



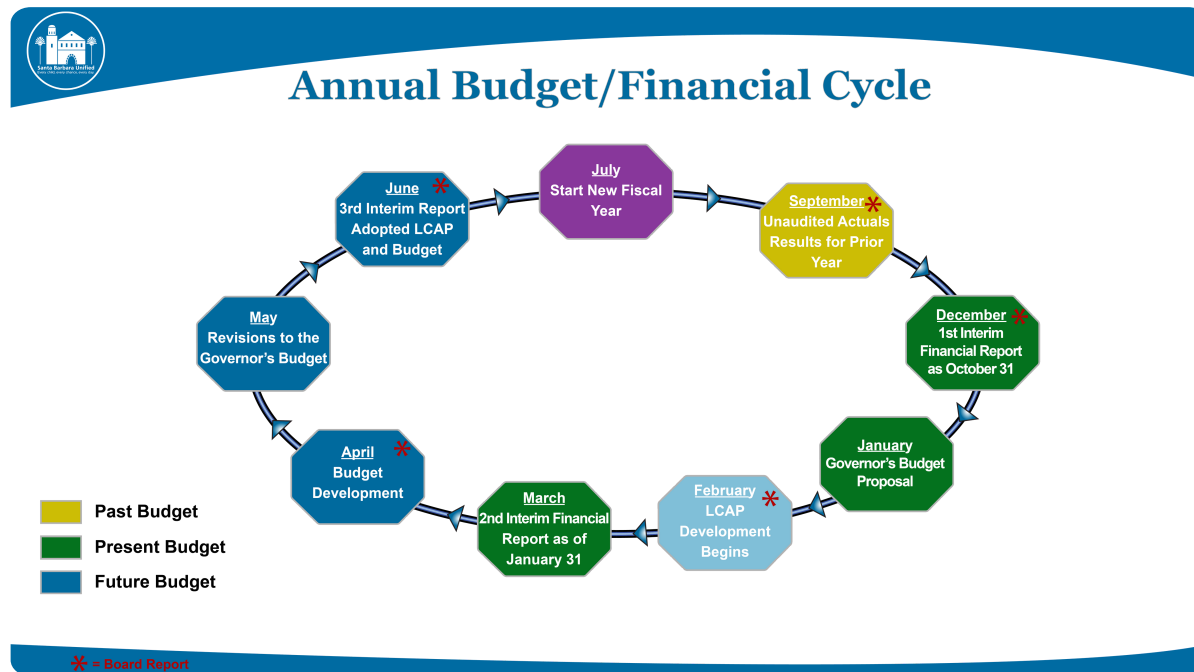
DID YOU KNOW?

Budget Process

Santa Barbara Unified's budget is developed in a multi-step public process each year. Staff begin developing their budgets for the District and staff in April. Of particular note is that the cycle consists of past, present and future budget analysis and projections. As an example, Unaudited Actuals for a prior school year are presented in September while we are well settled into new classes.

Therefore, careful attention to the budget being compared is critical. Discussions around financial reports can be confusing as some reports look at the year before, some look at the current year, and some are looking toward the future.

Another key step in the budget process is the development of the Local Control Accountability (LCAP) plan, which began in February this year with public feedback. The LCAP uses input solicited from parents, staff, and stakeholders to figure out metrics to make sure our schools are equitably serving all students.



In May, Districts find out what the finalized proposals are in the Governor's budget and begin planning around those impacts. The Budget and LCAP are then posted for public review at the first Board of Education meeting for review in June and are approved at the second hearing.

The new budget takes effect July 1. There are interim financial reports in December and March to provide status reports on District spending. A final report, called Unaudited Actuals, is presented each year in September to provide a summary of the District's spending. Last year, the District posted a positive certification of the budget, meaning it did not spend more than its revenue. All documents for the budget are now available for public review and are posted both on [Board of Education meeting agendas](#), along with our [District Budget and Financial Reporting webpage](#).