

Declaration of Financial Emergency Process

Financial Emergency Declaration Requirements

If the state department of education certifies that one or more of the conditions below in paragraph (a), (b), or (c) are met, then the board of trustees may declare a financial emergency if it determines that the condition in paragraph (f) is also met. Alternatively, the board of trustees may declare a financial emergency if it determines that either of the conditions in paragraph (d) or (e) of this subsection are met and the state department of education certifies that the condition set forth in paragraph (f) is also met.

- (a) Any of the base salary multipliers in section 33-1004E, Idaho Code, are reduced by one and one-half percent or more from any prior fiscal year.
- (b) The minimum instructional salary provision in section 33-1004E, Idaho Code, is reduced by one and one-half percent or more from any prior fiscal year.
- (c) The amount of total general fund money appropriated per support unit is reduced by greater than three percent from the original general fund appropriation per support unit of any prior fiscal year.
- (d) The amount of property tax revenue to be collected by the school district that may be sued for any general fund purpose, with the exception of any emergency levy funds, is reduced from the prior fiscal year, and the amount of said reduction represents more than five percent of the school district's general fund budget for combined state and local revenues from the prior fiscal year.
- (e) The school district's general fund has decreased by at least three percent from the previous year's level due to a decrease in funding or natural disaster, but not a result of a drop in the number of support units or the index multiplier calculated pursuant to section 33-1004A, Idaho Code, or a change in the emergency levy.
- (f) The school district's unrestricted general fund balance, which excludes funds restricted by state or federal law and considering both anticipated expenditures and revenue, is less than five and one-half percent of the school district's unrestricted general fund budget at the time the financial emergency is declared or for the fiscal year for which the financial emergency is declared.

Negotiations

Upon the declaration of financial emergency the board of trustees shall have the power to reopen the salary and benefits compensation aspects of the negotiated agreement, including the length of the certificated employee contracts and the amount of compensation and benefits. If the parties to the negotiated agreement mutually agree, reopen the other matter contained within the negotiated agreement directly affecting the financial circumstance in the school district.

The board and the education association will meet and confer in good faith for the purpose of reaching agreement on such issues. If an agreement has not been reached, the board of trustees may impose its last, best offer following the outcome of the due process hearing.

Due Process Hearing

If the board of trustees takes action after the declaration of a financial emergency and such action is directed at more than one certificated employee and if mutually agreed to by both parties, the board of trustees shall use the following procedure to conduct a single due process hearing within sixty seven days of the declaration of financial emergency on or before June 22, whichever shall occur first. The due process hearing shall not be required if the board of trustees and the local education association reach an agreement.

- (a) The superintendent or any other duly authorized administrative officer of the school district may recommend the change in the length of the term stated in the current contract or reduce the salary of any certificated employee by filing with the board of trustees written notice specifying the purported reasons for such changes.
- (b) Upon receipt of such notice, the board of trustees, acting through its duly authorized administrative official, shall give the affected employees written notice of the reductions and the recommendation of the change in the length of the term stated in the current contract or the reduction of salary, along with written notice of a hearing before the board of trustees prior to any determination by the board of trustees.
- (c) The hearing shall be scheduled to take place not less than six days nor more than fourteen days after receipt of the notice by the employees. The date provided for the hearing may be changed by mutual consent.
- (d) The hearing shall be open to the public.
- (e) All testimony at the hearing shall be given under oath or affirmation. Any member of the board, or the clerk of the board of trustees, may administer oaths to witnesses or affirmations by witnesses.
- (f) The employees may be represented by legal counsel and/or by a representative of a local or state education association.
- (g) The chairman of the board of trustees or the designee of the chairman shall conduct the hearing.
- (h) The board of trustees shall cause an electronic record of the hearing to be made or shall employ a competent reporter to take stenographic or stenotype notes of all the testimony at the hearing. A transcript of the hearing shall be provided at costs by the board of trustees upon request of the employee.
- (i) At the hearing the superintendent or other duly authorized administrative officer shall present evidence to substantiate the reduction contained in such notice.
- (j) The employees may produce evidence to refute the reduction. Any witness presented by the superintendent or by the employees shall be subject to cross-examination. The board of trustees may also examine witnesses and be represented by counsel.
- (k) The affected employees may file written briefs and arguments with the board of trustees within three days after the close of the hearing or such other time as may be agreed upon by the affected employees and the board of trustees.
- (l) Within seven days following the close of the hearing, the board of trustees shall determine and, acting through its duly authorized administrative official, shall notify the employees in writing whether the evidence presented at the hearing established the need for the action taken.

Length of Financial Emergency

A financial emergency shall be effective for one fiscal year unless so qualified by additional reductions.

Annual Meeting and Notice Requirements

If a financial emergency has been declared, the notice of annual meeting and the notice of the annual budget hearing shall be posted for not less than five days, and by such further notice as shall provide reasonable notice to the patrons of the school district if publication in a newspaper is not feasible. If the district has declared a financial emergency, no later than fourteen days prior to its annual meeting, the board of trustees shall have prepared a budget, and held a public hearing.

Legal reference:	I.C. § 33-402	Notice Requirements
	I.C. § 33-522	Issuance of Renewable Contracts
	I.C. § 33-522	Financial Emergency
	I.C. § 33-801	School District Budget

Policy History:

Adopted on: October 19, 2009

Revised on: