



GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VISION:

All kids are engaged in learning today ... for life tomorrow.

MISSION:

We successfully educate students to navigate the future.

WE BELIEVE:

- All students deserve teachers and staff who thrive on student success.
- Each student will have fair and equitable opportunity for quality instruction and academic success.
- All students learn when their individual needs are met.
- All students and staff learn and work best in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment.
- Highly skilled and committed personnel are our greatest asset.
- Quality education is a partnership of student, staff, family, and community engagement.
- Dedication to acknowledging, affirming, and including diversity enriches the educational experience for all.
- District resources, programs, and staff are flexible and adaptable to meet the changing needs of all students.
- A well educated community is the foundation of our democracy.

Great Falls — • — Great Schools — • — Greater Tomorrows

**GREAT FALLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LEGISLATIVE POSITION ON EDUCATION**

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has always recognized that a strong education system and a strong local economy go hand-in-hand. We therefore support the following legislative action on behalf of our local schools:

▪ **ADEQUATE FUNDING**

We support adequate, cost-based, funding of a strong system of K-12 and community college education that provides essential services without unduly burdening taxpayers—including businesses.

▪ **STABLE FUNDING**

We support stable funding to allow school boards to design and implement long range plans that make the wisest and best use of taxpayer dollars.

▪ **FLEXIBLE FUNDING**

School funding must provide flexibility that allows spending decisions to be made by locally elected school boards.

▪ **ENERGY INCENTIVES**

It is vital to invest in incentives to support school districts in moving towards sustainable energy systems to mitigate ever increasing costs.

October 22, 2008

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM FOR GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

In a nutshell it is:

Governor's 3% increase on state funds to education does not meet fixed cost increases.

- The Governor's budget includes a three percent increase on state funds to education. State funds make up roughly 40 percent of school district revenues. If the remaining revenues accrue zero percent increase, the overall increase to district budget is 1.33 percent.
- This leaves District schools short \$315,000 to meet fixed expenses.

REVENUE PROJECTION TO GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BASED ON GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

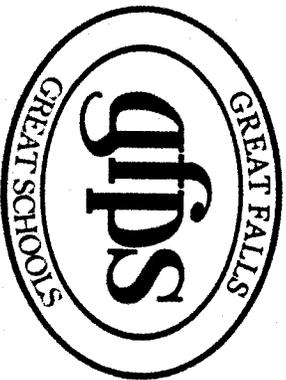
<u>Budgeted Expenditures 08-09</u>	<u>State Increase for 09-10</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
60,433,819	800,888	1.33 % via State dollars + permissive levy =
		1.75% \$1.05 million

Fixed Increases:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| ▪ 5.6% on health ins, | \$ 220,000 | |
| ▪ Salary steps and lanes, | <u>\$1,150,000</u> | (These are contractual obligations that do not comprise increases to overall salaries) |
| | 1,370,000 | |

Actual Need \$ 1.37 million assuming no increases to salaries – even with all 13 Great Falls employees' contracts currently open!

**TOTAL
BUDGET
REDUCTIONS
OF
\$2.7 MILLION**



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For life tomorrow.



**SUMMARY OF
BUDGET REDUCTIONS
DUE TO THE
2008 MILL LEVY FAILURE**

ELEMENTARY

Summer Learning Camp	\$168,700
Little Learner Pre-School Program	\$150,000
3 Elementary Teachers	\$152,000
Elementary Art Teacher	\$ 51,000
Writing Assessment by NWRLE	\$ 15,000
*District Paid Field Trips	\$ 10,000
*Copy Machine Replacement	\$ 7,000
Reading Staff Development Funds	\$ 4,000
**Contribution to Artist-in-Residence	\$ 4,800
*Counselor Supplies and Travel	\$ 3,000
Reading Homestart Aides in 5 Schools	\$ 1,500
Total	\$567,000

*This service will be replaced through budgetary efforts at the school level.

**This service replaced by a grant written by Paris Gibson Square.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

2 Admin Interns- EMS & NMS	\$102,000
Juvenile Detention Center Teacher	\$ 51,000
Intervention Teacher at NMS	\$ 51,000
Aide Time-EMS & NMS	\$ 18,448
Total	\$222,448

HIGH SCHOOL

6.85 Teaching Positions	\$349,350
1 English @ CMR	
1 Math @ CMR	
2 Opportunity @ CMR	
2 Opportunity @ GFHS	
.85 Science @ GFHS	
Summer School budget Reduced by 46% \$ 61,212 (1 session)	
Music & Athletic Budgets Reduced-3% \$ 11,702	
Music- Honors Ensemble membership & travel (\$5,354)	
Music-Director/clinician expenses for Jazz Festival (\$695)	
Athletics-No Boys & Girls Freshman Basketball (\$5,653)	
Reduction in aide time	\$ 7,200

SPECIAL EDUCATION

1 Elementary Teacher	\$ 51,000
1 Middle School Teacher	\$ 51,000
Staff Development	\$ 29,342
Paraprofessional Personnel	\$ 65,670
Total	\$197,010

OTHER

All other budgetary functions in these areas were cut 3%:	
Buildings & Grounds	\$254,844
Business/Board/Supr.	\$ 79,719
Substitutes & Stipends	\$ 79,719
Information Literacy	\$ 60,831
Curriculum and Instruction	\$ 33,372
Human Resources	\$ 9,828
Warehouse	\$ 4,464
Total	\$522,777
Reduction in Savings for Long Range Facility Maintenance	
Total	\$761,301

