

## BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CAP

ARLENE LEWIS – DIRECTOR

LISA PITCH - COORDINATOR

---

TO: Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent  
Community & Government Relations

FROM: Arlene Lewis  
Lisa Pitch

PC: Craig Kadlub  
Karlene Lee

SUBJECT: Clark County School District Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey - 2008

The Clark County School District (CCSD) conducted a survey of parents and guardians of CCSD students regarding the prospective Nevada State education budget reductions. The *Clark County School District Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey 2008*<sup>1</sup> sought the opinions of parents and guardians of **CCSD students about the reduction of a portion of the prospective \$120 million budget cut. Specifically, this survey asked for opinions about the \$9 million proposed reduction to be removed from district-wide programs.**

Surveys were sent out to 7,987 households of parents/guardians of CCSD students on October 21, 2008. In addition, on October 24, 2008 a Spanish translated version of the survey was sent to 5,067 parent/guardian households that have a Spanish language preference.<sup>2</sup>

To develop a mailing list, a random sample of parents/guardians was generated. Random (probability) sampling is one of the most widely accepted methods of scientific sampling, as it maximizes the likelihood that the opinions reflected by the sample of parents/guardians are the same as those of the entire population of CCSD parents/guardians. The advantage of probability sampling is that “sampling error” can be calculated. Sampling error is the degree to which a sample might differ from the population. When inferring opinions from the sample about the entire population, results are reported plus or minus the sampling error.

### **METHOD**

The Clark County School District Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey was mailed to parents/guardians of CCSD students. The survey consisted of 25 questions which asked how parents/guardians felt about program budget cuts. Questions were written with the intent to determine how strongly respondents felt about budget cuts for specific programs within CCSD. They were asked to indicate for each grade one through twelve in which they had a child/children. Parents/Guardians were also asked to indicate if they were an employee of CCSD.

### **Whole District Sample**

The sample population of 7,987 CCSD parents/guardians was calculated from the entire number of households within CCSD. The 7,987 number was calculated to receive a 95% confidence level<sup>3</sup> with a sampling error (confidence interval) of plus or minus 4%. The return rate expected from this survey was estimated to be 7%, a return rate which mirrors the return rate of the annual CCSD District Wide Parent Survey (DWS).

---

<sup>1</sup> See attached surveys.

<sup>2</sup> The Spanish translation of the survey was sent out at a later date due to translation time.

<sup>3</sup> Confidence level is how sure it is that the sample opinions accurately reflect the whole population's opinions.

BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CAP

ARLENE LEWIS – DIRECTOR

LISA PITCH - COORDINATOR

**Spanish Language Preference Sample**

The sample population of 5,067 CCSD Spanish language preference parent/guardian households was calculated from the entire number of Spanish language preference households within CCSD. The 5,067 number was calculated to receive a 95% confidence level<sup>3</sup> with a sampling error (confidence interval) of plus or minus 5%. The return rate expected from this survey was estimated to be 7%, a return rate which mirrors the return rate of the annual CCSD District Wide Parent Survey (DWS).

**Sample Statistics**

The demographics of the sample of parent/guardian households that were sent surveys mirrored the entire population of parents/guardians as shown in the tables below. In every demographic subgroup, there was no statistical difference between the parents/guardians in the sample compared to the total district.

School Level (Elementary and Secondary)	Population %	Sample %
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*	47.08	46.92
SECONDARY SCHOOL*	52.92	53.08

\* p>.05 (No statistical difference between the population and the sample)

School Level (Elementary, Middle and High School)	Population %	Sample %
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*	47.08	46.92
MIDDLE SCHOOL*	22.64	22.56
HIGH SCHOOL*	30.28	30.52

\* p>.05 (No statistical difference between the population and the sample)

Ethnicity	Population %	Sample %
White*	34.80	35.29
Black*	15.04	15.00
Asian, Pacific Islander*	9.22	9.33
American Indian, Alaskan Native*	0.78	0.80
Hispanic*	40.16	39.58

\* p>.05 (No statistical difference between the population and the sample)

English Language Learner Status	Population %	Sample %
Not English Language Learner*	81.17	81.81
English Language Learner*	18.83	18.19

\* p>.05 (No statistical difference between the population and the sample)

Free and Reduced Lunch Status	Population %	Sample %
Non Free and Reduced Lunch*	56.60	56.67
Free and Reduced Lunch*	43.40	43.33

\* p>.05 (No statistical difference between the population and the sample)

BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CAP

ARLENE LEWIS – DIRECTOR

LISA PITCH - COORDINATOR

The table below shows the t-test for Equality of Means for the comparison of the total population parent/guardian group and the sample population parent guardian group. The significance column [Significance (2-tailed)] shows if there is a statistical difference between the total district population subgroup and the sample parent/guardian subgroup. **In every case, there is no statistical difference between the total population parent/guardian group and the sample population parent/guardian group.**

Independent Samples Test*	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	F	Sig.	t	df	Significance (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Standard Error Difference	Up	Low
Subgroups									
Elementary and Secondary	0.33	0.57	-0.28	240958	<b>0.78**</b>	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Elementary, Middle and High School	0.07	0.80	-0.40	240958	<b>0.69**</b>	0.00	0.01	-0.02	0.02
Free and Reduced Lunch	0.07	0.80	0.13	241455	<b>0.90**</b>	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.01
English Language Learner	8.46	0.00	1.44	241455	<b>0.15**</b>	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02
Ethnicity	0.10	0.75	1.03	241445	<b>0.30**</b>	0.02	0.02	-0.02	0.06

\*Equal variances assumed

\*\*This shows that there is no statistical difference between the sample of parents/guardians and the entire population of parents/guardians.

**RESULTS**

Surveys returned by November 6, 2008, were counted and entered into a database for analysis. Five hundred eighty-six (586) of parents/guardians returned the English Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey, while 125 of parents/guardians of Spanish preference households returned surveys for a total of 711. Responses were also disaggregated for elementary and secondary schools. The tables below show the descriptive statistics of how parents/guardians responded to specific program budget cut questions. For questions one through 20, parents/guardians were asked to indicate which programs were most important to keep. The scale used ranged from one to five, with one indicating the least important to keep and five indicating the most important to keep. For questions 21 through 25, parents/guardians were asked how strongly they agreed with the proposed program budget cuts.

**Table One – Response Counts of Parents/Guardians**

Group	Number Received	Number Sent
Elementary School parents/guardians (Pre-K - 5)	418*	3,743**
Secondary School parents/guardians (6 - 12)	389*	4,221**
English language parents/guardians	586	7,987
Spanish language preference parents/guardians	125	5,067
All parents/guardians	711	13,054

\*Some households have both elementary and secondary students, therefore elementary and secondary counts will exceed the 711 total count of all surveys received.

\*\*A small but proportional amount of surveys were sent to adult education and alternative education student households, therefore elementary and secondary parent/guardian counts do not match the total mailed count.

# RESEARCH & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

## BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CAP

ARLENE LEWIS – DIRECTOR

LISA PITCH - COORDINATOR



### Total Parent/Guardian Responses (English and Spanish)

Column four of Table Two shows the mean score for all parents/guardians who responded to the survey. **The questions are listed below in rank order by highest score of what they felt was of highest important to keep and strongest agreement to keep.**

**Table Two – All Parent/Guardian's Mean Score of CCSD Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey**

Question Number	Question Text	Number of Responses	Mean Score	Cost of Program
#1	Athletic programs	701	3.9372	\$6,280,000
#11	Extra-curricular programs	693	3.9192	\$5,210,000
#20	Special education facilitators	695	3.8791	\$12,877,647
#6	Custodial services at schools	700	3.7514	\$754,000
#23	Prevent increase class size: 1st – 3rd grades	693	3.6522	\$15,590,000
#22	Prevent increase class size: 4th & 5th grades	696	3.6135	\$4,295,000
#13	Librarians	698	3.6032	\$9,510,215
#21	Prevent increase class size: 6th – 12th grades	699	3.5207	\$12,365,000
#12	High school proficiency exam tutorial	697	3.4376	\$800,000
#14	Literacy Specialists	699	3.4163	\$17,018,306
#15	Maintenance and grounds keeping at schools	700	3.3057	\$580,006
#24	Prevent increase high school walking distance	692	3.2760	\$3,000,000
#9	Education Computing Specialists	701	3.1641	\$18,106,277
#4	CTE equipment replacement	685	3.1445	\$250,000
#7	Dropout prevention programs	691	3.1389	\$215,000
#25	Eliminate one region	683	3.0952	\$2,600,000
#2	AVID programs	692	3.0275	\$1,994,000
#18	Region differentiated funding	691	2.9595	\$5,500,000
#5	CSN tuition reimbursement	692	2.9480	\$500,000
#3	Block schedules at high schools	694	2.8314	\$11,145,000
#17	Prep periods for high school department chairs	696	2.7543	\$1,760,000
#19	Region professional services	683	2.7379	\$1,600,000
#8	Early retirement incentives	692	2.6676	\$2,500,000
#10	Empowerment Schools	697	2.5782	\$1,665,000
#16	Off-ratio administrative staffing	694	2.5115	\$2,740,000

The summary of results show that **ALL parents/guardians responded that the top (five) programs that they would prefer to keep is:**

1	Athletic programs	\$6,280,000
2	Extra-curricular programs	\$5,210,000
3	Special education facilitators	\$12,877,647
4	Custodial services at schools	\$754,000
5	Prevent increase class size: 1st – 3rd grades	\$15,590,000

BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CAP

ARLENE LEWIS – DIRECTOR

LISA PITCH - COORDINATOR

**Elementary (Grades Pre-K through 5) Parent/Guardian Responses (English and Spanish)**

Table Three shows the mean score for elementary school parent/guardian respondents. **The questions are listed below in rank order by highest score of what they felt was of highest important to keep and strongest agreement to keep.**

**Table Three – Elementary Parent/Guardian's Mean Score of CCSD Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey**

Question Number	Question Text	Number of Responses	Mean Score	Cost of Program
#20	Special education facilitators	408	3.8971	\$12,877,647
#11	Extra-curricular programs	408	3.8873	\$5,210,000
#1	Athletic programs	413	3.8668	\$6,280,000
#22	Prevent increase class size: 4th & 5th grades	411	3.8005	\$4,295,000
#21	Prevent increase class size: 1st – 3rd grades	414	3.7367	\$15,590,000
#6	Custodial services at schools	411	3.7324	\$754,000
#23	Prevent increase class size: 6th – 12th grades	410	3.7195	\$12,365,000
#13	Librarians	412	3.6626	\$9,510,215
#14	Literacy Specialists	413	3.5763	\$17,018,306
#12	High school proficiency exam tutorial	410	3.3902	\$800,000
#15	Maintenance and grounds keeping at schools	411	3.3358	\$580,006
#24	Prevent Increase high school walking distance	408	3.2108	\$3,000,000
#9	Education Computing Specialists	411	3.2068	\$18,106,277
#7	Dropout prevention programs	408	3.1225	\$215,000
#4	CTE equipment replacement	405	3.1037	\$250,000
#25	Eliminate one region	401	3.1022	\$2,600,000
#18	Region differentiated funding	408	3.0098	\$5,500,000
#2	AVID programs	410	2.9902	\$1,994,000
#5	CSN tuition reimbursement	406	2.9064	\$500,000
#19	Region professional services	405	2.7506	\$1,600,000
#17	Prep periods for high school department chairs	409	2.7335	\$1,760,000
#3	Block schedules at high schools	409	2.6504	\$11,145,000
#8	Early retirement incentives	404	2.6089	\$2,500,000
#10	Empowerment Schools	412	2.5922	\$1,665,000
#16	Off-ratio administrative staffing	409	2.4963	\$2,740,000

The summary of results show that **elementary school parents/guardians responded that the top (five) programs that they would prefer to keep is:**

1	Special education facilitators	\$12,877,647
2	Extra-curricular programs	\$5,210,000
3	Athletic programs	\$6,280,000
4	Prevent increase class size: 4th & 5th grades	\$4,295,000
5	Prevent increase class size: 1st – 3rd grades	\$15,590,000

BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CAP

ARLENE LEWIS – DIRECTOR

LISA PITCH - COORDINATOR

**Secondary (Grades 6 through 12) Parent/Guardian Responses**

Table Four shows the mean score for secondary school parent/guardian respondents. **The questions are listed below in rank order by highest score of what they felt was of highest important to keep and strongest agreement to keep.**

**Table Four – Secondary Parent/Guardian’s Mean Score of CCSD Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey**

Question Number	Question Text	Number of Responses	Mean Score	Cost of Program
#1	<b>Athletic programs</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	<b>\$6,280,000</b>
#11	<b>Extra-curricular programs</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>3.9138</b>	<b>\$5,210,000</b>
#20	<b>Special education facilitators</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>3.8438</b>	<b>\$12,877,647</b>
#6	<b>Custodial services at schools</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>3.6667</b>	<b>\$754,000</b>
#23	<b>Prevent increase class size: 6th – 12th grades</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>3.6615</b>	<b>\$12,365,000</b>
#22	Prevent increase class size: 4th & 5th grades	384	3.5182	\$4,295,000
#13	Librarians	385	3.4442	\$9,510,215
#12	High school proficiency exam tutorial	382	3.4424	\$800,000
#24	Prevent increase high school walking distance	380	3.3763	\$3,000,000
#21	Prevent increase class size: 1st – 3rd grades	385	3.3714	\$15,590,000
#14	Literacy Specialists	381	3.2047	\$17,018,306
#15	Maintenance and grounds keeping at schools	383	3.2010	\$580,006
#4	CTE equipment replacement	375	3.1333	\$250,000
#25	Eliminate one region	376	3.0957	\$2,600,000
#7	Dropout prevention programs	379	3.0607	\$215,000
#9	Education Computing Specialists	385	3.0364	\$18,106,277
#2	AVID programs	379	2.9894	\$1,994,000
#3	Block schedules at high schools	382	2.9529	\$11,145,000
#5	CSN tuition reimbursement	381	2.9449	\$500,000
#18	Region differentiated funding	381	2.8241	\$5,500,000
#8	Early retirement incentives	379	2.6544	\$2,500,000
#17	Prep periods for high school department chairs	382	2.6204	\$1,760,000
#19	Region professional services	374	2.5588	\$1,600,000
#16	Off-ratio administrative staffing	380	2.4842	\$2,740,000
#10	Empowerment Schools	381	2.3648	\$1,665,000

The summary of results show that **secondary school parents/guardians responded that the top (five) programs that they would prefer to keep is:**

<b>1</b>	<b>Athletic programs</b>	<b>\$6,280,000</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Extra-curricular programs</b>	<b>\$5,210,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Special education facilitators</b>	<b>\$12,877,647</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Custodial services at schools</b>	<b>\$754,000</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Prevent increase class size: 6th – 12th grades</b>	<b>\$12,365,000</b>

**Spanish Language Preference Parent/Guardian Responses (Grades Pre-K through 12)**

Table Five shows the mean score for Spanish language preference school parent/guardian respondents. **The questions are listed below in rank order by highest score of what they felt was of highest important to keep and strongest agreement to keep.**

**Table Five – Spanish Language Preference Parent/Guardian's Mean Score of CCSD Parent/Guardian Budget Cuts Survey**

Question Number	Question Text	Number of Responses	Mean Score	Cost of Program
#20	Special education facilitators	118	4.3475	\$12,877,647
#6	Custodial services at schools	121	4.3471	\$754,000
#1	Athletic programs	121	4.0000	\$6,280,000
#14	Literacy Specialists	121	3.8926	\$17,018,306
#9	Education Computing Specialists	122	3.8770	\$18,106,277
#13	Librarians	120	3.8417	\$9,510,215
#12	High school proficiency exam tutorial	120	3.8083	\$800,000
#2	AVID programs	119	3.7983	\$1,994,000
#7	Dropout prevention programs	117	3.7265	\$215,000
#10	Empowerment Schools	121	3.6860	\$1,665,000
#15	Maintenance and grounds keeping at schools	122	3.6803	\$580,006
#11	Extra-curricular programs	116	3.6638	\$5,210,000
#5	CSN tuition reimbursement	118	3.6441	\$500,000
#19	Region professional services	117	3.6325	\$1,600,000
#18	Region differentiated funding	117	3.6068	\$5,500,000
#3	Block schedules at high schools	116	3.6034	\$11,145,000
#17	Prep periods for high school department chairs	120	3.5583	\$1,760,000
#4	CTE equipment replacement	119	3.5042	\$250,000
#25	Eliminate one region	112	3.4375	\$2,600,000
#8	Early retirement incentives	118	3.3898	\$2,500,000
#23	Increase class size: 6th – 12th grades	114	3.2632	\$12,365,000
#16	Off-ratio administrative staffing	116	3.2414	\$2,740,000
#22	Prevent increase class size: 4th & 5th grades	116	3.1983	\$4,295,000
#21	Prevent increase class size: 1st – 3rd grades	118	3.1780	\$15,590,000
#24	Prevent increase high school walking distance	115	3.1652	\$3,000,000

The summary of results show that **Spanish language preference school parents/guardians responded that the top (five) programs that they would prefer to keep is:**

1	Special education facilitators	\$12,877,647
2	Custodial services at schools	\$754,000
3	Athletic programs	\$6,280,000
4	Literacy Specialists	\$17,018,306
5	Education Computing Specialists	\$18,106,277