

For Immediate Release
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**CCSD Releases 2012-2013 Budget Proposal That Puts Kids First, Keeps
Teachers In Classrooms**
Budget is clear example of doing more with less

LAS VEGAS - Today, the Clark County School District submitted a tentative operating budget for the 2012-13 school year to the Board of School Trustees. Due to continuing economic uncertainty and pending the outcome of ongoing arbitration with the Clark County Education Association (CCEA), the tentative budget presents a balanced spending plan and a worst-case scenario outlook.

Despite having to do more with less, Superintendent Dwight D. Jones still says the District must meet its goal to have every graduating senior "Ready by Exit" to compete in college or the workforce by 2016.

"We have an obligation to the State to present a balanced budget each year," said Jones. "The current figures are not ideal, but this is the reality we have to work with. We also have an obligation to this community to graduate educated students. Limited resources do not equal limited responsibility."

The budget shows a priority placed on classroom learning illustrated by continuing last year's across-the-board reductions of 20 percent for all "non-school based" expenses, as well as keeping the "staggered bell times" in place to reduce fuel costs. These continued actions helped save \$58 million across the District.

The District has stretched existing funds to impact the fewest jobs possible in this difficult economic climate. For example, today district officials asked the Board of School Trustees to grant a waiver to tap into \$20 million from a savings account to help make payroll. That savings account, called the "fund balance," is earmarked for federal programs and other highly restricted uses and cannot be used any further to balance our budget.

Following the trend that the District has seen for the past four years, once again CCSD is forced to plan amid revenues that have dropped while yearly expenditures -- such as salaries, benefits, and fuel and utility costs - continue to increase. This budget proposal is a clear example of making education and achievement of students a priority while keeping our daily operations afloat in the most efficient ways possible.

A worst-case budget scenario would be created if the District loses a pending case regarding teacher pay raises currently before an arbitrator. The District is currently seeking to hold pay steady for the nearly 18,000 licensed personnel to cover a \$63 million shortfall. If the arbitrator

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rules against the District forcing a pay raise, there will be a \$63 million deficit to fill. If faced with this worst-case scenario, the District would be forced to cut into funds that maintain positions. Clark County School District's budget is nearly 90 percent employee compensation and benefits. All other areas have been impacted by budget cuts that have totaled nearly \$150 million over the last year.

A second public hearing on the budget will take place at a regularly scheduled board meeting on May 16 to address any revisions. CCSD must submit a final budget to the Nevada Department of Taxation by June 8, 2012.

JUST THE FACTS: CCSD's Worst-Case Scenario Budget for school year 2012-13

By the numbers: The operating budget for the 2012-13 school year is \$2,054,325,000

This budget is **\$35.7 million less** than the 2011-12 operating budget.

The State of Nevada provides a set rate of **\$5,249 per student** into CCSD's operating budget.

The District must plan for a **\$63 million dollar shortfall** in the event CCSD loses a pending arbitration to hold licensed personnel pay at 2012-2011 rates.

If forced to give raises, the District would have no choice but to cut nearly **300 jobs** immediately.

Reallocating our Priorities: CCSD has continued previous years cost savings measures for the 2012-13 fiscal year to protect teaching jobs:

\$10 million saved by consolidating bell schedules.

\$48 million saved by cutting 20 percent from all "non-classroom" expenditures.

\$24 million eliminated from textbook and supply budgets.

\$7 million eliminated from funds to pay for non-teaching staff positions in special education and ELL courses.

The Outstanding Issue: CCSD's budget accounts for \$63.9 million in cost savings proposed in contract negotiations. This issue is pending the decision of an arbitrator.

Best-Case Scenario: A CCSD win in arbitration keeps teachers in the classroom. Even under this best-case scenario, the District will find itself looking to eliminate an additional \$3 million shortfall.

Worst-Case Scenario: The CCEA wins arbitration and forces pay raises making layoffs necessary. Under this scenario, at least 300 classroom positions will be immediately eliminated. The District is committed to doing all we can to keep teachers in classrooms until the end of the year and plans to use one-time federal EduJobs funding to manage payroll until summer. To balance the budget under this scenario, CCSD will be left with no choice but to eliminate more than 1,000 positions to make up for the funding shortfall.

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