

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

## BUDGET REDUCTION OVERVIEW

Thank you for visiting the School District of Washington website. We appreciate your interest in the financial challenges we are working through in the District. It is our desire to communicate with our school community regarding the preliminary reductions that are under consideration by the Board of Education. Difficult decisions will need to be made; however our goal is to preserve a high quality educational experience for our students.

A list of Phase 2 budget reduction recommendations totaling approximately \$1.8 million dollars for fiscal year 2010-2011 was presented to the Board of Education at a special Board Work Session on January 13, 2010. These recommendations follow a budget priority survey that was made available to the public from mid October through December 19, 2009. Staff presentations were conducted with the staff, along with Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO), community organizations, 353 Redevelopment Corporation, and the City Council regarding the current financial reality of the School District of Washington. At the Board of Education meeting on January 27, 2010, a revised preliminary Phase 2 budget reduction list was again shared with the Board of Education and others in attendance. The Board of Education will continue to review Phase 2 budget recommendations along with holding another special work session in February (TBD) to specifically discuss the preliminary list and additional ideas regarding savings and revenue generating strategies. A preliminary Phase 3 list of reductions has also been prepared and may need to be implemented in FY2011-2012, if not before. Phase 3 is under development as the Board considers items that may need to be moved to Phase 2 and vice versa.

The School District of Washington does not want to cut any high quality staff, programs, or services. In these challenging financial times, the decisions will be difficult and the budget will be very lean. A review of all budget areas will continue as we move forward. We also know that we must look at every way possible to preserve the quality of education that the Board of Education and our school community expect.

Additionally, we are exploring ways to move lease payments from the kid and staff side of the budget (operations) to the bricks and mortar side of the budget (debt service). This move would alleviate some of the strain we are experiencing in operations. We will also look at other strategies as we move forward, in order to be more efficient as a district, and most importantly protect what is best for our students.

Please review the preliminary lists posted on the District's website at [www.washington.k12.mo.us](http://www.washington.k12.mo.us). Click on the Business Department Tab, found on the left side of the website's home page. There you will also find a link to post a comment, question, or concern. The link is entitled, "Budget Cuts and Future Strategies." - Thank you.