



WEST OSO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



FINANCIAL RECOVERY FAST FACTS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Is West Oso ISD bankrupt?	West Oso ISD is not bankrupt. It has been operating under a budget deficit. This means that in the last two years, our expenditures (money spent by the district) have exceeded our revenue (money earned by the district).
Why are we experiencing a budget deficit?	<p>There are several factors that have contributed to our current financial situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in enrollment. The number of students attending West Oso ISD has decreased 8% percent over the past four years, from 2087 in 2018-2019 to 1,910 in 2022-2023.• Decrease in Average Daily Attendance. School districts in Texas are funded not by enrollment, but by Average Daily Attendance (ADA). During the pandemic, WOISD attendance was 87%, compared to 94% before the pandemic. This 7% reduction in ADA is the greatest contributing factor to our current financial situation.• Homestead Exemption: The amount of revenue we receive from property taxes has also gone down. The Homestead Exemption was increased from \$25,000 to \$40,000. This is beneficial for homeowners (less taxes), but detrimental to school districts since this means less revenue for WOISD.• Increased Expenses Due to COVID and other Statewide Initiatives: STAAR redesign/Online Testing, Safety Mandates, COVID Health related costs, as well as increased needs for academic intervention due to pandemic learning loss increased expenses over the last few years.

<p>What are the solutions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2020, West Oso ISD has increased staff while losing students. The district must reduce its staffing to reflect the actual number of students in the district. Teachers/Employees who resign or retire will not get <i>automatically</i> replaced <u>unless</u> the position is required due to enrollment and certifications. This process is referred to as “attrition.” This reduction in staff will include administrators, teachers, and support staff. Reduction in staff will occur primarily through attrition, as well as some program changes. • The district will be selling unused property to increase revenue. • Non-payroll costs will be reduced (supplies, travel) but teachers will be provided with all the supplies they need to effectively educate our children.
<p>Will employees continue to get paid?</p>	<p>All employees will continue to get paid. The district began the process in July, 2022 of reducing costs and will continue to do so through the spring and 2023-2024 school year. The current financial recovery plan ensures that all employees on the payroll will continue to get paid in full.</p>
<p>Will West Oso ISD remain an independent school district?</p>	<p>West Oso ISD will remain a proud, strong, and united independent school district.</p>

