

# 2009-2010 Budget Savings Plan frequently asked questions

## Why does Walla Walla have to reduce its budget?

Walla Walla must reduce its operating budget for the 2009-10 school year due to a combination of rising costs, years of inadequate state funding, state budget cuts and rigid state finance law that allows little flexibility in determining how to fund students' greatest needs.

The district receives 71% of its funding from the state based on student enrollment, 17% from local operations levy dollars, 11% from the federal government and 1% from other sources such as donations and investment earnings.

## What is the current financial situation in the district?

Walla Walla is widely known as a fiscally prudent district that is constantly seeking opportunities to improve the efficiency of its operations. Our 2008-09 operating budget is balanced. About 83% of our school district's budget is spent on people and personnel-related costs and 17% on non-employee costs such as fuel, utilities, supplies, insurance, etc.

We spend most of our resources on teaching and learning – 73% of our total operating budget, which is above the state average. We currently spend 15% on instructional and related support services and 12% on administration, which is below the state average.

## Why are budget reserves important and how much does Walla Walla have in reserves?

Reserves are part of the district's general fund budget. Adequate reserves are critical for paying monthly payroll and meeting other ongoing financial obligations.

Reserves also impact the district's credit rating and ability to borrow funds for bonds for construction projects at a low interest rate, which saves taxpayers' dollars. The district cannot decrease its reserves below 3% and still operate in a financially responsible manner on a monthly basis. The School Board sets the minimum for reserves at 3% with a recommended range of 3 to 5% to compensate for economic uncertainty. Currently, district reserves are within this 3 to 5% range.

## Walla Walla Public Schools

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## Board of Directors

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Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all the requirements of the ADA

May 12, 2009

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2009-2010

Walla Walla Public Schools

# Budget Savings Plan

Partners In Learning

## Budget savings plan focuses on what's best for students and staff

### Plan saves jobs and programs

Washington state's unprecedented financial crisis has sent a shockwave across the state as K-12 education is taking a substantial budget hit.

The district has worked in collaboration with staff, parents, students and community members to make tough budget decisions in light of the economic recession.

Our budget savings plan calls for trimming expenditures by \$3.5 million for the 2009-2010 general fund budget. No permanent staff will lose their jobs. We've made reductions through attrition and transfers to eliminate 16 certificated positions.

We have focused on protecting current class size, our staff and programs. Other districts around the state cannot make this claim.

I want to thank everyone for their thoughtful feedback, suggestions and input. It helped us prioritize and make sense of a difficult situation. Your support is appreciated.



**Rich Carter**  
Superintendent

## Budget Savings Plan Highlights

- Budget reduced by \$3.5 million for the 2009-2010
- Plan focuses on protecting current class size
- Plan has limited impact on student programs
- No layoffs for permanent staff
- Transfers and service reductions eliminated 16 certificated positions (includes dean positions)
- Four Dean of Student positions eliminated
- Athletics reduced \$115,000 or 10 percent (Reduction percentages: 55% Wa-Hi, 25% Middle School, 20% Elementary)
- Some learning support programs have been reduced
- Out-of-State travel suspended

## What is the district's philosophy and criteria for making budget decisions?

- Do not violate the law or negotiated agreements;
- Protect the safety of students, staff and community;
- Weigh the impact on our primary mission of teaching and learning;
- Take stakeholder input into account;
- Align with actions of the state legislature;
- Identify strategic savings rather than across-the-board reductions;
- Promote additional operational efficiencies;
- Consider non-employee related expenses before personnel reductions;
- Consider reducing local subsidies of state and federal categorical programs; and
- Pursue additional revenue sources.

### How will these budget reductions affect students?

The safety and health of children will be paramount. The district's budget philosophy and criteria have been used throughout the budget savings plan process to prioritize tough choices and make budget decisions that protect current class size, staff jobs and student programs.

### How will class size be affected?

Class size limits will remain the same as in 2008-09.

**Budget Savings Plan Online:** [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

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Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

# Walla Walla Public Schools

## Budget Savings Plan: Certificated Transfers for the 2009-2010 school year

(As of 5/12/09)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Current Location</u>	<u>New Position</u>	<u>New Location</u>
<b>Administrators:</b>				
Connie Taylor-Randall	Principal	Blue Ridge	Principal on Special Assignment	Admin
Donna Painter	Head Start/ECEAP Director	Blue Ridge	Principal	Berney
Kerri Coffman	Learning Spec./Title I Coord.	Sharpstein	Head Start/ECEAP Director	Blue Ridge
Kim Doepker	Assistant Principal	Pioneer	Principal	Blue Ridge
Jack Mehn	Dean	Wa-Hi	Assistant Principal	Pioneer
Marcia Walters	Special Education Teacher	Wa-Hi	Special Education Director	Admin
<b>Library Media Specialist Changes:</b>				
Linda Seibold	Library Media Specialist	Sharpstein	same	Sharpstein and Blue Ridge
Michelle Shaul	Library Media Specialist	Green Park	same	Green Park and Berney
Jennifer Nicholson	Library Media Specialist	Edison	same	Edison and Prospect Point
Ben Ugaldea	Library Media Specialist	Berney	5th grade teacher	Berney
Margo Piver	Library Media Specialist	Prospect Point	Special Ed. Resource teacher	Wa-Hi
JoAnne Savage	Library Media Specialist	Blue Ridge	1st grade teacher	Blue Ridge
<b>Edison Staffing Transfers:</b>				
Olga Velazquez	Kindergarten teacher	Blue Ridge	Kindergarten teacher	Edison
Lisa Braddock	Title I teacher	Berney	1st grade teacher	Edison
Luz Phillips	1st grade teacher	Prospect Point	1st grade teacher	Edison
Martin Telstad	2nd grade teacher	Green Park	2nd grade teacher	Edison
Nilda Williams	2nd grade teacher	Prospect Point	2nd grade teacher	Edison
Erin Moreno	3rd grade teacher	Prospect Point	3rd grade teacher	Edison
Judy Peasley	Induction Coordinator	Admin	5th grade teacher	Edison
Kelly Humbert	ESL teacher	Prospect Point	ESL/Title teacher	Edison
<b>Other Staffing Changes:</b>				
Judy Anderson	Dean	Pioneer	Counselor	Pioneer
Esteban Florian	Dean	Garrison	Learning Specialist/Title I Coord.	Sharpstein
Diana Evenson	Dean	Prospect Point	Learning Specialist	Prospect Point
Angie Gardea	Counselor	Pioneer	Math teacher	Pioneer
Lucy Gregoire	1st grade teacher	Blue Ridge	2nd grade teacher	Green Park
Ryan Van Dyke	3rd grade teacher	Prospect Point	PE teacher	Berney
Steve Droke	Special Education teacher	Prospect Point	Special Education teacher	.5 Edison; .5 Pioneer
Sara Van Donge	Title I teacher (.5)	Sharpstein	Title I teacher (.5)	Garrison
Pamela Lee	ESL teacher	Sharpstein	ESL teacher	.5 Sharpstein;.5 Pioneer
Angie Butler	Explorer teacher (.25)	Sharpstein	Homelink Science teacher (.25)	Berney
Mike Jones	Music teacher	Pioneer	Music teacher	Garrison
John Carter	Creekside teacher	Pioneer	Language Arts teacher	Pioneer
Kim Kelsay	Language Arts teacher	Pioneer	ESL teacher	Wa-Hi
Richelle Palmer	Academic Coach (.5)	Pioneer	Title I teacher (.5)	Blue Ridge
Marit Nierman	Academic Coach/ESL/Title	Garrison	Title I/ESL teacher	Garrison
Tim Bow	GED teacher	Lincoln	LAP/Tier II teacher	Lincoln
Tom Porter	GED teacher	Lincoln	Science teacher	Lincoln
Lori Finn	Occupational Ed teacher	Wa-Hi	Occupational Ed teacher	Lincoln
Rob Ahrens	Academic Coach	Wa-Hi	Science teacher	Wa-Hi
Anne Swant	Academic Coach	Wa-Hi/Garrison	Math teacher	Wa-Hi

“No permanent staff will lose their jobs as a result of our plan. We’ve made reductions through attrition and transfers to eliminate 16 positions. Other districts around the state cannot make this claim. We appreciate the support and cooperation of our staff through this difficult process.” *Superintendent Rich Carter*

## Budget Savings Plan at a glance: \$3.5 million reductions for the 2009-10 school year

- **Trimming staff through attrition:** Positions made vacant through retirements or other reasons may not have been filled. Temporary contracts were non-continued. If the position is needed, it will be filled with the current permanent staff.
- **Internal transfers:** Open positions were filled through internal transfers. This allowed the district to reduce personnel expenditures, while allowing current staff to remain employed without noticeable impact to classrooms and programs. Reductions have been made to teacher support staff and learning support programs.
- **Administrative cuts:** Connie Taylor-Randall is transferring to the central office. This move combined two central office positions into one. The district has eliminated four Dean of Students administrative support positions. The district’s former Deans of Students are returning to the classroom or filling other district positions as part of this cost savings measure. Deans of Students assist the principal in completing various administrative duties.
- **Out-of-state travel suspended:** Out-of-state travel has been suspended for the 2009-2010 school year. Out-of-state travel funded by grants may be allowed. Out-of-state travel related to student programs may be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
- **Athletic Department reductions:** The district’s athletic budget was reduced by approximately \$115,000. This represents a 10% budget cut. Reduction percentages: 55% Wa-Hi, 25% Middle Schools, 20% Elementary.
- **Non-employee related expenditure reductions:** Costs for supplies and contractual services were cut by 10%.
- **Professional development reductions:** Professional development was reduced by \$200,000. Grants offering professional development in specific content areas will be utilized for professional development.
- **Curriculum adoption delays:** New curriculum adoptions will be postponed during 2009-10 school year.
- **Internal administrative hirings:** Open administrative positions were hired internally.
- **Energy Management Program:** This program has helped cut energy consumption 25% to save on utilities.
- **Categorical program maintenance fee increase:** The district increased its “indirect” support fees from 2% to 4% on categorical programs. Programs include: Special Education, Head Start/ECEAP, Bilingual, Title I/Learning Assistance Program. This helps offset the district’s general fund costs to support these non-basic education programs.
- **Wednesday teacher collaboration schedule combined:** The district eliminated delayed start Wednesdays for secondary schools (Pioneer, Garrison, Walla Walla High School, Lincoln Alternative High School). All schools will follow a Wednesday early release collaboration schedule. This move cuts transportation and supervision costs.
- **Lincoln Alternative High School GED prep class reduced:** The district reduced the Lincoln Alternative Education General Education Diploma preparatory class from 2.0 to .5, to match student enrollment.
- **Library-Media Specialist reduced to half-time:** The district eliminated three elementary Library-Media Specialist positions. The remaining three Library-Media Specialists have been assigned to two schools to provide half-time service at each of their schools. Elementary libraries will also receive some additional classified support.
- **Academic coaches to return to classrooms:** The district’s academic coaches are returning to the classroom or filling other district positions as part of a cost savings measure.
- **Creekside Alternative Middle School eliminated:** This reduction saves the district one full-time teaching position and one full-time classified support staff position.