

Why Redlands Unified will see cuts in 2017-18 school year

By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts

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(Redlands, CA) Redlands Unified will face \$1.7 million in reductions for the 2017-18 school year, school officials have announced.

None of the cuts, however, will affect classrooms, said Bernie Cavanagh, assistant superintendent of business services. The reductions go into effect in the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

[The school district anticipated](#) budget cuts earlier this year following the release of Gov. Jerry Brown's preliminary budget for 2017-18, which had allocated less funding for education due to lower-than-previously projected state revenues. At the same time the school district anticipated receiving less money from the state, it had to plan for an increase in its yearly contributions on behalf of employees to state retirement funds.

District officials announced they would take a "proactive measure" in the spring and developed a plan to close a then-projected \$3 million gap for 2017-18 and a forecasted \$4 million shortfall for the 2018-19 school year. That plan included [the adoption of a list outlining potential cuts](#), adopted by the Board of Education in May.

"I do like to see some of the positive changes after the May revise" of the governor's budget, board member Cristina Puraci said Tuesday before the board approved the 2017-18 budget unanimously.

Cuts for the coming school year have not been specified, but the plan approved by the school board included a tiered list of cuts and cost-saving strategies: Among the first initiatives the district could implement are moving Orangewood High School to nonpotable irrigation and increasing facilities use charges. Other measures could include replacing old thermostats with new "controlled" thermostats, the reduction of the management team by two positions and classified team by six employees, and the elimination of nonrequired special education pre-school transportation.

District officials will know if additional cuts are needed in the 2018-19 school year when it receives a "glimpse" of the state budget in January, Cavanagh said.

"The reality is there's a different amount of factors that could enter the picture," he said, "so it's too early to tell."