

## **January 29, 2025 Superintendent Services Summary**

This month continues to see working with leaders in different areas to assure efficiencies can be seen which would reduce the total expenditures. Testified on behalf of Glen Ullin to decrease deduction of other local revenue (windmill revenue) from 75% deduction to 50% deduction. Testimony is attached, and a link to the video can be found at: <https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/69-2025/regular/bill-video/bv1381.html>. This passed the committee by a 7-6-1 vote so now moves onto appropriations, so will see what happens at that level. Below are some thoughts to spur discussion on what is needed.

In working with Glen Ullin School District, I would like the board to discuss and think about how to maintain the quality of education while addressing the challenges of decreased enrollment and lower state funding. Here's a summary of steps to assist in discussion to lower expenses without compromising student learning:

### **1. Consolidate and Streamline Resources**

- **Evaluate staffing levels:** Assess current staff to ensure that class sizes and support services are balanced efficiently. This might include reassigning staff where possible or combining administrative roles to reduce overhead costs without reducing teaching quality.
- **Optimize class scheduling:** Review and adjust class schedules to ensure teachers' time is being used as efficiently as possible. By maximizing the use of classrooms and teacher hours, we can reduce the need for extra staff.
- **Energy efficiency measures:** Implement energy-saving initiatives across the district's buildings. This could include upgrading lighting systems, improving insulation, and optimizing heating/cooling systems, reducing long-term operational costs.

### **2. Increase Operational Efficiencies**

- **Shared services:** Explore regional collaborations with neighboring districts for shared services such as transportation, special education, and technology. Pooling resources can reduce overall costs.

### **3. Maximize Use of Technology**

- **Expand virtual learning opportunities:** With the increase in digital learning platforms, it may be possible to reduce physical classroom requirements and provide more flexible options that reduce overhead costs.
- **Implement more online resources:** By moving textbooks and other resources to digital formats, we can reduce the cost of printed materials and better allocate funds.

### **4. Engage the Community and Fundraising**

- **Pursue local grants and partnerships:** Work with local businesses and community members to identify new sources of funding, such as grants, sponsorships, or local fundraising efforts that can help offset budget cuts.
- **Increased community involvement:** Encouraging volunteerism in schools and leveraging local expertise for enrichment programs can also reduce costs.

## 5. Monitor and Adjust the Budget Regularly

- **Data-driven decision-making:** Regularly review and adjust the budget to ensure that funds are being allocated efficiently. By closely monitoring expenditures and responding swiftly to changing financial conditions, we can avoid unnecessary spending.
- **Flexible spending categories:** Set aside contingency funds for unforeseen circumstances but also have a clear plan for reallocating those resources to meet the needs of students without overspending. This could be accomplished by levying a special reserve levy.

Through careful planning and community engagement, we can navigate these financial challenges while ensuring that our students continue to receive the high-quality education they deserve. The goal is to make these adjustments as seamlessly as possible, ensuring minimal disruption to their learning experience.

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