

**C.L.A.I.M. - Finance Work Group**  
**DRAFT – May 12, 2016**

**Focus/Beliefs:** Access to adequate educational funding is critical to the success of District 97's mission to guarantee that each student achieves optimal intellectual growth while developing socially, emotionally, and physically through a system distinguished by:

- Exemplary instruction focused on each student
- Commitment to the needs of a diverse population
- Meaningful partnerships with families and the community
- Celebrations of the power of art, music, and language
- Confident students challenged to be educational risk-takers

Diminution of funding resources applies significant pressure on the District to fulfill its mission without further compromise to student instruction in the future.

**Top Legislative Priorities to Monitor:** C.L.A.I.M. proposes monitoring the following issues in support of adequate educational funding:

1. School funding reforms at the State, and to a lesser extent County and Federal level.
2. Efforts at the State level to freeze local property taxes.
3. Efforts at the State level to shift pension costs from the State onto District 97.
4. The effect of funded and unfunded mandates on District finances.
5. Miscellaneous cost and revenue measures that potentially impact costs and revenue sources to District 97 such as local zoning compliance, new revenue sources, residency requirements, etc.

**Efforts to Achieve the Goal:** C.L.A.I.M. proposes the following to support the District in its efforts to monitor the District's revenue sources:

- Connect with the community to inform citizens and to hear concerns with public forums such as the annual Legislator Forum.
- Ongoing outreach and dialogue with our Federal, State and Local lawmakers.
- Participation and collaboration with outside groups, such as Ed-Red, to share concerns and support strategies for upcoming legislation.
- Ongoing outreach and dialogue with local support agencies serving similar constituencies – District 200, District 90, Collaboration for Early Childhood, Oak Park Township Youth Services, Oak Park Education Foundation, etc.