



School Budgeting with Students in Mind

Podcast Episode 22 — Run Time 15:59

Budgeting is an important element of education leadership, and it can be a daunting task. Examine the process for determining a school’s most important needs in order to establish a functional and effective school budget. Practical information and insights are provide by **Dr. Kesha Walrond**, an Assistant Professor in *Lipscomb’s College of Education* (and former MNPS Principal) and **Dr. Shawna Pierce**, a current Principal in *Metro Nashville Public Schools*.

Summary Points

How to Get Started

- Organize a school improvement team
- Review and revise current school improvement plan
- Analyze current school data; include academic and non-academic data sources

Best Practices

- Conduct a needs assessment
- Review and analyze trends
- Determine returns on investment for previous line items
- Include all stakeholders in the decision-making process (parents, students, faculty/staff, and community members)

Financial Responsibility & Accountability

- Monitor the use of programs and tools included in the budget
- Ensure good stewardship of funds
- Budget flexibility and autonomy

Continue the Conversation

“What processes will you establish in your school to keep student needs at the center and include all stakeholders?”



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Food for Thought

How to Get Started

- Who should be included on the budget team?
- What are the school's current needs and how do you know?
- What is currently working and what isn't?

Best Practices

- Has the data been shared with all the stakeholders?
- Have all stakeholders had an opportunity to participate in the budget process by providing input?
- Are there previous purchases that have a high return on investment? Low return on investment?

Financial Responsibility & Accountability

- Are student needs at the center of budget decisions?

References & Recommended Resources

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