

## **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 2006-07 school year, the Polk County School District has an original budget for discretionary lottery revenues of \$3,598,575.

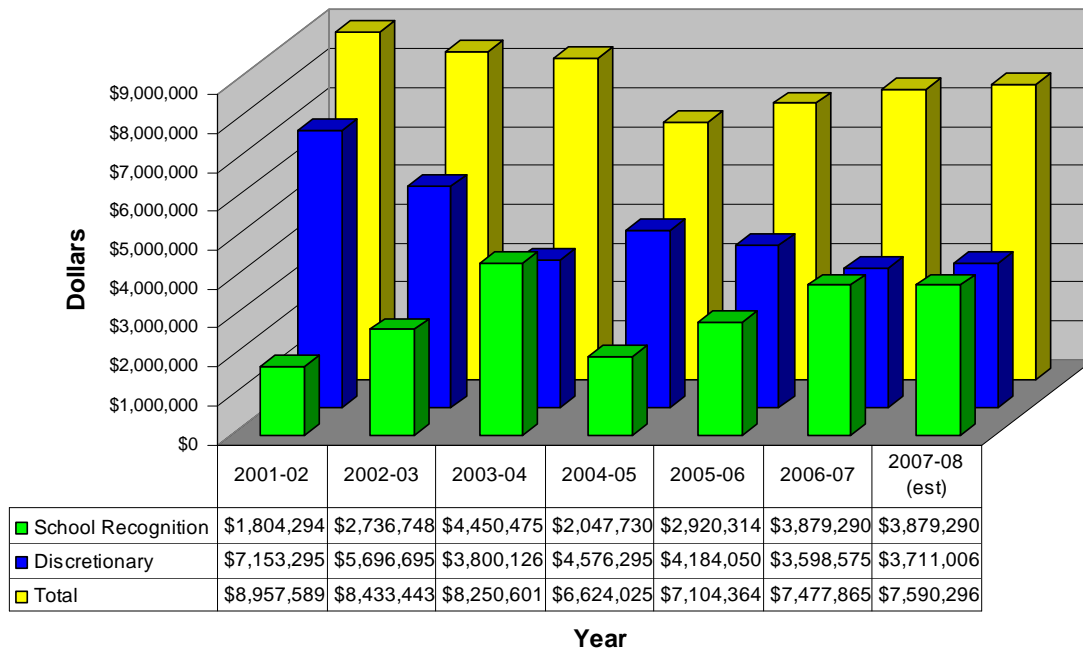
The original General Fund Operating Budget for 2006-07 was \$689,846,051 - discretionary lottery revenues comprised only 0.49% of the District's operating budget.

### **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 June 30, 2007, schools and their respective SACs had spent or encumbered \$717,444 of the \$1,230,676 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 \$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 2006-07 school year declined by \$585,475 (from the prior year). Total lottery funding for our district has declined four of the last five years. Discretionary lottery revenues for the 2006-07 year are less than half what they were just five years ago; total lottery revenues are nearly \$1.0 million dollars less than five years ago. Our total discretionary lottery dollars, if not partially restricted to SAC committee usage could operate our school district for less than two days, and represents only 0.49% of our general operating budget.