

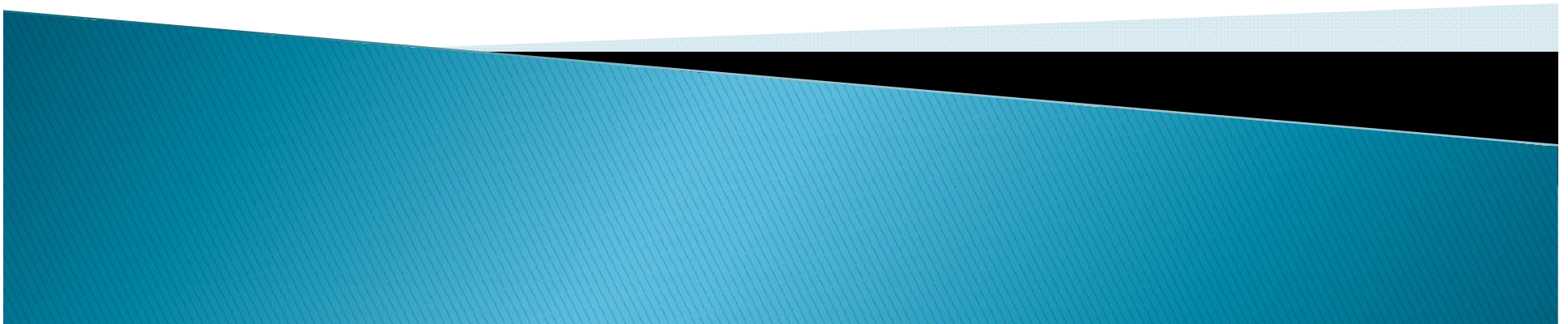


NSBLC

**NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

Solutions for America's School Boards

Children First Budgeting



Budgeting

- ← Every school district prepares a budget
 - In Ohio 2x per year May and October
 - Aka 5 year forecast
- ← Assumptions about the future
 - Enrollment
 - Services to be provided
 - Staffing needs
 - Maintenance
 - Capital improvements
 - Technology upgrades
- ← Start with the previous budget and adjust +/-
or
- ← Start with 0 and build the budget

Typical Tax Levy Campaigns

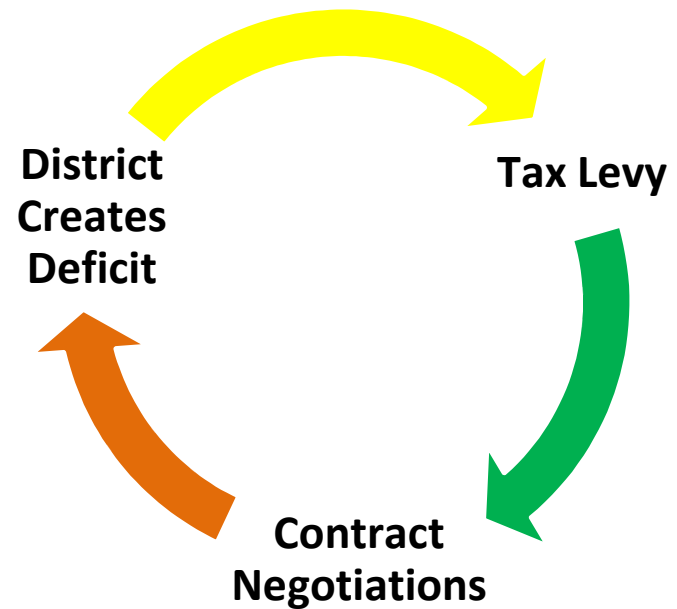
- ← Class sizes are too large
- ← Not enough money for supplies
- ← Can't buy textbooks
- ← Cut field trips
- ← Cut bussing
- ← Cut or institute fees for athletic and extracurricular activities
- ← "It's All About the Children"

Important Question

With multi-million dollar budgets, if children are the first priority how does this happen?

The Current Process

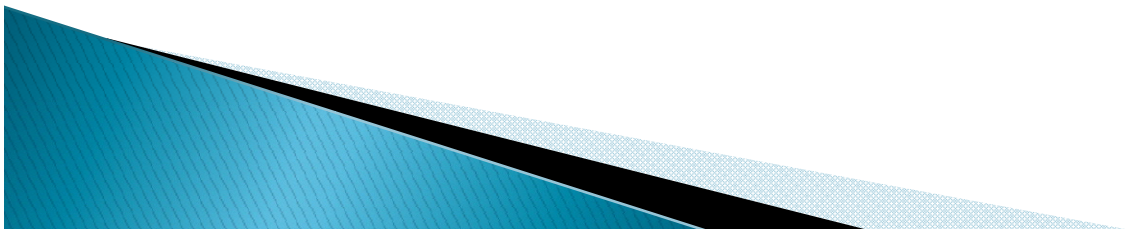
- 1) Pass a Tax Levy
- 2) Contract Terms Create Deficit
- 3) Deficit Spending
- 4) Go To Step 1



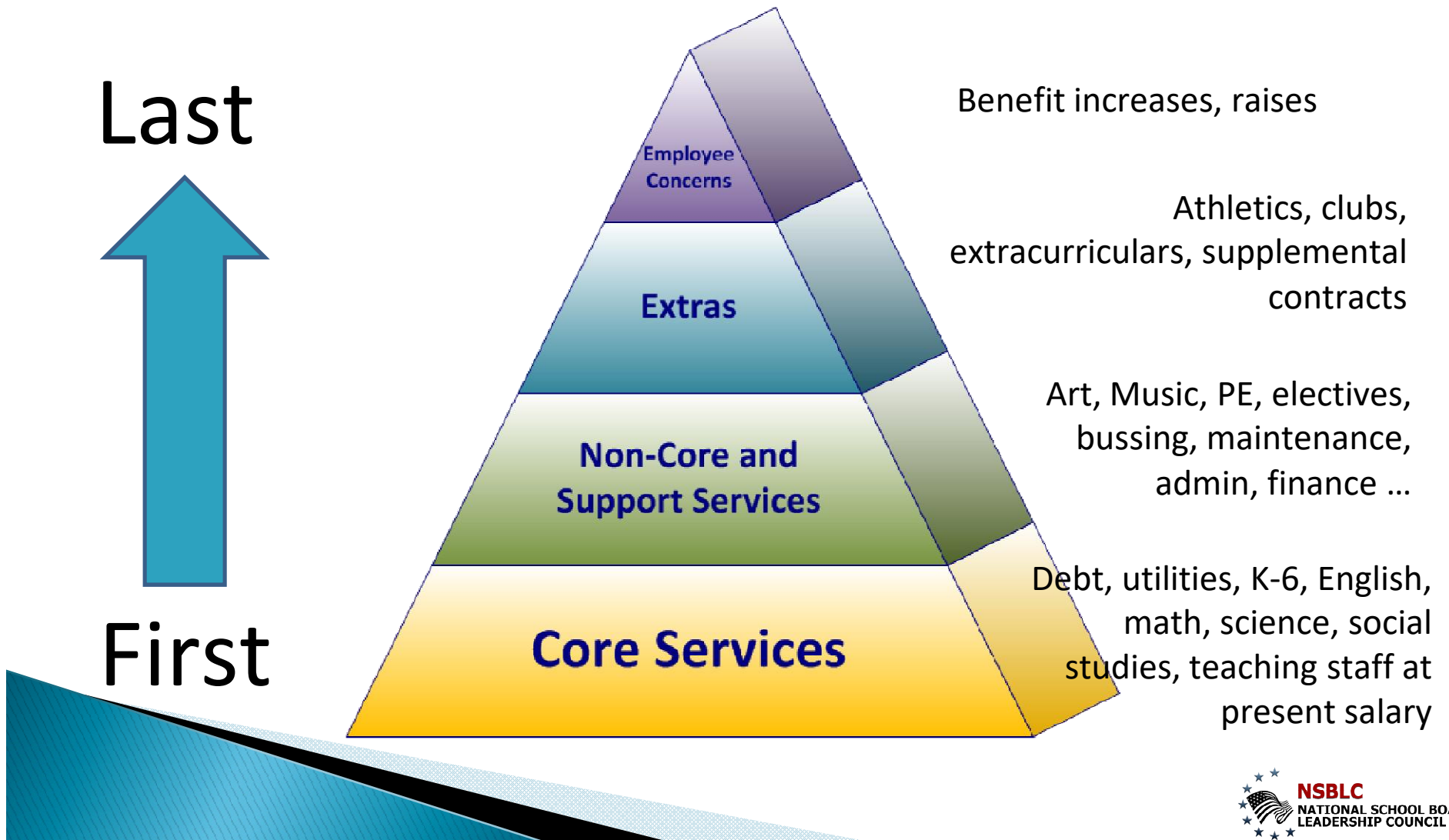
Upside Down Financial Planning

1. Money for employee benefits is budgeted first
2. Anticipated cost increases are next
3. Additional personnel considered
4. Out of money and programs/services are cut

(it turns out it's not all about the kids)



Turn it right-side up Children First Budgeting



Children First Budget Process

1. Credible enrollment forecast
2. Determine staffing for core services
3. Determine budget for core services
4. Define/prioritize non-core and support services
5. Determine budget for non-core and support
6. Define/prioritize/budget for extras
7. Determine raises and benefits and necessary budget
8. If funding is insufficient seek tax levy for items not funded

Benefits of CFB

- ← Community has visibility and sets priorities
- ← A ranked list of priorities is available
- ← Employees have a stake in streamlined operations
- ← Important services less likely to be used as levers
- ← Promotes unity/parity