

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 2005-06 school year, the Polk County School District has an amended budget for discretionary lottery revenues of \$4,187,662. No funds were received from the state as of December 31, 2005.

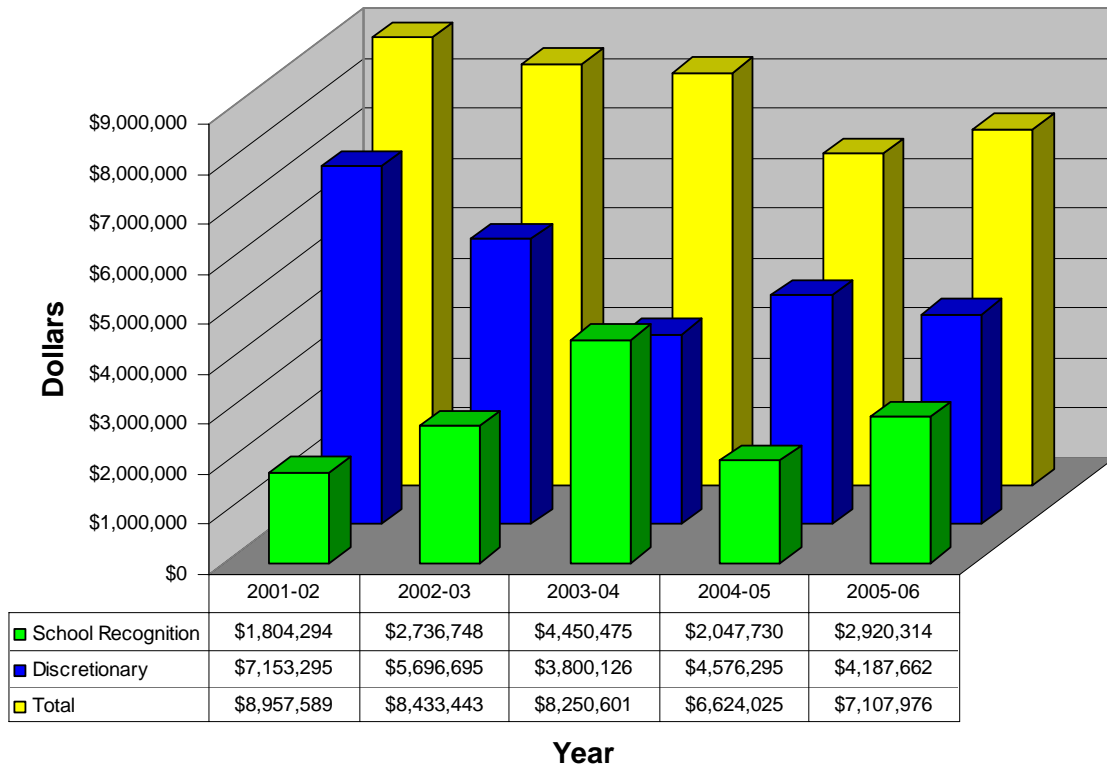
The original General Fund Operating Budget for 2005-06 is \$623,353,653 - discretionary lottery revenues comprise only 0.67% of the District's operating budget.

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, including providing increases in salaries and benefits for instructional and other personnel of the district.

As of December 31, 2005, schools and their respective SACs had spent or encumbered \$375,838 of the \$1,230,477 allocated on a per student basis to them. The remaining discretionary lottery dollars, allocated within the General Operating Fund, are appropriated in accordance with the published District budget (a copy of which is available on this web site).

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 \$10 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. Our discretionary lottery funds for the 2005-06 school year declined by \$388,633 (from the prior year) after final 2005-06 allocations of school recognition dollars were determined. Total lottery funding for our district has declined four of the last five years. Discretionary lottery revenues for the 2005-06 year are over \$2.9 million dollars less than five years ago; total lottery revenues are over \$1.8 million dollars less than five years ago. Our total discretionary lottery dollars, if not partially restricted to SAC committee usage, could only operate our school district for less than two days and represent 0.67% of our general operating budget.