

From: [Kevin Bogatin](#)
To: [TSD Staff](#)
Subject: TSD Budget Update
Date: Friday, October 11, 2024 2:17:30 PM

Dear Tumwater School District Staff,

I want to start by acknowledging the great start we've had this year. Our buildings are welcoming, buses are mostly on time, student meal participation is at an all-time high, and our focus on student development—both social-emotional and academic—is making a difference in our community.

To maintain this positive momentum, we must now turn our attention to the district's financial situation. Over the past few months, we've been tracking key budget indicators, and the data shows that we need to take some action now to ensure our financial stability.

Here's a brief overview of where we stand:

- As of August 31st, our general fund cash balance was \$5.44 million, down from \$9.34 million at the same time last year.
- We expect the September balance to be the lowest in at least five years (we are awaiting final reports from the County Treasurer).
- These figures mean we won't meet the School Board's minimum fund balance policy, and the pace of decline is a significant concern.

To address this, we will be implementing the following measures, none of which are intended to violate any existing provisions of a collective bargaining agreement:

1. **Budget Review:** Department and building leaders will review non-salary budgets to identify strategic savings of at least 10%.
2. **Hiring Freeze:** The district is placing a hold on new positions at this time.
3. **Overtime/Extra-Time:** Effective immediately, all overtime or extra-time must be pre-approved by management, with only emergency exceptions.
4. **Travel:** No new out-of-district travel will be approved, except for specific cases such as grant requirements.
5. **Food & Beverage Policy:** New guidelines on food and beverage purchases will be coming later this fall.

I know these steps are challenging, but they are necessary to keep us financially stable and ensure we can continue serving our students effectively. I believe that together, we can meet these challenges head-on while keeping students at the center of our work.

Our finance department will be providing regular financial updates as the district gathers more information, especially as the legislative session kicks off in January. If you have any questions,

please connect with your building principal or department leadership or don't hesitate to reach out to me directly and I'll do my best for myself or my team to provide you with answers and information. Our website has our current year budget, and we will be updating the site regularly with additional financial information.

Thank you for your commitment and the role you play in our district's success.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bogatin
Superintendent