

Ripon Area School District

News Release
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For Immediate Release

Listening Sessions Scheduled for Suggestions on 2011-12 Budget Cuts

The Ripon Area School District could be faced with a \$45,000 budget deficit for the 2011-12 school year and is seeking public feedback on what cuts in staff and programs should be made to balance the budget. Special listening sessions have been scheduled for both staff and public input for next year's budget.

The public is invited to attend one of the budget listening sessions being scheduled on Monday, December 13. There will be a session at 9:30 a.m. in the Ripon Public Library and at 6:30 p.m. in Ripon High School room 167. This is an opportunity for members of the public to provide direct input into the budgeting process for next school year. District staff are scheduled to meet after school on the same day to give their suggestions.

The District's Budget Planning Team will analyze the feedback and prepare a recommendation for the Board of Education's January 17 meeting. The Board is scheduled to act on the budget cuts at its February 21 meeting.

The \$45,000 budget cut could be necessary depending on the level of state funding that will be determined by the legislature and governor in the state's 2011-13 biennial budget. It is projected that the cost of maintaining the District's current programs next year will cost more than state law allows the budget to increase. The District's annual operating budget has already been cut by more than \$1.5 million during the past four years due to the revenue limits law. Ripon's cost per student is 7% below the state average according to the most recent figures from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

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