



It's About Learning

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from Tracy Wrend, Superintendent

With Town Meeting Day approaching, we are pleased to again provide you with the winter edition of *It's About Learning*, which includes information on the school budget requests that communities will consider on March 2. In this edition, you will find two-page summaries of budget information for Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe, including information about the impact of Acts 68 and 82 on the tax request in each town.

The budget development process for the upcoming year presented unique challenges within each of the districts of Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe. Every budget proposal seeks to balance the educational needs and priorities in each community and our obligations and desire to provide high-quality, essential instructional programs for our students with affordability and fiscal responsibility. These budgets also reflect difficult decisions and a tremendous level of cooperation between and among school boards, administrators, and faculty and staff, all of whom made concessions to reduce expenditures and maintain programs for children. This level of cooperation is unprecedented and reflects a culture of true professionalism and deep commitment by all to the children and communities of Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe.

It takes the collaborative efforts of all to ensure success for the students in each of our school districts. Student achievement comes as a result of hard work on the part of students, parents, faculty and staff, and with support from the entire community. Your support for the children and youth of Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe is appreciated.

We hope that you find the information in this newsletter helpful and we encourage your attendance at public information sessions. Please see page eight (8) for the schedule of these meetings.



**Elmore School District
FY11 Budget Development
Tax Rate Worksheet**

	<u>LINE</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011 Proposed</u>	<u>FORMULA</u>
1)	Budgeted Expenditures	\$1,691,300	\$1,711,475	
2)	Budgeted Available Revenues	\$431,200	\$308,900	
3)	Capital Debt service Aid	\$0	\$0	
4)	Education Spending	\$1,260,100	\$1,402,575	= Line 1 - Line 2 - Line 3
5)	Equalized Pupils	133.04	128.38	
6)	Spending Per Pupil	\$9,472	\$10,925	= Line 4 / Line 5
7)	Base Amount	\$8,544	\$8,544	
8)	District Spending Adjustment	110.86%	127.87%	= Line 6 / Line 7 (minimum of 100%)
9)	Statewide Homestead Tax Rate	\$0.860	\$0.882	
10)	Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate	\$0.9534	\$1.1278	= Line 9 x Line 8
11)	Common Level of Appraisal	86.19%	88.28%	
12)	Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.1062	\$1.2775	= Line 10 / Line 11
13)	Statewide Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.350	\$1.372	
14)	Local Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.5663	\$1.5541	= Line 13 / Line 11
15)	Income Sensitivity Statewide Percent	1.80%	1.80%	
16)	Local Percent for Income Sensitivity	2.00%	2.30%	= Line 15 x Line 8

Elmore School District

FY11 Budget Development Highlights

Act 82 Information

The Vermont legislature enacted Act 82 as a cost containment initiative in 2007. The statute establishes two criteria to determine if a school district must present its budget in two votes. The school district must meet both criteria in order to implement the Act 82 requirements. The criteria are:

- Is the education spending per equalized pupil for the current school year greater than the statewide average?
No.
 - Statewide current education spending per equalized pupil is \$12,034.
 - Elmore's current year education spending per equalized pupil is \$9,472.
 - **Elmore's education spending per equalized pupil is \$2,562 less than the statewide average.**
- Is the proposed education spending for the upcoming school year greater than the "Maximum Inflation Amount" or MIA allowed by Act 82? **Not applicable since answer to previous question was no.**
- Therefore, Elmore School District is **not** subject to the two vote provision of Act 82.

General Information

- The Elmore School District's overall budget growth is \$20,175, a 1.19% growth in the budget.
- The cost of tuitioning students to other school districts has increased by \$13,225. Students in grades 1 and 2 and some students in grade 3 will attend the Elmore School next year. Kindergarten students and some students in grade 3 as well as all students in grades 4, 5, and 6 attend school in Morristown. Students in grades 7 through 12 may choose, within legal guidelines, the school they wish to attend. The vast majority of students and their families select Peoples Academy Middle Level, Stowe Middle School, Peoples Academy High School and Stowe High School.
- Approximately 26% or \$438,975 of Elmore's budget for FY11 is designated to meet the needs of students that qualify for special education. This is a decrease of \$4,550. Please note that the Elmore School District anticipates receiving \$239,000 in federal and state funding to offset 55% of these costs.
- The Elmore School District's fund balance as of June 30, 2009 was \$90,051. Of this amount, \$95,000 was authorized by the voters as carry forward for the current FY10 budget. The remaining deficit of \$4,949 has been incorporated into the FY11 budget.

Tax Information

- The FY11 homestead education tax rate for the Elmore School District is based on a district spending adjustment of 127.87% as defined by Act 68 (See line 8 on the previous page). The adjusted equalized tax rate for the upcoming year is \$1.1278, which is a \$0.1744 increase in the adjusted equalized education tax rate from the current year.
- The FY10 district spending adjustment for Elmore was 110.86% or 255th out of 274 Vermont school districts, placing Elmore's district spending adjustment in the lowest 7% of districts statewide. In FY11, the district spending adjustment is proposed to increase from 110.86% to 127.87%. The increase in the district spending adjustment is the result of a decline in the amount of available revenues (primarily fund balance carry forward) and a decline in the equalized pupils.

**Morristown School District
FY11 Budget Development
Tax Rate Worksheet**

	<u>LINE</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011 Proposed</u>	<u>FORMULA</u>
1)	Budgeted Expenditures	\$12,246,400	\$11,536,250	
2)	Budgeted Available Revenues	\$3,956,700	\$3,734,700	
3)	Capital Debt Service Aid	\$0	\$0	
4)	Education Spending	\$8,289,700	\$7,801,550	= Line 1 - Line 2 - Line 3
5)	Equalized Pupils	825.95	800.24	
6)	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$10,037	\$9,749	= Line 4 / Line 5
7)	Base Amount	\$8,544	\$8,544	
8)	District Spending Adjustment	117.47%	114.10%	= Line 6 / Line 7 (minimum of 100%)
9)	Statewide Homestead Tax Rate	\$0.860	\$0.882	
10)	Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.0102	\$1.0064	= Line 9 x Line 8
11)	Common Level of Appraisal	96.73%	93.05%	
12)	Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.0444	\$1.0816	= Line 10 / Line 11
13)	Statewide Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.350	\$1.372	
14)	Local Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.3956	\$1.4745	= Line 13 / Line 11
15)	Income Sensitivity Statewide Percent	1.80%	1.80%	
16)	Local Percent for Income Sensitivity	2.11%	2.05%	= Line 15 x Line 8

Morristown School District

FY11 Budget Development Highlights

Act 82 Information

The Vermont legislature enacted Act 82 as a cost containment initiative in 2007. The statute establishes two criteria to determine if a school district must present its budget in two votes. The school district must meet both criteria in order to implement the Act 82 requirements. The criteria are:

- Is the education spending per equalized pupil for the current school year greater than the statewide average?
No.
 - Statewide current education spending per equalized pupil is \$12,034.
 - Morristown's current year education spending per equalized pupil is \$10,037.
 - **Morristown's education spending per equalized pupil is \$1,997 less than the statewide average.**
- Is the proposed education spending for the upcoming school year greater than the "Maximum Inflation Amount" or MIA allowed by Act 82? **Not applicable since answer to previous question was no.**
- Therefore, the Morristown School District is **not** subject to the two vote provision of Act 82.

General Information

- The Morristown School District's overall budget reduction is \$710,150, a 5.8% reduction in the budget. Additionally, there were decreases in revenues totaling \$222,000 resulting primarily from enrollment of fewer tuition students.
- Special education costs represent 20% of the proposed Morristown School District budget or \$2,342,375. These costs are partially offset by anticipated revenues of \$1,249,000 or 53% of the budgeted expenditures.
- The proposed FY11 Morristown School District budget includes the elimination of three classroom teachers at MES and the elimination of a math teacher, a science teacher, a social studies teacher, and the Head of High School at PA. Reductions in English, family and consumer science, guidance, learning center, and planning room positions at PAML and PA are also included as well as the elimination of a computer technician and the Technology Director position (shared with Stowe).
- In response to changes in enrollment, the budget anticipates moving grades K and 1 to the Elementary building and renovating and leasing a portion of the Graded building to LSSU for administrative offices. This will allow for the elimination of a receptionist position, library aide, part-time physical education teacher and a reduction of a custodial position and provides an additional source of revenue for the district in the future. Plans also allow for flexible use of space should enrollment increase and additional classroom space be needed in the future.
- The Morristown School District's fund balance as of June 30, 2009 was \$1,466,211. Of this amount, \$590,000 was authorized by the voters as carry forward for the current FY10 budget and \$590,000 is being proposed as carry forward in the FY11 budget. This leaves \$286,211 or 2.5% of the proposed FY11 budget in the reserve fund and available to defray taxes or to defer expenses in future budgets.

Tax Information

- The FY11 homestead education tax rate for the Morristown School District is based on a district spending adjustment of 114.10% as defined by Act 68 (see line 8 on the previous page). The adjusted equalized tax rate for the upcoming year is \$1.0064, or nearly four-tenths of a cent lower than the current adjusted equalized education tax rate.
- The FY10 district spending adjustment for Morristown was 117.47% or 244th out of 274 Vermont school districts, placing Morristown's district spending adjustment in the lowest 11% of districts statewide. In FY11, the district spending adjustment is proposed to decrease from 117.47% to 114.10%.

**Stowe School District
FY11 Budget Development
Tax Rate Worksheet**

	<u>LINE</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011 Proposed</u>	<u>FORMULA</u>
1)	Budgeted Expenditures	\$9,557,225	\$9,746,250	
2)	Budgeted Available Revenues	\$1,429,550	\$1,592,650	
3)	Capital Debt Service Aid	\$22,500	\$20,000	
4)	Education Spending	\$8,105,175	\$8,133,600	= Line 1 - Line 2 - Line 3
5)	Equalized Pupils	627.50	638.64	
6)	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$12,917	\$12,736	= Line 4 / Line 5
7)	Base Amount	\$8,544	\$8,544	
8)	District Spending Adjustment	151.18%	149.06%	= Line 6 / Line 7 (minimum of 100%)
9)	Statewide Homestead Tax Rate	\$0.860	\$0.882	
10)	Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.3002	\$1.3147	= Line 9 x Line 8
11)	Common Level of Appraisal	82.30%	81.55%	
12)	Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.5798	\$1.6121	= Line 10 / Line 11
13)	Statewide Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.350	\$1.372	
14)	Local Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.6403	\$1.6824	= Line 13 / Line 11
15)	Income Sensitivity Statewide Percent	1.80%	1.80%	
16)	Local Percent for Income Sensitivity	2.72%	2.68%	= Line 15 x Line 8

Stowe School District

FY11 Budget Development Highlights

Act 82 Information

The Vermont legislature enacted Act 82 as a cost containment initiative in 2007. The statute establishes two criteria to determine if a school district must present its budget in two votes. The school district must meet both criteria in order to implement the Act 82 requirements. The criteria are:

- Is the education spending per equalized pupil for the current school year greater than the statewide average? **Yes.**
 - Statewide current education spending per equalized pupil is \$12,034.
 - Stowe's current year education spending per equalized pupil is \$12,917.
 - **Stowe's education spending per equalized pupil is \$883 more than the statewide average.**
- Is the proposed education spending for the upcoming school year greater than the "Maximum Inflation Amount" or MIA allowed by Act 82? **No.**
 - Stowe's "MIA" allowed under Act 82 for next year is \$8,494,998.
 - Stowe's proposed education spending for next year is \$8,133,600.
 - **Stowe's proposed education spending is \$361,398 less than the inflationary amount allowed under Act 82.**
- Therefore, the Stowe School District is **not** subject to the two vote provision of Act 82.

General Information

- The Stowe School District's overall budget growth is \$189,025 a 1.98% increase in the budget.
- Special education costs of \$1,629,725 represent 17% of the overall budget. Please note that revenues of \$817,700 offset approximately 50% of these costs.
- The proposed FY11 Stowe School District budget includes the elimination of middle level French, the culinary program at the high school, Strategies for College, a music program aide, a library aide, the Technology Director position (shared with Morristown), plus reductions in the family consumer science position at the middle level and athletic programs available at the middle and high schools.
- Long-term debt is approximately 3% of the proposed FY11 budget. Long term debt addresses both the principal and interest costs from the 1991-92 construction and renovation project as well as the principal on the initial \$1.8 million bond for the project and interest expense from the 2007-09 renovation work. The \$297,000 of expense is a decrease of \$9,000 and is partially offset by \$20,000 of capital debt service aid.
- The Stowe School District's fund balance as of June 30, 2009 was \$804,618. Of this amount, \$400,000 was authorized by the voters as carry forward for the current FY10 budget and \$400,000 is being proposed as carry forward in the FY11 budget. This leaves \$4,618 in the reserve fund and available to defray taxes or to defer expenses in future budgets.

Tax Information

- The FY11 homestead education tax rate for the Stowe School District is based on a district spending adjustment of 149.06% as defined by Act 68 (see line 8 on the previous page). The adjusted equalized tax rate for the upcoming year is \$1.3147, or 1.45 cents higher than the adjusted equalized education tax rate for the current year.
- The FY10 district spending adjustment for Stowe is 151.18% or 84th out of 274 Vermont school districts. Thirty percent of school districts in Vermont had a greater district spending adjustment than Stowe. In FY11, the district spending adjustment is proposed to decrease from 151.18% to 149.06%.

Public Information Meeting Schedule

The Elmore, Morristown and Stowe School Boards will hold public information meetings to present and discuss their proposed 2010-2011 school year budgets. The schedule for those meetings as well as polling information is as follows:

ELMORE

Public Information Meeting:

Monday, February 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Elmore Town Hall

Polling:

Elmore Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 2, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Elmore Town Hall

MORRISTOWN

Public Information Meeting:

Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Morristown Elementary School Library (joint meeting with the Morristown Select Board)

Polling:

Australian Ballot at the Morristown Municipal Building, 43 Portland Street, on Tuesday, March 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

STOWE

Public Information Meeting:

Monday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stowe High School Auditorium (joint meeting with the Stowe Select Board)

Polling:

Australian Ballot at the Stowe High School Gym, Barrows Road, on Tuesday, March 2, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE

All children and youth (ages 0-21) who are residents of Elmore, Morristown, or Stowe are eligible to receive an appropriate education at public expense, regardless of any disabilities they have. It is possible that the Lamoille South Supervisory Union may not be aware of all resident children and youth with disabilities. If you know a pre-school aged child (birth-5) who may be delayed developmentally or a school-aged child who may have a disability and may be eligible for special education services and who is not in school or otherwise being educated at public expense, please notify the Lamoille South Supervisory Union by calling or writing to Linda Berger, Director of Student Services, Lamoille South Supervisory Union, P. O. Box 340, Morrisville, VT, 05661, (888-4541).

Students with a disability who live in one of the towns listed above and who attend an approved private school or who attend an approved private school in one of the towns listed above may be eligible for limited special education services. Contact Linda Berger for more information.

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Serving
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