



March 2019

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Upcoming Free Webinar

March 7 | 11:30 a.m.
Topic: Budget
Development
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The Budget Development Process

It may seem as though school just started and your tenure as a board member just began, but it is time to think about the budget for FY 2020. The staff has begun working on enrollment projections and discussions have already taken place regarding personnel for next year. Soon you will become a part of that process, if you haven't already.

School district budgets are complex, confusing and are often misunderstood by the public. After all, we are talking about a lot of money for any community. School districts are usually the county's/city's largest employer, so school taxes make up a significant portion of the property tax bill. That seldom goes unnoticed!

The budget supports the educational goals of the district identified in the strategic plan. It should be thought of as the means by which the district seeks to attain these goals. The budget process follows clearly articulated budget guidelines that specify timelines, board and staff responsibilities and opportunities for community input.

The school district is a people-centered operation. Student enrollment projections, one of the first steps in the budget process, drives the budget. The projected student enrollment determines the number of teaching and support personnel needed based on system class-size requirements. After associated expenses for salary and benefits are calculated, most school districts have only about ten percent of their total funds to actually budget. This ten percent is for instructional materials, maintenance and operations, buses and other expenses. These expenses are often eye-openers for those working through a school district budget for the first time. You thought your electric bill was huge!

HOW DECISIONS UNDER THE GOLD DOME MAY AFFECT YOUR 2020 BUDGET

All boards will face a challenge this year as a result of the much-deserved teacher pay raise. Governor Kemp has promised a \$3,000 pay raise for all certified personnel. Currently this includes teachers (only those earned under the state funding formula), assistant principals, principals and superintendents. Other staff would receive a two percent salary increase. This includes counselors, media specialists, psychologists, social workers, technology specialists and special education specialists. While this is wonderful for our dedicated teachers and these specific groups of support staff, there are "unintended/unfunded" expenses that must be paid for by local boards. Not all school district employees are included. There are paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, counselors, custodians, food service personnel, transportation personnel, maintenance staff, locally funded teachers and others who are not included. Will your board extend the raise, at least a proportional raise, to these essential personnel?

There is also no money currently proposed to cover the increased costs of Social Security, Workers Comp and retirement. These items are based on salaries, so an increase means added local costs. Until the budget is actually approved and signed by Governor Kemp, we won't know for certain what school districts will be dealing with. It is fair to say that this positive salary increase will present a financial challenge to local boards.

BUDGET WEBINAR ON MARCH 7, 11:30 AM

Cliff Cole, Director of Risk Management Services at GSBA and retired superintendent of Paulding County School District, will share a resource with you that will help explain the various components of a school district budget. Using the GSBA budget template, he will provide some examples of actual revenues and expenditures and answer your questions. We hope this presentation will help our new board members as well as other attendees as you develop your own 2020 school district budget.

Please plan to join us!

The webinar should last about 45 minutes, click [HERE](#) to register.

To view the previous webinar from February 4 on the Legislative Session/Lobbying, click [HERE](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL'S WEBINAR

When: Thursday, April 25, 11:30 AM

Topic: Superintendent Evaluations

Register [HERE](#)

We are available if you need/want to talk, **so please don't hesitate to reach out.**

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