



Unclear state and LAUSD budgets complicate UTLA negotiations to save jobs

LAUSD overstated budget deficit

A study of the District budget by UTLA's forensic accountants has found that LAUSD has overstated its deficit for the 2011-12 school year by \$150 million by computing a projected loss of state revenues twice. UTLA has asked LAUSD to explain the discrepancy, but so far it has not been able to do so. *That \$150 million could go far to protect our students' learning environment by bringing back thousands of RIF'd teachers and health and human services professionals and stopping class sizes from increasing.*

We are also anticipating the May revise of the state budget (which could make the financial picture better or worse) and possible action by the legislature to approve tax extensions to prevent cuts to schools.

Too soon to agree to concessions

LAUSD's initial offer to all employee unions is a 6% pay cut in the form of 12 "furlough" days for 2011-12 (only five of which are true furlough days). Reports are that AALA, the union for LAUSD administrators, has accepted an offer.

Our top priority continues to be to save jobs and stop class-size increases. It is too soon to agree to any deal while there are serious unresolved questions about the state and LAUSD budget.

LAUSD pleads poverty while hiring new top-salary administrators

Our faith in LAUSD's financial priorities has been shaken once again by reports that Superintendent John Deasy is planning to hire at least nine six-figure bureaucrats while 5,000 UTLA members were given pink slips. The funding for those positions (some of which comes from private funders who support flawed initiatives like Public School Giveaway and linking pay to test scores) could be far better spent on bringing back classroom teachers and other school site personnel who work directly with students every day.

UTLA aggressively negotiating with LAUSD

UTLA has set an aggressive schedule of negotiation sessions with LAUSD. Negotiations began in March and are scheduled for April 28 and May 3, 5, 12, 17, 25, and 26. Before any agreement is finalized, it will go to a vote of the members.

May 9-13: "State of emergency" actions

UTLA will join educators across the state in a week of protests to demand tax extensions to prevent deeper cuts to schools. Look for the latest on UTLA's actions at utla.net.