

Dear District Families -

I hope you and your family are doing well. I am writing today to update you on the state of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District's finances amidst this health crisis.

As you may have heard, the governor announced a \$300 million reduction in state funding to K-12 schools this school year. It's unfortunate, but understandable when you consider the economic impact of the pandemic right now on all of us.

We have received questions from our community about how this will impact the financial health of our schools. For our district, these reductions amount to \$659,000 this school year, but we hope to make a little portion of that up with the approximately \$163,000 in federal funding promised through the CARES Act.

What does this mean to the overall budget? Generally speaking, there is so much uncertainty that it makes it very difficult to predict what the future will look like. We're also unsure what this may mean for next school year, but we can anticipate more cuts and reductions from the state..

This reduction is hitting our district especially hard, considering our district has already implemented more than \$2.3 million in budget reductions between summer 2018 and Phase I and II reductions in 2019, and the Phase III reductions starting in the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, we are already facing another nearly \$2.5 million in Phase IV cuts and reductions over the next two years, depending on the official outcome of the March ballot issue.

Will there be changes to the delivery of education and the way we conduct business? A very strong possibility. We will certainly have to continue to adjust the way we do business, as a result of this pandemic.

We pledge to analyze all of our spending and stretch our budget - just as we've always done. As more information is known, we will continue to communicate with you. In fact, expect to hear more about finances in the coming months. Communicating the financial health of our schools in a transparent manner with taxpayers has always been a priority, and I promise to continue that conversation with you.

Sincerely,

Doug Cozad