



Guidelines for Public Input to the Budget Process

Input from students, parents, teachers, and members of the public is very helpful to members of the budget committee as we work through our analysis and create recommendations for the 2012-2013 annual school district budget. Recommendations for program/position cuts or retentions by the budget committee will be based on the committee's determination of the way we can best spend the limited resources available to us while meeting the needs of all 5,000 JSD students.

Public input on a particular topic is most helpful when it includes specific information, such as:

- A description of what the program/position under discussion actually does. This is particularly important for lesser-known programs.
- Information as to how students would be impacted by the proposed change.
- Suggestions of changes to the program/position that could allow most or all of the services to continue to be provided, but at a lower cost.

Members of the public who wish to provide formal input to the committee can do so in two ways:

Email

Input via email is always welcome, and provides a written record that budget committee members can go back and refer to later. Email input should be submitted to budgetinput@jsd.k12.ak.us. Messages sent to this email address are automatically forwarded to each member of the budget committee, including the school board members, public members, and the Superintendent. It is not necessary to copy the board members individually – that will result in them getting two copies of your note.

Testimony at Budget Committee meetings

There will be an opportunity for public testimony at most of the budget committee meetings. Each meeting's agenda will include information on whether or not a public testimony time will be provided, and, if so, at which point in the meeting (at the beginning, or later).

If you choose to give public testimony in person during a budget committee meeting, please be aware that:

- The time available for testimony will be limited
- If a large number of people sign up to give testimony, we may allocate that limited amount of time among the topics being discussed. This may result in some members of the public having more time available to speak than others.
- Not all meetings will have a time allocated for public input. In particular, the January 17 and February 14 meetings are scheduled as committee work sessions, and no time will be provided for public testimony.