

Mounds View school officials accepting pay freezes

Top Mounds View school officials are accepting pay freezes and finding other cuts to offset a \$1.5 million deficit.

Last update: March 12, 2009 - 11:38 PM

Mounds View Superintendent Dan Hoverman and his top administrators are joining the ranks of Minnesota school executives who are holding the line on their own pay.

Hoverman has offered to freeze his salary at the current \$157,000 a year. Also offering to go without their automatic raises are 20 district directors, coordinators and managers, whose salaries range from \$107,000 to \$65,000.

Among others who have announced they are forgoing salary increases this year are top administrators in the Bloomington and Osseo school districts.

The gesture is more symbolic than significant. According to district spokesman Colin Sokolowski, freezing the administrators' salaries will save the district \$25,000. District officials are facing a shortfall of \$1.5 million in 2009-2010.

"It's the message it sends," Sokolowski said. "It says we're all in this together."

Other planned budget reductions include laying off 11 teachers, adding \$10 to activity fees, reducing non-teaching positions, cutting supplies and reviewing positions that go vacant to determine whether they really need to be filled.

Even by addressing next year's budget shortfall, district officials estimate they will be faced with a \$7 million deficit in the 2010-2011 school year.

NORMAN DRAPER