

# fact\$ *in a backpack*

March 2008

## WCSD budget focused on instruction

School district budgets include a wide variety of expenses required to operate on a daily basis. However, the largest portion of the West Carrollton School District's budget is directed specifically to student learning.

In WCSD, 54.7 percent of the

general fund goes toward instruction (see chart below). That category includes classroom teachers' salaries and benefits, textbooks and other classroom materials. Another 12 percent of the WCSD budget is spent on pupil support services. These servi-

ces include school libraries, nurses, guidance counselors and other items that directly impact learning.

That adds up to 66.7 percent of the general fund directly funding instruction, according to Treasurer Ryan Slone.

District	Admin.	Operations Support	Staff Support	Pupil Support	Instruction
Brookville	13.4	19.4	4.2	12.2	50.8
Centerville	7.9	17.2	2.2	10.6	62.1
Dayton	11.3	24.6	5.4	8.6	50.1
Huber Heights	9.1	18.2	3.6	8.3	60.8
Jefferson Twp.	29.4	19.3	3.3	5.6	42.4
Kettering	12.9	17.3	2.3	13.3	54.2
Mad River	11.6	18.3	5.3	7.8	57.0
Miamisburg	10.0	16.7	1.8	11.0	60.5
New Lebanon	13.9	20.7	1.8	9.2	54.4
Northmont	9.5	18.1	0.6	9.2	62.6
Northridge	12.2	18.2	0.7	12.3	56.5
Oakwood	13.7	11.6	0.8	10.5	63.4
Trotwood-Madison	14.9	18.6	6.3	10.0	50.2
Valley View	11.7	20.6	3.7	10.4	53.6
Vandalia Butler	11.4	15.8	3.2	10.1	59.5
<b>West Carrollton</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>54.7</b>



The figures in these categories are used to calculate how much a district spends per student.



Other budget categories include administration, operations support and staff support.

Administration funds central office personnel as well as principals and their secretaries. Operations support includes busing, food service and maintenance.

Staff support includes curriculum, professional development and specific jobs designed to help teachers such as attendants for students with special needs.

These budget categories are often impacted by a district's specific geography or population, Slone noted.

For example, Oakwood City Schools has no buses. Therefore,

their expenditure in operations support is much lower than other districts. Districts which are more spread out have larger transportation expenses, Slone added.

West Carrollton compares well among other Montgomery County school districts and throughout the state. The state average for the combined categories of pupil support and instruction is 65.7 percent, Slone said.

"Learning is our most important product and process," said Supt. Rusty Clifford, Ph.D. "We channel the bulk of our resources to the classroom because we know the 'fundamental purpose of school is learning, not teaching.'"

Brookville	\$8,275
Centerville	\$9,432
Dayton	\$13,531
Huber Heights	\$9,539
Jefferson Twp.	\$13,123
Kettering	\$10,997
Mad River	\$9,376
Miamisburg	\$9,158
New Lebanon	\$8,266
Northmont	\$8,718
Northridge	\$12,253
Oakwood	\$9,444
Trotwood-Madison	\$11,411
Valley View	\$8,685
Vandalia Butler	\$9,881
<b>West Carrollton</b>	<b>\$9,386</b>
State Average	\$9,586

# Winter demand drives higher diesel prices

News of higher diesel fuel prices has frustrated transportation directors throughout Ohio, but diesel-powered school buses remain the most economical choice for districts.

“Last week, we ordered 7,500 gallons of diesel for our buses at a price of \$3.66 per gallon,” said West Carrollton School District Operations Supervisor Jack Haag in mid-March. “That’s an increase of about 30 cents per gallon from our last delivery.”

WCSD owns 40 buses and operates 36 routes every school day. All gasoline buses have now been replaced with diesel buses. Haag said the decision to convert the fleet still makes sense.

“While diesel has increased to almost 70 cents higher than unleaded gas, it is still the cheapest form of fuel for school buses,” he said.

Gasoline buses average between 1.8 and 3.0 miles per gallon. Diesel buses average between 5 and 9 miles

per gallon.

“For gasoline to become an attractive alternative again, prices for diesel fuel would almost need to triple that of gasoline,” Haag said.

Winter demand has driven prices up in the last few months, he added. The fuel used for buses and for heating homes is basically the same. Additionally, a winter blend of diesel is more expensive.

“In extremely cold weather, diesel begins to solidify,” Haag said. “To prevent the gelling, additives are mixed in the fuel to lower the freezing point of diesel during the winter months.”

Warmer weather will likely cause a drop in prices.

“Because of the similarities in the products, diesel fuel demand is tied to the demand for heating oil,” Haag said. “This link always drives the cost of diesel fuel higher in the winter and allows it to drop in the summer.”



*Diesel is the common term for the fuel used in compression ignition engines named for their inventor, German engineer Rudolf Diesel, who patented his design in 1892.*

**Got a question?  
Still think the  
pieces don't fit?**

**TELL US ABOUT  
YOUR CONCERN!**

Call Sharon Naragon,  
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## All day kindergarten is a go

All-day kindergarten will be offered at the Walter Shade Early Childhood Center this fall.

This optional program will be added to the school and offered for a fee.

Currently, the ECC operates 14 sections of half-day kindergarten. In 2008-2009, the ECC is scheduled to operate three all-day sections and 11 half-day sections.

The existing program for Young Fives will continue in half-day sessions. The extended day program offered for students who live in the Frank Nicholas area will also be continued. That program is free thanks to a U.S. Department of Education grant.

The all-day sections at the ECC will be filled by a lottery system similar to that used for the school's preschool program, said Principal Kim Hall-Alt.

Hall-Alt anticipates hiring one and a half additional teachers for the program. Tuition will be charged to cover the additional staff needed for the program. A sliding scale, again similar to the preschool program, will be used.

Hall-Alt urges parents to maintain plans for child care until they are officially notified that their child has been placed in an all-day section.

Kindergarten registration packets will be available at the ECC after Spring Break, beginning Monday April 7. On site registration will be held April 21 between 8 and 11 a.m., between 1 and 4 p.m. and between 5 and 7 p.m.; or on April 22 between 8 and 11 a.m. or between 1 and 4 p.m.

Registrations can also be completed by appointment. Early registration is strongly encouraged.

For more information, contact the ECC at 859-5121, ext. 4400.