



This estimated cost only includes licensed staff. This level of spending is not sustainable and would deplete financial reserves, which would lead to possible:

- Staffing reductions
- Program cuts
- Fewer school resources

## **7. WEA states that the District can afford its salary proposal. Is that correct?**

No, the District cannot afford WEA's proposal without depleting financial reserves and reducing staffing and programs. The District's costing of the proposals is based upon the actual costs associated with each employee. The District understands that OEA's costing is based upon a backward looking estimate over the course of 10 years. Given the significant changes in funding levels from the state and federal level, the District's calculations are a more accurate representation.

## **8. So many school districts are in a financial crisis. Why hasn't Woodburn been in one yet?**

The District's reserves have protected the community from the unpredictable swings of state and federal funding without having to immediately resort to making significant, painful reductions to staff, programs or days that many districts in Oregon are now making.

## **9. What are "reserves," and why do they matter?**

Reserves are funds set aside to:

- Cover unexpected costs
- Stabilize the district during funding uncertainties and fluctuations

## **10. Does the District have \$15 million in its Ending Fund Balance (reserves)?**

No. The District had \$15 million in the Ending Fund Balance at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Over the course of this year, the District will spend over \$3 million of it just to sustain current staffing levels and operations. The current Ending Fund Balance is \$11.9 million and for the 2026-27 year the District is proposing a \$5 million Ending Fund Balance. [See the full 26-27 budget message here.](#)

## **11. Is the District already using reserves?**

Yes. The District expects to spend over \$3 million from reserves this year just to maintain current operations.

Using reserves for ongoing expenses is comparable to dipping into savings to pay monthly bills. While this may get you through tough situations, it is not a practice that can be sustained long-term.

## **12. How do Woodburn teacher salaries compare to other districts?**

Woodburn salaries are generally at or above the level salary of nearby districts. It's worth noting that:

- Woodburn pays the employee PERS (retirement) contribution while some other districts require employees to pay this themselves
- Additionally many Woodburn educators receive up to an additional 9% in compensation for varying levels of language expertise and 10% for special education expertise.