



Warren Consolidated Schools

2011-12 Budget Talking Points

1. The majority of funding for WCS is controlled by the elected officials in Lansing. Your Board of Education has **NO CONTROL** over the per-pupil allocation we receive annually from the state to fund our schools.
2. This year the state has even more dramatically **DISINVESTED** in public education, causing a \$17.7 million problem for WCS. Three key examples of this **DISINVESTMENT**:
 - \$300 per pupil cut = \$4.7 million loss
 - Increase in retirement rate = \$4.7 million
 - Failure to replace lost Federal Stimulus money = \$4.8 million

These three **DISINVESTMENTS** total \$14.2 million in one single year for WCS.

3. This \$17.7 million deficit is in addition to \$18.0 million that the district has already cut in the last three years.
4. By state law, the district cannot go into deficit (spend all of its money in reserves) or it faces the potential takeover by a state appointed emergency financial manager.
5. Because of reductions in state aid, the district has had a structural deficit every year since 2001. A structural deficit means the **PROJECTED** cost of operating the district that year exceeds the amount of money received from the state. This requires the district to reduce the cost of employees or cut programs & services for students. Neither of these options is favorable; either one creates significant conflict with our staff or our parents/community.
6. Nearly 90% of the district budget is spent on staff who provide programs and services for our kids.
7. The Board of Education employs an administrative team to make decisions that provide the best possible education for all of our kids. A key philosophy is to provide as broad of an educational program as possible for ALL kids.
8. The district encourages all stakeholders to make their comments about educational funding heard in Lansing by contacting your state legislators. Contact information is available on the district website at www.wcskids.net
9. WCS remains ahead of the competition in the level of programs and services we provide for students. Examples include a full range of specials like art, music & band, athletics, and very competitive class sizes. We also provide K-12 transportation, latchkey, preschool, support for English Language Learners, and a full range of specialty programs such as our Macomb Math, Science, and Technology Center, WCS School of Performing Arts Program, and the Career Prep Center.
10. All of the programs and services that the district has offered over the years have significant value, otherwise, the district would not have run them in the first place.
11. The Board of Education and Administration constantly look for operational efficiencies that will support our focus on students and their education. One example is our energy reduction campaign success.