

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SCHOOL FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION**

#### **TETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #401**

Teton County and the City of Victor have access to excellent educational opportunities for our children. Teton County School District has a highly esteemed administration and faculty and the various schools have been very active in keeping the young people of the community positioned well with state and national educational standards.

Teton County School District #401's overall 2005-2006 budget of \$11,327,139 is broken down as follows: 44% was derived from state funds, 40% from local taxes, 11% from federal funds, and 5% from other sources. The District spends about \$5,406 per student per year.

Every school in Idaho receives a "balanced" share of State Department of Education funds. That portion is determined by the total amount of county property values. In 2004-2005, Teton County School District #401 was the 19th wealthiest district in the state (32nd wealthiest the previous year), in terms of adjusted market value of property assessed. At the same time, the district has the state's lowest ratio of tax levy to property values. Of 114 Idaho School Districts, TCSD #401 ranked 103rd in tax levies in 2004-2005. The school district is exempt from the 3% cap on annual property tax increases.

Large and expensive new subdivisions such as Teton Springs are expected to have a small primary impact on the school's enrollment growth since they will be mostly inhabited by second homeowners and retirees with few children attending schools. However, large developments do have a secondary or "spin-off" growth effect on the schools because they create jobs which attract new residents who often do have children. They have a large effect on market property values, which drive school funding.

The recent increases in county housing costs, currently averaging about \$25,000/year, are making it difficult for the district to recruit new teachers

In recent years, the Hispanic population has shown the greatest percentage increase in the district currently at about 22% of overall enrollment. This segment of the population presents an extra challenge to the district's resources and staff to teach English as a second language, in addition to delivering its regular curriculum. The district presently doesn't have the funding needed to properly educate its Hispanic students.

TCSD #401 indicates that every classroom in the district, is currently full. Victor Elementary, Driggs Elementary, Teton Middle School, and Teton High School are all at capacity. There is a modular with two classrooms placed at Teton High and a modular with two classrooms at Victor Elementary.

The district currently has 448 students enrolled in the four grades at Teton High School, for an average of 100+ students per grade. Three hundred twenty-one students are currently enrolled in the three grades of Teton Middle School, for an average of 107+ students per grade.

The current student enrollment for TCSD #401 is 1,427. More detailed information and statistics are available at the school district office.

The superintendent of schools believes that if the growth rate in the coming decade is the same as that experienced throughout the 1990's, \$10-25 million in new capital construction for the district should be expected. The school district recently solicited a group of citizens to study the conditions of buildings and produce recommendations to the district for solutions to future growth. The findings were to build a new middle school; add additional classrooms and related space to the current high school; move grades 3,4,5 to the existing middle school and make it an intermediate school. This will give growth space in the existing elementary schools. The long-range plan includes building a new elementary school in Victor and Tetonia.

School bond elections during the 1990's in Teton County, each of which achieved a majority vote (54% in 1990, 56% in 1991, 55.4% in 1993, 66.26% in the first attempt of 1994, 61.4% in the second attempt of 1994, 64.96% in 1995, and 72.06% in 1996), finally achieved the required two thirds on the seventh vote in 1996 resulting in the construction of the new Teton High School in 1998. There is hope that any new bonding attempts will meet with greater success than did the previous seven attempts.

The district does not send buses into subdivisions and cannot do so without a larger bus fleet. As Teton County's population grows and traffic increases, this is expected to change for safety reasons. Currently, there is bus service into Willow Creek Subdivision because the city of Victor is paying for the road maintenance and the subdivision has complied with radius requirements for the pickup spot. Most subdivisions have not met these requirements.

Future subdivision service will definitely increase school transportation costs. TCSD #401 now pays 15% of regular school transportation costs while the state pays 85%. (Transportation costs associated with extracurricular activities are funded separately by the district).

Victor high school and middle school students are bussed to Driggs.

The district operates an elementary school in Victor, but overcrowding requires that some elementary school students also be bussed to Driggs. The existing Victor Elementary building has no media center or computer lab. Outdoor play space is insufficient and the auditorium stage has been converted into a classroom. The problems of overcrowding and insufficient support facilities are compounded by serious questions about the structure itself. Other Teton County schools share many of these same problems.

The City of Victor has access to several excellent private schools. The following is a list of the schools in Teton County:

### **Teton High School**

Grades: Grade 9 through 12

Location: Driggs, Idaho

Physical Address: 555 Ross Ave

Mailing Address: PO Box 754, Driggs, ID 83422  
Building: built in 1998  
Mascot: Teton Redskins  
Enrollment: 461  
Average ACT scores: 22.4 (National Avg is 22.0)  
Average Class Size: 19  
Graduation Rate: 98%

### **Teton Middle School**

Grades: Grade 6 through 8  
Location: Driggs, Idaho  
Physical Address: 481 North Main  
Mailing Address: PO Box 529, Driggs, ID 83422  
Building: built in 1948  
Mascot: Teton Mustangs  
Enrollment: 349  
Class Size: 19

### **Victor Elementary School**

Grades: Grade 1 through 5  
Location: Victor, Idaho  
Physical Address: 43 East Center  
Mailing Address: PO Box 169, Victor, ID 83455  
Building: built in 1945  
Mascot: Victor Bears  
Enrollment: 146

### **Driggs Elementary School**

Grades: Grade 1 through 5  
Location: Driggs, Idaho  
Address: 211 Howard Ave, Driggs, ID 83422 □  
Building: Built in 1958  
Mascot: Jaguars  
Enrollment: 250

### **Tetonia Elementary School**

Grades: Grade 1 through 5  
Location: Tetonia, Idaho  
Physical Address: 215 South Center  
Mailing Address: PO Box 129, Tetonia, ID 83452  
Building: built in 1952  
Mascot: Tetonia Eagles  
Enrollment: 104

### **Kindergarten and Pre-School**

Grades: Preschool, Handicapped and Kindergarten  
Location: Driggs, Idaho

Physical Address: 210 North Main, Driggs, ID 83422  
Enrollment: Kindergarten - 111 / Preschool - 20

*The schools below are not part of Teton School District 401*

**Alta Elementary**

School District: Teton School District #1, Jackson, WY  
Grades: K through 6  
Location: Alta, Wyoming  
Mailing Address: RT 1 Box 3480, Alta, WY 83414  
Building: built in 1986  
Enrollment:

**Christian School □ (Private)**

Grades: 1 through 12  
Location: Driggs, Idaho  
Mailing Address: 257 North 2nd East, Driggs, ID 83422  
Enrollment: 22

**Joshua D. Smith Foundation**

Developmental Disability Center  
Location: Driggs, Idaho  
Mailing Address: PO Box 147, Driggs, Idaho 83422  
Enrollment: 14  
Established: 1986

OTHERS:

**Actors Academy  
Teton Community School  
Basin Alternative School at the Legion Hall**

**POST HIGH SCHOOL  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

There are no post-secondary schools in the City of Victor; however, Brigham Young University-Idaho, an LDS church owned University, is located in Rexburg 50 miles west of Victor.

Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls offers Technical training and Workforce Development. Extension courses from Idaho State University and the University of Idaho are available in Idaho Falls, 66 miles southwest of Victor.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to implement the goals identified in this section it is important to identify the available tools. The most common tools are through the regular programs, budgets, and ordinances of the City. Other methods include scheduling of public expenditures to provide for the programmed implementation of the various components of the plan.

## GOALS AND POLICIES

GOALS
1. Encourage the location of schools that support the timely and orderly delivery of educational services to meet demand and address transportation issues.

**Policy No. 1:** Encourage information on comprehensive planning to be coordinated between school district and the City of Victor Planning and Zoning.

**Policy No. 2:** Encourage multiple use of school facilities according to school district policies.

Implementation 2.1: The school district should cooperate with and help establish multi-use programs whereby civic and recreational organizations have access to, and use of, the expensive public facilities controlled by the school district.

**Policy No. 3:** Encourage integration of school sites with land use, transportation systems, parks and recreation sites and other elements of the plan so that schools can function as neighborhood centers of activity in safe, efficient, and attractive settings.

**Rationale:** This policy recognizes that education is an important economic factor in the area. The quality and use of educational facilities available to every group of citizens in the community significantly affects the quality of life in the City and increases the areas ability to attract quality development.

This policy also seeks to encourage development of schools within walking distance of residential areas and vice versa so that, through development, adequate pedestrian and bicycle sidewalks or pathways and controlled road crossings will be provided for students during school hours.

**Policy No. 4:** Encourage school buildings and/or sites that avoid site limiting features and other hazards and nuisances detrimental to the safety of children and to the general operation of schools, for example, areas of floodplains, and highways. Coordinate public and private efforts to provide school sites consistent with smart growth planning principle.

Implementation 4: The city shall cooperate with the school district and the county in decisions about locations of future school facilities, consistent with smart growth principles.

**Policy No. 5:** Support educational institutions through assistance in planning for educational facilities.

Implementation 5.1: Planning and Zoning Commission should monitor new developments for compliance with District policies regarding road design, maintenance, turning radius, etc., to allow for school bus service.

**Policy No. 6:** Maintain on-going coordination between the City and local school districts and other educational institutions.

Implementation 6.1: Planning efforts should recognize that TCSD #401 will most likely have to accommodate an enrollment increase of 1633-2147 by the year 2010.

**Policy No. 7:** Advocate for safe and accessible (ADA compliant) schools that are compatible with and complementary to their neighborhoods and require a minimal need for busing.

**Policy No. 8:** Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of top-quality and accredited educational institutions to meet the needs of City of Victor's residents and business community.