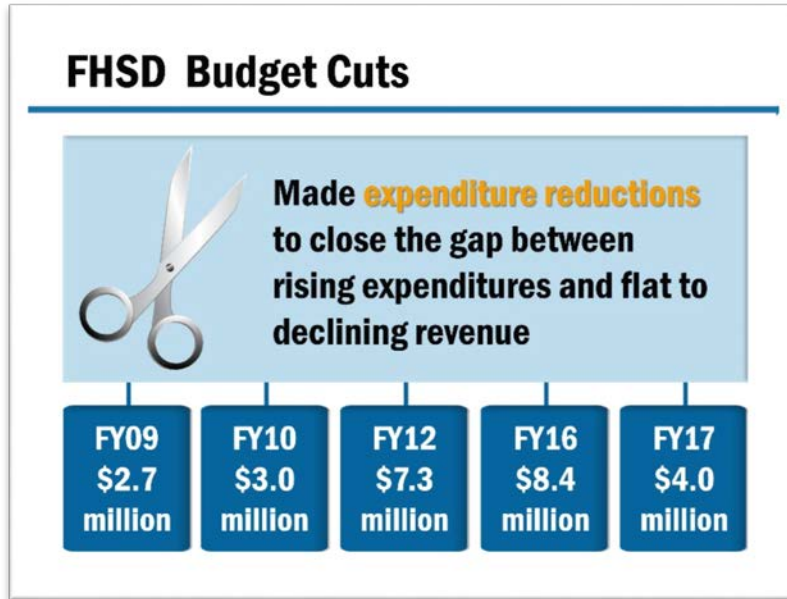


Truth About Prop Learn

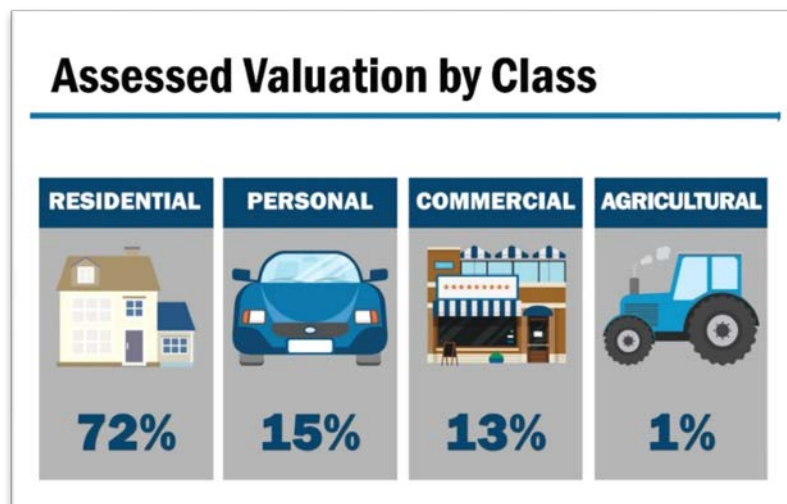
There is a lot of talk about Prop Learn. Make sure you know the truth!



- Prop Learn is needed because District revenue growth has not kept pace with increases in expenditures, for items such as utilities, supplies, and health insurance. Funds from Prop Learn will allow us to provide the programs, services, and staffing necessary for FHSD to remain a top performing district.
- FHSD Administration and Board of Education have been good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Reductions have been made in many areas throughout the budget to address the rising costs of our educational programs.



- Francis Howell is primarily a bedroom community, reflected in the fact that 72 percent of the District's AV comes from residential property. Personal property, like boats, cars, and motorcycles, accounts for 15 percent of the total AV, while commercial property accounts for 13 percent. Agricultural property accounts for less than 1 percent of the District's total AV.



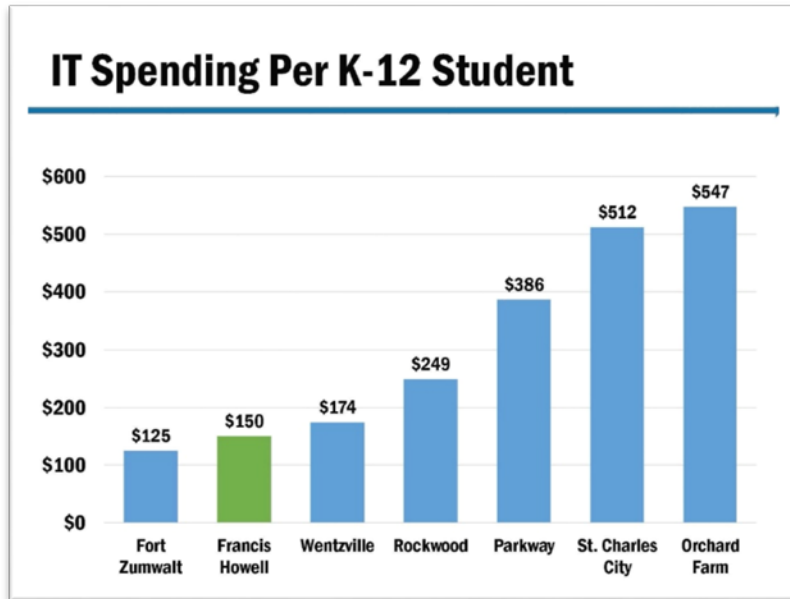
- FHSD is fortunate to have many teachers who are both highly experienced and have advanced degrees, factors that impact the average teacher salary relative to our peers. Teachers' salaries did not change in the last two years. Contracted days reverted back to the same number as in the 2013-14 school year. The number of contracted days for FHSD teachers is in the middle range of St. Charles County districts.

District	County	2017-18 Starting Salary	2017-18 Contract Days	2017-18 Daily Rate	2018-19 Starting Salary	2018-19 Contract Days	2018-19 Daily Rate
ORCHARD FARM	St. Charles	\$41,500	183	\$226.78	\$42,700	183	\$233.33
PATTONVILLE	St. Louis	\$42,800	189	\$226.46	\$43,800	189	\$231.75
ST. CHARLES	St. Charles	\$41,200	182	\$226.37	\$41,447	182	\$227.73
FRANCIS HOWELL	St. Charles	\$41,287	185	\$223.17	TBD	TBD	TBD
PARKWAY	St. Louis	\$42,600	191	\$223.04	\$42,800	191	\$224.08
ROCKWOOD	St. Louis	\$41,276	190	\$217.24	\$41,429	190	\$218.05
FORT ZUMWALT	St. Charles	\$39,100	184	\$212.50	\$40,100	184	\$217.93
WENTZVILLE	St. Charles	\$38,725	187	\$207.09	TBD	TBD	TBD

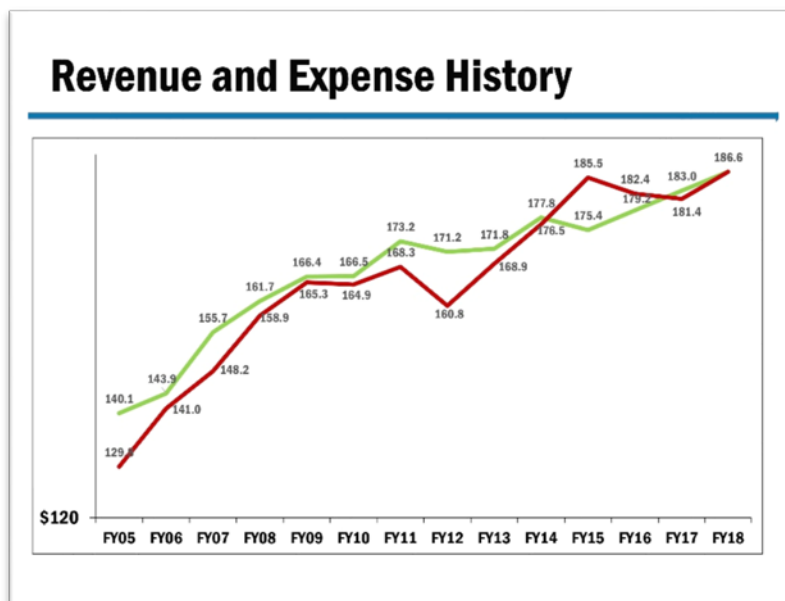
School District	Average Years of Experience	Masters Degree +
Francis Howell	14.9	82.8%
Pattonville	13.2	69.6%
Rockwood	14.0	78.7%
Parkway	13.9	81.5%
Fort Zumwalt	12.6	73.1%
St. Charles	11.8	67.7%
Wentzville	11.6	78.0%
Orchard Farm	10.5	73.4%
State of Missouri	12.3	58.7%

- According to the [American Association of School Administrators White Paper, "School District Budgets 101,"](#) it is common that "... a school district spends between 80 and 85 percent of its entire budget on salaries and benefits, meaning only 15 to 20 percent remains to address all of the rest of the budget's priorities and needs."

- Prop Learn will help the District maintain up-to-date classroom technology for students to use. Due to budget reductions, FHSD’s technology refresh cycle was put on hold for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. The goal for our technology refresh cycle is to replace devices every four years. The current average age of our devices is closer five years, and that’s taking into account some new devices added this year. Our spending on instructional technology is still behind that of our neighboring districts.



- For many years, the District had a balanced budget, as current revenues equaled or exceeded current expenditures. That picture changed in fiscal year 2014. Since then, the District has made significant reductions in its expenditures in an effort to bring the budget back into balance. We have met that goal. This year’s budget is balanced, and we will likely produce a surplus of revenue over expense by the end of the year, similar to what happened in the 2016-17 fiscal year. It is important to note programs and services have been cut to make this happen.



- FHSD is committed to engaging with our community. We held three community meetings regarding the future of the District and an [informational meeting](#) regarding the tax levy to seek input from our stakeholders. Additionally, the [superintendent sent a letter to all parents](#) regarding the tax levy, and a [community newsletter](#) and [mailer](#) were sent to FHSD residents. We have also been regularly sharing information in our e-newsletters, on our [website](#), and on [social media](#). We have also sponsored some social media posts to ensure our community receives the information.
- The Chief Community Relations Officer position is not a new chief position. A previous position was repurposed to focus on communications, addressing a need identified by the community.
- School districts must hold elections in April to elect Board of Education members. Since FHSD was already going to be holding an election in April, it made sense to add Prop Learn to the ballot. The April election also allows the District to proactively plan for the 2018-19 school year knowing the funds will be available to address emerging needs.
- FHSD hasn't had a tax increase since 2004. In fact, the District allowed a 20-cent levy to expire in 2014. While the District has had previous levies on the ballot (Aug. 2015 and Nov. 2016), they did not pass. In the 2016 election, the levy failed by less than 3,200 votes. We have heard what our community has said and made adjustments based on their input.



This informational material was paid for by the Francis Howell School District
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