

Attendance reporting error inaccurately inflates Beavercreek City Schools' expenditures per pupil

Beavercreek's actual cost per pupil remains one of lowest in region, state

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio, Wednesday, January 7, 2009 – Beavercreek City Schools officials want to correct inaccurate information about the District's cost per pupil expenditures as reported recently by the Ohio Department of Education (Ohio DOE).

This year, when the Ohio DOE asked districts to submit their expenditure and attendance figures for the 2007-08 school year, Beavercreek provided an accurate accounting of expenditures but underreported the number of students that actually attended on a daily basis. This error created a discrepancy that skewed the District's overall cost per pupil figure, making it appear that its expenditure per student increased by more than \$2,000 in a single year.

When District officials reported the discrepancy to the Ohio Department of Education, they were told the state's policy did not allow school districts to change such information once it was submitted.

"We want taxpayers to understand there was NOT a dramatic jump in expenditures per pupil in our district," said Dennis Morrison, Beavercreek superintendent. "We strive to be disciplined and judicious in the way we spend taxpayers' dollars. The information published by the Ohio Department of Education is the result of our attendance reporting error and a state policy that prevented us from correcting the inaccuracy."

Individuals with questions about the error should contact Beavercreek City Schools Superintendent Dennis Morrison at 937/458-2428 or District Treasurer Stephen Maag at 937/458-2421.

Beavercreek City Schools is one of 32 school districts statewide to earn an "Excellent" designation, the highest possible rating, from the Ohio Department of Education for eight consecutive years. It is also one of a small handful of districts in the state that earned the designation "Excellent with Distinction."