

# Consulting & Resource Group



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# **REORGANIZATION STUDY**

**Benjamin Elementary School District #25**

**Winfield Elementary School District #34**

**West Chicago Elementary School District #33**

**West Chicago Community H. S. District #94**

# Purpose of a Feasibility Study

- Provide participating districts with information which can help them determine the best options for students, parents, and communities.
- Provide a neutral viewpoint based on the analysis of curriculum, finances, staff needs, transportation issues, facilities, school board interviews, and community perceptions.

# FINANCIAL COMPARISONS

## School District Financial Profile

- **General State Aid, ADA, Personal Property Replacement Tax, Operating Tax Expense Property Tax Rates per Pupil, and General State Aid per Pupil.**
- **Education Fund, Operations Fund, Transportation Fund, IMRF, Bond & Interest Fund, Working Cash, Site & Construction, Safety Prevention, EAV, and Projected Tax Rate of a new district.**
- **Incentive Payments.**

# FACILITIES

- **Number of buildings**
- **Grades housed in each building**
- **Building enrollments & capacities**
- **Age of facilities**
- **Life Safety/asbestos**
- **Accessibility for the physically challenged**
- **General upkeep & building conditions**

# TRANSPORTATION

- **Number of Buses**
- **Number of Bus Routes**
- **Costs**
- **Number of students transported**
- **Route Mileage & Costs**
- **Special Education Buses**
- **Other Transportation Services & Costs**

# CURRICULUM COMPARISONS

- Program highlights
- Grade Level enrollments vs. numbers of teachers in each community
- Test scores-ISAT & PSAE
- Junior High and High School courses & electives
- High School schedule & graduation requirements
- Final recommendations for participating districts

# REORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATION

- There are eleven current allowable procedures for the merger of school districts in the State of Illinois
- Committee recommends no changes be made to the existing school district systems at this time
- The achievement of these districts is high
- Strong fund balances
- Buildings are well maintained
- Student population projections do not present a scenario in which consolidation is warranted
- Districts exhibit ongoing cooperative nature among themselves and regularly meet to assure that student standards are monitored and maintained as equally as possible
- Following presentation will expand upon these comments

# Elementary K-8 Building Organization

- Benjamin # 25 (836 students)
  - 1 - Pre-K to 4
  - 1 - 5 to 8
- West Chicago #33 (3,893 students)
  - 6 elementary
  - 1 middle school
  - 1 early learning center
- Winfield # 34 (371 students)
  - 1 - Pre-K to 2
  - 1 - 3 to 8

# Early Childhood/Kindergarten Programs

## ■ Benjamin # 25

- Pre-K programs for 34 students with 2 teachers
- 3 half-day sections of Kindergarten
- 1 section of full-day Kindergarten for at-risk students

## ■ West Chicago #33

- 1 Early Learning Center (Pre-K) and
- 6 (K-6) facilities - Half Day
- Early Learning Center - 377 students; 14 teachers

## ■ Winfield # 34

- 5 sections Pre-K with 2 teachers (52 students)
- 2 sections half-day Kindergarten (38 students)

# CURRICULUM

## Instructional Staff

- Benjamin # 25 37 teachers
- West Chicago #33 179.5 teachers
- Winfield # 34 20 teachers

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

## ■ PK-4 Benjamin ESD#25, Evergreen Elementary

- Reading Support
- Utilize an RTI approach to meet the needs of all our students including our IEP students.
- Social work, ELL, speech, a psychologist, and physical therapy through are special education coop.
- Evergreen utilizes the inclusion model. All students with IEP's are served in general classrooms.

## 5-8 Benjamin Middle School

- Utilizes the inclusion model. All students (46) with IEP's are served in general classrooms.
- Special education facilitator at each grade level
- Social work, ELL, speech, a psychologist, and physical therapy through are special education coop.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

West Chicago #33, PK Early Learning Center

- Blended Pre-K and Special Education Classrooms
- Extended Day Autism Program
- Transitional 3 year old Classroom
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech/Language Therapy
- Hearing Itinerant Services
- Special Education Facilitators

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Gary, Indian Knoll, Pioneer, Turner, and Wegner

- K-6 schools utilize the inclusion model. All students with IEP's are served in general classrooms. This includes modifications and support, which come in a variety of forms depending on students IEP goals.
- Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, gifted (GATE) program and ESL services. Individual assistants are assigned to students with specific needs.
- Social Worker and psychologist assist with providing support for the social and emotional learning needs of our students.
- Utilizes an RTI approach to meet the needs of all our students including our IEP students.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

## West Chicago Middle School

- The middle school provides 1 classroom for core subject instruction for two-thirds of the student day (11 students) with 1 teacher.
- Eight (8) special education teachers handle the case management and co-teach in the regular education classroom. This program addresses Tier 2 & 3 RtI interventions in Math and Reading. The middle school has been working with RtI interventions for 5 years.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

## Winfield ESD #34 Primary and Central School

- 53 students receiving special education services
  - half are Speech only
  - 12 students are in the problem-solving process.
- Utilize Response to Intervention model.
- Facilitators support the needs of all students.
  - Interventions are delivered and students progressed monitored to determine effectiveness and next steps.
  - Data Meetings are held monthly to discuss assessment and intervention information. Individual progress monitoring occurs to assist students, families, and staff with specific needs.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

## Winfield ESD #34 Primary and Central School

- School Psychology intern and practicum student are part of Student Support Team
- Social Worker and School Psychologist work with individual, small groups, and classrooms of students.
  - Support MS PE program with bi-monthly lessons.
- Research based interventions and progress monitoring tools are implemented
  - Assistants are trained in the implementation of interventions.
- Certified and non-Certified staff complete benchmark assessments in Pre-k through 8th triennially.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

- **Benjamin # 25** - grades 5-8
  - 3 core subject teams - 5 teachers in each
  - Electives: Technology, Vocal Music, Spanish, Band, and PE/Health , Student council
  - Book Club, Game Club, Intramurals, Drama, Art, and Chess
- **West Chicago #33** - grades 7-8
  - 6 core subject teams.
  - Elective programs: Art, Vocal Music, Technology (Synergistic lab), Home Economics, Band, Orchestra, and Drama (8<sup>th</sup> grade).
  - Most teachers hold ESL certificate.
  - 5 teachers in Bi-Lingual instruction.
- **Winfield # 34** - grades 6 – 8
  - 7 teachers make core team
  - Electives: Band (5-7), Art (6), Jazz Band (6-8), Technology (6-7), Spanish (6-8), and PE/Health. Clubs are offered in Art, newspaper, fitness, drama, digital media, student council, band, and safety patrol.

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

- Multiple level courses are offered in:
  - Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Languages, World Languages, Business Education, Family & Consumer Sciences, Technology Education, Visual Arts, Music, Physical Development & Health, and the Technology Center of Du Page County.
- Graduation requirements: Classes of 2010 and 2011 – 20 ½ credits
- Curricular Achievements:
  - Responsive to the needs and interests of students.
  - Represent more than just academics.
  - Flexible curriculum

# COMMUNITY H. S. TECHNOLOGY

- Computers, internet, email, Smart boards, MIS department runs reports for teachers, departments have network folders for teachers to archive documents
- Students have networked folders for storing their documents.
- 14 computer labs
  - 2 in the LRC
  - 40 computers in the LRC but not in the lab itself.
- Departments: 5 mini-labs in the Business, English, Science, Fine Arts departments.

# TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

K-6	West Chicago	Benjamin	Winfield
Classroom Hardware	1 / room	1 / room	1 / room
TV/DVD	1 / room	1 / room	1 / room
Technology Coordinator	1	1	
Network Admin	1		.5
Lead Tchr. Instructional Issues	1		.5
Technician	1		
Teacher Hardware	1 in each room	1 in each room	1 in each room
Labs	1 in each building (K-6) 2 labs (7&8)	3 labs (K-8)	3 labs (K-8)

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

West Chicago ESD #33		Benjamin ESD #25
Building Focused PD	Literacy topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Differentiated Instruction</li> <li>•Curriculum Mapping</li> <li>•Using MAPS data for differentiated instruction</li> <li>•Articulation with area Elementary, Middle, and High Schools</li> </ul>
Targeted Assessments	Response to Intervention	
Facilitated Play(ELC)	Character Education	
Articulation with area Elementary, Middle, and High Schools		
Dual Language Training	Framework: Understanding Poverty	
Creating Reading Centers	Guided Reading	

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Winfield ESD #34

- Assessment for Learning
- University of Kansas Learning Strategies
- CPR/AED training
- Differentiation for Gifted Students
- Articulation with area Elementary, Middle, and High Schools
- Staff attend County-wide Institute: topics vary dependent on grade/content area
- Articulation with area Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

## Community H. S. District #94

- Working with struggling learners
- Technology
- Teaching Strategies in Content Areas
- Articulation with area Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

# ENROLLMENT

- Student projections are made using existing class numbers to develop percentages
  - These percentages are applied to future classes using the Cohort Survival Method
  - Live births provided by the Census Bureau are used to project Kindergarten enrollments

# ENROLLMENT

2004-05 to 2008-09

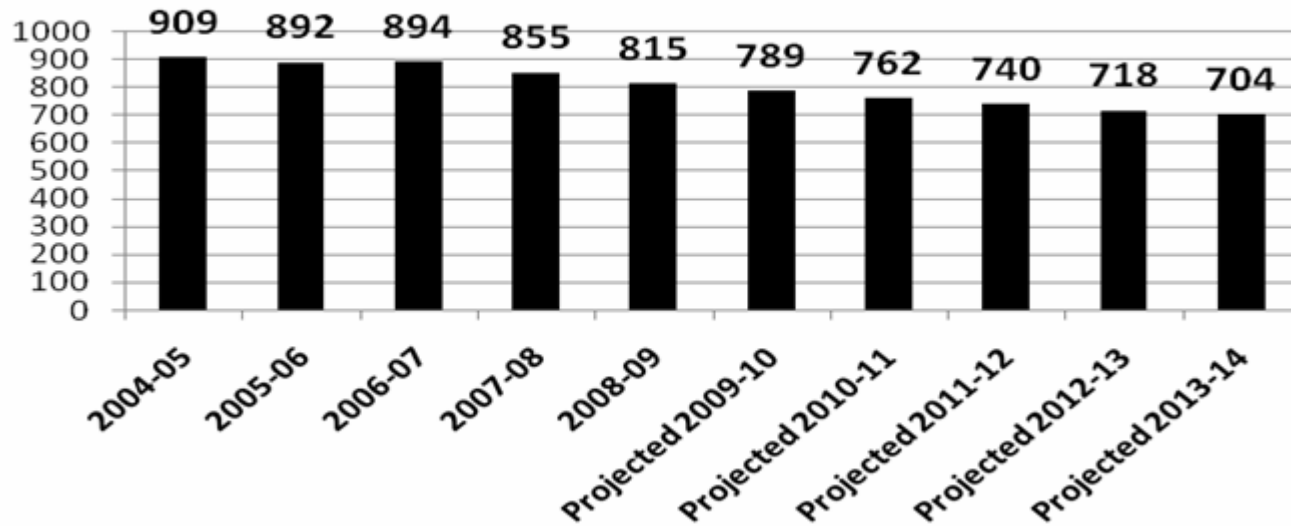
- Benjamin Elementary -94
- Winfield Elementary -18
- West Chicago Elementary +158
- West Chicago High School -32

# ENROLLMENT

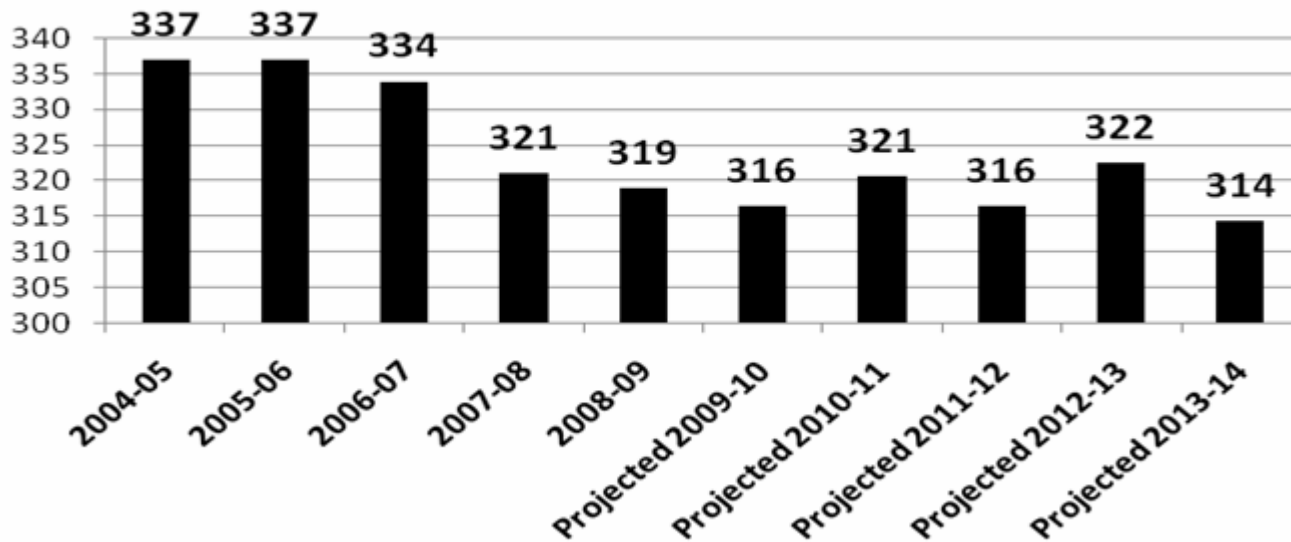
2008-09 to 2013-14

■ Benjamin ESD	-111
■ Winfield ESD	-5
■ West Chicago ESD	+104
■ West Chicago H. S.	-1

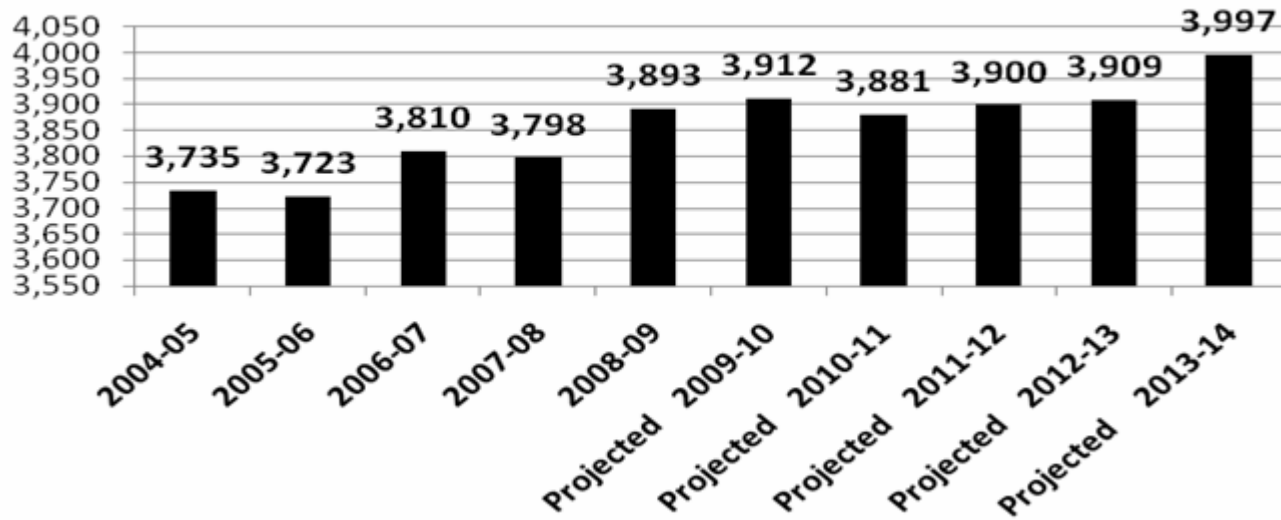
## Benjamin Elementary



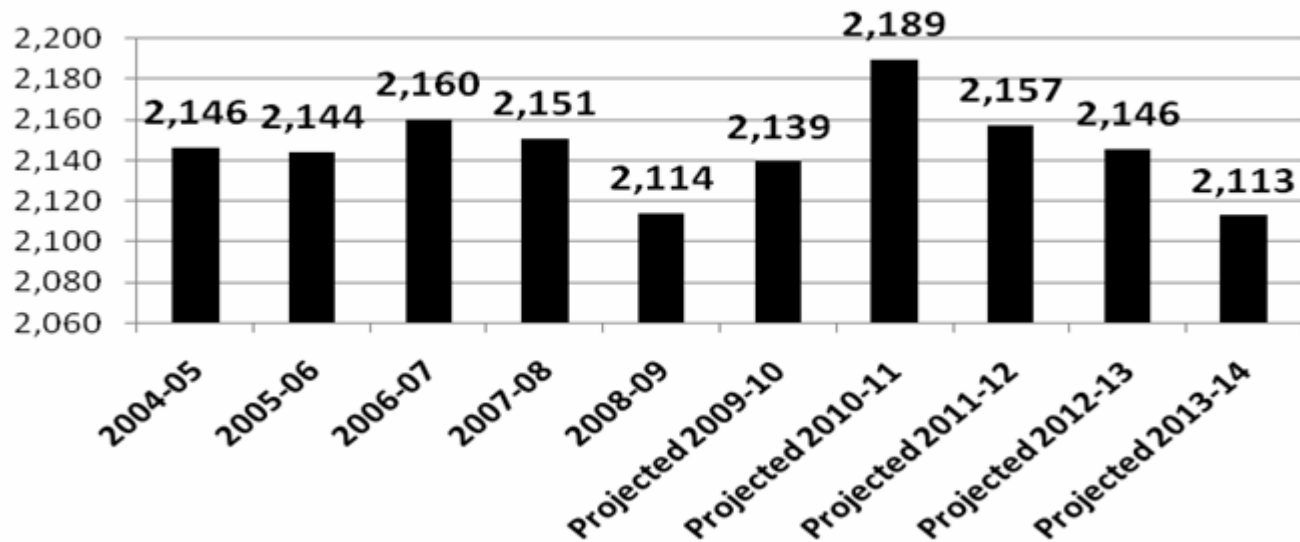
## Winfield Elementary



## West Chicago ESD



## W. Chicago H.S District



# REORGANIZATION STUDY:

## Financial Information

- Current property tax rates vary among the districts
- Common for high school districts to have a lower tax rate than their elementary feeder districts
- All districts have a positive balance in their main operating funds
- The EAV of all districts which determine local tax revenue is increasing at a moderate pace for all districts

# REORGANIZATION STUDY: Financial Information

- A total tax rate of \$4.92 would generate the same amount of revenue for the new district compared to:
  - Community HSD \$1.83
  - Benjamin \$3.48
  - West Chicago \$3.53
  - Winfield \$2.77
- Study does in no way suggest that this rate should be utilized for planning for a reorganization referendum.
- \$4.92 does not include a significant increase in benefits for some teachers after a new contract is negotiated as it does not represent the more senior staff members found in the elementary schools.
- Teacher tenure is guaranteed for certified staff that are maintained by the new district.

# INCENTIVES

## General State Aid Equalization

- Four year period = \$11,875,300.
  - \$4,728,246.26 annually in GSA – 4 years
- Teacher Salary Equalization.
  - Four year period = \$ 9,979,300 (the actual number would be calculated on a teacher by teacher basis after a successful reorganization).
  - Each school district has a different salary schedule and contract and these would be abolished and a new contract would most likely be negotiated by the certified staff.

# INCENTIVES

- Debt Difference Payment.
  - A single payment is made for districts experiencing operational deficits at the time of a merger.
  - Districts do not qualify as having an operational debt, this incentive is not offered by the State of Illinois.
- \$4,000 Payment for Certified Employees.
  - Successful merger of districts and according to a ranking from the Illinois State Board of Education, the new district would be eligible for \$1,896,000 for one year.

# Publications

- Phillips, W. & Day, S. (2004). “Exploring Realities of Reorganization: Navigating your Options”. *The Illinois School Board Journal*, 72, (4), 10-15. July/August.
- Phillips, W. (2006). “Consolidation Proposal Expert Analysis”. *State School News Service*, January 2006. Retrieved online from [www.stateschoolnews.com](http://www.stateschoolnews.com)

# Committee Recommendation

The recommendation of the Consulting and Resource Group is that **no changes be made to the existing school district systems at this time.**

- The achievement of these districts is high
- Strong fund balances
- Buildings are well maintained
- Student population projections do not present a scenario in which consolidation is warranted
- Districts exhibit ongoing cooperative nature among themselves and regularly meet to assure that student standards are monitored and maintained as equally as possible

# Publications

- Phillips, W. (2006). "Proposed Legislation Realigns Reorganization". *The Illinois School Board Journal*, 74, (2), 7-10. March/April.

# Questions from the Audience

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