

YOU ASKED. WE ANSWERED!

MBA and Pathway to the MBA Answers Revealed



We asked you to share your budget development, Meritorious Budget Award (MBA), and Pathway to the MBA questions.



Then, we asked one of our long-time reviewers for the answers!

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Q: HOW DOES APPLYING FOR THE MBA (OR PATHWAY) ACTUALLY IMPROVE MY BUDGET?

Reviewer: There is an increased emphasis on transparency with our schools' parents, staff, and community. The MBA program allows you the opportunity to provide your community with the full picture of your budget, the factors and process used to build your budget, the district's goals and objectives, and comparable data from prior years and projected years. The reviewer comments give you the opportunity to further explain sections within your budget in a more meaningful, easy-to-understand format.

Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING?

Reviewer: Consider building an MBA committee within your district. The MBA includes information beyond just the numbers, so it is important to have team members who can help you gather information such as enrollment, student achievement, tax rates, assessments, etc. Consider including a team member who has no school finance expertise. This person will be a great sounding board to ensure you are clearly explaining the elements of your budget in an easy-to-understand format. The person's role will be to build your glossary of terms!

Q: WHO SHOULD CONSIDER APPLYING FOR THE PATHWAY TO THE MBA?

Reviewer: If this is the district's first time applying, the Pathway to the MBA is a great place to start. Districts submit a cover letter, the MBA Criteria Checklist, the Executive Summary and one other budget section. The next year, they can submit the Executive Summary and a different section, or submit for the full MBA.

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