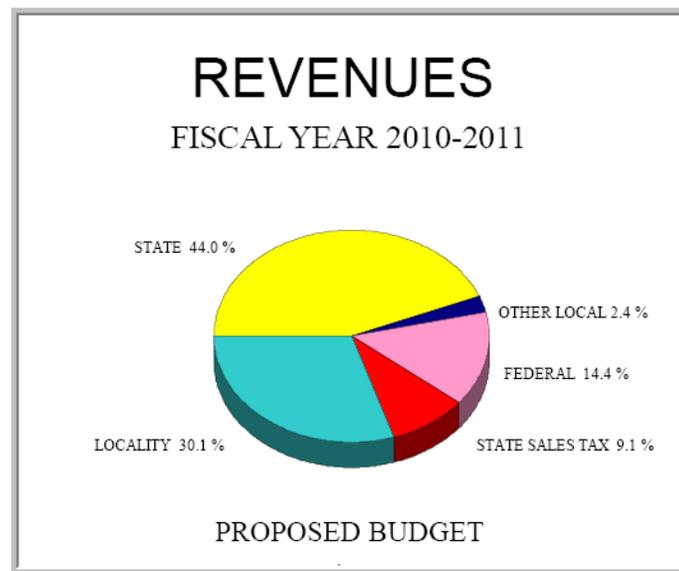


## Fix That Graph – Revenues Pie Chart

By Dr. Deborah Wahlstrom

Here's today's scenario. A local school district has just released its proposed budget for the upcoming two-year period. Within the 157 page budget document are two pie charts – one for revenues and one for expenditures. Below is the pie chart for Revenues for the upcoming year.



1. **Rework the title so it says exactly what the pie chart shows.** Can you tell what school district is represented here? Can you tell the date this graph was produced? (This is important when you're working with a budget document that will change several times over the next several weeks.) Here's one way to tweak this title to make it stronger:

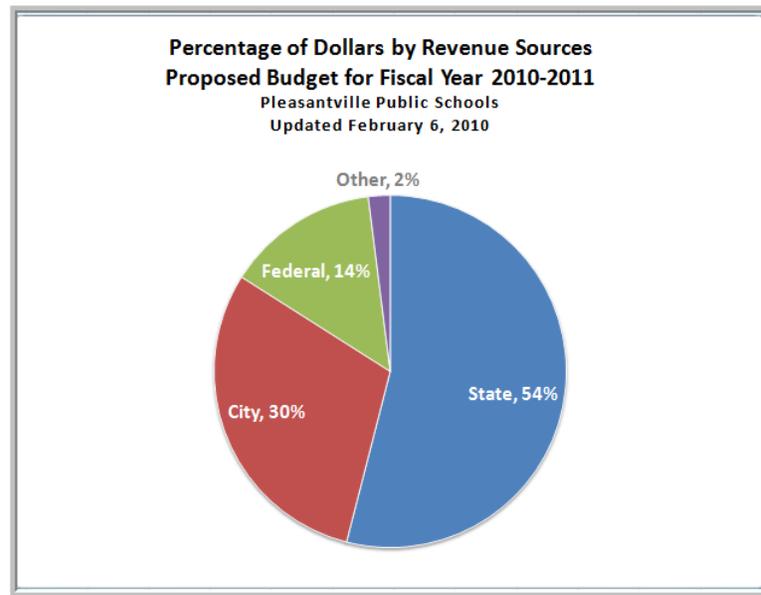
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**Percentage of Dollars by Revenue Sources  
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011  
Pleasantville Public Schools  
Updated February 6, 2010**

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2. **The pie chart is an appropriate choice for showing revenue sources.**
3. **Keep the graphing categories the same as those that are found within the budget document.** For example, on this graph, State Sales Tax (9.1%) is reflected within the State Revenues

category within the budget document – and not a separate revenue piece. Here’s how I would revise the bar graph to make it more precise.



I tweaked the title to more clearly state what the graph shows. I also added the state sales tax component to the state percentages since that is how the percentages were reflected in the budget document. (The data should match the budget document.) The colors used in the original graph were fine, but I left mine to the default. I also used the term *city* instead of *locality* to match the language we actually use within our city. I could have also used the term, *local*.

Minor tweaking; major impact!

4. **Include either a summary or bulleted statements with each graph and or chart you design.**

This pie chart had no information to go along with it – thus, you’re setting yourselves up for questions that easily could have been answered with the graph. Here are some of the bulleted statements I might expected to see:

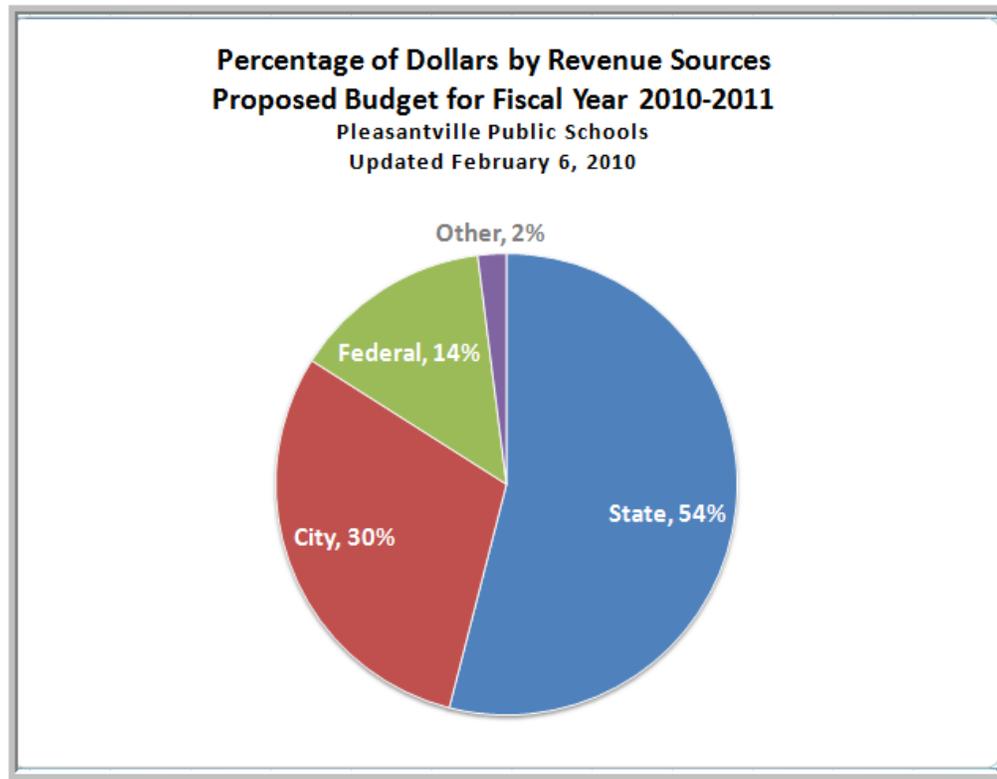
- The proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year is \$148,365,000 which reflects a decreased by 1.2% (or \$1,850,000) from the previous school year.
- The budget is funded through several entities including the federal government, the state government, and our local/city government.
- The projected revenues from the **federal government** are \$2,970,714 which represents approximately 14% of our total revenues. These monies come from programs such as adult education, the Perkins Act (career and technology), impact aid, Medicaid, JROTC, and basic aid from ARRRR SFSF.

- The projected revenues from the **state government** are \$77,557,156 which represents approximately 54% of our revenues. These monies come from such programs such as basic aid, lottery distributions, K-3 reduction of class size initiative, at-risk four-year old initiative, early reading intervention and more. (Please see page 2 of the budget document for a comprehensive listing of state revenue sources.)
- The projected revenues from the **city government** are \$44,552,130 which represents approximately 30% of our revenue sources.

The next page shows how I might present the graph and corresponding bullets within the budget document.

## REVENUE PROJECTIONS

The following graph shows the percentages of dollars by revenue sources for the 2010-2011 school year.



- The proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year is \$148,365,000 which reflects a decreased by 1.2% (or \$1,850,000) from the previous school year.
- The budget is funded through several entities including the federal government, the state government, and our local/city government.
- The projected revenues from the **federal government** are \$2,970,714 which represents approximately 14% of our total revenues. These monies come from programs such as adult education, the Perkins Act (career and technology), impact aid, Medicaid, JROTC, and basic aid from ARRRRA SFSF.
- The projected revenues from the **state government** are \$77,557,156 which represents approximately 54% of our revenues. These monies come from such programs such as basic aid, lottery distributions, K-3 reduction of class size initiative, at-risk four-year old initiative, early reading intervention and more. (Please see page 2 of the budget document for a comprehensive listing of state revenue sources.)
- The projected revenues from the **city government** are \$44,552,130 which represents approximately 30% of our revenue sources.

- Approximately 2% of the budget revenues come from **other** sources. These sources include things such as rebate refunds, facility rentals, summer school tuition, sale of textbooks, Pruden Center, indirect costs from food services, and Sentara Obici Hospital. (Please refer to page 3 of the Budget document for a complete listing of items from the **other** fund.)