

Effects of Funding Freezes/Cuts in School Districts from 2008 to 2017

School District Name	What has been the greatest impact of funding freezes/cuts in your district?
Adair County	Transportation costs, cost of buses, a much needed salary increase for FY'18. We had to cut preschool classes two full days a week. Upkeep for our older two buildings. We are in need of a much larger band building.
Allen County	Less money for instructional resources and less money for classified instructional assistants. Limited upgrades with regard to computer technology in schools. Minor pay increased for district employees.
Anderson County	The impact of decreased funding for the district includes the inability to retain and recruit additional teachers to reduce class size, restricted purchasing of new school buses to replace aging fleet, reduced upgrades to technology, limited program offerings, and severely limited vital construction projects.
Ashland Independent	Greater general fund financial responsibility, reduction in staffing.
Augusta Independent	Reduction in staff, unfunded mandates, rising costs of all expenses in all departments, unable to buy basic instructional resources such as textbooks.
Bardstown Independent	Unfunded mandates by state. Mid-year funding adjustments (cuts) after working budget has been approved by local BOE.
Barren County	The state's SEEK funding has the biggest impact on our district's funding because over 70% of our district's revenue comes from it. When state funding doesn't keep up with inflationary costs each year our district is forced to make hard choices like freezes and cuts.
Bath County	General fund revenues have continued to decrease due to federal/state budget cuts leaving more for local level to pick up. Up to this point (FY18), expenditures have not yet been cut but major spending cuts for all areas — instructional/operational/special ed.,etc. — are going to have to be made this year in order to meet contingency.
Beechwood Independent	1. Pensions would kill us! 2. One nickel has been sunset by the legislative body so our bonding capacity has been dramatically impacted. 3. It's harder to retain staff because we have not increased salaries. 4. We have limited professional development because PD funds have been reduced. 5. And we've had to reduce staff to keep all services going for our kids.
Bellevue Independent	Funding burden has shifted to local monies. 60% state in 2008. 40% state in 2017.
Berea Independent	We have continually reassigned administrative duties to limit the impact on classroom instruction. The cuts announced on 9/8/17 will have a much greater impact on student learning than can be mitigated through reassignment of duties. We aren't sure what the outcome will be, but again, will limit classroom instruction through other programmatic supports. None of what we do is fluff.
Boone County	Limiting student access to technology and textbooks. Limited space and limited operational funding only allows us to operate a half-day K program. Delay to adding world language program. Funding limitations precludes the district from adding digital learning services facilitating 21st century learning for our students. The freeze in transportation funding requires the district to divert funds that would otherwise be used for instruction to the transportation operation.
Boyd County	Staff adjustments. Textbooks. Transportation needs. Software and programs such as Infinite Campus fees that have been passed on to the district level after previously been paid by the state.
Bracken County	Continued unfunded mandates and no growth in funding.

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Breathitt County	Teaching and learning.
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Breckinridge County	Large reduction to our operating expenses. For example, we have been unable to maintain an adequate school bus replacement schedule.
Bullitt County	Uncertainty of federal funding.
Burgin Independent	We cannot pay our teachers a competitive salary, compared to area districts. Our school keeps growing but our facilities can't keep up.
Butler County	Not be able to do after school programs.
Caldwell County	There were no raises for staff for several years, days were cut from 187 to 185. We did not purchase new buses for two years and we reduced the number of buses purchased in two other years. We cut back on the maintenance projects as much as possible.
Calloway County	We are looking at every area, trying to stretch an already thin dollar. We are reducing staff in every area possible. We have reduced contract days for almost all of our staff. Adding additional programs is no longer an option and every request must be scrutinized. We recently outsourced custodial services as well.
Campbell County	All of the cuts from the federal and state levels have forced the district to rely heavily upon local support, which puts a burden on the local community. Unfunded mandates and other expenses passed on from legislative decisions require local districts to spend more funds on items that in the past were covered. While this is not represented as a cut it still impacts local districts' flexibility in budget decisions.
Campbellsville Independent	Professional development. Textbooks. After school programs.
Carlisle County	Having to cut staff.
Carroll County	Setting funds aside for future construction use. Only have the original FSPK nickel in Carroll County and funding projects has been difficult.
Carter County	While we have not had to eliminate many programs, we have been unable to add the STEM classes that our students need to be prepared for the future.
Casey County	Preschool funding - going to grant applications. SEEK money remaining the same for numerous years.
Caverna Independent	Decreases to staff. Huge increase in fundraisers which allows for bigger burden on parents.
Christian County	Making ends meet. Pressure for more local funding.
Clark County	Not a freeze or cut, but transportation remains costly.
Clinton County	The ability to upgrade facilities.
Cloverport Independent	For FY 2008, the state grants including Flex Focus grants were \$151,537.44. For FY 2017, these same grants were \$131,721 for a reduction in funding of \$19,816.44.
Corbin Independent	General fund monies have been forced to pay for funding shortages for transportation and half-day kindergarten funding. If transportation and full-day kindergarten had been fully funded, the district would have more funding available for technology and additional instructional needs.
Covington Independent	n/a
Crittenden County	
Cumberland County	Reduction of staff, buses, reduction of programs.
Danville Independent	Reduction in state grant amounts. This has caused the district to utilize general fund money to maintain programs.
Daviess County	Staffing cuts.
Dawson Springs Independent	Facilities due to using capital outlay money for general operating needs and not being able to afford raises for staff

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Dayton Independent	Stagnant salaries for teachers and staff. No significant raises.
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East Bernstadt Independent	Fewer people to address the needs of students and to offer all the support needed.
Edmonson County	Loss of classified staff.
Elliott County	We have been unable to maintain the number of staff that enables us to keep our student/teacher ratio numbers as low as we would like. We are also unable to provide up-to-date instructional resources (especially textbooks) for many of our classrooms. Finally, we often must postpone and prioritize facilities needs and are unable to make needed repairs in a timely manner.
Erlanger-Elsmere Independent	We have had to use larger percentages of our funding for student supports. Our region and our local community has many needs which impact students and have to be addressed at school in order for students to be able to learn. Our district also went for multiple years without giving raises to our employees. Last year was the first time we gave a raise in quite a while. Our facilities and our transportation are always areas of concern. We work hard to maintain our buildings and to provide transportation to the students we transport. With about 2500 students and 7 schools this is something we continue to try to maintain on our own. We are forced to take the 4% every year. The local dollars are now covering more than the state dollars we receive.
Fairview Independent	The district has had to reduce classified and certified staff to the bare minimum. Cannot cut personnel any further and still operate as a school district. Have been unable to purchase new buses to replace old ones that require constant maintenance to keep operating. Have not been able to upgrade athletic facilities, especially the baseball and softball fields. These two facilities need to be completely renovated and field lights installed so games can be played at night.
Fayette County	Sequestration of funds and unfunded mandates such as raises, pension spiking, SEEK not being fully funded for transportation costs.
Fort Thomas Independent	Inability to purchase instructional materials, renovate buildings.
Franklin County	Staffing.
Glasgow Independent	Transportation.
Grant County	Increases in class sizes, reductions in support staff, reduction in hours of support staff.
Graves County	Special ed child count increasing but funding not meeting the needs of those students. Transportation costs continue to increase but are not funded adequately. Flex Focus funds have impacted our safe schools initiatives and hardship of purchasing textbooks/materials.
Green County	Unable to attract quality personnel because financially not feasible to keep salaries competitive. Unable to provide needed instructional support personnel, we have cut personnel to the bone. Quality of bus fleet deteriorating, cannot afford replacements.
Greenup County	1. Transportation funding. 2. Title 1 reductions. 3. Unfunded mandates from legislature. 4. Half-day funding for kindergarten.
Hancock County	Instructional professional development services, bus fleet depreciation, furniture needs, preschool services, etc.
Hardin County	Not being able to give COLA raises to staff.
Harlan County	Personnel, buses/transportation issues, facilities.

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Harrison County	The greatest impact is on educating the students. When any or all of the above programs are cut, it reduces what can be offered for the overall student population. All programs are equally important to student achievement and growth. Concerning the impact of funding freezes and/or cuts on transportation, we quickly fall behind with purchasing new buses. We currently have two buses still on a route that are 16-18 years old. Falling behind on bus purchases makes it extremely difficult to catch up in future years. In addition, the ability to hire and train new bus drivers is affected in that the associated costs are strained. The greatest impact of funding freezes/cuts in our district is the effect it has on students. This reduction causes students to not reach their full potential. Unfunded mandates - program reviews, dashboards required but not funded!
Hart County	No raises for our staff. There has been no money for innovative ideas to be implemented. Loss of extracurricular coaches. Delay of some building needs to be met. We have only purchased 1/3 of the busses we need. Freeze on central office positions being filled. Failure to purchase needed land for a new school. Rarely purchasing new textbooks.
Henderson County	Personnel have had to learn to work smarter with less. Uncertainty of funding is a great concern, trying to figure out how to cut personnel without having a major impact on instruction or the program.
Henry County	Unable to give staff raises because of our "flat" funding.
Hopkins County	Staffing reductions.
Jackson Independent	The struggle to keep our school district open and continue to have test scores in the top 10% in the state; the financial threat of consolidation with the county school system.
Jefferson County	Reduced staffing and other allocations at school level. Reduced support from central office.
Jenkins Independent	Trying to offer the classes and services needed for our students.
Jessamine County	The increased costs behind the scenes have caused us to increase our local tax rate and limited our ability to give desired raises. The only cut we have made that is still in effect the last 10 years is a 2% staffing reduction and that is a result of the state mandated raises of 1% and 2%.
Johnson County	Higher student to staff ratio. No textbooks. Cuts in professional learning. Cuts in library services. Cuts in health care services. No staff raises. Subsidizing grants (Family Resource Centers) with general fund monies.
Kenton County	Building repair and maintenance. Increased reliance on federal and state grants. Annual local tax increases. Extracurricular program funding.
Knox County	The most recent budget reduction proposal has resulted in a freeze in spending on all state grants in our district which has resulted in students not being fully served by Family Resource Center personnel, no after school tutoring, and reductions in other programs such as academic teams. Our district has also not replaced one choir and one music teacher due to lack of funding for these type programs. We have also tried to hold the teacher to student ratio at the maximum ratio because we don't have the funding to increase teachers. Reduction in funding decreases the ability to have extra programs, smaller class sizes, etc.

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Lee County	Reduction of staff both classified and certified. Facility needs. Staff wearing multiple hats. Increased expenditures decreased revenue. No staff raises. Class size increase. Loss of programs – Music and PE at elementary. Low morale due to funding needs. The need to provide a quality instructional program. Again I could go on.
School District Name	What has been the greatest impact of funding freezes/cuts in your district?
Lewis County	Loss of support personnel at all levels, loss of assistant principal positions, reduction of teaching positions.
Lyon County	The SEEK Formula is broken. It does not provide adequate funding for districts, forcing districts to increase the tax levy on the local property owner. Unfunded mandates from the General Assembly continue to force districts to spend precious dollars. Latest example is the facility assessment process. Local districts will foot the bill for architect/engineers to assess the needs of the facility. Only a handful of districts will receive funding through this process. It is mandated participation even if a district knows they will not have any facilities near the top 20.
Magoffin County	The cuts coming after you have set your budget. We now are requiring a freeze on certain funds until we can get a better idea of what we actually have.
Marshall County	Unable to give raises as needed.
Mason County	State and federal grants being cut to help support programs that are a must.
Mayfield Independent	Facilities due to using capital outlay money for general operating needs and not being able to afford raises for staff.
McCracken County	The Board did not grant any non-mandated raises to staff since 2008-2009, although some combination of one time payments or mandated raises have been given each year except 2010-2011. In addition, routine facility maintenance has changed from proactive to reactive. To maintain academic and co-curricular/extracurricular programming, the district has made reductions in administration in expenses through attrition, consolidated and restructured schools and grading levels, aggressively sought grant funding since the hiring of a grant writer in 2010-2011 (and been awarded millions in grants), and solicited community partnerships and donor funding when possible.
McCreary County	Any funding freeze or cut impacts our district greatly. We have a very small tax base. Just recently our PILT money was virtually eliminated.
Menifee County	Lower membership at school and decreasing attendance rates.
Mercer County	Losing quality staff in the process of budget cuts.
Metcalfe County	Inability to pursue innovative programs and expanded opportunities for students.
Middlesboro Independent	Staff salary not keeping up with cost of living increase.
Montgomery County	Class size and the inability to sustain programs/initiatives such as the one-to-one Chromebook initiative. Our general fund balance has decreased in each of the last six years as we have had to take on more and more costs due to unfunded mandates.
Muhlenberg County	Loss of classified and certified staff. Larger class sizes and fewer helpers.
Murray Independent	Maintenance & facility needs have not been met. Staff raises have been small or not at all while benefit mandates have continued to increase. Increases in allocations for student needs have remained stagnant.
Nelson County	Drastic increase in local funding [as] percent of total budget. Reduction in staffing allocation throughout the district.

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Nicholas County	Overall reduced revenue from all sources.
Owen County	Cut-backs of staff and programs. No significant raises to certified with the exception of mandated raises.
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Owensboro Independent	Funding cuts have resulted in the need for facility funding through a second nickel. Also, the lack of commitment at the federal level to fully fund programs like IDEA and Title I have caused the district to re-direct local resources to keep these programs. Our per-pupil SEEK funding has remained relatively flat with only a 2% increase from 2008 to 2017 while student needs are increasing at a higher rate.
Owsley County	Loss of student membership/enrollment, which has led to less SEEK funding. 837 students in 2008 to 716 in 2017. \$4,306,951 in SEEK funding in 2008 to \$3,680,620 in 2017. Funding cuts/losses to federal programs. Title funds in 2008 = 847,307. Title funds in 2017 = 698,732. Increased employer contributions to CERS retirement. 17.06% in 2008 to 18.68% in 2017, and increased to 19.18% in 2018, with expected increases for FY 2019. Pension spiking with CERS employees.
Paducah Independent	Reduction in federal funds (Title I, II, IV & V). Reduction in state grants (ESS, PD, KERA preschool, textbooks). Rising operational costs. Decrease in transportation funding (NEVER fully funded). Our district is more locally funded than state funded. NUMEROUS unfunded mandates (Ex. cost of Infinite Campus).
Paris Independent	Cutting positions needed for students and having to cut resources.
Pendleton County	The biggest issue for our district has been the reductions in support staff. The district has been making improvement instructionally since 2011. Prior to that time staff was plentiful but not used effectively. In 2011 with new leadership change at central office, positions were more focused and aligned to student performance. They were there for student benefit rather than making adult needs priorities. Just as these changes started to take place, funding cuts, lower property assessments, started a downward turn. In addition, we are not able to invest in ways to measure performance of assist in intervention of struggling students.
Perry County	Loss of unmined mineral tax revenue in the last fiscal year.
Pike County	Loss of jobs and services to students.
Pineville Independent	Textbooks and the ability diverse curriculum to meet all students' needs.
Powell County	Paying for unfunded mandates by state.
Pulaski County	Loss of staff.
Rockcastle County	Decrease in instructional resource spending and not replacing open positions.
Rowan County	Staff reductions.
Russell County	We need to increase our preschool services but can't due to funding. There are many unmet technology needs in the district and our transportation fleet needs more upgrading.
Russell Independent	Although we have no cuts, we have not been able to expand existing, or create new programs. We have had adequate attrition to allow for adequate budgeting. The glaring problem is that we have 50+ year old buildings and receive little to no funding to have adequate facilities, while neighboring county districts receive SFCC offers that equate to new buildings.

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Shelby County	We reduced central office staff. We eliminated bus purchasing from the recurring budget for multiple years and are still not back to a full replacement cycle. We eliminated replacement cycles for maintenance vehicles. We reduced summer programming. We eliminated our growing elementary foreign language program. We froze salaries. We reduced PD budgets. We reduced section 6 and 7 allocations to schools. We reduced Agriculture Education and Family Consumer Science staffing at both high schools by half. We outsourced custodial services.
Silver Grove Independent	We lost \$20,000 in preschool money at the beginning of 16-17.
Simpson County Schools	We have worked very hard to prevent losses in resources to our students in the classrooms. Funding staff pay raises has been the most challenging issue. It is particular difficult now with many jobs available in our area and the stagnant wages we're able to offer. Additionally, the attacks on our pensions and other benefits are problematic from a perception point. The brand of education as a career choice has suffered in recent years because of a variety of issues, mostly political pressures that are undermining public education.
Somerset Independent Schools	In many cases we have been forced to just maintain educational programs as well as extracurricular activities rather than expand in these areas.
Taylor County Schools	Impacts morale & difficult to give employee raises.
Todd County	TRANSPORTATION FUNDING. Textbooks. Staff cuts.
Trigg County	Not filling non-positions that are vacated that are really still needed. Limiting the amount of COLA.
Trimble County	We have historically never had enough funding for special needs in our district. Each year we have to utilize general fund money to cover expenses. While we have not cut our early childhood services we have all-day kindergarten and funding cuts in early childhood impact us greatly to continue to keep it all day.
Union County	Reductions in federal funding — Title I, Title II and Title VI — resulting in reduced instructional resources and teachers/instructional staff. Underfunded transportation —resulted in off-cycle replacement schedule leading to aged fleets and lack of spare buses. Stagnant SEEK funding — Resulted in continuous cost reductions annually and the inability to fund non-mandated staff raises and teacher/support positions.
West Point Independent	Increased property tax rates. Lack of salary increase. Increase in needed building repairs.
Whitley County	Loss of personnel.
Williamstown Independent	Mostly we have had to rely on our community to make up the slack, by increasing the tax rate. Lack of new materials. Lack of new technology resources. Cuts to staff.

Source: KCEP survey of Kentucky school district administration staff in 2017.

Note: Responses were collected from 114 of 173 school districts.