



Superintendent's Budget Message 2009-2010

This year our budgeting must rely on uncertain financial projections for the 2009-11 Biennium. This is a two year funding cycle and the economic forecast is volatile. Students are the reason we are here and we are committed to a quality school district where every school is run by passionate and innovative individuals who always put children first. This budget ensures that the reduction in resources provide a balance in programs and staffing that allows us to work together to achieve excellence.

The district strategic planning process, mission and goals, bind our budget planning. These venues were integrated into the budget proposal and are reflective of strategically identified needs and priorities. Based on community and staff input, the strategic planning process identified four essential priority areas: student achievement, communication, technology and facilities. These priorities, along with the district mission and goals, have served as the future direction for the St. Helens School District and have created a challenge to the proposed 2009-10 budget.

District Mission

Dedicated to Inspiring Excellence for All.

District Goals

- St. Helens School District's comprehensive, aligned and implemented K-12 balanced curriculum will result in a 5% or greater annual increase in academic achievement in math, reading and writing for all students, as measured by state and district assessments.
- The school district will become increasingly engaged with the greater St. Helens community through expanded communication, collaboration and involvement opportunities.
- The St. Helens School District will upgrade the educational facilities through a capital reserve fund and bond.

The 2009-10 Budget addresses the serious decline in state revenue and a slight decrease in student enrollment. We are in the first year of the 2009-11 Biennium Funding Allocation and we will continue on a path of fiscal caution and prudence.

Budget Assumptions

The proposed Budget is built upon the latest financial information from the State. At the time of the 2009-2010 budget approval and adoption, the State Economic Forecast supported a \$5.6 billion ODE State School Fund estimate for the 2009-2011 biennium.

- The District's proposed budget for 2009-10 is based on the June 2009, \$5.6 billion ODE State School Fund estimate. With an average daily member weighted (ADMw) student population of 4,010.8 the district estimates receiving \$17,992,944 in State School Funding.
- Our proposed budget for 2009-10 is \$26,678,426 compared to \$28,529,162 for the past year.
- The revenues from the State School Fund are based on the first year of the 2009-11 Biennium Funding Allocation. The revenue generated per student will decrease from \$6,329 per student to \$5,966 per student. This is a \$363 decrease in Average Daily Membership weighted (ADMw) funding.
- The proposed budget will maintain a \$5.4 billion target for expenditures with excess revenue from a \$5.6 billion target going into reserves. This will further ensure a \$1.4 million ending fund balance.
- The District will have an estimated ending fund balance of \$1.7 million at the end of the fiscal year on June 30 2009.
- The Beginning Fund Balance for 2009-2010 is estimated at \$1.7 million which is 6.4% of the budget.
- The District's contingency fund will remain at \$600,000 which is 2.2% of the budget.
- The cost to maintain current programs, referred to as our "roll-up" cost would be approximately \$1.4 million over last year's budget, representing a 5% increase.
- Student enrollment population growth is estimated at a 1.5% decrease or approximately 50 less students.
- Licensed and Classified employees will be in their final year of a three year contract. By Contract, licensed salaries will increase by 3.5% and classified salaries will increase by 2.5%. Both Contracts have a District health insurance cap. The District pays 92.5% per month for licensed employees and 90% per month for classified employees.
- District required contribution to the retirement funds for school employees remain stable from the previous school year.
- A change in graduation requirements and state and federal data collection has required additional resources.
- Utility and fuel budgets have been increased by approximately 5%.

Other General Fund Resources for 2009-2010

The District estimates that in addition to State School Funding the following resources will be available in 2009-2010:

Beginning Fund Balance

- The District's current estimate of this school year's Ending Fund Balance is \$1.7 million. This resource becomes the Beginning Fund Balance for 2009-10.

Additional Revenue

- The District estimates receiving \$7.4 million in other revenue for 2009-10. This includes current and prior-year tax revenue, gate receipts, participation fees, user fees for facility use, and interest earning.
- Northwest Regional Education Service District provides \$820,472 in service credits.
- The Construction Excise Tax will generate revenue based on collecting \$1.00 per square foot for residential permits and \$.50 per foot for industrial/commercial permits (up to \$25,000). All collections are expected to be spent on capital projects.

District Demographics

- Students: The projected student enrollment in the St. Helens School District for the 2009-2010 school year is 3,598 students, a decrease of 50 students from the current school year. This projection includes all students attending St. Helens Public Schools and alternative programs.
- Licensed Staff: The 2009-2010 proposed budget includes 166.25 Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) licensed staff. Of those positions, 12 FTE are funded through grants, 4 FTE are funded through ESD service credits and 2.5 FTE are funded through the Federal Stimulus package.
- Classified Staff: The proposed budget includes 108.99 FTE classified support staff. Of those positions, 27 FTE are funded through grants and other funds.
- Administrative Staff: The proposed budget includes 12.5 FTE administrative staff. Of those positions, 8 FTE are principals and assistant principals, 3 FTE district office administrators, and 1.5 FTE specialists. Of this FTE, 1.5 FTE is funded through grants and ESD County Allocation.
- Confidential Staff: The proposed budget includes 6.5 FTE confidential staff.

General Fund Budget Reductions 2009-2010

The proposed General Fund reductions represent a decrease of \$3,452,467 from last year's budget. The following are the major reductions proposed for 2009-2010:

The following licensed positions (presented as "Full Time equivalents" for FTEs) are proposed:

- 14.4 classroom teachers for K-12
- 2.0 classroom teachers for music and physical education
- .5 classroom teacher for alternative education services
- 1.5 media
- 2.0 counseling
- .5 HS athletic director
- 1.0 special education
- Extended contracts and stipends

Total reduction of licensed staff (FTE): 21.9

Total cost reduction: \$1,297,318.77

The following classified positions (presented as "Full Time Equivalents" or FTEs) are proposed:

- 2.5 health care assistants
- 1.47 media assistants
- 1.0 custodian
- 3.0 special education
- 5.88 classroom and program assistants
- .94 duty assistants
- 1.3 office staff

The reduction of classified FTE: 16.12

Total cost reduction: \$472,019.10

The following administrative and confidential positions (presented as “Full Time Equivalents” or FTEs) are proposed:

- 1.0 high school assistant principal position
- 1.0 administrator (TBA)
- .5 confidential

The reduction of administration and confidential FTE: 2.5

Total cost reduction: \$264,432.03

The following General Fund reductions district wide are proposed:

- Student Resource Officer
- Office of Curriculum and Instruction (textbook, new teacher mentor, summer school)
- Office of Superintendent, School Board, and Principals
- Supplies & Materials
- Printing
- Technology
- Maintenance
- Athletics
- Transportation
- Construction improvements
- Columbia River Youth Corps
- Early retirement debt

Total cost reduction: \$1,418,697.10

I continue to believe that our work is directly linked to the district's core mission and goals. I am optimistic that St. Helens School District will remain a place where children come first and excellence is the norm. I am confident that in the short-term our students will have access to rigorous academics, the arts, music, technology, athletics, after-school programs, electives, literacy and math interventions, advanced placement, alternative placement, ELL and special education services, career development, and student guidance, as well as resources that meet graduation requirements within a culture of 21st century standards; I also believe that our facilities will continue to be maintained in a manner conducive to effective teaching and learning.

The challenge for our teachers, principals, parents, staff, school board and the entire community is to collectively focus our energy on a future where morale, trust and pride become consistently high; and together, we will continue our pathway for success of all students. We will need to reflect and understand just how we got to this place, and we will need to remind ourselves, that despite all of our differences, we share common hopes and common dreams that every child in this district can be successful.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Adams". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Patricia Adams
Superintendent