

## **DISCRETIONARY LOTTERY FUNDS**

The 1996 Florida Legislature adopted an amendment to Section 24.121, Florida Statutes, requiring school districts make available to the public, on a quarterly basis, a report displaying discretionary lottery revenue and expenditures.

### **Revenue**

For the 2008-09 school year, the Polk County School District had an original budget for discretionary lottery revenues of \$3,116,783. The budget was amended based upon the revised 3<sup>rd</sup> FEFP calculation to \$2,262,882. No funds were received as of March 31, 2009.

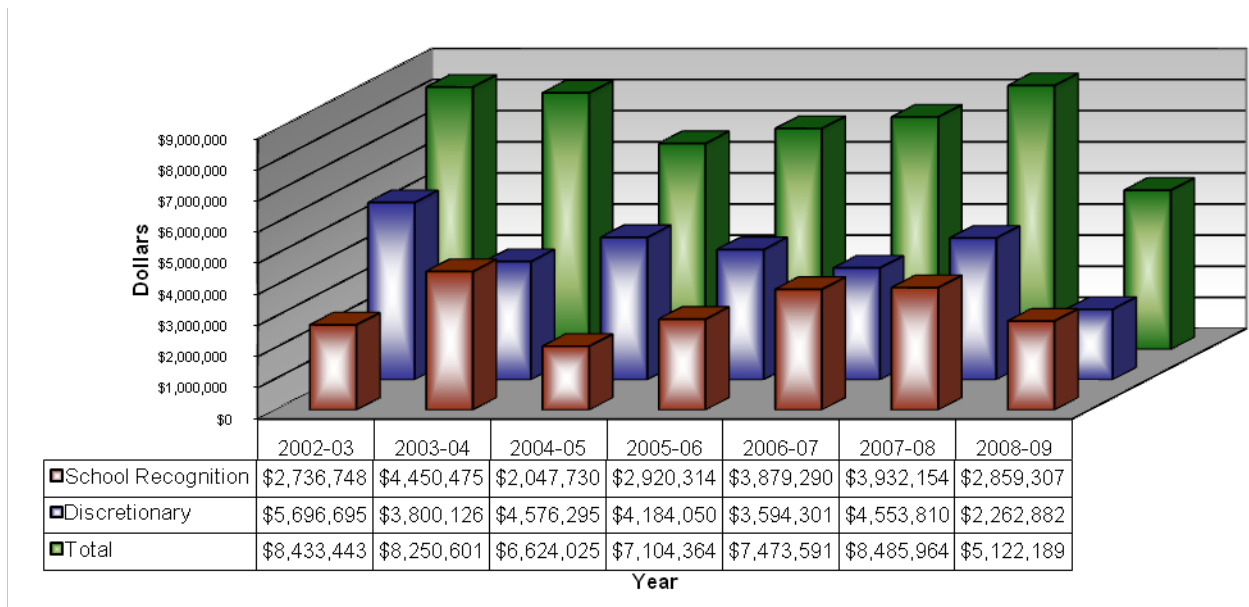
The original General Fund Operating Budget for 2008-09 was \$759,908,313. Discretionary lottery revenues comprised only 0.41% of the District's operating budget.

### **Expenditures**

Lottery funds are expended to (1) support the School Improvement and Accountability initiative, providing schools with an annual per student allocation to flexibly support local school improvement plans as directed by each school's SAC (School Advisory Committee), (2) continue support of programs previously funded by state categorical and other state revenue sources and (3) support general operating fund expenditures.

As of March 31, 2009, schools and their respective SACs had spent or encumbered \$350,953 of the \$1,143,708 allocated on a per student basis to them. The remaining discretionary lottery dollars, allocated within the General Operating Fund, were appropriated in accordance with the published District budget (a copy of which is available on this web site). Unspent funds will be carried over to the next school year for their use.

## Historical Perspective of Lottery Funding for Polk County School District



Florida Lottery proceeds are distributed by the State as follows: 50% for prizes, 38% for education (including K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities), and 12% for lottery department administration.

Polk County's share of the Florida Lottery funds (made up of the two components) is received each year. **School Recognition Dollars** are required to be distributed to specific schools maintaining A+ grades under the Governor's A+ Program. **Discretionary Lottery Funds** are allocated to support the School Improvement and Accountability initiative, providing schools with an annual \$5 per student allocation, as well as providing continuing support to the general operating budget. Discretionary allocations are controlled and spent under the direction of each school's School Advisory Committee (SAC).

As one can see from the table above, the amount of lottery funding that has been diverted to the School Recognition program is significant. Discretionary and total lottery revenues are significantly less than they were five years ago. Our total discretionary lottery dollars, if not partially restricted to SAC committee usage, would only operate our school district for less than one day, and represent less than half of one percent of our general operating budget.