

FACT SHEET

Background

District's budget has decreased by approximately \$2 billion over the last five years.

For 2011-2012, the fifth year of consecutive budget reductions, the district has had to effectuate reductions of \$108 million.

State revenues have declined by approximately \$190 million over the last five years.

As a result of the decline in property values, local property tax proceeds have declined by approximately \$258 million.

Federal stimulus monies evaporated June 2011, totaling \$122 million.

The Florida Constitution declares that education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education.

Funding for Florida's public schools comes from three sources: local property taxes, the state's general revenue, and federal funding in the form of title and stimulus funds.

The rules of the Florida Education Funding Program have changed dramatically in recent years.

Historically, Miami-Dade County taxpayers received more from the state than they put into the program. In 2003-04, Miami-Dade funding per student was \$267 above the state average, while our county's taxpayers contributed \$118 less than the state average. However, due to policy changes in the education funding formula, Miami-Dade taxpayers in 2010-11 contributed \$200 more than the state average and per student funding was \$130 less than the state average.

The current administration has been able to absorb these funding losses through prudent fiscal management. The school district has been able to boost its reserves from a low of \$5M to a high of over \$130M, with current reserves standing at well over the 3% state requirement.

Investment in K-12 education has significant benefits to the community and the taxpayers including those without children:

- Produces the workforce;
- Reduced social support program costs;
- Reduced incarceration costs; and
- Increased annual contributions to Social Security and Medicaid.

Statistics: High school dropouts contribute less in taxes and are six times more likely to require incarceration than high school graduates. (Source: Northeastern Univ. Center for Labor Market Studies, Oct. 2009)

Each person who graduates high school, instead of dropping out of school, generates 6 to 13 times more public tax benefits that the cost of their education. (The present value of lifetime tax contributions and reduced social program costs, ranges from \$89,000 to 201,000, depending on demographics, versus the \$15,000 cost of additional high school education). (Source: RAND Corporation, Oct. 2009)