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2026-2027 School and Central Office Budgets - Fall

Adjusting for decreased student enrollment and increased employee compensation

Overview: Like school districts around the country, the Clark County School District (CCSD) is adjusting to declining student enrollment and increasing employee costs.

In the 2026-2027 school year, CCSD has seen a higher decrease in enrollment than first projected, particularly as fewer students are enrolling in Kindergarten and Grade 1 due to lower birth rates and competition. CCSD is also seeing higher-than-anticipated average employee costs as employee retention rates rise.

How is declining student enrollment affecting CCSD's budget?

Student enrollment numbers for the 2026-2027 school year are more than 10,400 students lower than in the 2025-2026 school year. The loss of 10,400 students amounts to more than \$100 million in reduced state funding and necessitates adjustments to the District budget.

- In anticipation of serving fewer students, CCSD reduced budgets by about \$50 million last Spring, including more than \$20 million in reductions to the Central Office.
- This Fall, CCSD will reduce its budget by \$51.6 million to account for additional enrollment declines. Schools will absorb about \$29.1 million in impact, and CCSD is proposing a 2.5% across-the-board budget cut for the central office, totaling about \$22.5 million, to offset more than 40% of the revenue reductions.

How are increasing employee costs affecting CCSD's budget?

CCSD is incredibly proud to have provided a 10% increase in pay and benefits to all employee bargaining units for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. We believe that providing all employees with higher salaries and benefits will increase our retention rates and, ultimately, student achievement.

CCSD uses the average cost per elementary and secondary teacher when planning school budgets. The average cost of teachers rose more than expected this Fall, largely because CCSD is improving its retention of teachers. The district hired 67% fewer first-year teachers in the 2026-2027 school year, which increased the overall average teacher salary.

What other factors affect school budgets each year?

CCSD is funded based on the number of students served, with additional, weighted funding for students at risk of not graduating, English Language Learners, students in Special Education, and gifted and talented students. Tentative budgets can change in the Fall based on the actual number of students who enroll and the differences in weighted funding received.

Is this different from other years?

CCSD always goes through the budgeting process twice a year: first, in the Spring, in preparation for the upcoming school year, using projected student enrollment and employee costs; and second, in the Fall, by adjusting actual budgets once we know how many students are enrolled in our schools and which mix of employees will ultimately be funded.

What are the next steps?

Following each School Organizational Team (SOT) vote of approval, principals submit their school budgets to the Central Office by Friday, September 18, 2026.

How many employees were impacted by budget reductions last Spring?

As a result of the Spring budget process, schools reduced about 1,200 positions across the various employee groups. **Every licensed teacher was offered a position for 2026-2027.**

- Licensed teachers: 674 initially surplus, and 0 educators were removed due to a reduction in force.
- Administrators: 73 were initially surplus, and fewer than 30 remain in the pool.
- Support Professionals: 518 were initially surplus, and about 70 employees could not be placed in positions for which they qualified.

Does CCSD anticipate having to make additional staffing reductions this Fall?

Yes. CCSD will adjust staffing to accommodate the decrease in the number of students we now serve. This will be done in alignment with our employee-negotiated agreements. CCSD has about 160 open licensed teaching positions, and we hope to place as many licensed employees as possible into those positions if they qualify.

Does this mean class sizes will increase?

Despite decreasing student enrollment, CCSD's increase in teacher retention and focus on maintaining as many teaching positions as possible demonstrates overall progress in reducing class sizes and staffing more classrooms with qualified, licensed teachers:

	2022-2023*	2023-2024*	2024-2025*	2025-2026*	2026-2027*
Students Enrolled	297,833	292,080	289,258	281,521	270,975
Classroom Teachers Filled	14,838	14,997	15,574	16,005	15,500
Classroom Teacher Vacancies	1,367	1,185	885	320	170
Classroom Fill Percentage	91.56%	92.68%	94.62%	98.04%	98.92%

* Date reflects comparable snapshots taken in August of each school year

Why is CCSD experiencing declining student enrollment?

School districts across the country, including those in Nevada, are adjusting to declining student enrollment due to a variety of factors, including:

- **Declining birth rates:** CCSD's just-graduated 12th-grade cohort consisted of 24,601 students, while the current Kindergarten cohort consists of 16,126 students, reflecting national trends of lower birth rates.
- **Declining population growth:** UNLV's Center for Business and Economic Research [notes that](#), "Birth rates in Clark County run below the national average, and net migration — both domestic and international migration — is expected to come in lower than in past forecasts." Growth is also uneven. For example, some schools in the Northwest area are overcrowded, and CCSD is opening a new elementary school in the Skye Canyon area for the 2027-2028 school year.
- **More school choice:** More families are choosing options such as charter schools. To better compete and offer families options, CCSD continues to promote [Open Enrollment](#) for families seeking schools outside their zoned neighborhood school.

What is CCSD doing to stabilize school budgets as we navigate declining enrollment statewide?

1. CCSD is using one of its two bill draft requests for the 2027 Legislature to ask that prior-year enrollment numbers be used for Fall budgets. This would significantly reduce disruptions for students, teachers, and schools each fall.
2. CCSD and the Clark County Education Association (CCEA) have agreed to allow elementary schools to “split” some school-based positions (humanities, art, music, PE, counselors, special education instructional facilitators, and social workers), so that small schools serving fewer students can provide the state-required services from a licensed teacher while splitting costs with another small school.
3. The Commission on School Funding has discussed several options to stabilize school district funding amid declining enrollment across all districts. Options include examining the distribution of the “at-risk” weight provided for students, which sometimes creates unpredictability for school budgets, as well as preserving funding already earmarked for public education even if enrollment declines.

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