

# Reverse Economics

## 5.2 FTE Cut

Projected savings - \$156,000

In this district case study, the administration proposed the elimination of 5.2 FTE band and orchestra instructors to “save” \$156,000.

There were 2529 students (grades 4-12) involved in those two programs. Cuts would have necessitated the elimination of nearly 1,800 students the first year, requiring the addition of 6.4 FTE classroom teachers to replace the 5.2 FTE music performance teachers proposed for elimination.

In other words, instead of saving \$156,000, they would have been required to spend \$192,000 the first year on replacement teachers with lesser FTE value. By year five, the annual budget miscalculation would have been \$534,000. (\$156,000 anticipated cut + \$378,000 for 12.6 FTE replacement classroom teachers).

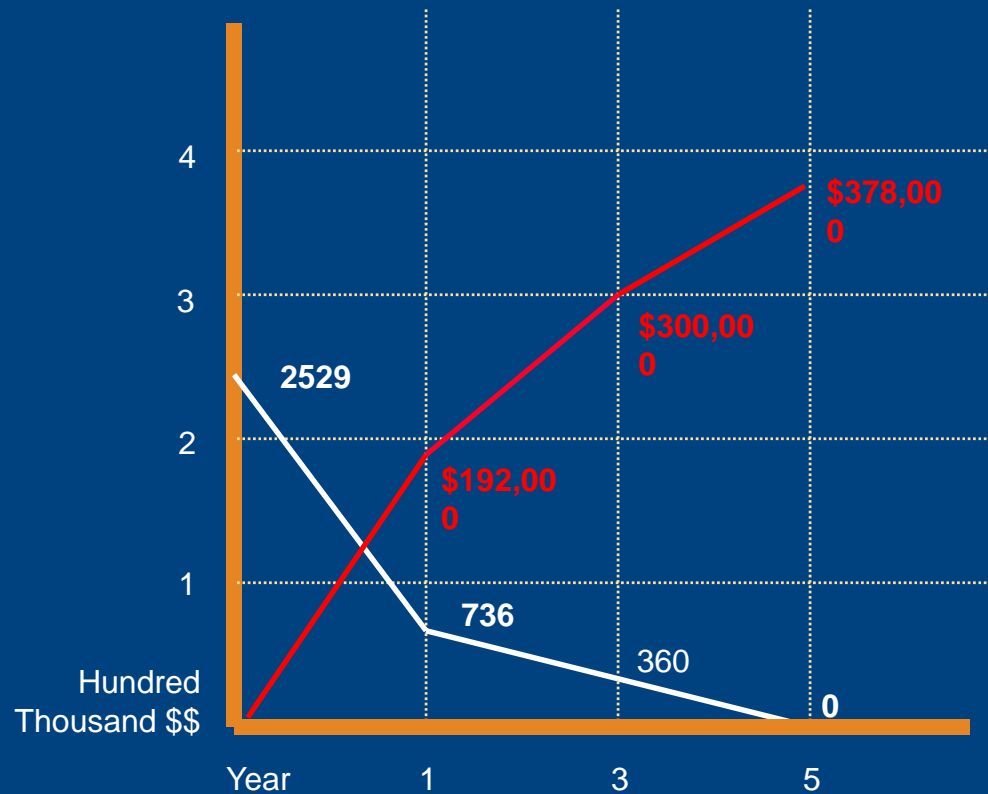
This loss of student participation is based upon extensive national case studies that indicate the elimination of an elementary feeder system will cause a minimum 65% loss in student participation at the secondary level within two to four years. This is in part because no new elementary students will be started (in this case) until year three, and a similar amount of students will have been graduated.

Source: The Advocate's Plan, Dr. John L. Benham, SupportMusic.org

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**ANNUAL BUDGET  
MISCALCULATION**

**\$534,000**

New Classes	29	50	63
New Classroom FTE	6.4	10.0	12.6