

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: What is a special budget override?

A: Arizona state law limits school district budgets. With voter approval, state law allows a school district to override these limits and increase the budget by up to 15%. The override funding can be used for operational items such as salaries, employee-related expenses, classroom supplies and services that are expended during the course of teaching and learning over the school year.

Q: Why do you need this override funding when the governor and legislature already approved additional money for school districts in the state budget?

A: The money approved by the legislature increased the base support budget for school districts. The additional budget was intended to be used to increase teacher salaries. WESD utilized this funding for the intended purpose. The override funding currently exists and will be used to continue existing programs and services for students. WESD is not asking to increase programs and services.

Q: Why does the District want its override renewed?

A: The District currently provides full-day instruction for kindergarten students, enhances Art, Music, and PE opportunities, and provides focused intervention programs beyond the classroom. We would like to continue these programs and services for students. This funding also allows the District to maintain our current class sizes and helps to maintain competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified instructional staff.

Q: What is the District's history of overrides?

A: The District has had an override in place since 1990 and voters have approved to continue through the most recent election in 2013 – nearly thirty years.

Q: What happens if the M&O budget override is not approved?

A: If the override is not approved, the current 15% M&O override would continue through the 2018-2019 school year. The District will plan to reduce the budget by over \$6 million in each of the following three years until the budget capacity is completely eliminated at the end of 2020-2021. Ultimately, current student programs and services may have to be reduced or eliminated.