



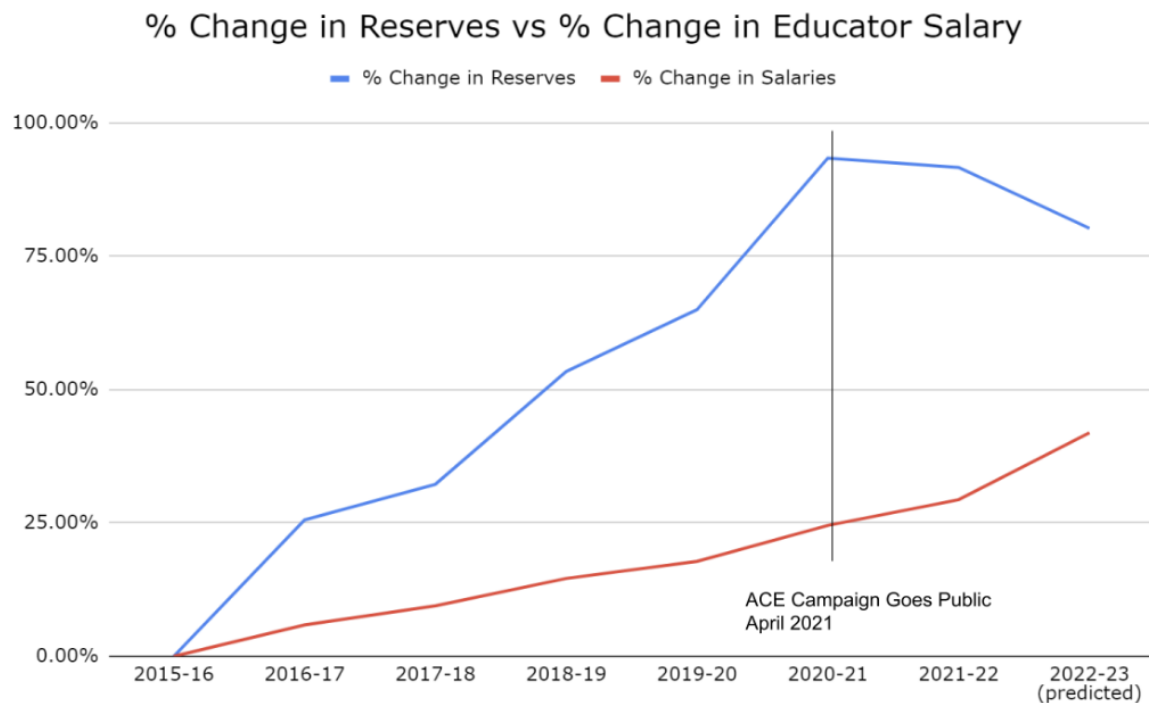
ACE Newsletter: April 20, 2023

Spring Update, Part II: Priorities

In [last week's newsletter](#), we focused on how CUSD's funding stacks up against other school districts - both in the region and statewide - and how that might impact salaries.

This week we're looking at another factor that speaks volumes about how the district prioritizes money: **the budget reserves**. We've discussed the reserves before ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

In essence, the district has claimed that due to a lack of funding, paying Clovis educators a competitive salary wasn't possible. There's one major problem with that claim: the district has continued to stash away money into the budget reserves at a pace slightly higher than salaries. Even more telling: they've far exceeded the amount of reserves required by the CUSD Board. **Every dollar above the Board's required level is money that could be invested in our students.**



READ MORE ABOUT HOW CUSD'S FUNDING LEVELS COMPARE TO OTHER DISTRICTS, WHAT THAT MEANS FOR SALARIES, AND THE RESERVES [HERE](#)

HOW MUCH IN RESERVES IS ENOUGH?

Does the district need reserves? Absolutely. It's a buffer from year to year and against unforeseen costs. **The question is how much they need.** For the 2022-23 school year, \$116 M of the district's general fund existing balance was unrestricted, unassigned, and unappropriated – what we refer to as **reserves**.

The required minimum amount of reserves for a district is a % of the total budget. The state of California has a [minimum level](#) (see item 10), and local school boards can set that level higher.

2%

STATE
REQUIREMENT



10%

CUSD **BOARD**
REQUIREMENT



22%

CUSD END OF
21-22 SCHOOL YEAR



This is **\$116 M**



WATCH: our animated series [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) that explain how these large sums were built up, even during the financial crisis.



ACE SPED Dream Team members have been having lots of conversations around our district. A couple of issues seem of particular interest right now – evaluation of our IA colleagues and class size caps for SPED. So, we rolled up our sleeves and, with the help of CTA, did some research – [here's what we found!](#)

Calendar

April - May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			CUSD Board Meeting			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Psychs MHSPs Bargaining			Psychs MHSPs Bargaining		
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Psychs MHSPs Bargaining				CINCO DE MAYO	

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