

Lake Washington School District 2009-2010 Budget Priorities

Lake Washington School District wants your opinion to help determine budget priorities for the 2009-2010 school year. The district expects it will have to cut \$5 million from its budget due to budget cuts at the state level, in turn due to lower state tax revenues because of the current economic downturn.

In 2006, a Budget Advisory Committee of district staff members, parents and community members worked together to develop a budget decision screen that has been used to help make budget decisions since then. This screen prioritizes which areas are most important to fund first. You will be asked to rate each of the budget screen items on how important you feel they are. You will also be asked to rate some more specific budget items on a similar scale.

The results of this survey will be used to adjust the current budget screen for use in developing next year's budget.

Please take a few minutes to share your opinions about overall budget priorities for the district.

1 Please indicate if you are a:

- Staff member
- Parent
- Community member
- Other, please specify



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- 2 The following decision screens are designed to ensure that budget decisions promote improved student learning, minimize negative impacts on student learning, ensure the district's financial stability and provide for fair resource distribution. **Please rate them in terms of which are most important on a scale of one to five with one being least**

important and five being the most important.

1	2	3	4	5
Least important	Somewhat important	Medium importance	Very important	Most important

Protect the beneficial impacts of smaller class sizes and reduce the negative impacts of increasing class sizes.

1 2 3 4 5

Recognize increased staffing requirements for helping students who are not at standard reach the standard.

1 2 3 4 5

Assure adequate support for teachers in addressing needs of students receiving special services.

1 2 3 4 5

Protect teachers' time so that it can be focused on teaching and learning, including time for planning and preparation.

1 2 3 4 5

Maintain a comprehensive instructional program that provides opportunities for students to receive a rich and varied educational experience, including opportunities for choice programs, e.g., Running Start, vocational opportunities and choice schools.

1 2 3 4 5

Maintain efforts to ensure a clear, common, guaranteed and viable curriculum including resources to adequately support implementation and sustainability.

1 2 3 4 5

Maintain efforts to attract and retain high quality staff.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure budget decisions do not compromise the safety and security of students and staff.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure district-wide administrative and instructional support is kept at adequate levels, e.g., central leadership, staff development, Instructional Technology departments.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure district-wide non-instructional support staff is kept at adequate levels, e.g., facilities staff, payroll, accounting, HR, transportation.

1 2 3 4 5



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- 3 In this item, you will continue to rate the decision screens. **Please rate them in terms of which are most important on a scale of one to five with one being least important and five being the most important.**

1	2	3	4	5
Least important	Somewhat important	Medium importance	Very important	Most important

Ensure direct classroom level instructional support staff is kept at adequate levels, e.g., classroom Instructional Assistants.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure building level administrative and instructional support staff is kept at adequate levels, e.g., principals, vice principals, counselors, librarians, building clerical support.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure building level non-instructional support staff is kept at adequate levels, e.g., custodians, playground supervision, crossing guards.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure adequate teacher input in curriculum, instruction and assessment decisions.

1 2 3 4 5

Maintain an adequate investment in maintenance and operations of facilities to provide a positive learning and working environment and to protect their value.

1 2 3 4 5

Ensure that the long range impact of decisions are considered.

1 2 3 4 5

Maintain a five percent fund balance to ensure adequate emergency reserves and to support a strong bond rating in order to control the costs of capital improvements.

1 2 3 4 5

Seek opportunities for increased revenues and identifying alternative sources of funding.

1 2 3 4 5

Identify efficiencies or alternative methods to accomplish goals/tasks.

1 2 3 4 5

Avoid disproportionate impacts of people, programs and groups by reducing the impacts on those with the greatest needs.

1

2

3

4

5

Consider the impact of budget decisions on those with least ability to compensate for reductions.

1

2

3

4

5



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- 4 On a scale of 1 to 5 with one being least important and 5 being most important, rate the following items in terms of importance to the district's mission, which is:

Each student will graduate prepared to lead a rewarding, responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society.

1	2	3	4	5
Least important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Most important

Teacher planning, preparation and training time

1

2

3

4

5

Junior high extracurricular activities

1

2

3

4

5

Junior high athletics

1

2

3

4

5

Senior high extracurricular activities

1

2

3

4

5

Senior high athletics

1

2

3

4

5

Clerical and office support

1

2

3

4

5

Classroom instructional assistants

1

2

3

4

5

Playground, crossing guard and student safety support

1

2

3

4

5

Class size in kindergarten and first grade

1 2 3 4 5

Class size in grades two and three

1 2 3 4 5

Class size in grades four through six

1 2 3 4 5

Class size in grades seven to nine

1 2 3 4 5

Class size in grades ten to 12

1 2 3 4 5

Mentoring and training for new teachers

1 2 3 4 5

Technology operations and support

1 2 3 4 5

Building custodial and maintenance support

1 2 3 4 5

Materials and supplies to support building and department activities

1 2 3 4 5

Transportation for extracurricular activities

1 2 3 4 5

Transportation for high school students

1 2 3 4 5

Transportation for junior high students

1 2 3 4 5

Transportation for elementary students

1 2 3 4 5

Transportation for optional programs

1 2 3 4 5

District and building leadership

1 2 3 4 5

Mentoring and training programs for teachers

1 2 3 4 5

Regular upgrades of textbooks and instruction materials

1 2 3 4 5

District-wide curriculum and assessment development

1 2 3 4 5

Community services such as theaters, swimming pool and

stadiums

1 2 3 4 5

Communication tools such as newsletters and printed calendars

1 2 3 4 5

Pre-kindergarten support for at risk students

1 2 3 4 5

Extra support for students not yet at standard

1 2 3 4 5



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- 5 Do you have any additional comments or advice for the district in creating the 2009-10 budget?



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