

# Budget Hold'em for Districts

## District X Sheet

### Basic Facts about District X

#### Size and budget climate:

- District X is a mid-size district with historically declining enrollment (130 schools; 15% of district seats are empty; 25% of schools are below 350 total students). Enrollment has only recently stabilized.
- In past budgeting cycles, District X carried out several rounds of central office and targeted operational cost reductions. For the first time in several years, District X is not facing cuts.

#### Student demographics:

- 45% free and reduced lunch; 15% special education; 6% ELL

#### Student performance:

- ELA proficiency is 35%; math proficiency is 45%.
- Low-performing schools are concentrated: 50% of non-proficient readers are in 25% of schools.

#### Teacher compensation:

- District X has a traditional step and lane salary schedule where teachers receive annual increases for additional years of experience or advanced degrees.
- Small stipends are available for taking on roles as department heads or leading extracurricular activities.

#### Teacher working conditions and professional development:

- There are four staff development days annually.
- Teachers have 75 total minutes of prep time daily, and 45 minutes of weekly collaborative planning time is provided for by contract; however, the use of this time is variable by school.
- Instructional coach staffing is 1:26 teachers districtwide.

#### Teacher evaluation:

- The district has adopted the state's new teacher evaluation system, but few principals have experience rigorously evaluating teacher performance.

### District X Priorities

- Support continuous improvement of effective teachers—recognizing, supporting, and rewarding great teaching.
- Organize time and staffing to personalize learning in high-priority subject areas, focusing on early intervention for at-risk students.
- Ensure school leadership has information, knowledge, and resources to build strategic school designs that maximize student growth potential.