

# **Top 10 Values-Based Budgeting Questions**

## **A Guide for Board and Superintendent Teams**

- 1) What are our current values, beliefs and expectations related to improving the achievement of all students?
- 2) What are our current school improvement priorities that we will not compromise?
- 3) What does research say the system needs to do to improve student achievement?
- 4) What does the research say about the characteristics of professional development that is more likely to improve teaching in ways that benefit student learning?
- 5) How well does our current professional development program match the research findings?
- 6) How do we protect and improve a quality professional development program?
- 7) What evidence exists that a specific initiative, program or policy is achieving its intended outcome?
- 8) What is the program/initiative costing and are the outcomes worth the investment?
- 9) What are the estimated costs for each program being considered in terms of total costs and costs per pupil served?
- 10) What are the board's expectations and priorities for budgeting? How does that guide decisions during the revenue shortfall this year and the near future in terms of the district's solvency ratio...cash balance...tax levies