



Welcome to the **Educate Our State: California Budget Trigger Project** WORKSHEET

Educate Our State, has organized the **California Budget Trigger Project** to give parents across our state, and their elected officials in Sacramento, a truer picture of what impact the potential mid-year budget trigger cuts will have on public education. Cuts are not just numbers. They are people, programs, and—for many of our children—they will mean cuts to their only safety net.

The **California Budget Trigger Project** aims to show the face of the cuts. What they mean to each district and to all of California's six million public school children. This is a two step project, we believe it will be worth the effort.

Step One:

Working with your school district and/or school board, answer the following questions. You should be able to reach your school district and/or school board by attending a school board meeting, calling or emailing board members directly or reaching out to the public information officer in your school district. (Feel free to email this worksheet to expedite the process.)

1. Name of School District: Redwood City School District in San Mateo County
2. How much has our district cut in the past 4 years? \$ 13 million
3. How many students attend school in our district? approximately 9,200
(Now we need you to "do the math" and multiple this by \$200 which is the average potential cut per student)
Number of students x \$200 = \$ 1.8 million total cuts
4. How much does our district have in reserves? 5.5 %
(For this year 11/12 and 12/13, the State allows districts to go as low as 1% in reserve. It will revert back to 3% by 13/14)
5. Please read each of these statements to your school district representative and check all that apply:
 - My district CAN and plans to deal with the trigger cuts by using money from the reserves and still have the legally required amount left in reserves.
 - My district CANNOT deal with the trigger cuts by using money from the reserves and still have the legally required amount left in reserves.
 - My district chooses to address the potential mid-year budget trigger cuts by negotiating with the local unions to reduce the work year.
 - My district either chooses not to, or is unable to, address the potential mid-year budget trigger cuts by negotiating with the local unions to reduce the work year.
6. Number of days of school instruction in your district after any mid-year adjustments. 175-178 days (based on negotiations)
(The recommended school year in California is 180 days of instruction.)
7. What is our school district's plan to address the trigger cuts?

The Redwood City School District has a negotiated contract with the employee unions that trigger automatic furlough days and/or salary reductions as state funding levels fall. Because of this provision in the contract, up to \$1.4 million in cuts will come from salary decreases due to furlough days. The District is grateful to the staff for agreeing to this provision, for taking on extra duties and for extreme prudence in spending, which has allowed the District to remain solvent in these challenging times.

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Thank you for your participation!

The **Educate Our State** Team



Educate Our State is a parent-led, statewide campaign to unite the voices of Californians in support of K-12 Public Education reform and demand real change.

Join the movement!
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