

GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 | draft budget reduction plan

Glen Ellyn School District 41 is in a sound financial position with a balanced budget and adequate reserves. This budget reduction plan shows how the district plans to prepare for probable state funding reductions and other economic factors. The reductions outlined below come from reducing staff (mostly by not replacing retirements and resignations); re-prioritizing, reducing and deferring work; and finally by budgeting more tightly to estimated costs with minimal contingency allowances.

Priorities: Work we must do to keep pace with growing educational needs

Teaching/learning: Build strong data-collection/assessment processes; prepare for global learning; align with partner districts; improve programs as recommended.

Professional skills: Understand our diversity; use technology, data and assessments to improve learning; mentor staff and develop teacher leaders; teach the curriculum as planned.

Technology: Plan for global and distance learning; make sure all students have tech access at school; create sustainable infrastructure, expertise and efficiency; build student efficacy.

Facilities: Maintain buildings and grounds; make classrooms ready for global learning; provide safety and security; house all students adequately.

Community: Involve parents of all cultures; demonstrate commitment to the community, foster commitment to D41 by the community; engage the community in decisions.

Financial strengths

- Long-Range Plan will keep us on track
- Balanced budget, adequate reserves for emergencies
- 85% of our funding comes from local taxes, a stable revenue source
- Curricula and materials are up to date
- School buildings are in good shape—we can defer some capital projects

Financial challenges

- Revenues flat/declining; unless we act, expenses rise about 5% each year, even if nothing new is added
- State funding situation may get even worse
- CPI may erode future tax revenues
- Will need curricular updates in 3-4 years
- Maintenance can't be deferred indefinitely

\$2.9 million reduction plan: Includes \$1 million in cuts already in place

Reduction area	Reductions proposed for 2010-2011	Amount of savings
General administration	Consultants, equipment, supplies, items related to Board work	\$165,493
Finance, Facilities & Operations	Paper, security services, architectural and engineering fees, contracted services, overtime, small equipment, capital projects, contracted maintenance	\$978,490
Technology	Subscriptions, software	\$45,499
Communications	Recognition, publications, surveys	\$47,720
Teaching and Learning	Materials, professional development, supplies, textbooks	\$242,833
Human Resources	Temporary help, office support staff, items for Institute Days	\$427,240
Personnel	11.5 positions	\$952,828
Total		\$2,860,103

Financial planning for 2012 and beyond

The draft plan summarized above addresses immediate concerns based on our best information at this time. However, other strategies must be developed to carry us through what will be several years of economic uncertainties. District 41 has planned for a range of possible scenarios, from moderate to severe. Below is an overview of goals that will help us maintain financial stability and a balanced budget through 2015.

Goal 1: Reduce personnel costs 1% annually for 2013-2015

Goal 2: Reduce benefit costs 5% by 2015

Goal 3: Increase system efficiencies and reduce operating costs 1% annually beginning in 2012

Goal 4: Explore and implement as appropriate selected revenue-enhancing strategies

The processes we will use to achieve these goals are ones that are part of our Long-Range Plan and that we have been using for some time to track our financial situation and plan for the long-term stability of the education of our community's children:

- Monthly budget report to the Board of Education; quarterly financial performance report to the Finance committee
- Monitor enrollment
- As positions become vacant, analyze them for alternatives to filling the role
- Develop class-size targets that we can afford
- Examine costs for after-school and professional development activities
- Address salary costs through staffing and program plans, negotiations, and reduction of part-time, substitute and temporary positions where possible
- Address benefit costs through vendor selection, negotiations and wellness
- Examine transportation, operating and utility costs
- Examine use of working cash
- Explore expansion and development of foundation, grant opportunities
- Examine investment strategies for our reserves
- Examine fee structure

Community involvement

Schools belong to the community. Your seven Board of Education members were elected to represent you and are always interested in hearing your views about finances, educational programs and other educational issues. Comprehensive financial information (going back to 2002) is posted on our Web site under the Finances tab. Community members are always welcome and encouraged to attend Board Meetings, where time is set aside at the beginning and end of each meeting for public comment. Board members have district email accounts and do respond to emails they receive from community members. Finally, the District has set up a dedicated email account to take questions, comments and suggestions about finances from the community. Emails to this account will be answered, usually within 24 hours. **This email address is: finances@d41.org.**