

# TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

## ADVOCATING ON THE RCSD BUDGET 2022 - 2023

The Children's Agenda and a coalition of RCSD parents and community members is calling for greater investments in student mental health and more transparency about how district funds will be spent. The more people who speak at the **public hearing on Thursday, April 14th at 5:30pm**, the stronger the voice for students will be. Below are key highlights from the proposed budget. On the back are tips for making effective public comments at the hearing.



### TOTAL SPENDING

Budget = **\$1.09 Billion**  
**10.9% Increase**

#### Sources

General Fund = \$836.3 Million  
Special Aid = \$123.8 Million  
Federal Stimulus = \$112.3 Million  
Lunch Fund = \$20.9 Million



### ENROLLMENT DECREASES

District decrease in enrollment  
**K - 12 = 1,084 (4.6%) fewer  
students than last year**

K - 6 = 795 (6.5%) fewer students  
7 - 12 = 282 (2.6%) fewer students



### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

Total = **\$8.3 Million**  
Asked For = **\$20 Million**

#### Budget Includes

\$2.5 Million mental health supports  
\$2.1 Million art, music, PE teachers  
\$2 Million restorative training  
coaches  
\$1.37 Million art, music, PE supplies  
and sensory rooms  
\$188,000 Calming Room (1 school)  
\$157,000 Help Zone (1 school)



### STAFFING CHANGES

**121.34 More Full-Time Equivalent  
Positions (FTEs)**

#### Budget Includes

94.16 Fewer FTEs funded by  
General Fund, Special Aid, and  
Lunch Fund.

215.5 More FTEs funded by Federal  
COVID-19 Stimulus funds

705.65 FTEs are currently unfilled,  
froze, or filled by long-term  
substitutes

# BUDGET ADOPTION PROCESS

- 1** RCSD presented proposed budget
- 2** RCSD Public Hearing  
Thursday, April 14  
5:30pm
- 3** RCSD Finance Committee  
Budget Deliberation  
Tuesday, April 27  
5:30pm pm
- 4** RCSD Commissioners'  
Budget Deliberation  
Thursday, May 5  
5:30pm
- 5** RCSD Public Hearing with  
City Council  
Tuesday, May 31  
5:30pm
- 6** City Council Vote on RCSD  
Budget  
Tuesday, June 14  
7:30pm

## Tips for Speaking at Public Meetings

- ✓ **Be prepared.** Plan what you want to say ahead of time. Make sure it fits the time limit. Rehearse. (150 words = 1 minute)
- ✓ **Introduce yourself** by stating your name and your relationship to the district (student, parent, grandparent, etc.)
- ✓ **State what you are asking for** in direct, concrete terms like "I am asking you to double the number of counselors and social workers."
- ✓ **Explain why it's important to you or your family.** Be sincere and respectful. Stay focused on what is most relevant to your ask.
- ✓ **Thank the elected officials for considering your request.** State what you are asking for again.

## Opportunities to Get Involved

Bilingual Education Council (BEC)

Parent Leadership Advisory Council (PLAC)

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPA) RCSDSepac@gmail.com

Very Invested Parents (VIPs)

bec@rcsdk12.org

plac@rcsd121.org

RCSDSepac@gmail.com

carmen@thechildrensagenda.org 585-256-2620x2613

585-262-8296

*Learn more at [www.thechildrensagenda.org](http://www.thechildrensagenda.org)*