



Q&A

BUDGET TOWN HALL

MAY 31, 2018

Q: Teachers do not comprise school. Learners comprise school.

A: The proposed FY19 budget allocates 73% of the operational budget for instructional support. Additionally, federal funds are allocated to supplement educational services for students.

Q: We need a monitor on buses!

A: Based on the recommendation from the district safety and security taskforce, security guards will be added for the upcoming school year to enhance student school safety. While bus monitors were not included in this years proposed budget, the district will continue to focus on safety and security and work with the bus contractor and principals to address any safety concerns while students are on the bus.

Q: Given that Las Cruces High School is going to have the highest population of students, why is it losing an assistant principal?

A: We consolidated administration positions at every comprehensive high school. This change will provide additional funds that can be directed to classrooms. Prior to consolidating these positions, we did an extensive analysis of each school to ensure all duties and responsibilities could be effectively handled by the proposed administration personnel at each school.

High School	80 Day Enrollment	Difference
Las Cruces (LCHS)	1695	The enrollment at LCHS is 180 students more than the enrollment at the next largest comprehensive high school.
Centennial	1505	
Mayfield	1448	
Oñate	1511	
Early College	576	
Rio Grande	348	

Q: Where in the budget is the money for mandated high-stakes standardized testing coming? What is the value being used in dollars, resources, staff, & time?

A: Funding for some state mandated standardized testing is included in the district's operational budget; however, the costs associated with the PARCC assessment are funded at the state level. The total district operational expenditure for state mandated standardized testing for FY18 was \$228,000. Previous studies have indicated that time teachers and other staff spend preparing children for standardized testing varies.

Q: Are class loads-teacher to student ratio based on an average? Is it possible that a grade level or class will be overloaded using this formula? Also, will there be a "not to exceed" rule?

A: Class loads are specified in Section 22-10A-20 of New Mexico state law. In developing the proposed budget staff utilized the following guidelines to determine school teaching allotments:

- Elementary 22:1



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- Middle 25:1
- High 25: 1
 - In addition to the basic allocations: Special Education, P.E. and Fine Arts were above and beyond allotments
 - Allotment pool to address possible increase in enrollment

The superintendent and the instruction department will be closely monitoring class loads by teacher in real-time once school begins and make appropriate adjustments, if needed.

Q: How many teaching positions did our previous budget pay for and how many will it cover this year?

A: Last year, Las Cruces Public Schools had a total of 1,426.04 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) teaching positions paid out of operational funding. This year, the proposed budget includes operational funding for 1,465.97 teaching positions, resulting in a net increase of 39.9 teaching positions. These teaching positions include: K-12, special education, early childhood education, preschool, vocational/technical, gifted and other instructional roles.

Q: Will the proposed step increase for classified staff be based on the number of years someone has employed with the district?

A: If the proposed budget is approved and ratified by the bargaining unit, all eligible classified employees will advance one step on the salary schedule specific to their role, regardless of years of service.

Q: Are substitute teachers pay included in the pay increases for the district?

A: The proposed budget does not include a pay increase for substitutes. During the 18-19 school year, the district will support an on-going study to review substitute salaries. Substitute pay has been an issue in many areas of the country, including LCPS and is dependent upon state funding.