



May 18, 2016

Dear School Leaders,

By now, you've likely seen the headlines proclaiming a 39 percent cut to SBB in next year's school budgets. This is undeniably a shocking number, and we're writing today to clarify what it means and what it doesn't.

While it is true that the SBB rate will be reduced by 39 percent, the total cuts will be mitigated by the redeployment of grant dollars allocated for poverty rates and other needs. This means that individual school budgets will reflect cuts ranging from 20 to 30 percent.

However, even with mitigating factors, we know the size of the final reduction for each of your schools will pose an unprecedented challenge. Knowing that our financial situation will require extreme cuts, we've endeavored to make this year's school budget process a more consultative one -- with individual and small group meetings to gather input and feedback from principals and charter representatives as we create school budgets for next year.

The responses have been incredibly valuable -- allowing for a better understanding of how cuts will affect schools, classrooms, and students, as well as helping to develop additional strategies to help manage these cuts in your schools.

As we continue to refine those strategies before presenting individual school budgets we will also continue to keep the pressure on our leaders in Springfield, in the hopes that the worst of the cuts may still be avoided -- and we thank you once again for joining in that fight in so many meaningful ways.

Finally, there's no doubt the headlines will continue to focus on our district, and our finances. We know that at times this can be a distraction to you and to your school communities, and encourage you to reach out to the Office of Innovation and Incubation with any questions.

Thank you for all you do as leaders within our district, and for all of your help in planning for the year ahead. You'll hear more from us soon.

Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer

