

IMPACT OF STATE FINANCE CRISIS

EUDORA SCHOOLS | FEBRUARY 2010

EUDORA SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE, 2009-2010

- \$13M adopted budget (general fund, supplemental fund and capital outlay)
- 1,527 student enrollment
- \$56M assessed valuation
- 250 staff members (approximately 60% certified, 30% classified, 10% administrative)

STATE FINANCE AND EUDORA SCHOOLS

Eudora Schools is proud to be a part of the Kansas public education system, known as one of the strongest state education systems in the nation. Funding from the state is critical to the work that is done to give all students in Eudora access to a free, appropriate education, as guaranteed by the state constitution. Since the latest round of cuts in November 2009, base state aid per pupil has dropped from \$4,433 (the funding rate at the beginning of 2008-09 school year) to \$4,012 for 2009-10. Overall, the Eudora district has sustained more than \$838,000 in cuts to state funding since the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

REDUCTIONS SINCE 2008

The legislature began cutting state funding to school districts in November 2008, as the state's revenues began to see a sharp decline. Eudora Schools leaders took a number of steps to manage the initial rounds of cuts. Among these changes and reductions were:

| Action taken | Corresponding savings |
|---|-----------------------|
| Reduction in staff positions: 4.75 licensed teaching positions, 10.5 EMS/EHS coaching positions, 1 classified library aide | \$247,000 |
| Building/department budget reductions | \$43,000 |
| Close 10 th and Main building | \$30,000 |
| Program changes: reduce curriculum writing, reduce teacher mentoring, eliminate Jump Start summer school, change or discontinue contracted services | \$91,000 |
| Professional development: association dues, out-of-state travel | \$18,000 |

POTENTIAL CUTS FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

As the Kansas legislature considers further cuts to K-12 education funding, Eudora Schools may see as much as a \$1 million further reduction from last year's approved budget. Tragically, state aid cuts of this magnitude can only be offset by district-level changes that will profoundly impact the way students in Eudora receive their education.

Below are some of the options the Eudora Board of Education is considering in an effort to close the gap in reduced state aid. While no decisions have been finalized at this time, these options and others are on the table for consideration through the coming months.

| Potential cut | Potential savings |
|---|-------------------|
| End all-day kindergarten and revert to a half-day kindergarten program | \$147,000 |
| Close West Early Childhood Family Center for short term, moving PEP and kindergarten to Eudora Elementary | \$283,000 |
| Eliminate Parents as Teachers program | \$11,000 |
| Close Nottingham to public use | \$28,000 |
| Reduce teaching positions at EMS | \$157,000 |

| Potential cut (continued) | Potential savings (continued) |
|--|--|
| Reduce teacher/administrator positions at EHS and Eudora-De Soto Technical Education Center, eliminate 1 EDTEC program | \$188,000 |
| Eliminate 1 library aide | \$16,500 |
| Reduce the number of school days in the calendar | Variable; approximately \$10,000 per day |

STUDENT FEES

At this time, Eudora Schools does not charge student fees for enrollment, activities, transportation, or other services. This long-standing decision by the board of education reflects a desire to provide a free, high-quality public education to the students of Eudora, regardless of their family income. The Eudora Board of Education instituted a \$200 per student driver education fee beginning in the summer of 2009. The current funding status at the state level may require the board to consider additional fees.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

The Kansas Legislature recently commissioned a report to study the state's potential for financial savings if school districts underwent consolidation. This report provided one scenario that showed Eudora being consolidated with De Soto. At this time, there is no effort in the legislature to pursue such a plan. Eudora Schools leaders believe that consolidation with any surrounding district would not be in the best interest of Eudora students. Furthermore, the consolidation report did not address some key concerns, such as the way that school district debt would be handled in cases of consolidation.

STATE AID AND EQUITY FOR STUDENTS

In the time since the school finance formula was changed in the early 1990s, Eudora has seen tremendous growth in student achievement and in the quality and quantity of educational opportunities. These changes did not happen by accident. State aid programs are intended to equalize resources across the state so that students in property-poor districts, such as Eudora, have equal access to high-quality public education.

Eudora taxpayers pay into the state aid system at the same rate as other Kansans. State aid is not about getting something for nothing; it is about a state-wide system that treats all Kansas kids fairly. Zip code should not determine the quality of a student's education. State aid programs act in the best interest of all Kansans.