

February 2021 District Newsletter

Dear Wittenberg-Birnamwood District Residents,

Have you ever asked any of the following questions regarding your district: How much do we spend per student compared to other districts? How much revenue does our district generate from state aid and property taxes compared to other districts? How does my tax levy compare to that of residents in other communities? These are certainly fair questions to ask, and in this month's newsletter I will provide you with a concrete answer to comparative cost per member, followed by specific tax levy and mill rate data in subsequent posts. The following data is pulled directly from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction School District Annual Report Comparative Cost Data. The most recent available data goes back two school years (2018-2019 school year) as the DPI is always catching up on archiving their database. But it still gives us a good snapshot of school district spending.

COMPARATIVE COST PER MEMBER

- The Department of Public Instruction provides audited data reflecting Total Cost per Member spending for each district in the state. This essentially includes all the money spent by a district (i.e. Staffing wages and benefits, materials and supplies, transportation and other service costs) divided by the number of students enrolled in the district. This data does not include food and community service costs, but I will provide that information below as well.

*Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District= \$10,962.00

-Rank in the State of Wisconsin 417th (of 420 districts)

*State-Wide Average= \$13,913.00

To summarize, 416 of the 420 districts in the State of Wisconsin, during the 2018-2019 school year, spent more money per child than Wittenberg-Birnamwood. (Note- if you include food and community service costs, Wittenberg-Birnamwood ranked 411th out of 420 in spending). So I am proud to say that our school system, operating leaner than nearly every district in the entire state, continues to offer amazing programs, services, and a first class education for our students. Thank you for supporting our schools. It is important for you to know that your tax dollar is spent intentionally, efficiently, and in the best interest of our students.

Garrett Rogowski