

Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks



by Donita Joens, Iowa Valley
CSD Superintendent

Spending Authority for our District

We approved next year’s budget and are reminded of how the general operating fund budget is influenced by the finance formulas provided by the State of Iowa. By April 15 every year, we certify our maximum authorized budget with the State known as the TSA, Total Spending Authority.

The TSA limits the amount of money a district can spend and any unused TSA carries over to the next year as unspent balance. Overspending TSA is a violation of the statutory authority. Also note that unspent balance is not cash. In education we are often asked, “So why is total spending authority so important?” The two main reasons are:

1. We cannot raise taxes to fund programs and employ staff without finding a way to increase spending authority.
2. Even if schools have sufficient cash reserves, if supplemental state aid (formerly called allowable growth) is lowered; schools do not have permission to spend those cash reserves.

Two means of increasing TSA are to decrease expenditures and increase revenues. Being efficient with the resources that we do have and looking for creative avenues of providing programs for our students are ways we work diligently at each and every day. Thank you for your support as we provide a terrific educational foundation for your child(ren).

Total Spending Authority (TSA) Estimate for 2019-2020 at 2.06% Supplemental State Aid (SSA)

Combined District Cost	\$5,314,846
Prior Year’s Unspent Balance	\$ 677,036
Instructional Support	\$ 283,717
Pre-School Foundation Aid	\$ 123,840
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 600,000
TSA Estimate	\$6,999,439

Tax levy trends for IVCSD

FY11	16.38676
FY12	17.28204
FY13	15.81738
FY14	14.45971
FY15	13.49204
FY16	12.90391
FY17	13.64388
FY18	13.63583
FY19	13.71384
FY20	13.67706

Thank you, Iowa Valley CSD!

This will be my last article for the Iowa Valley Community School District. I will be taking early retirement after serving in education for 38 years- 16 as a science teacher/coach, 15 as a principal, and seven as a superintendent. I knew that one day I would know when it was time to retire and the time feels right, although my own kids say I will never be truly retired.

I appreciated the district’s support through trying economic times. I oftentimes felt as though I had the word “NO” stamped on my forehead as we worked to become financially healthier. We worked to become more efficient, raising our UAB (unspent authorized budget) for the first time in six years. Together, we completed the new addition at the Elementary for a new gym and fitness area, installed new bleachers and LED lights at the Jr./Sr. High School gym area, and renovated our preschool rooms. We even had a smooth transition going to paperless school board meetings. We added CAKE (Community and Kids in Education) partners for all homerooms/advisor rooms, utilized staff and programs more efficiently for our at-risk students, finished the concession/crow’s nest area at the baseball/softball complex, made improvements to the track, baseball, and softball fences, implemented student school board representatives, and completed a new press box at the track/football field. I am also so proud of the growth we have shown as a school district with FAST score improvements, school safety drills, and the addition of our summer lunch program. The Jr./Sr. High School parking lot will be one of the last projects we complete before my departure. It was during these difficult, financially-challenged times that I believe character was both challenged and strengthened.

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Special points of interest:

- May 4 Leanne School of Dance
- May 5 Leanne School of Dance
- May 13 Class Night
- May 14 Fine Arts Awards Assembly
- May 15 Baccalaureate
- May 16 Senior’s Last Day
- May 17 Elem. Track & Field Day
- May 19 Commencement
- May 20 Preschool Graduation
- May 23 Last Day of School

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The Iowa Valley CSD is truly a family that supports one another. There are many examples of this volunteer work such as: taking tickets at ball games/meets/concerts/activities, covering one another's classrooms, donating PBIS prizes so students could be recognized for their good works, developing creative games at the carnival, attending and supporting students at so many events, etc. Everyone works hard to

provide the best learning environment for its students both inside and outside of school time. Students are at the focus of all decisions at IVCS and for this I am very proud.

I will have wonderful memories of Iowa Valley for the rest of my life and am thankful for allowing me to be the district's superintendent for the past four years. I look forward to spending more

time with my family, biking, kayaking, sleeping in during the winter months, and volunteering. A little bit of orange and black will remain with me forever! Go Tigers!

Second Grade Students Shaping Up With Slim

On Thursday, May 9th the second grade students are planning a field trip to the Englert Theater in Iowa City! We will be attending the performance of Bodyology by Slim Goodbody. "Bodyology teaches children how the body works using songs, skits, 3-D visuals and lots of audience participation. Students gain practical knowledge to help them respect and care for them-

selves." PTO has purchased the tickets for each student. Thank you PTO! We look forward to reinforcing healthy choices in a fun, interactive format.

Lynn Gahring, from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, has also been presenting 2nd grade with the Pick A Better Snack program. The students are learning about making healthy choices and nutritional information

about the foods they are eating. They also get to sample a new fruit or vegetable with each visit!

Pat Kooiker and Susan Zoza-ya

4th Grade Field Trips

This year the fourth grade will go on four field trips. Two have already been completed and two remain.

On March 15th we traveled to West Branch for a short visit to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. There we watched a two person play on the Underground Railroad. This was a nice way to wrap up our studies on this topic. Students learning was reinforced with the stories shared about slavery.

Then on April 9th fourth and fifth graders joined 11,000 students from around Iowa for Exercising Character in Des Moines. HyVee sponsors this program

which is based on the 6 pillars of character. We got to dance, sing, and listen to guest speakers. The highlight was listening to NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes.

As we come closer to the end of the school year we will go on two trips that tie into [Little House on the Prairie](#). For the third year we will be journeying to Living History Farms. In the past we have toured farms, but this year we will be learning about what town life was like in the 1800's. A short walk from the elementary is our very own Pioneer Heritage Museum. Each year the historical society shows us what living in a log cabin was like as well as the tools used for

farming in early Iowa.

We have been very fortunate this year to expand our students learning. The fourth grade team would like to give a huge thank you to Iowa Valley PTO for sponsoring our trip to Living History Farms and our parents for their continued support.

Mr. McAtee

Mr. Jergens