Across the Board (Sequestration) Cuts
February 27, 2013
General Talking Points

- **Sequestration budget cuts would be devastating for California students and schools**
- **Automatic cuts would have the greatest impact on those who can least afford it — the nation's children.**
  - U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) says cut to education would be 8.2%
    - Would set Department of Education funding back to 2003 levels
  - For California, this means $262 million in cuts to California (breakdown follows)
    - $91 million in cuts to Title I
    - $72 million in cuts to SPED
    - $2.8 million in cuts to charter schools
    - $6.9 million in cuts to career and technical education
    - $9.6 million in cuts to ELL
    - $3.7 million in cuts to active duty military/Impact Aid
  - Some cuts would not kick in until the next school year, but others (like Impact Aid) would take effect immediately
- **The cuts come at a time when States are struggling to meet their own financial obligations and cutting State-level spending.**
  - California has cut State education spending by $22 billion over last five years
  - State may not be able to fill the gaps left by federal budget cuts.
- **But less money doesn't mean obligations are relaxed**
  - Still have to provide services to students, meet requirements under ESEA and IDEA, etc.
  - Still have to meet "maintenance of effort" requirements for some laws, which means that other activities are cut
- **And cost of providing K-12 services has risen** (25% since 2003, according to NEA)
- Schools and districts will deal with cuts by:
  - Firing staff (teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, support staff)
  - Increasing class sizes
  - Shortening the school day or week
  - Cutting activities and enrichment programs
  - Delaying purchases of materials, technology
- **Understand that the budget must be balanced and spending reigned in**
  - **BUT should be done in a more well-reasoned and equitable way that doesn't hurt our students**
    - Need to find a balanced approach that protects ordinary Americans
  - Kids will never be able to make up for lost time/opportunities