



# Programmatic Prioritization & dealing with the Fiscal Cliff

Michael Wimbish - FOX  
Capstone Presentation -  
May 10th, 2024

---

# Aspire Approach & Takeaways

# Key strategies to meet our goals

---

- 1. Up Front Communication and Transparency (with a long runway)**
- 1. Prioritizing schools based on school and regional context**
  - a. In order to fully achieve this goal, competencies such as working through others and effectively delegating responsibilities to other team members is required
- 1. Organizational guidelines and metrics that take into account context**
- 1. Developing decision making framework with flexibility**

# What We Did

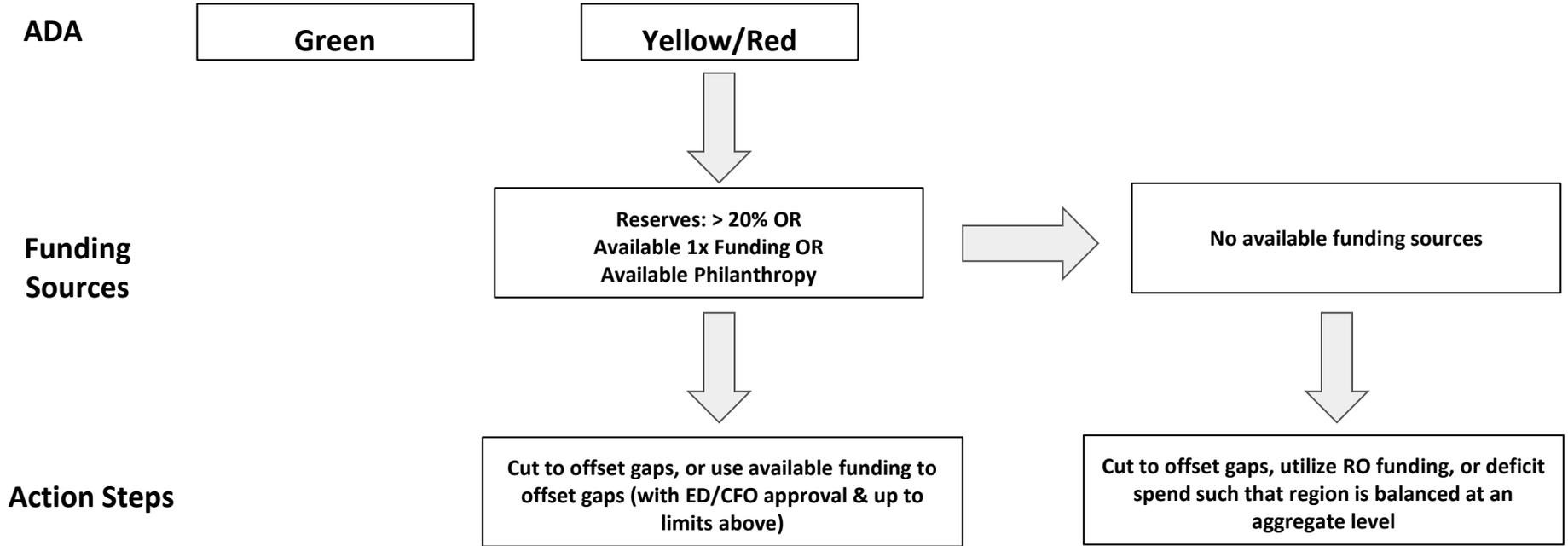
---

- 1. Up Front Communication and Transparency (with a long runway)**
  - a. Begun communicating to school leaders around uncertainty, coming fiscal cliff, etc. as far back as early 2022
- 2. Prioritizing based on school context**
  - a. Developed a “tiered approach” based on factors such as academic/operational performance, fiscal standing, charter renewal timing, etc. Schools in the highest tiers received additional support when it came to budget planning discussions
- 3. Organizational guidelines and metrics that take into account context**
  - a. Given our organizational context, it is highly unlikely that we will be a consistent 90+ days of cash organization, while also meeting academic goal. We serve a high percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds on limited funding. Comfortable being in the 60-75 DOC range
- 4. Developing decision making framework with flexibility**
  - a. Developed decision making framework with some built in flexibility, while also acknowledging that there will always be “exceptions” in our network

# Example: Prioritizing based on school context

Criteria	Green	Yellow	Red
ADA	At or above target	1%-2% off target	> 2% off target
*Reserve Level	At or above target	16%-24% of expenses	< 16% of expenses
One-Time Funding	Available to use through 25-26 or later	Available to use through 24-25	Using by the end of 23-24 or earlier
Philanthropic Support	>\$100K annually	>\$50K annually	<\$50K annually

# Example: Decision Tree Framework



**Approval for deficit spending**

ED and CFO are aligned on rationale for any deficit spending, or pull-in of 1x funds. Acceptable rationale includes: Growth plans, Tier II/III, Actual 1-time operating expenses, etc.