

Lee Schools has a \$355 million a year Spending Problem

BUDGET SAVINGS AND REFORMS ARE THE SENSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE OUTRAGEOUS \$1 BILLION TEN YEAR SALES TAX INCREASE.



STATE AUDIT FINDS LEE SCHOOLS SPENT \$13.6 MILLION IMPROPERLY

The report lists 15 findings against the district, including whether it misused millions in impact fees and ad valorem taxes.

The report included a response from the school district on each of the findings. The school district disagreed with seven of the 15 report's findings. **The district either agreed or partly agreed with the remaining findings in the report.**

<https://www.winknews.com/2018/09/27/audit-finds-lee-county-school-district-spent-13-6m-improperly/>



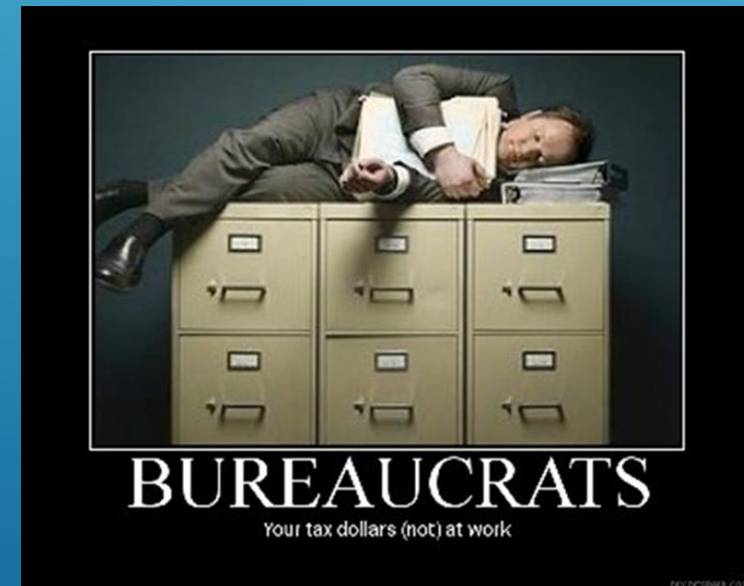
STATE AUDIT FINDS LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS SPENT \$13.6 MILLION IMPROPERLY **CONTINUED**

Lee Schools is accused of paying two companies a total of \$2.7 million for "various cleaning and grounds keeping services that did not appear consistent with allowable uses of ad valorem tax levy proceeds."

The Auditor General's office was concerned about an additional \$1.5 million in ad valorem taxes it alleges were used for services not allowed under state law.

The report also shows that nine volunteers at Tice Elementary ***entered the school without proper background checks.***

<https://www.winknews.com/2018/09/27/audit-finds-lee-county-school-district-spent-13-6m-improperly/>



STATE AUDIT FINDS LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS SPENT \$13.6 MILLION IMPROPERLY **CONTINUED**

The Florida Auditor General revealed Lee Schools expended \$13 million of impact fee revenue for unauthorized purposes and recommended they repay those funds to the Capital budget (Florida Auditor General Report #2019-26, p. 3).



STATE AUDITOR FINES LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS AT LEAST \$117,075.

The Auditor General reported “non-compliance related to the reported FTE student enrollment resulted in 78 findings”! Sixty eight (68) of 496 in the ESOL test/sample were errors or records not found for a 13.7% error rate and 49 of 171 in the Grades 9-12 Career Education test/sample were errors or records not found for a whopping 28.7% error rate.

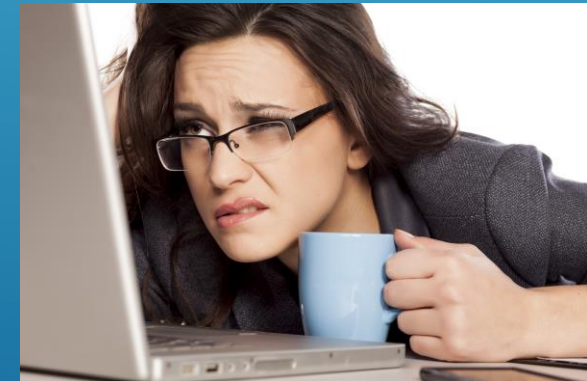
According to this Report, **the fine** or ‘adjustment’ to the District will be **\$117,075**. Dr. Alberto Rodriguez.



INCOMPETENT MANAGEMENT, **INCREASING DEBT** AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AT LEE SCHOOLS

Borrows \$25 million to pay for Hurricane damage rather than cut costs. The amount of money the district will have to put toward paying off debt this upcoming fiscal year is up 11.5 percent, going from more than \$59 million to more than \$65 million. The district's total debt is about \$515 million.

“We are projecting that **(borrowing) to increase** year over year, ***even if we are successful with the sales tax revenue,***” Finance Director Blurton.



INCOMPETENT MANAGEMENT, POOR LEADERSHIP AND **LACK OF HONESTY**



Understate sales tax revenue at \$500 million when it will raise \$1 Billion!

Overstate increase in student growth by counting students who must retake Senior Year.

Cry poverty but gives 9 month retroactive pay raises to 364 Central staff bureaucrats and the Superintendent a 13% pay raise Plus special \$20,900 payment

Claim they want citizen input but throw out a former School

Employee from an Advisory Committee who shows sales tax and Student enrollment facts contrary to the Schools propaganda.



BONITA HIGH SCHOOL BLUNDER SITE APPROVED DESPITE ASBESTOS AND HIGH LAND COSTS

Purchased land they didn't own spending \$14 million. The board picked property had to be cleaned up for asbestos and diesel spills. Lee County Schools already owned property in Lehigh and Alva where a High School is desperately needed.



BONITA HIGH SCHOOL BLUNDER! \$22 MILLION OVER BUDGET, DESIGN REDUCED BY 200 STUDENTS!

For political reasons Lee School Board improperly put a 1,800 seat High School in Bonita Springs. The average state wide cost for a High School is \$65 million- Bonita HS cost over \$85 million.

For the same \$85 million the incompetent school officials could have built a 2,000 seat High School in Lehigh Acres on school owned land in Gateway and a 600 student seat expansion at Estero High School which was designed and built for expansion.

(OPPAGA Performance Audit of Lee County Schools, 8/28/18, p. 55).

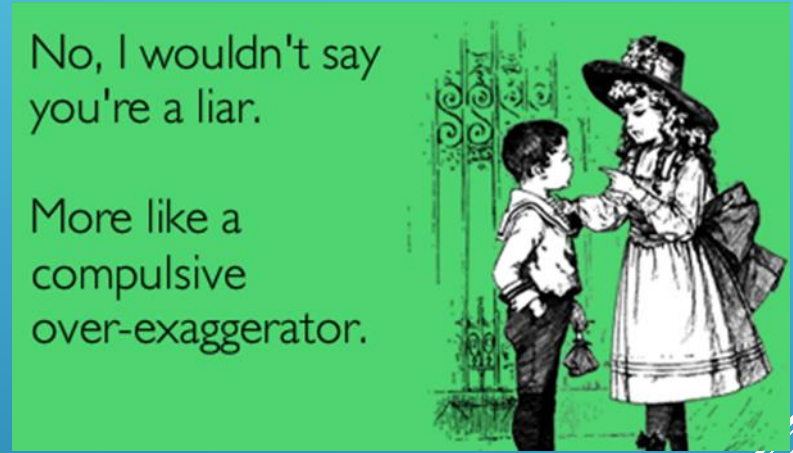


BONITA HIGH SCHOOL IS MOSTLY EMPTY WITH ONLY 600 STUDENTS TODAY **WHILE LEHIGH HS AND RIVERDALE HS HAVE 25 PORTABLE CLASSROOMS EACH!**



LEE SCHOOL OVERSTATES THE NUMBER OF STUDENT AND SCHOOLS

“Lee Schools is using incorrect population projections to justify the need for higher taxes. Lee Schools inflated its data by including charter school students, Gardiner Scholarship students, and Virtual School students. **Lee Schools does not spend anything from its capital budget to provide facilities for any of these students.** Therefore, they should not be asking for additional capital funds on their behalf”. -State Representative Ray Rodrigues



LEE SCHOOL OVERSTATES THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

Lee Schools is using outdated student population projections. Florida Department of Education's projections for Lee County are as much as 40% lower than the numbers Lee Schools is claiming.

Lee Schools is also counting Seniors who must repeat their Senior year as "new students."

Some people are so addicted to exaggeration that they can't tell the truth without lying.



FLORIDA STATE AUDITORS PROVE LEE SCHOOLS SPENDING TAX DOLLARS UNWISELY

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) audit revealed that the Lee Schools has **882 acres of property, and only 143 acres are reserved for future schools**. School Board Member Jane Kuckel wrote, “Last year, the district spent \$52 million in “mortgage” payments.” The debt for these properties are included in that debt service. OPPAGA recommends that the Lee Schools sell the excess property.

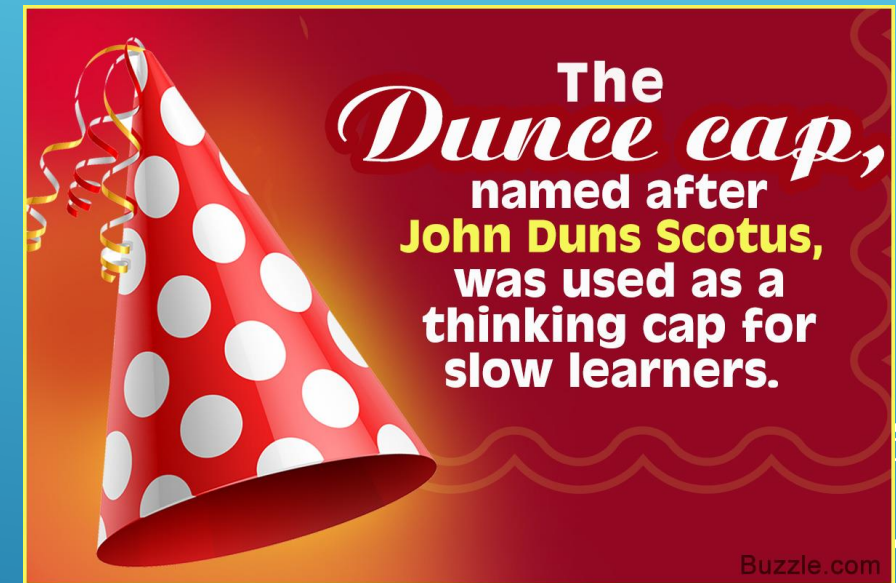
(OPPAGA Performance Audit of Lee County Schools, 8/28/18, p.6)

<https://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/09/14/tell-you-why-you-should-vote-lee-county-schools-sale-tax/1300999002/>



INCOMPETENT LEE SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT

Selling surplus land will expand our tax base as public property is tax exempt. Sales of the excess property could have reduced the amount of debt payments. Cash from land sales and the money saved on debt service could have been used for maintenance and construction without reaching in your pocket for more tax dollars.



SAVE \$25 MILLION A YEAR REPLACING DOUBLE DIPPERS WHO RECEIVE A PENSION AND PAYCHECK AT THE SAME TIME TO DO THE SAME JOB!

Replacing the 482 retired employees who receive a school pension and school salary at the same time (DROP) with entry level people will save the School district \$25 million a year without cutting a single position! **Double Dippers don't pay 3% of their salary to their pension!** Taxpayers and students are on the hook to pay \$27.9 billion in unfunded public pensions and \$4.5 billion liability in retiree health care."



RETURN THE 31 DROP DOUBLE DIPPER TEACHERS TO THE CLASSROOM

Instead of performing administrative tasks improving student performance and avoiding hiring 31 new teachers saving \$2.48 million a year. **Double Dippers don't pay 3% into their pensions like all other public employees.**



PRIVATIZE THE 542 JANITOR AND 82 HEAD CUSTODIAN POSITIONS

Just like Collier and Duval Schools and Charter Schools. Why pay janitors full time pay during summer break and holidays? Saving \$5 million a year. **Seventeen retired Janitors/Custodians receive a salary and a pension at the same time!**



**He's Cleaning Up With YOUR
Hard Earned Money...**



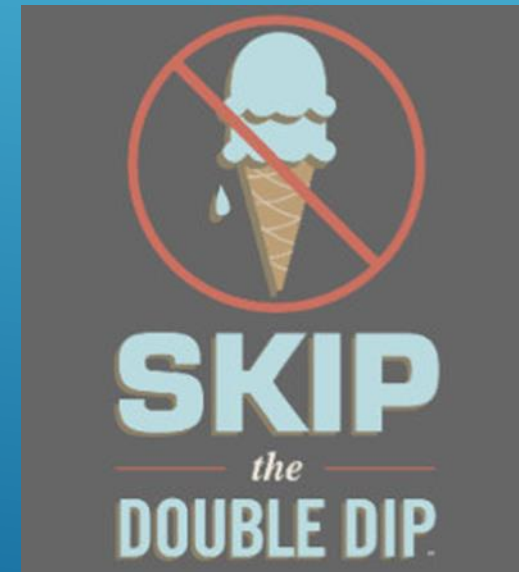
ELIMINATE THE FOUR "MESSENGER/COURIERS" SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

"Messenger/Couriers" School employees who deliver packages between schools. Replace with UPS, Fed Ex, Uber or Lift. **Two Lee School "Messenger/Couriers" are Double Dippers** receiving a pension and salary at the same time! Saving approximately \$80,000 a year.



PRIVATIZE BUS SERVICES

Just like Duval and Charter Schools saving at least 10%. ***Ten retired Bus drivers/assistant attendants receive a pension and salary at the same time!*** Use Uber/Lyft to provide faster transportation for pregnant, young moms and handicapped students. 769 bus drivers, 4 driver training/safety positions, 7 route specialists bus attendants. Save negotiating costs with Teamsters Union saving at least \$7.2 million a year.



ELIMINATE 2 PRINCIPALS AND 3 ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Some of these high paid individuals were removed from schools due to trouble. **Three of these "Special Assignment" Principals and Assistant Principals are retired Double Dippers receiving a pension and paycheck at the same time! Saving approximately \$600,000.**



PRIVATIZE FOOD SERVICES

Duval Schools and Charter Schools food privatization results in lower costs and higher customer satisfaction. **Nine retired cooks are double dippers receiving a pension and paycheck at the same time!** Many cooks get supplemental pay for larger schools. Why is there a budgeted surplus of \$18 million in this activity? Private companies are responsible for food loss during a hurricane or other power outages. Savings of at least \$7 million a year.



PRIVATIZE SECRETARIES, CLERKS AND TYPISTS

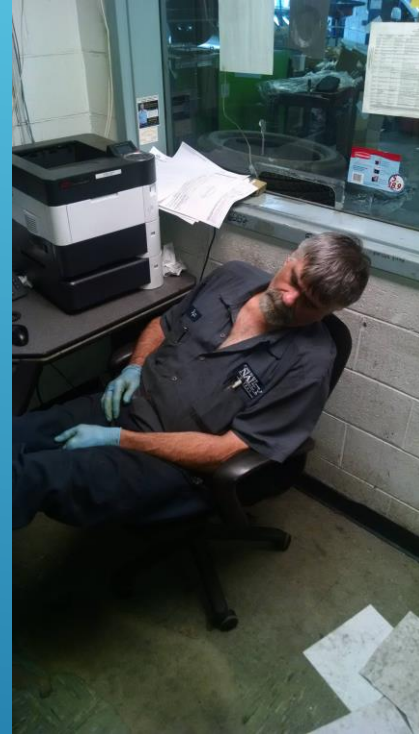
40 retired Lee School secretaries, bookkeepers and clerk-typists **are double dipping, receiving a salary and pension at the same time to do the same job!** The highest paid secretaries are paid \$67,387 a year (plus health care and insurance and cashing out of unused sick vacation and personal days).

The average secretary in Cape Coral only makes \$30,689 and the entry level secretary at Lee Schools makes \$22,173.



PRIVATIZE TRADES AND SUPPORT STAFF

Privatizing Mechanics, Utility Workers, Trades, Printers, saving at least \$2.77 million. A former Lee School Board member says Trade workers are told to slow down and “pace yourselves” because there is not enough work to justify so many positions. Many are Double Dippers!



LEE SCHOOLS CHEATED AND GAVE THEMSELVES AN UNSCHEDULED PAY RAISE OF 3% IN 2011

“Lee Schools cheated and gave themselves an unscheduled pay raise of 3% in 2011 shifting individual responsibility back onto the taxpayers. Lee School employees paying 3% of salary could generate \$13.9 million a year. All other State, County, city and other school district employees started paying 3% of their salary into the state pension in 2011 except Lee County Schools.

Now is the time for the School district “public servants” to put their money where their mouth is to help pay for new schools.”



PROHIBIT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES FROM CONVERTING 5 SICK DAYS TO 5 PERSONAL DAYS A YEAR

Sick days should only be used for Doctor verified sick days, not personal leave for any reason the employee wants. This reform will eliminate the needs to hire substitute teachers and substitute support staff.



END EMPLOYEE CASHING OUT OF UNUSED DAYS

School employees are cashing out unused days. Sick days should only be used for Doctor verified sick days for the employees or their dependents.



LIMIT CASH OUTS OF UNUSED DAYS TO THE SALARY WHEN EARNED, NOT FINAL PAY

Limit cashing out of unused sick, vacation and personal days to the pay level at the time the employee earned the days off not the employees final, highest pay. (School needs to provide number).



PROHIBIT ARTIFICIAL PENSION INCREASES

Prohibit final pay from being artificially increased by not including cashing out of unused days off which artificially increases pension payments.
(School needs to provide number.)



ROLL BACK THE BLOATED NUMBER OF CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR BUREAUCRATS EARNING \$112,500

Central Office Administrator bureaucrats earning \$112,500 to FY 2013 levels cutting thirteen positions saving \$3.3 million. Administrators get 24.06% salary match for pensions, teachers get 8.26%.



REVERSE THE 9 MONTH RETROACTIVE 2.5% PAY INCREASE FOR 364 CENTRAL SCHOOL BUREAUCRATS

Lee Schools cries poverty but gave a **9 month retroactive 2.5% pay increase for 364 Central School Bureaucrats**. Administrators get 24.06% of salary match for pensions, other school employees receive 8.26%. Most Central School Bureaucrats make over \$120,500 a year. Savings \$1.4 million a year.



RETURN THE 109 HIGH PRODUCTIVITY TEACHERS TO THE CLASSROOM

Instead of performing administrative tasks improving student performance, mentoring teachers and avoiding hiring 109 new teachers saving \$8.7 million and not hiring new inexperienced teachers.



CUT MEMBERSHIPS AND CONVENTIONS \$5 MILLION BY 50%

Lee School already budgets Instructional staff training of \$6.2 million and \$9.2 million in Instructional and Curriculum development service, saving \$2.5 million a year.



CHANGE THE SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE USE TECHNOLOGY TO PREVENT BUS DRIVER CHEATING ON WORKING HOURS

School buses can operate more efficiently. Upgrade bus GPS to Savona System and time clocks to prevent cheating saving \$2 million a year just like Alamance-Burlington Schools.



SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO TRANSFER BACK THE .5 MILS FROM OPERATING EXPENSES BACK TO CAPITAL BUDGET

Freeing up \$39.3 million
for construction the first
year and more each
future year.



LEE SCHOOLS ARE BURNING MONEY WITH LOW INTEREST DEPOSITS.

Switch cash reserves to market rate

Bank accounts generating more than \$600,000 a year. Lee School's interest on investments declined from \$2,568,999 in 2016 to \$1,900,000 in 2017 as interest rates were rising and the total property assessment for Lee County has increased by 8.11% between 2017 (\$75.82 billion) and 2018 (\$81.97 billion). p.23.



PRIVATIZE AND REFORM SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTORNEY COMPENSATION

The School Attorney “negotiates” then collects the same wage increases unions get plus annual increases! Saving at least \$50,000.



PUT THE NEVER USED “RESERVES” TO PAY DEBT AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Contingency Reserves \$23 million, **Reserves for “Board Priorities”** \$17 million, **Unappropriated fund balance** \$156 million, **Reserve for School Vouchers** \$3 million, **Reserve for Employee Shortfall or proration** \$3 million, (a slush fund to pay for retroactive and unscheduled pay increases), **for a total of \$201.9 million should be used to pay off debt.**



USE BALANCES/RESERVES OF \$202 MILLION TO PAY OFF PART OF THE \$431 MILLION DEBT

**Saving approximately
\$27.6 million in Debt
interest and principal
each year.**



ELIMINATE TAKE HOME CARS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Saving approximately
\$250,000.



**THE C.A.P.
PROPOSAL:
Save America's
Schools By Cutting
Administrators' Pay**

ELIMINATE SUPERINTENDENT ADKIN'S SPECIAL \$20,900 RETIREMENT PAY AND 20 WEEKS TERMINATION BONUS \$154,495= \$175,395!

Superintendent Adkins got a multi-year to 13% pay raise to \$209,000 a year. Atkins already gets 24.06% of salary paid into his pension, plus FICA, plus cashing out unused days. Teachers get 8.26% of salary into pension. Plus a 20 weeks termination bonus. Total savings \$175,395.



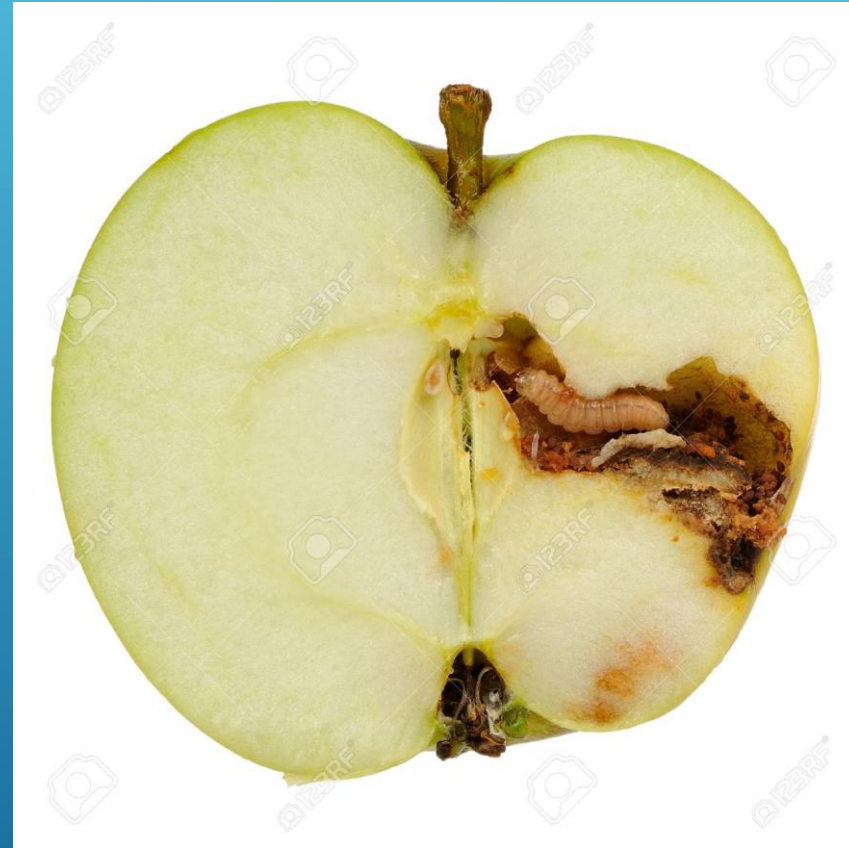
ELIMINATE THE PRACTICE OF SENDING TROUBLE PRINCIPALS AND ASSIST PRINCIPALS TO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

The Transportation Bureaucracy is bloated with high paid Principals and Vice Principals removed from schools due to trouble. These individuals have no training in Transportation! Saving approximately \$250,000.



STOP PAYING HALF THE SALARY OF THE TEACHERS UNION AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL UNION LEADERS

Saving approximately \$100,000 a year. The over 11,500 Lee School employees should pay for their own Union leaders' salary.



PROHIBIT OVERTIME FOR EXEMPT AND QUASI ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

School district needs to provide dollar amount.



END THE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS TO ADMINISTRATORS

Salaries over \$125,000 is enough pay to complete all assignments without more supplemental pay. (School district needs to provide the dollar amount.)



LEE SCHOOLS HAS A \$355 MILLION SPENDING PROBLEM AND INCOMPETENT MANAGEMENT. QUESTIONS?

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