



# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release ★ August 5, 2009**

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## **CPS Superintendent Recommends Balanced Budget** *2009-10 Spending Plan Includes Innovations to Accelerate Achievement*

Cincinnati Public Schools Superintendent Mary Ronan today recommended a balanced 2009-10 General Fund budget of \$467,005,155 that moves more resources to classrooms and invests in strategic improvements designed to increase student achievement. The preliminary budget was presented to the Cincinnati Board of Education during a special Board meeting and public hearing at the district's Education Center during which community members were invited to share their comments.

District Treasurer Jonathan Boyd said school budgets increased \$18,679,147, or 6.6 percent, over last year's original budget, primarily as a result of higher-than-projected enrollment, which required hiring additional teachers and adopting an amended budget for 2008-09.

Central Office funding remained at under 5 percent of the district's total spending, with 5.35 net new positions in the proposed 2009-10 General Fund budget. Most of these positions support initiatives developed to strengthen academic progress, including an Office of Innovation to research and implement "turnaround" school models; a curriculum team to help ensure that the academic content being taught is appropriate and rigorous; and an expansion of foreign language courses. Funding also is included to support the position of internal auditor to examine and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of district operations.

Boyd said the recommended General Fund budget totals slightly less than the amount forecasted in October 2008 for the 2009-10 school year. He said conservative budgeting practices and the adoption of a temporary budget in June allowed the district to overcome a state funding cut of \$6 million.

Approval of the budget by the Board could occur as early as August 10. View budget detail online via the "What's New" section of the district's home page at [www.cps-k12.org](http://www.cps-k12.org) or request a copy by calling (513) 363-0020.

### **About Cincinnati Public Schools**

Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) – a district of 58 schools serving a diverse population of more than 34,000 students in grades preschool to 12 – prepares students for life through rigorous academic programs, numerous enrichment opportunities and strong community partnerships. The district has maintained the Continuous Improvement ranking, the third-highest available, from the Ohio Department of Education for the last four years. In addition, its graduation rate has increased from just over 60 percent to 82 percent since 2002. Three of its high schools – Walnut Hills High School, Withrow University High School and Clark Montessori High School – are ranked among the top 1,000 public high schools in the United States according to national magazines. CPS is in year six of a \$1-billion Facilities Master Plan to renovate or build new facilities for the entire district. Visit Cincinnati Public Schools online at [www.cps-k12.org](http://www.cps-k12.org).



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