

Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Budget Reductions

Questions & Answers

12/07/09

Why is Lincoln-Way considering reducing expenditures?

The state of Illinois is \$5 million behind on its categorical payments to the Lincoln-Way school district. This along with the downturn in the economy has created a financial challenge for the district, as it has for all businesses and governments in this country. Lincoln-Way has never spent more than it takes in. The Board of Education has always demonstrated its fiscal responsibility to its citizens each budget year. To address the current economic issues, the board has studied the many options put forth by the administration to deal with these challenges looking at both increasing revenue and reducing expenditures. However, when this district is one the lowest spending districts in terms of per pupil expenditures in the 6 county Chicago land area, with students scoring in the top 11% district wide for state wide tests, there is not much to cut. The board and administrative team have worked hard over the past years to increase graduation requirements, identify students needing additional help, and participate in the movement of our district to the solid position it now enjoys. The district looked at programs that affected the least amount of students.

How much does the district need to reduce expenditures because of the lack of state funding?

The district has reviewed the current revenue shortfall caused by the state of Illinois and the economy and has determined the school district will need to reduce expenditures by over \$3 million. Just to maintain the expenditure level of \$61, 314, 012 in the educational fund, \$6,854,478 in the OMB fund and \$11,945, 700 in the transportation fund for two consecutive years, we need to reduce the projected expenditures in 2010-2011 by \$2,922, 576 for those three funds. The state of Illinois is currently leading us to believe that our current state aid allocation may be reduced \$1,672,430 in 2010-2011 if the foundation level stays the same as it is this year. The lack of responsibility at the state level has placed our school district in a very challenging position.

What are the reductions the district must make to cover the potential reduction in state funding?

- Building trades program elimination
- Maintenance reductions
- Increase Asst. Athletic Director teaching assignment
- Clerical reductions
- Internal Suspension elimination
- Administration reductions
- Reduction in deans
- Coaching/ Extracurricular reductions
- Zero hour elimination
- Cafeteria reductions
- Personnel Fringe Benefits savings
- Transportation reductions

What can the district do to raise revenue?

The Board of Education in November approved the restructuring of bonds from the 2006 and the 1998 bond referendum sales to enable the board to keep the bond and interest rate at 34 cents, as promised to the taxpayer, and issue \$10 million in Life Safety bonds. However this money cannot be spent on salaries and any part of the operation of the district.

How does selling Life Safety Bonds and restructuring bonds from 2006 and 1998 save the district money?

By reducing interest rates on the 1998 bond issue, the district can save \$1.3 million in interest. The money generated can only be used for life safety, repairs, and restoration of related projects. From this process we can generate \$10 million in Life Safety Bonds. The money generated by the sale of these bonds will be used for doors, windows, roof work, HVAC upgrades, energy efficient lights, etc. at Lincoln-Way Central and Lincoln-Way East. Lincoln-Way North and Lincoln-Way West, being new schools, are current with the state life safety code.

Is Lincoln-Way reducing expenditures because of the recent opening of two new high schools?

No. The state has not paid Lincoln-Way High School District 210 over \$5 million owed in state payments for operations. The lack of responsibility at the state level has placed our school district in this position.

Why is Lincoln-Way considering limiting classes offered during Zero hour?

Due to the lack of state funding, the Board of Education and the Administrative team looked at many options to reduce expenditures. By limiting zero hour to physical education and charging a fee the district saves over \$1million dollars. For the past several years zero hour has been offered to students who choose to take an additional class. This limitation of zero hour will not impact a student's ability to complete their graduation requirements within the regular four year period.

What will it cost to take zero hour so my student can gain another opportunity for electives?

The cost for the zero hour physical education class will be \$500 which includes transportation. The zero hour option will be limited to physical education/health/drivers education. The cost associated with taking a zero hour class will be similar to what will be charged in summer school which is \$160 per semester, plus \$60 per semester for transportation or \$440 per course.

What additional opportunities are there for students to take classes?

In addition to offering zero hour physical education, the Board of Education and Administrative team have approved a new summer school schedule. The new summer school schedule expands classes and gives students the option of signing up for 3 semesters of summer school instead of 2 semesters. If a student takes advantage of the full summer school program he or she can earn up to six additional credits over 4 years. Therefore a student has the opportunity to earn 30 credits before he/she graduates. This 3-semester summer school program will be offered for the summer of 2010. [Click here for options for summer school.](#)

How will summer school work with three semesters being offered?

We are increasing our summer school options from two semesters to three. Each semester is 13 days long with students meeting from 7 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday.

Semester one will begin Monday, June 7 and conclude Wednesday, June 23. Semester two will begin Thursday, June 24 and end Tuesday, July 13. There will be no school Monday, July 5 in observance of the Fourth of July. Semester three will begin Wednesday, July 14 and end Friday, July 30.

Summer school will be offered at all four Lincoln-Way high schools, enabling students to earn up to 1 ½ credits. Those who take advantage of the summer school options can earn up to 30 credit hours by the end of their senior year – eight hours more than necessary to graduate.

[Click here for options for summer school.](#)

What is the cost of summer school so my student can take an additional elective?

The cost is \$160 per semester. The cost of transportation is \$60 per semester or \$440 for a full year equivalent course with transportation.

What if my student can't take summer school because he has to work?

We realize a number of students work during the summer and we encourage them to do so. While it may not be easy to juggle both school and work, we believe it's doable. Summer school meets from 7 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday, leaving afternoons, evenings and weekends open for summer employment.

What if my student can't take summer school because of Lincoln-Way sponsored camps?

The Lincoln-Way sponsored camps, for high school students, will not begin until summer school is over each day.

Why is Lincoln-Way looking at eliminating the Building Trades program?

Enrollment is down in the Building Trades program -- so much so that we don't have the number of students needed to run the program next school year. We saw the same drop-off in the '80s when there was a slow-down in the economy and the number of homes being built each year. We canceled the building trades program then, reinstating it a few years later when the economy improved. We propose doing the same for this slow-down.

[Summer School Options Click Here](#)