

To: skrause@wasb.org

Subject: Safety stories from Shorewood School District

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Like other districts across the state, the Shorewood School District continues to face increasing safety concerns and challenges -- including those unique to our urban location and the physical layout of our high school's open campus.

To meet these challenges, we have made changes in structures & equipment, practices & procedures, and to personnel -- all of which has cost money. Because the current school funding formula requires that, in some cases, these costs be paid for out of fund 10, we have been forced to make difficult decisions between spending dollars to improve safety and spending dollars to maintain educational excellence.

Thus the imperative to create a safe school environment has actually undermined our ability to educate students.

We ask that the State of Wisconsin allow us to meet our safety challenges without draining dollars from instruction by

- Increasing funding for school safety initiatives and
- Increasing flexibility in how we pay for our safety expenditures

Here are some of the safety expenditures we've made over the last four years, the impetus for these expenditures, and their impact on our budget:

Safety Enhancement	Impetus	Impact on School Budget
Keyless entry and camera system	<p>In 2004, the Shorewood High School Auditorium was seriously damaged by two fires -- the first resulting from electrical problems, the second from suspected arson. Classes, performances and community events had to be relocated for a full school year, as the building required extensive restoration and repair.</p> <p>In response, we installed a keyless entry & camera system throughout the school district. Our goals were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase student security through better control and monitoring of those entering our buildings.2. Decrease the likelihood of arson or any other crime occurring on school property.	To be provided
Registered nurse added to staff	<p>At the same time that budget constraints have forced us to cut the number of school health aides, we have experienced an increase in the number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Medically fragile students (e.g. a student with a tracheotomy tube requiring weekly cleaning).▪ Students requiring daily testing and dispensing of medication to treat chronic health conditions such as diabetes and ADD/ADHD.▪ Students requiring occasional medical intervention for conditions such as allergic reactions and broken bones. <p>Prudence and necessity dictated that we add a part-time registered nurse to our staff in 2006 to appropriately care for these students.</p>	To be provided

Safety Enhancement	Impetus	Impact on School Budget
Professional Development	<p>Since 2004 we have decreased the number of guidance/counselor positions by 1.5. At the same time, we have experienced an increase in incidents involving violence, teasing, and bullying among students – including a yearlong episode in 2004-05 that resulted in litigation.</p> <p>As a result, in 2007 we instituted a professional development program. Its goal is to strengthen the ability of teachers & staff to help students improve their behavior and to intervene in potentially violent or abusive incidents.</p>	To be provided
Background checks on all school volunteers	<p>In 2007, we instituted a program to register and do background checks on <u>all school volunteers</u> amid growing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concern over well publicized national incidents of improper or criminal behavior involving children. ■ Awareness that our district's practices must be in line with those of other organizations (such as the Scouts and Little League) in which adult volunteers work with minor children. 	To be provided
Development of crisis plans and safety protocols for all schools within the district	<p>In response to tragically numerous incidents of school shooting nationwide, we believed it prudent to develop and institute crisis plans/safety protocols for all the schools in our districts. We hope that we will never have to use them – but, if an incident were ever to occur, we know our plans will save lives.</p>	To be provided

We encourage the State Legislature and the Governor to provide all Wisconsin schools with greater funding and flexibility so that we may meet safety challenges head-on without harming our ability to educate students.

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