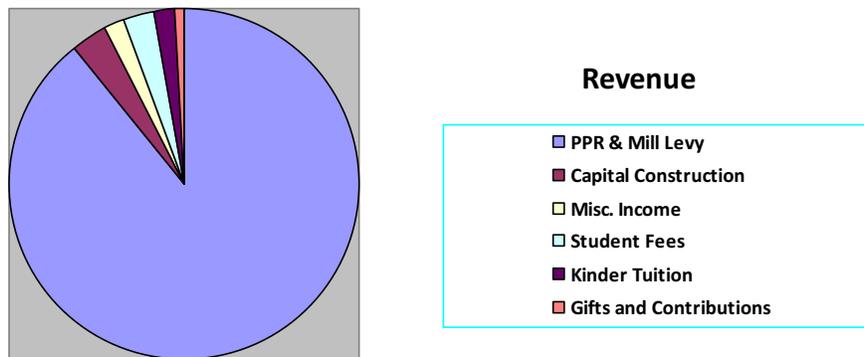


WHAT DOES IT COST TO RUN OUR CHARTER SCHOOL?

By Mike Munier, Principal

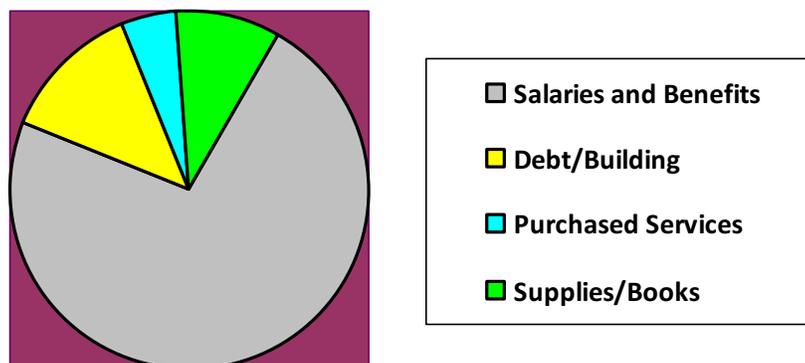
From time to time, I have had parents ask what it costs to operate a charter school. I came out of a PTO meeting the other evening realizing that it might be time to help our families understand the answer to this question. Now, DO NOT get all glassy-eyed on me or stop reading this because it has to do with financial accounting and numbers and spreadsheets. I will make this painless.

First, let's talk revenue. We will receive approximately \$6,984 per student this coming year from the district/state coffers. This is called Per Pupil Revenue or PPR. The PPR (83%) and Mill Levy income (6.5%) for Platte River Academy represents 89.5% of our total revenue. The balance of our revenue comes from the following:



PPR and Mill Levy	89.3%
Capital Construction Income from the State:	3.1%
Misc Income (Rental Income, Sports Income, Before & After Care, Hot Lunch Income)	2.0%
Student Fees:	2.8%
Kindergarten Tuition:	1.9%
Gifts and Contributions:	0.9%

We generally spend (or Expense, which is the proper accounting term 😊) our money in the following ways:



Salaries and Benefits for staff: (workers compensation insurance)	72.8%
Debt Service (8.8%), maintenance, utilities, computer hardware and property improvements for our building (3.9%):	12.7%
Purchased Services (e.g. audit, technology support, professional development, liability &, printing & copying and required school district purchased services):	5.1%
Supplies and Materials for Student Learning:	9.4%

Unlike neighborhood schools, most charter schools have to pay for their buildings out of their PPR from the state and a special Capital Construction Fund set up by the State Legislative body. As you can see, that is a significant percentage of our budget at 12.7%.

So, when we do a Capital Giving Campaign or a Jog-a-thon or ask you for student fees, it is all a part of helping offset an obvious disadvantage as we service the building your children are schooled in each and every day.

I hope this helps you appreciate the challenges we face in this arena. Keeping an excellent staff and paying them well is of prime importance but the challenges faced in that distribution is always an extra challenge for a charter school.

In your service,
Mike Munier