

Worthington's Fiscal Challenges Continue

Worthington enters the 2012-2013 school year continuing to confront fiscal challenges not of its own making and unlike any other faced to-date.



As you may have read in the news, state aid to local schools was significantly reduced, and in the case of Worthington, we lost almost \$10 million in vital operating funds. On top of that, as the current financial forecast stands,

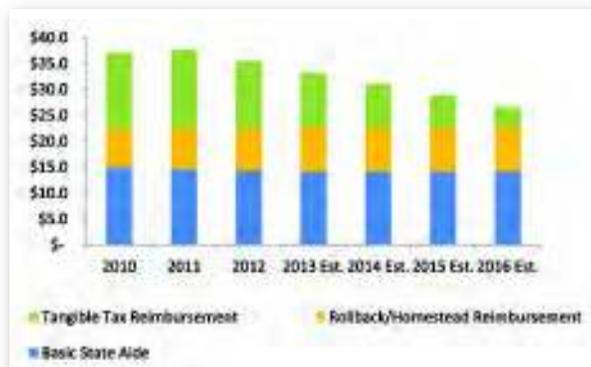
Worthington stands to lose \$41 million in state and federal aid over the next five years. Anticipating these reductions, our Board of Education has reduced spending by more than \$3 million over the past three years, including eliminating about 40 staff positions and all staff agreed to pay freezes and they are paying more for health insurance. These actions have helped tremendously, but the challenge now is to maintain the quality of our schools that students deserve and our community expects. Our Board of Education has placed two issues on the ballot – Issues 53 and 54. These levies will ensure our schools continue to

operate as they are right now and prevent any further reductions in staff and programs that will certainly harm the quality of our schools.

Over the past several months, Dr. Tucker and I visited homes in our community and spent time with staff and parents sharing our story and making sure our residents are informed about what's at stake.

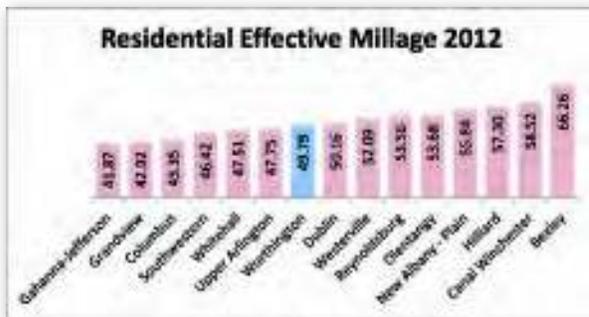
Taxpayers appreciate the fact that we are a good value – providing excellent schools at a reasonable cost. In fact, Worthington schools' residential tax rate is lower than many similar districts in Central Ohio. That translates into lower property taxes for our residents.

Many have asked for specifics and what will happen if these issues don't pass this November. The answer is: we will have to plan to reduce \$10 million over several years in order to remain fiscally stable. That means our Board of Education must come up with a plan if the issues do not pass this November, including the possibility of cutting an additional 40 staff positions, eliminating programs and increasing class sizes. Going forward, the seriousness of Worthington's fiscal challenges cannot be underestimated.



an important part of the equation. The financial facts will clearly show where we have been, where we are heading, and how important Issues 53 and 54 are to maintaining a stable budget for our school district. ♦

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Worthington Schools has felt the losses in revenue. Here's where:

- Losses in state revenue can happen quickly and be steep. Over the last two years, Worthington Schools lost \$10 million in state and federal funding.
- The loss of the tangible personal property (TPP) tax – a property tax that was paid by local businesses and industry - hits us hard. In fact, no other school district in Franklin County is more impacted by the loss of the TPP tax than Worthington.

Worthington Schools have taken proactive steps to protect our schools. Here's how:

- Worthington has cut and eliminated \$3 million since 2009. Most of those cuts and reductions have come through the loss of 40 teaching and staff positions.
- In addition to the loss of teaching and support staff positions, all employees have agreed to pay freezes and are paying more for health care.