

2008-2009 Budget: \$114,859,520

A Bottom-Line Focus on Academic Performance

When the Board of School Directors first took a look at the Preliminary Budget for 2008-2009, Dr. Patricia P. Green commented on student achievement. “As the educational leader of this great School District, I feel compelled to remind our constituents that a school district’s bottom line is its academic performance,” she said. “In addition, that bottom line is what maintains and increases the value of homes in a community.”

Zero-Based Budgeting Leads to Highly Effective Financial Management

In 2003, the North Allegheny School District instituted a financial management tool called Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) that has enabled the District to realize many efficiencies that do not diminish programs for students or compromise the health and safety of students and staff. That process identifies and prioritizes school system activities and then links them to the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan. As a result of efficiencies identified through the ZBB process, NASD millage was decreased from 19.340 in 2007-2008 to 18.990 in 2008-2009. This is the second consecutive tax reduction.

What Does It Cost to Provide an Adequate Education?

In the spring of 2006, the State Board of Education began to explore with the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly the idea of conducting a “costing-out” study to determine what the actual cost would be of meeting this established standard: 100% of Pennsylvania students will master the state standards in 12 academic areas and demonstrate proficiency on state Reading and Math tests by 2014.

By December 2006, a study had been commissioned on this topic and the final report was presented to the State Board in November 2007. The study was complex and conducted by an independent research firm. There are several interesting facts that came forward as a result of the study, especially as it relates to North Allegheny.

In conducting the study, the research firm set out to identify and study ‘successful’ school districts as one of three aspects of their analysis. Their ‘successful’ school district approach examined the spending in those school districts already considered to be high performers in terms of their student results on statewide standardized tests. This approach, therefore, had the inherent advantage of focusing its analysis on those districts that have found ways to successfully educate students to meet performance expectations. ‘Successful’ districts were identified by two standards:

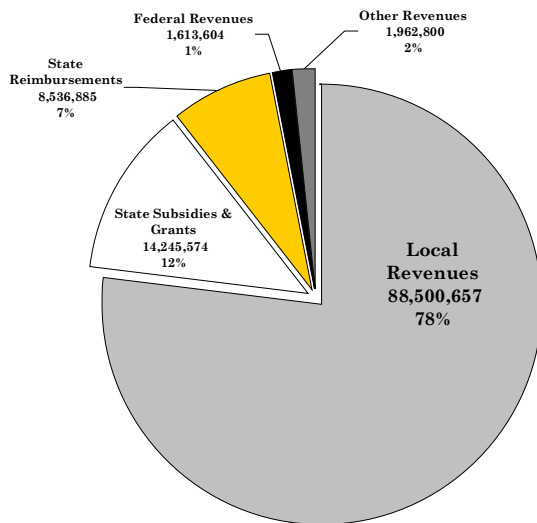
- *An absolute standard* – districts that currently achieve at levels far above current state performance standards. For purposes of this study, districts which currently comply with Reading and Math standards for 2012 were deemed to have met the absolute standard.
- *A growth standard* – districts whose year-to-year growth in PSSA test scores suggests that they will have 100% of students scoring proficient or above by 2014 in both Reading and Math. Progress was measured by taking the average percentage point increase in the performance of four identified cohort groups combined, for Reading and Math. For example, students 5th grade scores in 2002 and 8th grade scores in 2005. That average percentage point of increase was then projected out to 2014 to determine if the district would reach 100% proficiency in reading and/or math.

Using the analyses above, 67 districts in the state met the absolute standard and 21 met the growth standard. **Six districts met both standards – of which North Allegheny School District was one!** The 82 districts identified as ‘successful’ districts formed the core of this analysis – with the six districts meeting both standards setting the bar! The North Allegheny School District has and continues to put student achievement and fiscal accountability forward as its focus and priority.



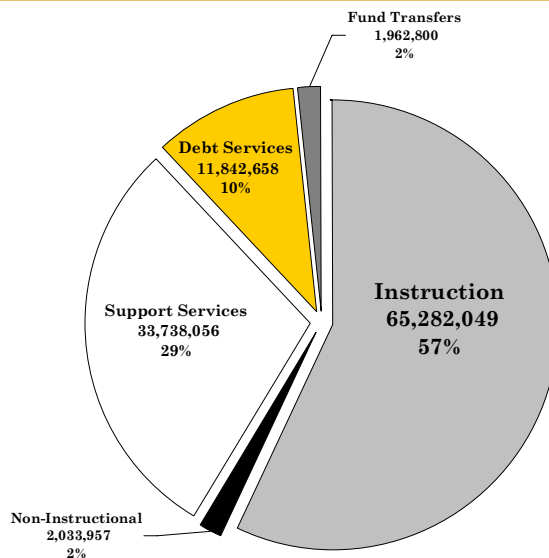
2008-2009 Revenue Budget \$114,859,520

Source of Revenue	% of Budget
Local Revenues	78%
State Subsidies and Grants	12%
State Reimbursements	7%
Federal Revenues	3%
TOTAL	100%

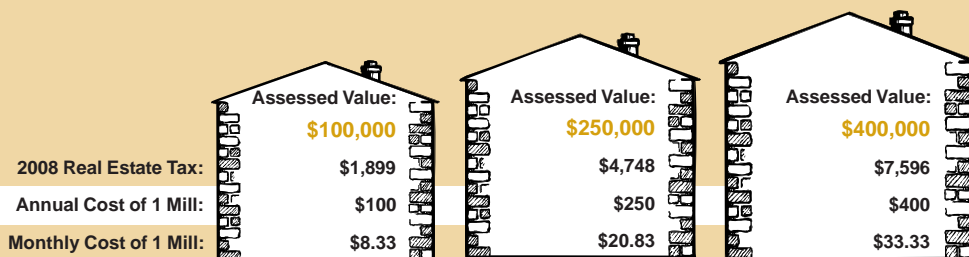


2008-2009 Expenditure Budget \$114,859,520

Expenditure	% of Budget
Instruction	57%
Support Services	29%
Debt Services	10%
Non-instructional Services	4%
TOTAL	100%



2008 Millage Impact on Property Owners



The Numbers:

- 30%** of NA residents own homes with property values between \$100,000 and \$149,000
- 49%** of NA residents earn between \$50,000 and \$150,000
- 84%** of homes in the District are owner-occupied
- 46%** of NA residents are between the ages of 25 and 54 years

Source: 2000 U.S. Census