

## School district finance survey

\*indicates a required field

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this short survey. Your responses will help us better understand how school districts are doing in a tough economic environment, particularly given state funding cuts. The survey, which is being sent to all Ohio school districts, will be the basis of a report that will be released in January 2013. For a **PDF preview of the questions** that will help you prepare your responses before filling out the survey online, [click HERE](#).

For data collection and analysis, we are asking respondents to include the names of their districts and district types. We will not publicly release the names of responding districts or link district names to responses unless permission is given in a follow-up interview.

### Note

If you work for or represent more than one district or entity, please fill out a separate survey for each.

**District name\*** \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of district/entity\*

- a. Exempted Village
- b. Local
- c. City or Municipal
- b. Educational Service Center
- c. Joint Vocational
- d. Other

**County name\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**a.** Did your district face a budget shortfall for **the current** school year (**2012-2013**)? If yes, how much was the shortfall as a percentage of the district's total operating budget? (Please select "No shortfall" or pick a range.)

- a. No shortfall
- b. 0.1 % to 5%
- c. 5.1% to 10%
- d. 10.1% to 15%
- e. 15.1% to 20%
- f. More than 20%

**b.** Please select from the following options to show how your district has resolved its budget shortfall for the **2012-2013** school year. (Please select as many as apply to your district.)

- No shortfall
- Reductions in force
- Open positions were left unfilled (attrition)
- Pay cuts
- Pay freeze (base salary on schedules or salary employees)
- Changes to salary schedule (including freezing of steps)
- Benefit plan changes or increased employee contributions
- Shortened school day
- Transportation cuts to state minimum
- Larger class sizes
- Cuts to materials, supplies, textbooks or equipment
- Introduction of or increase to pay-to-play fees or reduction in extracurriculars

- Reduced course offerings
- Description of other measures not listed

c. Please select the percentage of teaching positions lost in your district to cuts or attrition for the **2012-2013** school year as a result of a budget shortfall. Then, in the space below, fill in the total number of teaching positions lost. (Please select either "No shortfall," or pick a range.)

- No shortfall
- 0.1% to 2.5% of total teaching force lost
- 2.6% to 5% of total teaching force lost
- 5.1% to 7.5% of total teaching force lost
- 7.6% to 10% of total teaching force lost
- More than 10% of total teaching force lost
- Total number of teaching positions lost to cuts or attrition, **2012-2013** school year.

Total number of teaching positions lost to cuts or attrition, 2012-2013 school year (Please enter a raw number.)

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Did your district face a budget shortfall for **the last** school year (**2011-2012**)? If yes, how much was the shortfall as a percentage of the district's total operating budget? (Please select no shortfall or pick a range.)

- a. No shortfall
- b. 0.1 % to 5%
- c. 5.1% to 10%
- d. 10.1% to 15%
- e. 15.1% to 20%
- f. More than 20%

e. Please select from the following options to show how your district resolved its budget shortfall for the **2011-2012** school year. (Please select as many as apply to your district.)

- No shortfall
- Reductions in force
- Open positions were left unfilled (attrition)
- Pay cuts
- Pay freeze (base salary on schedules or salary employees)
- Changes to salary schedule (including freezing of steps)
- Benefit plan changes or increased employee contributions
- Shortened school day
- Transportation cuts to state minimum
- Larger class sizes
- Cuts to materials, supplies, textbooks or equipment
- Introduction of or increase to pay-to-play fees or reduction in extracurriculars
- Reduced course offerings
- Description of other measures not listed

f. Please select the percentage of teaching positions lost in your district to cuts or attrition for the **2011-2012** school year as a result of a budget shortfall. Then, in the space below, fill in the total number of teaching positions lost. (Please select either "No shortfall," or pick a range.)

- No shortfall

- 0.1% to 2.5% of total teaching force lost
- 2.6% to 5% of total teaching force lost
- 5.1% to 7.5% of total teaching force lost
- 7.6% to 10% of total teaching force lost
- More than 10% of total teaching force lost

Total number of teaching positions lost to cuts or attrition, **2011-2012** school year. (Please enter a raw number.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**g.** Has your district's enrollment over the past three years:

- Increased
- Decreased
- Remained the same

**h.** Through November 2013, is your district planning to ask voters to approve a levy or income tax increase that will **increase the rate** they pay to meet school operating expenses? (Do not include renewal levies.)

- No rate increase planned
- Yes, a levy of up to 4 mills
- Yes, a levy of more than 4 up to 7 mills
- Yes, a levy of more than 7 mills
- Yes, an income tax increase of 0.5% or less
- Yes, an income tax increase higher than 0.5%

**i.** If your district has put a levy or income tax increase on the ballot **to increase the rate** paid to cover operating expenses since November 2008, how did the measure fair? (If the measure has not passed, please indicate how many times it has been unsuccessful. (Choose one.)

- My district has not put a levy or income tax increase on the ballot since November 2008.
- Ballot measure successful on the first try
- Ballot measure successful on the second try
- Ballot measure successful on the third try
- Ballot measure unsuccessful after one try
- Ballot measure unsuccessful after two tries
- Ballot measure unsuccessful after three tries

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**j.** Is your district at risk of entering

- Fiscal caution
- Fiscal watch
- Fiscal emergency

**k.** If the state does not implement a new school funding formula **for the 2013-14 school year that increases state funding for your district**, do you anticipate a shortfall for that year? If yes, how much of a shortfall do you expect as a percentage of the district's total operating budget? (Please select "no shortfall", "don't know/unsure" or pick a range.)

- a. No shortfall expected
- b. 0.1 % to 5%
- c. 5.1% to 10%
- d. 10.1% to 15%
- e. 15.1% to 20%
- f. More than 20%
- g. Don't know/unsure

**I.** Please select from the following options to show how your district would likely resolve a budget shortfall for the **2013-2014** school year. (Please select as many as apply to your district.)

- No shortfall
- Reductions in force
- Open positions were left unfilled (attrition)
- Pay cuts
- Pay freeze (base salary on schedules or salary employees)
- Changes to salary schedule (including freezing of steps)
- Benefit plan changes or increased employee contributions
- Shortened school day
- Transportation cuts to state minimum
- Larger class sizes
- Cuts to materials, supplies, textbooks or equipment
- Introduction of or increase to pay-to-play fees or reduction in extracurriculars
- Reduced course offerings
- Description of other measures not listed

**m.** Please mark the percentage of teaching positions your district would lose to cuts or attrition for the **2013-2014** school year because of an expected budget shortfall. (Please select "No shortfall", "Don't know/unsure", or pick a range.)

- No shortfall expected
- 0.1% to 2.5% of total teaching force lost
- 2.6% to 5% of total teaching force lost
- 5.1% to 7.5% of total teaching force lost
- 7.6% to 10% of total teaching force lost
- More than 10% of total teaching force lost

Total number of teaching positions that would be lost to cuts or attrition, **2013-2014** school year. (Please enter a raw number.)

**Notes**

If you would like us to send you a PDF copy of the report we will be publishing based on this survey, please provide an email in the space provided below.

If you are willing to be interviewed for the report, please provide an email and a telephone number where you can be reached during the day.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Position or title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_