



# Lake Oswego School District

## School Funding Perspective

### What has been the impact of changes in school funding since 1990?

In 1990, the Lake Oswego School District lost local control of school funding. State control subsequently brought equalization of funding, and since then, LOSD has never received sufficient state revenue to support its programs.

**Perspective:** 1990 spending per student (in 2003 dollars): **\$8250**      2004-05 state funding per student (state projection): **\$4902**

So what have we done?

- We acted immediately to reduce costs, built cash reserves, and used those reserves slowly over time to sustain programs.
- We relied on our school foundation, our community, and our city to contribute additional revenue.
- We counted on teachers and support staff to do what it takes to maintain the highest standards of achievement despite reductions.
- The district has survived by cutting costs and finding funding alternatives in order to sustain high performance.

The magnitude of the current economic downturn and the defeat of Measure 30 have exhausted our reserves and prompted millions of dollars of cuts over the past two years, with a continuing shortfall predicted for the foreseeable future.

### How have programs and services been cut since 1990? Following are major changes:

#### Management Changes Affecting Program

- Raised class size by average of four students per class at elementary, middle level, and high school
- Increased high school teaching assignments from five to six classes
- Instituted blended classrooms at elementary so teacher/student ratios could be similar in all classes
- Initiated management teams, eliminating six administration positions

#### Program Eliminations

- |                                      |   |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| • High school Latin language study   | • High school building construction program | • High school auto program           |
| • High school Russian language study | • High school drafting program              | • Junior high home economics program |
| • High school metal shop program     | • High school summer school program         | • Junior high shop program           |
| • High school woodshop program       | • High school writing and math labs         | • Elementary swim program            |

#### Staff Reductions

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|--|---|------------------------------------|
| • Teaching positions: 25 in 2002 alone   | • Elementary librarians: 5 eliminated last year | • Maintenance and custodial staff  |
| • Junior high and high school counselors | • Music specialists                             | • Food service staff               |
| • Drug and alcohol counselors            | • PE specialists                                | • High school vice principals: 2   |
| • Special Services staff                 | • School nurse                                  | • Central office administrators: 4 |
| • TAG support                            | • Clerical and support staff at every level     |                                    |

#### Athletics and Activities Changes (Note: pre-1990 the district did not charge fees)

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|--|----------------------------------|
| • Current high school fee: \$225 per sport     | • Reduced number of teams        |
| • Current junior high fee: \$110 per sport     | • Reduced equipment budgets      |
| • Current elementary band/orchestra fee: \$200 | • Reduced transportation budgets |

#### Other Measures

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|---|---|
| • 5 days cut from 2002-03 school year (pay cut for all employees) | • Operations and supply budgets reduced         |
| • Transportation contracted to Laidlaw                            | • Building maintenance deferred throughout 90's |

### How have we supplemented state funding to avoid further cuts?

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|---|--|
| • Building cash reserve in early 90's (now virtually depleted)      | • City Serial Levy (3 yrs. during 90's, supported athletics/activities)                    |
| • Local Option Levy (renewable Nov. '04)                            | • Short-term equipment/textbook bonds (have all expired, no longer allowed per Measure 50) |
| • Foundation Fundraising (\$1.5 M last year for teaching positions) |  |

### Where are we now?

Community support has made a huge difference in our ability to sustain exceptional student performance. It has helped staff and students to rise above diminishing resources and keep their focus on student learning and achievement.

The funding landscape hasn't changed, and is not expected to in the immediate future.

We have downsized and stretched our resources at every level, but our success has come at significant cost, and there are few options left for further downsizing.

This is a community with high expectations for its schools and its students, and a community that has always been willing to provide the resources needed to meet those expectations.

We are thankful that this is a community that believes in the possibilities of public education. Our community's support will continue to be critical to providing the high quality education we value, and our students deserve.