

Contact: Ross Local School District
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Re: Frequently Asked Questions #1



During our Board of Education meeting on September 15, a 10-year history of our School District was presented. This document can be found at Rosstrams.com under the Financial Update Page. This document has many layers of information. It is our goal to provide “Friday FAQ’s” to help dig further into our financial history.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **How much of an increase in state funding has Ross Local Schools received per year over the last decade?**

In fiscal year 2013, the District received **\$10,460,443** from the State. In fiscal year 2022, **\$10,560,852** was received. Unfortunately, there are many costs that have risen in the past ten years. One such example is staff salaries. In fiscal year 2013, the District paid out \$12,251,779 in salaries. In fiscal year 2022, staff salaries were \$16,980,477. This increase has occurred despite the District negotiating below-average wage increases for our staff over that period of time. The average negotiated yearly pay raise for school personnel in Butler County over that time period was 2.27%. Ross Local Schools average negotiated pay raise was 1.7%.

Think of all the costs of a family household that have drastically increased over the past 10 years. Examples include utilities, health care insurance, daily operational costs and vehicle costs, such as gasoline. We could certainly give more examples; the point is that our State Revenue has been flat. The exception is a slight increase in local income taxes; however, our overall costs have skyrocketed upward.

Public school districts are a people business. Our core value is to provide the best education for our students. To that end, personnel costs are a large majority of a district’s budget. Approximately 80% of a district’s budget is personnel. Our full time employee count has drastically decreased over the past two years due to efforts of balancing our budget. The information that follows will be helpful.

- **How many full-time employees did Ross Local Schools employ during that time period?**

2016 = 303
2017 = 303
2018 = 322
2019 = 327
2020 = 342
2021 = 306
2022 = 302
2023 = 300 (projected)

- **How does the Consumer Price Index impact our School District?**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indication of the average change in the cost to purchase consumer goods. Over a ten year period, CPI has increased 25.3%. However, the District's total operating revenue has only increased by 14.8% over those same ten years. As you can see, we are operating our District at a severe deficit.

We hope the Friday FAQ's are helpful in understanding our financial situation. Please contact us if you have any questions.