

Garnet Valley School District

Information About Property Taxes, Budget, and Performance

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Garnet Valley School District

What is a Mill?

Mills: The standard unit of measure for property taxes is the mill. ($1 / 1000 = 1$ mill; one tenth of one percent; or, .001). A mill equals one dollar of tax on each thousand dollars of assessed value. If the property tax levy is 27.0 mills (.027), then a property assessed at \$100,000 would incur tax of \$2,700.00 ($\$100,000 / 1000 \times 27.0$), or ($\$100,000 \times .027$).

Value of a Mill: A taxpayer with an assessment of \$200,000 pays an additional \$200 of tax if the millage rate is increased by one mill ($\$200,000 \times .001$). If the current millage rate is 27 mills and it is increased by one mill, the tax rate increase is 3.704% ($1 / 27$). For fiscal year 2009 - 2010, that same one mill rate increase would generate an additional \$2,308,856 of total tax revenue to the district. The district's actual tax rate for 2009-2010 is 26.698 mills. Using the current tax rate, the district will realize total tax revenues of \$61,640,859, which is the amount of budgeted tax revenue in the general fund this year. We call this the value of one mill to the taxpayer and to the district respectively.

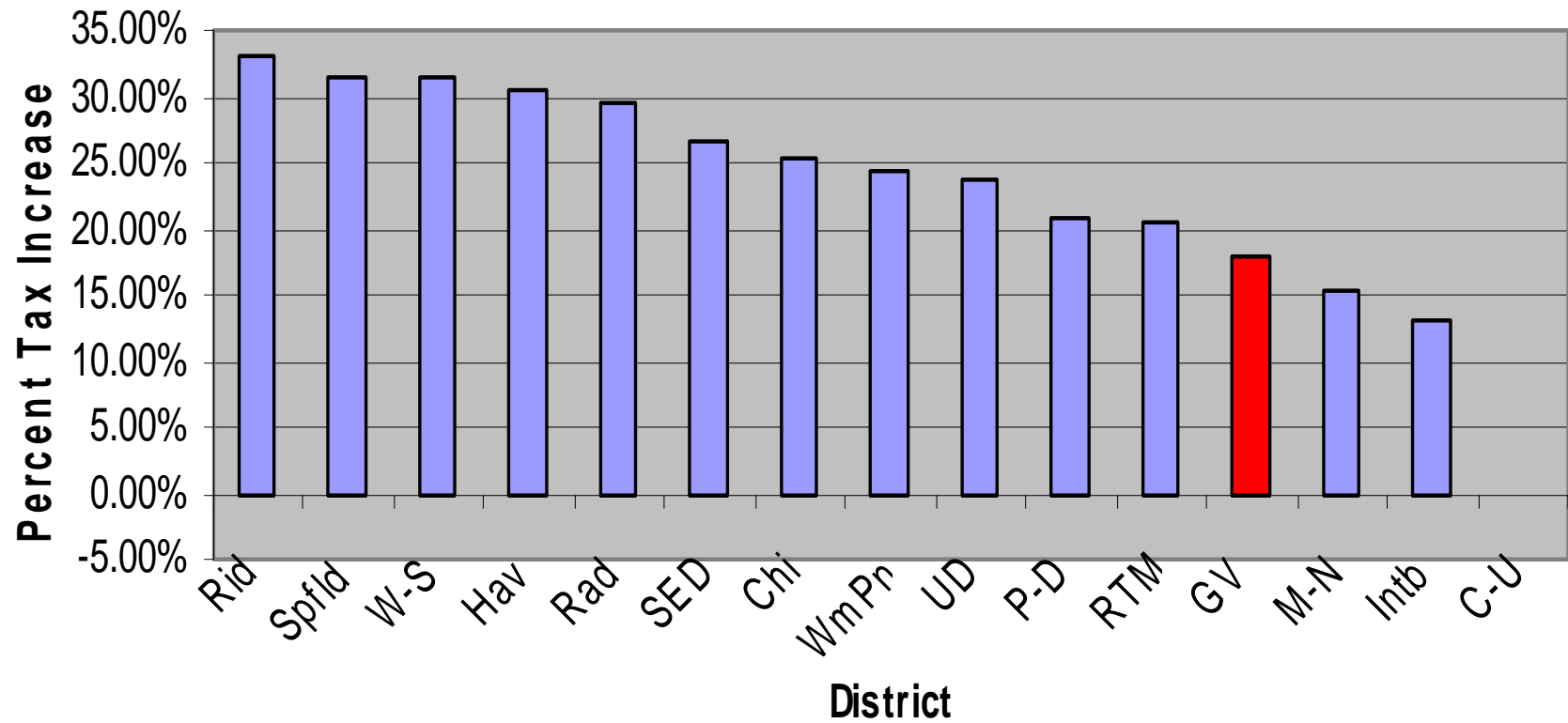
PTRI: The Property Tax Reduction Index (PTRI) was first enacted by the State for the 2006-2007 fiscal school year as part of Act 72. Essentially the index creates a ceiling that limits how much a district can raise taxes in a fiscal year. The index is now published each October under provisions of Act 1, and the "unenanced" index for 2010-2011 is 2.9%. Some districts (not Garnet Valley) are allowed an "enhanced index" because they cannot generate substantial revenues due to their lower relative wealth.

F/Y	GVSD Mills	GVSD Percent Change	PTRI Index (Max.)
05/06	23.527		
06/07	24.445	3.90%	3.90%
07/08	25.270	3.37%	3.40%
08/09	26.079	3.20%	4.40%
09/10	26.698	2.37 %	4.10%

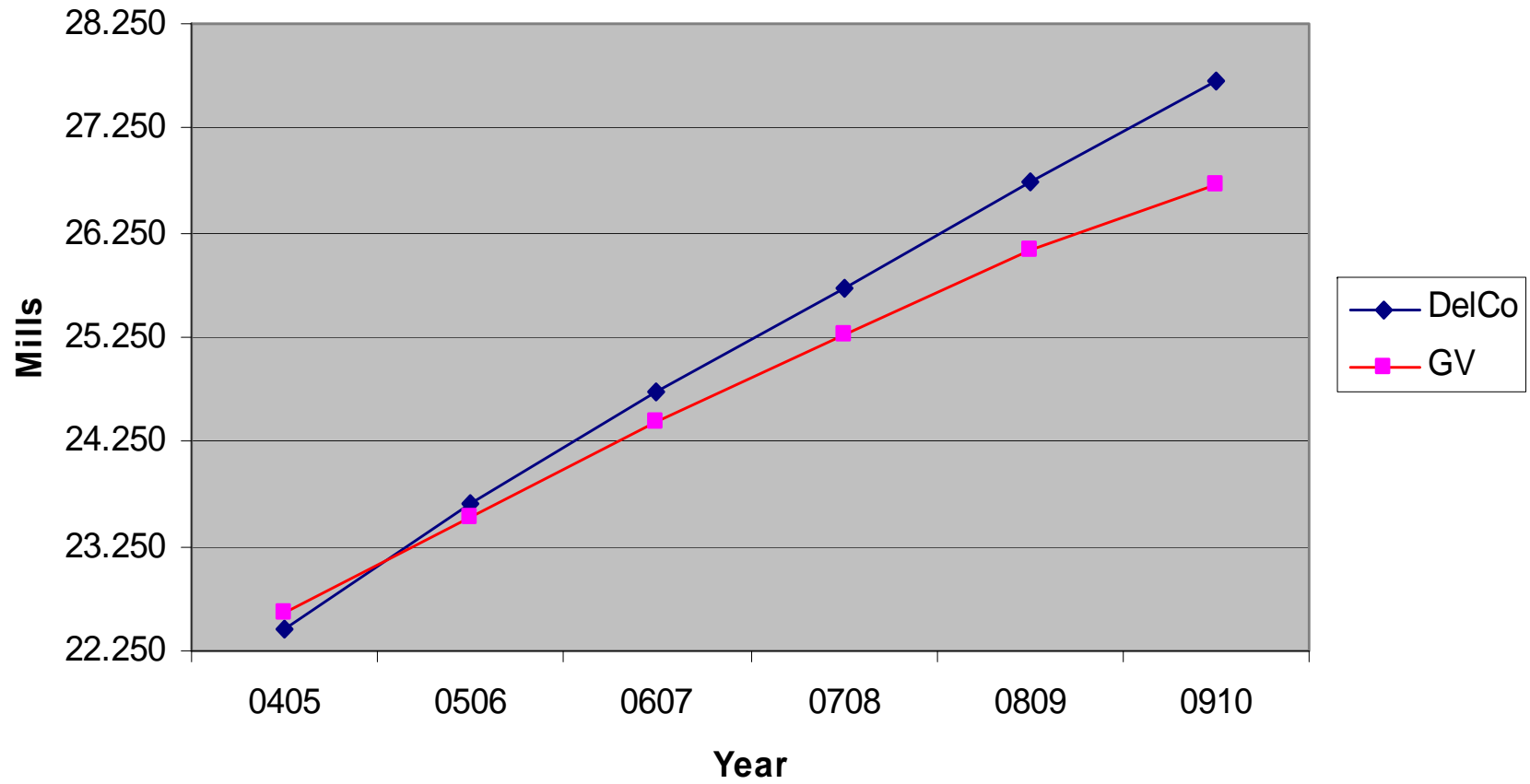
Garnet Valley School District (GVSD) complied, voluntarily, with the base, unenhanced, PTRI index in 2006-2007. Since then, the district has been within the base index limit (no enhancements or exceptions) each year. The district has not needed to use any of the state allowed exceptions to the index limit that are available to any qualifying school district.

Delaware County Comparative Tax Rates	Mills 0405	Mills 0506	Mills 0607	Mills 0708	Mills 0809	Mills 0910	Mills Incr: 0405 - 0910	Pct Incr: 0405 - 0910	Pct Incr: 5 Yr. Rank
Ridley	25.000	26.663	28.363	30.063	31.776	33.249	8.249	33.00%	1
Springfield	20.001	21.400	22.672	23.913	25.284	26.291	6.290	31.45%	2
Wallingford-Swarthmore	27.820	29.360	31.710	33.610	35.700	36.566	8.746	31.44%	3
Haverford	17.700	18.910	19.939	21.014	22.126	23.102	5.402	30.52%	4
Radnor	15.640	16.410	17.393	18.236	19.512	20.273	4.633	29.62%	5
Southeast Delco	25.084	29.084	29.584	30.084	30.084	31.784	6.700	26.71%	6
Chichester	27.600	28.600	30.090	31.470	33.295	34.602	7.002	25.37%	7
William Penn	30.900	32.440	34.257	35.630	36.840	38.457	7.557	24.46%	8
Upper Darby	24.050	25.230	26.550	27.770	28.740	29.720	5.670	23.58%	9
Penn-Delco	18.659	19.391	20.145	21.017	21.681	22.543	3.884	20.82%	10
Rose Tree Media	17.948	18.783	19.088	20.131	21.098	21.625	3.677	20.49%	11
Garnet Valley	22.624	23.527	24.445	25.270	26.079	26.698	4.074	18.01%	12
Marple Newtown	13.120	13.610	14.140	14.140	14.537	15.133	2.013	15.34%	13
Interboro	27.250	27.930	28.630	29.350	30.080	30.830	3.580	13.14%	14
Chester Upland	23.500	23.500	23.483	23.483	23.483	23.483	-0.017	-0.07%	15

Del Co SD 5 Yr Tax Incr History



Total Mills by Year



Assessments

Delaware County establishes property assessment values, not school districts. Delaware County was totally re-assessed in 2000. At that time, the assessed value of property was set equal to the then existing estimated market value.

The assessed value of your property remains unchanged from year to year unless the property significantly changes value. Significant property valuation changes can include permanent impairments arising, (for example), from fire, flood, or demolition, or increases in valuation arising from the construction of building additions or renovations.

Each year, the State determines an updated “common level” ratio (CLR) that indicates the difference between assessed values and current market values for properties sold within each county. The current ratio in Delaware County is now 61.3% vs. 100% back in 2000, which indicates a widening ratio of about 5% per year on average. For example, a property with a market value of \$200,000 back in 2000 in Delaware County could be worth \$325,780 today, assuming normal maintenance, but that property continues to be assessed at \$200,000.

Unlike other states, Pennsylvania taxpayers are not subject to annual assessment adjustments based upon cost of living changes. Also unlike other states, when you buy an existing home in Pennsylvania, the assessment is not adjusted based upon the sale price.

If a taxpayer believes his property is over-assessed, he has the right to appeal that assessment annually. For properties more than two years old, the basis for that appeal could include a current appraisal, and a survey of the valuations of other, similar properties. For properties less than two years old, the taxpayer can reference his purchase price, the current CLR, and other similar sales as part of his appeal.

Garnet Valley Taxable Assessment Composition, Per County

Taxables	Count #	Assmnt \$	Count #	Assmnt \$
Type	2010	2010	2009	2009
Residential	8462	\$1,771,418,444	8391	\$1,760,728,843
Commercial	255	\$540,175,694	259	\$513,651,333
Farm	0	\$0	0	\$0
Industrial	9	\$13,601,862	9	\$13,601,862
Ground	757	\$45,063,971	825	\$47,887,808
Totals	9483	\$2,370,259,971	9484	\$2,335,869,846

Large Assessments and Percent of Taxables

Assessments > \$1M, July 1:	Assessment	Count:
0405 - 17% of total tax base	\$318,453,217	63
0506 - 17% of total tax base	\$332,764,473	66
0607 - 16% of total tax base	\$335,550,312	69
0708 - 17% of total tax base	\$374,239,568	69
0809 - 18.5% of total tax base	\$422,201,356	74
0910 - 21.1% of total tax base	\$501,405,832	75

Act 1 of 2006 Homestead Property Tax Rebates From Share of Slot Machine Tax Revenue

By May 1 each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education notifies each district their share of property tax reduction funding, if any. A taxpayer must have an approved homestead to receive a share of the slot tax revenue proceeds; and, every approved homestead gets the same dollar amount of tax relief. This tax relief appears as a credit reduction on the July 1 school tax bill (you don't get a check).

In FY 09-10, an approved GVSD homestead received \$215 of tax relief, based upon 6,825 qualified homesteads and a homestead assessment exclusion amount of \$7,827. Eighty two percent of the district's total residential properties participate in the homestead tax relief program.

The State pays GVSD 50% of its estimated share of slot revenues at the end of August and it pays the other 50% to GVSD at the end of October.

Senior Citizen Property Tax / Rent Rebate Relief

To qualify for this separate, state program, the taxpayer or renter must have income of less than \$35,000 annually, which includes wages, business income, pensions, annuities, IRA distributions interest, dividend rental and capital gain income, lottery winnings, alimony, disability income, inheritances, life insurance benefits, gifts, as well as half of any social security benefits.

The claimant or spouse must be 65 or older; widows / widowers 50 and over also qualify, as do disabled aged 18 or over. The relief ranges from \$300 to \$650, based on income. Form Pa 1000 is available annually after Feb 15th and normally must be filed by June 30th.

General Fund Budget Process

Following Act 1 of 2006, most school districts must adopt a preliminary budget 90 days prior to the spring primary election (May 18 – 90 days = Feb 17, 2010, prior years: Feb 18, 2009, Jan 23, 2008) unless they resolve by resolution (by Feb 17 this year; Feb 18 last year), not to exceed the PTRI. If districts resolve not to exceed the index, they can follow the old budget development timelines (adopt a proposed final budget at least 30 days prior to the final budget adoption; and, adopt the final budget by June 30th). It's important to observe that based upon when the primary election occurs, the mandated budget timelines can shift by as much as three weeks.

One implication of Act 1 is that a new School Board could be sworn in by the first week in December, and less than a month later that new Board could be adopting a preliminary budget for the following year, with little time to review how that budget was constructed.

If a district decided to adopt its preliminary budget in late January or February, that budget must be developed based upon estimated tax assessments, since the actual tax duplicate is not delivered to the district from the county until late January, and since all tax base growth between Jan – June would have to be estimated. The result is that these districts must budget their estimated property tax revenue much more conservatively than in previous years, before Act 1, when tax assessment base and growth data was known.

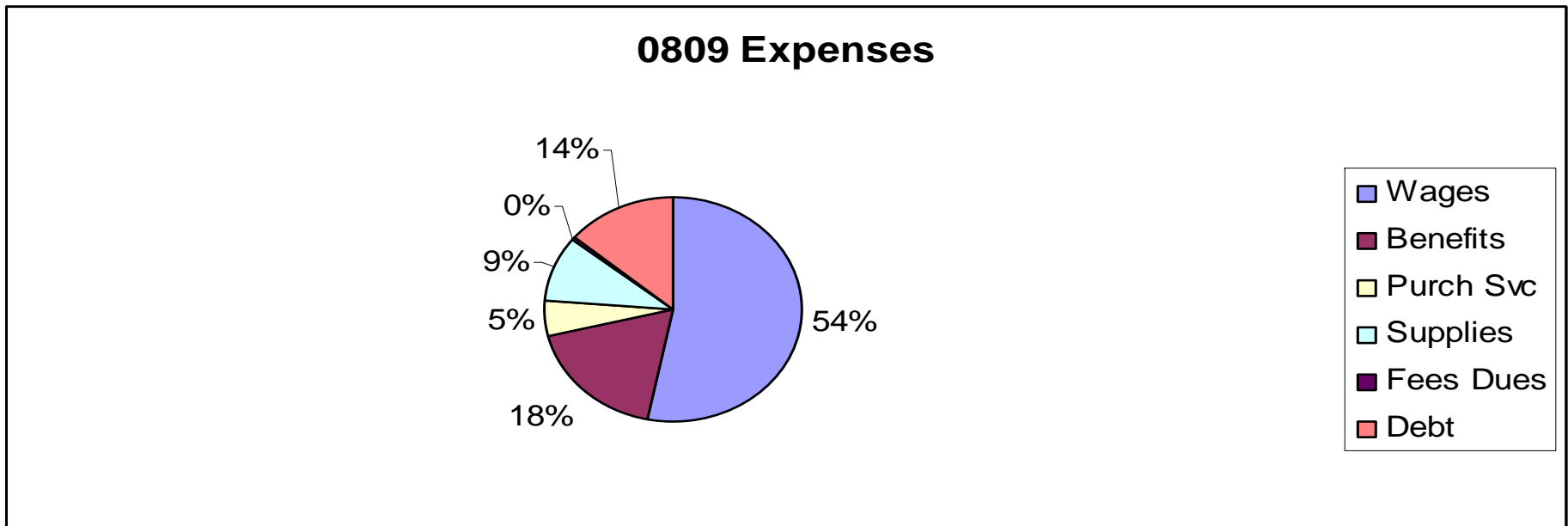
If you read in the newspapers that districts are adopting preliminary budgets in January or February, that early budget adoption indicates that those districts are contemplating increasing their property tax millage rate beyond their PTRI index, either by means of claiming tax exceptions, by voter referendum approval, or both.

The Garnet Valley School Board decided this past January not to exceed the PTRI index (maximum tax increase ceiling of 2.9%), so the district is allowed to follow the traditional budget development timeline and does not need to adopt a preliminary budget in January or February. That resolution obligates the district not to seek any referendum increases or exceptions to raise its proposed tax rate beyond its PTRI cap.

Garnet Valley's current millage rate for FY 09-10 is 26.698 mills. The district is now bound by its Board's recent tax resolution to a maximum tax rate for 10-11 of 27.4722 mills or less.

Summary Budget and Cost Per Student

Description	Budget		Budget	Budget	Budget
	2009 - 2010	2008 - 2009	2007 - 2008	2006 - 2007	2005 - 2006
Total Expenditure Budget:	80,478,604	78,470,972	72,731,666	65,423,440	58,710,581
Less: Offsetting Program Revenues (If program revenue did not occur; program cost would be cut):					
Total offsetting revenue	(1,642,227)	(1,618,900)	(1,456,682)	(1,362,068)	(1,214,439)
Budget, net of offsetting revenue	78,836,377	76,852,072	71,274,984	64,061,372	57,496,142
Projected students	4,836	4,759	4,803	4,588	4,378
Cost per student, gross	\$16,642	\$16,489	\$15,143	\$14,260	\$13,410
Cost per student, net	\$16,302	\$16,149	\$14,840	\$13,963	\$13,133



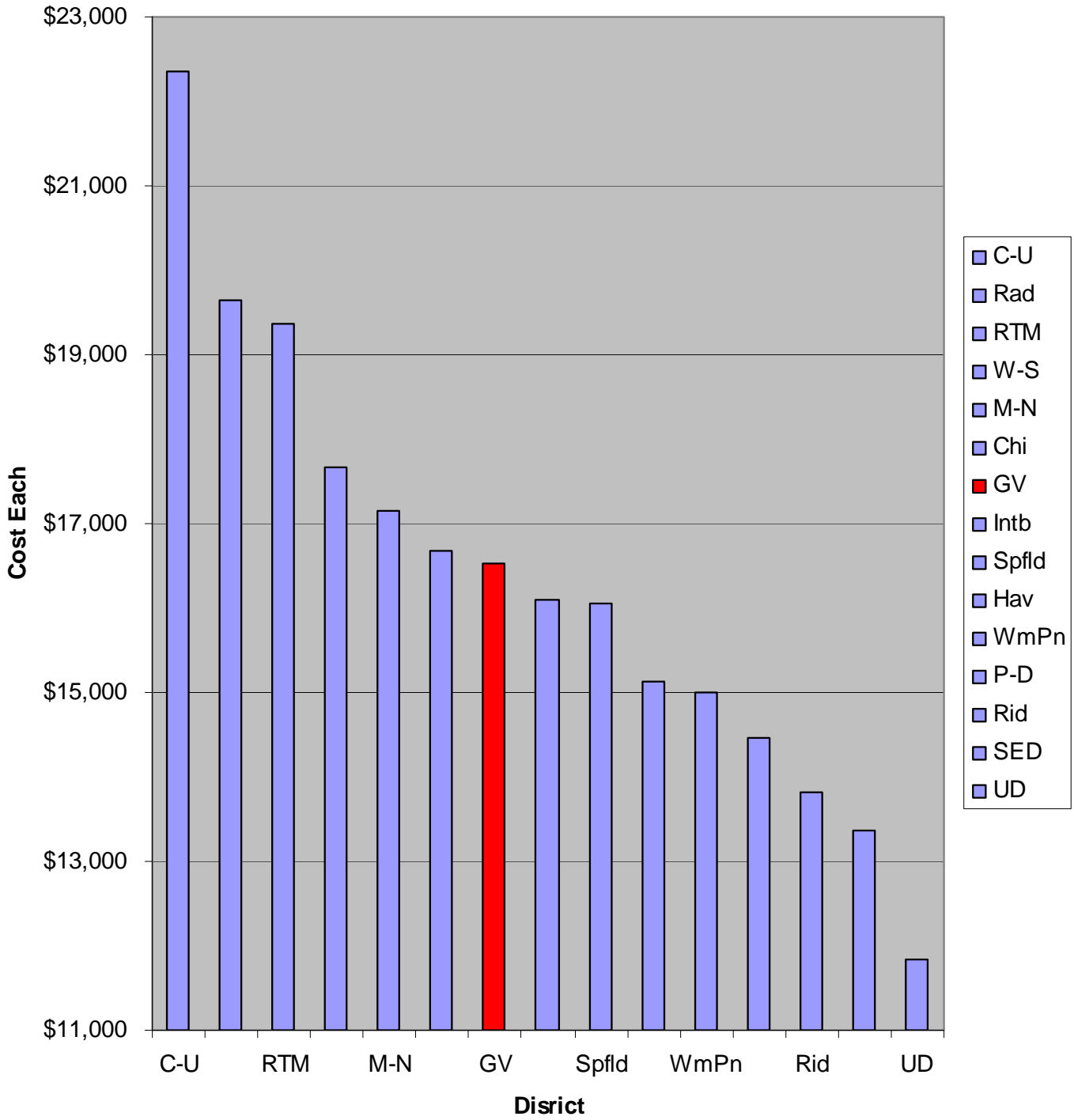
Comparative Cost Per Student In Delaware County	Cost/ Stdnt	Stdnts 0809	Budget 0809	Rank
Chester Upland	\$22,355	4,659	\$104,152,252	1
Radnor	\$19,646	3,666	\$72,021,781	2
Rose Tree Media	\$19,372	3,928	\$76,091,814	3
Wallingford-Swarthmore	\$17,673	3,410	\$60,265,375	4
Marple Newtown	\$17,151	3,508	\$60,165,000	5
Chichester	\$16,671	3,577	\$59,633,406	6
Garnet Valley	\$16,538	4,745	\$78,470,972	7
Interboro	\$16,104	3,665	\$59,020,160	8
Springfield	\$16,056	3,445	\$55,312,209	9
Haverford	\$15,131	5,540	\$83,827,315	10
William Penn	\$15,003	5,450	\$81,766,648	11
Penn-Delco	\$14,469	3,373	\$48,805,214	12
Ridley	\$13,810	5,856	\$80,871,676	13
Southeast Delco	\$13,373	4,164	\$55,685,511	14
Upper Darby	\$11,832	12,182	\$144,131,464	15

Delco SD Tuition History 0809

District	Elem. Tuition	Rank		Second. Tuition	Rank
Radnor	\$14,258	1	Radnor	\$14,030	1
Rose Tree Media	\$13,137	2	Wallingford-Swarthmore	\$12,807	2
Marple Newtown	\$12,607	3	Rose Tree Media	\$12,213	3
Springfield	\$11,659	4	Marple Newtown	\$12,150	4
Chichester	\$11,245	5	Garnet Valley	\$11,912	5
Wallingford-Swarthmore	\$10,851	6	Springfield	\$11,174	6
Southeast Delco	\$10,565	7	Chichester	\$10,654	7
Interboro	\$10,318	8	Ridley	\$10,539	8
Garnet Valley	\$10,221	9	Haverford	\$10,005	9
Ridley	\$10,033	10	William Penn	\$9,807	10
Haverford	\$9,600	11	Interboro	\$9,366	11
Chester Upland	\$9,207	12	Penn-Delco	\$9,349	12
William Penn	\$9,143	13	Upper Darby	\$8,416	13
Penn-Delco	\$9,005	14	Chester Upland	\$7,776	14
Upper Darby	\$8,859	15	Southeast Delco	\$7,626	15
County Average	\$10,714		County Average	\$10,522	

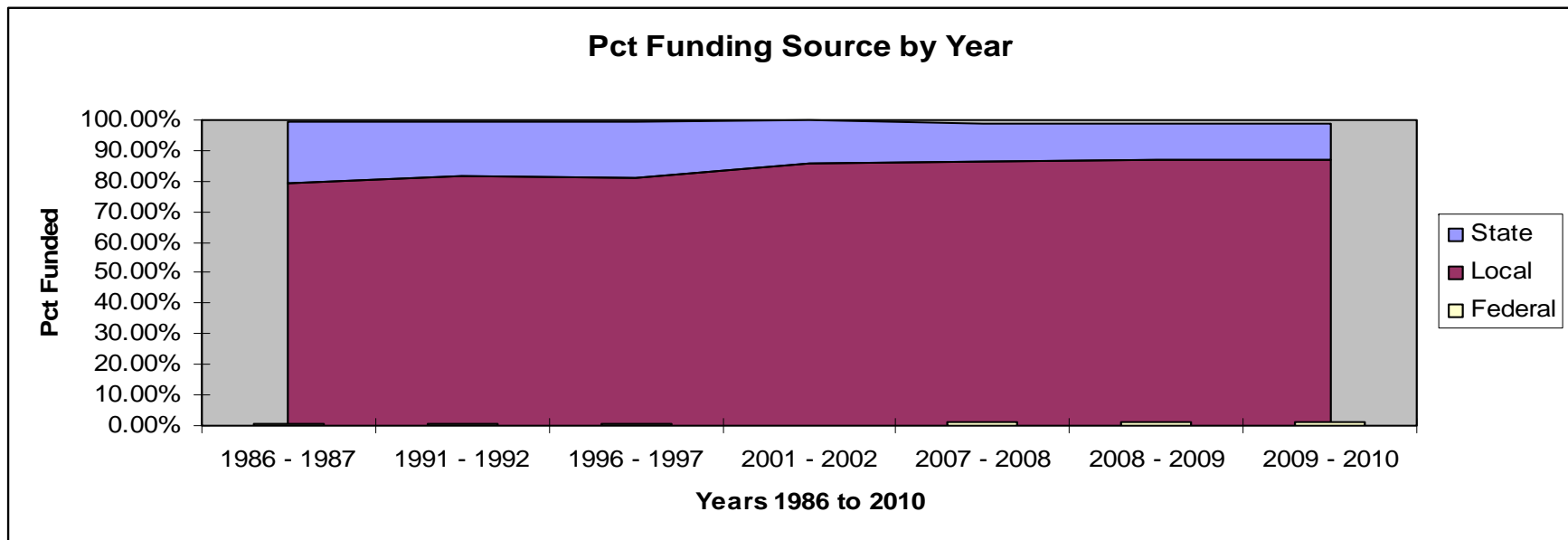
Garnet Valley does not accept tuition students, but tuition cost is reported by each district and represents the per student instructional cost net of debt service and transportation.

Cost per Student 0809



Rev / stdnt \$	1986 - 1987	1991 - 1992	1996 - 1997	2001 - 2002	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009
Local	\$4,215	\$8,489	\$7,199	\$8,886	\$12,317	\$13,284	\$14,340
State	\$1,085	\$1,869	\$1,649	\$1,429	\$1,796	\$1,934	\$1,935
Federal	\$26	\$38	\$32	\$28	\$147	\$221	\$214
Totals	\$5,326	\$10,396	\$8,880	\$10,343	\$14,260	\$15,439	\$16,489

Rev / stdnt %	1986 - 1987	1991 - 1992	1996 - 1997	2001 - 2002	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009
Local	79.14%	81.66%	81.07%	85.91%	86.38%	86.04%	86.97%
State	20.37%	17.98%	18.57%	13.82%	12.59%	12.53%	11.73%
Federal	0.49%	0.37%	0.36%	0.27%	1.03%	1.43%	1.30%
Totals	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%



Special Education

On September 19, 2005, Judge Eduardo Robreno of the Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania granted the motion for final approval of the Settlement Agreement in Gaskin v. PA. This ended over ten years of litigation regarding the education of students with disabilities.

The goal of the settlement is to ensure that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams consider the regular classroom with supplementary aids and services before considering a more restrictive placement.

Under the Settlement Agreement, the Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for undertaking a series of activities, including: formation of an advisory panel, Least Restrictive Environment monitoring, training and technical assistance, and a mini-grant program to support the development and expansion of inclusive practices. In addition, materials that make it clear that all children are welcome will be developed for display in public schools.

GVSD Cost Per Remedial Special Education Student

Description	Budget 0910	Budget 0809	Budget 0708	Budget 0607
Payroll & benefits	\$8,667,032	\$7,994,422	\$6,913,367	\$5,673,732
All other costs	\$1,099,335	\$1,120,163	\$993,039	\$840,663
Gross Spec. Ed. Cost	\$9,766,367	\$9,114,585	\$7,906,406	\$6,514,395
Offsetting Revenues:				
IDEA Revenue	(\$1,125,662)	(\$751,062)	(\$697,400)	(\$766,654)
Special Ed Revenue	(\$1,505,409)	(\$1,496,756)	(\$1,436,076)	(\$1,408,531)
ACCESS Revenue	(\$660,122)	(\$660,122)	(\$660,122)	(\$340,122)
Net Spec. Ed. Cost	\$6,475,174	\$6,206,645	\$5,112,808	\$3,999,088
Spec. Ed. Students:				
Remedial	948	965	972	966
Gifted	398	400	393	402
Total	1,346	1,365	1,365	1,368
Net Cost Per Remedial Spec. Ed. Student				
Payroll and benefits per stdnt.	\$5,671	\$5,271	\$4,238	\$3,270
All other costs per stdnt.	\$1,160	\$1,161	\$1,022	\$870
Total	\$6,830	\$6,432	\$5,260	\$4,140
Percent of Students in Special Education Programs				
Total GVSD Students	4,836	4,759	4,803	4,588
Pct. in Spec. Ed. Programs	27.83%	28.68%	28.42%	29.82%

Although the average cost for a remedial special education student this year in GVSD is about \$6,830, special education costs can exceed \$60,000 per student for some students with exceptional needs.

Countywide DCIU Contract Special Ed Costs

District		1011	0910	0809	0708
Upper Darby	1	\$2,644,357	\$2,000,819	\$1,859,461	\$1,701,262
Southeast Delco	2	\$1,869,168	\$2,199,031	\$2,434,485	\$2,099,815
Chichester	3	\$1,790,864	\$2,033,684	\$1,444,920	\$1,398,291
Interboro	4	\$1,702,252	\$1,331,328	\$1,538,017	\$1,664,986
Chester Upland	5	\$1,672,577	\$1,618,901	\$1,873,284	\$1,928,300
Ridley	6	\$1,656,393	\$1,544,935	\$1,284,467	\$1,189,940
Rose Tree Media	7	\$1,458,977	\$1,413,599	\$1,150,332	\$1,278,472
Wall / Swarth	8	\$1,389,526	\$1,096,082	\$1,058,623	\$1,052,185
William Penn	9	\$1,378,521	\$1,141,587	\$922,549	\$1,295,197
Haverford	10	\$1,039,380	\$1,568,380	\$1,390,227	\$1,677,060
Penn Delco	11	\$960,946	\$1,106,396	\$1,017,812	\$1,126,915
Marple Newtown	12	\$907,317	\$653,983	\$737,624	\$798,297
Springfield	13	\$434,591	\$429,354	\$397,796	\$426,850
Radnor	14	\$404,299	\$465,688	\$697,550	\$781,990
Garnet Valley	15	\$246,699	\$161,581	\$360,236	\$300,171
Del Co Avg (excl GV)		\$1,379,226	\$1,328,841	\$1,271,939	\$1,315,683

Staffing	1011	0910	0809	0708
Admininstrators	22	22	22	22
Administrative support	29	29	28	28
Transportation	65	65	65	64
Maintenance	47	47	46	45
Paraprofessionals	211	211	233	213
Secretaries	36	36	33	32
Teachers	413	413	405	390
Totals	823	823	832	794

	Costs	Costs	Costs	Costs
New Teacher Staffing Cost	1011	0910	0809	0708
Salary	\$44,200	\$42,518	\$40,664	\$39,652
Fica, Retire, Life, Disabilty, WC	\$3,691	\$3,363	\$3,219	\$3,139
Medical, etc.	\$19,204	\$17,383	\$15,735	\$14,794
Total Costs	\$67,095	\$63,264	\$59,618	\$57,585

State Pension System (PSERS)

All regular staff are required by law to make mandatory payroll withholding payments into the state teacher's retirement system (PSERS). Staff hired after July 22, 1983 are required to pay 7.5% of their regular wages into PSERS. Staff hired prior to that date pay either 7.5%, or 6.5%, based upon a one- time, personal election.

PSERS is also funded by both the district and the state. A summary of those contribution rates follows:

	Total	District		Total	District
F/Y	Rate	Share	F/Y	Rate	Share
0102	1.09%	0.55%	0910	4.78%	2.39%
0203	1.15%	0.58%	1011	8.22%	4.11%
0304	3.77%	1.89%	1112	10.59%	5.30%
0405	4.23%	2.12%	1213	29.22%	14.61%
0506	4.69%	2.35%	1314	32.09%	16.05%
0607	6.46%	3.23%	1415	33.60%	16.80%
0708	7.13%	3.57%	1516	33.27%	16.64%
0809	4.76%	2.38%	1617	32.74%	16.37%

The employer contribution rate is expected to spike significantly in FY 1213. Since the state will also need to pay for that rate spike, legislators and consultants are currently reviewing ways to help finance that increase.

Enrollment History - Actual Data

Year	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	Total	Incr No	Incr %
1996-97	575	570	549	669	2,363		
1997-98	682	656	600	759	2,697	334	14.13%
1998-99	742	741	678	792	2,953	256	9.49%
1999-00	807	822	731	864	3,224	271	9.18%
2000-01	873	885	807	915	3,480	256	7.94%
2001-02	854	962	866	985	3,667	187	5.37%
2002-03	859	1,011	925	1028	3,823	156	4.25%
2003-04	897	1,006	993	1087	3,983	160	4.19%
2004-05	949	1,021	1,039	1205	4,214	231	5.80%
2005-06	998	1,032	1,101	1265	4,396	182	4.32%
2006-07	1,060	1,061	1,121	1371	4,613	217	4.94%
2007-08	1,059	1,080	1,115	1,459	4,713	100	2.17%
2008-09	1,048	1,142	1,108	1,452	4,750	37	0.79%
2009-10	1,001	1,151	1,095	1,495	4,742	-8	-0.17%
Projection: based on housing starts							
2010-11	1,054	1,158	1,115	1,494	4,821	79	1.67%
2011-12	1,062	1,158	1,148	1,494	4,862	41	0.85%
2012-13	1,034	1,163	1,199	1,499	4,895	33	0.68%
2013-14	1,034	1,165	1,215	1,516	4,930	35	0.72%
2013-14	1,034	1,173	1,215	1,533	4,955	25	0.51%

The average class size at the elementary program level is maintained in the range of eighteen to twenty students per regular class-room teacher. At the secondary program level, the class size is permitted to increase to the mid-twenties. Advanced placement and enrichment classes are offered based upon minimum participation thresholds.

Advanced and Proficient: District Ranked Cost per PSSA Performance Point 11th Grade 2009	Rank	Cost Per Perform Point	Total Score	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	Cost Per Student
GARNET VALLEY SD	1	\$52.14	317.2	73.6	83.8	62.3	97.5	\$16,538
WALLINGFORD-SWARTHMORE SD	2	\$52.41	337.2	83.8	89.6	68.0	95.8	\$17,673
RIDLEY SD	3	\$54.58	253.0	71.4	63.9	25.1	92.6	\$13,810
SPRINGFIELD SD	4	\$55.19	290.9	72.4	80.2	42.1	96.2	\$16,056
HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP SD	5	\$55.35	273.4	63.3	73.8	46.2	90.1	\$15,131
RADNOR TOWNSHIP SD	6	\$57.13	343.9	85.3	91.4	68.2	99	\$19,646
PENN-DELCO SD	7	\$58.61	246.9	54.9	67.5	39.3	85.2	\$14,469
MARPLE NEWTOWN SD	8	\$60.10	285.4	72.1	79.5	44.6	89.2	\$17,151
UPPER DARBY SD	9	\$61.23	193.2	50.7	53.4	20.7	68.4	\$11,832
ROSE TREE MEDIA SD	10	\$63.82	303.6	69.1	84.0	56.1	94.4	\$19,372
INTERBORO SD	11	\$71.83	224.2	54.9	60.8	32.4	76.1	\$16,104
CHICHESTER SD	12	\$80.20	207.9	43.7	55.9	28.9	79.4	\$16,671
SOUTHEAST DELCO SD	13	\$90.40	147.9	36.7	36.7	9.2	65.3	\$13,373
WILLIAM PENN SD	14	\$113.19	132.5	29.3	30.8	2.6	69.8	\$15,003
CHESTER-UPLAND SD	15	\$282.26	79.2	5.4	18.2	2.5	53.1	\$22,355

