

Doing More with Less... Every Day

As a long-time resident of our community, I realize that one of the most important functions of our Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation is to ensure that your tax dollars are used effectively and efficiently to support the 12,233 students who attend our schools. That means doing everything possible to “do more with less”. Thanks to the support of our locally elected School Board and our community, we have been able to save your tax dollars by:

- Maintaining a tax rate ~\$0.20 below the state average for the past decade.
- 97% of the 2020 Education Fund budget will support teachers and staff.
- Since 2009, we have invested \$129M in facility improvements while maintaining a consistent, flat tax rate.
- Maintaining reasonable cash reserves and Rainy Day funds to ensure stability.
- Implementing Columbus Signature Academy and Legado dual-language pathways, all without raising taxes.
- Ensuring student safety by adding 5 School Resource Officers.
- Earning grant funding to start mental health counseling and social-emotional wellness in all buildings.
- Providing students with 1:1 technology at no out-of-pocket cost to parents and families.
- Leading the state of Indiana in bus/transportation safety efforts.
- Earning grant funding to purchase the first electric school bus in Indiana.
- Managing utility costs through reduce use, replacing old lights with LED, and installing rooftop solar at two buildings in 2020.

While we have received recognition for cost-cutting measures and fiscal accountability, our job is not done. Unfortunately, the state funding formula does not provide the resources to retain and recruit the best possible staff to meet the future needs of our students. That’s why I welcome your questions and your input about the best ways to plan for the future. Please feel free to call me at 812-378-3887 or email me at phillips@bcsc.k12.in.us. **Remember, we have one goal - to make sure that we have the resources to prepare our students for the academic, employment and public service challenges of the future. Our kids deserve the resources needed to help Columbus be the “very best community of its size in the country.”**

Thank you,

Chad Phillips

Chad Phillips

Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services

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