

Ten things you should know about Gloversville Enlarged School District

1. Gloversville offers high quality academic programming while keeping its per pupil spending among the lowest in the state. In fact, according to the numbers released by the state education department, Gloversville cost per pupil for 2007-2008 (the most recent year available) was \$8,344 compared to an average of \$10,650 statewide.

2. Over the past several years, district officials have been pro-active with cost-saving measures. Some of the ways they have brought costs down include:

- Analyzing and evaluating existing programs to make sure they are as effective as possible.
- Implementing cost-containment measures in the areas of health insurance.
- Not filling vacant positions unless absolutely necessary. In the past two years, two administrative positions were not filled (one assistant principal and one data coordinator).
- Implementing energy initiatives district wide. Since August 2005, the district has contained

energy costs by installing energy efficient boilers, computerized lights and thermostats. The district will continue to work with NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) to update lighting and electrical systems in order to conserve energy.

- Eliminating inefficiencies wherever possible including bus runs.
- Consolidating and sharing resources and services with BOCES and other school districts.

3. Gloversville has approximately 3,300 students and 500 paid employees within its seven school buildings and transportation department.

4. The proposed 2010-11 school budget of \$50,689,660 would be funded by approximately 70 percent New York State and 30 percent by the property tax levy.

5. Gloversville students are preparing to enter the 21st Century workforce. District officials are focusing on helping students prepare for the world of tomorrow. In order to do this, the district will

continue to offer the following opportunities:

- A rigorous academic program at the high school that includes Honors classes, Advanced Placement, and College in the Classroom opportunities.
- Through programs like Project Lead the Way, Gloversville teachers continue to emphasize on trades and mechanical/engineering skills. This is helping students prepare for growing opportunities presented by the Tech Valley economic development initiatives in our area.
- Gloversville still offers Career Tech opportunities through HFM BOCES, and automotive technology, computer-aided drafting, as well as a Science Research elective.
- Distance Learning opportunities will continue to be available to high school students to participate in courses not offered at GHS.

6. Gloversville is maintaining the current class sizes at the elementary level, which are still below the

maximum contractual amount allowed.

7. Students are encouraged to become well-rounded individuals. Whether it's the Character Education program at the elementary level or the wide range of extracurricular opportunities at the middle and high school, Gloversville students are encouraged to expand their interests outside of the classroom.

- The majority of extra-curricular programs will be maintained district wide.
- Through the Character Education program, elementary students and staff focus on themes such as respect, responsibility, kindness, honesty and good sportsmanship. Students are recognized for exemplifying these qualities.
- Students in the high school serve as mentors for other students through the Mentoring Program.
- Last year, a large percent of Gloversville students participated in a music or theater program at the secondary level. Under the proposed budget, K-5 music and art offerings will be reduced slightly, but still exceed the state mandates for the elementary level. Fifth and Sixth grade instrumental will be eliminated, and the frequency of art class days will be reduced. The majority of art and music programs remain

untouched in the proposed budget.

- Many of our high school and middle school students are involved in interscholastic sports. The only changes in the proposed budget are the elimination of the 7th grade sports program, which will now be combined with 8th grade offerings, and the elimination of 6 coaching positions.

8. Gloversville is seeing improvement. During the last few years, district leaders have seen increases in state exam scores for elementary, middle and high school students. All Gloversville schools are considered "in good standing" according to the New York State Department of Education Report Card results released in April 2010. For example:

- Students meeting the performance level for elementary and middle school English Language Arts went from 157 students in 2007-08 to 167 students in 2008-09.
- Graduation rates have gone from 63 percent in 2007-08 to 70 percent in 2008-09.
- Graduation rates for Students with Disabilities jumped from 22 percent to 42 percent from 2007-08 to 2008-09.



9. The proposed 2010-11 budget reflects nearly \$2 million in spending cuts - the result of a projected \$1.5 million decline in state aid for next year. The plan calls for a reduction of 5 FTE (full-time equivalent) teaching staff and 12 support staff. This number may decrease depending on the amount of retirements the district will have for next year.

All indications are that the state and national fiscal crisis will be a three to five-year situation for school districts. Gloversville officials kept this in mind while creating the 2010-11 budget proposal. Over the coming years, officials will continue to look for more ways to reduce expenses while maintaining quality programs to the fullest extent possible.

10. Communication with students, staff and taxpayers is a district priority. The district's website, www.gloversvilleschools.org is a great source of information for parents and Gloversville residents.