

**Elmwood School
Executive Summary
January 20, 2011**

I. Budget Overview

The Superintendent's preliminary budget supports funding for Elmwood School to continue to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum for its students. (Priority Initiative 1B) The incoming second grade class is significantly smaller than the current one (-51 students) and the Superintendent's budget includes a reduction of two sections. The Superintendent's budget maintains class size for incoming second graders at 22 students per section, enabling teachers to continue to differentiate for their students and to provide small group instruction, enrichment, and remediation. Third grade class size will rise by approximately one student per class, from 22 to 23+ per class (+37 student; 1 additional section). Although not a big increase, this cohort of Elmwood students require small group strategic instruction to help ensure that they reach the reading grade level benchmark and attain proficiency on MCAS. The total number of classes at Elmwood will be reduced from 25 to 24, with an enrollment reduction of 14 students.

Elmwood School continues to have two reading specialists who work primarily with remedial reading students. The number of reading teachers has remained constant since FY '03 despite the increased number of students entering Elmwood below the second grade reading benchmark. The elimination of the proposed .5 reading specialist in the Superintendent's budget means that some students currently at risk and on the Elmwood Watch List (School Improvement Plan) will not receive Tier 2 or 3 Response to Intervention remediation. As a result, the number of students who need to be evaluated for special education services may increase.

The Superintendent's budget continues to include a shared assistant principal (.5) and a 19.75 hour 10 month secretary. As a result, the Principal spends a significant amount of time on disciplinary issues that ordinarily would be dealt with by the assistant principal. The assistant principal is unable to provide the consistent presence for students and teachers that we have had prior to the current year. Having only one full-time secretary throughout the day is a hardship and potential safety issue. The secretary is alone in the office from 11:10 until 3:30 answering the doorbell, telephone, greeting visitors, providing support to teachers, and to students. Elmwood and Hopkins are the only schools which have such limited office coverage in terms of both secretarial and administrative support.

II. Personnel Summary

- Second grade classes will remain the same size as the current year. Third grade classes will increase in size based upon anticipated enrollment figures. (Priority initiative 4A)
 - Grade 2 = 22 students with 11 sections (down from 13 sections)
 - Grade 3 = 23+ students with 13 sections (up from 12 sections, requested 14)
- Continued elimination of a dedicated technology teacher in each school adversely impacts teachers' learning and implementation of 21st century technology and subsequently impacts the way in which technology is seamlessly woven into the daily curriculum. (Priority Initiative 1D)
- Continued elimination of full-time assistant principal and .4 secretary impacts the amount of time the Principal is able to spend in classrooms and provide educational leadership. (#4)
- Continued funding of the Math Tutor and third general education floating teaching assistant has enhanced our ability to provide Response to Intervention to at risk and struggling students. (4B)

III. Expense Summary

- The only significant cut made in the Superintendent's preliminary budget is \$4,094 from the ELA textbook account. This was made possible by the Superintendent's reduction of one third grade classroom and the elimination of reading materials that would have been required for a 14th section. The expense line item total is identical to the current year.
- Some line item requests made by classroom teachers and specialists were cut by the Principal prior to submission to the Superintendent.