

CARLSBAD: School officials recommend more spending cuts

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School officials in Carlsbad are recommending another round of spending cuts to help close a \$7.8 million budget shortfall expected in the next fiscal year.

The new list includes laying off teachers and support employees, increasing class sizes in some grades, and reducing contracts for public relations work and school resource officers.

The changes are expected to save the district roughly \$2.5 million in fiscal 2012-13 and \$3.6 million the following fiscal year.

The 2012-13 cuts would be in addition to \$2.3 million in cuts that [Carlsbad Unified School District](#) trustees approved in November. Those include eliminating administrative positions, asking employees to take pay cuts, reducing stipends, scaling back training and possibly closing two schools.

The district would still need to trim roughly \$3 million to close the remaining budget gap, so district administrators are negotiating with Carlsbad Unified's two employee unions on reductions in pay and benefits. Those talks could lead to a shorter school year if employees agree to furlough days in exchange for lower salaries.

The trustees are scheduled to vote on the proposed spending cuts Wednesday.

School officials have said they're unhappy with the cuts but that they have no choice because the amount of money coming in from the state has dropped over the past couple of years, and that the district has already earmarked most of its reserve funding.

District revenue has declined from \$89 million in 2008-09 to \$83 million in 2009-10 and a projected \$73 million this fiscal year. District officials expect to spend about \$83 million this year. They said there is enough in reserves to cover the difference this year but they won't have enough next year, officials have said.

School budgets are ever-changing documents that could be substantially affected by changes in revenue from the state or from property taxes.

In June, the school board will approve a final budget for the 2012-13 school year.

Wednesday's meeting is at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive.