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Changes to Mississippi's public school funding system have significantly affected the financial outlook of the Baldwyn School District. Under the new funding formula, Baldwyn was among the districts that experienced an unfavorable financial impact. Even though the district is presently in great financial shape, these changes have raised concerns about our district's long-term financial stability and the resources needed to maintain the educational opportunities our students deserve.

At the same time, state leaders are examining school district consolidation ahead of the 2027 Legislative Session. The Mississippi House of Representatives' Select Committee on Consolidation began meeting in June 2026 to study potential mergers involving public school districts, community colleges, and universities. As one of Mississippi's smallest school districts, Baldwyn must be prepared for the possibility of being included in future consolidation efforts.

In response to these challenges, we believe a partnership with the Booneville School District offers an opportunity to strengthen our financial future while protecting our schools and local taxpayers. A bill will be introduced during the 2027 Legislative Session to consolidate the two districts. By pooling resources and combining district administration, the proposed merger would help create a more sustainable financial structure to support students and staff in both communities.

Protecting taxpayers is a central goal of this proposal. School district taxes are not expected to increase as a result of the merger. Without a merger or another solution to the district's financial challenges; however, maintaining current programs and services could place greater pressure on local taxpayers in the future.

Under the proposed consolidation, Baldwyn and Booneville would retain their respective school campuses, community identities, and traditions. The Baldwyn Bearcats and Booneville Blue Devils would continue to represent their communities. The proposal focuses on combining district administration while preserving the local schools that serve our students and families.

Our goal is to protect Baldwyn's schools and our community for future generations. Pursuing a partnership with Booneville is a proactive step toward addressing financial challenges, protecting taxpayers, supporting students and staff, and keeping the doors of our schools open in our Bearcat community.