

*Springboro Community Schools
1685 S. Main Street
Springboro, OH 45066
937.748.3960*

*IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Look For Springboro Schools Update In Your Mailbox

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – In just a few days, people living in the Springboro Community School District will be getting a postcard to give them some information about school finance, and other things occurring in the school district.

As many of you know, we try every avenue possible to get information to our community members. Last week in this space, we talked about our electronic district newsletter that is sent to more than 5,000 people every Friday. It's the simplest way to stay on top of current events in the school district, and it is easy to sign up for it. Just visit our website at www.springboro.org, click "District" then "District News." In just a matter of seconds, you can be signed up for this useful tool.

We are fortunate to have the support of our local newspapers in running "good news" stories and my weekly column. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the news media in this area. While many people complain about news coverage, at Springboro, we have been very fortunate to have knowledgeable professionals working with us, which is why the correct information is getting out to the public.

We are starting something new this month with a postcard. Many school districts do this, and in an effort to reach our entire community, Springboro Community Schools has decided to try this communication opportunity. It is our plan to do a postcard mailing to our residents every two months or so, as news warrants.

This month, we are focusing on the per pupil expenditure. Most of our community members know Springboro Community Schools has been ranked "Excellent" by the Ohio Department of Education for five of the past six years. The District Report Card has 23 indicators – mostly test scores – that show Springboro is meeting or exceeding in the academic areas required by the state.

While the state District Report Card isn't the only indicator that Springboro is doing a good job educating students, it is an important one.

The same analogy works for the per pupil expenditure. It is not the only indicator people should look at when deciding if their tax dollars are being spent wisely, but it is an important one.

The per pupil expenditure is simply that – the amount of money it takes to educate one child. Springboro spends \$7,268 to educate one child for one year. In that dollar amount are the teachers’ salaries (classroom teacher plus “specials” – art, physical education, music, etc.), textbooks, administrative costs, and supplies.

How do you know if \$7,268 is way too much or too little? One way is compare Springboro’s expenditures to those districts around us. There are seven other school districts in Warren County, for example. In the chart below, I also have included some similar school districts from Montgomery and Greene counties.

Oakwood	\$9,738
Mason	\$9,163
Kings	\$9,072
Centerville	\$9,025
Miamisburg	\$8,854
Carlisle	\$8,841
Beavercreek	\$8,338
Franklin	\$8,168
Little Miami	\$8,125
Lebanon	\$7,753
Waynesville	\$7,690
Springboro	\$7,268

This financial information can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website, as well as the statistics for all schools districts in the state. They reflect the 2006 cost per pupil information - the most recent data available through ODE.

What could we do if we spent more money per student? Lots of things. We could have fewer students in each class, we could provide more help for students, purchase more library books, purchase more supplies – you name it. But our community has told us loud and clear they want excellent schools for the least amount of money.

I think we are doing just that. Springboro is the “best value in education” for the state of Ohio because we spend less per student than any other “Excellent” school district.

(Dr. David Baker is superintendent of Springboro Community Schools. If you have comments about this column or other questions, contact him at dbaker@springboro.org.)

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