



12111 NE First Street, Bellevue, Washington 98005 / P.O. Box 90010, Bellevue, Washington 98009-9010

Dear Bellevue Community:

I write to provide you with some information on the upcoming 2010-2011 school year budget. We know that the current uncertainty in education budgets is hard on students and parents, who aren't certain the programs and services they value will be offered in the coming school year. It is also hard on district staff who are worried about their colleagues and futures and about the continuation of programs and supports available for students.

At the moment, we don't know the exact size of our budget next year for several reasons. We don't know what our local revenue will be until we know the results of the current levy renewal election. If these measures pass, we won't know how much of the authorized local levy we can collect until the state settles on potential changes in the calculation of the local levy. Although we must wait until a budget is passed and signed, we do have a preliminary estimate of the decrease in state funding next year, which is presented below. Finally, following the inflow of ARRA or fiscal stimulus funds last year, we expect a fall off in the amount of federal funding. Combined with expected cost increases we anticipate facing a significant reduction in operating resources in 2010-11 compared with 2009-2010. Cuts are almost certain for the coming school year and these cuts will be difficult.

Impact of Governor's Proposed Changes to School Funding on Bellevue:

Program Specified	\$ in millions
Loss of K-4 Class Size Funding	-2.14
Loss of I-728 – class size and teacher development	-1.64
Loss of 1 teacher training/ LID Day	-0.29
Loss of Highly Capable & Middle School Vocational	-0.22
TOTAL:	-4.29

This -4.29 million equates to approximately 50 teaching staff at current salaries.

Budget Process

When the state finalizes its education budget, we will have limited time to construct a balanced budget. Therefore, we are beginning our budget process now.

Our budget discussions and decisions will be driven by the district's mission and vision and guided by school and local community input. Our goal is to put together a budget that reflects our strategic priorities; we do not plan to make across-the-board cuts.

We are asking for your input in several ways. First, we are asking for your ideas on possible cost savings or revenue generation. Second, after we have put together a list of potential cost savings and revenue generating options, we will be asking for you to provide input through a survey. Third, we will be holding community information sessions. Fourth, we will convene a Fiscal Advisory Committee which will provide recommendations to the superintendent.

What can I do now?

You can use the budget website at www.bsd405.org/2010-11Budget to do the following:

- Submit ideas on possible cost savings or revenue generation,

- Learn more about the Fiscal Advisory Committee,
- Apply to be on the Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC), and
- Learn more about the budget and the budget process.

We acknowledge that Bellevue has already made budget cuts over the last several years and that this is hard on all of us. However, I hope that with your input we can put together a budget that best supports students we serve and that provides fiscal stability for the district next year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Simone Sangster
Assistant Superintendent, Financial Services and School Support