



## OVERRIDE FACT SHEET AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What is a Budget Override?** Coolidge Unified School District is requesting a 10% Maintenance and Operations budget increase. School districts in Arizona are allowed by state law to increase their Maintenance & Operations (M&O) budgets each year by up to 15% of the revenue control limit imposed by the state legislature. M&O funds are used almost exclusively for salaries for teachers and staff. About half the school districts in Arizona (representing 80-85% of the students) presently have a budget override in place.

**How long do override funds last?** An override lasts for seven years. If not renewed, the amount decreases by one-third in the sixth year and two-thirds in the seventh year. In year eight, it expires. Even though continuation overrides are not new taxes, per state law, they must be renewed through an election to continue for another seven years.

**Have voters in Coolidge Unified School District passed budget overrides in the past?** Yes, Coolidge voters first approved the 8% M&O override in 2004. This override expired June 30, 2012.

**How has the phase down of the override affected the district in the current budget?** The loss of more than \$1.7M in override funding combined with already significant reductions in state funding has resulted in unprecedented reductions in the 2012-2013 budget. Budget reductions made this year include:

- Larger class sizes
- Reduction in staff
  - 26 teachers
  - 2 counselors
  - 5 administrative positions
  - 27 support staff positions
- Reduction of classroom supplies and materials
- Fewer employees and services to maintain facilities
- No new technology to support student learning

**What will the M&O Override do for our students?**

- Lower class sizes for more individual student attention
- Retain PE and restore Art and Music
- Technology to support student learning
- Maintain extracurricular programs, including athletics
- Attract and retain high quality teachers and support staff
- Promote a safe and healthy school environment

**What would the override do for our homeowners?** The passing of the override would have a positive impact on property values because the area would have quality schools.

**What will happen if the budget override is not renewed?** The district will be forced to cut the operating budget as the state continues to reduce funding for K-12 education. Class sizes will increase, programs for students will be reduced or eliminated and salaries will not be competitive with other area school districts.

**How much will the override cost the average taxpayer?** Currently a home with a full cash value of \$100,000 would pay \$0.98 cents per \$100 of secondary assessed valuation, or \$98 per year or \$8.17 per month, or \$0.27 per day.

**When will the M&O Override be on the ballot?** The M&O Override will be on the November 6, 2012 ballot; early voting for this measure will start October 11, 2012.