



CHARLES I. ECKER
Superintendent

July 1, 2009

Citizens of Carroll County:

The following pages contain the Approved Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budget for Carroll County Public Schools. The operating budget for FY 2010 equals \$333.3 million, an increase in funding of \$10.0 million or 3.1% over FY 2009. Changes in revenues are as follows:

- County - Manchester Valley High School operating impacts - \$4.2 million increase
- County - \$2.8 million general operating increase
- State – \$5.3 million reduction
- Federal Stimulus
 - Stabilization funds - \$3.0 million
 - Restricted special education funds - \$3.3 million
- Other grants & restricted funds - \$0.6 million increase
- Carroll County Public Schools fund balance - \$1.4 million

These are uncertain economic times for the State of Maryland, Carroll County Government, and Carroll County Public Schools. Budget deficits brought on by the current economic recession are forcing reductions in State and County planned and anticipated funding for education. Federal stimulus funds have helped to temporarily cover some of the reductions, but we are concerned about future budgets when stimulus funding is no longer available.

We faced a number of required increases to our budget including the following: opening of Manchester Valley High School, medical insurance, student transportation costs, and utilities.

To balance the budget and respond to current and anticipated fiscal difficulties, we made significant reductions to our budget. The reductions include:

- Eliminated step increases and cost of living adjustments for employees
- Held hourly and substitute rates flat at FY 2009 levels
- Eliminated ten middle school and ten high school teaching positions based on declining enrollments
- Eliminated three high school assistant principal positions based on declining enrollments
- Eliminated six central office positions and reduced centralized operating budgets
- Eliminated Westminster area Community Learning Centers (CLC)
- Restricted out-of-state travel

Our goal throughout the budget process has been to protect our core instructional program. Carroll County Public Schools is consistently one of the top performing school systems in Maryland. We have dedicated staff, family members, and students who take an active part in the education process. Additionally, the county commissioners have consistently provided significant financial support. These factors combine to create a school system where students are successfully acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to be a vital part of our society.

We received and considered public input all the way through our budget process and continue to value parents' and citizens' involvement in the budget process and throughout our schools. Please continue to be active as we begin the fiscal year 2011 budget process.

Sincerely,

Charles I. Ecker

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Superintendent of Schools