



PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

May 2014

Proposed Budget Slated for May 20, 2014 Vote

Peru Central School District's Board of Education has established a **\$42,393,586 proposed expenditure plan** for voter consideration **noon until 9**

PM, Tuesday, May 20, 2014 in the district's Junior/Senior High School gymnasium. The proposed budget calls for an increase of \$1,419,540 compared to the current year's budget. This increase is largely offset by state aid. The **tax levy is forecasted to increase 1.92%** which is below the tax levy limit. This year's levy increase is actually a decrease from last year's increase of 3.95%. Details regarding the budget proposal are featured within this Community Report.



Budget Vote & School Board Election

Tuesday, May 20th

Peru Central Jr./Sr. High School Gymnasium

12-9 p.m.

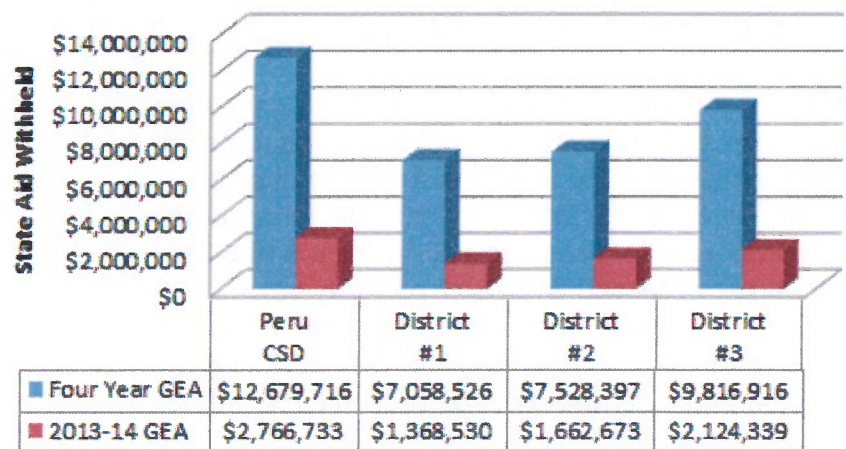
A 2014-2015 Budget Overview Presentation can be found on the District's website, www.perucsd.org.

Previous Year Cuts and Reductions

Since the beginning of the "Great Recession," **Peru Central School District has reduced its operating budget by over \$5 million dollars and absorbed an over \$12.5 million dollar reduction in state-aid.** Even in next year's budget, a GAP Elimination Adjustment (GEA) of over \$2 million dollars will remain. The GEA will prevent these funds from flowing into Peru Central School District.

However, although the fiscal climate remains challenging, for the first time in five years, Peru Central School District is proposing to maintain programs into next year and make some modest enhancements.

Gap Elimination Adjustment



Proposed Enhancements to Existing Programs

A great deal of planning and discussion went into attempting to sustain programs and support services into next year. Given a forecasted budget surplus in 2013-14 and additional state-aid in 2014-15, Peru Central School District is proposing to maintain 2013-14 programs into 2014-15 and provide some modest enhancements.

The following represents a sample of enhancements slated for the 2014-15 Budget:

1. The equivalent of one (1) Special Education Teacher and a Part-time Speech Language Pathologist.
2. The equivalent of one (1) School Behavior Support Counselor and a Part-time Elementary Counselor.
3. The implementation of a Continuing Education Program.
4. Part-time Elementary Math Interventionist Teacher.
5. Part-time Clerical Position
6. Transportation Expenses related to Field Trips, Post Season Athletic Competitions and Student Activity Events.
7. Some additional Instructional Material & Supply Funds which have been drastically reduced over the last few years.



Proposed Capital Project and School Buses

Proposition # 2

The District proposes a **\$1,805,000 capital project** funded with state building aid and a **capital reserve of \$344,794 which is estimated to offset the entire local share.** This project will renovate an existing chemistry room, install a required elevator in the Elementary building, repair underground roof drains, replace exterior door hardware, replace some deteriorated roof and masonry flashing, replace a deteriorated boiler chimney stack in the Elementary, complete wireless technology upgrades campus wide and remove some underground fuel tanks. **This project, if approved, will be scheduled for the summer of 2015.**

Proposition # 3

The District proposes the purchase of three (3), regular, sixty-five (65) passenger, school buses and a mini-van type vehicle capable of transporting students at a total cost not to exceed \$375,000. The cost of this proposition would be largely offset by transportation aid which is approximately 82%.

Estimated School Tax Bill Increase

Assessed Value of Home	Enhanced STAR	Basic STAR
\$80,000	\$5.06	\$16.00
\$100,000	\$11.46	\$22.40
\$150,000	\$27.46	\$38.40
\$200,000	\$43.46	\$54.40

Based on the state budget plan enacted by the Governor and Legislature, the school board estimates a 1.92% increase of the school district's total property tax levy for 2014-15. The proposal calls for an **estimated tax rate increase of 1.65% from \$19.54 to \$ 19.86** per assessed \$1,000 of property value.

The adoption of this budget requires a **tax levy increase under the statutory tax levy limit** and therefore, must be approved by a simple majority of the qualified voters present and voting.

Superintendent Budget Message

A light shines from the clock tower on top of the landmark 1930 Peru school. The time displayed is dependable because of a shared commitment to make the necessary repairs to this community icon, a symbol of all parts working well together.

The proposed school budget seeks to provide a positive educational experience for every child and young adult at a reasonable cost. Strong schools not only provide benefit to students. Strong schools reinforce the value of our community as a desirable place to live and own a home.

Strategies to best use resources demand continuous improvement of services, maximization of State aid, and long range fiscal perspective. Unlike recent years when cuts balanced the budget, conservative planning has provided greater balance between revenue and expenses. Our budget development process was strengthened by the involvement of community advisory members.

A commitment to quality and value drive our schools in pursuit of excellence. The following enhancements are meant to illustrate Peru successes, strengths, and commitment to the success of every student:

- Robust new website built from the ground up to keep you informed
- 2.7 million dollar PTECH grant
- Innovative manufacturing partnership grant
- Safe Routes to Schools grant (\$235,000)

- Health Department grant and wellness policy
- Professional development across campus to improve operations
- Curriculum Council focus on ELA and Math goals
- Minimal testing, maximum usage
- Comprehensive curriculum review
- Integrated student intervention support services model
- College for Every Student mentoring program
- Future Business Leaders of America regional champions
- Model United Nations (UN) best delegate
- Peru Pride positive Elementary school culture
- Technology systems partnership with vision to action planning
- Data integrity, security, and efficiency
- Strategic planning opportunities for community engagement
- Labor relations in support of forward progress
- Town partnership fueling station

Mark your calendar to vote on Tuesday, May 20th anytime from noon to 9 p.m. Voting will take place in the Jr/Sr High School gymnasium. Your participation in the process serves to strengthen community priorities.

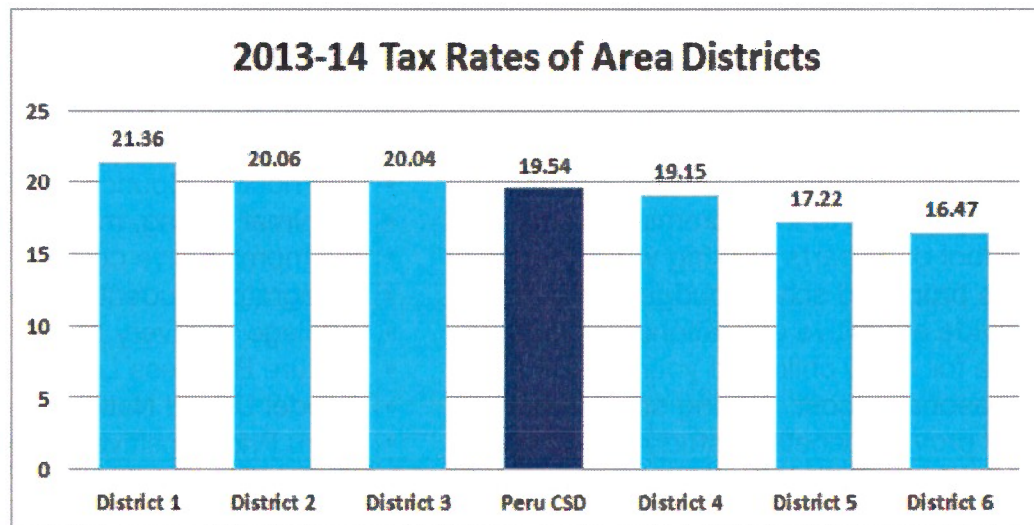
In addition to the budget vote, district residents will decide on the purchase of replacement buses and a capital plan that features an ADA compliant elevator. Two (2) Board of Education representatives will also be elected.



Property Tax Levy Limit and Tax Rates

The property tax cap limit is an annual calculation unique to each school district which accounts for new development within the District and incorporates some exclusions. The **Board of Education has elected a levy increase of 1.92% - this is below Peru's 2014-15 Tax Levy Limit.**

In addition, the Board of Education has worked to maintain a reasonable tax rate in relation to area school districts.



The chart above reflects the actual 2013-14 tax rates of area districts compared to Peru Central School District.

Annual Budget Hearing Tuesday, May 13, 2014 7 p.m., Community Room

Details on the proposed budget are available via school offices, the district clerk's office at 643-6002 and the school district's Web site at www.perucsd.org



COMMUNITY REPORT

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