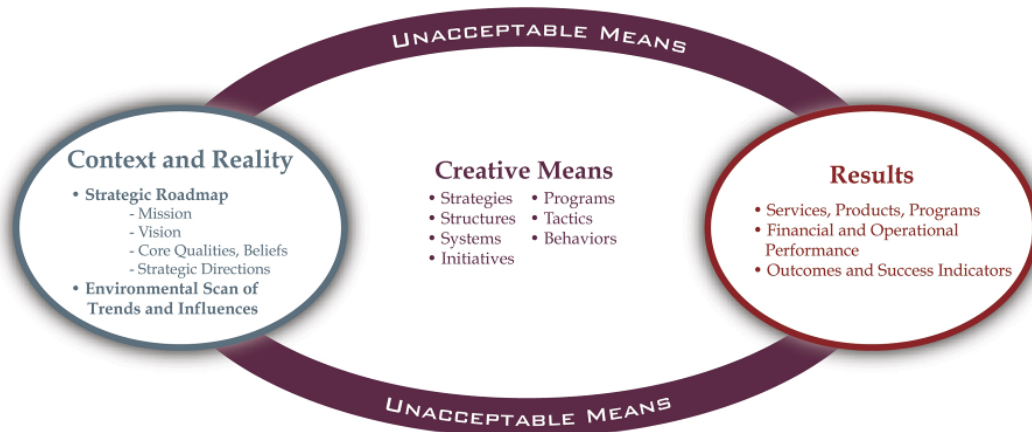


Budget Modification Process 2009-2010 – Guiding Change

A process to achieve necessary budget modifications, while continuing to align resources with our Framework for the Future, and positioning the district to make effective decisions now and in the future



Context and Reality	Desired Results	Unacceptable Means
<p>The State of Minnesota is facing a \$5 billion budget deficit for the next biennium. Inevitably, schools across the state will be impacted by this, including the Spring Lake Park Schools. Legislators and various experts recently advised us to prepare for, at minimum, a freeze in state funding for the next two years.</p> <p>More recently, the governor's proposal holds out some budgetary hope for education as does the Federal stimulus package. In response, the Spring Lake Park Schools has established a participatory decision-making process which will result in identifying budget modification totaling about \$1.5 million for the 2009-2010 school year.</p> <p>In the end, we may find it necessary to modify our budget more, less, or even far less than this amount. Our school district must, however, be prepared, proactive, and systematic in preparing next year's budget because of these uncertainties.</p> <p>The district has established a process that will guide the development of the 2009-10 budget. This process will engage district stakeholders and provide for their opportunity for input and influence.</p> <p>The development of the budget will be guided by our purpose of improving the learning of all students. This will be accomplished by making decisions that most effectively align resources with <i>Our Framework for the Future</i>, the strategic plan that clarifies the guiding principles of our district.</p> <p>The budget modifications that we decide upon will need to put our district in a position to be as effective and efficient as possible in 2009-10, while also positioning ourselves to make effective decisions in the future. This requires reflecting on possible short and long-term implications of our choices. In addition, we must consider the following external influences: economic conditions/trends, community demographic trends, and federal and state legislative actions.</p> <p>Ultimately, our work will be guided by the following question: <i>What options will result in our achieving necessary budget adjustments while aligning resources with Our Framework for the Future, positioning us to make effective decisions now and in the future?</i></p>	<p>The options created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>will</i> identify, at minimum, \$1.5 million in general fund budget modifications for the 2009-10 school year ▪ <i>will</i> be developed following a review of all aspects of our current system and allocation of resources, identifying adjustments that result in our district more effectively aligning resources with Our Framework for the Future ▪ <i>will</i> put us in a position to continue to move towards our vision of being a world class learning community of choice; improve student learning results; and accomplish our strategic directions ▪ <i>will</i> reflect our district's assumptions and beliefs for Learning, Teaching, and Accountability as stated in our Continuous Systems Improvement Framework ▪ <i>will</i> position our district to make effective decisions in the future by reflecting internal and external influences and trends 	<p>In creating options, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>will not</i> violate state statute or negotiated agreement ▪ <i>will not</i> make arbitrary percentage-based program reductions ▪ <i>will not</i> inhibit our ability to accomplish strategic directions within Our Framework for the Future ▪ <i>will not</i> eliminate cost-beneficial programs that have documented enrollment growth or improved student learning ▪ <i>will not</i> avoid looking at all programs, departments, and budget line items ▪ <i>will not</i> utilize non-sustainable ideas or strategies