

A legislative session is wrapping up in Topeka. Educational funding always seems to be at the top of the legislative list. The Gannon Schools for Fair Funding court case has been a hot topic since 2010.

One question that comes up often is “How much are schools spending on instruction?” I would say the answer to that question is much closer to 100% of our budget in Burlington and throughout the state. Some people want to say it is 55-65% of their budget. That is usually how much districts spend on teacher salaries. However, there are so many other expenses that are needed to operate a school district. This year, Burlington spends right at 59% of our budget on teacher salaries. However, that doesn’t include the areas listed below.

We need to consider student support services like counselors, social workers, and librarians. Counselors and social workers support our students emotionally as we have seen an increase in social/emotional concerns with students and families. Librarians help support our students and staff by providing assistance with new reading materials in our libraries. Positions like these make up another 6% of our budget, but they are essential when educating our students.

Instructional support services like instructional aides at BES and technology staff make up 4% of our budget.

Administration and support services make up another 6% of our budget. It is so important to have strong leaders in our buildings supporting our students and staff. Leadership is a key to a successful school district.

Operations and maintenance make up about 12% of our budget.

Transportation of students to and from school as well as activities makes up 3% of our budget.

Food service makes up 3% of our budget.

We do have some capital improvements that occur out of our general fund. That makes up about 3% of our budget.

Debt services makes up about 4% of our budget. This is due to the outdoor pool bond that was passed by the public.

As you can see, there are many different aspects to the school budget. All parts are important to the education of our students.

Here is a fun fact from the district. ACT test score improvement is often measured by the tenth of a point. Moving tenths of points forward is a big accomplishment since USD 244 tests almost all of our students. Not every district tests all students. The national ACT average is 21. The state average is 21.6. USD 244’s ACT average is 22.2.

If you ever have any questions, please call me at 620-364-8478 EXT. 3040 or e-mail me at [cmarshall@usd244ks.org](mailto:cmarshall@usd244ks.org).

Have a terrific summer. I plan to be back with articles for the 2019-20 school year. Thanks again to the Coffey County Republican for their coverage of our county and USD 244.

GO CATS!

#Bton244OnTheGrow