

# State of the School



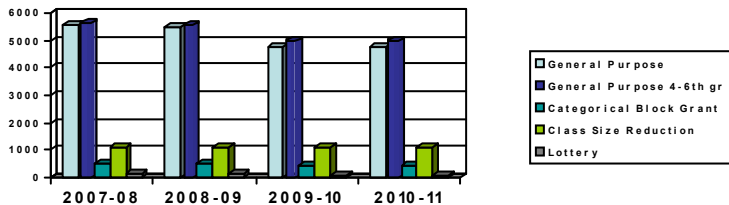
## *EAGLE PEAK, THE STATE & THE BUDGET*

Eagle Peak as a public charter school, receives funding from the state of California in order to operate. We do not receive money from MDUSD. Our budget is separate from the district..

	General Purpose Lower El	General Purpose Upper EL	Categorical Block Grant	Class Size Reduction	Lottery	Total per Lower El Student	Total per Upper El Student	Total Revenue from State
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2007-08 Funding	\$5562	\$5640	\$500	\$1092	\$150	\$7304 X 114*	\$6290 X 69*	\$1,255,166
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2009-10 Funding	\$4478	\$4964	\$404	\$1071	\$100	\$6051 X 114*	\$5468 X 69*	\$1,067,106
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\*These numbers assume a 100% ADA. EPMS usually averages 97% ADA. \$188,060 less in revenue between 07-08 and 09-10

As you can see from the numbers above, our budget has been drastically affected by these cuts. Our revenue has been reduced by approximately \$188,060 over the past two years.

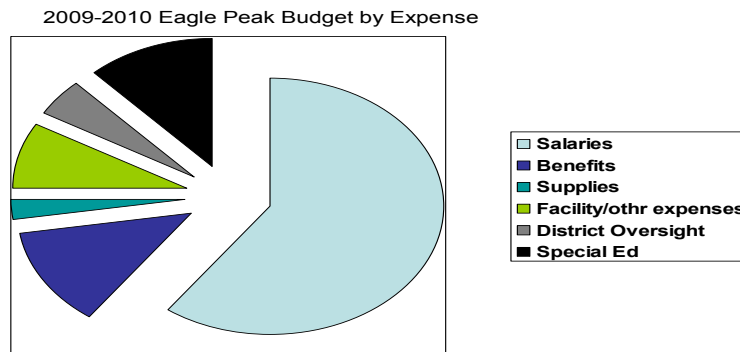
We also generate revenue from fundraising. For 08-09 these levels were:

- Childcare– approx \$25,000/year
- Fundraising– approx \$80,000/year
- Misc.- \$5,000/year

For 2009-2010 our budget has been negatively impacted in the following areas:

- Decline in childcare has resulted in decreased revenue from this program.
- Increase in health benefit costs for the staff.
- Increase in student special education fee paid to the District, up \$64/student over last year for a total fee/encroachment of \$800/student = \$11,840

The graph below shows the distribution of our expenditures. Almost 73% of our expenses are salaries and benefits which are the most difficult to reduce.



This year the school was projected to lose approximately \$100,000. This trend is expected to continue as no additional revenues are expected to be received from the State. Additional losses could be incurred if State government mandates additional funding reductions. However, for 2009-2010, there is Federal Stimulus money which will provide approximately \$60,000 of the shortfall. We hope that through improved attendance and use of Independent Studies (see below), to bring our attendance rate up to provide another \$40,000.

For 2010-11 there is not expected to be stimulus money. The following were items approved by the Board of Directors at the February board meeting to help address this budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year.

- Increase Lower Elementary class size to 40 students/class. (This is a 1-2 student increase per class.)
- Discontinue subsidizing Upper Elementary Overnight Field Trips. (Hardship cases will still be covered)
- Renegotiate all specialists contracts.
- Charge enrichment class supply fee.
- Shorten school day and adjust how lunch supervision is provided.

We estimate a savings of approximately \$66,000 once the measures listed above are implemented. In addition to these items, salaries for all staff were frozen for this school year and we expect salaries to remain frozen next year.

Although due to stimulus and attendance we hope to break even this year, we cannot continue to operate this way. We need to find ways to increase our revenue, making the school sustainable for years to come. What can you do to help?

## ***How Can You Help?***

- Attendance (Importance of Independent Study)

While it is important your child attend school daily to receive all the benefits of the wonderful Montessori curriculum offered here at EPMS, your child's daily attendance is what our General Purpose Grant is generated from. They do not pay the school based on how many students are enrolled, but rather on the average attendance rate for those students. For example– we have 185 student enrolled. If 18 students miss 10.5 days each, we are only funded for 184 students. This is called Average Daily Attendance. If your child is absent, we do not receive funding for that absence.

Independent study packets are extremely important to the schools budget. These packets of work, are designed to equal a day of work for your child. When they complete this work it is given the same credit as being at school, both for them on their attendance record and for the school. Every time a student completes one of these packets when they are absent, it helps our attendance rate and thus our funding for the year.

One day absent is equal to approximately \$35. A 4% increase in ADA can equal almost \$40,000.

- Fundraising

Annual Giving: Each EPMS family is requested to make an annual contribution of \$400 per child per year. To date, 65% of the EPMS families have contributed to Annual Giving for a total of \$55,000. This money is used to provide our children with Art, PE, Music and Environmental Education.

EPMS Wine and Cheese Reception & Auction– April 24, 2010: The EPMS Wine and Cheese Reception & Auction is our largest fundraiser each year and raises approximately \$20,000. This money is added to our fundraising budget which helps towards meeting any shortfalls we have from state funding. All current EPMS and Alumni parent are invited to attend. If you are not able to attend the event, but would still like to make a donation, you may write a check to the Community Foundation for Eagle Peak.

Teacher Trips-March 5-8, 2010– In next week's Friday Folder, you will find a list of special trips our teachers have put together to make their contribution to raising funds for the school. Your child may want to go to a baseball game, hike Mt. Diablo, or attend a theater performance with his or her favorite teacher. Sign-ups for these trips will be Friday March 5 at Friday Market and Monday March 8 after school. Payment for trips is expected by Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Teacher Trips raise approximately \$2000 for the school.

Stargazing with Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society– Friday March 19, 2010-All EPMS families are invited to a special star gazing evening at EPMS with the Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society on Friday, March 19. For \$10 per family you will have a light dinner, educational presentations, a raffle, and a full line up of telescopes. If the stars align, it's predicted we'll be able to see four planets.

Ongoing Fundraising: Friday Market, E-scrip, Box Tops, and new– Rocco's Pizza Nights.