

500 Cost Reduction Strategies for Local Education Agencies

A Product of the PASBO Benchmarking Committee in 2003

Originally drafted by Robert Schoch, PRSBA

Note: Update is a work in progress.



Cost Reduction

- Efficiency
- Cost avoidance
- Revenue enhancement



Administration

- Administrative assistants perform duties of vice principals
- Assign administrative duties to clerical staff
- Replace departmental chairpersons with teacher coordinators
- Principals serve two schools

Alternative Education

- Charter high school countywide for alternative education services now covered by out-of-district ES placements

Athletics

- Increase length of time before uniforms are replaced
- Volunteers work gates at athletic events
- Extracurricular programs are self-supporting
- Limit free passes to individuals performing required or voluntary function
- Discontinue providing athletic equipment that participants normally own
- In-house laundry
- Athletic boosters pay sports insurance

Banking

- Bid banking services



Benefits

- Early retirement incentives, not bonus
- Payment in-lieu of benefits option for employees with coverage under another plan
- Monitor accuracy of district health benefits census data
- Flexible Benefits Salary Conversion plan
- Life insurance consortium
- Self insure workers compensation insurance
- Alternative position placement/light duty assignments for worker's compensation

Benefits

- Workers compensation-required physicians list
- Analyze and address teacher absenteeism
- Develop policies to prevent sick leave abuse
- Workers compensation direct from insurance company, no broker
- Section 125 program
- Reduce benefits eligibility for part-time employees



Bidding

- Audit services
- Integrated pest management services
- Chemical disposal services
- Modular classrooms
- Photographic services
- Yearbook
- Copiers awarded on total costs of ownership over 3 years

Bids

- Bid transportation contracts
- Bid travel services
- Bid banking services
- Athletic conditioning
- **Bid rather than use state contract pricing**



Budgeting

- Zero based budgeting-annual review/justification of positions/programs
- Site-based budgeting promotes cost consciousness, allows allocation

Calendar

- Four day school weeks-staggered schedules increase capacity by 20%



Child Accounting

- Use best available mapping and addressing data for computerized address verification

Communications

- Intranet and website



Community

- Promote interagency collaboration



Construction

- Control change orders



Contracted Services

- Analyze district-operated vs. contracted transportation services
- Contract supervision of custodial and maintenance functions
- Contracting driver's education
- Contract nursing services
- Contract food service operations
- Tax collection
- Pilot outsourcing of custodial/maintenance services in one building
- Substitute calling services
- **Educational consultants rather than permanent staff**
- Snow removal services



Copying

- Reduce information copies
- Reduce public copies for board meetings
- One copy per family where multiple children
- Duplex (two sided) copying (saves 16% of total cost)
- Contracted full service copying, with courier
- Centralized copying



Cost Analysis

- Cost comparisons, elementary/middle/high school



Custodial

- Workload analysis-custodians
- Overtime-custodial
- District staff rather than contractors for carpet cleaning
- Develop performance standards for custodial/maintenance and transportation staff
- Reallocate excess custodial positions
- Formal qualitative inspections of custodial work
- Hire custodial supervisor
- Schedule custodial coverage to allow evening and weekend coverage
- Use custodial teams for cleaning in the evening and summer

Debt Service

- Refinance debt
- Minimize fees paid for bond issues-True Interest Cost comparisons
- Finance construction with long-term note rather than bonds with higher costs of issuance
- Variable rate debt-percentage of the portfolio
- Arbitrage rebate liability calculation methodologies

Donations—Educational Foundations

- Solicit equipment donations
- Establish "Adopt a School" program for business
- Alumni donations
- Musical instruments
- Publish wish list to solicit community donations
- Corporate sponsorship of field trips



Drivers Ed

- Eliminate on-the-road portion of drivers education



Energy

- Energy performance contract
- Green school construction
- Lighting replacement
- Limit electrical demand component of electrical bills
- Interruptible natural gas rates
- Guaranteed energy savings program
- Energy purchasing consortium



Energy

- Electric rates negotiated per electric deregulation potential
- Monitor fuel purchases for district vehicles
- Fuel district vehicles at low bid fuel stations if cheaper than district tank
- Solicit competitive electricity rates
- Upgrade lighting fixtures
- Energy savings shared with schools (40% of savings)

Energy

- Temperature setbacks-30 minutes before/after school
- Energy management system-daily monitoring of use
- Schools compete for maximum energy savings
- Energy audits
- Thermostats locked at 68 degrees for heat, 78 degrees for air conditioning
- Work four 10 hour days in summer, shutdown air conditioning

Energy

- Use regular gasoline for district vehicles
- Tanker load purchasing of district gasoline
- Turn off outside lighting at night
- Install cogeneration systems
- Reduce fresh air ventilation after school hours
- Consolidate evening programs into fewer nights
- Consolidate evening and weekend programs into several schools

Energy

- Close schools completely during Christmas vacation and January
- Extend Christmas vacation one week
- Start school later in winter-after 10 a.m.
- Increase energy awareness
- Fire art kilns at times other than peak demand periods with full loads
- Preheat ovens for minimal time necessary

Energy

- Separate lighting circuits to take advantage of natural light
- Custodians light and heat only working areas after hours
- Replace incandescent lights with fluorescent lights
- Reduce corridor lighting
- Install hot water heaters near use
- Preventative maintenance to prolong equipment life

Energy

- Repair leaking hot water faucets
- Check refrigerator and freezer gaskets
- Collect all direct costs when outside groups use schools
- Storm windows
- Energy conservation savings shared with schools
- Time bidding for best seasonal pricing-energy
- Turn off lights campaign

Energy

- Cogeneration of power
- Electrical demand limiting by load shedding controls
- Electrical demand limiting by employee training
- Timers for lighting, fans, motors, etc.
- Duty cycling
- Motion sensors control lights

Equipment

- Establish repair limits for equipment (percentage of replacement cost)
- Cooperative use of equipment by departments-photography, darkroom
- Utilize life cycle costing for capital purchases
- Labor saving office equipment-folders, stuffers, money counting, etc.

Extracurricular

- Establish user fees for all extracurricular activities, scholarships for needy

Facilities

- Analyze facility utilization
- Preventative maintenance program, computerized
- Work order request system, full implementation of job costing
- Lease property for central administrative staff
- Lease excess space in schools to social service agencies
- Discontinue lease of unnecessary warehouse space



Facilities

- Evaluate retaining ownership of excess property
- Renting unneeded schools to compatible uses
- Joint occupancy of schools and evening/weekend community use
- Sell unneeded schools/property
- Long-range master plan for district facilities
- Accurate enrollment projections, by building, by program

Facilities

- Design buildings with efficient ratio of gross to net square footage
- Voluntary land development contributions
- Upzone school property for future resale
- Sell air rights above schools
- Hire employees to mass produce temporary/relocatable classrooms
- Maintain educational specifications to guide all improvements



Facilities

- Architect selection based on design efficiency
- Time bidding for best seasonal pricing-construction
- Design buildings for modular building components construction
- Fast track construction to minimize overhead
- Life cycle costing of building fixtures, finishes
- Sell district vehicles, including maintenance van, reimburse mileage

Facilities

- Establish cleaning/maintenance standards
- Reassign non-maintenance duties from maintenance staff to others
- Invest in labor saving maintenance/custodial tools
- Train district staff to service HVAC equipment
- Cellular tower rental on building properties
- Run split sessions if temporary bubble in enrollments

Facilities

- Hire furniture specification services rather than architect's % fee
- Review facilities costs with PASBO Facilities Benchmarking Study

Finance

- Utilize procurement cards
- Ensure all vendor payments are net of sales tax
- Ensure all vendor payments are made timely to avoid late payment charges
- Daily deposit of cash receipts in all funds
- Payment discounts
- Consolidate checking accounts to maximize investment earnings
- Establish fiscal impact analysis procedures for all proposed programs
- Evaluate leasing of computers and technology equipment



Food Service

- Participate in the National School Lunch Program
- Universal feeding program-statistical sampling rather than parents completing F&R applications
- Contract food service
- Centralize food preparation in a central kitchen
- Warehouse USDA commodities



Food Service

- Increase lunch prices
- Require competitive bidding of all food supplies
- Combine food service and home economics bids for food
- Maximize food service contribution to overhead expenses
- **Promote Free and Reduced Lunch applications**



Grants

- Corporate support of grant applications
- Hire grant writer



Grounds Keeping

- Purchase oversize lawn mowing equipment

Guidance

- Redesign student services/guidance program

Healthcare

- Prescription drugs
- Self-funded program with reinsurance
- Premium share
- Managed care program
- Increase premium share for dependants discourages duplicate coverage
- Post-retirement healthcare benefit eligibility, more years service required
- Preferred Provider Organizations

Healthcare

- Wellness program
- Dental insurance consortium
- Premium reduction for employees meeting 14 health indicators
- Buy-out plan for employees with access to another health plan
- Cash payments in lieu of health insurance benefits
- Increase deductibles
- Two tier eligibility



Instruction

- Share vocational education
- Interlibrary loan program
- Interschool loan of instructional resources
- Contract physical education
- Align pre-school, child care, mental/social services with district programs
- Share electronic courseware through consortium

Instruction

- Early intervention programs to reduce costs over long term
- Film, media sharing between districts
- Drop classes within classifications
- Annual Share Fair of teacher supplies-spring cleaning and exchange
- Clustering early childhood into centers

Insurance

- Increase deductible for property insurance



Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Municipal government mows some lawns
- Coordinate youth services/programs
- Share warehousing services with local government
- Share field mowing with local recreation department
- Library services

Intermediate Unit Services

- Film purchases
- Production of educational services
- Media services
- Audiovisual equipment repair
- Management information systems
- Act 48 Software
- Online Advanced Placement test review tools
- Standardized Test Scoring

Intermediate Unit Services

- Resource room for creation of classroom instructional materials
- Repair of AV, computer, and science equipment
- Wide area network services
- Technology consultation
- Video services-TV studios, video production, videoconferencing



Intermediate Unit Services

- Employee health care cooperative
- Life insurance consortium
- Property insurance pool
- Workers compensation insurance pool
- Computer consortium
- Instructional materials services
- Public relations services



Intermediate Unit Services

- Joint purchasing consortium
- Online contract service
- Recruiting consortium
- Staff development services
- Special education services
- Special education transportation



Intranet

- Budget presentations
- Orientation of new employees process
- Frequently asked questions
- Bids in lieu of advertising—Mandate waiver



Investment

- Tax and revenue anticipation notes
- Bid investment services



Joint Purchasing

- Insurance
- Data processing



Key Control

- Issue keys to minimal number of staff, recall at end of year

Legal

- Reduce settlements, legal issues due to special education noncompliance
- Monitor district solicitors assignments and renegotiate billing rate
- Revise compensation package for the solicitor
- Legal specialists, special education
- Cost/benefit analysis methodology-legal settlements



Library

- Library partnership-increased library services at decreased cost
- Merge school and community libraries

Maintenance

- District staff rather than contractors for painting
- Automated preventative maintenance
- Train maintenance staff to service HVAC equipment
- Maintenance manual specifying maintenance procedures for each building
- Compare painting costs of contracted services vs. district employees
- Decentralized dispatching of maintenance and technology staff
- Share maintenance equipment-scrubbers, vacuums, etc.



Mandate Waiver

- From bidding requirements
- From bidding requirements for construction of athletic field house
- From superintendent's eligibility requirements to allow CEO
- From bidding to allow facilities management contract for equipment, supplies, and services
- Operate program without provisions limiting alternative education to disruptive youth

Mandate Waiver

- Raised bidding threshold from \$10,000 to current threshold level
- From bidding requirements to allow construction trades program
- From multi-prime contract requirement for construction
- From construction requirements allowing students to construct modular classroom
- Construction trades students work with contractors on school projects
- Raised bidding threshold from \$10,000 to \$13,500

Mandate Waiver

- Allows negotiation with state contractors for items not on contract
- From bidding requirements to make emergency repairs to HVAC
- From bidding requirements when bid item can be purchased for less within 60 days
- From bidding requirements for projects exceeding \$10,000 but less than \$25,000

Mandate Waiver

- From bidding requirements to allow cleaning service to use its own cleaning supplies and equipment
- From bidding requirements to allow installation of security cameras
- From alternative education requirements restricting program to disruptive youth
- From bidding requirements to allow completion of school construction
- From bidding requirements to allow prompt repair of school with construction defects

Mandate Waiver

- From \$5000 threshold for doing projects by its own maintenance staff
- From 3 month period between public hearing and decision to close a building
- From bidding requirements to allow drilling of natural gas well
- From bidding requirements to install modular administrative offices
- From bidding requirements to purchase used vehicles
- From bidding requirements in event of terminating general contractor

Mandate Waiver

- From bidding requirements to expedite set-up of modular classrooms
- From multi-prime contract requirement for construction, allowing two projects under single prime
- Convey unused property to redevelopment authority for residential development
- Construct special education building with CTC students
- From bidding requirements to purchase telecommunications equipment from another vendor



Mandate Waiver

- From superintendents letter of eligibility requirements for COO
- Purchase sales tax exempt building materials for construction contractor
- Raised threshold from \$1000 to \$4000 for purchases made by student organizations
- From bidding requirements to upgrade and consolidate district phones
- From bidding requirements to terminate contractor who defaulted on maintenance contract

Negotiations

- Negotiate ability to transfer employees more easily



Other

- Enforce warrantee repairs
- Performance measurement system, central support services
- Reduce contribution to municipal recreation commission, phase down
- Loaned executives
- Section 8 housing-spread throughout county, avoid concentration in urban area
- Increase education foundation activity

Other

- Share staff expertise between districts
- Shared public relations services
- Offer surplus equipment to other schools within district/region
- Enforce warrantee repairs, requires procedure and good filing system
- Require car pooling when traveling on official business
- Employee suggestion award program
- Establish periodic program analysis procedures for all existing programs

Other

- Explore partnerships
- Establish Instructional Technology Foundation
- Complaint management process
- Implement formal quality management system
- Implement internal audit program
- Implement corrective action process for entire district
- Alternatives to paper worksheets-blackboards, slates, laminated sheets
- Utilize PASBO Business Office Review Service

Overtime

- Overtime-implement strict approval criteria



Paperwork

- Online forms
- Document sharing
- Reduce duplicate file keeping
- Online high school course selection
- Records retention schedule
- Online job applications
- Reduce unnecessary approvals required on forms
- Electronic document archiving



Paperwork

- Document control to avoid confusion on most current version
- Review necessity of multiple part forms
- Review necessity of reports
- Review necessity of informational copies
- ---HELP---

Payroll

- Mandatory direct deposit, grandfather existing employees
- Increase computer automation of payroll process
- Perform payroll functions in-house



Personnel Administration

- Maintain current job descriptions
- Performance evaluation plans for administrative and support staff
- Balance workload of clerical staff
- Analyze seasonal workloads of clerical staff
- Analyze seasonal workloads of grounds keeping staff
- Merge similar clerical duties
- Eliminate unnecessary clerical tasks
- Update job descriptions
- Establish goals/objectives for each position
- Establish employee incentive programs

Postage

- Reduce express mail
- Email attachments to reduce postage
- Use bulk rate whenever possible
- Redeem mistakes in metering for a credit up to 90%



Postal

- Reduce mailing of report cards, failure notices, newsletters, etc.
- Coordinate mailings in August
- Reduce incoming junk mail



Printing

- Print on demand items such as curriculum syllabi
- Analyze costs/benefits of district publications, including calendar



Procedures

- Update policy and procedure manuals



Property

- Match real estate holdings with projected enrollments
- Sell unnecessary district property to private, taxpaying uses
- Develop a comprehensive facilities master plan

Pupil Health

- Health clinics in schools-hospital supported, sliding scale fees, maximize insurance/Medicaid reimbursement
- Local hospitals provide in-kind services for pupil health services



Purchasing

- Natural gas consortium
- Award supplies bid on a per item basis, not single vendor takes all
- Bid electrical rates
- Bid financial audit services
- Utilize groups offering free merchandise to schools for annual subscription fee
- Implement a comprehensive inventory control system
- Central warehouse and inventory system



Purchasing

- Internet purchasing
 - Bid custodial supplies
 - Bid maintenance supplies
 - Bid all food equipment and supplies
 - Combine purchase orders to a vendor to reduce shipping costs
 - Avoid science equipment houses for batteries, balloons, etc.
 - Systems contracting-vendors warehouse needed supplies
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Purchasing

- Consolidate purchase orders to vendors
- Catalog discount bidding
- Create electric purchasing pool with private businesses
- Procurement card to reduce process costs of purchasing
- eProcurement



Recovery Plan

- Tax exempt community makes payments in lieu of property taxes
 - Increase delinquent tax collections
 - Space utilization study
 - Improve intergovernmental cooperation, municipal and county governments
 - Eliminate LERTA tax abatement program
 - Volunteer for performance audit
 - Complete implementation of financial management reports on financial software
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Recovery Plan

- Reduce approval signatures on purchase orders
- More effective use of open purchase order system, \$500 limit
- Improve procedures to verify receipt of merchandise
- Consolidate billings
- Establish management innovation fund
- Limit payroll deductions for multiple bank accounts
- Participate in community economic development programs
- User fees set at levels to cover all costs
- Eliminate clothing allowances



Revenue

- Development office
- Medicaid reimbursement
- Sell logo merchandise
- Food service retained earnings comparison, subsidy comparison
- Maximize eRate
- Exclusive beverage contracts
- Commercial sponsorships
- Community donation of services
- Reimbursement for extraordinary expenses in special education
- Naming rights to stadiums, buildings, etc.



Revenue

- Community donation of funds
- IU Medicaid reimbursement distributed by eligibility proportion
- Tax lien recovery service (bundle/sell tax liens)
- Corporate funding/adoption of instruction programs
- Tax exempt properties due to county seat-sseek some reimbursement
- Apply for liquid fuels tax refunds
- Large district contracts with small district to provide complete food service program

Revenue

- Sell instructional services to nonpublic schools
- Market building use
- Market sports facilities for regional competitions
- Sell advertising at stadium
- Market professional center
- Sale of surplus equipment-board established prices
- Rent technology labs for training programs for local business
- Pursue endowment of selected programs
- Organize/run conferences on topics of district expertise
- Vending machine profits to General Fund



Safety

- Workers Compensation premium reduction due to safety committee
- Analyze accidents for patterns of place, cause, time of day, type

Salaries

- Reduce overtime
- Reduce substitute teachers
- Non-teaching duty coverage by non-instructional staff
- Delegate duties to lowest skill level, analyze by process costing
- Flexible job descriptions allow balancing of variable workloads
- Performance compensation, administrative staff

Salary

- Annual performance evaluations for support staff
- Phase out administrative base salary increases with performance increases
- All teachers hired at entry level salary
- Teachers paid for extra teaching load, savings in benefits
- Hire long-term substitutes
- Revise contract-paying secondary teachers for class coverage
- Establish limits on sabbaticals
- Use stipends rather than hourly pay for certain duties
- Use psychological interns

School Construction

- Maximize school construction reimbursement
- Waive building permit fees for school construction

Special Education

- Transfer operation of special education classes from IU to district
- Avoid out-of-district placements for special education
- IEP software
- Strengthen IST process
- Improve paperwork for special education
- Focus on prevention/support at elementary level
- Closer monitoring of high cost IEP provisions-transportation, bus assistants
- Software that tracks compliance and facilitates paperwork
- Monitor out-of-district placements, set performance standards
- Identify common high cost exceptionalities, offer joint service rather than high cost out-of-district placements
- Financial analysis of benefits of early intervention

Staff Utilization

- Aides/assistants for nonteaching duties(hall, recordkeeping, lunchroom, etc.)
- Staffing based on mid-year rather than first of year enrollment
- Low enrollment classes offered every other semester/year
- Combine fourth and fifth year foreign language classes
- Differentiated staffing
- Administrators serve as substitutes 3 days per year
- Hiring permanent substitutes
- Enrichment program of community speakers rather than substitutes
- Combine grade levels to balance class size in small schools
- Job sharing/partnership teaching
- Retirees return as part-time teachers



Staffing

- Staffing ratios-instructional
- Caseload analysis-specialists, psychiatrists, speech therapists, nurses, etc.
- Reduce professional turnover
- Review staff utilization
- Set minimum class size cutoff
- Nurses at state regulation, 1 per 1,500 students
- Utilize home/school liaisons for various services
- Increase student/teacher ratio by one for all programs

Staffing

- Staff study halls with support personnel rather than teachers
- Eliminate custodial coverage when a coach is present
- Develop intern program
- Increase teacher classroom assignments to 35 periods/wk
- Realign attendance boundaries annually to balance class size
- Perform time studies of non-instructional positions
- Review custodial staffing ratios

Substitutes

- Enrichment program of community speakers rather than substitutes
- Unlimited sick leave reduces utilization by 20%

Tax Collection

- **Collect taxes with district staff**
- Match district census with earned income tax data
- Reduce compensation rate for real estate tax collection
- Eliminate 2% commission to employers for Earned Income Tax
- Automated lock box for tax collections
- Property tax break for retired volunteers
- Assessment appeals-cost benefit analysis, decision making methods
- TIFs, LERTA-approval methodology
- Public advocate on assessment appeals

Technology

- Technology support by interns, student teams
- Centralized administration, deployment of software and network
- Data dictionary
- Application Service Provider (ASP)
- Computer file sharing
- Computer hardware standards to reduce maintenance cost
- Computer software standards to reduce maintenance cost

Technology

- Fully automate the attendance and truancy processes
- Use wireless computer system instead of modem connections
- Shared administrative computing
- Score standardized tests through district technology rather than vendor
- Purchase integrated software to avoid duplication of databases
- Install computer network cables with district staff

Technology

- Computer system disaster recovery plan
- Use thin client computers
- Reduce incoming junk email (spam)



Telephone

- Automated dialer for parent notification, integrated with student software
- Automated attendant
- Reduce duplicate communication methods-desk phone, cell phone, pager, voicemail, 2 way radio, walkie-talkie, email, etc.
- Bid long distance telephone service
- Bid cellular telephone service
- Reduce personal long distance calls
- Evaluate the necessity of some telephones
- Restrict outgoing calls on select phones
- Voice Over IP



Textbooks

- Textbook inventory system to track distribution and collect lost book fees
- Adopt new textbooks less frequently



Training

- Online professional development
- Cross-train business office personnel
- Develop an in-house training program for all staff
- Technology training
- Establish a training program for school board members
- Policy manuals for finance, facilities, personnel, purchasing, transportation
- Provide comprehensive training for non-instructional staff



Transportation

- Coordinate nonpublic transportation with neighboring districts
- Purchase tax exempt fuel for contractors to reduce contract
- Coordinate school calendars with other districts
- Bus drivers reclassified from full- to part-time employees
- Bus routing optimization by computer program
- Increase reimbursement by DOT declaration of hazardous bus routes
- Utilize public transportation to transport high school students

Transportation

- Bid transportation contracts
- Utilize three tier system for transporting high school, middle school and elementary school
- Negotiate lower special education transportation rates through IU
- Compare transportation costs with maximum allowable cost
- Consolidate transportation contracts through bidding
- Use district rather than coach busses for away sporting events

Transportation

- Revise bus schedules to accommodate school breakfast program
- Use best available mapping and addressing data for computerized bus routing
- Restructure bus routes to maximize efficiency and minimize costs
- Bid special education transportation, route by route
- Coordinate special education transportation with regular
- Widen transportation windows



Transportation

- Increase distance for transportation eligibility
- Reduce afternoon high school runs based on fewer students than morning runs
- Optimize bus routes through annual rerun of computer model
- Rebid transportation contracts periodically
- Transportation contracts paid at state formula
- Establish policy limiting changes to bus schedules

Transportation

- Use parent volunteers and bus drivers instead of bus monitors
- Coordinate non-public transportation with other districts
- Eliminate non-public when their calendar conflicts with districts
- Eliminate activity runs
- Analyze district vs. contracted operated costs on route by route basis
- Bus replacement provision based on mileage, not age

Trash

- Recycle to reduce waste disposal costs



Travel

- Coordinate conference attendance
- Online meetings
- Reduce travel, conference attendance



User Fees

- Building rental at market rates, offset all expenses
- Athletic fees
- AP test fees
- Instructional supplies-course fees, textbooks, supplies
- Night school
- Increase lunch prices, students
- Increase lunch prices, adults
- Increase adult education fees
- Driver's education fees
- Collect lost, damaged or stolen book fees

User Fees

- Sell mailing lists
- Sell advertising rights in publications
- **Pay to play, with scholarships for needy**
- Home economics
- Art
- Child care programs
- **Parking**



Vandalism

- Improve recordkeeping, analyze to identify patterns and develop solutions
- Mobilize residents near schools for school watch
- Anti-vandalism incentive to reward schools
- Etch identification number into all movable equipment
- Paint movable equipment a distinguishable color
- Electronic surveillance of frequently vandalized areas



Vocational Education

- Shared vocational education services



Volunteers

- Use student support/parent involvement coordinator
- **Encourage community volunteers**
- Foster grandparents supplement special education
- Volunteer coordination to match district needs with skills
- Retirees as volunteers



Nov. 16, 2007

**TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL
COST REDUCTION MAKES
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
MORE
EFFICIENT SPENDING**

*Study Shows Potential to Save
Hundreds of Millions of
Taxpayer Dollars*



Recommendations

- School construction: Increased technical assistance should be offered to school districts to encourage “green” building, potentially saving \$13 million a year.
 - Special education: The state’s special education formula should be revised to provide funding to school districts using a tiered system based on the amount of services a student receives.
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Recommendations

- Student Transportation
- The state should eliminate a requirement that districts must bus non-public students outside school district boundaries or on days public schools are not in session. This change could save some districts up to \$1.5 million a year in transportation costs.
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Task Force on School Cost Reduction

- “Other notable “cost drivers” to school districts include charter school tuition reimbursements, support services such as transportation and tax collection, and debt service.”

Recommendations

- Charter and cyber charter schools: A single, statewide tuition rate should be established for all cyber charter schools, potentially saving taxpayers \$25 million annually while preserving school choice for Pennsylvania families.
- **Shared services: The use of shared services should be encouraged among school districts, intermediate units, counties and other local governments.**

Recommendations

- **Mandate waivers:** The Department of Education should improve communications with school districts regarding mandate waivers, which can be used to help schools operate more efficiently by lifting some school code mandates.

How To Drive School Savings

- Changes in collective bargaining laws
- Change the Prevailing Wage Law
- Address the PSERS crisis sooner rather than later



How To Drive School Savings

- Reauthorize and expand the Mandate Waiver Law
- Decrease outdated, unnecessary and burdensome state reporting requirements
- Address both the non-public transportation mandate and create incentives for regionalization of student transportation

About the PA Association of School Business Officials

- We are a state wide association of 3,000 members with a focus of education, training and professional development of our members, two-thirds of whom are K-12 non- instructional administrators. PASBO members provide finance, accounting, operations, facilities, transportation, food service, technology, communications, human resources, purchasing and safety services to support classroom learning in schools in Pennsylvania.
- Our business associate members provide products and services in the school marketplace.
- Our members are not superintendents, teachers or other instructional staff.
- For additional information go to: www.pasbo.org



**Thank you
for the invitation to appear.
I will gladly respond to any questions.**

