



## Concord Community Schools Referendum FAQ's

### **1. Can extra-curricular activities be cut in order to save money?**

Concord's community traditionally has high expectations for excellence in the classroom, in fine arts, and on the playing fields. Co- and extra-curricular programs are part of a comprehensive educational experience that keeps many students engaged in school that might not otherwise remain active or in school. We have already reduced expenses for maintenance and grounds keeping for these programs, and plans are in place to implement transportation cost-sharing in athletics and music next school year.

### **2. Can administrators be paid less, or some administration positions be eliminated?**

We have been very careful and frugal in order to ensure that funds are prioritized within the classrooms – for work directly with students. According to the most recent state reports available, Concord's average administrative salary is 167<sup>th</sup> in the state while our enrollment is the 56<sup>th</sup> largest and continuing to grow – with over 250 additional students this school year alone.

### **3. Can the school corporation use a Rainy Day fund to offset property tax cap losses?**

Our current rainy day balance is less than one-half of our annual tax-cap losses, and once it is used, there is no funding source to replenish that emergency fund which is already far below the recommendation of the state board of accounts. Our rainy day fund is small because we have always budgeted frugally and our expenditures are closely aligned with our revenue in all funds supported by local property taxes. Prior to this referendum to replace lost funds, we have not asked the community for additional money.

### **4. Doesn't the school get most of its money from other sources besides property taxes? Can the school use that other money for all of its needs?**

We get funding directly from the State of Indiana through the state funding formula. The funding formula is designed by the state legislature and funded based on the amount that the legislature puts into the state budget. These funds are generated by student enrollment and meant for direct use in educating children – personnel costs (teachers, classroom paraprofessionals, principals, librarians, counselors, secretaries, custodians, central office staff) including salaries and benefits; supplies; and professional development. We could use these funds to replace the tax cap losses, but reducing staff to cover 4.2 million dollars would not only change the culture of our community but also have a profound impact on student learning.

**5. Does the school corporation receive money from Indiana sales tax? Does the sales tax revenue help with property tax cap losses?**

The school corporation does not directly receive sales tax revenue. Sales taxes are a part of the tax funds the State of Indiana receives.

**6. Would the school corporation be willing to do an outside audit of finances and the budget?**

All public schools are audited by the State Board of Accounts every two years. These audits are available to the public on the State Board of Accounts' website. Our budgets are published in the newspaper and hearings are held for the public to provide feedback. Budgets, debt, and salaries are all available to the public online at websites of the Department of Local Government Finance, the Department of Education, and the State Board of Accounts. Schools must also publish in the newspapers two reports annually – the Annual Performance Report that gives data on student demographics and academics and the Annual Financial Report that includes salary schedules, budgets versus actual expenditures, estimated revenues versus actual receipts, and all vendors paid in excess of \$2,500.

**7. Why can't the school corporation just make do with less money, like taxpayers have had to do under a weaker economy?**

We have made cuts since 2008 when the state funding formula was reduced and extended them further as the property tax caps went into effect. Our enrollment has increased by over 250 students in this year alone, yet we have reduced teaching and support staff. As revenue has continued to decline, Concord Community Schools has reduced staff, kept 10-year-old computers for our students, increased student walk zones, consolidated elementary and intermediate bus routes, delayed maintenance and repairs to facilities. Not only are the tax caps impacting us, but the weaker economy has reduced the value of homes, which has made the property-tax losses even more catastrophic.