lab supplies, I am going to have to eliminate a lot of lesson plans." [*Orange County Register*, 1/25/08, 2/7/08]

**Orcutt Union School District (Santa Barbara County):** Orcutt is a district that has seen significant declines in enrollment in recent years, already costing them a loss of \$831,000 this year alone. Now facing an additional \$1.7 million in possible cuts under the Governor's proposed budget, district officials say they have their backs against the wall. "We can't cut anymore" explained the district superintendent, with "indignation clearly audible in her voice" according to a local paper's account. [*Santa Maria Times*, 2/9/08]

**Palo Alto Unified School District:** Palo Alto schools could lose \$1 million under the governor's proposed cuts. The cuts will directly impact programs such as secondary-school counseling, textbooks, gifted-education programs, child care and adult education programs. State Senator Joe Simitian told a recent gathering of concerned parents, educators and community members, "Everybody here should be fighting like the devil to tell people, 'Don't Suspend Prop. 98.'" And they are doing just that, with community members – including parents and teachers – appearing at a recent school board meeting to support the school board's passage of a resolution condemning the Governor's proposed cuts. [*Palo Alto Online*, 1/28/08, 2/13/08; *Palo Alto Daily News*, 2/13/08]

**Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District:** The school board in Palos Verdes recently agreed to \$1.2 million in cuts to their current year budget, and \$2.5 million in cuts for 2008-09, in response to the expected cuts to state education funding. The district plans to send out 50 layoff notices for next year, and will reduce district office staff by \$250,000. The cuts will also lead to the elimination of class-size reduction programs in Kindergarten, third and ninth grades, elementary music programs, and will lead to layoffs of some counselors, librarians, psychologists, nurses and health clerks. [*Palos Verdes Peninsula News*, 2/21/08]

**Patterson Joint Unified School District:** The district is facing cuts of \$1.66 million from its budget for next year, and is looking at cutting 30 positions, including teachers, administrators and classified personnel. [*The Modesto Bee*, 2/7/08]

**Pittsburg Unified School District:** District officials recently reluctantly made the decision to prepare to cut \$5.2 million from the district's budget, which could force the layoffs of more than 100 people, including 65 teachers. The cuts also will likely force the elimination of the district's class size reduction program. The superintendent recently sent a letter to the district's staff, parents and the local community noting, "This will have a devastating impact on the programs Pittsburg offers, including Special Education for students with disabilities, preschool, school lunches, bus transportation and the highly qualified staff we employ." [*Contra Costa Times*, 2/4/08; *San Jose Mercury News*, 2/6/08, 2/14/08]

**Placer County Schools:** The superintendent of Placer County Schools anticipates that if the proposed budget cuts are enacted, more than half of the school districts in the county will have their fiscal solvency called into question, making them subject to county oversight. [*Auburn Journal*, 1/27/08]

**Placer Union High School District:** For this district, according to school officials, “the outlook is grim.” They plan to cut \$150,000 from this year’s budget, and \$2 million from next year’s budget. “The most difficult thing is that the cuts will affect the teachers in the classroom and the students in the seats of the classroom” notes one school leader. [*Auburn Journal*, 1/27/08]

**Pleasanton Unified School District:** Pleasanton’s district superintendent estimates that the district will need to cut \$4.5 million relative to their current spending to have a balanced budget in 2008-09. And he estimates that about \$900,000 of cuts could be made through reductions in non-personnel items, but the remaining \$3.6 million would need to come from the elimination of as many as 47 positions across the district. [*Pleasanton Weekly*, 1/31/08; *Oakland Tribune*, 2/13/08]

**Pomona Unified School District:** While district officials are hesitant to estimate how the governor’s proposed cuts could impact their schools, they note that the district already lost \$4 million in per-student funding last year due to declining enrollment, and has lost a total of \$11.7 million in state funding over the past two years, so further cuts are of great concern. [*San Bernardino Sun*, 1/26/08]

**Poway Unified School District:** The district would need to cut \$12 million in spending next year under proposed cuts. The district’s superintendent notes that, “it’s going to have a dramatic impact on our education program” and notes that the district will need to look at increasing class sizes and reducing support staff. [*North County Times*, 1/21/08]

**Ravenswood City School District:** Officials anticipate \$680,000 in cuts for the district over the next year, and voters in San Mateo County had to just pass a measure to renew a property tax on residents to fund a long-awaited raise for teachers, which were among the lowest paid in the county. [*Palo Alto Daily News*, 1/31/08]

**Rialto Unified School District:** The school board in Rialto recently voted to notify 300 teachers and counselors that they may not have a job next year, due to the proposed budget cuts. The district is facing possible cuts of \$8.5 million from its general fund, on top of \$4 million in losses for specific programs and \$3 million in losses due to declining enrollment. The possible layoffs would have a dramatic impact on the district’s class sizes in grade K-3, with the student-to-teacher ratio jumping from 20 students per teacher to 32 students per teacher. [*San Bernardino County Sun*, 2/12/08, 2/13/08]

**Riverside County Schools:** At a recent rally by members of the Education Coalition, it was revealed that the county’s schools face a total of \$320 million in cuts. Speakers at the rally warned that such cuts would result in increased class sizes, reduced per-pupil spending and the layoff of teachers, bus drivers, custodians, food service workers and administrators. It is projected that such cuts would result in a loss of \$800 per student. [*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 2/13/08; *North County Times*, 2/14/08]

**Riverside Unified School District:** The district stands to lose \$1.3 million in state funding this year – or \$30 per student – and \$34 million in funding – or \$800 per student – next year. The district superintendent said that programs and staff will need to be reduced. [*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 1/17/08]

**Rosedale Union School District (Kern County):** Budget cuts in Rosedale would equate to the loss of 30 teachers and the elimination of class-size reduction programs, the district’s superintendent recently warned. [*Bakersfield Californian*, 2/20/08]

**Ross Valley School District (Marin County):** The small district is expecting to need to cut \$1.2 million – almost 8% - from its budget. Officials are hosting a series of meetings for parents and community members to prepare them for what is to come. “There are going to be layoffs; there are going to be programs lost” warned the president of the district’s school board. The district anticipates needing to seek the help of the community to support programs, both through a local fundraising committee and through a possible parcel tax. [*Marin Independent-Journal*, 2/20/08]

**Saddleback Valley Unified School District:** The district is looking at \$16 to \$19 million in cuts to its \$260 million budget, likely resulting in cuts to teaching staff and increased class sizes. [*The Capistrano Dispatch*, 2/15/08]

**San Bernardino City Unified:** The district faces \$17 million in possible cuts next year. And while the impact will be lessened by money the district is receiving from the Quality Education Investment Act, the superintendent still anticipates that of the district’s 3,800 teachers, 134 may need to be eliminated due to the state budget cuts, and another 137 due to declining enrollment. [*San Bernardino County Sun*, 2/12/08]

**San Bernardino County Schools:** Schools in the county face a total of \$226 million in cuts under the proposed state budget, which would result in larger class sizes, layoffs and the possible elimination for programs such as elementary music. [*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 2/13/08]

**San Diego County Schools:** County officials recently warned that the nearly \$360 million in cuts that the county’s 42 public school districts stand to face if the proposed budget is approved will “be devastating for all of us.” The cuts include \$80 million from the San Diego Unified School District, \$12 million from Sweetwater Union High School District, \$14 million from Poway Unified School District, \$8 million from Vista Unified School District, and \$12 million from the Grossmont Unified School District. These are the largest cuts in state funding since the 1978 passage of Prop. 13. As one official from SDUSD noted, “If we have to cut \$80 million from our budget, the sky will have fallen. It will have fallen on a lot of our children.” [*San Diego Union-Tribune*, 2/12/08, 2/13/08]

**San Diego Unified School District:** The district’s new superintendent will take office three months earlier than planned to address the “crisis situation” – the need to prepare for \$80 million in budget cuts being proposed. District officials are concerned that laying off teachers will, in addition to increasing class sizes, have another long-term negative affect: discouraging future potential teachers from entering the profession. [*San Diego Union-Tribune*, 2/12/08; *Voice of San Diego*, 2/14/08]

**San Dieguito Union High School District:** The district would need to cut \$3.7 million if the governor’s proposed budget is adopted. [*North County Times*, 1/21/08]

**San Francisco Unified School District:** Facing cuts of as much as \$40 million, the district's school board recently voted to divert \$6 million in money from a measure approved by voters in 2004, intended for buying computers and paying for counselors, to reserves in anticipation of drastic cuts to next year's budget. They also are expected to place another parcel tax measure on the June ballot to bridge the shortfall. In the meantime, the district is working on a deal with the city to draw on its "rainy day" fund to help make up about \$30 million of the cuts. But if that deal is not approved, the district may have to lay off up to 500 teachers. School board members said they "will be marching on Sacramento to fight the budget cuts", but in the meantime are preparing for "a fiscal crisis." [*San Francisco Chronicle*, 1/23/08, 2/12/08; *Los Angeles Times*, 2/21/08]

**San Juan Unified School District (Sacramento area):** The district estimates a loss of \$3 million from their summer school programs alone, leading the school board to consider limiting participation in summer school to remedial classes only. And one trustee warned, "This is the front of the tsunami. This issue is the water receding, and the tsunami is impending." [*Sacramento Bee*, 2/11/08, 2/13/08]

**San Leandro Unified School District:** In anticipation of \$4.5 million in lost state funding, the district has already moved to change the day schedule at its one high school as a cost-cutting measure, and is developing a plan to tighten its staff. [*The Daily Review*, 2/11/08]

**San Lorenzo Unified School District:** Facing a deficit of at least \$5.1 million, the district is proposing tentative funding reductions which include the reduction of at least 20 positions. [*The Daily Review*, 2/11/08]

**San Mateo-Foster City School District:** San Mateo County's largest school district is facing the possible layoff of 25 teachers due to the proposed state budget cuts, which could cost the district \$4 million in 2008-09. The president of the local teachers association expressed concern that programs such as special education and the arts will be particularly hard hit, and point out that the teaching staff is "already stretched so thin ... It's the kids who lose out." [*InsideBayArea.com*, 2/20/08]

**San Ramon Valley Unified School District:** Leaders in San Ramon anticipate layoffs will be inevitable, noting the need to cut an estimated \$5.5 million from a roughly \$200 million budget if the governor's proposal is enacted. They are warning parents and students that they can expect more crowded classrooms, fewer counselors and librarians and a heightened threat to art, music and sports programs. [*Contra Costa Times*, 2/8/08]

**Santa Ana Unified School District:** The district anticipates it would need to cut \$26.6 million from the district's budget, in addition to the \$14.8 million they cut in December, 2007. [*Orange County Register*, 1/25/08]

**Santa Cruz City School District:** Parents, teachers and school board members in Santa Cruz recently rallied to protest the Governor's proposed cuts to education funding. One parent pointed out that "school budgets are already down to shoestrings" between shouts of "2-4-6-8, fully fund Prop. 98." [*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, 2/9/08]

**Santa Cruz County Schools:** Educators from the county's 10 school districts are warning that the governor's proposed cuts in state funding could lead to combined cuts of \$22 million to county schools. A recent news report noted that "[County] educators are especially decrying the effects of cuts on English learners, arts and music programs and accelerated classes. These are the initiatives teachers say really define – more so than No Child Left Behind test scores – how well schools are accomplishing their core mission of offering high-quality, equally accessible education to every student regardless of aptitude and socio-economic conditions." [*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, 2/17/08]

**Santa Maria-Bonita School District:** Facing a possible cut of \$4.8 million from its budget, the district warns that it and other central coast districts face substantial layoffs, larger class sizes and a sharp reduction in programs. [*Santa Maria Times*, 2/9/08]

**Santa Maria High School District:** The district faces \$2 million in possible cuts if the Governor's proposed budget were enacted. [*Santa Maria Times*, 2/9/08]

**Santa Rosa City Schools:** One district leader noted at a recent meeting that "we are looking at some really draconian cuts in the future" if the governor's proposals are enacted. Under the current proposal, the district would lose \$487,000 this year, and would face \$3.7 million in cuts for 2008-09. [*Santa Rosa Press-Democrat*, 1/24/08]

**Sierra Sands Unified School District:** The governor's proposed cuts would translate into \$69,000 for the Ridgecrest Charter School alone, and the school anticipates that the state could suspend sending funds to the school from July through September of this year, which gives leaders very little time to prepare for the cuts. [*The Daily Independent*, 1/23/08]

**Simi Valley Unified School District:** The district's board is preparing for \$360 million in midyear cuts alone, and figures to lose up to another \$850,000 next year. District staff are in the process of outlining proposed cuts to make up that shortfall, which include cuts to class-size reduction, school libraries, school counselors, special education, transportation, child nutrition, and summer school. [*The Simi Valley Acorn*, 2/8/08]

**Siskiyou Union High School District:** The district is estimating a loss of \$175,000 next year if the governor's proposal is passed, and the district is preparing for the worst case scenario, looking at current staffing and programs. [*Mt. Shasta News*, 1/23/08]

**Sonoma Valley Unified School District:** The relatively small district may need to cut \$300,000 from next year's budget. Cuts being considered include reductions in library hours, transportation funding, sports and other extra-curricular activities. Additionally, the district will consider reorganization, school closures and school calendar year options as potential areas of savings. [*Sonoma Index-Tribune*, 2/11/08]

**South San Francisco Unified School District:** The district estimates the need to cut \$5.7 million from its budget through next year, including losses of \$260,000 in unrestricted funds this year, another possible \$3.8 million next year, and about \$1.1 million in special education funding. [*San Mateo County Daily Journal*, 2/12/08; *InsideBayArea.com*, 2/12/08]

**Temecula Valley Unified School District:** Nearly 400 people recently crowded into a meeting at which district officials discussed ways to trim \$10 million from the district's budget. The possible cut most discussed at the meeting was the possible elimination of the K-3 class size reduction program, which the district says would save \$3.5 million and further savings from teacher layoffs. The president of the local teachers' association noted that such talk is already impacting teacher morale, and the district superintendent admitted that "four or five months of living without knowing if you have a job is a terrible way to live." [*North County Times*, 2/9/08]

**Tracy Unified School District:** Facing the possible loss of between \$6.3 and \$7.5 million in state funding next year, the school board is already undertaking cutting \$5.2 million from the district's budget for 2008-09. And officials estimate that the same amount would need to be cut from the following two years' budgets as well to keep the district solvent, should the Governor's proposed cuts be enacted. That is a total of \$15.6 million in cuts over a three-year period. District officials promise to attempt to keep the cuts away from the classroom, but said that won't be easy, as cuts of about \$4 million in the past decade have already left the district's budget lean. [*Tracy Press*, 2/9/08, 2/12/08]

**Val Verde Unified School District (Perris, Moreno Valley):** The district anticipates eliminating as many as 20 teaching positions in 2008-09, including elementary music and special education teachers. The district superintendent has also suggested delaying the opening of an almost-complete new elementary school in Perris to save the district money for operating costs. [*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 1/17/08]

**Vallejo City Unified School District:** The Vallejo district, already trying to repay the state for a \$60 million bailout from 2004, warns that it may run out of cash to pay teachers this fall without a short-term loan from an outside source. And this is before they slash the estimated \$6 million that the district will lose in state funding if the proposed cuts are made. The impact of these cuts is likely to be felt for several years to come and may very well throw the district, which just regained partial control from the state last year, back into the financial control that led to the state takeover in the first place. [*KCBS 740 AM*, 2/21/08; *Vallejo-Benicia-American Canyon Times-Herald*, 2/10/08]

**Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District:** The district faces \$4 million in cuts if the governor's proposed budget is adopted, and is considering the closure of an elementary school. The superintendent calls the cuts "devastating" and notes that the district has already scaled back its spending dramatically over the past five or six years. District officials have already decided not to renew next year's contract with temporary teachers, and warn that further layoffs will likely be needed by the time the final budget is approved. [*North County Times*, 1/21/08, 2/13/08]

**Vista Unified School District:** Officials expect the district to receive \$4 million less in state funding than expected next year, and the chief financial officer notes that "there's no way we would be able to handle that kind of reduction without making cuts." She notes that they will make every effort to keep cuts away from the classroom, but that may be difficult, as the district has already cut \$28 million in planned expenditures over the past several years due to decreased state revenues. [*North County Times*, 1/21/08]

**West Contra Costa Unified School District:** School officials in this district have already eliminated 11 jobs in anticipation of the budget shortfall. And as their board president noted recently, “This is beginning of the bloodletting, not the end.” [*Contra Costa Times*, 2/8/08]

**Western Placer Unified School District (Lincoln):** The district expects to cut \$360 million from its current-year budget, and expect the impending cuts in state revenue to impact a salary and benefits adjustment that had been planned for staff in 2008-09 in order to bring the district’s compensation up to par with surrounding districts. [*Lincoln Messenger*, 1/17/08]

**Woodland Joint Unified School District:** Facing \$1.7 million in cuts to the district budget, Woodland’s district leadership has concluded that a recently-approved raise for some staff will no longer be possible. The district recently implemented a hiring freeze in an effort to avoid layoffs this year, but is uncertain what next year’s budget might bring. [*Woodland Daily Democrat*, 2/9/08, 2/17/08]