



District Digest

School District of New Berlin

www.nbexcellence.org

VOLUME 3

EDITION 3

SUMMER 2011

Delivering Excellence

School District of New Berlin 2010–2011 Annual Performance Report

We are proud to present this year's Annual Report. Our intent is to give you a glimpse of the great accomplishments our students and staff have achieved throughout the last year. Our achievements occur in part because of the hard work in the classrooms by our students and staff, teacher collaboration, the rigor of our curriculum, and in other ways too numerous to list. We have also included financial information that may help in preparation for our Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting scheduled for July 25th, 7:30 pm, at the New Berlin West PAC. The highlights in this report include:

- ◆ **District Vision Statement** – This spring we had over 60 teachers, students, parents, school board members, community members, administrators, and city officials update our District Vision Statement. We then had all teachers and administrators provide their input to the work our committee drafted. Attached you will find the board approved District Vision Statement. You will note four pillars our work was grounded in: Curriculum, Focus on Learning, Collaborative Culture, and Communication. We will work diligently to breathe life into our vision by aligning our District Goals, Projects, and Initiatives (GPI's) to our Vision Statement. Our vision does not reflect where we are today, yet allows us to see where our hard work will eventually lead us in our journey ahead.
- ◆ **Student Achievement on State and National Standardized Tests** – Also included are graphs outlining our state test (WKCE) results, ACT composite scores/participation, and Advanced Placement (AP) scores/participation. The data validates the high levels of student achievement produced within the District. Our District is highly competitive in all areas within these standardized tests and scores among the top districts within the state of Wisconsin. Both high schools were again named to Newsweek's America's Best High Schools.
- ◆ **Student Athletic and Activity Achievements, and Staff Recognitions** – Our students and staff continue to excel in many areas. Whether it's scoring among the top 1% nationally on ACT tests, competitive sports, music or art accomplishments, national recognitions for volunteering, or writing books, many of our students and staff exceed excellence and accomplish extraordinary feats. Attached you will find an abbreviated list of the great accomplishments we have enjoyed this year.
- ◆ **2011–2012 Budget Summary** – The School District of New Berlin Board of Education recently adopted a preliminary budget. It establishes the District's legal authority to operate until the budget is adopted in October. The recommended preliminary budget assumes the following:
 - ◆ Utilize the provisions of Act 10 and the Budget Repair Bill
 - ◆ Decrease the property tax levy by \$526,096 or -1.14%
 - ◆ Increase the teaching staff to maintain appropriate levels of class size
 - ◆ Maintain and enhance all current student programs
 - ◆ Add staff in the area of curriculum and instruction driven by the District vision statement

We appreciate your ongoing support of our excellent school District. We hope that you are able to share in the pride that we take in the first-class opportunities and accomplishments our District has experienced over the last year. We look forward to our work in continuously finding ways to improve, to truly become the most excellent school District for our students, staff, and community.



District Vision Statement

Curriculum

Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are three of the key elements to supporting the mission, vision, values, and goals of our schools and provide a framework for the way we work with students to answer the questions:

- ◆ What is it we expect our students to learn?
- ◆ How will we know when students have learned?
- ◆ How will we respond when some students do not learn?
- ◆ How will we respond when they already know it?

In the School District of New Berlin:

Curriculum

- A. The curriculum is aligned to national, state, and District standards.
- B. The curriculum is designed and consistently implemented to ensure that all students have access to essential learning standards and targets by grade level and content area.
- C. The curriculum is dynamic, evolving, and relevant to students' lives.

Instruction

- A. Instruction engages students in higher order learning through collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and the creative application of content and skills.
- B. Instruction is differentiated, rigorous, applicable, and responsive to the learning needs of each student.
- C. Instruction facilitates the development of knowledge, skills, and dispositions of lifelong learners.

Assessment

- A. A balanced and coherent assessment system enables students to demonstrate learning through varied assessment methods.
- B. Assessment results provide relevant feedback to collaborative teams to adjust instruction to meet student-learning needs.
- C. Assessment results provide timely and relevant feedback to students to support their efforts to achieve identified learning targets.

Focus on Learning

A culture of learning requires that all decisions be based on what is best for students. This focus on learning is collaborative and promotes the gradual transfer of responsibility for learning from the system to the learner. Learners will apply the skills and strategies gained to be successful in their future experiences.

In the School District of New Berlin:

- A. Meaningful feedback is provided based on clear goals and objectives to promote growth and encourage personal responsibility for learning.
- B. Students are held to high expectations for their academic, social, and emotional learning.
- C. Students are provided interventions as needed to facilitate mastery of essential standards.
- D. Individual and collective performance is promoted, recognized, and celebrated by the school community.

Collaborative Culture

Collaboration is essential to developing a professional learning community. A collaborative culture exists at all levels of the school community to positively affect student learning and achievement.

In the School District of New Berlin:

- A. Collaborative teams work interdependently to improve upon their ability to enhance student learning and achievement.
- B. Collaborative teams value and effectively utilize time to work on the Districts goals, projects, and initiatives.
- C. Collaborative team members engage in dialogue to share their expertise and knowledge of best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- D. Collaborative teams develop opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom to encompass the efforts, talents, and services of the greater community.

Communication

Communication is key in our ongoing effort to develop as a professional learning community.

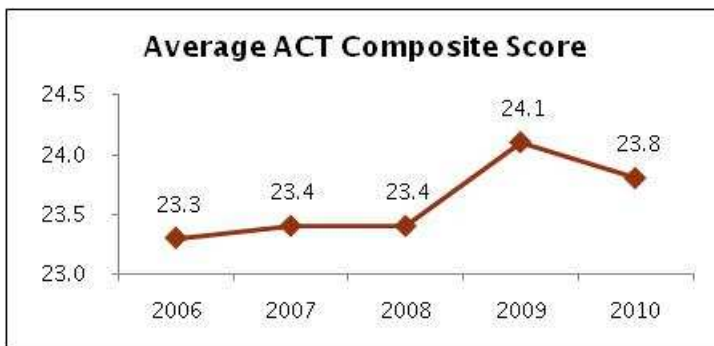
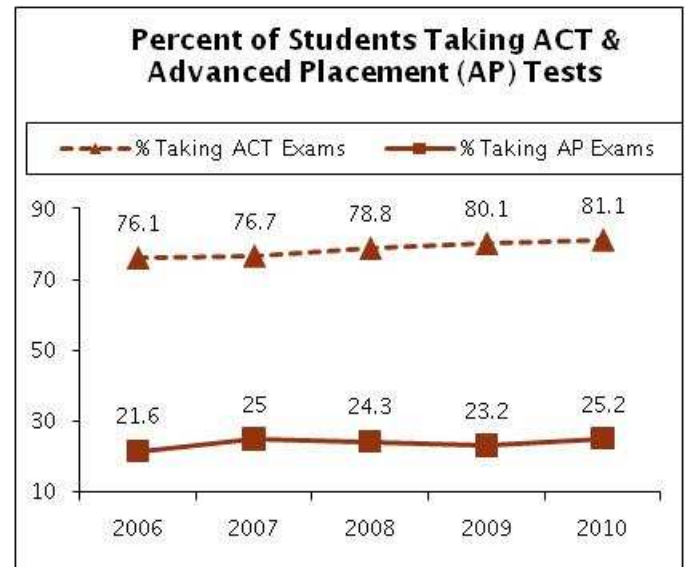
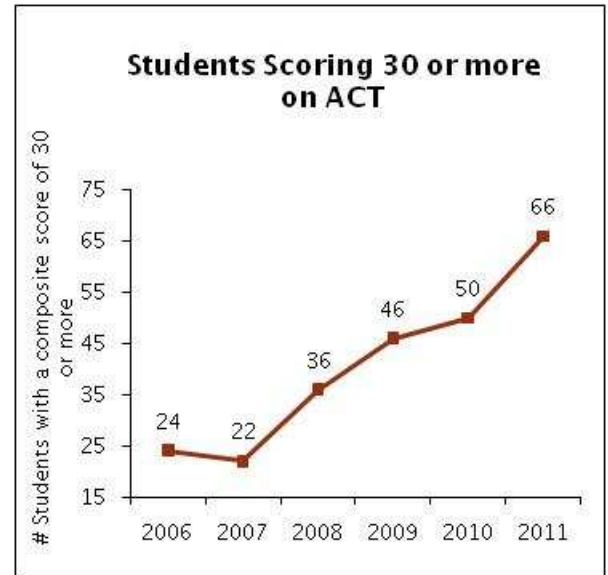
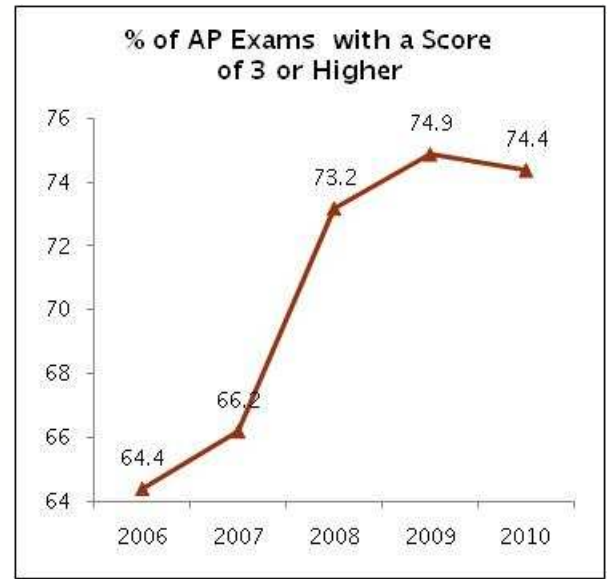
In the School District of New Berlin:

- A. Personnel provide frequent and open communication regarding student progress toward essential learning standards and targets.
- B. Personnel provide clearly articulated, timely, and accessible communication to all members of the school community.
- C. Personnel are accessible and facilitate collaborative conversations and reciprocal dialogue with all members of the school community.
- D. Communication is routinely evaluated for effectiveness.

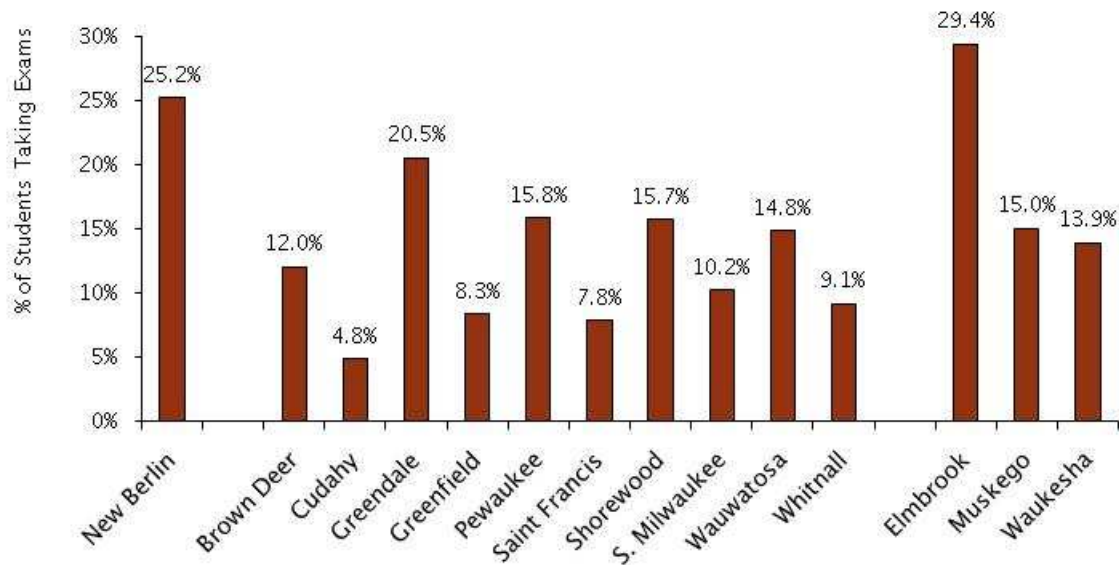
Student Achievement on State and National Standardized Tests

New Berlin offers a number of different Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students can earn college credit by successfully passing the AP tests held each year in May. We continue to be a leader in the number of students taking Advanced Placement and ACT exams.

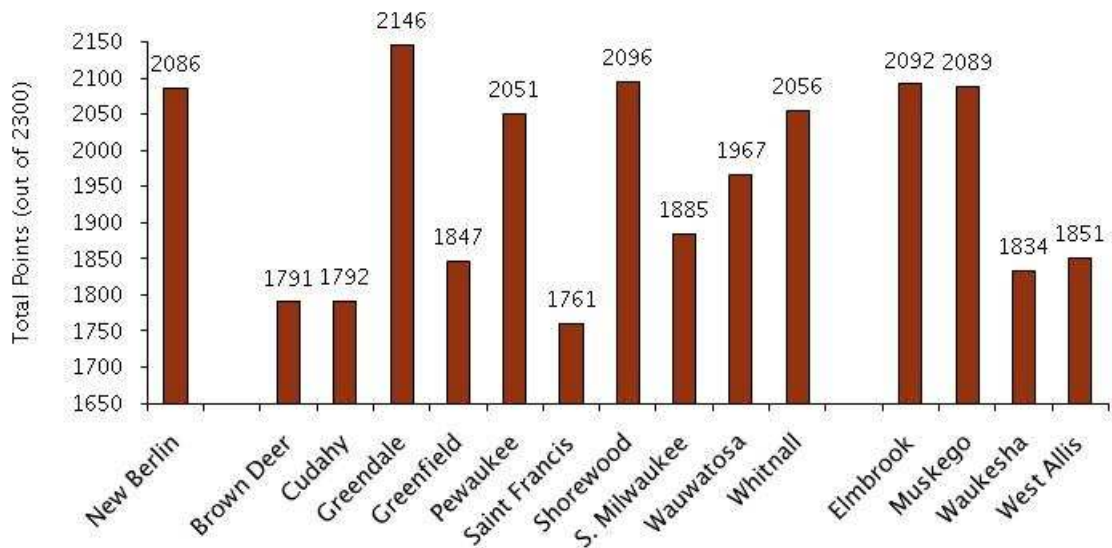
This year, two students scored a perfect 36 on the ACT test



09-10 Advanced Placement Exams Comparison to Woodland Conference & Neighboring Districts



10-11 WKCE Ranking Comparison to Woodland Conference & Neighboring Districts





Student Athletic and Activity Achievements and Staff Recognitions



Teams and individuals experienced great success during the past year. In addition to many conference, regional, and state championships, there were many other individuals and teams from both high schools that qualified for state competition in a variety of sports and activities.

Eisenhower	Co-Op Teams	New Berlin West
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Girls Swimming 50-Freestyle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Allison Bellford ◆ Cheerleading - Division 3 ◆ Academic Decathlon - Division 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2009 & 2010 & 2011 ◆ 3rd Place in Nationals ◆ Chess 1st Place Individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Vilas Gaddmeedi 	<h3>State Championships</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cheerleading - Division 2
<h3>State Qualifiers</h3>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Girls Swim & Dive ◆ Boys Swim ◆ Girls Track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Boys Track ◆ Cross Country ◆ Wrestling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Baseball ◆ Chess ◆ Girls Tennis
	<h3>Regional Championships</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Girls Basketball ◆ Girls Soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wrestling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Girls Track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2010 & 2011 ◆ Boys Soccer ◆ Baseball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Baseball (Black Division) ◆ Girls Volleyball (Black Division) ◆ Girls Basketball (Black Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2009 & 2010 & 2011 ◆ Boys Basketball (Black Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2006 thru 2011 ◆ Softball (Black Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2007 thru 2011 	<h3>Conference Championships</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Baseball (Blue Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2007 thru 2011 ◆ Girls Volleyball (Blue Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2010 & 2011 ◆ Boys Soccer ◆ Boys Basketball (Blue Division) ◆ Woodland Conference Math Meet Champions ◆ Softball (Blue Division) ◆ Boys Golf (West Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2009 & 2010 & 2011
	<h3>Conference Players of the Year</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Girls Volleyball (Black Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Emily Yann 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wrestling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Zach Brucker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Girls Volleyball (Blue Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Martha Radtke ◆ Boys Basketball (Blue Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chad Mathwig ◆ Softball (Blue Division) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Martha Radtke

Student Recognitions

New Berlin West

- ◆ College Board Hispanic Recognition Award
 - ◆ Gladys Guerra
- ◆ Presidential Volunteer Service Award
 - ◆ Shelia Marton
- ◆ Published 1st book of a 6 book series
 - ◆ Markelle Grabo

New Berlin Eisenhower

- ◆ Perfect score of 36 on ACT exam
 - ◆ Rishil Mehta
 - ◆ Gregory Hartmann

Poplar Creek

- ◆ National Hershey Track Meet – 1st in 50M Dash
 - ◆ Mitchell Primus

Orchard Lane

- ◆ Presidential Volunteer Service Award
 - ◆ Zach Harmon

Art Awards

New Berlin West and New Berlin Eisenhower

- ◆ Ten Scholastic Gold Key Awards
- ◆ Two Scholastic Silver Key Award

Staff Recognitions

New Berlin West

- ◆ Herb Kohl Fellowship
 - ◆ Leslie Potter

New Berlin Eisenhower

- ◆ Writer's Digest Award
 - ◆ Victoria Opalewski

Orchard Lane

- ◆ Presidential Science Teaching Award
 - ◆ John Hushek

District Office

- ◆ Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology (WEMTA) Administrator of the Year
 - ◆ Kevin Messman

Music Awards

◆ State Competition Original Music Composition

New Berlin Eisenhower

- ◆ Gregory Hartmann – 3rd Place

◆ All-State Junior Band

New Berlin Eisenhower

- ◆ Max Lin
- ◆ Millie Kontich

◆ WSMA State Marching Band Competition

New Berlin Eisenhower

- ◆ 4th Place
- ◆ Outstanding Percussion Award

◆ Madison Symphony Orchestra Bolz Young Artist Competition

New Berlin West

- ◆ Elliot Yang – Finalist

◆ WSMA State Music Festival

New Berlin Eisenhower

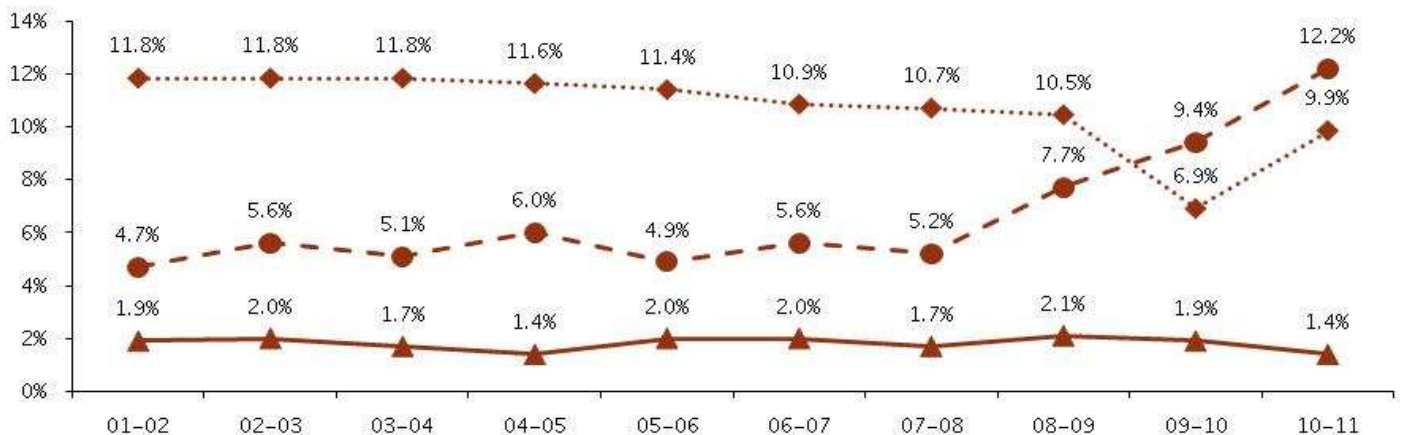
- ◆ Band, Choir, and Orchestra Soloists
 - ◆ Eight Exemplary Soloists
- ◆ String Soloists
 - ◆ Eight 1st ratings & six 2nd ratings
- ◆ Small String Ensembles
 - ◆ Three 1st ratings & four 2nd ratings
- ◆ Piano Entries
 - ◆ Six 1st ratings
- ◆ Chamber, Concert, and Honor Orchestra
 - ◆ Three 1st ratings
- ◆ Band (including Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Percussion Ensemble, Woodwind Choir, Clarinet Choir, Brass Ensemble, and Saxophone Ensemble)
 - ◆ Twenty-six 1st ratings & ten 2nd ratings

Student Demographics

---◆--- % Students with Disabilities

-●- % Eligible for F/R Lunch

-▲- % ESL Students





2011-2012 Budget Summary

INTRODUCTION

The School District of New Berlin Board of Education adopted a preliminary budget on June 27, 2011. The preliminary budget assumes continuation of the current educational delivery model while taking advantage of employee turnover to eliminate costs, when doing so will not impede the District's instructional excellence, improving the use of technology in support services and delivery of instruction and reducing costs for continued services. Because of the tools provided the District by the State of Wisconsin, this budget does not include any significant reduction in programs nor layoff of staff.

The budget presumes continued exploration of cost savings opportunities including reduction in use of utilities, participation in procurement cooperatives, changes in the employee health benefit program, aligning labor costs with private sector comparables, and consideration of contractors when fiscally prudent.

The preliminary budget is approved for the purpose of operating the District until the (original) budget is adopted in October. The preliminary budget establishes the intent of the Board of Education and sets fiscal priorities for the upcoming school year. In October, in conformance with state statutes, the District will modify the preliminary budget after actual enrollment, determined on the 3rd Friday in September, revenue limit, and general state aids are known. Adjustments for the original budget may reflect other changes, such as staffing costs, planned capital projects, or other economic factors.

The preliminary budget presented herein complies with current federal and state school finance regulations and provides adequate resources to operate the District for the 2011-12 school year.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Overall, revenues for 2011-12 will be \$3,080,000, (4.9%) less than the 2010-11 budget:

- Property taxes are projected to decrease \$526,096. This 1.14% reduction is achieved as a result of changes in school finance regulations adopted by the state.
- A decrease of \$117,000 in intermediate sources is anticipated due to a reduction in the number of students accepted under the state's open enrollment program and fewer tuition payments for non-resident student attending District schools.
- State revenue is expected to decrease \$1,183,000, primarily in general state aid and special education aid.
- Federal resources will decrease \$1,072,000 as federal stimulus funding is reduced from the prior year.

The expenditures budget shows a substantial decrease of \$30.5 million dollars caused by elimination of a one-time debt transaction of \$26.5 million related to refinancing outstanding debt that occurred in 2010-11. These one-time refinancing expenditures complicate the task of making year to year comparisons. When refinancing transactions are removed, expenditures are budgeted to decrease over \$4,000,000.

- Expenditures for direct instruction will decrease 8.9% due to the retirement of experienced teachers, reductions in federal stimulus funding, and lower costs for employee benefits for retirement system contributions and health benefits.
- Expenditures for pupils services will be 11.5% less next year as a result of lower costs for employee benefits for retirement system contributions and health benefit costs.
- A budgeted decrease of nearly 12% in libraries and instructional support is due to reductions in federal stimulus funding and lower costs for employee benefits for retirement system contributions and health benefits.
- Costs for general administration will decrease over 10% as a result of lower costs for employee benefits for retirement system contributions and health benefit costs.
- The District will increase the budget for buildings and grounds to begin to address issues related to deferred maintenance.
- Transportation costs are estimated to increase a net of about 4% for increased costs to transport students with disabilities and anticipated higher fuel prices. Cost savings will be achieved through routing efficiencies.
- The decrease in debt service includes the elimination of a \$26.5 million to refinance the WRS prior service obligation.
- Other support services is decreased over \$1,180,000. The 2010-11 budget included extra-ordinary costs for technology upgrades that are not required in 2011-12.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BERLIN
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance
PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET

	08-09 ACTUAL	09-10 ACTUAL	10-11 BUDGET	11-12 PRELIM
GENERAL FUND				
<i>Revenues & Other Financing Sources</i>				
Local Sources	\$ 43,966,802	\$ 40,162,741	\$ 41,148,050	\$ 41,055,295
Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,076,910	\$ 956,508	\$ 800,177	\$ 682,994
State Sources	\$ 8,454,637	\$ 7,796,127	\$ 8,381,233	\$ 7,215,684
Federal Sources	\$ 1,372,776	\$ 777,294	\$ 1,197,269	\$ 374,831
Other Sources	\$ 506,716	\$ 570,429	\$ 1,853,706	\$ 610,381
Total Sources	\$ 55,377,841	\$ 50,263,099	\$ 53,380,435	\$ 49,939,185
<i>Expenditures & Other Uses</i>				
Instruction	\$ 22,521,963	\$ 22,071,524	\$ 24,582,308	\$ 22,413,744
Support Services	\$ 22,037,771	\$ 20,527,428	\$ 23,255,157	\$ 22,646,050
Non-Pgm Transactions	\$ 9,170,773	\$ 4,937,805	\$ 5,342,470	\$ 4,879,391
Total Expenditures	\$ 53,730,507	\$ 47,536,757	\$ 53,179,935	\$ 49,939,185
<i>Excess (deficiency) of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under)</i>				
<i>Expenditures & Other Uses</i>	\$ 1,647,334	\$ 2,726,342	\$ 200,000	\$ 0
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 2,762,199	\$ 4,409,533	\$ 7,135,875	\$ 7,335,875
Fund Balance End of Year	\$ 4,409,533	\$ 7,135,875	\$ 7,335,875	\$ 7,335,875
SPECIAL REVENUE TRUST				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$62,112	\$62,112	\$0	\$0
Ending Fund Balance	\$62,112	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues s & Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$154,646	\$0	\$0
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$0	\$216,758	\$0	\$0
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ending Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues s & Other Financing Sources	\$7,580,724	\$7,727,737	\$8,231,889	\$7,299,944
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$7,580,724	\$7,727,737	\$8,231,889	\$7,299,944
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$936,593	\$938,734	\$1,222,785	\$880,625
Ending Fund Balance	\$938,734	\$1,222,785	\$880,625	\$772,064
Revenues s & Other Financing Sources	\$4,627,683	\$10,448,718	\$31,624,904	\$5,316,532
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$4,625,542	\$10,164,667	\$31,967,064	\$5,425,093
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$101,182	\$33,349	\$571,688	\$0
Ending Fund Balance	\$33,349	\$571,688	\$0	\$0
Revenues s & Other Financing Sources	\$367	\$2,114,971	\$495,000	\$0
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$68,200	\$1,576,632	\$1,066,688	\$0
FOOD SERVICE FUND				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$173,399	\$229,611	\$517,040	\$517,040
Ending Fund Balance	\$229,611	\$517,040	\$517,040	\$517,040
Revenues s & Other Financing Sources	\$1,725,716	\$1,684,738	\$1,658,460	\$1,766,435
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$1,669,504	\$1,397,309	\$1,658,460	\$1,766,435
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND				
Beginning Fund Balance	\$206,288	\$203,271	\$317,783	\$317,282
Ending Fund Balance	\$203,271	\$317,783	\$317,282	\$323,148
Revenues s & Other Financing Sources	\$3,407	\$162,095	\$195,881	\$235,275
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	\$6,424	\$47,583	\$196,382	\$229,409
Total Expenditures - All Funds	\$ 67,680,901	\$ 68,667,443	\$ 96,300,418	\$ 64,660,066
Percent Change from Prior Year		1.46%	40.24%	-32.86%
PROPERTY TAX LEVY				
General Fund	\$ 42,755,359	\$ 39,149,374	\$ 40,045,939	\$ 40,124,715
Debt Service Funds	\$ 716,969	\$ 4,596,156	\$ 5,419,904	\$ 5,310,032
Annual Capital Projects Fund	\$0	\$495,000	\$495,000	\$0
Total School Levy	\$ 43,472,328	\$ 44,240,530	\$ 45,960,843	\$ 45,434,747
% Change from Prior Year		1.77%	3.89%	-1.14%

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

Property taxes are the primary funding source for the School District of New Berlin, accounting for 76% of revenues. The recommended property tax levy of \$45,434,747 is 1.14% less than the prior year. The decrease is caused by the reduction in revenue limit authority offset by a reduction in general state aid.

COMPONENTS OF TAX LEVY CHANGE

	2010-11	2011-12	Inc (Dec) Property Tax Levy	Inc (Dec) in Tax Rate *
Revenue limit	53,399,084	51,682,533	(1,716,551)	(0.41)
General state aid	7,656,598	6,508,108	1,148,490	0.27
Tax for debt not subject to revenue limit	644,111	666,663	22,552	0.01
Tax for community service	0	0	0	0.00
Property tax chargebacks	19,947	42,460	22,513	0.01
Net change in property tax			(522,996)	(0.12)

PROPERTY TAX LEVY ANALYSIS

	Change in Value	Change in Levy	Change in Tax Rate
10 year average	4.58%	2.04%	(2.28%)
5 year average	0.58%	1.69%	1.15%
10 year average change in CPI	2.26%	2.26%	2.26%
5 year average change in CPI	1.87%	1.87%	1.87%

The District projects a 2.5% decrease in equalized property values resulting in a property tax rate increase \$0.14 per \$1,000 of equalized value for a total estimated tax rate of \$10.62. This would result in a school tax levy on a home valued at \$250,000 of \$2,655, an increase of \$35.

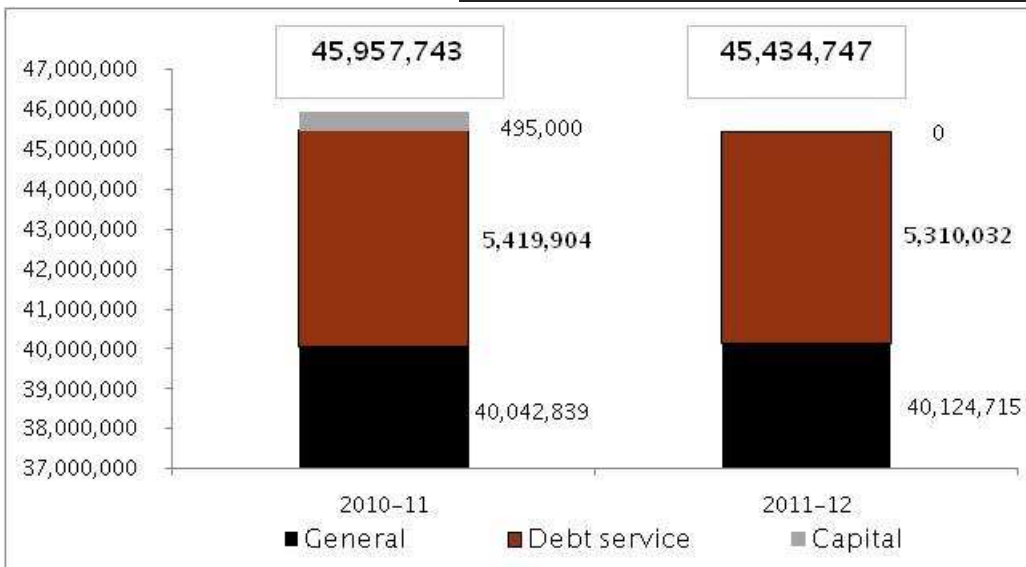
The table at the left compares the change in equalized value, property tax levy and tax rate to the average change in for the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for a 5 and 10 year period. The 5 and 10 year average change in the property tax levy and tax rate is less than the equivalent average change in CPI.

10 YEAR TAX LEVY HISTORY

SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUE (Tid out)	CHANGE	TAX LEVY	CHANGE	TAX RATE per \$1000 EQUALIZED	CHANGE	CPI
00-01	2,608,617,015		34,623,895		\$13.27		
01-02	2,759,562,089	5.79%	37,230,780	7.53%	\$13.49	1.65%	2.8%
02-03	2,976,535,617	7.86%	37,919,862	1.85%	\$12.74	(5.57%)	1.6%
03-04	3,329,922,066	11.87%	40,379,682	6.49%	\$12.13	(4.81%)	2.3%
04-05	3,619,294,863	8.69%	42,481,267	5.20%	\$11.74	(3.21%)	2.7%
05-06	3,884,790,738	7.34%	42,289,462	-0.45%	\$10.89	(7.25%)	3.4%
06-07	4,162,484,804	7.15%	41,829,268	-1.09%	\$10.05	(7.69%)	3.2%
07-08	4,332,086,860	4.07%	43,388,958	3.73%	\$10.02	(0.33%)	2.8%
08-09	4,460,062,936	2.95%	43,452,788	0.15%	\$9.74	(2.73%)	3.8%
09-10	4,478,311,693	0.41%	44,230,997	1.79%	\$9.88	1.41%	-1.3%
10-11	4,387,266,137	-2.03%	45,957,743	3.90%	\$10.48	6.07%	2.3%
11-12	4,277,584,484	-2.50%	45,434,747	-1.14%	\$10.62	1.34%	1.8%

The table on the right reports the discreet amounts for each of the past 10 years and the projection for the 2011-12 budget.

COMPARISON OF TAX LEVY



The levy is used for general operations, repayment of debt and capital projects. The complete preliminary budget is available online at:

http://www.nbexcellence.org/1112_budget.cfm

The School District of New Berlin does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

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Board of Education: President's Message

I hope you will join me in thanking Dr. Paul Kreutzer for his service to the District. During his time with us, we have seen increases in academic achievement, ACT scores, and an increase in fund balance and in our bond rating. Thank you, Dr. Kreutzer. Good luck in your future endeavors.

The Board is proud to announce the promotion of Mr. Joe Garza from assistant superintendent to superintendent. We value the continuity of our work and leadership, and value Mr. Garza's commitment and dedication to our work and to our community. We are confident that the District will continue to maintain its focus on providing high quality and innovative learning opportunities for our students while remaining fiscally sound.

As you know, Act 10 (Budget Repair Bill) is now law. Act 10 provides the District with remarkable tools to manage the District's finances. As a result of these tools, the District will be able to balance the budget through a combination of cost savings in employee contributions toward their retirement and health benefit costs. Further, as a result of provisions in Act 10, the taxpayers will see a net reduction in the property tax levy for next year. The Budget Repair Bill gave the District the tools to be able to continue to provide a high quality education, to avoid staff layoffs, maintain quality student programs and save your tax dollars. We are now able to focus on planning for instruction and continued improvement instead of trying to figure out how to manage the District with the constraints placed by collective bargaining agreements. We believe the children and families of the District will be better served as a result of the recent legislation.

As a Board, we will continue to look for ways for New Berlin citizens to be further involved and informed. We want your continued input and desire to communicate in a constructive manner.

Regards,

Dave Maxey
President, Board of Education
School District of New Berlin
David.Maxey@nbexcellence.org