



**Financial Department Q & A
Board Presentation: September 23, 2008**

Preliminary Budget

- Why does the District prepare a Preliminary Budget?
 - The State of Delaware requires School Districts to provide a final budget by December 31 of each year. The Christina School District School Board and District Leadership require the preparation and adherence to a preliminary budget for appropriate fiscal management.
- How is the budget prepared?
 - The budget is prepared by the Finance Department of the District, and then is reviewed with the Budget Review Sub-committee of the Financial Review Committee (FRC), and then the full FRC, prior to submission to the Board for Approval.
- Why has the format of the budget changed?
 - State law was changed this year to require all school districts to provide financial reports in a manner established by the State Department of Education. The FY09 budget has been formatted to model our financial reporting requirements.
- How is Christina's budget unique?
 - Christina's Preliminary and Final Budgets are unique because the District is made up of five separate agencies. In addition to the general operating budget for the District's regular schools, Christina must prepare budgets for the four additional schools and programs it oversees. These include the Delaware School for the Deaf, the Delaware Autism Program, the ILC program, and the REACH program.
- What are the important items within the budget(s)?
 - All budgets are balanced.
 - Our Loan payment to the State will be \$3 million (last year's payment was \$1.5 million)
 - An increase in payroll costs is projected due to movement within State and Local salary schedules. (Please note: there are no increases provided for cost of living adjustments or other increases at either the State or Local levels.)
 - State support for Transportation will decrease substantially as a result of implementation of the Neighborhood Schools Plan.



- Budgets for the Delaware School for the Deaf, Delaware Autism Program, ILC, and R.E.A.C.H are all planned increases over last year spending levels. Actual expenses for these special agencies are driven by students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and not budgetary considerations. The district is required to provide the financial support to fund levels of service determined by IEPs.