

East Washington School Corporation

"All for One – One for All"

Dates to Remember:

October 23 and 30
Parent Teacher Conferences

November 1
Superintendent's Advisory Board Meets

November 13
School Board Meeting

November 21-23
Thanksgiving Break

December 11
School Board Meeting

December 21
End of 2nd 9 Weeks

December 22-January 6
Christmas Vacation

January 17
School Board Meeting

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A Message from our Superintendent

Written by Superintendent Steve Darnell

East Washington Schools and Indiana School Funding

Confused about school funding in Indiana? How are our schools actually funded? These questions are being asked frequently today especially after reductions for K-12 education made in 2010 and legislative changes made to education last year. These budget reductions are being felt, not only by East Washington School Corporation, but most Indiana public schools. Funding for schools is received on a CALENDAR year (January 1-December 31), yet schools operate under a FISCAL year (July 1-June 30). This further complicates matching income to expenses since income is received partly in one fiscal year and then the next year. This leads to the purpose of this article: how are our schools actually funded?

East Washington School Corporation has six major funds for operating the school corporation. These funds include: general fund, debt service fund, debt service pension fund, capital projects fund, transportation fund, and the bus replacement fund. All funds, with the exception of the general fund, receive an appropriation of money generated by county tax levies collected in Washington County from property owners within our district. Property tax collected from our constituents in the spring and the fall provides money to East Washington through these levies assessed on property owned. The general fund, in contrast, now comes fully and directly from the State of Indiana. This changed for the 2009 calendar year in Indiana. (Prior to this year, local property taxes provided most of the general fund as well.) Most of all public schools general fund dollars are generated by sales tax and income tax collected by the State of Indiana. This makes funding much more volatile when the state economy is down with numerous individuals out of work, under-employed, and decreased consumer purchasing (that results in decreased sales tax collected) at all-time lows.

East Washington's general fund tuition support revenue for 2012 is \$10,156,832. Basically, the general fund includes amounts based on these categories: tuition support, an amount for academic honors diplomas received, funds for special education programming, additional funds for vocational education programs, and money for primetime (an amount the district receives to keep class sizes in grades K-3 lower than grades 4-6). Expenditures from the general fund include: salaries for teachers, nurses, extra-curricular positions (music, coaches, clubs, etc.), custodians, librarians, secretaries, instructional assistants, and administrators; fringe benefits (federal income taxes paid by the corporation, health benefits, etc. for employees); utilities; and instructional supplies/materials needed for the classroom. Approximately 90% of the general fund pays for personnel expenses associated with educating our students. The remaining 10% pays for utilities, professional development and supplies/materials.

When a student transfers from a surrounding school district, the School Board of Trustees has approved a tuition-free transfer for that student. Parents, however, must transport the student to our schools or a recognized bus stop for pick up. This way, no money paid for school taxes by a taxpayer is used to pay for transportation of students living outside the district.

The debt service fund for 2012 is \$1,354,151. This fund receives money through property taxes, excise taxes, and CVET (commercial vehicle excise tax). The levy (tax rate set through public hearing and adoption of the budget) is charged to all property owners within Washington County who reside within our district boundary. The debt service fund pays for tax anticipation warrant interest, general obligation bonds, common school fund loans, and uncollected textbook rental. We currently have general obligation bonds for the middle school addition and renovations as well as two common school loans for building renovations.

The debt service pension fund receives income from the same sources as the debt service fund: local property taxes, excise taxes and CVET. The 2012 appropriation is \$163,209. This fund may only pay for pension bonds costs.

Capital projects fund receives income as other funds with the exception of the general fund: local property taxes, excise taxes and CVET. This year's appropriation for capital projects is \$1,219,234. This fund is used to pay for building improvements, land acquisition, architect fees, rent of building/equipment, maintenance, emergencies, utilities, and technology.

The transportation fund appropriation for 2012 is \$768,877. This fund receives money from exactly the same sources of all others with the exception of the general fund: local property taxes, excise taxes, and CVET. As you guessed, this fund pays for transportation costs of the district: bus drivers, transportation director, mechanic, aides (salaries and fringes), equipment and supplies, fuel, insurance and utilities associated with transportation.

The bus replacement fund is similar to the transportation fund except it only pays for purchases of new buses. School districts are on a 12-year bus replacement schedule. We will have a fleet of 34 buses and 5 activity buses for the coming school year. The appropriation for 2012 for bus replacement is \$210,000.

All funds, working together, serve as the basis for providing the quality of instruction we offer students at East Washington School Corporation. All funds, however, must work independent of one another. We can't simply roll any/all funds into one. Districts are not allowed to combine funds. Rest assured – all school district employees are doing their absolute best to educate our students using the most innovative technology and instructional methods/strategies to reach every child. Financial resources are limited and are used efficiently to get the best value for our students. Our School Board of Trustees works to assure financial resources are allocated in ways to improve instruction for all learners. Education is important to us at East Washington School Corporation, and decisions are made in an effort to improve student learning and achievement at all levels. Effort is made daily to prepare our students for college and careers in the every-changing world in which we live. Thank you for being an active partner and team member as we all work to prepare our students for successful lives.

Eastern High School

Written by Principal Darin Farris



Congratulations to high school counselors, Mrs. Allred (left), Mrs. Jones (right), and teacher/guidance intern, Mrs. Hickerson (center), on their outstanding achievement!

The Eastern High School Guidance Department has received the Gold Star School Counseling Award for 2012. Since 1997 only 164 schools (elementary, middle, and high school) have received this award. To be considered for the Gold Star School Counseling Award, counselors were required to participate in training sessions and submit a

portfolio that monitored their counseling hours and activities for the 2011-2012 school year. EHS counselors were also involved in discussions with advisors to implement improvements to the counseling program. Community involvement was another important component of the Gold Star Counseling Award. Throughout the 2012-

2013 school year, the Guidance Department will continue submitting information and must complete a renewal process to keep their place as a Gold Star program. EHS is very proud of the Guidance Department for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to Mrs. Christine Allred, Mrs. Kate Jones, and Ms. Jessica Hickerson on this outstanding achievement.

East Washington Middle School

Written by Principal Linda Luedeman



E.W.M.S. students are proud to be supporting Riley's Children's Hospital.

East Washington Middle School proudly supports the "giving spirit" by taking part in activities that benefit the children who are served by Riley's Children Hospital in Indianapolis. We have been a **Miracle School** since the 2006-2007 school year and became a **Miracle Corporation** in 2012. Our students

conduct activities that generate money to donate to the hospital. Some of those activities include: Hat Days, Dances, Penny Wars, and Bucket Collections. This year we had our Riley Kick-Off at our last home football game. We did a "Change Toss" for the home crowd and the visitor's crowd. We were able to collect

over \$100 that will go into our Riley Fund! East Washington Middle School is proud to be in this wonderful partnership with Riley. Our Student Council and Kids Club will be taking a field trip this fall to visit the hospital. It is rewarding to see, first hand, the kids we are able to help. Kids helping kids!!!

East Washington Elementary School

Written by Principal Debbie Esarey



E.W.E.S. Parent Nights have been a tradition for families for many years.

I want to thank all of the parents who attended our very first Parent Involvement activity on September 25th. The Title I department hosted "Bingo Night" and what a success it was! There were snacks and lots of prizes. Our Title I Parent Nights are an opportunity for parents and students to spend quality time together, doing enjoyable activities and to also learn some valuable strategies

to use at home in helping your child to excel in school. Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, October 23 and Tuesday, October 30. You should be receiving a letter from your child's teacher about these conferences and how you can schedule a time to meet with them. This is a perfect time for you and your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress and the

many changes that are happening in the state of Indiana and how these changes will affect your child and their education. As always, we welcome you and wish for you to be as involved at EWES as you feel possible. Mr. Hopkins and I are available to meet with you anytime you feel the need to discuss your child. We are here to help you. Thank you for your support of the staff of East Washington Elementary.