



## **BUDGET PARAMETERS 2013-14 Fiscal Year Budget**

1. The budget will align with the *Achieve Today. Excel Tomorrow.* strategic plan.
2. The Board seeks to maintain an unassigned fund balance in the general fund of not less than 16.67% of the District's general fund operating expenditures in an effort to (1) ensure a sufficient operating reserve to support operating costs for at least two months, (2) maintain a bond rating of Aa1 or higher, and (3) maintain a Schools FIRST rating of "Superior Achievement."
3. The Board recognizes its fiduciary responsibility to adopt a balanced budget, but recognizes that some limited use of fund balance may be appropriate for non-recurring expenditures or to sustain services.
4. The budget development process will be transparent and will include opportunity for community input through, at a minimum, the Board-appointed Financial Futures Committee ("FFC"), open forums at Board meetings, and at public meetings held to discuss the budget and proposed tax rate. Proposed budget reductions, revenue enhancement opportunities, and cost-savings options presented by the public will be considered within the context of their impact on students, taxpayers and the community.
5. If projected expenditures exceed projected revenue and budget reductions become necessary, the District will first seek budget reductions with the least negative impact on classroom instruction.
6. Resources will target programming that supports achievement growth for all schools. Supplemental resources will be allocated for schools facing specific additional instructional needs.
7. The Board seeks to provide competitive compensation in an effort to recruit and retain a highly qualified workforce and will consider adjustments necessary for the District to be competitive in this area.
8. Staffing ratios will meet or exceed State standards and will be approved by the Board before the staffing process begins.
9. Administration will present to the Board a General Fund budget forecast for a minimum of three upcoming years to account for future implications of budget proposals and revenue estimates.