



# Glenbard Township High School District 87

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## **Glenbard responds to community input regarding referendum**

In response to feedback from community members, the Glenbard Township High School District 87 Board of Education on Jan. 10 approved seeking an overall 33-cent tax rate increase. This is a decrease from the overall 45-cent increase put to voters in November.

On Tuesday, April 5, voters will be asked to approve an 18-cent increase in the Educational Fund. If the measure were approved, Glenbard would levy an additional 10 cents in the Operations and Maintenance Fund and an additional 5 cents in the Working Cash Fund. The increase would be phased in over two years.

With voters' support Glenbard would be able to reduce class sizes for freshmen, increasing students' opportunities for success; increase graduation requirements from 21 to 23 credit hours, helping students better prepare for life after high school; and create a summer school for students who fail courses.

Approval of the ballot question would allow Glenbard to eliminate the annual deficit as well as the \$27.2 million accumulated deficit and address instructional and facility needs.

Glenbard has made significant cuts, but they are not enough. In January 2002 the school district put forth a plan to reduce spending and increase fees for a total of \$2 million, and in February 2003 the Board of Education approved reducing spending for 2003-04 by an additional \$1.5 million. In October 2003 the board approved cutting spending and increasing fees for 2004-05 by an additional \$2.5 million. In spring 2004, the board approved another \$2.6 million in savings by outsourcing.

If voters reject the educational fund tax rate increase request, Glenbard will make even deeper cuts for the 2005-06 school year. The cuts range from limiting students to taking six classes per day rather than seven to dramatically reducing elective offerings to reducing the number of administrators.

*Posted: January 13, 2005*