



# PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## FY2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

### Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

PCSD's Strategic Plan provides a framework and sets the tone for creating a dynamic culture, where students are engaged, inspired and prepared for their future. Student success for ALL starts with a passion for effective stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The budget is the catalyst for creating safe schools and engaging environments, where students can thrive.

**INTEGRITY.** Results of the most recent financial audit were outstanding, and the District received Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts' *Excellence in Financial Reporting Award*.

**STEWARDSHIP.** PCSD recently received a 4-Star *Financial Efficiency Rating*, which measures a district's per-pupil spending in relation to the academic achievements of its students. Only 12 of 180 districts or 7% scored better than PCSD (FY19).



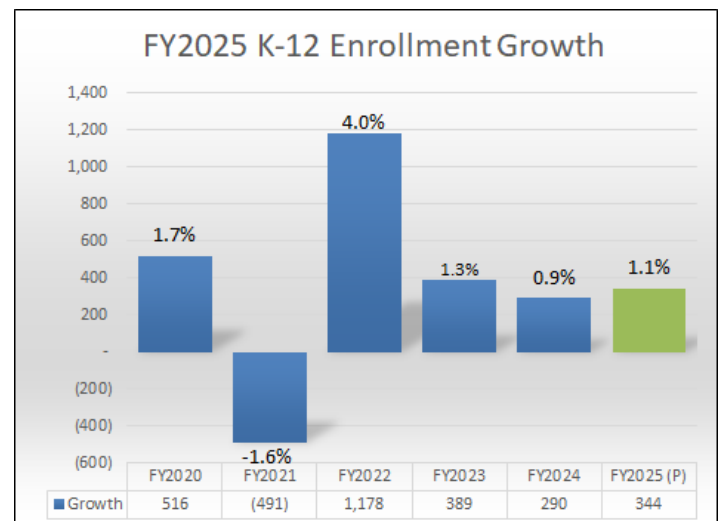
Every year the Paulding County School District (PCSD) develops and adopts a budget for the next fiscal year. This report is designed to inform parents, students, staff and stakeholders about the key metrics involved in developing our budget and highlights for the upcoming year.

## FY2025 Budget Highlights

**Enrollment Growth and Virtual Instruction.** PCSD is projected to educate 31,935 students in FY2025 (school year 2024-2025), an increase of 344 students or 1.1%.

For the 10 years ending FY2024, the district had an annual growth rate of 1.1%. In the prior decade, FY2014 - FY2024, enrollment increased 3,317 or 11.7%. FY2024 enrollment increased 290 or 0.9% to 31,591.

The district anticipates educating approximately 0.7% or 238 students virtually. Approximately 99.3% or 31,697 are expected to attend face-to-face instruction.



**Low Wealth.** Despite favorable employment, income and free-and-reduced lunch statistics, PCSD is considered low wealth due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base and the large number of school-aged children per household. Below are rankings against the 36 large districts in Georgia (school districts over 10,000). Rankings against all 180 school districts in Georgia are in parentheses.

- 11<sup>th</sup> Largest District as of FY2023
- 26<sup>th</sup> in Local Revenue per Student (95<sup>th</sup> out of 180)
  - ✓ Collect \$1,567 less than Statewide Average per Student, a total deficit of \$49 million
- 10<sup>th</sup> in State Revenue per Student (98<sup>th</sup> out of 180)
  - ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> Largest Recipient of Equalization (\$34.0 million in FY25)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> in Total Revenue, including Federal sources, per Student (145<sup>th</sup> out of 180)
  - ✓ Collect \$1,396 less than Statewide Average per Student, a total deficit of \$42 million

# Demographics and Statistics

## Paulding County

- 1.7% State Population
- 1.4% Housing Units
- 2.1% More Persons per Household (Age 5-18)
- 3% Commercial / Industrial Land Use

## PCSD

- 19 Elementary Schools
- 10 Middle Schools
- 5 High Schools
- Alternative Education
- College & Career Academy
- 4,163 Employees
- 2,669 Instructional (64%)

## PCSD Rank out of 180 School Districts in GA

- 11<sup>th</sup> in Enrollment
  - 95<sup>th</sup> in Local Revenue  
\$49 million deficit, compared to the statewide average
  - 98<sup>th</sup> in State Revenue
  - 145<sup>th</sup> in Total Revenue
- \*Per Pupil, GaDOE FY2023

## PCSD Funding Sources

- 35% Local (43% Average)
  - 57% State (45% Average)
  - 8% Federal
- \*GaDOE FY2023

## \$552.8m FY2025 Budget

All Funds

- General Fund (79%)
- Special Revenue (5%)
- Capital Projects (9%)
- Debt Service (2%)
- School Nutrition (5%)



**The vision of the Paulding County School District is to prepare ALL students for success today and tomorrow.**

## General Fund Revenue Highlights: Equalization Grant and Austerity Reductions

The General Fund accounts for approximately 80% of all District spending and is the main operating fund for the school district. Projected revenues for FY2025 total \$432.0 million, an increase of \$31.5 million or 7.9%.

As a low wealth school district, the product of a limited commercial / industrial tax base and more students per household than statewide averages, PCSD will receive \$34.0 million of Equalization Grant funding in FY2025 (the fifth highest recipient in the State).

	FY2024	FY2025	Change	%
QBE Funding, net	\$ 209.7	\$ 233.6	\$ 23.9	11.4%
Equalization Grant	27.5	34.0	6.5	23.6%
Local Taxes	157.6	162.2	4.6	2.9%
Other Local Revenue	5.6	2.2	(3.4)	-60.6%
<b>Total GF Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 400.5</b>	<b>\$ 432.0</b>	<b>\$ 31.5</b>	<b>7.9%</b>

\*Excludes Grants and Transfers to Other Funds

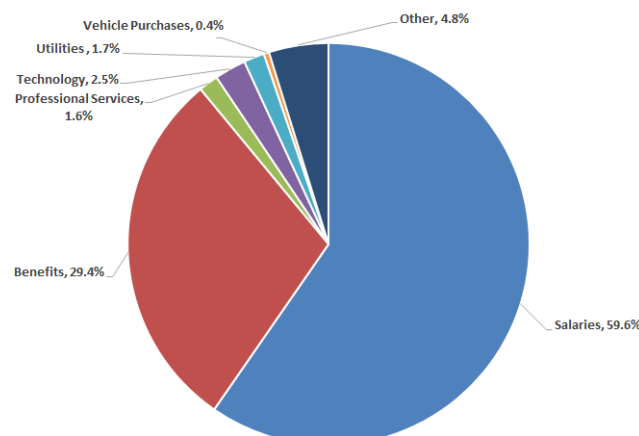
Funding under the state Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula will be increased by 11.4% or \$23.9 million. Local taxes are projected to increase \$4.6 million, with an improving tax digest and a millage rate of 17.675 (2024 rate).

## General Fund Expenditure Highlights: Safety and Instruction

The District will continue to focus on safety and instruction in FY2025, including over \$1 million in safety-related initiatives. PCSD typically allocates more of its resources to instruction than statewide averages, while central office type expenditures are half the size of the average district.

Projected expenditures for FY2025 total \$432.0 million, an increase of \$33.1 million or 8.3%.

89% of the budget is spent on salaries and benefits. The remaining 11% of the General Fund budget covers all other operating expenditures, including critical areas such as technology and textbooks.



Compensation will also be addressed as the FY2025 budget includes a pay raise for all positions, in addition to a fully funded experience step for qualifying employees.

Technology continues to be a major investment, as \$10.9 million of the FY2025 budget will be spent in this area.

Please visit our website for more information and sources for the information presented in this report. Go to [www.paulding.k12.ga.us](http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us).

**BASED ON THE ORIGINAL BUDGET PRESENTATION ON JUNE 11, 2024**