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OKCPS ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL BUDGET CUTS

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma City Public School District continues searching for budget savings as the district faces a catastrophic financial shortfall due to a statewide revenue failure. Today Associate Superintendent Aurora Lora announced \$10-million in additional cuts the district has made as part of \$30-million in overall savings OKCPS must find for the 2016-2017 school year. "Including today's announcement, we have cut around \$23-million from our budget for next year, and we must still cut \$7 million more," said Associate Superintendent Aurora Lora. "These are tough decisions because there are many items we are cutting that are important to our students' education. Unfortunately our budget situation is so dire we are forced to make these difficult choices."

Cost reductions will be achieved by:

- Revising school bell times for more efficient bus routes
- Delaying new textbook purchases
- Reducing school intercessions from 5-days to 3-days
- Eliminating funding for student testing (PSAT/SAT testing, AP & IB testing)
- Reducing elementary school supply budgets
- Shifting of eligible expenses between funds
- Delaying athletic equipment & uniform purchases
- Reducing adjunct coaching positions
- Reducing contracts with outside vendors
- Suspending non-federally funded travel

As part of the \$7-million in additional budget cuts the district must make, school officials are evaluating options that include school consolidations, suspending school programs that could affect athletics/arts, and additional staffing reductions.

"Obviously, this is a difficult time for school districts statewide," Lora said. "The only remedy to the situation would be for the legislature to provide a permanent solution that ensures educational funding is sufficient for all students."