

California State University, San Marcos  
College of Education

EDAD 634  
**Educational Finance – 1 Unit**  
Fall Semester 2005  
Mondays, 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
UNIV 441

**College of Education Mission Statement**

*The mission of the College of Education Community is to collaboratively transform public education by preparing thoughtful educators and advancing professional practices. We are committed to diversity, educational equity, and social justice, exemplified through reflective teaching, lifelong learning, innovative research, and ongoing service. Our practices demonstrate a commitment to student-centered education, diversity, collaboration, professionalism, and shared governance.*

**Instructor:**

Michael Caston, Ed.D.  
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*Office Hours:* By appointment

**Authorization to Teach English Learners**

This credential program has been specifically designed to prepare teachers for the diversity of languages often encountered in California public school classrooms. The authorization to teach

English learners is met through the infusion of content and experiences within the credential program, as well as additional coursework. Students successfully completing this program receive a credential with authorization to teach English learners.

### **Students with Disabilities Requiring Reasonable Accommodations**

Students are approved for services through the Disabled Student Services Office (DSS). This office is located in Craven Hall 5205, and can be contacted by telephone at (760) 7450-4905, or TTY (760) 750-4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with their instructor during office hours or, in order to ensure confidentiality, in a more private setting.

### **Course Description (1 unit)**

This course is the second in a two-course sequence articulating the financial and legal aspects of entry-level school administration and leadership. Students concentrate on basic principles and practices of school finance, including budget generation and implementation at site and district levels. Critical financial issues are addressed, as is the financial decision-making process. The relationship between law and finance is discussed as major responsibilities of school administrators and educational leaders.

### **Goals**

This course will assist the candidate to:

1. Understand the impact of state and federal governmental decisions on local school districts and school sites
2. Use financial mechanisms as management tools
3. Prepare site budgets

4. Effectively use financial resources for the benefit of the school community

## **Objectives**

Upon the completion of the course, the candidate will know and understand:

1. The roles of federal, state, and local agencies in the budget process
2. Functions of school boards and district administration in governance and financial policy making
3. Financing public schools, including historical development, district and site funding, and budgeting and financial implications of personnel contracts and other obligations
4. Financial implications of federal- and state-mandated programs and policies
5. Uses of educational technology in issues of educational finance

## **Text and Resource Materials**

- Articles on school finance
- District and site budgets
- Collective bargaining agreements
- Articles from local newspapers

## **Student Expectations**

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|--|-----|
| 1. Attend all classes and actively participate | 50% |
| 2. Written assignment                          | 20% |
| 3. In-class activities                         | 30% |

## **Class meeting schedule**

- 11/14/05            State spending, ADA and how it works  
School finance terms  
Ethical leadership  
Federal budgets/categorical programs  
Collective bargaining and budgets  
How California ranks  
Hot topics
- 11/28/05            Site budget/district budgets (guest speaker on  
site budgets)  
State budget, is this the best system?  
School facilities funding, bonds, COPs, and  
state funds  
Adequate revenue, where does it come from?  
Sign up for discussion groups  
Hot topics
- 12/5/05             Effective cost-saving tips for districts and sites  
Goal setting and the budget  
Role of the Board of Education  
Proposition 77 and Proposition 98  
Declining enrollment, why is it so hard to deal  
with?  
Budget development, what is the best process.  
Hot topics
- 12/12/05            Discussion groups, analysis of district and site  
budgets  
How to get that position you may want  
Hot topics

**Assignment:**

Prepare a three- to four-page paper in which you discuss the three most significant aspects of school finance that you learned during this course. Describe what you learned and why you believe they are significant in terms of preparing to be a site administrator. End your paper with a paragraph in which you describe two- to three-budgeting principles that you believe you will use when you are an administrators