

# 2002-2003 Budget Highlights

Following is a summary of issues affecting the 2002-03 budget:

- The General fund budget was divided into 17 program areas. Committees of over 100 community members and district staff developed budget priorities for each program area.
- This budget has been built on the basis of 20 additional four-year olds and a 9 percent increase in bilingual instruction, resulting in \$200,000 additional state aid.
- The local option budget (also known as the Supplemental General fund) was increased \$8 millions to the state maximum (25 percent of the general fund) in order to fund 2 percent employee salary and benefit increases and increased health and property insurance premiums.
- In April 2000, the community approved a 20-year, \$284.5 million bond issue to air condition all schools, eliminate most portables, replace five schools, build two new schools, add 19 multipurpose rooms, nine libraries and upgrade science labs and building infrastructure throughout the district. As of July 2002, two-thirds of the bonds have been issued. The final one-third of the bonds is expected to be issued in the fall of 2002. Twenty-four percent of the principle and interest payments will be funded by the state while 76 percent will be funded by a local tax levy.
- The Vocational fund was increased by \$1.5 million due to the transfer of courses from the Wichita Area Technical College.
- The Adult Supplemental fund was discontinued, and costs associated with GED testing were transferred to the Adult Education fund.
- The Capital Outlay fund includes \$1 million, awarded from FEMA, to continue the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program to construct “safe” rooms to protect students in the event of a storm.
- The Special Education fund was increased by \$3.2 million to provide services to the district’s growing special needs student population.
- An additional \$1.8 million was included in the General fund for new facilities weighting. The state provides \$973 per student for students occupying newly constructed classrooms to assist with the start up costs of equipping of new facilities.

