

PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET BOOK

Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

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 are engaged, inspired and prepared for their future – a place 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. 37 of 180 districts, or 21%, scored better than PCSD.

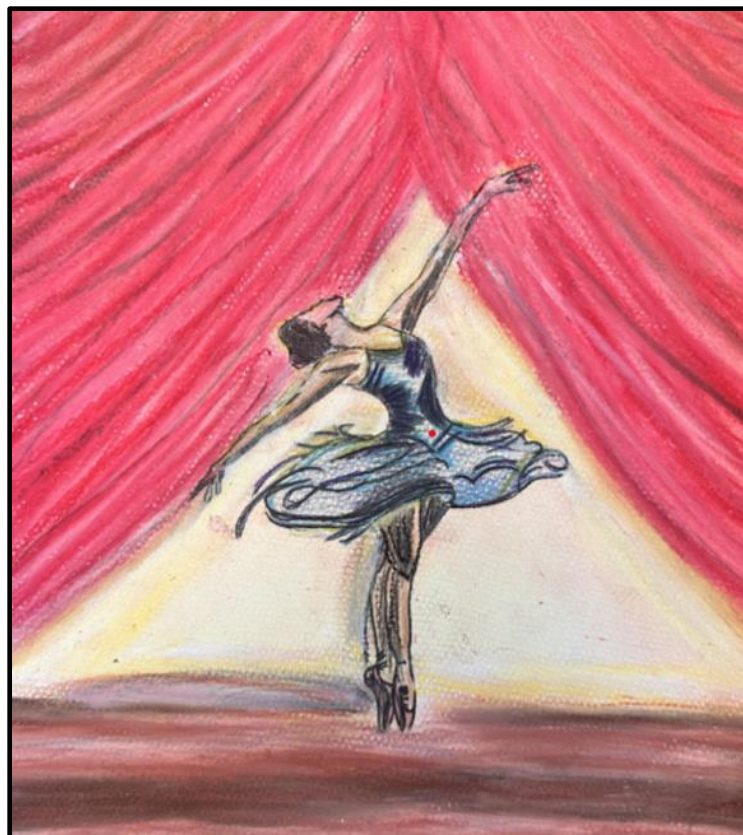


6 Year Recipient

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2026 Ended June 30, 2026

3236 Atlanta Highway
Dallas, Georgia 30132
www.paulding.k12.ga.us

Featured Artwork



Scarlett Bahun, 8th Grade
McClure Middle School 2024-2025



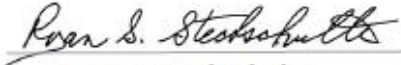
This Meritorious Budget Award is presented to:

PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

for excellence in the preparation and issuance of its budget
for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

The budget adheres to the principles and standards
of ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award criteria.




Ryan S. Stechschulte
President


James M. Rowan, CAE, SFO
CEO/Executive Director



This Meritorious Budget Award is presented to

PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

for excellence in the preparation and issuance of its budget
for the Fiscal Year 2023–2024.

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of ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award criteria.




John W. Hutchison
President


Siobhán McMahon, CAE
Chief Operations Officer/
Interim Executive Director



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Sutter'.

William A. Sutter
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Lewis'.

David J. Lewis
Executive Director



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

This Meritorious Budget Award is presented to

PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

for excellence in the preparation and issuance of its budget
for the Fiscal Year 2021–2022.

The budget adheres to the principles and standards
of ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award criteria.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'W. Edward Chabal'.

W. Edward Chabal
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David J. Lewis'.

David J. Lewis
Executive Director



This Meritorious Budget Award is presented to

PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

for excellence in the preparation and issuance of its budget
for the Fiscal Year 2020–2021.

The budget adheres to the principles and standards
of ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award criteria.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'W. Edward Chabal'.

W. Edward Chabal
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David J. Lewis'.

David J. Lewis
Executive Director



This Meritorious Budget Award is presented to

**PAULDING COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

for excellence in the preparation and issuance of its budget
for the Fiscal Year 2019–2020.

The budget adheres to the principles and standards
of ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award criteria.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'T E Wohlleber', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Thomas E. Wohlleber, CSRM
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David J. Lewis', is positioned above a horizontal line.

David J. Lewis
Executive Director

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Executive Summary



Superintendent's Message

Dear Paulding County School District Community,

On behalf of the Paulding County School District, we are pleased to present the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget. The annual budget is a large and complex project, reflecting feedback from students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members and priorities set by our Board of Education. We believe this budget will continue to fuel a culture where our students will be engaged, inspired and prepared for their future.

We believe this budget will help us create an environment where each of our students will be encouraged to discover and develop their strengths, see the connection between their learning and their future goals, and see their school as a safe and engaging environment where they can learn and grow as individuals. It ensures each department will focus its resources toward achieving our strategic goals.



We would like to thank those that support the district financially. We take the stewardship of your resources very seriously. In addition, we appreciate the professionalism, dedication and hard work of all those that made this budget document possible. We will honor your sacrifices by passionately pursuing our mission to engage, inspire and prepare ALL students for success today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steve Barnette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Barnette" clearly legible.

Mr. Steve Barnette
Superintendent

Proposed Budget Highlights

Enrollment Growth

The District is projected to educate 31,075 students during the proposed budget (fiscal year 2026, school year 2025-2026), a decrease of 93 students or -0.3%. For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. In the prior decade, from FY2015 to FY2025, enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0%. FY2025 enrollment decreased 423 or -1.3% to 31,168. The District anticipates educating approximately 0.7% or 220 students virtually. Approximately 99.3% or 30,855 are expected to attend face-to-face instruction.

Low Wealth

Despite favorable employment, income and free-and-reduced lunch statistics, the District continues to be a low wealth school district due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base and the large number of school-aged children per household. Below are FY2024 rankings against the 37 large districts in Georgia (school districts over 10,000). Rankings against all 180 school districts in Georgia are in parentheses.

- 11th Largest District by Enrollment Count
- 22nd in Local Revenue per Student (79th out of 180)
- Collect \$1,508 less than Average per Student or \$47 million
- 11th in State Revenue per Student (106th out of 180)
- 5th Largest Recipient of Equalization (\$29.0 million, FY26)
- 27th in Total Revenue, including Federal sources, per Student (137th out of 180)
- Collect \$1,553 less than Average per Student or \$47 million

State QBE and Equalization Grant

As a low wealth school district, PCSD will receive a \$29.0 million Equalization Grant for the Proposed Budget. Funding under the QBE formula is set to increase \$5.5 million, primarily due to the increase in Health Insurance.

General Fund Focus: Safety, Instruction and Retention

PCSD, after collaboration with the Board of Education (“BOE” or “Board”), district and school leadership and the community, established the priorities for the Proposed Budget in January 2025. Working with the Business Services Division and utilizing a zero-based budgeting system, district leadership developed specific initiatives or strategies to accomplish these priorities under the framework of our Strategic Plan. Highlights include a continued focus on student success for all, cultivating and retaining quality professionals and safety. The District allocates more of its resources to instruction than statewide averages, while central office-type expenditures are half the size of the average district. 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 safety, technology and textbooks.

Connecting the Budget to our Strategic Plan

In May 2022, the Board adopted the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Goal Areas are an important part of the Strategic Plan. Performance Objectives, supported by budget initiatives, and Goal Areas represent an important cause and effect relationship with each other. Using this approach, an alignment between departments and schools is established, resulting in an effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.

E-SPLOST

On November 7, 2023, a majority of the qualified voters of Paulding County authorized the imposition of a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to raise no more than \$197,500,000.00 for the purposes of (a) paying the principal and interest on the Series 2022 Bonds (during the period the tax is to be imposed) in the maximum amount of \$39,733,052.00 and (b) finance the Projects directly or through the payment of a portion of the principal of and interest on the Bonds. The “Projects” include the acquisition, construction and equipping of facilities and equipment throughout the School District, including new school facility construction, strategic additions, improvements, renovations, and/or modifications to existing schools, safety & security enhancements, technology, athletic and physical education facilities, and fine arts initiatives. Collection of this tax will begin in April 2026.



Executive Summary: Organizational Section

Budget Development Methodology: Budgeting for Outcomes

The District utilizes a Budgeting for Outcomes (“BFO”) model. BFO is a framework or performance budgeting process that is based on the Board and district leadership identifying priorities that reflect the results that the community wants.

BFO goals include:

- Efficiency
- Transparency
- Innovation

Once the desired results and priorities are identified, specific strategies (initiatives) are developed to accomplish those priorities. These strategies are collaboratively developed by Business Services and district leadership and staff, encouraging new ideas, innovation, cooperation, and improvement within the school district’s budget.

At its core, the philosophy of BFO requires each activity to be justified on the basis of cost-benefit analysis – at its essence, a budget constructed from the bottom-up (a modified zero-based budget).

The Price of Government and Major Budget Influencers must also be identified and considered within the framework, especially changes in funding and new or expanding influences on the budget, which may be positive or negative and short-term or long-term.

Budget Communication and Engagement

The budget process includes plans to inform participants, stakeholders and the general public about how the budget process works, why each decision was made and how to provide input in the process. Below are *Components* and *Implementation* methods used in our Communication and Engagement Strategy, all of which are designed to be intentionally collaborative, accessible, and transparent.

Components

- Process Overview
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Explanation of Decisions

Implementation

- Identify the Messengers
- Identify the target audience and tailor message accordingly
- Define communication channels
- Gather feedback and adjust
- Feedback Response

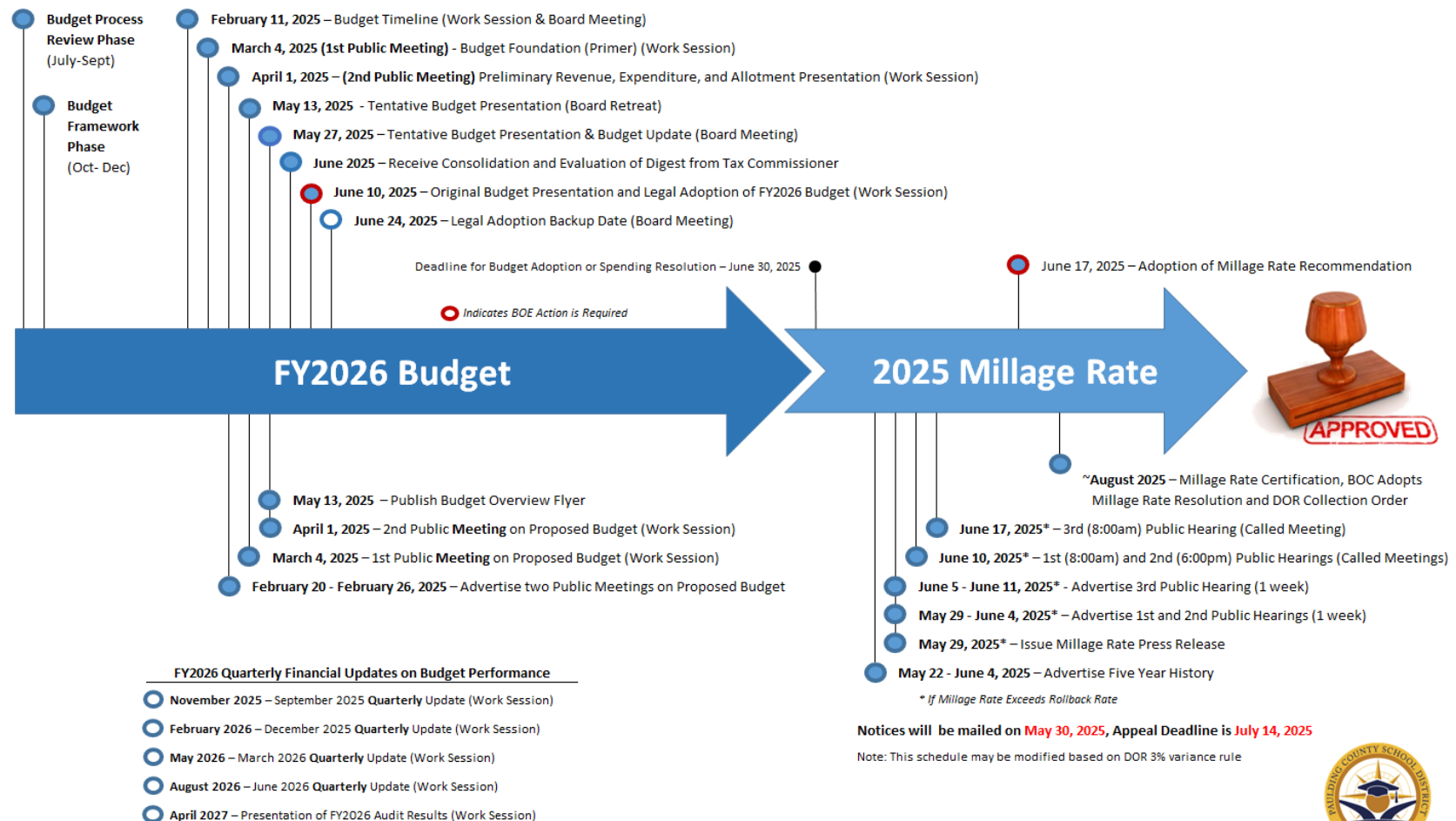
Budget Development Process

Stages of budget development include:

Process Review July - September	Framework <u>October - December</u>	Development I January - March	Development II April - June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Budget Book is compiled and submitted for peer-review ✓ Budget feedback is solicited and reviewed from various groups ✓ Develop timeline for the next fiscal year budget ✓ Key stakeholders review the previous year's budget processes ✓ Enhancements to the budget development process and reports are identified and work begins to make these adjustments ✓ Review begins on the Strategic Plan, including Performance Objectives, Initiatives and Measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Budget feedback is solicited from various stakeholder groups ✓ Feedback begins on Budget Priorities ✓ Feedback begins on Budget Strategies ✓ Initial Major Budget Influencers are identified ✓ An early outlook on the next budget is developed ✓ Initial enrollment and allotment assumptions are developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Budget feedback is solicited from various stakeholder groups ✓ Budget Priorities and Strategies are finalized ✓ Enrollment projections and allotment assumptions are finalized ✓ Major Budget Influencers and assumptions are finalized ✓ State budget is approved, including QBE and Equalization Grant ✓ Initial local digest is received ✓ <i>Budget Timeline, Primer and Outlook Presentations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Budget feedback is solicited from various stakeholder groups ✓ Pre-Consolidated local digest received ✓ Position allotments are finalized ✓ Numerous advertisements are notices are published ✓ Two public meetings regarding the budget are held ✓ Tentative budget approval ✓ Original budget approval ✓ <i>Revenue & Allotment, Tentative Budget and Original Budget Presentations</i>

Budget Development Timeline

FY2026 Budget Development - Major Milestones



FY2026 Public Meetings and Hearings, Press Releases, Advertisements and Notices

Connecting the Budget to our Strategic Plan

The District uses a budgeting process called Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO). A cornerstone of BFO is based on the Board and district leadership identifying priorities (eight to ten high-level priorities) that reflect the desired results of the community. These priorities form the basis for organizing the budgeting process and are validated against *Strategic Plan Goal Areas* and *Performance Objectives* to confirm alignment of budget, strategic plan, community and district leadership.

Strategic Goal Areas

- 1 Growth and Success for ALL
- 2 Communication and Engagement
- 3 Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality, Diverse Professionals
- 4 Operational and Organizational Excellence
- 5 Innovative Practices and Resource Implementation

In May 2022, the Board adopted the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Goal Areas are an important part of the Strategic Plan. Performance Objectives, supported by Proposed Budget Initiatives, and Goal Areas represent an important cause and effect relationship with each other. Using this approach, an alignment between departments and schools is established, resulting in an effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Goal Areas. The framework is used to describe the District's strategy to reach its mission and vision.

Desired Results. The anticipated achievements within the time frame of the plan in each Strategic Goal Area.

Performance Objectives. A key measurable value that demonstrates how effectively the District is achieving the desired result.

Initiatives. Specific programs and projects assigned to collaborative teams to attain each Performance Objective.

For the most current version of the full Strategic Plan visit:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Planning/PlanView.aspx?S=4125&pid=OWTKKgVS1hFt3cF3EIXOGg%3D%3D&Tab=0>

Correlating the Strategic Plan and BFO

Strategic Goal Area	Performance Objective	FY26 Budget Priorities	Financial Impact on the Budget
1 Growth and Success for ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve student academic growth and achievement • Improve performance of student subgroups • Improve student college, career, and life readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining manageable Class Size • Targeted Staff Adjustments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (-\$8.4 million) to General Fund due to a decrease in enrollment – discussed further in Financial Section
2 Communication and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate efficiently, effectively, and transparently with all district stakeholders • Improve communication and access of information to our diverse populations • Facilitate partnerships between community and school district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase external stakeholder communication tools and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
3 Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality, Diverse Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract and retain high quality, diverse professionals • Build staff capacity • Develop and implement effective succession planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step Increases • Strategic partnerships with post-secondary institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.6 million for Step Increases • \$350,000 for advanced degrees programs
4 Operational and Organizational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a facility plan to contend with growth and aging facilities • Enhance safe and effective learning environments • Sustain excellent financial stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Control System • Increased Safety/Security staff • Safety Equipment Refresh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.2 million for Access Control System paid through SPLOST funds • \$400,000 for additional Safety Staff • \$300,00 for Safety Equipment Refresh
5 Innovative Practices and Resource Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and advance resources to inspire a culture of innovation • Build staff efficacy to impact innovative practices • Implement innovative programs and practices to engage ALL students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Initiative refresh • Innovation Resources and STEM Budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.0 million for 1:1 Initiative refresh • \$75,000 allocated by FTE to each school for STEM resources

Governance Structure: Board of Education



Board of Education

Board Member	District	Term of Office
Theresa Lyons	1	1/1/25 - 12/31/28
Nick Chester	2	1/1/19 - 12/31/26
Adam Clayton	3	1/1/25 - 12/31/28
Deborah Collett, Chair	4	1/1/25 - 12/31/28
Trudy Sowar	5	6/20/25 - 12/31/26
Dan Nolan	6	4/21/19 - 12/31/26
Jeff Fuller, Vice Chair	at Large	1/1/25 - 12/31/28

**Tom Cable (Board Attorney, not pictured)*

Financial and Human Capital Allocation

The General Fund is the School District's primary operating fund and accounts for all transactions related to the District's operations except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

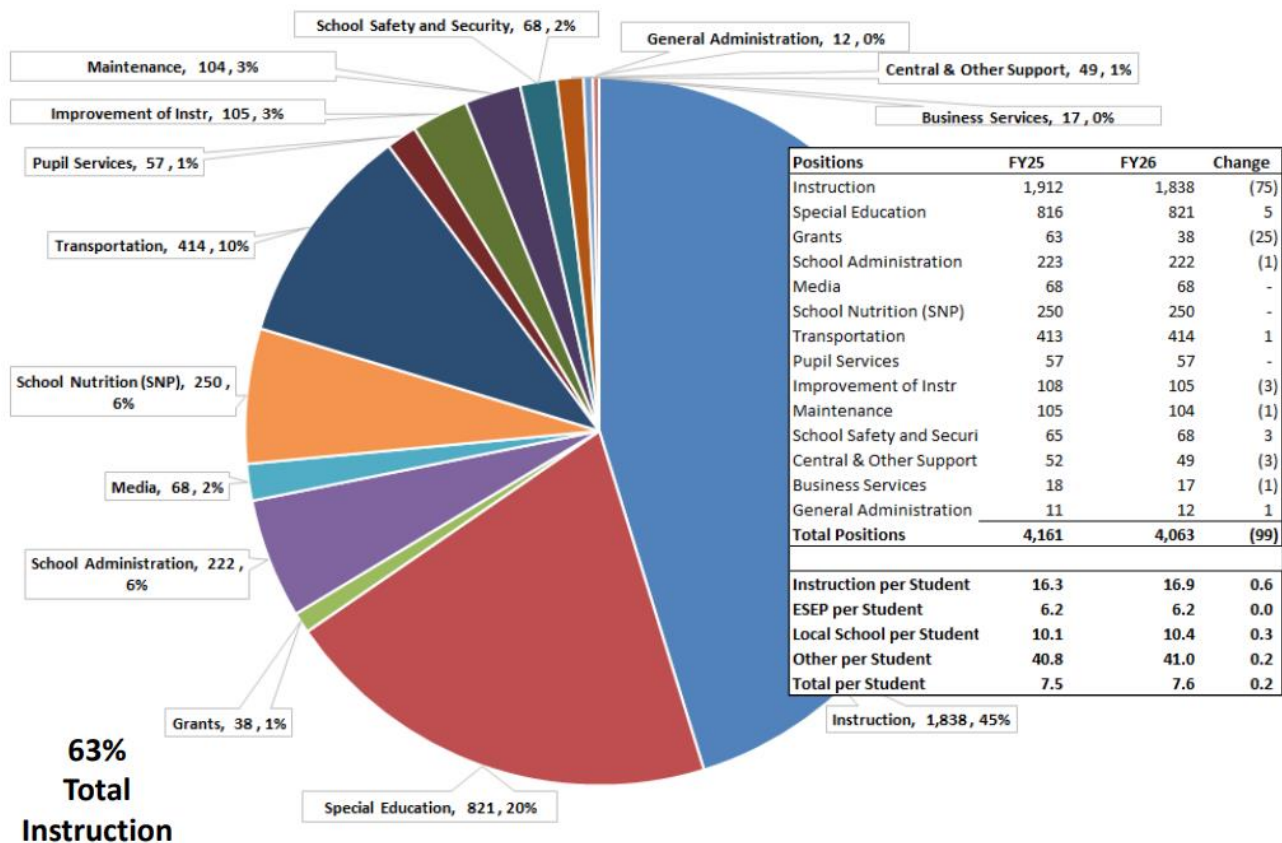
Expenditures include all costs relating to the day-to-day operations of the District. The General Fund accounts for more than 74% of all District spending and is the main operating fund for the school district.

\$386.5 million or 89% of the General Fund Proposed Budget is Salaries and Benefits.

(\$ in millions)	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	Change	%
Salaries	\$ 258.6	\$ 253.5	\$ (5.1)	-2.0%
Benefits	127.2	133.0	5.8	4.6%
	\$ 385.8	\$ 386.5	\$ 0.7	0.2%
Professional Services	\$ 6.8	\$ 6.7	\$ (0.1)	-1.1%
Technology	11.0	10.8	(0.1)	-1.2%
Utilities	7.2	7.2	(0.1)	-1.0%
Textbooks and Books	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.5%
Supplies	3.0	4.2	1.2	39.3%
Vehicle Purchases	2.0	5.2	3.2	158.6%
Fuel	2.3	2.4	0.1	4.2%
Other	9.4	10.9	1.5	15.6%
	\$ 43.5	\$ 49.2	\$ 5.7	13.0%
Grand Total	\$ 429.3	\$ 435.7	\$ 6.4	1.5%

*Excludes Non-QBE Grants and Transfers to Other Funds

The Proposed Budget anticipates 4,063 allotments, broken down by the following functions and programs. A strategy of the District is to allocate as much human capital as possible to the function of Instruction. On a basic level, Functions define "what we do". For example: Instruction, Maintenance, and Transportation. 63% or 2,575 of all Proposed Budget allotments are for the function of Instruction.



Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

An allocation of \$49.2 million or 11% of the General Fund Proposed Budget is dedicated to other operating expenditures (non-salaries and benefits related). A breakdown by division appears below.

The District is organized by seven divisions, including:

- School Leadership
- Teaching & Learning
- Maintenance
- Technology
- Business Services
- Human Resources
- Office of Superintendent

(\$ in millions)	FY25 Budget		FY26 Budget		Change		%
Divisions and Departments							
School Leadership Division	\$	6.8	\$	6.9	\$	0.2	2.6%
Transportation Department		6.1		9.4		3.3	53.4%
Teaching & Learning Division							
Curriculum & School Impr Department		1.4		1.4		(0.0)	0.0%
Student Services Department		0.2		0.1		(0.1)	-34.2%
Maintenance Department		11.4		11.5		0.1	0.6%
Technology Division		8.6		9.1		0.5	5.7%
Business Services Division		1.5		1.6		0.1	6.9%
Human Resources Division		0.7		0.7		0.0	4.7%
Office of Superintendent		0.8		0.7		(0.0)	-3.3%
Chief of Staff		0.3		0.3		(0.0)	-10.1%
QBE & Local Funds Allocated to Schools		5.5		6.0		0.5	9.5%
Other <1%		0.3		1.4		1.1	370.3%
Total	\$	43.5	\$	49.2	\$	5.7	13.0%

**Excludes Grants and Transfers to Other Funds.*

Organizational Structure: First Level Administrative Personnel

The District is organized by seven divisions and eleven departments.

Superintendent



Mr. Steve Barnette is the Superintendent of the District. Mr. Barnette has worked in accounting and finance for 35 years.

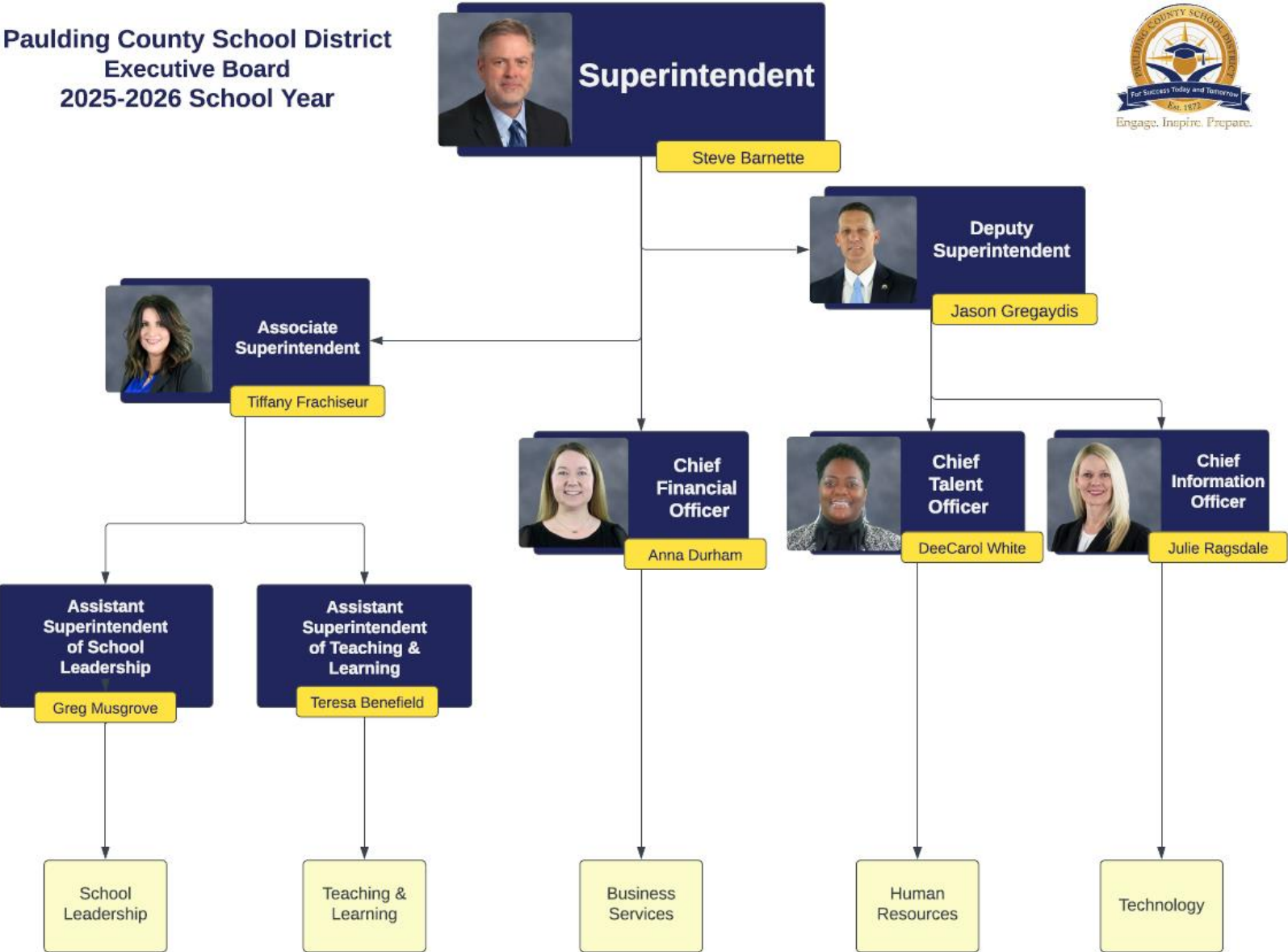
Prior to being named Superintendent, Mr. Barnette served as Corporate Controller, Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice President and Principal, Chief Financial Officer and Interim Superintendent. He has worked in education for 13 years first as a Director of Accounting Services and as Chief Financial Officer. He received his undergraduate and master's degree, in Finance and Business Administration, from Kennesaw State University.

Mr. Barnette and his family have made Paulding County their home for the past 24 years. His wife is a career educator and a teacher at Burnt Hickory Elementary School. They are the parents of five children educated in public schools (four of whom came through the Paulding County School District).

The Superintendent's Cabinet includes the following direct reports:

1. Dr. Jason Gregaydis, Deputy Superintendent
2. Tiffany Frachiseur, Associate Superintendent
3. DeeCarol White, Chief Talent Officer
4. Anna Durham, Chief Financial Officer
5. Julie Ragsdale, Chief Information Officer

Paulding County School District
Executive Board
2025-2026 School Year



Executive Summary: Financial

Proposed Budget: Revenues and Expenditure Summary

General Fund

The General Fund is the school system's primary operating fund. The General Fund is used to account for all financial transactions of the school system except those required to be accounted for in another fund. Ad Valorem taxes and State QBE funding represent the major revenue sources for the General Fund.

- Revenues \$435,695,209*
- Expenditures \$435,695,209*
- Grant Activities (revenue and expenditures): \$2,817,230

Special Revenues Funds (Including Grants and School Activity)

These funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue that are legally restricted to specified purposes. The major revenue source for grant-related funds is the Federal Government - for special programs such as Title I, Title II-A, Title VI-B, etc. The School Activity Funds are used to account for funds generated and expended at the school level by and for various school activities including curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

- Revenues \$24,019,439
- Expenditures \$22,728,255

School Nutrition Program Fund

This fund is used to account for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved School Nutrition Program. The intent of the school system is that the costs of the School Nutrition Service Fund be financed or recovered primarily through Federal resources and users' charges. The School Nutrition Program Fund at Paulding County School District is a self-supported program.

- Revenues \$21,198,521
- Expenditures \$29,209,061

Capital Projects Funds

These funds manage resources which are used exclusively for acquiring school sites, constructing and equipping new school facilities, renovating existing facilities and purchasing specific types of long-term assets. The major revenue sources are proceeds from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for education (E-SPLOST), a one-cent sales tax to help fund capital improvements, including debt repayment for capital projects.

- Revenues \$35,853,028
- Expenditures \$65,791,234
- Net Other Sources (Uses) \$15,918,788

Debt Service Funds

These funds service all debts, mainly principal and interest payments, created as a result of a bond issuance. The major source of revenue for this fund is transfers from E-SPLOST.

- Revenues \$0
- Expenditures \$15,918,788
- Net Other Sources (Uses) \$15,918,788

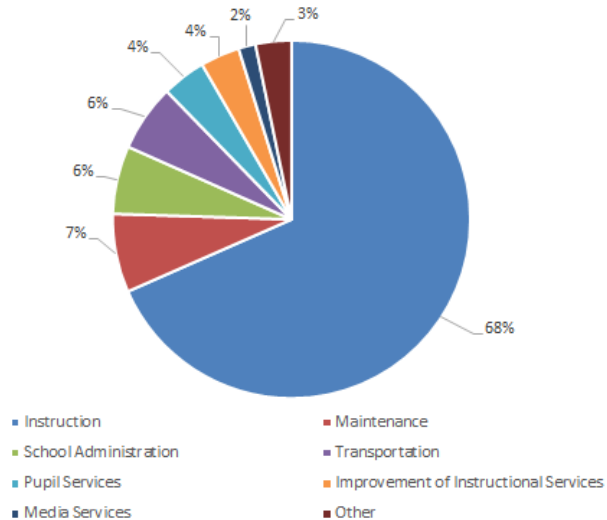
*Excludes grants and transfers to other funds

How will the General Fund Proposed Budget be Spent?

Functions describe the activity for which a service or material is acquired. Simply put, Functions define “what we do.”

INSTRUCTION (67%)

Instruction includes activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers and students. Teaching may be provided for students in a school classroom, in another location such as a home or hospital, and in other learning situations such as those involving co-curricular activities.



PUPIL SERVICES (4%)

Activities designed to assess and improve the well-being of students and to supplement the teaching process. Activities include guidance, counseling, testing, attendance, social work, health services, etc. Also included are supplemental payments for additional duties such as coaching or supervising extracurricular activities.

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES, INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVICES (6%)

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES. Technical and logistical support activities designed to aid teachers in developing the curriculum, preparing and using special curriculum materials, and understanding the various techniques that stimulate and motivate students. These services facilitate, sustain, and enhance instruction techniques.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING. Activities associated with the professional development and training of instructional personnel. These include such activities as in-service training (including mentor teachers), workshops, conferences, demonstrations, courses for college credit (tuition reimbursement), and other activities related to the ongoing growth and development of instructional personnel.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVICES. Activities concerned with directing, managing and operating educational media centers. Included are school libraries, audio-visual services and educational television.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, BUSINESS SUPPORT AND CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES (3%)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION. Activities concerned with establishing and administering policy for operating the LUA. These include the activities of the members of the Board of Education. Local activities in interpretation of the laws and statutes and general liability situations are charged here, as are the activities of external auditors. Also recorded here are activities performed by the superintendent, administrative support personnel and deputy, associate, or assistant superintendent having overall administrative responsibility.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES. Activities concerned with the fiscal operation of the LUA, including budgeting, financial and property accounting, payroll, inventory control, internal auditing and managing funds. Also included are purchasing, warehouse and distribution operations, and printing, publishing and duplicating operations.

CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES. Central Office activities other than general administration and business services. Included are personnel services, data processing services, strategic planning including research, development and evaluation on a system-wide basis; and public relations activities, such as writing, editing and other preparation necessary to disseminate information to students, staff and the general public.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION (6%)

Activities concerned with overall administrative responsibility for school operations. Included are activities of principals, assistant principals, full time department chairpersons and clerical staff.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (7%)

Activities concerned with the conveyance of students to and from school and trips to school activities. These activities include supervision of student transportation, vehicle operation, servicing and maintenance, bus monitoring and traffic direction. Transportation insurance expenditures are charged to this function.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PLANT SERVICES (6%)

Activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, comfortable, and safe for use, and keeping the grounds, buildings, and equipment in effective working condition and state of repair. This includes the activities of maintaining safety in buildings, on the grounds, and in the vicinity of schools. Property insurance expenditures are recorded in this function.

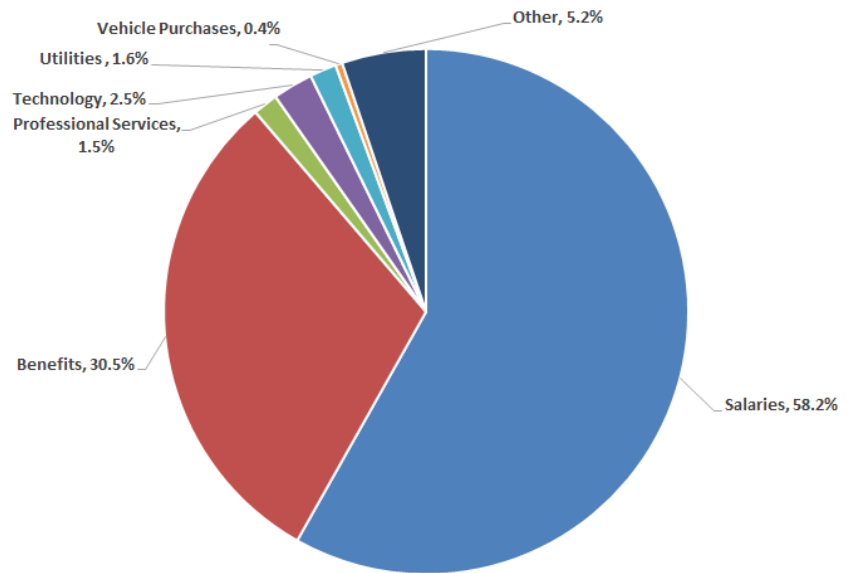
SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY (1%)

Activities concerned with maintaining a safe and secure environment for students and staff. Include costs associated with security plan development and implementation, security monitoring devices, security personnel, security equipment, school crossing guards, school fire alarm and other monitors, and other costs incurred in an effort to ensure the basic security and safety of students and staff.

General Fund by Object

Objects are used to describe the service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure. Simply put, Objects define “how” we spend our resources, including:

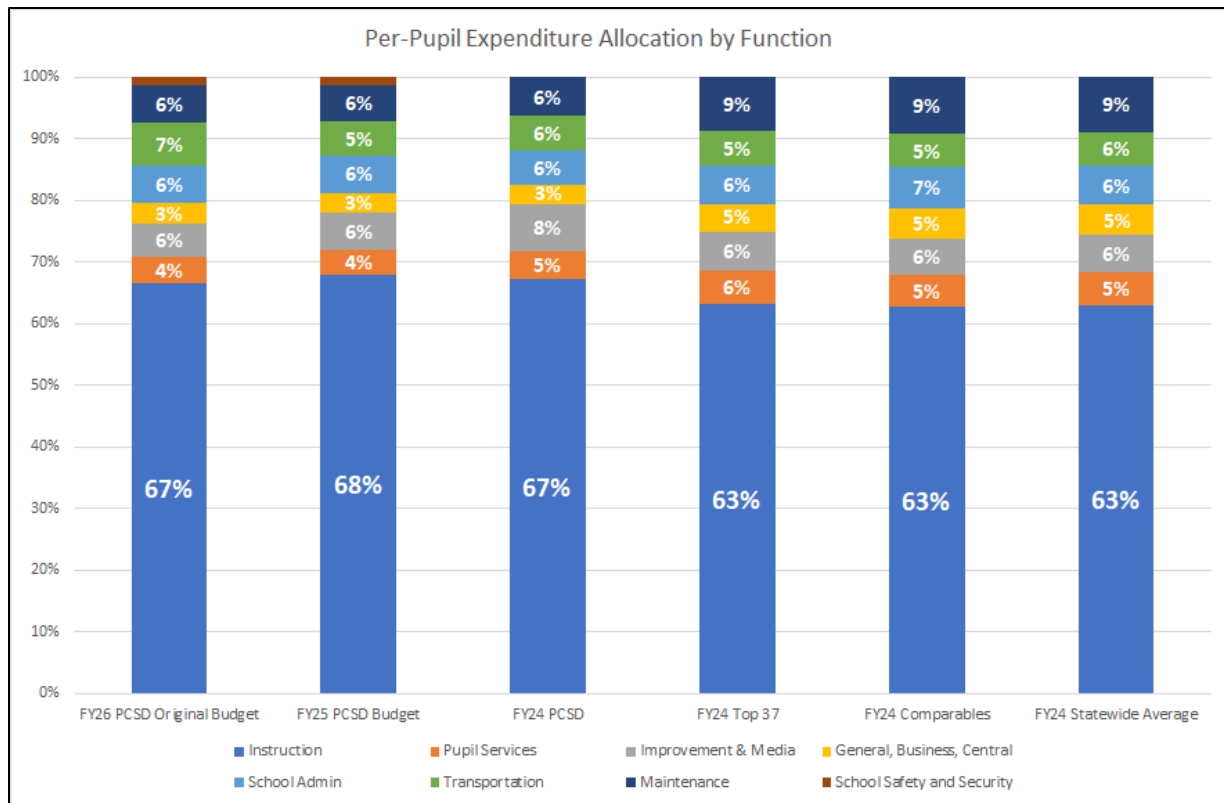
- Salaries
- Benefits
- Professional Services
- Technology-related
- Utilities
- Vehicle Purchases



See the Organization Section for more information on Functions and Objects.

General Fund Proposed Budget Comparison by Function

Functions describe the activity for which a service or material is acquired. Simply put, Functions define “what we do.” The Proposed Budget anticipates 67% of the budget will be spent in the function of Instruction. This is in-line with prior years and exceeds comparable districts and the statewide average.

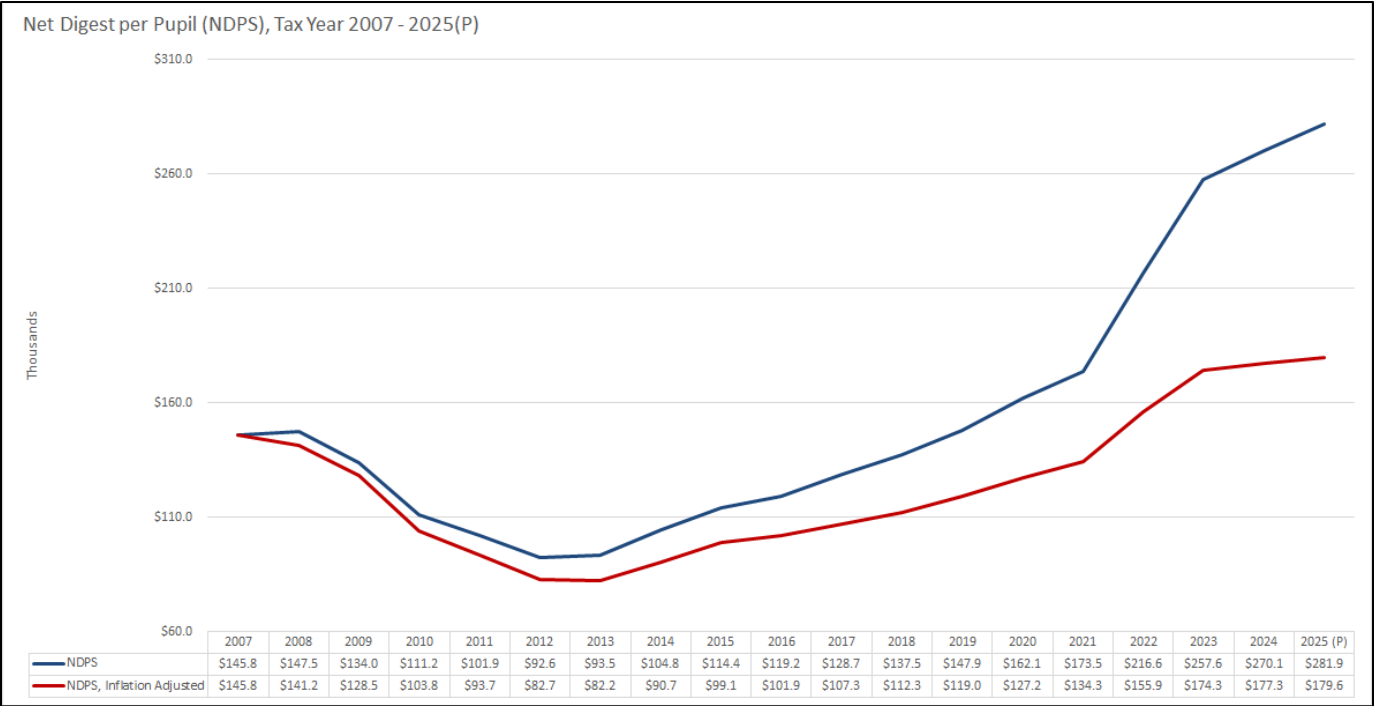


Organization-wide Factors Influencing Decisions

Demographic and Economic Factors

Economic Issues:

Tax Digest. The limited commercial and industrial tax base in Paulding County results in a lower net digest per student (“NDPS”), which reduces local funding. In FY2025 (tax year 2024), Paulding County’s NDPS was approximately \$270,000, which was \$89,000 or 25% lower than the average for districts with over 10,000 students (large districts). With a projected enrollment of 31,075 K-12 students and compared to other large districts, this results in a tax digest deficit of \$3.3 billion or \$47.9 million in tax levy (with a 17.675 millage rate).



For the Proposed Budget (tax year 2025), the inflation adjusted NDPS is projected to be \$179.6 thousand, which is \$33.8 thousand or 23.0% greater than the pre-recession high of \$145.8 thousand.

Strategies to Address Economic Factors:

Support Economic Development. The District works with the Board of Commissioners, Economic Development, and current and potential businesses to promote economic development. Examples include:

- CTAE Career Pathways designed for high-demand jobs
- Paulding College and Career Academy
- Representatives on committees with Paulding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Economic Development and Chamber Workforce Development
- Various programs designed to support a strong local workforce, including reality fairs, career fairs, high-demand career day, work-based learning, internships, job shadow day and dual enrollment partnerships

Communication and Engagement. The District routinely engages the community and relevant stakeholders to foster an understanding of the impact of limited commercial and industrial development on the school system. Examples include presentations to the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and various stakeholder events.

Overview:

With limited commercial and industrial activity, the county's tax base is abnormally dependent on residential properties. In tax year 2024, only 14% of the tax digest was non-residential, compared to a large district average of 35%. The average for comparable districts (8), including Cobb, Cherokee, Richmond, Muscogee, Douglas, Coweta, Carroll and Bartow County was 34%.

Rank	Digest		
	FY2024 Enrollment	2024 (FY25) % Non-Residential	2024 (FY25) Net Digest per Student
1	Cobb 104,784	Bartow 53%	Coweta \$416,528
2	Cherokee 41,436	Muscogee 48%	Cobb \$411,467
3	Avg Comp 34,881	Richmond 47%	Cherokee \$410,955
4	Avg >10k 32,687	Douglas 40%	Bartow \$406,174
5	Paulding 31,168	Avg >10k 35%	Avg >10k \$358,847
6	Muscogee 28,171	Avg Comp 34%	Avg Comp \$355,644
7	Richmond 27,711	Carroll 33%	Douglas \$277,511
8	Douglas 25,328	Coweta 31%	Paulding \$270,092
9	Coweta 22,361	Cherokee 30%	Richmond \$263,225
10	Carroll 15,792	Cobb 29%	Carroll \$243,524
11	Bartow 13,462	Paulding 14%	Muscogee \$218,186

In tax year 2024, Paulding County's NDPS was \$270 thousand, which was \$89,000 or 25% lower than the average for districts with over 10,000 students (large districts).

With a projected enrollment of 31,075 K-12 students and compared to other large districts, this results in a tax digest deficit of \$3.3 billion or \$47.9 million in tax levy (with a 17.675 millage rate).

With its proximity to Atlanta, Paulding County blends attributes of a metropolitan area with a suburban-to-rural lifestyle. The county has a relatively low unemployment rate of 2.9%. However, 66.5% of working residents are employed outside of the county, commuting roughly 30 miles to metro Atlanta or another regional employment center.

Economic and Employment Highlights:

- Unemployment rate of 2.9%.¹
- 67% of residents are employed outside the county.²
- PCSD is the largest employer in Paulding.³
- Only 4% of Paulding land is used for commercial or industrial purposes.⁴
- Paulding's top ten industries are typical for a bedroom community.⁵

¹ Georgia Department of Labor Statistics (Area Labor Profile Updated December 2024) on 2/26/25

² US Census Residence-to-Workplace County Commuting Flows: 2016-2020 on 2/26/25

³ 2024 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Paulding County, Georgia

⁴ Georgia Department of Revenue, Consolidated Digests on 2/26/25

⁵ Georgia Department of Labor Statistics (Area Labor Profile Updated December 2024) on 2/26/25

Key Economic Statistics

Top 10 Employers ^A			Top 10 Industries (by Employment) ^B		Top 10 Tax Payers ^A	
Count	%			%		%
1) PCSD	4,027	4%	1) Government (Education)	20%	1) Progress Residential	0.84%
2) Wellstar	1,922	2%	2) Retail	18%	2) Greystone	0.75%
3) Paulding County	1,144	1%	3) Healthcare & Social Services	15%	3) AMH Development	0.31%
4) Publix	375	0%	4) Accom & Food Services	13%	4) HS Borrower LLC	0.29%
5) Chick-fil-A	375	0%	5) Construction	9%	5) Macland Homes	0.23%
6) Kroger	310	0%	6) Admin, Supp & Waste Services	5%	6) SFR 2020 Borrower LLC	0.23%
7) HES Facilities	300	0%	7) Manufacturing (all)	5%	7) Hiram Smith LLC	0.22%
8) Walmart	282	0%	9) Other Services	4%	8) AH4R Properties	0.22%
9) Metromont Corp	221	0%	8) Profession Services	3%	9) SFR 2019 Borrower LLC	0.21%
10) McDonalds	186	0%	10) Wholesale Trade	1%	10) Georgia Transmission	0.21%
Total	9,142	10%		93%	Total	3.51%

Unemployment Rate ^B		Commercial/Industrial Land Use ^D	
	%		%
Paulding County	2.9%	Paulding County	4%
Douglas County	3.7%	Douglas County	15%
Carroll County	3.3%	Bartow County	6%
Bartow County	3.5%	Coweta County	7%
Cobb County	2.9%		

County Where Employed ^C	
	%
Paulding	33.5%
Other	66.5%

A) Source: 2024 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Paulding County, Georgia

B) Source: Georgia Department of Labor Statistics (Area Labor Profile Updated Dec 2024) on 2.26.25

C) Source: US Census Residence-to-Workplace County Commuting Flows: 2016-2020 on 2.26.25

D) Source: Georgia Department of Revenue Tax Digest Consolidated Summaries on 2.26.25

Demographic Issue: Large number of school-age children per household. Tax digest issues are exacerbated by the high number of school-age children per household in Paulding County, as there is not a correlating increase in funding, because local funding is based on property tax values not the number of school-age children living in the home.

Strategies to Address Demographic Factors:

Communication and Engagement. The District routinely engages the community and relevant stakeholders to address how planning and zoning decisions impact the school system. Examples include the Paulding County Board of Commissioners, Planning & Zoning and other governmental stakeholders.


Overview:

In Paulding County, 19.2% of the population are school age (5-18), compared to a statewide average of 17.2%. As a result, the county has 2.96 persons per household, 12.1% higher than the statewide average of 2.64.

The difference between population and housing-unit percentages is more pronounced in Paulding County than in comparable school districts. As a result, the county has a higher average persons-per-household and school-age percentage than any of the comparable districts.

Population and Housing Highlights:⁶

- Paulding accounts for approximately 1.7% of the population of Georgia. The population has grown approximately 11.8% since the 2020 census.
- Paulding accounts for approximately 1.4% of all housing units in Georgia.
- Persons-per-household are around 12.1% higher than the statewide average.
- School-age children (5-18) account for 19.2% of the county population, compared to the statewide average of 17.2%.

	Paulding County	State of Georgia	%	
Population, July 1, 2024	188,549	11,180,878	1.7%	
Population, 2020 Census	168,661	10,711,908	1.6%	
Change	19,888	468,970		
% Change	11.8%	4.4%		
Housing Units, July 1, 2024	66,280	4,668,859	1.4%	
Building Permits, 2024	1,458	68,367	2.1%	
Persons per Household (2019-2023)	2.96	2.64	12.1%	
Population Age 5 - 18	19.2%	17.2%	2.0%	

⁶ www.census.gov/quickfacts/ on 5/28/25

Housing Statistics⁷

	Population	%	Housing Units	%	Var	Persons per HH	Age 5-18	Persons per HH Age 5-18 %
Paulding County	188,549	1.7%	66,280	1.4%	0.3%	2.96	19.2%	0.57
Bartow County	117,508	1.1%	48,461	1.0%	0.0%	2.78	17.1%	0.48
Douglas County	151,887	1.4%	58,326	1.2%	0.1%	2.82	19.2%	0.54
Carroll County	129,911	1.2%	49,253	1.1%	0.1%	2.73	17.6%	0.48
Coweta County	158,233	1.4%	61,184	1.3%	0.1%	2.70	17.2%	0.46
Cobb County	787,538	7.0%	319,175	6.8%	0.2%	2.59	16.7%	0.43
Cherokee County	293,513	2.6%	111,369	2.4%	0.2%	2.75	17.0%	0.47
<i>Average Comp</i>	<i>273,098</i>	<i>2.4%</i>	<i>107,961</i>	<i>2.3%</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>2.73</i>	<i>17.5%</i>	<i>0.48</i>
Other Comparable Districts:								
Chatham County (10)	307,336	2.7%	140,770	3.0%	-0.3%	2.41	14.7%	0.35
Muscogee County (11)	201,830	1.8%	93,003	2.0%	-0.2%	2.46	18.1%	0.45
Richmond County (13)	206,303	1.8%	94,088	2.0%	-0.2%	2.62	16.5%	0.43
Houston County (14)	174,897	1.6%	73,218	1.6%	0.0%	2.66	19.3%	0.51

Enrollment Factors

Enrollment Issue: Enrollment Growth. For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. From FY2015 to FY2025 enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0%. FY2025 enrollment decreased 423 or -1.3% to 31,168, and FY2026 projections reflect an enrollment decrease of 93 or -0.3% to 31,075. In addition, the District will serve approximately 220 pre-school students.

The current makeup of PCSD students is:

- 46% White
- 32% Black/African American
- 14% Hispanic
- 6% two or more races
- 2% Asian

Source: GaDOE

⁷ <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts> on 5/28/25

Strategies to Address Factors:

Proactive Planning. The District utilizes several planning mechanisms to maintain a proactive (not reactive) approach to enrollment growth. Examples include Facility Advisory Committees, Enrollment/Districting Committee, Five-year Facility Plan and Five-year Technology Plan.

Support Economic Development. The District works with the Board of Commissioners, Economic Development, current and potential businesses to promote economic development (see above).

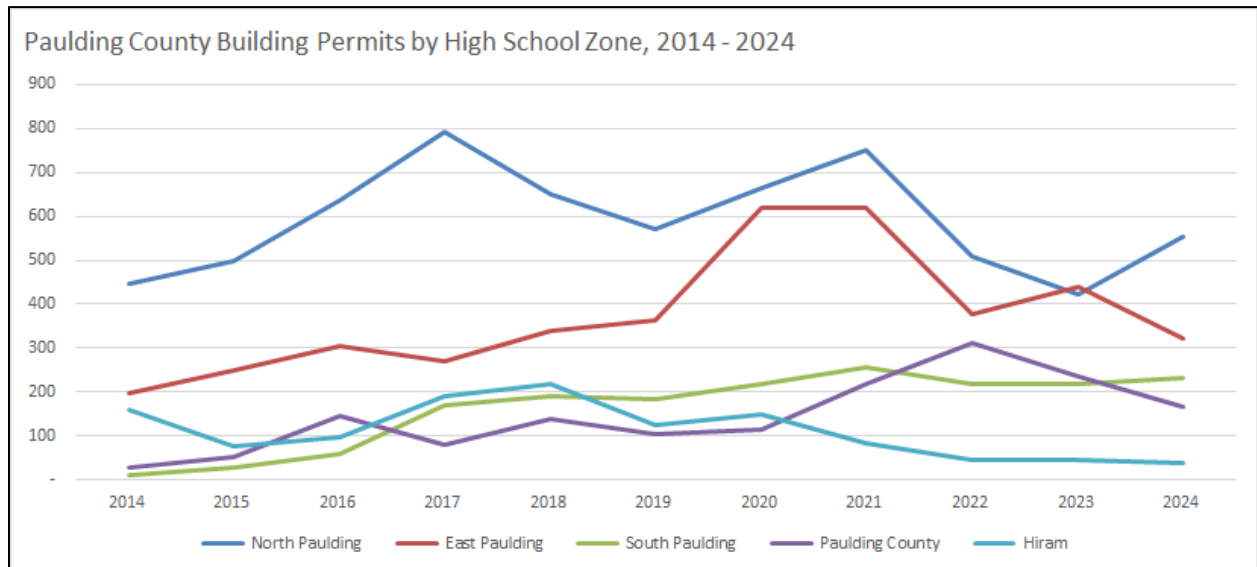
Communication and Engagement. The District routinely engages the community and relevant stakeholders to foster an understanding of the impact of enrollment growth, coupled with limited commercial and industrial development, on the school system (see above).

Overview:

With a projected enrollment of 31,075 students, PCSD is now the 11th largest school district in the State of Georgia (out of 180). As a quintessential bedroom community, with almost 86% of the tax digest held in residential properties, the collapse of the housing market had a devastating impact on the local housing-centric economy, stifling enrollment growth for several years.

In 2014, Paulding County issued only 844 building permits. By 2024, over 1,300 were issued, with most of the growth clustering around North and East Paulding High Schools.

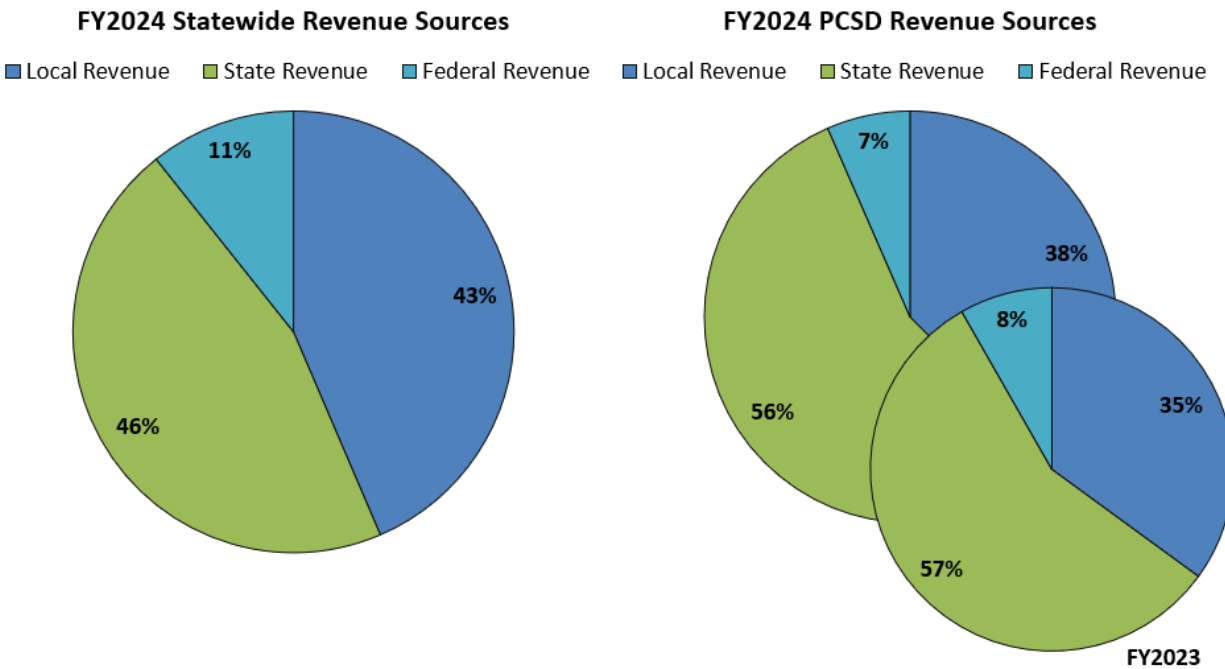
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
North Paulding	446	497	636	792	649	570	664	750	510	421	555
East Paulding	199	251	304	269	340	365	620	621	378	441	323
South Paulding	11	29	60	170	190	184	219	258	219	219	231
Paulding County	28	53	146	81	137	105	113	217	311	235	165
Hiram	160	75	96	189	218	124	148	82	44	44	39
Total	844	905	1,242	1,501	1,534	1,348	1,764	1,928	1,462	1,360	1,313

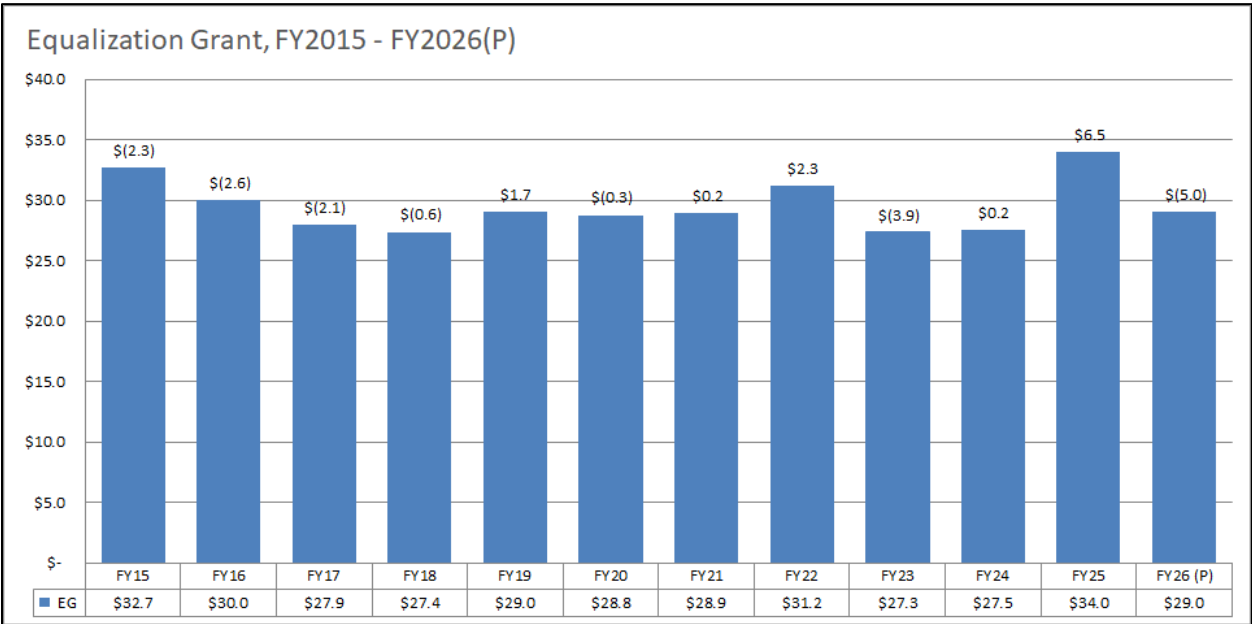


Funding Factors

Funding Issues:

Low Wealth. Despite favorable employment, income and free-and-reduced lunch statistics, PCSD is considered a low wealth school system due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base and the large number of school-age children per household. With approximately 56% of revenue coming from State sources (compared to a statewide average of 46%) the District is highly susceptible to changes in State funding, including austerity reductions, Equalization Grant funding and changes in the Quality Basic Education (QBE) methodology. PCSD will receive \$29.0 million in Equalization Grant funding in FY2026 (the fifth highest award statewide). Based on FY2024 comparative data, the most recent information available, PCSD continues to be heavily dependent on the Equalization Grant, which accounted for 6.0% of per-pupil revenue, compared to a statewide percentage of only 2.9%.





Millage Rate Changes. Changes to the millage rate impact both local revenue and the Equalization Grant formula. Generally, reductions in the millage rate will result in a reduction of the grant award. Property Taxes (Ad Valorem) are expected to increase \$5.2 million or 3.6% in FY2026. This compares to FY2024 and FY2025 increases of 19.7% and 3.7%, respectively.

Paulding County School District Fiscal Year Budget

2026

What Makes Paulding County School District Funding Unique?

FY2026 Budget						
Demographic and Economic Factors	Local Funding Low Wealth	Unique Feature	How does that impact funding?	Measurement	Rankings	
		Paulding County has a limited commercial and industrial tax base. In fact, only 14% of the tax digest is non-residential.	Less local funding due to a lower net tax digest per student (NDPS) and a slightly below-average millage rate.	NDPS is \$89,000 or 25% lower than the average large district in Georgia. On average, 35% of the large district tax digest is non-residential. ^a	22 out of 37 large districts or 79 out of 180 total districts in Local Revenue per Student ^b	
		PCSD does not compensate for a limited tax base by inflating the millage rate.		17.675 millage rate compared to a large district average of 17.511. ^a		
	Paulding County has a large number of school-age children per household.	Less local funding because funding is based on property tax values not the number of school-age children living in the home.	12.1% more persons-per-household than the state average, specifically school-age children. ^c	27 out of 37 large districts or 137 out of 180 total districts in Total Revenue per Student ^b		
	State/Federal Funding	PCSD is highly dependent on state funding sources, especially related to unfunded mandates.	Highly susceptible to changes in state funding, including austerity reductions, Equalization Grant funding and changes in the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula.		Approximately 59% of PCSD revenue comes from state sources, compared to a statewide average of 46%. ^b	11 out of 37 large districts or 106 out of 180 total districts in State Revenue per Student ^b
		PCSD is one of the largest recipients of equalization.			6% of total General Fund revenue comes from the Equalization Grant. ^b	5 out of 36 large districts or 180 total districts in Equalization ^b
		PCSD has relatively low Title I funding.	Less Federal funding. Low wealth school districts typically have a higher percentage of Title I schools. This also impacts other funding allocations that are allocated based on Title I funding.		While PCSD ranks 5th in equalization funding (an indication of low wealth), it ranks 163 out of 180 in Title I funding per pupil. No other school district in Georgia has a greater disparity between equalization and Title I funding. ^d	31 out of 37 large districts or 163 out of 180 total districts ^d
		PCSD has relatively low free-and-reduced lunch participation.	Less Federal funding. Low wealth school districts typically have a higher percentage of free-and-reduced lunch. This also impacts other funding allocations like the IDEA grants (ESEP).	According to the US Census, Paulding County had a poverty percentage of 10.2% in 2023, 171 out of 180 total districts. The FY25 free-and-reduced lunch percentage was 51.2%, compared to a statewide average 67.6%.	29 out of 37 large districts ^d	
	Enrollment Factors	As a result of the extraordinary number of residential housing permits issued, PCSD is one of the fastest growing school districts in the state.	With a limited non-residential tax base, the quantity and value of new residential construction is critical. Typically, property taxes from new residential construction does not support the additional enrollment.	3-year average annual growth rate for FY22-FY25 was 0.3%, compared to a large district rate of 0.3%. FY26 enrollment is projected to decrease by 93 students or -0.3%. ^b	11 out of 37 large districts and 180 total districts ^b	
		PCSD has a high percentage of students in a Exceptional Students Educational Program (ESEP).	FY24, the average additional cost per ESEP student was \$3,526 or 32.8% (including Local, State and Federal sources).	In FY25, 16.0% of PCSD students were ESEP, compared to a large district average of 13.6%. This contributes to PCSD's low weighted NDPS (based on ESEP participation). ^b	8 out of 37 large districts and 34 out of 180 total districts ^b	
	E-SPLOST	Paulding County has a limited commercial and industrial tax base. In fact, only 14% of the tax digest is non-residential.	Drastically reduces the amount of E-SPLOST collections available to fund capital projects, including buildings, infrastructure, and technology.	PCSD currently collects only \$0.55 for every \$1.00 collected on average by our neighboring school districts, including Cherokee, Cobb, Bartow, and Douglas Counties. Considering Debt Service, PCSD is only \$0.36 for every \$1.00. ^e		

Sources:

^a Georgia Department of Revenue, Consolidated Tax Digest Summaries

^b Georgia Department of Education Enrollment (Data & Reporting) on 2/27/25, Revenue/Expenditures Reports and QBE Earnings (Data & Reporting, Financial Review)

^c www.census.gov/quickfacts on 5/28/25

^d Georgia Department of Education Title I (Offices & Divisions, Title Programs) and Free-and-Reduced Lunch (Data & Reporting),

^e Georgia Tax Center (FY2024 dates 8/1/23 through 7/31/24)

Terms:

Large Districts are school districts with enrollment equal to or greater than 10,000

Net Tax Digest is the Paulding County Tax Assessor's summary of the projected taxable value of all commercial, industrial and residential property in the school district, net applicable exemptions.

Net Digest per Student (Weighted NDPS) is the NDPS weighted by participation in ESEP programs, lowering wealth-per-student.

Weighted Net Digest per Student (NDPS) is the next tax digest divided by the enrollment.

ESEP stands for Exceptional Students Educational Programs or special education.

Persons per household, or average household size, is obtained by dividing the number of persons in households by the number of households. A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Millage Rate is the ad valorem tax rate expressed in terms of the levy per thousand dollars of taxable assessed value established by the governing authority each fiscal year.

QBE or Quality Basic Education reflects funding allotted by the State on the basis of "Weighted" FTE (Full-time Equivalent students) to the local school system.

Strategies to Address Factors:

Legislative Advocacy.



**PAULDING COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

2025

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Theresa Lyons - District 1
Nicholas Chester - District 2
Adam Clayton - District 3
Deborah Collett - Chair - District 4
John Dean - District 5
Dan Nolan - District 6
Jeff Fuller - Vice Chair - At Large
Steve Barnette - Superintendent of Schools

**2025 PAULDING COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

SENATE DISTRICT 30
SEN. TIMOTHY BEARDEN
121-F STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-463-5257

SENATE DISTRICT 31
SEN. JASON ANAVITARTE
323-A CLOB
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-656-0085
jason.anavitarte@senate.ga.gov

HOUSE DISTRICT 16
REP. TREY KELLEY
504-G CLOB
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-656-0188
trey.kelley@house.ga.gov

HOUSE DISTRICT 17
REP. MARTIN MONTAHAN
501-A CLOB
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-656-0178
martin.montahan@house.ga.gov

HOUSE DISTRICT 18
REP. TYLER PAUL SMITH
408-C CLOB
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-657-1803
tyler.smith@house.ga.gov

HOUSE DISTRICT 19
REP. JOSEPH GULLETT
501-D CLOB
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-656-0178
joseph.gullett@house.ga.gov

HOUSE DISTRICT 64
REP. KIMBERLY NEW
612-F CLOB
ATLANTA, GA 30334
404-656-0178
kimberly.new@house.ga.gov

Safety & Security



Advocate for dedicated line-item funding for an armed P.O.S.T. certified school safety professional at every PCSD school.



Promote increased and dedicated funding for student mental health programs, school counselors, social workers, and other mental health professionals at PCSD.



Support programs and line-item funding for PCSD safety initiatives, including cybersecurity and cyber safety initiatives to protect our students and staff.



Explore changes to state law that bolster the efficient and safe transfer of students from other school districts to PCSD.

Financial Sustainability



Require fiscal notes for education-related legislation that impacts PCSD funding and oppose unfunded mandates and/or indirect obligations.



Champion legislation that would provide funding for capital improvements for large, fast-growing, low wealth school districts like PCSD.



Support efforts to modernize the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act, including support services and socioeconomic adjustments, to more accurately reflect the cost of public education and the limited availability of local funding in Paulding County, and advocate for the full, inflation-adjusted funding of the formula. Additionally, oppose Equalization Grant changes that would negatively impact PCSD funding.



Fully fund changes to the state literacy initiatives including literacy coaching and teacher stipends for mandatory professional learning outside of the school day.

Strengthening the Teacher Workforce



Support programs, funding, and incentives, including the protection of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), to strengthen the teacher pipeline at PCSD. This includes flexibility for return-to-work programs, as well as efforts to recruit, train, mentor, and retain quality educators.



When addressing the teacher pipeline, also advocate for and support programs, funding, and incentives for support services at PCSD, including classified employees.

Please note: Paulding County School District is one of the largest, fastest-growing and low-wealth school districts in Georgia, highly dependent on and vulnerable to legislative changes, including changes in State funding.

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Support Economic Development. The District works with the Board of Commissioners, Economic Development, current and potential businesses to promote economic development (see above).

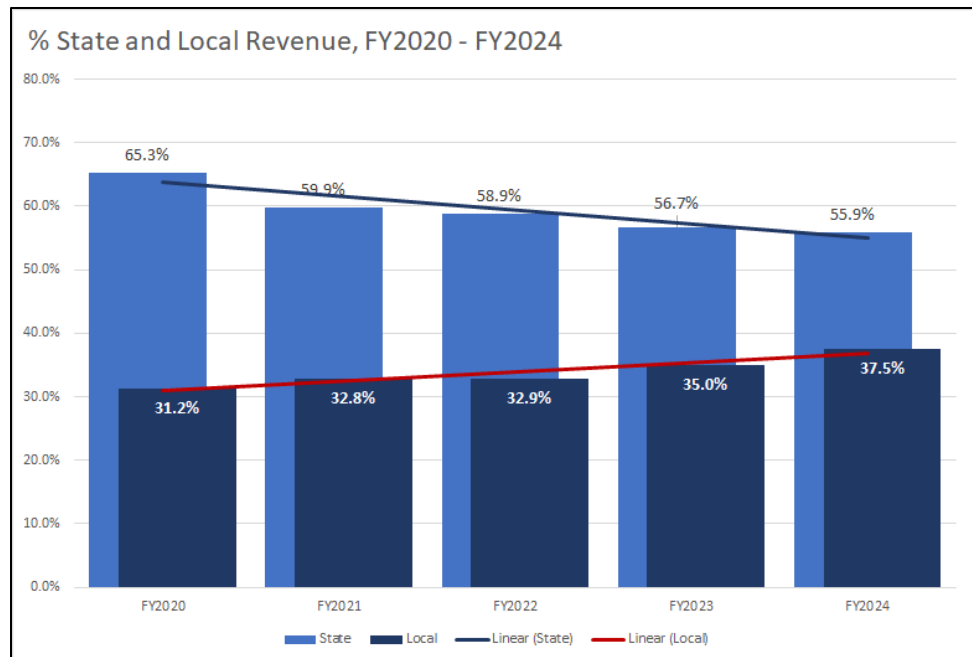
Communication and Engagement. The District routinely engages the community and relevant stakeholders to foster an understanding of the impact of enrollment growth, coupled with limited commercial and industrial development, on the school system (see above).

Overview:

Median household income (in 2023 dollars) for Paulding County and Georgia were \$94,557 and \$74,664, respectively.⁸ Often cited as an indicator for wealth, as of October 2024, 51.2% of Paulding County students are eligible for free and reduced meals, compared to a statewide average of 67.6%.⁹ Driven by lower housing costs and its proximity to metro Atlanta, Paulding County is a growing community. Population rose from 168,661 residents in 2020 to 188,549 in 2024, an increase of 11.8% compared to only 4.4% statewide.

Regardless of these positive attributes, PCSD is considered a low wealth school system due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base and the number of school-age children per household. With approximately 56% of revenue coming from State sources (compared to a statewide average of 46%) the District is highly susceptible to changes in State funding, including austerity reductions, Equalization Grant funding and changes in Quality Basic Education (QBE) methodology. The Equalization Grant, which is designed to support low wealth districts like PCSD, will provide \$29.0 million in funding during FY2026.

For FY2024, the most current data available, local sources were only 37.5% of PCSD per pupil revenue, compared to a statewide average of 55.9%. While local revenue has risen (from 31.2% in FY2020), PCSD continues to lag well behind the statewide average.



⁸ www.census.gov/quickfacts/ on 6/16/25

⁹ Georgia Department of Education October 2024

Operating Factors

Issue: Rising Cost of Human Capital. With around 89% of PCSD's budget focused on salaries and benefits, the rising cost of human capital is a major factor bearing on the District's future. These rising costs include, but are not limited to, the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and State Health Benefit Plan, which have seen unprecedented increases over the past few years. As the demand for highly qualified teachers increases, the District must remain competitive in compensation and benefits.

Strategies to Address Factors:

Legislative Advocacy. The District communicates legislative priorities each school (funding) year. FY2025 priorities included advocacy for the cost of human capital, including:

- Support programs, funding, and incentives, including the protection of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), to strengthen the teacher pipeline at PCSD.
- When addressing the teacher pipeline, also advocate for and support programs, funding, and incentives for support services at PCSD, including classified employees.
- Advocate for dedicated line-item funding for an armed P.O.S.T. certified school safety professional at every PCSD school.

Position Control: PCSD maintains a robust position allotment and control process.

Overview:

The Proposed Budget will begin with 3,724 General Fund budgeted positions, around 92% of all positions. Salaries, benefits and professional services account for almost 89% of the budget proposal, which is consistent with most school districts in Georgia. A continued priority for FY2026 is improving teacher retention and compensation, as teachers are the lifeblood of the District and have the most direct connection to student achievement. Due to a \$5 million reduction in equalization funding for FY2026 and having to cover all health insurance for classified employees, a salary increase was not obtainable for all employees. However, we were still able to maintain a full "step" increase in the proposed budget.

Revenues and Expenditures for all Funds

The following table provides a summary of beginning fund balance, budget forecasts for revenues and expenditures, and ending fund balance by Fund for the proposed budget.

Fund Category	Beginning Fund			Ending Fund
	Balance	Revenue	Expenditures	Balance
General	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 61,936,117
Special Revenue	5,911,049	24,019,439	\$ 22,728,255	\$ 7,202,232
School Nutrition	10,286,828	21,198,521	\$ 29,209,061	\$ 2,276,288
Capital Projects	97,852,773	35,853,028	\$ 81,710,023	\$ 51,995,778
Debt Service	9,223,207	15,918,788	\$ 15,918,788	\$ 9,223,207
Total	\$ 185,209,974	\$ 535,502,215	\$ 588,078,566	\$ 132,633,623

Significant Changes

In the following table, General Fund salaries decreased \$5.1 million due to a loss of 423 students in FY2025 and another projected reduction of 93 students for FY2026. However, benefits are expected to increase \$5.8 million due to \$4.6 million increase in State Health Insurance for classified employees with no additional funds from the state to help cover the cost. Additionally, a \$1.4 million increase for Teacher Retirement due to a 5.4% increase in rates. Other expenditures are increasing \$3.2 million for bus purchases. In FY2025, \$6.0 million in bus purchases were reclassified to Capital Projects Fund. General fund revenue is also expected to increase due to changes in assessed property values for 2025 and an increase in QBE funding. QBE funding is expected to increase for a Health Insurance adjustment of \$3.8 million for a 7.1% increase in premiums for certified employees.

School Nutrition Fund expenditures are anticipated to be \$6.9 million greater than the current year. This increase is due to a 19.3% State Health Benefit rate change for classified employees in FY2026, an increase in food purchases, and new kitchen equipment for a new elementary school. Food purchases are expected to increase due to the current economic conditions of rising food costs and inflation. Fund balance will be used to help cover the additional cost.

The Proposed Budget reflects an increase of \$8.4 million for expenditures due to the construction of a new elementary school totaling \$32.1 million, and a decrease of \$45.9 million in Capital Projects fund balance. This anticipated decrease is the result of the bond issuance in FY2025 and using those funds for the various capital projects that span multiple fiscal years.

The Proposed Budget reflects a 15.5% increase in Debt Service fund expenditures due to the issuance of general obligation bonds in FY2025.

Historical and Budget Forecast for all Funds

The following tables provide a summary of historical revenues, expenditures and ending fund balance by Fund.

Funds Summary of Revenue

Funds (Category)	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Approved	Variance	%
General	\$ 334,114,290	\$ 365,278,499	\$ 411,426,715	\$ 437,717,210	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 795,229	0.2%
Special Revenue	37,186,367	41,299,869	37,592,199	28,836,000	24,019,439	(4,816,562)	-16.7%
School Nutrition	24,410,667	19,112,122	20,421,067	19,901,149	20,292,273	391,124	2.0%
Capital Projects	29,311,500	39,023,531	39,369,998	103,801,522	35,853,028	(67,948,494)	-65.5%
Debt Service	205	96	113,240	181,932	-	(181,932)	-100.0%
Total	\$ 425,023,029	\$ 464,714,118	\$ 508,923,220	\$ 590,437,813	\$ 518,677,179	\$ (71,760,634)	-12.2%

Funds Summary of Expenditures

Funds (Category)	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Approved	Variance	%
General	\$ 311,981,086	\$ 356,313,109	\$ 397,589,500	\$ 428,322,355	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 10,190,084	2.4%
Special Revenue	36,022,875	40,855,236	37,629,641	28,265,011	22,728,255	(5,536,756)	-19.6%
School Nutrition	17,306,607	18,709,849	20,604,173	21,382,915	28,302,813	6,919,898	32.4%
Capital Projects	12,234,823	24,599,699	72,069,782	57,349,971	65,791,234	8,441,263	14.7%
Debt Service	9,525,653	13,831,283	13,784,342	13,783,426	15,918,788	2,135,362	15.5%
Total	\$ 387,071,044	\$ 454,309,176	\$ 541,677,438	\$ 549,103,679	\$ 571,253,530	\$ 22,149,851	4.0%

Summary of Ending Fund Balances

Funds (Category)	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Approved	Variance	%
General	\$ 58,074,403	\$ 48,586,602	\$ 58,844,343	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 0	0.0%
Special Revenue	4,983,051	5,427,492	5,340,059	5,911,049	7,202,232	1,291,183	21.8%
School Nutrition	11,549,426	11,951,699	11,768,594	10,286,828	2,276,288	(8,010,540)	-77.9%
Capital Projects	88,295,932	107,341,865	58,886,259	97,852,773	51,995,778	(45,856,994)	-46.9%
Debt Service	3,322,304	3,322,400	9,036,584	9,223,207	9,223,207	-	0.0%
Total	\$ 166,225,116	\$ 176,630,057	\$ 143,875,840	\$ 185,209,974	\$ 132,633,623	\$ (52,576,351)	-28.4%

* Includes Other Sources (Uses)

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The following tables provide a summary of budget forecasts for revenues, expenditures and ending fund balance by Fund.

Summary of Revenue Budget Forecasts

Funds (Category)	FY2026 Proposed	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
General	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 444,528,061	\$ 452,977,301	\$ 461,622,079
Special Revenue	24,019,439	22,530,549	22,633,692	22,740,938
School Nutrition	20,292,273	21,571,462	21,804,525	22,044,222
Capital Projects	35,853,028	37,506,787	37,506,789	37,506,788
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 518,677,179	\$ 526,136,859	\$ 534,922,307	\$ 543,914,028

Summary of Expenditure Budget Forecasts

Funds (Category)	FY2026 Proposed	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
General	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 441,028,061	\$ 449,477,301	\$ 458,122,079
Special Revenue	22,728,255	22,530,549	22,633,692	22,740,938
School Nutrition	28,302,813	21,571,462	21,804,525	22,044,222
Capital Projects	65,791,234	55,184,810	8,334,691	19,600,000
Debt Service	15,918,788	26,402,921	23,029,121	23,042,655
Total	\$ 571,253,530	\$ 566,717,803	\$ 525,279,331	\$ 545,549,895

Summary of Ending Fund Balance Forecasts

Funds (Category)	FY2026 Proposed	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
General	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117
Special Revenue	7,202,232	7,202,232	7,202,232	7,202,232
School Nutrition	2,276,288	2,276,288	2,276,288	2,276,288
Capital Projects	51,995,778	11,414,834	21,057,811	19,421,944
Debt Service	9,223,207	9,223,207	9,223,207	9,223,207
Total	\$ 132,633,623	\$ 92,052,679	\$ 101,695,656	\$ 100,059,788

* Includes Other Sources (Uses)

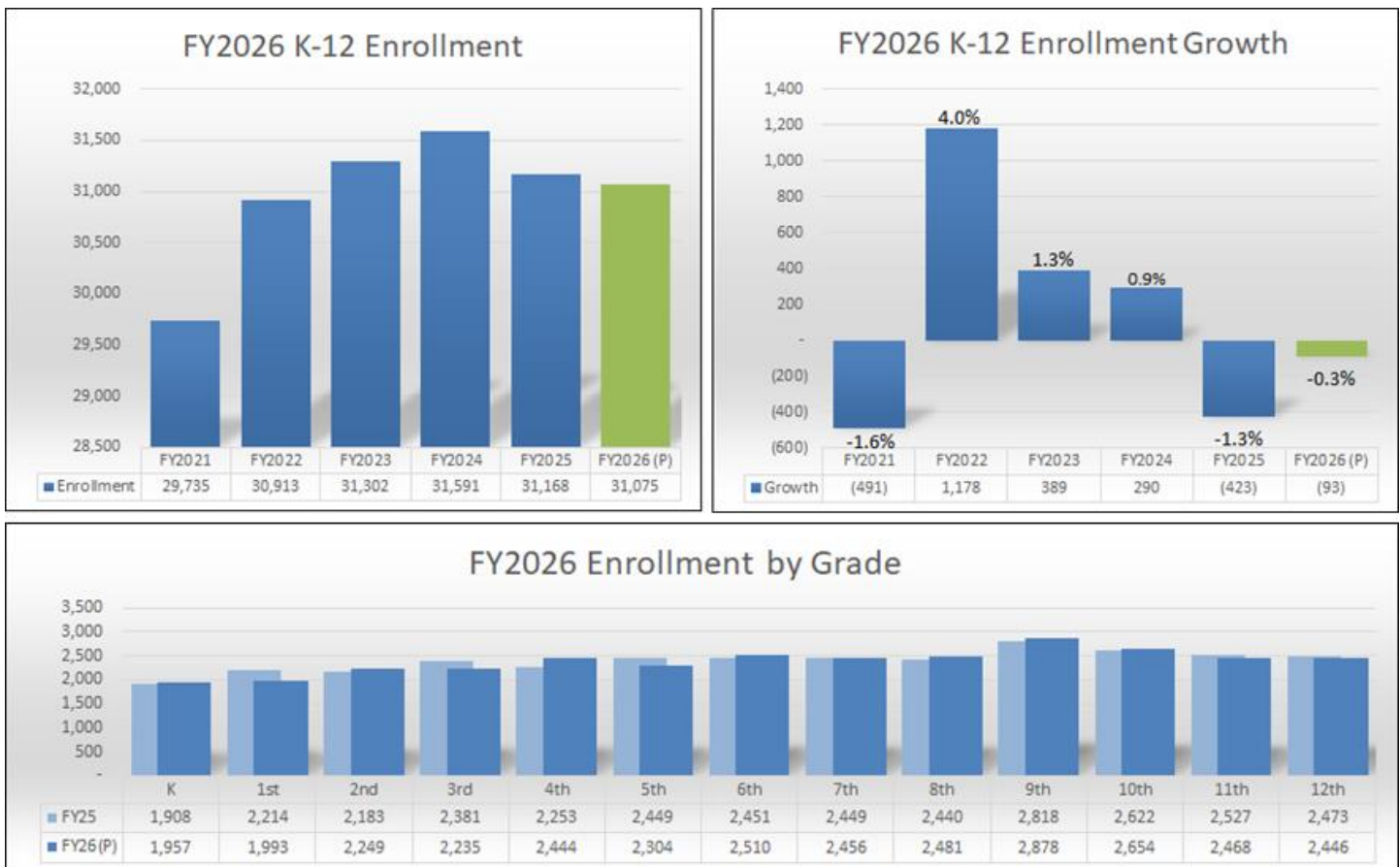
*Includes Other Sources (Uses) refers to Transfers-Ins/Outs, which is shown in detail in the financial section.

Executive Summary: Informational

Student Enrollment Trends and Forecast

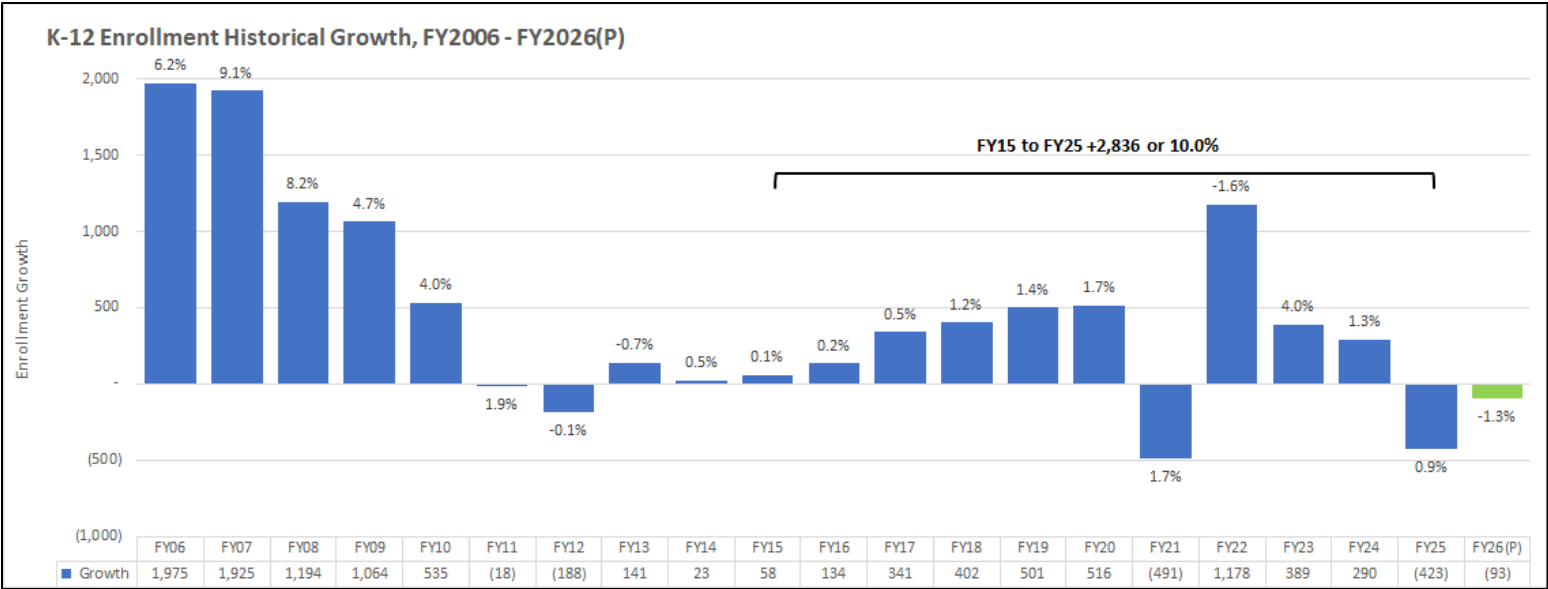
The District is projected to educate 31,075 students in the Proposed Budget year (school year 2025-2026), a decrease of 93 students or -0.3%. Due to changes in educational environments from COVID-19, the District Plans to educate 220 students in a digital learning environment and 30,855 face-to-face.

- Elementary School Growth: 13,181 Students a Decrease of 207 or -1.5%
- Middle School Growth: 7,447 Students an Increase of 107 or 1.5%
- High School Growth: 10,447 Students an Increase of 7 or 0.1%



Historical Enrollment Growth

For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. FY2015 to FY2025 enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0% even with an anomaly in FY2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2022 enrollment grew 4.0%, the largest growth rate in a decade. 2026 is projected to decrease by 93 students or -0.3% with both digital learning and face-to-face instruction.



Student Enrollment for Eight Years

See the following *FY2026 Projection Summary Report*, which includes the following:

- Three years of enrollment history
- Current year enrollment
- Proposed Budget year enrollment projection
- Three years of enrollment forecasts

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FY2026 Projection Summary Report

Elementary Schools

	2021	2022	2023	2024
34 Abney Elementary	1,239	1,195	1,247	1,271
20 Allgood Elementary	814	872	809	831
23 Baggett Elementary	603	606	586	571
31 Burnt Hickory Elementary	1,026	1,082	1,039	1,040
2 Dallas Elementary	431	485	497	494
26 Dugan Elementary	611	615	647	631
3 Hiram Elementary	737	743	794	768
33 Hutchens Elementary	637	649	633	642
5 McGarity Elementary	579	601	586	600
18 Nebo Elementary	598	614	699	818
6 New GA Elementary	347	391	423	343
15 Northside Elementary	580	633	627	603
16 Panter Elementary	506	519	508	529
25 Poole Elementary	420	448	464	481
32 Ragsdale Elementary	545	605	582	624
19 Roberts Elementary	576	635	657	633
24 Russom Elementary	844	940	921	961
14 Shelton Elementary	1,200	1,383	1,417	1,397
8 Union Elementary	455	471	463	398
All Total Elementary	12,748	13,487	13,599	13,635

Middle Schools

	2021	2022	2023	2024
27 Austin Middle	802	783	792	811
17 Dobbins Middle	607	611	532	556
9 East Paulding Middle	887	882	858	869
10 Herschel Jones Middle	818	804	807	809
22 Moses Middle	773	878	907	929
29 McClure Middle	1,472	1,511	1,536	1,499
36 Ritch Middle	697	700	755	718
35 Scoggins Middle	745	743	760	776
11 South Paulding Middle	472	473	481	509
37 Crossroads Middle	-	-	-	-
All Total Middle School	7,273	7,385	7,428	7,476

High Schools

Note: Includes AltEd

	2021	2022	2023	2024
12 East Paulding High	1,766	1,893	1,905	1,904
21 Hiram High	1,452	1,458	1,468	1,503
30 North Paulding High	2,698	2,836	2,986	3,052
13 Paulding County High	1,906	1,932	2,005	2,116
28 South Paulding High	1,892	1,922	1,911	1,905
All Total High School	9,714	10,041	10,275	10,480

Total Enrollment

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	29,735	30,913	31,302	31,591

Current Year

2024-2025			
Rank	2025	Var	% Var
2	1,304	33	2.6%
6	800	(31)	-3.7%
14	544	(27)	-4.7%
3	989	(51)	-4.9%
15	512	18	3.6%
10	613	(18)	-2.9%
7	765	(3)	-0.4%
11	612	(30)	-4.7%
13	571	(29)	-4.8%
5	843	25	3.1%
19	334	(9)	-2.6%
12	609	6	1.0%
16	505	(24)	-4.5%
17	453	(28)	-5.8%
9	616	(8)	-1.3%
8	641	8	1.3%
4	962	1	0.1%
1	1,371	(26)	-1.9%
18	344	(54)	-13.6%
19	13,388	(247)	-1.8%

FY2026 Projection

2025-2026		
2026	Growth	% Var
1,390	86	6.6%
796	(4)	-0.5%
508	(36)	-6.6%
929	(60)	-6.1%
499	(13)	-2.6%
623	10	1.6%
700	(65)	-8.6%
606	(6)	-0.9%
542	(29)	-5.0%
915	72	8.6%
309	(25)	-7.4%
608	(1)	-0.1%
495	(10)	-1.9%
461	8	1.7%
584	(32)	-5.3%
635	(6)	-1.0%
928	(34)	-3.5%
1,336	(35)	-2.6%
317	(27)	-7.7%
13,181	(207)	-1.5%

Three-Year Forecast

2027	2028	2029
1,481	1,578	1,681
792	789	785
474	443	413
872	819	769
485	473	460
633	643	653
640	585	535
601	595	589
515	489	465
993	1,079	1,171
286	265	246
608	607	607
486	477	468
468	476	484
553	524	496
629	623	617
895	864	833
1,302	1,268	1,236
293	270	249
13,007	12,866	12,758

2024-2025

Rank	2025	Var	% Var
5	782	(29)	-3.6%
9	531	(25)	-4.5%
8	630	(239)	-27.5%
6	728	(81)	-10.0%
1	921	(8)	-0.9%
3	834	(665)	-44.4%
7	690	(28)	-3.9%
4	809	33	4.3%
10	507	(2)	-0.4%
2	908	908	0.0%
10	7,340	(136)	-1.8%

2025-2026

2026	Growth	% Var
766	(16)	-2.1%
540	9	1.6%
623	(7)	-1.1%
737	9	1.2%
969	48	5.2%
821	(13)	-1.5%
747	57	8.2%
804	(5)	-0.6%
518	11	2.1%
924	16	1.7%
7,447	107	1.5%

2027	2028	2029
750	734	718
548	557	566
617	610	604
745	754	763
1,019	1,071	1,127
809	797	784
808	875	947
799	794	789
528	539	551
940	956	972
7,563	7,687	7,822

2024-2025

Rank	2025	Var	% Var
3	1,985	81	4.3%
5	1,460	(43)	-2.9%
1	3,015	(37)	-1.2%
2	2,099	(17)	-0.8%
4	1,881	(24)	-1.3%
5	10,440	(40)	-0.4%

2025-2026

2026	Growth	% Var
1,953	(32)	-1.6%
1,473	13	0.9%
3,051	36	1.2%
2,118	19	0.9%
1,852	(29)	-1.5%
10,447	7	0.1%

2027	2028	2029
1,922	1,891	1,860
1,486	1,500	1,513
3,087	3,124	3,161
2,137	2,156	2,176
1,824	1,795	1,768
10,455	10,466	10,477

Tax Base and Millage Rate Trends

The budget assumes a 17.675 millage rate for the maintenance and operation (M&O) of the District, which is slightly below average among comparable school districts. Coupled with above average school-aged persons per household, this results in an extremely low levy and local revenue per student. The chart to the right shows comparative data for 2024, the most current data available.

M&O Millage Rate History

The last material change to the M&O Millage Rate occurred in 2007, with an increase of 2.500 mills.

Lowered Six Times in Last 20 Years:

- 2023 -0.075
- 2022 -1.000
- 2019 -0.129
- 2013 -0.030
- 2003 -0.881
- 2002 -1.610

Raised once in the Last 20 Years:

- 2007 +2.500

Millage Rate Reduction Considerations:

- ✓ Perpetual Loss of Revenue
- ✓ Loss will Compound as Digest Grows
- ✓ Impact on Equalization Grant
- ✓ Low Wealth School District
- ✓ Net Digest per Pupil Not Back to Pre-Recession Levels (Inflation Adjusted)

Rank	Millage Rate		Levy	Revenue
	2024 M&O Millage Rate	% Variance to PCSD	FY2024 Levy per Student	FY2024 Local Revenue per Student
1	Muscogee 23.075	Muscogee 5.400	Cobb \$7,694	Muscogee \$15,666
2	Douglas 18.900	Douglas 1.225	Bartow \$7,080	Richmond \$14,990
3	Cobb 18.700	Cobb 1.025	Cherokee \$6,760	Avg >10k \$14,859
4	Richmond 18.330	Richmond 0.655	Avg Comp \$6,426	Cobb \$14,840
5	Avg Comp 18.069	Avg Comp 0.394	Coweta \$6,419	Bartow \$14,836
6	Paulding 17.675	Paulding 0.000	Avg >10k \$6,284	Avg Comp \$14,402
7	Avg >10k 17.511	Avg >10k -0.164	Douglas \$5,245	Cherokee \$14,261
8	Bartow 17.430	Bartow -0.245	Muscogee \$5,035	Paulding \$13,785
9	Cherokee 16.450	Cherokee -1.225	Richmond \$4,825	Coweta \$13,718
10	Carroll 16.259	Carroll -1.416	Paulding \$4,774	Carroll \$13,511
11	Coweta 15.410	Coweta -2.265	Carroll \$3,959	Douglas \$13,391

Bond Millage

In FY2012, the District eliminated the Bond millage rate of 2.963, with debt service now funded through E-SPLOST.

2025 Millage Rate Highlights:

- An M&O millage rate of 17.675 was utilized in the FY2026 Budget.
- Bond millage rate of 0.000 will be maintained in the FY2026 Budget, with bond principal and interest paid through E-SPLOST. A bond millage of approximately 1.257 would be required to meet FY2026 debt service.
- Net M&O Digest is projected to increase \$341.1 million or 4.1% to \$8.8 billion.

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- Changes in assessed property values (reassessment) will increase 2025 property taxes by an average of 2.9%.
- Other changes to the digest will increase 2025 property taxes by 1.1%, compared to 0.2% in 2024.
- Net Taxes or levy will increase 4.1%.

Current Tax Digest and Five-Year History of Assessed Value and Taxes Levied

Below is a five-year history (2020-2024) and 2025 or FY2026, the Proposed Budget year, of assessed value of taxable property, tax rates, and taxes levied. In addition, the information below provides an analysis of the millage rate's effect on the average taxpayer for the same period.

Paulding County Board of Education CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY						
The Paulding County Board of Education does hereby announce that the millage rate will be established at a meeting to be held at the Paulding County Board of Education Board Room on June 17, 2025 at 8:30 AM EST and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A 48.5.32, do hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.						
County School	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal Ad Valorem	\$ 5,676,816,294	\$ 6,308,413,844	\$ 8,016,129,739	\$ 9,699,155,792	\$ 10,195,084,232	\$ 10,713,260,059
Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem	31,621,130	50,251,310	47,147,590	45,834,700	43,543,380	39,318,630
Mobile Home Ad Valorem	1,632,921	1,534,173	1,591,706	1,729,204	2,185,042	2,164,492
Timber Ad Valorem (100%)	5,360	225,181	574,328	824,622	165,874	254,836
Heavy Duty Equipment	163,857	86,134	144,573	177,148	217,817	365,622
Gross Digest	5,710,239,562	6,360,510,642	8,065,587,936	9,747,721,466	10,241,196,345	10,755,363,639
Less M&O Exemptions	(891,271,119)	(995,663,606)	(1,286,131,802)	(1,608,831,149)	(1,822,910,964)	(1,996,001,891)
Net Digest	4,818,968,443	5,364,847,036	6,779,456,134	8,138,890,317	8,418,285,381	8,759,361,748
Gross M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks						
Net M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Net Taxes Levied	\$ 90,355,658	\$ 100,590,882	\$ 120,335,346	\$ 143,854,886	\$ 148,793,194	\$ 154,821,719
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$ 6,519,467	\$ 10,235,224	\$ 19,744,464	\$ 23,519,540	\$ 4,938,308	\$ 6,028,525
Net Taxes % Increase	7.8%	11.3%	19.6%	19.5%	3.4%	4.1%
Note: M&O is Maintenance and Operations. 2025 Net Taxes Levied reflects 17.675, pending Paulding County Board of Education adoption of 2025 Millage Rate.						
Impact on Taxpayer						
Homestead Exemption	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)
Market Value	\$ 235,823	\$ 262,536	\$ 314,068	\$ 375,453	\$ 388,342	\$ 404,076
40% Market Value, less Exemption	\$ 92,329	\$ 103,015	\$ 123,627	\$ 148,181	\$ 153,337	\$ 159,630
M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,731	\$ 1,932	\$ 2,194	\$ 2,619	\$ 2,710	\$ 2,821
Increase	\$ 128	\$ 200	\$ 263	\$ 425	\$ 91	\$ 111
% Increase	8.0%	11.6%	13.6%	19.4%	3.5%	4.1%
Tax Rates and Collections						
M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Taxes Levied	\$ 90,355,658	\$ 100,590,882	\$ 120,335,346	\$ 143,854,886	\$ 148,793,194	\$ 154,821,719
Collections	\$ 91,124,750	\$ 100,868,919	\$ 120,516,262	\$ 143,548,147	\$ 149,094,066	\$ 149,094,066
% Collections vs Levy	100.9%	100.3%	100.2%	99.8%	100.2%	96.3%
Collections Less 2.5% Fee*	\$ 88,846,631	\$ 98,347,196	\$ 117,503,355	\$ 140,547,991	\$ 145,978,000	\$ 145,978,000
* Reflects the Collection Fee charged by the Tax Commissioner of Paulding County (fee changed to 2.09% in 2023 or FY2024).						

Proposed Budget Personnel Changes

The Proposed Budget reflects a net reduction of 99 positions due to the decrease in enrollment in FY2025. Below is a list of allotment changes contained in the FY2026 Budget.

	Original FY2026 Allotments														
	FY2026 Changes														
	General Fund				Grants					SNP		Total		FY2026 Total	
	Original GenEd	+/-	Original ESEP	+/-	Total	Original ESEP	+/-	Original Other	+/-	Total	Original SNP	+/-	Original		+/-
School Based Allotments:															
Elementary Schools	1,170	(50)	300	(2)	1,419	39	-	25	(9)	55	116	-	1,650	(61)	1,590
Middle Schools	528	(6)	154	5	681	1	-	12	(5)	8	69	-	764	(6)	758
High Schools	610	(18)	183	4	779	4	-	7	(3)	8	50	-	854	(17)	837
Total School Based Allotments	2,308	(74)	637	7	2,879	44	-	44	(17)	71	235	-	3,268	(84)	3,185
NHEC Based Allotments	24	-	1	1	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	1	26
Total School Based Allotments	2,332	(74)	638	8	2,905	44	-	44	(17)	71	235	-	3,293	(83)	3,211
Other Direct Instruction & Support:															
School Leadership Division*	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Safety & Security*	14	(1)	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	(1)	13
Teaching & Learning Division*	35	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	35
Student Services*	5	-	111	1	117	6	(1)	-	-	5	-	-	123	-	123
School Supports*	13	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
Total Direct Instruction & Support	2,402	(75)	749	9	3,086	50	(1)	44	(17)	77	235	-	3,481	(84)	3,398
Transportation**	413	1	-	-	414	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	413	1	414
Maintenance**	39	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	41	-	41
Total Direct Instruction, Support, Transportation and Maintenance	2,854	(74)	749	9	3,539	50	(1)	44	(17)	77	237	-	3,935	(83)	3,853
Divisions and Departments															
Office of Associate Superintendent	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
School Leadership Division	9	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Safety & Security	16	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	16
Teaching & Learning Division	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Curriculum	21	-	-	-	21	-	-	3	(3)	-	-	-	24	(3)	21
School Improvement	39	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	39
Title I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	(5)	10	-	-	15	(5)	10
Special Education	15	(5)	127	-	137	6	-	1	-	7	-	-	150	(5)	145
Office of Deputy Superintendent	5	(1)	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	(1)	4
Communications	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Facilities	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Maintenance	39	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	41	-	41
School Support	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Transportation	413	1	-	-	414	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	413	1	414
Custodial	15	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	15
SNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13	-	13
Central Registration	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
Nursing	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Technology Division	54	(1)	-	-	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	(1)	53
Human Resources Division	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Office of Superintendent	5	(2)	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	(2)	3
Business Services Division	22	(1)	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	(1)	21
Total Divisions and Departments	693	(8)	127	-	812	6	-	19	(8)	17	15	-	861	(16)	845
Board of Education	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Grand Total	3,032	(82)	765	8	3,724	50	-	63	(25)	89	250	-	4,161	(99)	4,063

* Instruction and support allotments based at a non-school facility that directly support students

** Total instructional and support allotments, plus transportation and maintenance allotments

Changes in Debt

On February 1, 2025, the School District issued General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, Series 2025 in the original principal amount of \$58,720,000.00, for the purpose of refunding the Series 2022 Bond.

Then on May 13, 2025, the Board approved the School District to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$61,640,000. The proceeds from these bonds will be used for capital outlay projects. The School District issued these bonds on May 29, 2025. Interest payments will begin in FY2026 with the first Principal payment not until February 2027 (FY2027).

As of June 30, 2025, the District has \$131.6 million in outstanding bonds. This amount of debt, applicable to debt limits, is well below the legal debt margin. Debt service for FY2026 includes:

Principal	\$ 12,340,000
Interest	3,546,627
Annual Fees*	<u>9,306</u>
Total Debt Service	\$ 15,895,933

* \$9,306 has been budgeted for the annual agent fees and dissemination services.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Benchmark Data

Per-Pupil Revenue

Below is per-pupil revenue data for the District, comparable districts and the statewide average, based on the most current data available (FY2024). District highlights include:

- Although the 11th largest district by enrollment, PCSD ranks 137 out of all 180 statewide districts in total per-pupil revenue
- PCSD ranks 79 in local per-pupil revenue

School District	FTE	Rank	FTE %	Local Revenue per FTE		State Revenue per FTE		Federal Revenue per FTE		Total Revenue per FTE		Total %
Paulding County Allocation	32,074	11	1.9%	\$ 5,173	1.5%	\$ 7,710	2.1%	\$ 903	1.0%	\$ 13,785	1.7%	
				37.5%		55.9%		6.6%		100.0%		
Savannah-Chatham County	34,648	10	2.0%	\$ 11,742	3.6%	\$ 5,604	1.6%	\$ 2,362	2.9%	\$ 19,707	2.6%	
Muscogee County	29,040	13	1.7%	\$ 5,306	1.4%	\$ 7,394	1.8%	\$ 2,966	3.1%	\$ 15,666	1.7%	
Richmond County	28,322	16	1.7%	\$ 4,806	1.2%	\$ 6,898	1.6%	\$ 3,286	15.0%	\$ 14,990	1.6%	
Houston County	30,047	12	1.8%	\$ 4,432	1.2%	\$ 9,134	2.3%	\$ 1,274	6.2%	\$ 14,839	1.7%	
Douglas County	26,104	17	1.5%	\$ 5,301	1.2%	\$ 6,846	1.5%	\$ 1,245	5.2%	\$ 13,391	1.3%	
Bartow County	13,939	26	0.8%	\$ 6,948	0.9%	\$ 6,655	0.8%	\$ 1,233	2.8%	\$ 14,836	0.8%	
Carroll County	15,859	22	0.9%	\$ 4,339	0.6%	\$ 7,915	1.1%	\$ 1,257	3.2%	\$ 13,511	0.8%	
Average	25,423	-	1.5%	\$ 6,125	1.4%	\$ 7,206	1.5%	\$ 1,946	8.0%	\$ 15,277	1.5%	
Variance to PCSD				\$ 952		\$ (503)		\$ 1,043		\$ 1,492		
% Variance to PCSD				18.4%		-6.5%		115.5%		10.8%		
State Totals	1,699,033	-	100.0%	\$ 6,680		\$ 7,016		\$ 1,641		\$ 15,338		
Allocation				43.6%		45.7%		10.7%		100.0%		
Variance to PCSD				\$ 1,508		\$ (693)		\$ 738		\$ 1,553		
% Variance to PCSD				29.2%		-9.0%		81.7%		11.3%		

Per-Pupil Expenditures

Below is per-pupil expenditure data for the District, comparable districts and the statewide average, based on the most current data available (FY2024).
District highlights include:

- Although the 11th largest district by enrollment, PCSD ranks 133 out of all 180 statewide districts in per-pupil expenditures
- Ranks 79th in per-pupil expenditures for Instruction, reflecting a commitment to spending available resources on the function of Instruction

School District	FTE	Instruction per FTE	%	Pupil Services per FTE	%	Improvement & Media per FTE	%	General, Business, Central per FTE	%	School Admin per FTE	%	Transportation per FTE	%	Maintenance per FTE	%	Total per FTE
Paulding County	32,074	\$ 8,960	67.2%	\$ 623	4.7%	\$ 1,021	7.7%	\$ 403	3.0%	\$ 753	5.6%	\$ 755	5.7%	\$ 827	6.2%	\$ 13,342
Savannah-Chatham County	34,648	\$ 10,307	59.7%	\$ 1,117	6.5%	\$ 890	5.2%	\$ 1,178	6.8%	\$ 1,016	5.9%	\$ 885	5.1%	\$ 1,882	10.9%	\$ 17,275
Muscogee County	29,040	\$ 8,799	61.8%	\$ 846	5.9%	\$ 953	6.7%	\$ 901	6.3%	\$ 792	5.6%	\$ 667	4.7%	\$ 1,287	9.0%	\$ 14,246
Richmond County	28,322	\$ 8,295	56.2%	\$ 925	6.3%	\$ 1,353	9.2%	\$ 1,019	6.9%	\$ 1,159	7.8%	\$ 655	4.4%	\$ 1,365	9.2%	\$ 14,771
Houston County	30,047	\$ 8,864	65.8%	\$ 752	5.6%	\$ 617	4.6%	\$ 521	3.9%	\$ 919	6.8%	\$ 653	4.8%	\$ 1,143	8.5%	\$ 13,470
Douglas County	26,104	\$ 8,120	64.3%	\$ 494	3.9%	\$ 820	6.5%	\$ 528	4.2%	\$ 879	7.0%	\$ 601	4.8%	\$ 1,177	9.3%	\$ 12,620
Bartow County	13,939	\$ 9,681	67.8%	\$ 638	4.5%	\$ 560	3.9%	\$ 484	3.4%	\$ 964	6.8%	\$ 832	5.8%	\$ 1,120	7.8%	\$ 14,281
Carroll County	15,859	\$ 8,420	64.7%	\$ 542	4.2%	\$ 555	4.3%	\$ 378	2.9%	\$ 873	6.7%	\$ 1,055	8.1%	\$ 1,196	9.2%	\$ 13,019
Average	25,423	\$ 8,927	62.7%	\$ 759	5.3%	\$ 821	5.8%	\$ 716	5.0%	\$ 943	6.6%	\$ 764	5.4%	\$ 1,310	9.2%	\$ 14,240
Variance to PCSD		\$ (34)	-4.5%	\$ 137	0.7%	\$ (199)	-1.9%	\$ 313	2.0%	\$ 191	1.0%	\$ 9	-0.3%	\$ 483	3.0%	\$ 899
% Variance to PCSD		-0.4%		22.0%		-19.5%		77.7%		25.3%		1.1%		58.4%		6.7%
State Totals	1,699,033	\$ 9,188		\$ 792		\$ 865		\$ 713		\$ 915		\$ 816		\$ 1,281		\$ 14,570
Allocation		63.1%		5.4%		5.9%		4.9%		6.3%		5.6%		8.8%		100.0%
Variance to PCSD		\$ 228		\$ 170		\$ (156)		\$ 310		\$ 163		\$ 60		\$ 453		\$ 1,228
% Variance to PCSD		2.5%		27.2%		-15.2%		77.0%		21.6%		8.0%		54.8%		9.2%

Organizational Section

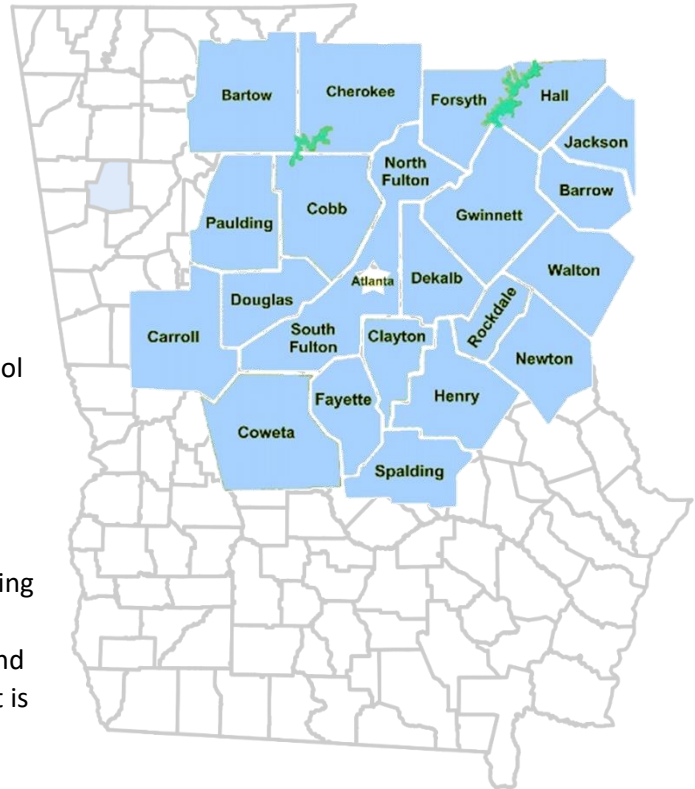


Congratulations to the 2025 Class of Teachers and Employees of the Year!!

About Paulding County School District

Paulding County School District (“PCSD” or “District”) was established under the laws of the State of Georgia and operates under the guidance of a Board of Education (“BOE” or “Board”) elected by the voters and a Superintendent appointed by the Board. The school district is organized as a separate legal entity and has the power to request the levy of taxes and issue bonds. Its budget is not subject to approval by any other entity. Accordingly, the school district is a primary government and consists of all the organizations that compose its legal entity.

The District provides public education for Pre-K (Special Education) and Kindergarten through 12th grade students in Paulding County, Georgia. Paulding County is located in the northwestern part of the State of Georgia. It is a suburban Atlanta county and a part of the metropolitan Atlanta. The county seat is Dallas.



Fast Facts, Enrollment, and Campuses

Paulding County School District *Fast Facts!*



Number of Schools

19	Elementary Schools (K-5), ESEP Pre-k available in some schools
10	Middle Schools (6-8)
5	High Schools (9-12), including Paulding College & Career Academy
34	Schools plus the New Hope Education Center

K-12 Enrollment ²	Gender ³		Free/Reduced Meals ²
31,168	51% M	49% F	51.2% Eligible

Racial Diversity ³					Employees ¹		
White	Black	Ethnic Hispanic	Multi-ethnic	Other	4,100	4,164	4,161
46%	32%	14%	6%	2%	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025

Financial ¹				Financial Efficiency Rating ⁴		
General Fund Budget (millions)	GF per Pupil	M&O Millage	Bond Millage	4.0	4.0	3.5
\$431.6	\$ 13,848	17.675	0.000	FY2018	FY2019	FY2024

PCSD is the 11th Largest School District in the State of Georgia²

¹ FY2025 Quarterly Financial Report, YTD March 2025

² FY2025 Enrollment (October 2024) & FY2025 FRL (October 2024), GaDOE (K-12)

³ FY2025 (October 2024), GaDOE (PK-12)

⁴ FY2024 GOSA Financial Efficiency Star Rating (Most Recent Rating)

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Schools and Enrollment Projections

Elementary Schools

	2024-2025				2025-2026		
	Rank	2025	Var	% Var	2026	Growth	% Var
34 Abney Elementary	2	1,304	33	2.6%	1,390	86	6.6%
20 Allgood Elementary	6	800	(31)	-3.7%	796	(4)	-0.5%
23 Baggett Elementary	14	544	(27)	-4.7%	508	(36)	-6.6%
31 Burnt Hickory Elementary	3	989	(51)	-4.9%	929	(60)	-6.1%
2 Dallas Elementary	15	512	18	3.6%	499	(13)	-2.6%
26 Dugan Elementary	10	613	(18)	-2.9%	623	10	1.6%
3 Hiram Elementary	7	765	(3)	-0.4%	700	(65)	-8.6%
33 Hutchens Elementary	11	612	(30)	-4.7%	606	(6)	-0.9%
5 McGarity Elementary	13	571	(29)	-4.8%	542	(29)	-5.0%
18 Nebo Elementary	5	843	25	3.1%	915	72	8.6%
6 New GA Elementary	19	334	(9)	-2.6%	309	(25)	-7.4%
15 Northside Elementary	12	609	6	1.0%	608	(1)	-0.1%
16 Panter Elementary	16	505	(24)	-4.5%	495	(10)	-1.9%
25 Poole Elementary	17	453	(28)	-5.8%	461	8	1.7%
32 Ragsdale Elementary	9	616	(8)	-1.3%	584	(32)	-5.3%
19 Roberts Elementary	8	641	8	1.3%	635	(6)	-1.0%
24 Russom Elementary	4	962	1	0.1%	928	(34)	-3.5%
14 Shelton Elementary	1	1,371	(26)	-1.9%	1,336	(35)	-2.6%
8 Union Elementary	18	344	(54)	-13.6%	317	(27)	-7.7%
All Total Elementary	19	13,388	(247)	-1.8%	13,181	(207)	-1.5%

Middle Schools

	2024-2025				2025-2026		
	Rank	2025	Var	% Var	2026	Growth	% Var
27 Austin Middle	5	782	(29)	-3.6%	766	(16)	-2.1%
17 Dobbins Middle	9	531	(25)	-4.5%	540	9	1.6%
9 East Paulding Middle	8	630	(239)	-27.5%	623	(7)	-1.1%
10 Herschel Jones Middle	6	728	(81)	-10.0%	737	9	1.2%
22 Moses Middle	1	921	(8)	-0.9%	969	48	5.2%
29 McClure Middle	3	834	(665)	-44.4%	821	(13)	-1.5%
36 Ritch Middle	7	690	(28)	-3.9%	747	57	8.2%
35 Scoggins Middle	4	809	33	4.3%	804	(5)	-0.6%
11 South Paulding Middle	10	507	(2)	-0.4%	518	11	2.1%
37 Crossroads Middle	2	908	908	0.0%	924	16	1.7%
All Total Middle School	10	7,340	(136)	-1.8%	7,447	107	1.5%

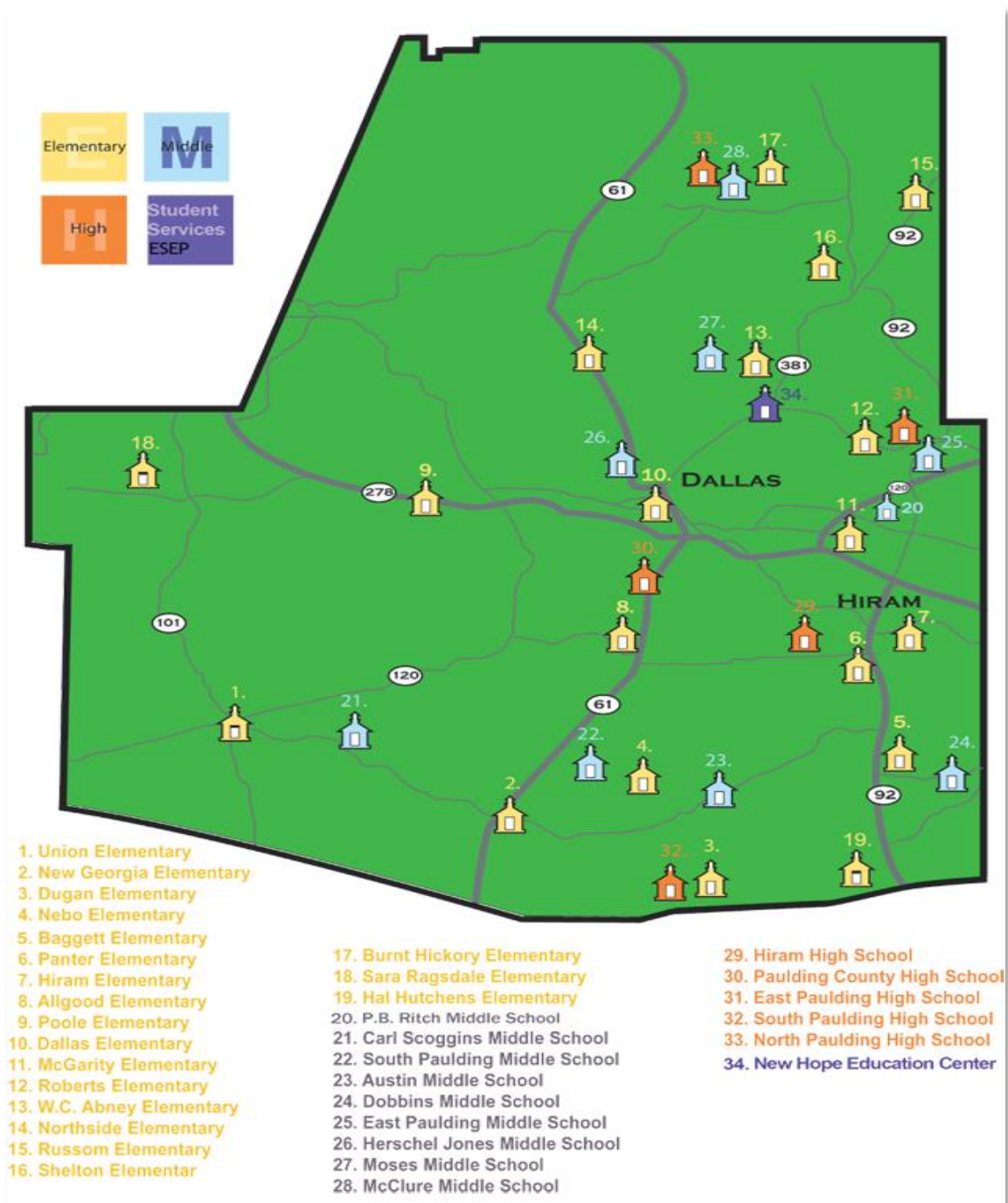
High Schools

	2024-2025				2025-2026		
	Rank	2025	Var	% Var	2026	Growth	% Var
12 East Paulding High	3	1,985	81	4.3%	1,953	(32)	-1.6%
21 Hiram High	5	1,460	(43)	-2.9%	1,473	13	0.9%
30 North Paulding High	1	3,015	(37)	-1.2%	3,051	36	1.2%
13 Paulding County High	2	2,099	(17)	-0.8%	2,118	19	0.9%
28 South Paulding High	4	1,881	(24)	-1.3%	1,852	(29)	-1.5%
All Total High School	5	10,440	(40)	-0.4%	10,447	7	0.1%

Total Enrollment

				2025-2026		
	2025	Var	% Var	2026	Growth	% Var
Total	31,168	(423)	-1.3%	31,075	(93)	-0.3%

School Locations



**At the time of this report, the map has not been updated to include Crossroads Middle School*

Governance Structure

Paulding County Board of Education

The District is governed by an elected seven-member Board which selects the Superintendent of Schools. The seven-member Board, elected for four-year terms, includes six post positions and an at-large position. Elected annually by the Board, the Chair and Vice Chair facilitate Board business and meetings. The primary duties of the Board include selecting a Superintendent, enacting Board policies and approving the annual budget. The Superintendent and District Staff enforce the District's strategic mission and board policies to ensure that each student has an equal opportunity for a quality education.



Board of Education

**Tom Cable (Board Attorney, not pictured)*

District Leadership and Organizational Chart

Organizational Structure

The District is organized by seven divisions and eleven departments.

Superintendent



Mr. Steve Barnette is the Superintendent of the District. Mr. Barnette has worked in accounting and finance for 35 years.

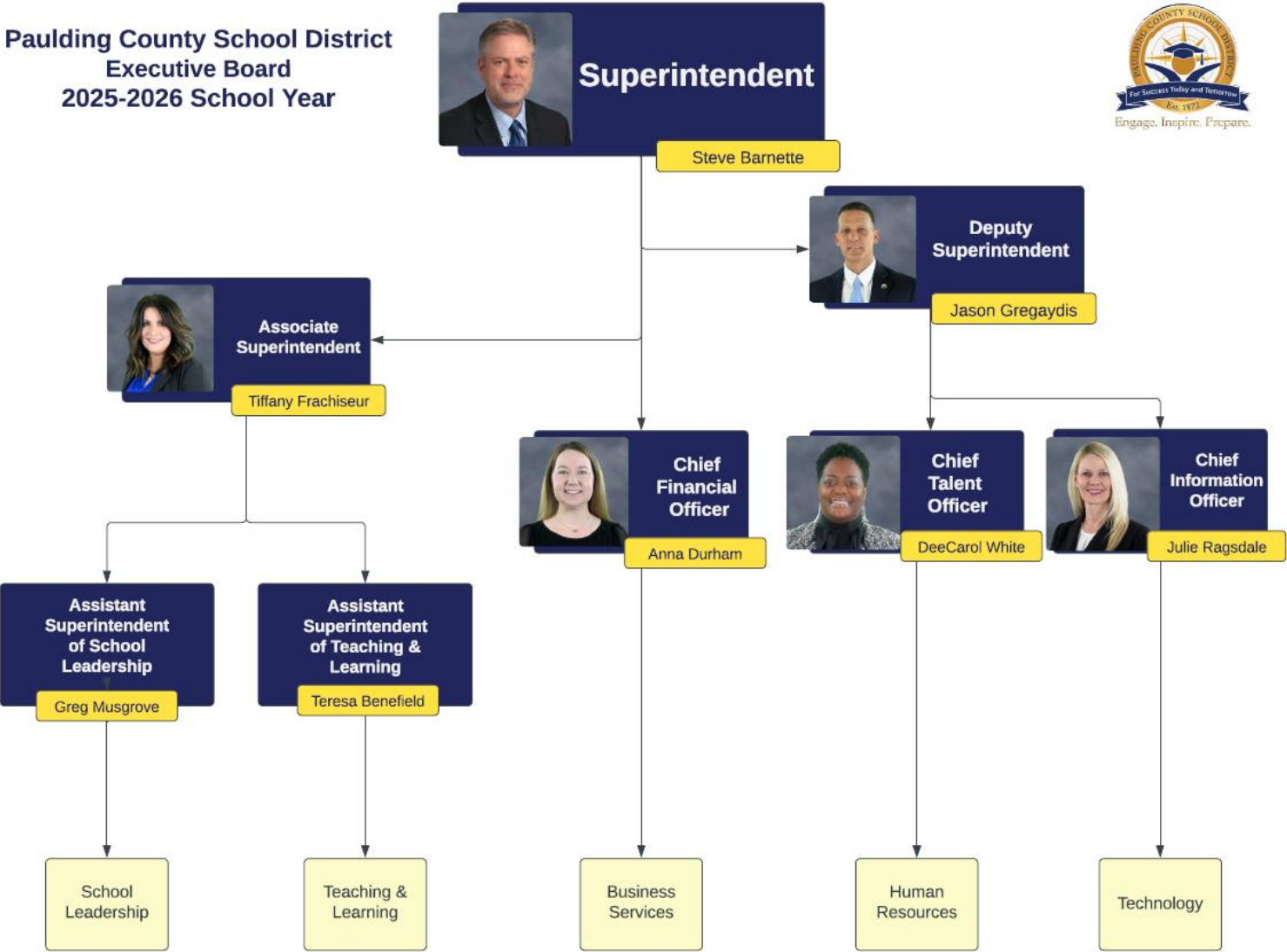
Prior to being named Superintendent, Mr. Barnette served as Corporate Controller, Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice President and Principal, Chief Financial Officer, and Interim Superintendent. He has worked in education for 13 years first as a Director of Accounting Services and as Chief Financial Officer. He received his undergraduate and master's degree, in Finance and Business Administration, from Kennesaw State University.

Mr. Barnette and his family have made Paulding County their home for the past 24 years. His wife is a career educator and a teacher at Burnt Hickory Elementary School. They are the parents of five children educated in public schools (four of whom came through the Paulding County School District).

The Superintendent's Cabinet includes the following direct reports:

1. Dr. Jason Gregaydis, Deputy Superintendent
2. Tiffany Frachiseur, Associate Superintendent
3. DeeCarol White, Chief Talent Officer
4. Anna Durham, Chief Financial Officer
5. Julie Ragsdale, Chief Information Officer

Paulding County School District
Executive Board
2025-2026 School Year



PCSD Local School Administration can be found in the Informational Section

Performance Foundations - Vision, Mission, and Beliefs

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

Engage. Inspire. Prepare.

Our Beliefs

- We believe preparing students for success is our first priority.
- We believe in fostering a culture of high expectations in student achievement and personal development.
- We believe all students are inspired to learn when provided rigorous and relevant instruction and positive relationships.
- We believe in providing an environment which is safe, challenging, inclusive, and both physically and mentally healthy.
- We believe in the use of collaborative learning communities where best practices are partnered with data-driven decisions.

Strategic Plan 2022-2027

In January of 2021, the Board voted to utilize a process developed by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) and Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (“GLISI”) to create an updated strategic plan for the school district. This extensive process engaged the community and all stakeholder groups to create universal ownership and support for district and school improvement. Highlights of the process included:

- A comprehensive community engagement component that allowed stakeholders to have a voice in the strategic planning process
- A diverse planning team that represented stakeholder groups to develop the plan
- An intensive planning process that assisted the planning and action teams in analyzing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the school district and developing/defining the mission, vision, beliefs, goal areas and elements of the strategic plan
- A facilitated process to work with experts within the District and community on developing initiatives and action steps to implement the plan

The desired outcome of the District's Strategic Plan is to align the work of the District from the boardroom to the classroom for the purpose of increasing student achievement and organizational effectiveness of the District. Specifically, the Board wanted a strategic plan that would allow the District to:

1. Achieve its goals and objectives
2. Show progress towards its mission and vision
3. Meet the needs of all stakeholders
4. Measure impact and progress
5. Utilize resources efficiently and to the greatest effect
6. Work within Board policy

In May 2022, the Board discussed the opportunity that this Strategic Plan afforded the District and approved the 2022-2027 *Paulding County School District Strategic Plan* in its entirety. Implementation of the plan began in earnest at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. According to O'Donovan and Flower (2013), strategic planning should utilize an adaptive strategy approach. This fluid approach will allow districts to implement the plan with fidelity and sustain structures for monitoring and accountability while remaining adaptive to changing national, state and county conditions. Following this research, the Paulding County School District has put in place a strong process for refining and updating the strategic plan.

A monitoring and data collection process for the District's plan has been developed with each of the District's Departments. This process encourages ongoing district improvement, provides evidence of impact of their work, and provides an informed basis for decision-making and planning. Each department provides reports on the continuous improvement cycle of the plan. The protocol used for the progress checks includes the following:

Plan: Explain each goal area, performance objectives and initiatives that each department is working on and report current progress.

Do: Outline the next steps for implementation.

Check: Analyze any barriers to reaching performance targets and desired results.

Act: Identify any additional initiatives and actions that need to be made to the strategic plan to ensure future success on the desired results.

At the school level, principals have led their school teams using the strategy and framework of the District's strategic plan to create school improvement plans. The teams have conducted a comprehensive needs assessment aligned to the Paulding County School District Strategic Plan. The school teams analyzed multiple data sources and validated their improvement needs that align to the District's plan. Paulding County School District has created a robust strategic plan evaluation and review process that is ongoing and pervasive throughout the system for the purpose of learning, continual improvement and development.

Strategic Plan Structure and Common Terms

Strategic Goal Areas

- 1 Growth and Success for ALL
- 2 Communication and Engagement
- 3 Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality, Diverse Professionals
- 4 Operational and Organizational Excellence
- 5 Innovative Practices and Resource Implementation

Strategic Goal Areas. The framework is used to describe the District's strategy to reach its Mission and Vision.

Performance Objectives. A key measurable value that demonstrates how effectively the District is achieving the desired result.

Initiatives. Specific programs and projects assigned to collaborative teams to attain each Performance Objective.

Measurements. A measurement of outcomes and results which generates reliable data on the effectiveness and efficiency of programs.

For the most current version of the full Strategic Plan visit:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Planning/PlanView.aspx?S=4125&pid=OWTKKgVS1hFt3cF3EIXOGg%3D%3D&Tab=0>

Measuring Success – Balanced and Goal Scorecard

For the most current Balanced and Goal Scorecard visit:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Planning/PlanView.aspx?S=4125&pid=OWTKKgVS1hFt3cF3EIXOGg%3D%3D&Tab=4&Subtab=4>

Strategic Goal Area	Performance Objective	FY26 Budget Priorities	Financial Impact on the Budget
1 Growth and Success for ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve student academic growth and achievement • Improve performance of student subgroups • Improve student college, career, and life readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining manageable Class Size • Targeted Staff Adjustments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (-\$8.4 million) to General Fund due to a decrease in enrollment – discussed further in Financial Section
2 Communication and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate efficiently, effectively, and transparently with all district stakeholders • Improve communication and access of information to our diverse populations • Facilitate partnerships between community and school district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase external stakeholder communication tools and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
3 Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality, Diverse Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract and retain high quality, diverse professionals • Build staff capacity • Develop and implement effective succession planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step Increases • Strategic partnerships with post-secondary institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.6 million for Step Increases • \$350,000 for advanced degrees programs
4 Operational and Organizational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a facility plan to contend with growth and aging facilities • Enhance safe and effective learning environments • Sustain excellent financial stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Control System • Increased Safety/Security staff • Safety Equipment Refresh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.2 million for Access Control System paid through SPLOST funds • \$400,000 for additional Safety Staff • \$300,00 for Safety Equipment Refresh
5 Innovative Practices and Resource Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and advance resources to inspire a culture of innovation • Build staff efficacy to impact innovative practices • Implement innovative programs and practices to engage ALL students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Initiative refresh • Innovation Resources and STEM Budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.0 million for 1:1 Initiative refresh • \$75,000 allocated by FTE to each school for STEM resources

Budget Goals

- Maintain at least 65% of budget allocation for instruction. FY2026 instructional costs are projected to be 67% of the General Fund budget.
- Maintain year-to-date actuals within 2% of the working budget for General Fund expenditures
- Continuing with implementation of 1:1 technology for students with a budget of \$10.8 million in the General Fund for technology.
- Address growth in the north part of the District as well as renovations for older facilities with \$65.8 million in Capital Projects expenditures.
- Attract and retain high quality and diverse professionals with a fully funded step-increase for eligible employees.
- Provides more than \$7.4 million to support safe and secure schools for students and staff, including \$5.7 million in the General Fund operating budget.

Fund Descriptions and Structure

Fund Accounting

Fund accounting is a system of accounting used by governments to track specific activities. The focus of fund accounting is on accountability, rather than profitability. *Funds* are categorized by *Fund Type* and have separate rules about what money goes in and how it is spent.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements, which are used as the reporting basis for the Budget Book, provide detailed information about the School District's major funds. The District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the District's most significant funds. The District's major governmental funds are the general fund, the capital projects fund, and the debt service fund.

Governmental Funds: Most of the District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted into cash.

The District reports the following appropriated major governmental funds:

- The **General Fund** is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. All Departments operate within the General Fund.
 - **Special Revenue Funds** account for resources that are legally restricted for specific purposes. Although reported within the General Fund for audited financial reporting, Special Revenue Funds are presented separately for budget appropriation and internal reporting purposes.

- **Capital Projects Funds** account for and reports financial resources including Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST), bond proceeds and grants from the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission that are restricted, committed or assigned for capital outlay expenditures, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.
- **Debt Service Funds** account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned, including taxes (property) legally restricted for the payment of general long-term principal and interest and paying agent's fees.

Accounting Structure

Chart of Accounts

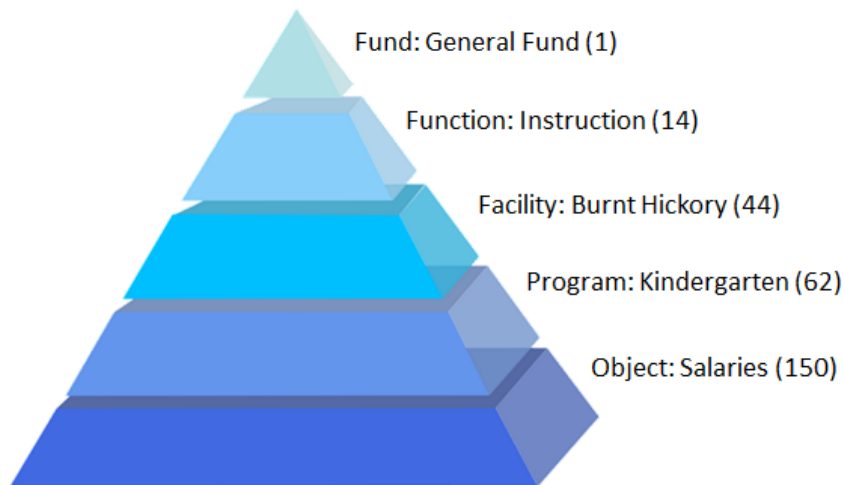
The chart of accounts is a listing of all accounts, or nomenclature, used in the general ledger of an organization to aggregate information into an entity's financial statements. PCSD's chart of accounts is organized by fund, function, facility, program and object.

To the right is a visual representation of the chart of accounts and an example of each level.

When thinking about the chart of accounts structure, it is best to consider who, what, where, when, why and how.

- Who = *Fund*, for example, General Fund
- What we do = *Function*, for example, Instruction, Maintenance, etc.
- Where = *Facility*, for example, Burnt Hickory ES
- When = What accounting period
- Why = *Program*, for example, kindergarten
- How = *Object*, for example, salaries

There is one other component to the chart of accounts. *Reporting Area* is an internal reporting and/or workflow designation.



Budgeting

Budgeting is the allocation of resources (often scarce) among various competing alternatives.

Classifications of Revenue

A complete list of revenue terms and definitions can be found at the Georgia Department of Education:

<https://gadoe.org/finance-operations/>

- Local Sources (Taxes) and Other Local Sources
 - Typically includes revenues often associated with taxes, sales, tuition, dues and fees and donations.
- State Source
 - Typically includes revenues associated with the State of Georgia, like Quality Basic Education (QBE) and grants.
- Federal
 - Typically includes revenues associated with federal grants.

Classifications of Expenditures

As discussed under the Chart of Accounts, expenditures are primarily classified and/or organized by fund, function, facility, program and object. A description of functions and objects appear below. A complete list of expenditure terms and definitions can be found at the Georgia Department of Education:

<https://gadoe.org/finance-operations/>

Functions

Functions describe the activity for which a service or material is acquired. Functions are classified into five broad areas: Instruction, Support Services, Operation of Non-Instructional Services, Facilities Acquisition and Construction, and Other Outlays. Functions are further broken down into sub-functions and areas of responsibility.

INSTRUCTION (1000)

Instruction includes activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers and students. Teaching may be provided for students in a school classroom, in another location such as a home or hospital, and in other learning situations such as those involving co-curricular activities. It may also be provided through some other approved medium such as television, radio, telephone, and correspondence. Included here are the activities of aides or classroom assistants of any type (clerks, graders, teaching machines, etc.) which assist in the instructional process. Note: Counselors and

Technology Specialists funded through QBE are allowable charges to this function for expenditure control purposes.

PUPIL SERVICES (2100)

Activities designed to assess and improve the well-being of students and to supplement the teaching process. Activities include guidance, counseling, testing, attendance, social work, health services, etc. Also include supplemental payments for additional duties such as coaching or supervising extracurricular activities.

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (2210)

Technical and logistical support activities designed to aid teachers in developing the curriculum, preparing and using special curriculum materials, and understanding the various techniques that stimulate and motivate students. These services facilitate, sustain, and enhance instruction techniques. Includes costs associated with technology personnel (Technology Specialists), contracted support services, systems planning and analysis, systems application development, network support services, and other technology-related costs that relate to the support of instructional activities. Effective FY 2018 – All Instructional Staff Training (professional development) costs will be reported using Function 2213. Training and professional development for other, non-instructional employees should be reported in their respective functions.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING (2213)

Activities associated with the professional development and training of instructional personnel. These include such activities as in-service training (including mentor teachers), workshops, conferences, demonstrations, courses for college credit (tuition reimbursement), and other activities related to the ongoing growth and development of instructional personnel. Training that supports the use of technology for instruction should be included in this code. The incremental costs associated with providing substitute teachers in the classroom (while regular teachers attend training) should be captured in this function code. All costs should be charged to this code regardless of whether training services are provided internally or purchased from external vendors. It should be noted that the salary of a teacher who is attending training would still be reported in function 1000.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVICES (2220)

Activities concerned with directing, managing and operating educational media centers. Included are school libraries, audio-visual services and educational television.

FEDERAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION (2230)

Activities concerned with the demands of Federal Programs grant management. Federal Indirect Cost Charges should continue to be charged to 2300-880.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (2300)

Activities concerned with establishing and administering policy for operating the LUA. These include the activities of the members of the Board of Education. Local activities in interpretation of the laws and statutes and general liability situations are charged here, as are the activities of external auditors. Also recorded here are activities performed by the superintendent, administrative support personnel and deputy, associate, or assistant superintendent having overall administrative responsibility.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION (2400)

Activities concerned with overall administrative responsibility for school operations. Included are activities of principals, assistant principals, full time department chairpersons and clerical staff.

SUPPORT SERVICES – BUSINESS (2500)

Activities concerned with the fiscal operation of the LUA, including budgeting, financial and property accounting, payroll, inventory control, internal auditing and managing funds. Also included are purchasing, warehouse and distribution operations, and printing, publishing and duplicating operations.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PLANT SERVICES (2600)

Activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, comfortable, and safe for use, and keeping the grounds, buildings, and equipment in effective working condition and state of repair. This includes the activities of maintaining safety in buildings, on the grounds, and in the vicinity of schools. Property insurance expenditures are recorded in this function.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY (2660)

Activities concerned with maintaining a safe and secure environment for students and staff. Include costs associated with security plan development and implementation, security monitoring devices, security personnel, security equipment, school crossing guards, school fire alarm and other monitors, and other costs incurred in an effort to ensure the basic security and safety of students and staff. Effective beginning FY2025.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (2700)

Activities concerned with the conveyance of students to and from school and trips to school activities. These activities include supervision of student transportation, vehicle operation, servicing and maintenance, bus monitoring and traffic direction. Transportation insurance expenditures are charged to this function.

SUPPORT SERVICES – CENTRAL (2800)

Central Office activities other than general administration and business services. Included are personnel services, data processing services, strategic planning including research, development and evaluation on a system-wide basis; and public relations activities, such as writing, editing and other preparation necessary to disseminate information to students, staff and the general public.

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES (2900)

All other support services not properly classified elsewhere in the 2000 series.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM (3100)

Activities concerned with providing food to students and staff in a school or LUA. This service area includes the preparation and serving of regular and incidental meals or snacks in connection with school activities and delivery of food. Activities should be recorded in Fund 600 (School Nutrition Program) except when paid by federal funds from fund 100 on behalf of the food service operation due to a shortage of funds or by special arrangement.

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS (3200)

Activities that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent is to recover costs through user charges. Examples: LUA operated bookstore, cannery or freezer plant operation, stadium operation, etc.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OPERATIONS (3300)

Activities concerned with providing community services to students, staff or other community participants. Examples of this function would be the operation of a community swimming pool, a recreation program for the elderly, a child care center for working mothers, etc.

FACILITIES ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (4000)

Activities concerned with the acquisition of land and buildings; renovating buildings; the construction of buildings and additions to buildings, initial installation or extension of service systems and other build-in equipment; and improvements to sites.

OTHER OUTLAYS (5000)

Outlays which cannot be properly classified as expenditures but require budgetary or accounting control. Transfers to other funds are recorded as 5000-930.

DEBT SERVICE (5100)

Outlays to retire the long-term debt (obligations in excess of one year) of the LUA. Included are payments of principal, interest and paying agents' fees. Interest on current loans (repayable within one year) is charged to function 2500.

Objects

Objects are used to describe the service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure. There are nine major object categories which may be further subdivided.

- 100 Personnel Services (Salaries)
- 200 Personnel Services (Employer Benefit Costs)
- 300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services
- 400 Purchased Property Services
- 500 Other Purchased Services
- 600 Supplies
- 700 Property
- 800 Other Objects
- 900 Other Uses

A complete list of Objects may be found at:

<https://gadoe.org/finance-operations/>

Fund Balance

Fund balance is a measurement of available financial resources and is the difference between total assets and total liabilities in each fund.

Fund balance for governmental funds is reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The District's fund balances are classified as follows:

- Non-spendable
- Restricted
- Committed
- Assigned
- Unassigned

The Board authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to assign Fund Balance.

A minimum Fund Balance of 1.5 months of budgeted expenditures should be maintained in the General Fund (unassigned).

Measurement Basis of Accounting and Budgeting

Basis of Budgeting

All Governmental Funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. The District's Basis of Budgeting and Accounting are the same.

Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. when they are "measurable and available"). The revenue budget should include all revenues anticipated within the fund in a given fiscal year, and generally they are segregated by source (e.g., property taxes, Quality Basic Education Act revenues). In addition to revenues, the category "other financing sources" also may be used. Generally, this category describes financial resources that are nonrevenue receipts but are treated as revenue to an individual fund within the LUA. Included in this classification are proceeds from the sale of bonds, sale (or

compensation for the loss) of fixed assets, and interfund operating transfers in. The available fund balance at the beginning of the fiscal year, which may be spent in the subsequent year's budget, is also considered a financial resource for budget purposes.

Revenues are recognized when the revenue source is considered measurable and available. Measurable meaning the amount of revenue can be determined and available meaning that the revenue has been collected or will be collected soon enough after the end of the year (typically within 60 days) to pay liabilities outstanding at year end.

Generally, expenditure budgets are considerably more detailed than revenue budgets. Governmental expenditures are classified in several ways. An important aspect of expenditure budgets are the legal level of budgetary control. This is the level which may not be over expended without the school board's approval. PCSD Board Policy DB (Planning, Programming, Budgeting System) governs this level of control.

PCSD Board Policy DB: Planning, Programming, Budgeting System

The Board of Education will adopt the non-appropriated budget at the aggregate level of fund type as its legal level of control (by fund type – i.e. governmental fund type).

The Superintendent or designee will prepare and present the annual budget by fund, function and object for management control; however, the Board's legal level of control will be set at the aggregate level of fund type.

Annual budgets are adopted for all funds except fiduciary funds. The annual fiscal year of the Board of Education is from July 1 through June 30.

The Board of Education must approve the annual budget as required by Georgia law and the Georgia Board of Education. The Superintendent, as Treasurer of the Board, is authorized and directed to spend funds of the Board in accordance with this policy and other approved policies and procedures.

The Superintendent is authorized by the Board to approve cumulative adjustments of less than ten (10) percent of the amount originally appropriated for expenditures in any fund. The Superintendent will report to the Board, on a quarterly basis, all expenditures with budget adjustments in excess of \$100,000.

Under no circumstances is the Superintendent or other staff authorized to spend funds that exceed the total budget as approved by the Board of Education.

In addition to expenditures, the category "other financing uses" may be used. This category is reported similarly to "other financing sources" and includes transactions that reduce equity in an individual fund but do not reduce the total equity of the LUA.

Expenditures are recognized when:

- the transaction is measurable (i.e., the LUA can determine the amount of the expenditure, usually once the invoice is received); and
- the liability has been incurred (i.e., the goods or services have been received); or
- the liability has or will be liquidated from current revenues (i.e., the LUA pays the invoice in the current year or shortly thereafter).

Basis of Accounting¹⁰

The basis of accounting determines when transactions are reported on the financial statements. The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the School District gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, includes property taxes, sales taxes, grants, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from sales taxes are recognized in the fiscal year in which the underlying transaction (sale) takes place. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The School District uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The School District considers certain revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. The School District considers all intergovernmental revenues to be available if they are collected within 120 days after year-end. Property taxes, sales taxes and interest are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term liabilities are reported as other financing sources.

¹⁰ Annual Financial Report, Basic Financial Statements Note 2

The School District funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical grants and general revenues. Thus, when program costs are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted resources available to finance the program. It is the School District's policy to first apply grant resources to such programs, followed by cost-reimbursement grants and then general revenues.

Financial Policies

Budget Policy

1. The Board of Education (Board) will adopt the non-appropriated budget at the aggregate level of fund type as its legal level of control (for example, governmental fund types of general fund, special revenue, capital projects, etc.).
2. The Superintendent or designee will prepare and present the annual budget by, fund, function and object for management control; however, the Board's legal level of control will be set at the aggregate level of fund type.
3. Annual budgets are adopted for all funds except fiduciary funds. The annual fiscal year of the Board of Education is from July 1 through June 30.
4. The Board must approve the annual budget as required by Georgia law and the Georgia Department of Education. The Superintendent, as Treasurer of the Board, is authorized and directed to spend funds of the Board in accordance with this policy and other approved policies and procedures.
5. The Superintendent is authorized by the Board to approve cumulative adjustments of less than ten (10) percent of the amount originally appropriated for expenditures in any fund type. The Superintendent will report to the Board, on a quarterly basis, all expenditures with budget adjustments in excess of \$100,000.
6. Under no circumstances is the Superintendent or other staff authorized to spend funds that exceed the total budget as approved by the Board of Education.

Reference:

Board Policy DB – Planning, Programming, Budgeting System

Debt Management Policies

1. The bonded indebtedness cannot exceed ten (10) percent of the assessed value of all taxable property in the county.
2. The District will limit short-term borrowing to cover cash flow shortages through the issuance of tax anticipation notes.
3. The District will maintain a minimum balance of E-SPLOST proceeds to ensure adequate resources to fund future debt service.

Reference:

Board Policy DFD – Bond Sales

Board Policy DFE – Short Term Notes

Fund Balance Policy

1. Fund balance is a measurement of available financial resources and is the difference between total assets and total liabilities in each fund.
2. Beginning with the most restrictive constraints, fund balance amounts will be reported in the following categories:
 - a. **Nonspendable fund balance** – amounts that are not in a spendable form (e.g., inventory) or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (e.g., permanent fund principal).
 - b. **Restricted fund balance** – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints either (1) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments or (2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
 - c. **Committed fund balance** – amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Board of Education. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by referring to the formal action that imposed the constraint originally (e.g., the Board's commitment in connection with future construction projects).
 - d. **Assigned fund balance** – amounts *intended* to be used by the government for specific purposes. Intent can be expressed by (1) the Board of Education or (2) the budget or finance committee, or Superintendent or designee. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the amount that is not restricted or committed.
 - e. **Unassigned fund balance** – includes all amounts not contained in other classifications and is the residual classification of the general fund only. Unassigned amounts are available for any legal purpose.
3. The responsibility for designating funds to specific classifications shall be as follows:
 - a. **Committed Fund Balance** –The Board of Education is the District's highest level of decision-making authority, and the formal action that is required to be taken to establish, modify, or rescind a fund balance commitment is motion approved by the Board.
 - b. **Assigned Fund Balance** –The Board of Education has authorized the Superintendent and the Chief Financial Officer as officials authorized to assign fund balance to a specific purpose as approved by this fund balance policy.
4. A minimum Fund Balance of 1.5 months of budgeted expenditures should be maintained in the General Fund (unassigned).

Reference:
Board Policy DCL – Fund Balance

Investment Policy

1. The primary objective, in priority order, of investment activities shall be safety, liquidity and yield.
2. The School District can invest its funds as permitted by O.C.G.A 36-83-4. In selecting among options for investment or among institutional bids for deposits, the highest rate of return shall be the objective, given equivalent conditions of safety and liquidity.

Reference:
Board Policy DI – Accounting and Reporting

Purchasing Policy

1. All purchases must be made by an authorized purchasing agent.
2. All purchases shall be evaluated based on quality, performance and price.
3. Purchases will be made by one of the following methods, are subject to the following limits and must adhere to Board regulations:
 - a. Purchases greater than or equal to \$50,000
 - i. Formal Bid and make every attempt to solicit at least three (3) responsive and responsible offers.
 - ii. Competitive Negotiation
 - iii. Board of Education approval is required for purchases greater than \$100,000.
 - b. Purchases between \$20,000 and \$50,000
 - i. Request for Quote (RFQ) and make every attempt to solicit at least three (3) competitive quotes
 - ii. Reported to the Board of Education on a quarterly basis as a Point of Information (POI)
 - c. Purchases between \$5,000 and \$20,000
 - i. Made by the local school/department level provided two (2) written quotes are maintained at the school/department level.
 - ii. Reviewed/approved by the Principal/department head and must be available for periodic audit review.
 - d. Purchases less than or equal to \$5,000
 - i. Best Judgement

Reference:
Regulation DJED-R – Bids and Quotations

Budget Development Methodology: Budgeting for Outcomes

Paulding County School District (PCSD) utilizes a Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) model. BFO is a framework or performance budgeting process that is based on the Board of Education (BOE) and district leadership identifying priorities that reflect the results that the community want.

BFO goals include:

- Efficiency
- Transparency
- Innovation

Once the desired results and priorities are identified, specific strategies (initiatives) are developed to accomplish those priorities. These strategies are collaboratively developed by Business Services and district leadership and staff, encouraging new ideas, innovation, cooperation, and improvement within the school district's budget.

At its core, the philosophy of BFO requires each activity to be justified on the basis of cost-benefit analysis – at its essence, a budget constructed from the bottom-up (a modified zero-based budget).

The Price of Government and Major Budget Influencers must also be identified and considered within the framework, especially changes in funding and new or expanding influences on the budget, which may be positive or negative and short-term or long-term.

PCSD uses a BFO model as a systematic basis for resource allocation in order to create sustainable and effective budgets that fund programs and services that align with the communities' desired results, regardless of funding availability or budget constraints. Results are measured by the Financial Efficiency Star Rating system (see Performance Results: Financial Efficiency Start Rating section).

- PCSD budgets its governmental funds based on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds include the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds and Debt Service Funds of the District.
- Local school budgets are developed collaboratively with school administration, allowing for flexibility with their resources to best meet the needs of their specific student population.

Budget Development Process

Budget Framework Period

The budget framework is developed 6 to 12 months before the original budget is presented to the Board of Education (BOE) in June. There are two distinct phases to the Budget Framework Period:

- Budget Process Review Phase
- Budget Framework Development Phase

Budget Process Review Phase

The **Budget Process Review Phase** typically starts in July, approximately 12 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE. From July to September, Business Services will review the prior year's processes and develop a timeline for the next fiscal year budget – contingent upon the approved meeting schedule of the BOE. Budget-brainstorming sessions are held with key stakeholders to review the previous year's budget processes (successes and areas of improvement). Enhancements to the budget development process and reports are identified and work begins to make these adjustments well in advance of the Budget Development Timeline period (see below).

Highlights of the *Budget Process Review Phase* includes:

- ✓ Budget Book is compiled and submitted for peer-review
- ✓ Budget feedback from various groups is solicited and reviewed
- ✓ Develop timeline for the next fiscal year budget
- ✓ Key stakeholders review the previous year's budget processes
- ✓ Enhancements to the budget development process and reports are identified and work begins to make these adjustments
- ✓ Review begins on the Strategic Plan, including Performance Objectives, Initiatives and Measures

Budget Framework Phase

The **Budget Framework Phase** typically starts in October, approximately 9 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE. From October to December, Business Services will work with the BOE, community, district leadership and staff to identify desired results and Budget Priorities. In addition, Major Budget Influencers, Budget Initiatives (Strategies) and Price of Government are identified.

Highlights of the *Budget Framework Phase* includes:

- ✓ Budget feedback is solicited from various stakeholder groups
- ✓ Feedback begins on Budget Priorities (Performance Objectives)

- ✓ Feedback begins on Budget Strategies (Initiatives)
- ✓ Initial Major Budget Influencers are identified
- ✓ An early outlook on the next budget is developed
- ✓ Initial enrollment projections and allotment assumptions are developed

Definitions:

Major Budget Influencers. Business Services defines what might materially influence the budget, especially new or expanding influences, which may be positive or negative.

Early Outlook. Business Services produces an early outlook on the next budget, incorporating known major budget influencers.

Budget Priorities. The District identifies a relatively small number of high-level priorities that reflect the desired results of the community. These priorities form the basis for organizing the budgeting process. These are typically grouped by Strategic Plan Goal Areas and serve as validation of the alignment of plan and community.

In addition, priorities related to allotment allocation and funding by functional category are determined.

Initial Enrollment Projections. During this period, initial enrollment projections are developed after the October enrollment count. These early enrollment projections are pending kindergarten registration, school choice and magnet program changes. For information on the enrollment projection process refer to the Enrollment Projection Process section.

Budget Development Timeline Period

During this period Major Budget Influencers and Budget Initiatives are refined. A timeline of milestones and deliverables is published (see below), culminating in approval of a tentative and original budget. There are three distinct phases to the Budget Development Timeline Period:

- Budget Development Phase I
- Budget Development Phase II
- Millage Rate Phase

Budget Development Phase I

The ***Budget Development Phase I*** typically starts in January, approximately 6 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE. From January to March, Major Budget Influencers and Budget Priorities are refined.

Highlights of the *Budget Development Phase I* include:

- ✓ Budget feedback is solicited from various stakeholder groups

- ✓ Budget Priorities and Strategies are finalized
- ✓ Enrollment projections and allotment assumptions are finalized
- ✓ Major Budget Influencers and assumptions are finalized
- ✓ The State budget is approved, including QBE and Equalization Grant
- ✓ Initial local digest is received
- ✓ *Budget Timeline, Primer and Outlook Presentations*

Definitions:

Budget Initiatives (Strategies). Chiefs make specific budget proposals. These proposals are evaluated on the basis of how likely they are to help achieve the Budget Priorities. Proposals that are recommended for funding are Budget Initiatives. These are typically grouped by Strategic Plan Goal Areas, serving as validation of the alignment of plan, community and district leadership.

Price of Government. Funding availability is determined and allocated to support Budget Priorities and Initiatives.

Allotments and Major Budget Assumptions. During this period allotment allocation methodology and major budget assumptions are reviewed, including funding by functional category.

General Assembly Session. The General Assembly meets in regular session starting on the second Monday in January and for no longer than 40 legislative (rather than calendar) days each year.

Initial QBE and Equalization Grant Funding. Preliminary state funding estimates are typically received in February.

Initial Local Digest. Preliminary local digest projection information is typically received in February.

State Budget Approval. The Governor typically signs the state budget in late April or early May.

Final Enrollment Projections. Enrollment projections are finalized, including the impacts of kindergarten registration, school choice and magnet program changes. For information on the enrollment projection process refer to the Enrollment Projection Process section.

Budget Timeline Presentation. In January, after the BOE has approved their meeting schedule for the upcoming calendar year, a budget timeline is presented which details budget milestones, key deliverables, required BOE actions, public meetings, public hearings, press releases, advertisements and notices.

Budget Primer Presentation. In March, a budget primer is presented to the BOE and community. This presentation highlights demographic, enrollment and funding trends for PCSD and its comparable districts.

Revenue and Allotment Presentation. In March, initial revenue and allotment projections are presented.

Budget Development Phase II

The *Budget Development Phase II* typically starts in April, approximately 3 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE. From April to June, the tentative and original budgets are finalized and presented to the BOE and community.

Highlights of *Budget Development Phase II* include:

- ✓ Budget feedback is solicited from various stakeholder groups
- ✓ Pre-Consolidated local digest received
- ✓ Position allotments are finalized
- ✓ Numerous advertisements and notices are published
- ✓ Two public meetings regarding the budget are held
- ✓ Tentative budget approval
- ✓ Original budget approval
- ✓ *Revenue & Allotment, Tentative Budget and Original Budget Presentations*

Definitions:

Pre-Consolidation Digest. Received from the Tax Commissioner, the pre-consolidated digest is the final draft of the county tax digest.

Final Allotments. Position allotments are finalized, based on enrollment projections and budget assumptions related to position control.

Current Tax Digest and Five-Year History. Once the pre-consolidated digest is received, the Current Tax Digest and Five-Year History is produced, which provides an overview of digest and tax levy. (see Property Taxes and Values)

Two Public Meetings. In April and May, public meetings are held on the Proposed Budget, which is in accordance with O.C.G.A 20-02-167.1.

Tentative and Original Budgets Approved. In May and June, the tentative and original budgets are presented and approved by the BOE, respectively.

Georgia Code requires a budget to be adopted on or before June 30th.

Millage Rate Phase

If the proposed millage rate exceeds the rollback rate (see Property Taxes and Values section), a press release is issued, and three public hearings are advertised and held.

Definitions:

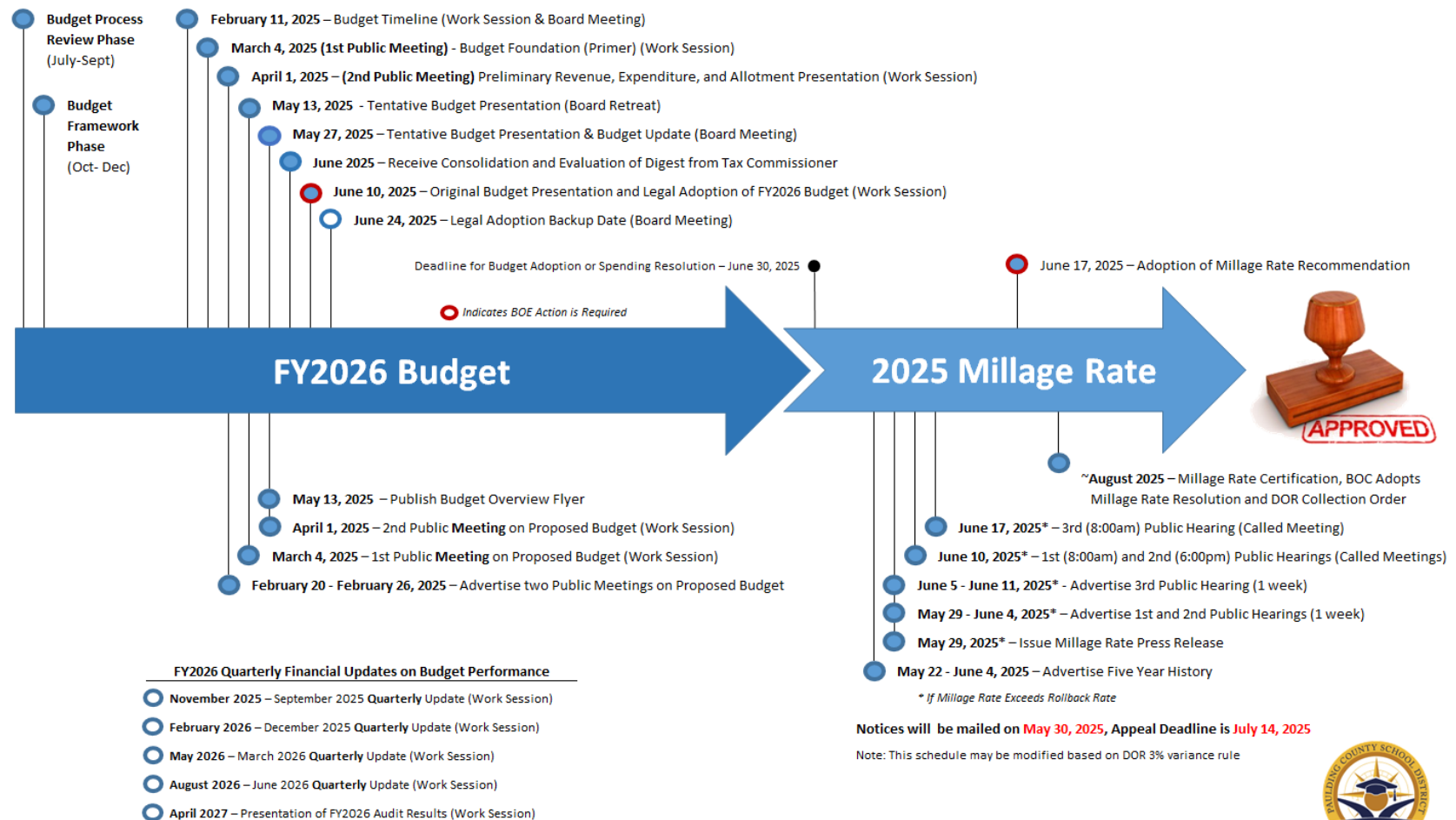
Current Tax Digest and Five-Year History. The current tax digest and five-year history is advertised. (see Property Taxes and Values)

Adoption of the Millage Rate. In July, the BOE adopts a millage rate recommendation. This recommended rate is delivered to the Paulding County Board of Commissioners (BOC), the tax levying authority in Paulding County.

Millage Rate Finalized. By August, the digest is certified and consolidated, the BOC adopts a millage rate resolution and the Georgia Department of Revenue issues collection orders to the Paulding County Tax Commissioner.

Budget Development Timeline

FY2026 Budget Development - Major Milestones



FY2026 Public Meetings and Hearings, Press Releases, Advertisements and Notices

As of May 13, 2025



Capital Projects Budgeting

The District utilizes several ongoing capital project planning mechanisms. Examples include Facility Advisory Committees, Enrollment/Districting Committee, Five-year Facility Planning and Five-year Technology Planning.

Throughout the fiscal year, the Director of Procurement meets monthly with the Executive Director of Facilities and the Superintendent to discuss ongoing projects, many of which are multi-year. These projects generally follow the District's Five-year Facility Plan and Five-year Technology Plan.

A construction update is also presented to the Board of Education (BOE) quarterly for ongoing discussions concerning capital projects.

Capital Projects Budgeting follow the same general budget development process.

Budget Framework Period

The budget framework is developed 6 to 12 months before the original budget is presented to the Board of Education (BOE) in June. There are two distinct phases to the Budget Framework Period:

- The **Budget Process Review Phase** typically starts in July, approximately 12 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE. From July to September, Business Services will review the prior year's processes.
- The **Budget Framework Phase** typically starts in October, approximately 9 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE. From October to December, Business Services works with various advisory committees, the operations, technology and construction departments, and Superintendent to ensure consensus on potential projects. While this work occurs year-round, it is important to understand multi-year projects that will be ongoing in the upcoming fiscal year as well as new projected projects before the budget development period.

Budget Development Timeline Period

The **Budget Development Phase** for capital projects typically starts in January, approximately 6 months before the original budget is presented to the BOE.

During this time Business Services works with various advisory committees, the operations, technology and construction departments, and Superintendent to confirm multi-year projects that will be ongoing in the upcoming fiscal year as well as any other projects.

In addition, each project gets assigned a funding source whether it is a project that was approved under the SPLOST referendum to be paid with sales taxes, or if it will be funded through the state-approved construction projects under GSFIC. From April to June, the tentative and original budgets are finalized and presented to the BOE and community.

FY26 Major Projects Timeline

Projects	Prior Years	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Cost
ES #20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,751,332	32,110,178	\$ 8,366,649	\$ 44,228,159
North Paulding HS Addition	\$ 1,300,573	\$ 16,268,252	\$ 15,948,381	1,207,922	\$ -	\$ 34,725,127
Northside ES Addition	\$ -	\$ 333,155	\$ 8,875,573	1,087,234	\$ -	\$ 10,295,962
Roberts ES Addition	\$ -	\$ 242,699	\$ 5,625,130	3,327,459	\$ -	\$ 9,195,288
Roberts ES Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ 252,840	\$ 5,660,231	474,435	\$ -	\$ 6,387,506
Poole ES Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ 158,779	\$ 4,930,275	1,995,550	\$ -	\$ 7,084,604
Moses ES Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ 108,596	\$ 4,813,326	3,479,550	\$ -	\$ 8,401,473
Austin MS Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	4,560,000	\$ 4,560,000	\$ 9,120,000
Dallas Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,452	560,865	\$ 431,683	\$ 1,000,000
South Paulding HS Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 222,929	4,155,989	\$ 8,275,082	\$ 12,654,000
				52,959,183		

Communication and Engagement Strategy

Best Practice: The budget process should include a plan to inform participants, stakeholders, and the general public about how the budget process works, why each decision was made and how to provide input in the process. Below are *Components* and *Implementation* methods of an effective Communication and Engagement Strategy.

Components

The components of an effective Communication and Engagement Strategy includes defining the general budget process; stakeholder engagement; and explanation of decisions.

Process Overview

Best Practice: Demonstrate the budget process is collaborative, accessible, and transparent, as compromise is required for every budget process. Describe how the budget is developed, including key dates and deadlines, how decisions are made, and the process through which the public can provide input – all guided by established principals and strategic goals for the District.

- 1) Principles and Strategic Goals Guiding the Budget
 - a. Mission: Engage. Inspire. Prepare.
 - b. Vision: The vision of the Paulding County School District is to prepare ALL students for success today and tomorrow.
 - c. Core Beliefs
 - i. We believe preparing students for success is our first priority.
 - ii. We believe in fostering a culture of high expectations in student achievement and personal development.
 - iii. We believe all students are inspired to learn when provided rigorous and relevant instruction and positive relationships.

- iv. We believe in providing an environment which is safe, challenging, inclusive, and both physically and mentally healthy.
 - v. We believe in the use of collaborative learning communities where best practices are partnered with data-driven decisions.
 - d. Strategic Goal Areas
 - i. Growth and Success for All
 - ii. Communication and Engagement
 - iii. Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality, Diverse Professionals
 - iv. Operational and Organizational Excellence
 - v. Innovative Practices and Resource Implementation
- 2) Budget Development
 - a. Development Calendar
 - b. Timeline of Major Milestones
 - c. Methodology
 - i. Major Budget Influencers
 - ii. Cost of Government
 - iii. Priorities and Strategies
 - iv. Validation to Strategic Plan
 - d. Public Education and Input
 - i. Public Presentations on the Budget
 - ii. Post Budget Documents to our website
 - 1. Link to website: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/domain/196>
 - iii. Public Meetings on the Proposed Budget
 - iv. Public Hearings on Millage Rate
 - v. Budget Feedback Portal on our website

Stakeholder Engagement

Best Practice: Develop methods to solicit stakeholder input as part of the budget process. A stakeholder-engagement process should be designed with a clear understanding of the challenge or problem that stakeholder engagement is intended to help address. The design of the stakeholder-engagement process should then follow that purpose.

Explanation of Decisions

Best Practice: Once an adopted budget for the upcoming year has been produced, a district needs to clearly communicate the outcomes and the corresponding rationale and how they differ from the prior years. The message should be led by a description of the context for the budget and the environment in which the decisions were made. The major decisions and their impact should then be presented in a way that is accessible to the non-expert audience member. This presentation should include a clearly articulated rationale for the choices made, a description of the tradeoffs that were considered, and the basic principles that guided the decisions.

Implementation

Implementing an effective Communication and Engagement Strategy requires identifying the messengers; identifying the target audience and messages; selecting specific communication channels; and gathering and responding to feedback.

Identify the Messengers

- 1) Board of Education
- 2) Superintendent
- 3) Chief Financial Officer
- 4) Director of Financial Planning and Analysis
- 5) Superintendent's Cabinet
- 6) Principals - Principals are also in the position to help teachers become effective communicators of the message to parents.

To reduce the potential for confusion, messengers should be provided with a limited number of key points to present and a plan for responding to questions.

Identify the target audience and tailor messages accordingly

Best Practice: Identify target audiences. However, all information should be available to all groups but consider tailoring messages to the different parties. Often, it can be difficult for different stakeholders to appreciate the scope of the entire budget. PCSD attempts to make district-wide budget concepts and rationales more apparent to all stakeholders by:

- 1) Sharing information widely. Examples include:
 - a. Numerous public presentations are made discussing key budget concepts and rationales
 - b. Publish and present Budget Primer
 - c. Internal presentations, such as Admin Pre-planning
 - d. Community presentations, such as Stakeholder Meetings and Chamber of Commerce
- 2) Budget simulation
 - a. Student Groups, such as Student Impact and Business Pathway
- 3) Use funding formulas. Examples include:
 - a. QBE Allocation (PL, Schools, etc.)
 - b. Position Allotment Assumptions
- 4) Engaging influential outsiders

Target Audiences:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Administrators | 4) Parents |
| 2) Teachers | 5) Students |
| 3) Staff | 6) Community at Large |

Define communication channels (out)

Best Practice: Develop a variety of methods for communicating with different audiences. Given the importance of the budget, priority should be placed on the methods that afford the broadest reach possible.

Communication Channels:

- 1) Website – Budget and Millage Rate Presentations and reports are available online
- 2) Publish Press Releases, Advertisements and Meeting Notifications (website, social media, and newspaper)
- 3) Public Meeting – Two public meetings are held specifically for the budget
- 4) Public Hearings – Three public hearings may be held concerning the proposed millage rate
- 5) Public Presentations – Six public presentations are typically made on the Proposed Budget
- 6) Budget Overview Flyers – Overviews are published for the Tentative and Original Budgets
- 7) School/Division/Departmental Meetings
- 8) Stakeholder Meetings, including:
 - a. Quarterly Stakeholder's Meeting
 - b. Teacher Advisory Group
 - c. Principal Advisory Group (Principal's Meeting)
- 9) Student Engagement
- 10) Budget Messengers

Gather feedback (in) and adjust

Best Practice: It is imperative that stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback during and after the decision-making process. A variety of avenues should be available for providing feedback. At the same time, feedback methods must be carefully structured to provide useful input.

Feedback Channels:

- 1) Messenger Feedback
 - a. School/Division/Departmental
- 2) Stakeholder Feedback
 - a. Teacher Advisory Feedback – Keep, Explore or Evaluate Exercise (Reported by Division)
 - b. Principal Advisory – Keep, Explore or Evaluate Exercise (Division)
- 3) Online budget feedback links
 - a. Survey:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6xNNCmZacEqS8Tktbtujql_cgzBs921FqSZn3fRZ3lhUOTdERVRSOVoyREIwV01BNEoxWDQ1QUc3Ry4u (Division)
 - b. Email: budget@paulding.k12.ga.us (Division)

Feedback Response

Once feedback has been gathered, a district must respond accordingly, adjusting processes or decisions where appropriate. Failure to respond to feedback can severely harm the credibility of the budgeting process. Further, it is important to adapt the communication plan to new and changing circumstances throughout the budget process so that the message remains relevant and credible.

Benchmarking

The District utilizes several benchmarking techniques, including but not limited to:

Comparable

Comparing current processes and key performance indicators (KPIs) against comparable school districts.

The processes or KPI's observed will often dictate the comparable. For example, revenues are compared against districts of a similar size, economy and /or geographical region. PCSD is the 11th largest school system in Georgia. Districts with a rank of 10, 12, 13, 14, etc. are often averaged together as one "comp." Variances to these comparable districts are then analyzed. The example on the next page examines revenue from FY2024.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

School District	FTE	Rank	FTE %	Local Revenue per FTE	%	State Revenue per FTE	%	Federal Revenue per FTE	%	Total Revenue per FTE	Total %	FTE Rank	Local Revenue per FTE Rank	State Revenue per FTE Rank	Federal Revenue per FTE Rank	Total Revenue per FTE Rank
Paulding County Allocation	32,074	11	1.9%	\$ 5,173	1.5%	\$ 7,710	2.1%	\$ 903	1.0%	\$ 13,785	1.7%	11	79	106	159	137
				37.5%		55.9%		6.6%		100.0%						
Savannah-Chatham County	34,648	10	2.0%	\$ 11,742	3.6%	\$ 5,604	1.6%	\$ 2,362	2.9%	\$ 19,707	2.6%	10	7	173	70	23
Muscogee County	29,040	13	1.7%	\$ 5,306	1.4%	\$ 7,394	1.8%	\$ 2,966	3.1%	\$ 15,666	1.7%	13	71	122	41	70
Richmond County	28,322	16	1.7%	\$ 4,806	1.2%	\$ 6,898	1.6%	\$ 3,286	15.0%	\$ 14,990	1.6%	16	94	136	32	84
Houston County	30,047	12	1.8%	\$ 4,432	1.2%	\$ 9,134	2.3%	\$ 1,274	6.2%	\$ 14,839	1.7%	12	108	40	133	91
Douglas County	26,104	17	1.5%	\$ 5,301	1.2%	\$ 6,846	1.5%	\$ 1,245	5.2%	\$ 13,391	1.3%	17	73	137	135	155
Bartow County	13,939	26	0.8%	\$ 6,948	0.9%	\$ 6,655	0.8%	\$ 1,233	2.8%	\$ 14,836	0.8%	26	38	147	136	92
Carroll County	15,859	22	0.9%	\$ 4,339	0.6%	\$ 7,915	1.1%	\$ 1,257	3.2%	\$ 13,511	0.8%	22	109	93	134	153
Average	25,423	-	1.5%	\$ 6,125	1.4%	\$ 7,206	1.5%	\$ 1,946	8.0%	\$ 15,277	1.5%					
Variance to PCSD				\$ 952		\$ (503)		\$ 1,043		\$ 1,492						
% Variance to PCSD				18.4%		-6.5%		115.5%		10.8%						
State Totals	1,699,033	-	100.0%	\$ 6,680		\$ 7,016		\$ 1,641		\$ 15,338						
Allocation				43.6%		45.7%		10.7%		100.0%						
Variance to PCSD				\$ 1,508		\$ (693)		\$ 738		\$ 1,553						
% Variance to PCSD				29.2%		-9.0%		81.7%		11.3%						
				\$ 6,346		\$ 6,665		\$ 1,559		\$ 14,570						
Others:																
Cobb County	109,131	2	6.4%	\$ 7,726	22.4%	\$ 6,275	14.0%	\$ 839	14.8%	\$ 14,840		2	31	159	164	90
Polk County	7,763	49	0.5%	\$ 2,556	0.5%	\$ 7,771	1.2%	\$ 1,100	1.4%	\$ 11,427		49	172	102	147	178
Haralson County	3,271	94	0.2%	\$ 3,775	0.3%	\$ 9,131	0.6%	\$ 1,613	0.9%	\$ 14,519		94	131	41	116	99
Coweta County	22,557	18	1.3%	\$ 6,692	4.0%	\$ 6,060	2.8%	\$ 965	3.5%	\$ 13,718		18	42	161	154	143
Top 37	33,618			\$ 6,461	5.8%	\$ 7,065	4.9%	\$ 1,599	8.7%	\$ 15,126						

Business Process Improvement (BPI)

Seeks to improve specific processes by eliminating waste, redundancy, and other inefficiencies - by mapping out current processes, identifying inefficiencies, redesigning the processes and benchmarking against key performance indicators (KPIs). Third-party sources are specific to the process but include BusinessPLUS ERP system processes.

Salary Study

Used to define a fair and competitive salary structure for employees, in order to recruit and retain the most highly-qualified individuals possible. Third-party sources, in addition to commissioned studies, include the annual Metro RESA Teacher and Non-Teaching Salary Surveys.

Staffing Study

Review staffing structure, workload, performance measures and those of comparable governments to assess appropriate staffing needs. Initial actions may consist of an overall review of organizational structure, positions and respective responsibilities.

Best Practice Benchmarking

Comparing current processes and key performance indicators (KPIs) against the best practices of other organizations in order to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. The District utilizes various benchmarking methods. For example, Hanover K-12 Research and EAB Strategic Research KPIs for District Operation.

Proposed Budget Priorities and Strategies

Strategic Goal Area	Performance Objective	FY26 Budget Priorities	Financial Impact on the Budget
1 Growth and Success for ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve student academic growth and achievement • Improve performance of student subgroups • Improve student college, career, and life readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining manageable Class Size • Targeted Staff Adjustments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (-\$8.4 million) to General Fund due to a decrease in enrollment – discussed further in Financial Section
2 Communication and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate efficiently, effectively, and transparently with all district stakeholders • Improve communication and access of information to our diverse populations • Facilitate partnerships between community and school district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase external stakeholder communication tools and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
3 Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality, Diverse Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract and retain high quality, diverse professionals • Build staff capacity • Develop and implement effective succession planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step Increases • Strategic partnerships with post-secondary institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.6 million for Step Increases • \$350,000 for advanced degrees programs
4 Operational and Organizational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a facility plan to contend with growth and aging facilities • Enhance safe and effective learning environments • Sustain excellent financial stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Control System • Increased Safety/Security staff • Safety Equipment Refresh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.2 million for Access Control System paid through SPLOST funds • \$400,000 for additional Safety Staff • \$300,00 for Safety Equipment Refresh
5 Innovative Practices and Resource Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and advance resources to inspire a culture of innovation • Build staff efficacy to impact innovative practices • Implement innovative programs and practices to engage ALL students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Initiative refresh • Innovation Resources and STEM Budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.0 million for 1:1 Initiative refresh • \$75,000 allocated by FTE to each school for STEM resources

FY2026 Major Budget Influencers and Price of Government

Major Budget Influencers (Business Services):

Major Revenue (Price of Government) Influencers

- Enrollment Growth
- State Budget
- QBE:
 - Enrollment (Weighted, Dual, etc.)
 - Local Fair Share
 - Teacher Pay Scales
 - TRS Employer Contribution
 - State Health Employer Contribution
- Equalization Grant:
 - Wealth per Weighted FTE Impact
- Changes in Local Sources
 - Ad Valorem
 - TAVT

Major Expenditure (Budget) Influencers


- Enrollment Growth
- Exceptional Students Educational Program (ESEP) Growth
- Allotment Assumptions
- State Teacher Scales (Local Impact)
- Step Increases
- Health Insurance
- TRS Employer Contribution

Price of Government (Business Services):

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Debt Service Funds	School Nutrition Program	Total Governmental Fund Types
<u>Estimated Revenues:</u>						
Local Taxes	\$ 167,668,000		\$ 31,340,824			\$ 199,008,824
Local Sources	2,716,000	\$ 9,362,463			\$ 5,937,256	18,015,719
State Sources	268,128,439		4,512,204		482,484	273,123,127
Federal Sources		14,656,975			13,872,533	28,529,508
Transfers from Other Funds	-		-	15,918,788	906,248	16,825,036
Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 24,019,439	\$ 35,853,028	\$ 15,918,788	\$ 21,198,521	\$ 535,502,215

FY2026 Budget Overview Flyer

PCSD produces two Budget Overview Flyers – for the Tentative and Original Budgets. The Original Budget version of the flyer is illustrated below.



**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).

PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FY2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW




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.

FY2026 Budget Highlights

Enrollment Growth and Virtual Instruction. PCSD is projected to educate 31,075 students in FY2026 (school year 2025-2026), a decrease of 93 students or -0.3%.

For the 10 years ending FY2025, the district had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. In the prior decade, FY2015 - FY2025, enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0%. FY2025 enrollment decreased 423 or -1.3% to 31,168.

The district anticipates educating approximately 0.7% or 220 students virtually. Approximately 99.3% or 30,855 are expected to attend face-to-face instruction.



Fiscal Year	Growth (%)	Enrollment
FY2021	-1.6%	(491)
FY2022	4.0%	1,178
FY2023	1.3%	589
FY2024	0.9%	290
FY2025	-1.3%	(423)
FY2026 (P)	-0.3%	(93)

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 37 large districts in Georgia (school districts over 10,000). Rankings against all 180 school districts in Georgia are in parentheses.

- 11th Largest District as of FY2024
- 22nd in Local Revenue per Student (79th out of 180)
 - ✓ Collect \$1,508 less than Statewide Average per Student, a total deficit of \$47 million
- 11th in State Revenue per Student (106th out of 180)
 - ✓ 5th Largest Recipient of Equalization (\$29.0 million in FY26)
- 27th in Total Revenue, including Federal sources, per Student (137th out of 180)
 - ✓ Collect \$1,553 less than Statewide Average per Student, a total deficit of \$47 million

Front

Demographics and Statistics

Paulding County

- 1.7% State Population
- 1.4% Housing Units
- 2.1% More Persons per Household (Age 5-18)
- 4% Commercial / Industrial Land Use

PCSD

- 19 Elementary Schools
- 10 Middle Schools
- 5 High Schools
- Alternative Education
- College & Career Academy
- 4,063 Employees
- 2,575 Instructional (63%)

PCSD Rank out of 180 School Districts in GA

- 11th in Enrollment
- 79th in Local Revenue
\$47 million deficit, compared to the statewide average.
- 106th in State Revenue
- 137th in Total Revenue
*Per Pupil, GaDOE FY2024

PCSD Funding Sources

- 37% Local (44% Average)
- 56% State (46% Average)
- 7% Federal
*GaDOE FY2024

\$588.1m FY2026 Budget

All Funds

- General Fund (74%)
- Special Revenue (4%)
- Capital Projects (14%)
- Debt Service (3%)
- 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 75% of all District spending and is the main operating fund for the school district. Projected revenues for FY2026 total \$435.7 million, an increase of \$6.4 million or 1.5%.

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 \$29.0 million of Equalization Grant funding in FY2026 (the fifth highest recipient in the State).

	FY2025	FY2026	Change	%
QBE Funding, net	\$ 230.9	\$ 236.3	\$ 5.5	2.4%
Equalization Grant	34.0	29.0	(5.0)	-14.7%
Local Taxes	162.2	167.7	5.5	3.4%
Other Local Revenue	2.2	2.7	0.5	22.0%
Total GF Revenue	\$ 429.3	\$ 435.7	\$ 6.4	1.5%

*Excludes Grants and Transfers to Other Funds

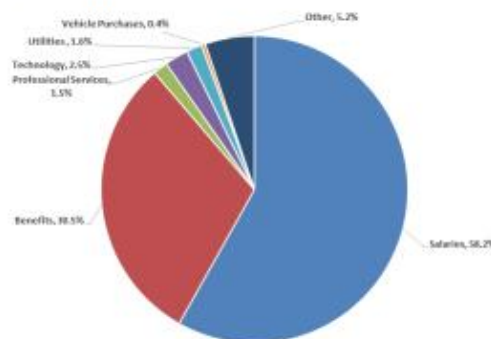
Funding under the state Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula will be increased by 2.4% or \$5.5 million. Local taxes are projected to increase \$5.5 million, with an improving tax digest and a millage rate of 17.675 (2025 rate).

General Fund Expenditure Highlights: Safety and Instruction

The District will continue to focus on safety and instruction in FY2026, including over \$5 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 FY2026 total \$435.7 million, an increase of \$6.4 million or 1.5%.

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 FY2026 budget includes a fully funded experience step for qualifying employees.

Technology continues to be a major investment, as \$10.8 million of the FY2026 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.

BASED ON THE ORIGINAL BUDGET PRESENTATION ON JUNE 10, 2025

Back

Financial Section

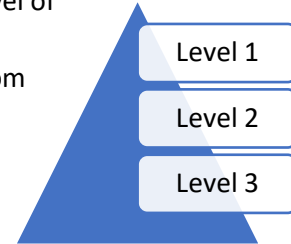


Paulding County School District Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Financial Section Format

The Financial Section uses a pyramid approach in communicating the District financials. The pyramid approach begins at a broad level and drills down into more detail as each level of the pyramid is addressed. Each level provides revenues, expenditures, fund balance, other financing sources/uses, and an explanation of major shifts from the current year.



Level One: Summary of Total Budget (All Funds Combined)

Level Two: Summary Data for Operating Funds

Level Three: Summary Data for Individual Funds

In addition to other details, each level presents revenues by source and expenditures by state object code for eight years, including three (3) prior years of actual (comparative) results, the current year estimated actual results (1), Proposed Budget year (1), and three (3) years of forecasted data.

Original Budget Presentation

The government-wide original (proposed) budget was approved by the Board of Education by a vote of 6-0 on June 10, 2025. This presentation format reports transfers with revenues and expenditures.

Government-wide revenues totaled \$535.5 million. Expenditures totaled \$588.1 million.

Original Budget Presentation Paulding County School District July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026						
The budget will be considered for final adoption by the Board of Education at 8:30 AM EST, June 10, 2025 in the Board Room of the Paulding County School District.						
General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Debt Service Funds	School Nutrition Program	Total Governmental Fund Types	
<u>Estimated Revenues:</u>						
Local Taxes	\$ 167,668,000	\$ 31,340,824			\$ 199,008,824	
Local Sources	2,716,000	\$ 9,362,463		\$ 5,937,256	18,015,719	
State Sources	268,128,439		4,512,204	482,484	273,123,127	
Federal Sources		14,656,975		13,872,533	28,529,508	
Transfers from Other Funds	-		15,918,788	906,248	16,825,036	
Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 24,019,439	\$ 35,853,028	\$ 15,918,788	\$ 21,198,521	\$ 535,502,215
<u>Estimated Expenditures:</u>						
Instruction	\$ 291,929,542	\$ 14,189,942			\$ 306,119,484	
Pupil Services	18,269,030	2,087,180			20,356,210	
Improvement of Instructional Services	18,807,023	29,921			18,836,944	
Instructional Staff Training	635,677	2,209,072			2,844,749	
Educational Media Services	4,744,628	-			4,744,628	
Grant/Program Administration		421,206			421,206	
General Administration	2,108,155	232,355			2,340,509	
School Administration	26,824,909	-			26,824,909	
Business Services	3,513,122	-			3,513,122	
Maintenance	26,721,848	407,136			27,128,984	
School Safety and Security	6,697,547	750,000			7,447,547	
Transportation	29,703,609	1,165,972			30,869,581	
Central Support Services	8,342,381	7,000			8,349,381	
School Nutrition Program				\$ 28,302,813	28,302,813	
Community Services					-	
Other Support Services	214,967	56,250			271,217	
Facilities Acquisition / Construction			\$ 65,791,234		65,791,234	
Other Outlays			15,918,788		15,918,788	
Debt Service			\$ 15,918,788		15,918,788	
Local School Activity and Other		1,172,221			1,172,221	
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 22,728,255	\$ 81,710,023	\$ 15,918,788	\$ 29,209,061	\$ 588,078,566
Estimated Fund Balance (July 1, 2025)	56,402,482	4,377,888	100,354,401	9,178,609	11,374,933	181,688,313
Estimated Fund Balance (June 30, 2026)	\$ 56,402,482	\$ 5,669,071	\$ 54,497,406	\$ 9,178,609	\$ 3,364,393	\$ 129,111,962
* No Proprietary Funds exist						
** Annual budgets are not adopted for Fiduciary Funds						

Level One: Summary of Total Budget (All Funds Combined)

Total Funds

The District reports the following appropriated major governmental funds:

- The **General Fund** is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund is where the recurring operating costs of the school are recorded.
 - The **Special Revenue Funds** accounts for resources that are legally restricted for specific purposes. Although reported within the General Fund for audited financial reporting, the Special Revenue Fund is presented separately for budget appropriation and internal reporting purposes.
 - The **School Nutrition Fund** accounts for activities associated with the District's School Nutrition Program (SNP). Although a Special Revenue Fund, the School Nutrition Fund is presented separately for budget appropriation and internal reporting purposes.
- The **Capital Projects Fund** accounts for and reports financial resources including Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST), bond proceeds and grants that are restricted, committed or assigned for capital outlay expenditures, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.
- The **Debt Service Fund** accounts for and reports financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned including taxes (property) legally restricted for the payment of general long-term principal and interest and paying agent's fees.

Major (Significant) Funding Sources and Uses (Expenditure Categories)

General Fund

The general fund is significantly funded through Quality Basic Education (QBE), the Equalization Grant Revenue, and Property Tax Revenue. Major expenditures include salaries, benefits, and purchased services.

Special Revenue Fund

Federal revenue is the significant contributor to special revenue. Major expenditures for the special revenue fund are salaries, benefits, and purchased services due to funding provided for the grant programs.

School Nutrition Fund

The National Child Nutrition Program (Federal Revenue) accounts for 65.6% of the revenue budget for School Nutrition. Salaries, benefits, and purchased food are the major expenditures for the fund category.

Capital Projects Fund

Major funding for the Capital Projects Fund is E-SPLOST, which is a one-percent sales tax used for capital improvements. Other funding is provided through the State Capital Outlay program (GSFIC) to ensure all public-school students are housed in facilities that have adequate space, are safe, and that are well-maintained.

Capital construction projects and E-SPLOST capital projects are the major expenditures for this fund.

Debt Service Fund

Transfers-In is the primary source of funding for the debt service fund, which comes from E-SPLOST funding. Debt services expenditures make up 100% of the budget.

Underlying Assumptions and Significant Trends for Major Funding Sources and Uses

State Funding Sources: Quality Basic Education (QBE) and Equalization Grant

- As the digest improves Local Fair Share (LFS) will continue to increase, reducing QBE funding
- As Net Digest per Student (NDPS) improves, in comparison to the statewide average, the Equalization Grant award will decline
- Increasing the State Pay Scale for Teachers will result in additional QBE funding
- QBE will continue to underfund allotment quantity, total compensation and benefits

Local Revenue Sources: Property Taxes

- As a low-wealth school district, local funding will continue to lag behind statewide averages
- With an above average number of school-age children per household and increases in enrollment, the associated local revenue will not adequately support the related expenditure growth

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services

- Increases in enrollment place higher demands on staff, resulting in the need for more teaching, administrative and support positions
- The cost of human capital will continue to rise
- Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services will continue to consume the majority of resources
- When grant awards do not fully support the initiative, local revenue sources (General Fund) may be required to address allotment quantity, total compensation and benefits.

Federal Funding Sources

- For most grants, should the funding of these programs be eliminated or reduced, it is likely that the services provided would be negatively impacted unless another funding source is identified.
- Each grant is adjusted in the current year before funds are spent based on the actual grant award for that year.

- Increases in enrollment, especially enrollment ESEP, should continue to increase grant opportunities, but will also likely place higher demands on local resources.

Transfers-In

- Debt service is primarily funded through E-SPLOST VI (transferred from the Capital Projects Fund). An underlying assumption is the anticipated collection of E-SPLOST proceeds.

Debt Service

- During the current year, the District issued a new refunding bond totaling \$58,720,000.00 to refund the 2022 bond, and a general obligation bond totaling \$61,640,000.00 in conjunction with E-SPLOST VII to fund ongoing capital projects.

Significant Trends or Factors Influencing Budget Decisions:

Demographic and Economic Factors

Tax Digest. The limited commercial and industrial tax base in Paulding County results in a lower net digest per student (NDPS), which reduces local funding.

Large number of school-age children per household. Tax digest issues are exacerbated by the high number of school-age children per household in Paulding County, as there is not a correlating increase in funding. Local funding is based on property tax values and not the number of school-age children living in the home.

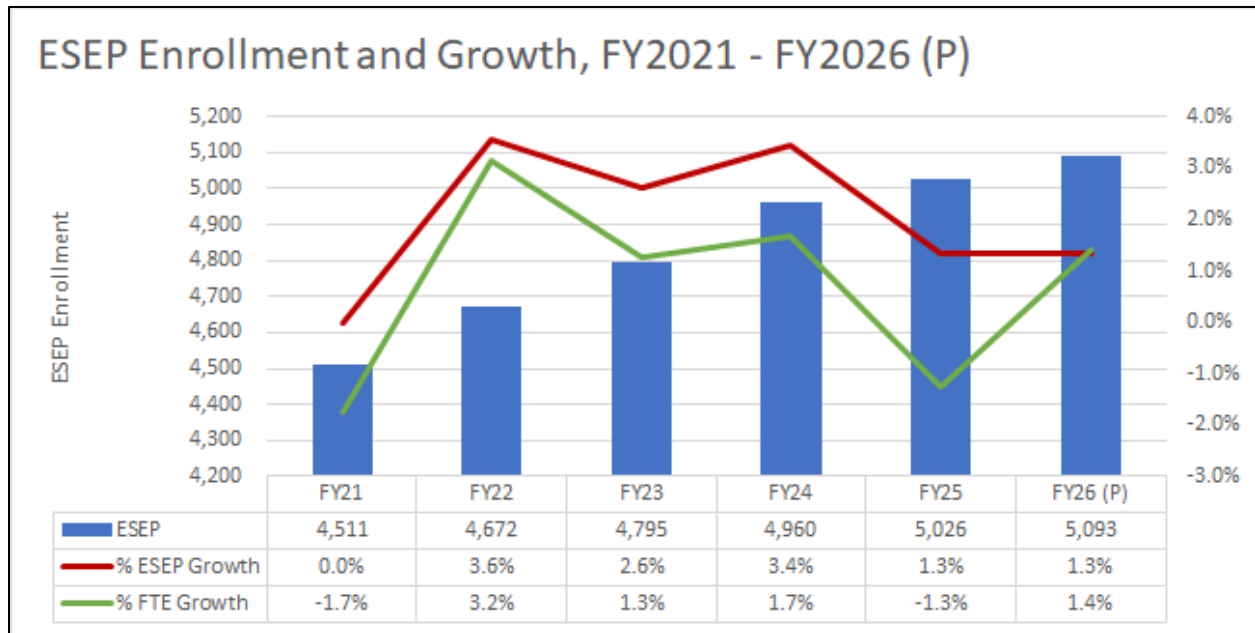
Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program Eligibility. *Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program (FRL)* is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes free or reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house.

FRL participation is a measurement of student wealth and is directly impacted by the demographic and economic conditions of Paulding County.

The FRL participation percentage decreased 2.7% from October 2023 to October 2024, from 53.9% to 51.2%, respectively.

The Statewide participation percentage increased 3.9%, from 63.7% to 67.6%.

ESEP Enrollment. ESEP enrollment has steadily increased over the past several years. This is significant because the average additional cost per ESEP student is approximately \$3,526 or 32.8% (including FY2024 local, state and federal sources). From FY2021 to FY2025, ESEP enrollment increased 515 or 11.4%, compared to a large district average increase of 162 or 3.8%. FY2025 ESEP enrollment increased 66 or 1.3% to 5,026. (red line). FY2026 is projected to increase 1.3% from FY2025 as more students have enrolled in face-to-face learning than in prior year.



Approximately 16.0% of PCSD enrollment participated in ESEP, compared to a statewide average of 13.6%, in FY2025.

PCSD's 5-year average growth rate in ESEP participation was 2.2%, that is in line with comparable districts. The statewide and large district (districts with > 10,000 FTE) 5-year average growth rate in ESEP participation was 1.6% and 0.7%, respectively.

This compares to a 5-year average growth rate in the overall District, statewide, and large district enrollment of 1.0%, 0.1%, and -0.6%, respectively.

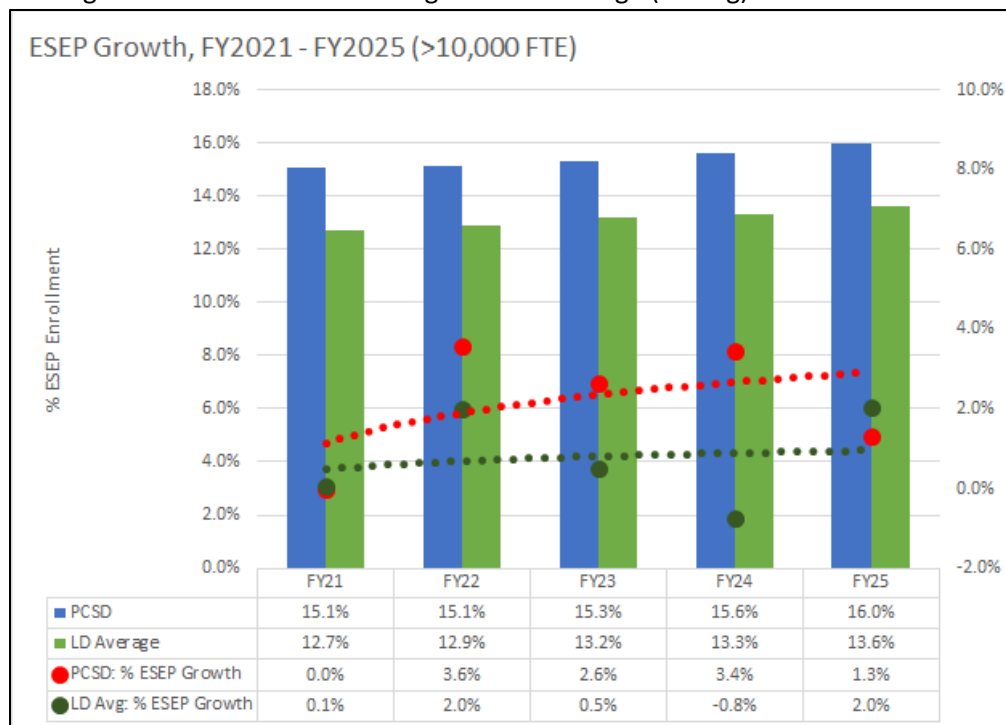
ESEP Growth		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	5-Year CAGR
710	Paulding County	0.0%	3.6%	2.6%	3.4%	1.3%	2.2%
721	Richmond County	-2.1%	-0.1%	6.7%	3.6%	3.4%	2.7%
608	Bartow County	3.2%	8.1%	7.5%	8.5%	0.7%	4.9%
638	Coweta County	-1.1%	2.3%	10.7%	4.7%	1.0%	3.7%
628	Cherokee County	-3.4%	2.6%	0.4%	3.9%	0.6%	1.5%
622	Carroll County	-3.6%	2.7%	4.7%	4.9%	6.3%	3.7%
669	Hall County	-0.8%	1.2%	2.0%	1.2%	1.4%	1.2%
676	Houston County	1.1%	2.8%	5.7%	4.5%	5.3%	3.6%
675	Henry County	-5.1%	0.7%	5.3%	1.5%	2.7%	2.0%
	Statewide	-1.6%	0.4%	2.9%	3.0%	1.7%	1.6%
	LD Avg	0.1%	2.0%	0.5%	-0.8%	2.0%	0.7%

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Enrollment Growth		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	5-Year CAGR
710	Paulding County	-1.7%	3.2%	1.3%	1.7%	-1.3%	1.0%
721	Richmond County	-5.1%	-3.1%	0.3%	3.9%	-1.6%	-0.1%
608	Bartow County	-0.6%	-1.9%	1.3%	6.8%	-1.0%	1.0%
638	Coweta County	-2.7%	-0.9%	1.9%	2.6%	0.1%	0.7%
628	Cherokee County	-3.3%	0.2%	-0.1%	1.4%	0.0%	0.3%
622	Carroll County	-0.1%	-1.6%	4.2%	6.1%	0.6%	1.8%
669	Hall County	-0.8%	-0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.3%
676	Houston County	-1.8%	-2.0%	1.2%	4.6%	0.4%	0.8%
675	Henry County	-1.4%	0.1%	1.4%	0.5%	-0.6%	0.3%
	Statewide	-2.6%	-2.2%	0.4%	2.7%	-0.2%	0.1%
	LD Avg	-0.8%	0.4%	-1.6%	-1.7%	-0.2%	-0.6%

While enrollment in ESEP continues to exceed the large district average, there are indications the growth is slowing at a faster rate than the large district average (LD Avg).



Local Economy. E-SPLOST collections are directly impacted by the economy of Paulding County. Which is expected to perform at historical levels during the projected budget period.

Enrollment Factors

Enrollment Growth. Increases in enrollment may result in additional grant awards, but funding may not cover all the additional costs associated with required services. For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. In the prior decade, from FY2015 to FY2025, enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0%. FY2025 enrollment decreased 423 or -1.3% to 31,168. 2026 is projected to decline by another 93 students to 31,075 or -0.3%.

Funding Factors

Low Wealth. Despite favorable employment, income and free-and-reduced lunch statistics, PCSD is considered a low wealth school system due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base and the large number of school-age children per household. With approximately 56% of general fund revenue coming from State sources (compared to a statewide average of 46%) the District is highly susceptible to changes in State funding, including austerity reductions, State Pay Scale Adjustments, Equalization Grant funding and changes in the Quality Basic Education (QBE) methodology.

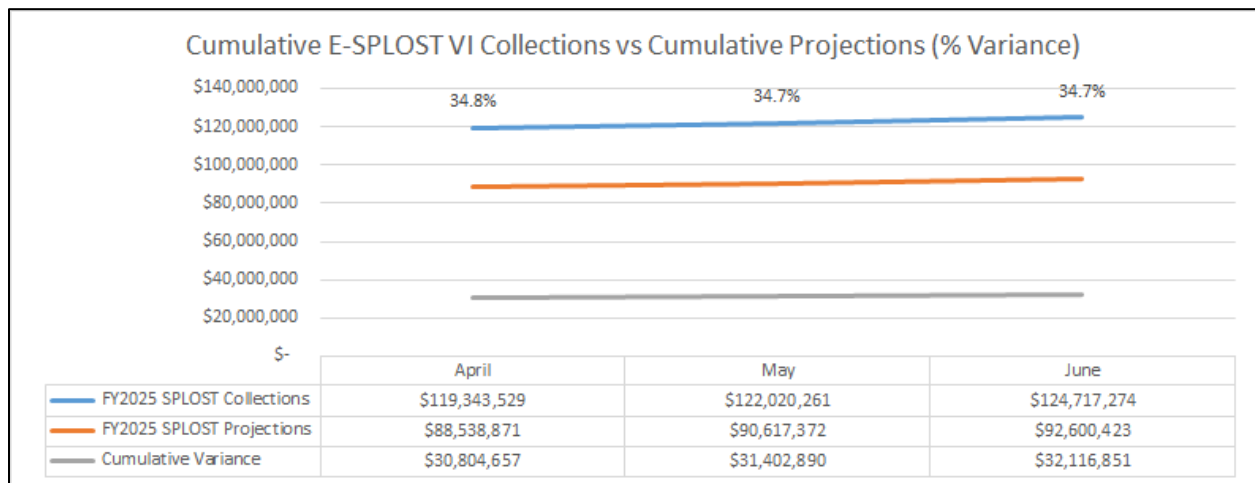
Millage Rate Changes. Changes to the millage rate impact both local revenue and the Equalization Grant formula. Generally, reductions in the millage rate will result in a reduction of the grant award.

Federal Budget. Changes in the appropriations for grants and/or the allocation methodology.

Grant Requirements. Specific requirements, including restrictions on expenditures, may impact decisions regarding grant application, especially when local funds are required to fully support the initiative.

Meal Purchases. The limited commercial and industrial tax base in Paulding County results in a lower net digest per student (NDPS), which reduces local funding.

SPLOST Receipts. Capital Projects and Debt Service funds are primarily funded through E-SPLOST collections. Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (Fiscal Research Center) provided the collection projections for E-SPLOST VI. Although volatile, collections have historically exceeded projections. As of June 30, 2025, the cumulative variance to projections was 34.7%.



Operating Factors

Rising Cost of Human Capital. With much of the budget focused on salaries, benefits, and purchased services for the General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, and School Nutrition Fund, the rising cost of human capital is a major factor bearing on the District's future. These increases include, but are not limited to, the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and State Health Benefit Plan, which have seen

unprecedented increases over the past few years. As the demand for highly qualified teachers increases, the District must remain competitive in compensation and benefits.

Construction Costs. Operating factors could include the cost of construction.

New Debt Issuances. Operating factors could include the issuance of new debt or the advance-refunding of existing bond issues.

On February 1, 2025, the School District issued General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, Series 2025 in the original principal amount of \$58,720,000.00, for the purpose of refunding the Series 2022 Bond.

Then on May 13, 2025, the Board approved the School District to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$61,640,000. The proceeds from these bonds will be used for capital outlay projects. The School District issued these bonds on May 29, 2025. Interest payments will begin in FY2026 with the first Principal payment not until February 2027 (FY2027).

There are no plans to issue any further debt in the Proposed Budget Year.

Material Changes (Shifts) from Current Year Budget

General Fund

General Fund salaries decreased \$5.1 million due to a loss of 423 students in FY2025 and another projected reduction of 93 students for FY2026. However, benefits are expected to increase \$5.8 million due to \$4.6 million increase in State Health Insurance for classified employees with no additional funds from the state to help cover the cost. Additionally, a \$1.4 million increase for Teacher Retirement due to a 5.4% increase in rates. Other expenditures are increasing \$3.2 million for bus purchases. In FY2025, \$6.0 million in bus purchases were reclassified to Capital Projects Fund.

General fund revenue is also expected to increase due to changes in assessed property values for 2025 and an increase in QBE funding. QBE funding is expected to increase for a Health Insurance adjustment of \$3.8 million for a 7.1% increase in premiums for certified employees.

Special Revenue Fund

The Special Revenue Fund is expected to see a \$4.8 million decrease due primarily to the L4GA grant ending in FY2024, which in turn decreases expenditures. Most federal grants are funded on a reimbursable basis.

School Nutrition Fund

School Nutrition Fund expenditures are anticipated to be \$6.9 million greater than the current year. This increase is due to a 19.3% State Health Benefit rate change for classified employees in FY2026, an increase in food purchases, and new kitchen equipment for a new elementary school. Food purchases are expected to increase due to the current economic conditions of rising food costs and inflation.

Capital Projects Fund

Capital Projects Fund revenue is expected to decrease \$67.9 million in FY2026. This is primarily related to the bond issuance in May 2025 in the amount of \$61.6 million. Other anticipated changes in revenue are related to different capital projects between fiscal years, and their reimbursement-eligible expenditures. The \$2.7 million decrease in other local sources is due to the volatile nature of interest rates and being able to project how much we expect to receive in FY2026.

The proposed expenditure budget is \$8.4 million greater than the current year. This is primarily due to the construction of a new elementary school totaling \$32.1 million.

Debt Service Fund

The increase in revenue in FY2025 was due to earnings from investments. With volatile interest rates, this was not budgeted for FY2026.

The Proposed Budget reflects a 15.5% increase in expenditures due to the issuance of general obligation bonds in FY2025.

[Significant Changes in Fund Balance](#)

The General Fund reflects a decrease in FY2022 and FY2023 fund balance due to transferring funds to Capital Projects for ongoing construction projects.

Special Revenue Funds reflect a \$1.3 million increase in the proposed fund balance is due to an increase in school level revenue. These funds are primarily from donations and fundraising efforts by the schools.

The School Nutrition Fund is expected to have a decline of \$8.0 million because of anticipated cuts from the federal government and a spending plan to bring fund balance more in line with industry standards. To provide some relief to students who do not qualify for free-and-reduced meals, the School Nutrition program will keep meal prices at before pandemic costs. Fund balance will be used to help cover the additional cost.

Capital Projects Fund reflects a decrease of \$45.9 million from current year due to the bond issuance in FY2025 and starting to use those funds for the various capital projects that span multiple fiscal years.

The Debt Service Fund reflects a \$5.7 million increase in fund balance for FY2024 due to an early transfer of SPLOST VI funds from Capital Projects Fund for the August 2024 principal and interest payments for the 2020 Bond.

The budget does not reflect a negative trend in fund balance during the three-year forecast period.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Financial Data

Total Budget All Funds								
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
Revenue:								
Local Taxes	\$ 143,708,956	\$ 163,355,605	\$ 187,722,955	\$ 193,694,784	\$ 199,008,824	\$ 203,757,833	\$ 208,925,367	\$ 214,247,923
Other Local Sources	11,773,721	22,350,224	25,760,404	25,413,815	18,433,855	21,368,616	22,333,169	23,080,695
State Source	217,141,357	233,327,198	252,394,327	273,973,481	273,791,377	273,697,331	275,863,772	278,585,410
Federal	52,398,996	45,681,090	43,045,534	31,509,265	27,443,123	27,313,078	27,800,000	28,000,000
Bond Issuance	-	-	-	65,846,468	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 425,023,029	\$ 464,714,118	\$ 508,923,220	\$ 590,437,813	\$ 518,677,179	\$ 526,136,859	\$ 534,922,307	\$ 543,914,028
Expenditures:								
1000 Instruction	\$ 237,467,109	\$ 268,113,879	\$ 292,877,728	\$ 307,639,729	\$ 306,065,484	\$ 307,133,788	\$ 312,113,796	\$ 317,199,015
2100 Pupil Services	14,971,261	17,406,733	19,970,000	20,734,198	20,410,210	20,592,900	20,781,237	20,967,600
2210 Improvement of Instruction	11,978,533	14,405,386	16,928,541	17,950,647	18,836,944	19,013,374	19,205,044	19,396,895
2213 Instructional Staff Training	5,621,488	9,107,094	8,902,105	5,800,139	2,844,750	2,951,572	2,950,000	2,950,000
2220 Media Services	5,355,148	5,640,618	6,121,807	6,544,443	4,744,628	4,839,520	4,936,311	5,035,037
2230 Federal Grant Administration	486,881	723,382	783,796	492,660	421,206	425,000	425,000	425,000
2300 General Administration	3,001,027	3,330,957	2,870,542	2,259,335	2,340,509	2,382,661	2,493,324	2,537,191
2400 School Administration	20,873,907	21,859,222	24,136,617	25,888,470	26,824,909	27,026,694	27,913,635	28,671,808
2500 Business Services	2,154,113	2,389,184	2,852,092	3,760,264	3,513,122	3,583,384	3,655,052	3,728,153
2600 Maintenance	20,171,277	23,235,976	26,947,446	23,697,227	27,122,264	26,950,000	27,485,000	28,451,677
2660 School Safety and Security	-	-	-	4,784,811	7,454,268	7,338,353	7,475,120	7,614,622
2700 Transportation	20,077,379	23,485,324	24,222,750	34,029,912	30,869,581	31,166,618	32,348,159	33,378,644
2800 Central Support Services	4,288,999	5,737,560	6,949,683	8,262,876	8,349,381	8,559,229	8,729,414	8,903,002
2900 Other Support Services	232,561	244,222	248,602	255,551	271,217	275,516	279,902	284,375
3100 SNP	17,429,209	18,860,980	20,736,563	21,460,353	28,302,813	21,641,462	21,874,525	22,114,222
3200 Enterprise Operations	1,201,202	1,336,047	1,253,514	1,244,275	1,172,221	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
3300 Community Services Operations	473	1,630	12,944	7,567	-	-	-	-
4000 Acquisition & Construction	12,234,823	24,599,699	72,078,366	50,507,796	65,791,234	55,184,810	8,334,691	19,600,000
5100 Debt Service	9,525,653	13,831,283	13,784,342	13,783,426	15,918,788	26,402,921	23,029,121	23,042,655
Total Expenditures	\$ 387,071,044	\$ 454,309,176	\$ 541,677,438	\$ 549,103,679	\$ 571,253,530	\$ 566,717,803	\$ 525,279,331	\$ 545,549,895
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$ 37,951,985	\$ 10,404,941	\$ (32,754,218)	\$ 41,334,134	\$ (52,576,351)	\$ (40,580,944)	\$ 9,642,977	\$ (1,635,867)
Other Sources (Uses):								
Transfers In	65,221,159	157,978,311	240,146,479	279,616,111	16,825,036	30,812,921	27,439,121	27,452,655
Transfers Out	(65,221,159)	(157,978,311)	(240,146,479)	(279,616,111)	(16,825,036)	(30,812,921)	(27,439,121)	(27,452,655)
Total Other Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 37,951,985	\$ 10,404,941	\$ (32,754,218)	\$ 41,334,134	\$ (52,576,351)	\$ (40,580,944)	\$ 9,642,977	\$ (1,635,867)
Beginning Fund Balance	128,273,131	166,225,116	176,630,057	143,875,840	185,209,974	132,633,623	92,052,679	101,695,656
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 166,225,116	\$ 176,630,057	\$ 143,875,840	\$ 185,209,974	\$ 132,633,623	\$ 92,052,679	\$ 101,695,656	\$ 100,059,788

Paulding County School District Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Total Budget All Funds								
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
Summary by State Object:								
100 Salaries	\$ 218,096,799	\$ 240,033,533	\$ 265,697,582	\$ 272,860,068	\$ 267,809,304	\$ 271,529,527	\$ 275,862,077	\$ 280,264,091
200 Benefits	88,251,632	108,788,466	123,882,249	137,614,461	142,084,910	144,518,666	148,750,720	153,108,325
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 306,348,431	\$ 348,822,000	\$ 389,579,831	\$ 410,474,529	\$ 409,894,213	\$ 416,048,193	\$ 424,612,797	\$ 433,372,416
Other Expenditures:								
300 Purchased Profess & Tech Services	\$ 9,885,380	\$ 11,705,461	\$ 11,388,409	\$ 11,439,438	\$ 7,449,686	\$ 10,506,866	\$ 7,694,572	\$ 7,887,909
321 Contracted Service - Teachers	22,919	60,245	73,091	100,904	57,500	97,879	107,774	117,668
332 Drug Testing and Fingerprinting	31,076	46,222	119,321	90,554	100,050	103,300	103,300	103,300
334 Bus Driver Physicals	21,725	26,215	27,530	7,680	29,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
335 Cont Ser - POST Certified Law Enforce Off	-	-	-	759,121	466,507	760,000	760,000	760,000
340 Professional Legal Services	159,924	276,744	285,585	322,065	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
361 Per Diem and Fees	-	5,175	4,848	285	700	700	700	700
410 Water, Sewer and Cleaning Services	1,566,841	1,813,697	1,708,086	1,777,119	2,239,868	1,784,792	1,784,335	1,784,865
430 R&M Services	2,046,680	2,467,147	2,567,859	2,861,888	2,940,949	2,966,518	2,966,894	2,966,781
441 Rental of Land or Buildings	-	200	1,112	-	500	-	-	-
442 Rental of Equipment and Vehicles	6,412	8,960	10,991	8,622	12,837	10,000	10,000	10,000
444 Other Rentals	2,322	1,970	-	-	-	-	-	-
490 Other Purchased Property Services	27,472	42,340	45,486	36,205	49,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
520 Insurance (non-Employee Benefits)	940,915	1,031,960	1,340,124	1,546,163	1,915,498	1,947,500	1,947,500	1,947,500
530 Communication	740,965	720,305	1,019,412	658,831	1,126,148	914,500	914,500	914,500
532 Commun - Web-Based Subt and Licens	2,545,905	3,712,884	3,593,969	4,510,202	3,188,061	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000
534 SBITA greater than 12 months	-	-	344,308	210,796	218,596	220,000	220,000	220,000
535 SBITA Initial Implementation	-	-	65,724	40,238	42,438	45,000	45,000	45,000
563 Tuition to Private Sources	-	47,359	51,067	76,519	87,589	80,000	80,000	80,000
569 Other Tuition	24,160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
580 Travel - Employees	277,241	452,745	500,861	449,134	523,860	462,302	463,091	463,904
591 SFS Commodity Hauling	66,083	133,642	147,651	176,630	210,000	176,928	176,236	176,523
595 Other Purchased Services	902,031	1,593,658	1,889,934	2,132,813	1,744,084	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
610 Supplies	8,615,089	10,636,334	10,885,180	12,615,047	13,732,884	11,070,317	11,070,676	11,071,046
611 Supplies - Technology Related	275,024	396,374	329,129	510,493	187,012	430,000	430,000	430,000
612 Computer Software	628,063	552,765	93,802	108,030	213,300	46,552	46,449	46,542
615 Expendable Equipment	1,301,509	2,065,920	3,309,427	2,833,414	5,747,213	3,709,465	1,711,249	1,713,087
616 Expendable Computer Equipment	6,195,400	6,071,677	6,308,687	6,788,814	7,127,871	6,274,323	6,386,301	6,498,279
620 Energy	6,951,562	7,083,228	7,597,504	8,310,557	9,034,687	8,392,725	8,401,957	8,411,466
630 Purchased Food	5,948,228	6,498,249	6,982,799	6,839,603	8,382,666	6,844,791	6,850,134	6,855,638
635 Food Acquisitions	1,191,885	1,193,346	1,212,614	1,208,887	1,340,538	1,210,154	1,211,458	1,212,802
640 Digital/Electronic Textbooks	228,226	231,000	1,747,004	316,324	-	300,000	300,000	300,000
641 Textbooks - Printed	1,599,162	801,004	580,218	273,413	1,473,484	500,000	500,000	500,000
642 Books (Non-Textbooks) & Periodicals	1,553,742	1,586,777	1,179,101	996,195	357,771	367,203	370,000	370,000
710 Land Acquisition and Development	-	-	284,671	10,000	-	-	-	-
715 Land Improvements	-	12,095	1,738,972	1,252,935	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
720 Building Acq, Construction, and Impr	10,583,113	20,053,966	64,532,957	42,287,314	63,397,712	47,560,487	6,598,390	17,751,721
730 Purch of Equip - (Not Buses or Comp)	503,405	2,720,151	2,778,682	2,498,507	3,115,400	2,590,491	1,599,205	1,608,182
732 Purchase or Lease- Buses	3,074,690	4,137,977	87,507	7,502,081	4,778,625	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
734 Purchase or Lease-Technology Related	-	-	104,233	38,107	-	-	-	-
810 Dues and Fees	573,043	637,999	847,079	846,422	1,087,295	799,047	793,376	793,648
811 Regional or County Library Dues	20,930	20,922	21,092	22,947	24,999	25,000	25,000	25,000
812 RESA Fees	164,813	171,210	173,349	175,071	180,283	175,000	175,000	175,000
830 Interest	4,633,347	3,077,977	2,835,036	2,326,040	3,569,482	4,153,615	3,409,815	2,658,349
831 Redemption of Principal	4,885,000	10,745,000	10,940,000	11,450,000	12,340,000	22,240,000	19,610,000	20,375,000
833 Bond Issuance	-	-	-	844,202	-	-	-	-
880 Federal Indirect Cost Charges	2,471,751	2,639,261	2,225,986	1,330,277	1,231,874	1,232,156	1,231,620	1,231,069
890 Other Expenditures	56,577	7,017	117,210	39,262	1,333,350	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Total State Objects	\$ 387,071,044	\$ 454,309,176	\$ 541,677,438	\$ 549,103,679	\$ 571,253,530	\$ 566,717,803	\$ 525,279,331	\$ 545,549,895

Level Two: Summary Data for Operating Fund

General Fund

The **General Fund** is the School District's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund is where the recurring operating costs of the District are recorded.

The General Fund accounts for all transactions related to the District's operations except those required to be accounted for in other funds. These transactions include all costs relating to the day-to-day operations of the District excluding those expenditures for programs funded by Federal funds, State and Local sources for designated purpose, payment of bonded debt, capital facility acquisition and construction.

For clarity, some numbers are presented excluding grants and transfers to other funds.

The General Fund accounts for more than 79% of all District spending and is the main operating fund for the school district.

Major (Significant) Funding Sources and Uses (Expenditure Categories)

State Source: Quality Basic Education (QBE) and Equalization Grant Revenue

The Quality Basic Education Act was passed by vote of the Georgia General Assembly in 1985 and became effective July 1, 1986. This Act describes the programs which the State of Georgia authorizes and supports in an effort to provide a quality basic education to all Georgia children.

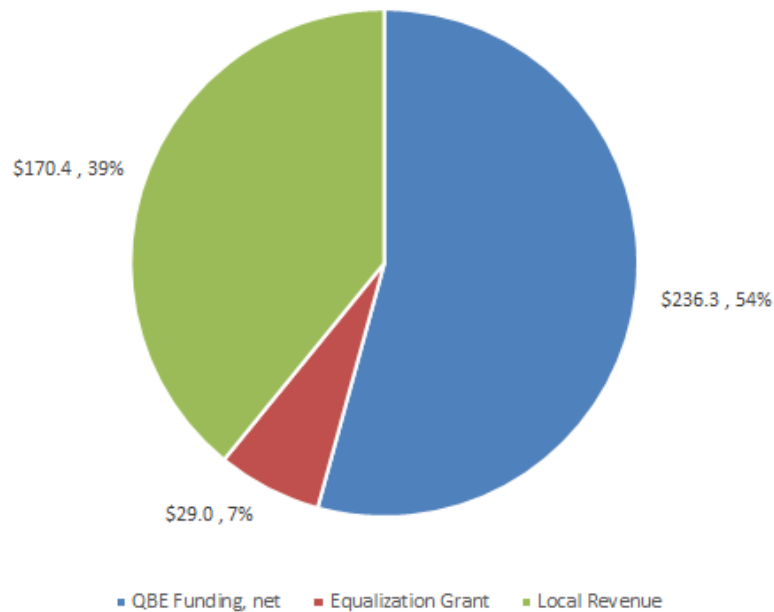
For more information on the QBE formula see the Informational Section.

QBE accounts for 54% of the FY2026 General Fund Revenue Budget.

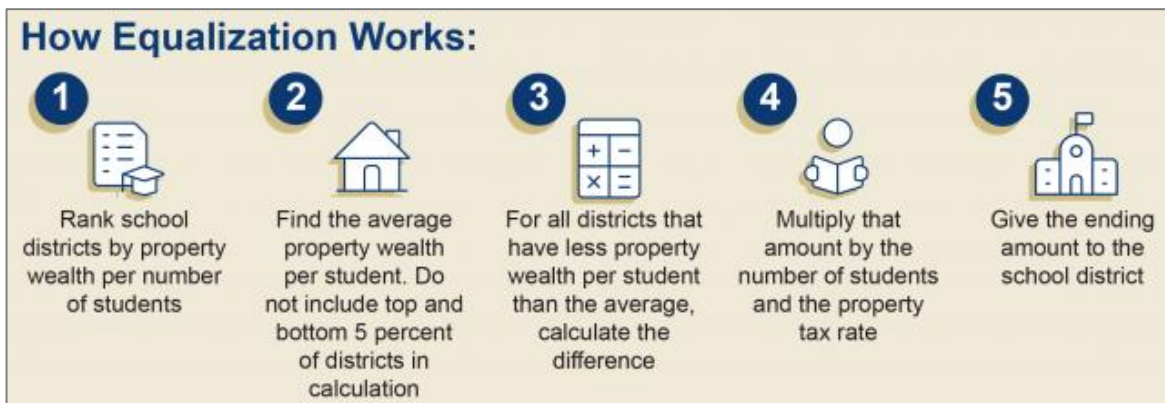
	FY2025	FY2026	Change	%
QBE Funding, net	\$ 230.9	\$ 236.3	\$ 5.5	2.4%
Equalization Grant	34.0	29.0	(5.0)	-14.7%
Local Taxes	162.2	167.7	5.5	3.4%
Other Local Revenue	2.2	2.7	0.5	22.0%
Total GF Revenue	\$ 429.3	\$ 435.7	\$ 6.4	1.5%

**Excludes Grants and Transfers to Other Funds*

The State Equalization Grant helps school districts offer comparatively similar educational opportunities regardless of local property wealth. The amount districts can raise through property taxes varies significantly depending on the value of local properties. Equalization Grants are designed to address these funding deficiencies.



The Equalization Grant accounts for 7% of the FY2026 General Fund Revenue Budget.



Source: Georgia Budget Policy Institute, <https://gbpi.org/georgia-k-12-equalization-grants-explained/>

Local Taxes: Property Tax Revenue

The ad valorem tax, more commonly called property tax, is a primary source of revenue for local governments in Georgia. Ad valorem means "according to the value." The Paulding Board of Tax Assessors, which is appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, evaluates and assesses all property for tax purposes. Assessments are based on 40% of the (appraised) market value by law as of the 1st day of January each year.

	FY2025	FY2026	Change	%
Ad Valorem	\$ 146.0	\$ 151.2	\$ 5.2	3.6%
Title Ad Valorem	\$ 12.5	\$ 12.6	\$ 0.1	1.0%
Other Sales Taxes	\$ 3.7	\$ 3.8	\$ 0.1	2.5%
Other Taxes	\$ -	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	0.0%
Total	\$ 162.2	\$ 167.7	\$ 5.5	3.4%

The millage rate is the determining factor in the calculation of taxes. The Board of Education recommends a millage rate for school property taxes to the Commissioners, and they formally set the millage rate. The Tax Commissioner is responsible for collecting taxes based on the set millage rate. The School District pays a 2.09% fee for the collection of the school property taxes. Property taxes (ad valorem) are recorded net of the collection fee.

Local Revenue accounts for 39% of the FY2026 General Fund Revenue Budget. Property Taxes (Ad Valorem) accounts for 90% of all Local Revenue.

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services Expenditures

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services (including Purchased Professional & Technical Services and Contracted Services for Teachers) account for 90% of the proposed expenditure budget.

The Proposed Budget includes¹:

- \$253.5 million in Salaries or 58%
- \$133.0 million in Benefit costs or 31%
- \$6.7 million in Purchased Services or 2%

¹ Excludes non-QBE grants

Underlying Assumptions and Significant Trends for Major Funding Sources and Uses

Underlying Assumptions:

State Funding Sources: Quality Basic Education (QBE) and Equalization Grant

- As the digest improves Local Fair Share (LFS) will continue to increase, reducing QBE funding
- As Net Digest per Student (NDPS) improves, in comparison to the statewide average, the Equalization Grant award will decline
- Increasing the State Pay Scale for Teachers will result in additional QBE funding
- QBE will continue to underfund allotment quantity, total compensation and benefits

Local Revenue Sources: Property Taxes

- As a low-wealth school district, local funding will continue to lag behind statewide averages
- With an above average number of school-age children per household and increases in enrollment, the associated local revenue will not adequately support the related expenditure growth

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services

- Increases in enrollment place higher demands on staff, resulting in the need for more teaching, administrative and support positions
- The cost of human capital will continue to rise
- Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services will continue to consume the majority of resources

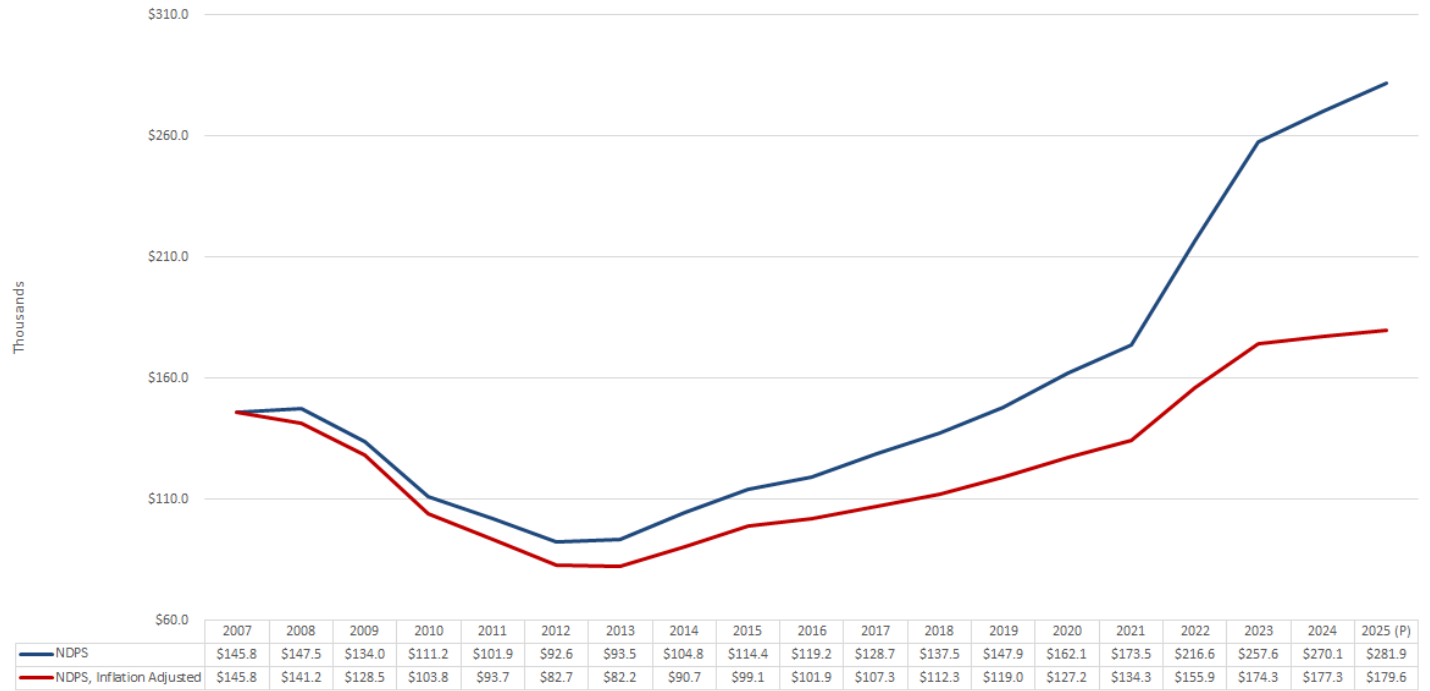
Significant Trends or Factors Influencing Budget Decisions:

Demographic and Economic Factors

Tax Digest. The limited commercial and industrial tax base in Paulding County results in a lower net digest per student (NDPS), which reduces local funding. In tax year 2024, Paulding County's NDPS was \$270.0 thousand, which was \$89,000 or 25% lower than the average for districts with over 10,000 students (large districts). With a projected enrollment of 31,075 K-12 students and compared to other large districts, this results in a tax digest deficit of \$3.3 billion or \$47.9 million in tax levy (with a 17.675 millage rate).

For FY2026 (tax year 2025), the inflation adjusted NDPS is projected to be \$179.6 thousand, which is \$33.8 thousand or 23.0% greater than the pre-recession high of \$145.8 thousand.

Net Digest per Pupil (NDPS), Tax Year 2007 - 2025(P)

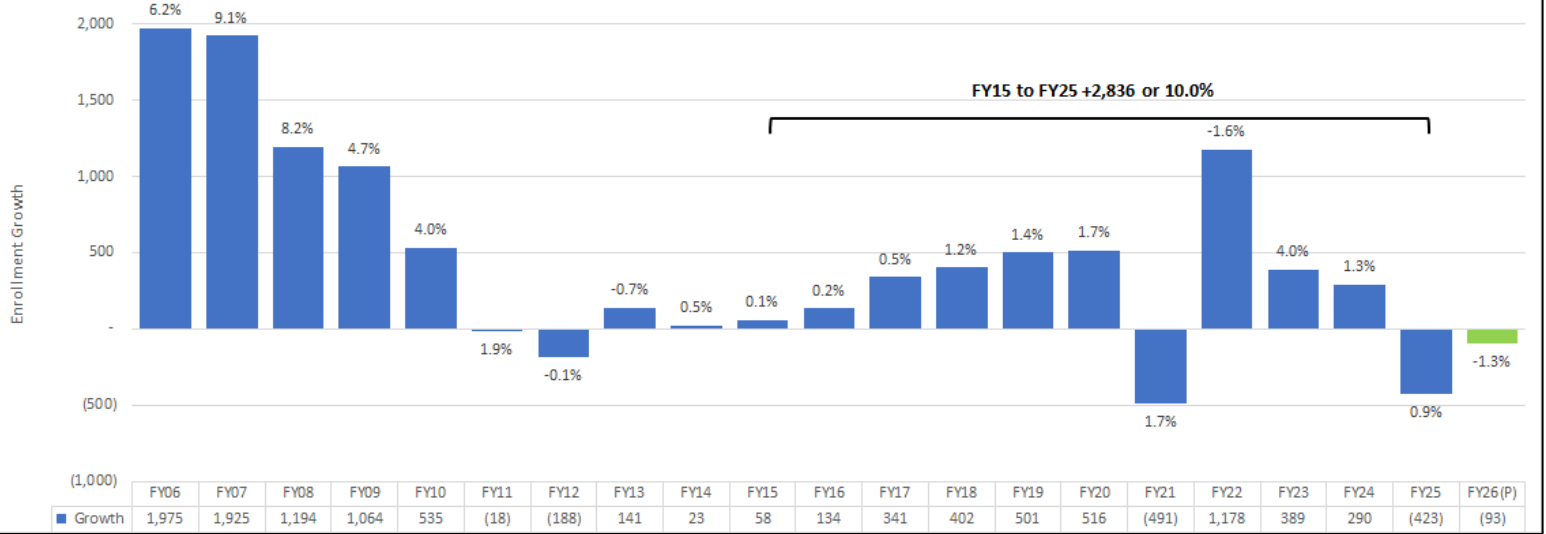


Large number of school-age children per household. Tax digest issues are exacerbated by the high number of school-age children per household in Paulding County, as there is not a correlating increase in funding. Local funding is based on property tax values and not the number of school-age children living in the home.

Enrollment Factors

Enrollment Growth. For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. FY2015 to FY2025 enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0% even with an anomaly in FY2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2022 enrollment grew 4.0%, the largest growth rate in a decade. 2026 is projected to decline 93 students or -0.3% with both digital learning and face-to-face instruction.

K-12 Enrollment Historical Growth, FY2006 - FY2026(P)



Funding Factors

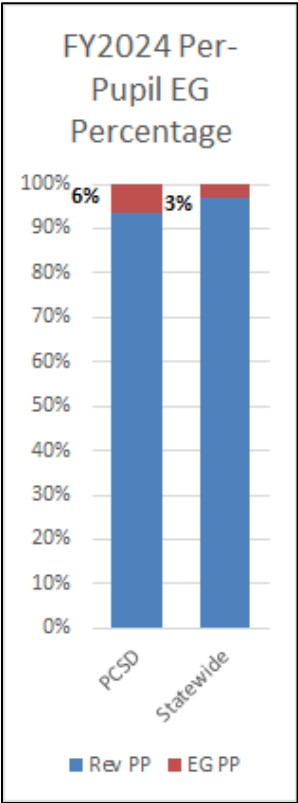
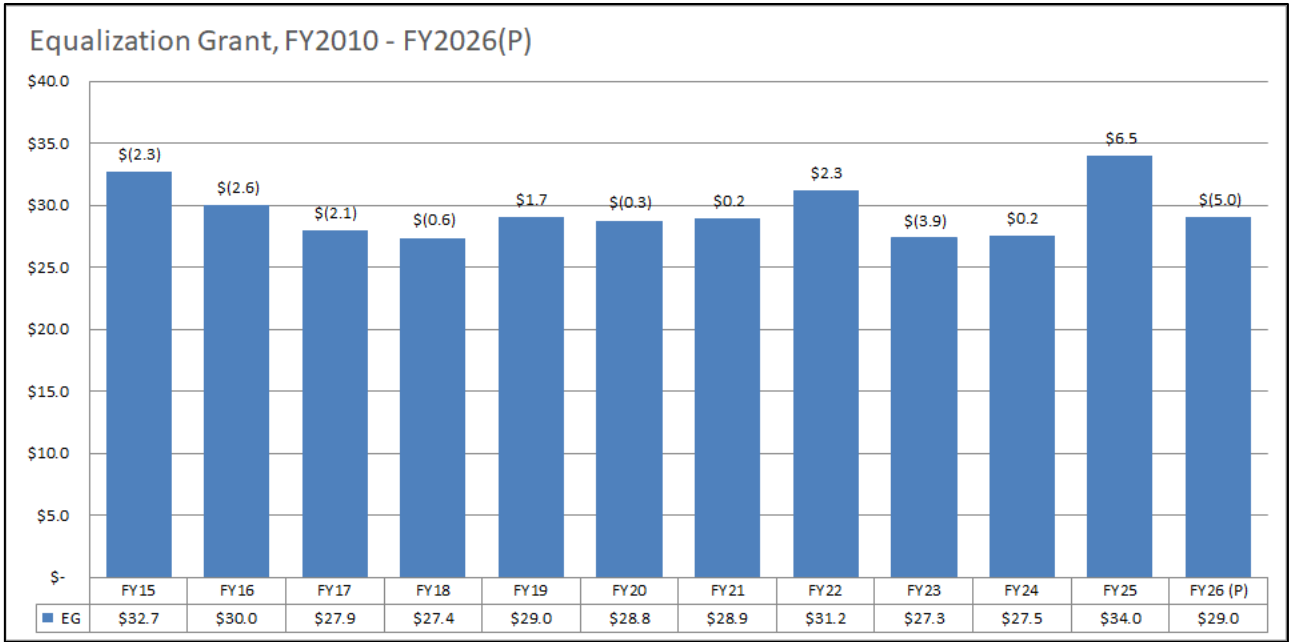
Low Wealth. Despite favorable employment, income and free-and-reduced lunch statistics, PCSD is considered a low wealth school system due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base and the large number of school-age children per household. With approximately 56% of revenue coming from State sources (compared to a statewide average of 46%) the District is highly susceptible to changes in State funding, including austerity reductions, State Pay Scale Adjustments, Equalization Grant funding and changes in the Quality Basic Education (QBE) methodology.

For FY2026, a 7.1% increase in State Health Insurance monthly premium was instated for certified employees and a 19.3% increase for classified personnel. This resulted in a \$5.5 million increase in QBE funding. Unfortunately, QBE does not fund all aspects of compensation including allotment quantity and total compensation, nor does it cover classified personnel. Classified personnel are funded 100% locally.

	FY2025	FY2026	Change	%
FTE	31,168	31,075	(93)	-0.3%
QBE Earnings	\$ 213,167,512	\$ 217,962,076	4,794,564	2.2%
Health Insurance	\$ 42,852,480	\$ 46,665,060	3,812,580	8.9%
Principal/Staff Development	\$ 13,212	\$ 13,339	127	1.0%
Total QBE Earnings	\$ 256,033,204	\$ 264,640,475	8,607,271	3.4%
Less: LFS	\$ (35,171,931)	\$ (37,871,690)	(2,699,759)	7.7%
State Funds	\$ 220,861,273	\$ 226,768,785	5,907,512	2.7%
Less: Austerity	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.0%
Austerity Percentage	0.0%	0.0%		
Plus:				
Equalization	\$ 33,984,813	\$ 28,990,495	(4,994,318)	-14.7%
Nursing	\$ 754,319	\$ 743,350	(10,969)	-1.5%
Transportation	\$ 7,726,506	\$ 7,204,969	(521,537)	-6.7%
Total	\$ 263,326,911	\$ 263,707,599	380,688	0.1%

*Note: From Prior Year's Mid-year QBE Summary and Projected Budget QBE Summary.
Includes Prior Mid-Term Adjustment*

PCSD will receive \$29.0 million in Equalization Grant funding in FY2026 (the fifth highest award statewide). Based on FY2024 comparative data, the most recent information available, PCSD continues to be heavily dependent on the Equalization Grant, which accounted for 6% of per-pupil revenue, compared to a statewide percentage of only 3%.



Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Millage Rate Changes. Changes to the millage rate impact both local revenue and the Equalization Grant formula. Generally, reductions in the millage rate will result in a reduction of the grant award. Property Taxes (Ad Valorem) are expected to increase \$6.0 million or 4.1% in FY2026. This compares to FY2024 and FY2025 increases of 19.5% and 3.4%, respectively. The slowdown in growth is due to the stabilization of property values.

Paulding County Board of Education
CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

The Paulding County Board of Education does hereby announce that the millage rate will be established at a meeting to be held at the Paulding County Board of Education Board Room on June 17, 2025 at 8:30 AM EST and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A 48.5.32, do hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

County School	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal Ad Valorem	\$ 5,676,816,294	\$ 6,308,413,844	\$ 8,016,129,739	\$ 9,699,155,792	\$10,195,084,232	\$ 10,713,260,059
Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem	31,621,130	50,251,310	47,147,590	45,834,700	43,543,380	39,318,630
Mobile Home Ad Valorem	1,632,921	1,534,173	1,591,706	1,729,204	2,185,042	2,164,492
Timber Ad Valorem (100%)	5,360	225,181	574,328	824,622	165,874	254,836
Heavy Duty Equipment	163,857	86,134	144,573	177,148	217,817	365,622
Gross Digest	5,710,239,562	6,360,510,642	8,065,587,936	9,747,721,466	10,241,196,345	10,755,363,639
Less M&O Exemptions	(891,271,119)	(995,663,606)	(1,286,131,802)	(1,608,831,149)	(1,822,910,964)	(1,996,001,891)
Net Digest	4,818,968,443	5,364,847,036	6,779,456,134	8,138,890,317	8,418,285,381	8,759,361,748
Gross M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks						
Net M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Net Taxes Levied	\$ 90,355,658	\$ 100,590,882	\$ 120,335,346	\$ 143,854,886	\$ 148,793,194	\$ 154,821,719
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$ 6,519,467	\$ 10,235,224	\$ 19,744,464	\$ 23,519,540	\$ 4,938,308	\$ 6,028,525
Net Taxes % Increase	7.8%	11.3%	19.6%	19.5%	3.4%	4.1%

Note: M&O is Maintenance and Operations. 2025 Net Taxes Levied reflects 17.675, pending Paulding County Board of Education adoption of 2025 Millage Rate.

Operating Factors

Rising Cost of Human Capital. With around 89% of the budget focused on salaries, benefits and outsourced custodial services, the rising cost of human capital is a major factor bearing on the District's future. These increases include, but are not limited to, the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and State Health Benefit Plan, which have seen unprecedented increases over the past few years. As the demand for highly qualified teachers increases, the District must remain competitive in compensation and benefits.

Salaries Highlights:

- \$253.5m, -2.0% Decrease¹
- Includes -
- Step Increases
- Allotment Changes due to a decline in enrollment

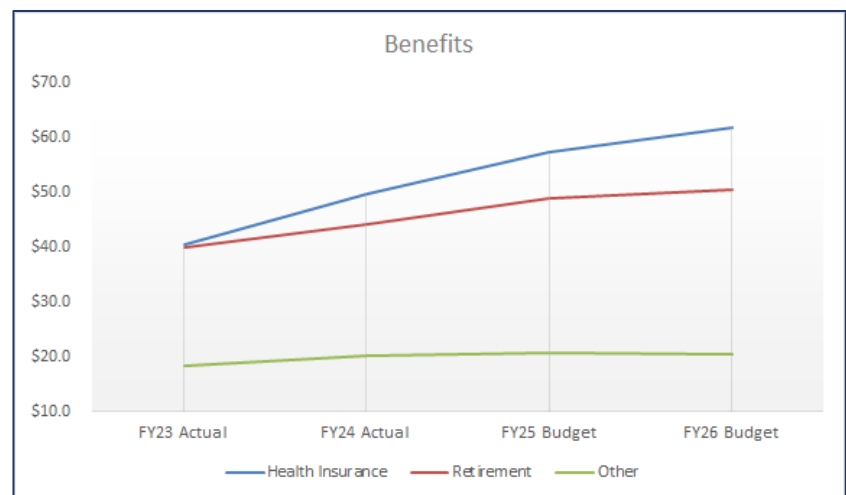
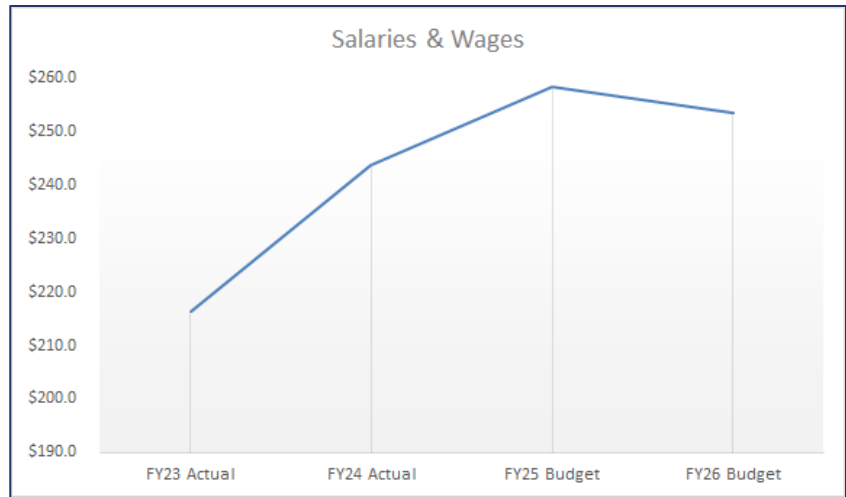
¹ Excludes non-QBE grants

Benefits Highlights:

- \$133.0m, 4.6% Increase¹
- Includes -
- \$50.5m TRS, 2.9% Increase¹
- \$62.0m Healthcare, 8.0% Increase¹
- \$20.5m Other², -1.0% Decrease¹

¹ Excludes non-QBE grants

² Workers Comp, Unemployment, Life Insurance, MID, TSA Match, Social Security and Medicare



Material Changes (Shifts) from Current Year Budget

Changes in Revenue

The FY2026 budget includes a \$435.7 million General Fund budget, excluding grants and transfers to other funds. This represents an increase of \$6.4 million or 1.5% from the original FY2025 Budget.

Material changes in revenue include the following:

- QBE Health Insurance adjustment of \$3.8 million for a 7.1% increase in premiums for certified employees.
- Changes in assessed property values (reassessment) will increase 2025 property taxes by an average 2.9%

Changes in Expenditures

The FY2026 budget includes a \$435.7 million General Fund budget, excluding grants and transfers to other funds. This represents an increase of \$6.4 million or 1.5% from the original FY2025 Budget.

Material changes in expenditures include the following:

- Salaries decreased \$5.1 million or -2.0% due to a reduction of 74 General Funded allotments. This decrease was due to a loss of 423 students in FY2025 and another projected reduction of 93 students for FY2026.
- Benefits increased \$5.8 million or 4.6%. This increase was due to:
 - \$4.6 million increase in State Health Insurance due to an increase of 19.3% for classified employees with no additional funds from the state to help cover the cost.
 - \$1.4 million increase in Teacher Retirement due to a 5.4% increase in rates.
- Other expenditures (non-salaries and benefits related) increased \$5.7 million or 13.0%.
 - The majority of this increase is \$3.2 million for bus purchases. In FY2025, \$6.0 million in bus purchases were reclassified to Capital Projects Fund.

Material or significant changes are defined as a minimum of 0.05% of proposed expenditures and a 10% change (absolute value) from the current to Proposed Budget.

Significant Changes in Fund Balance

The fund balance changes in FY2022 and FY2023 is due to transferring funds to Capital Projects for ongoing construction projects. No material changes in fund balance are anticipated in the Proposed Budget.

The budget does not reflect a negative trend in fund balance during the three-year forecast period.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Financial Data

General Fund								
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
Revenue:								
Local Taxes	\$ 115,817,886	\$ 133,486,801	\$ 156,745,482	\$ 161,685,949	\$ 167,668,000	\$ 172,251,046	\$ 177,418,578	\$ 182,741,135
Other Local Sources	3,219,334	5,255,092	7,537,839	5,902,410	2,716,000	2,807,933	3,394,951	3,995,534
State Source	215,077,070	226,536,606	247,143,394	270,128,851	268,128,439	269,469,081	272,163,772	274,885,410
Total Revenue	\$ 334,114,290	\$ 365,278,499	\$ 411,426,715	\$ 437,717,210	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 444,528,061	\$ 452,977,301	\$ 461,622,079
Less: Grants (see below)	1,312,574	2,842,889	2,469,754	2,234,129	2,817,230	1,957,818	1,957,818	1,957,818
	\$ 332,801,716	\$ 362,435,610	\$ 408,956,961	\$ 435,483,080	\$ 435,695,209	\$ 442,570,242	\$ 451,019,483	\$ 459,664,261
Expenditures:								
1000 Instruction	\$ 216,067,366	\$ 244,743,523	\$ 273,063,982	\$ 291,422,489	\$ 291,929,542	\$ 292,848,837	\$ 297,797,325	\$ 302,775,299
2100 Pupil Services	11,835,529	14,162,205	16,226,258	17,519,761	18,269,030	18,451,720	18,636,237	18,822,600
2210 Improvement of Instruction	11,366,806	13,920,144	16,316,870	17,700,038	18,807,023	18,995,093	19,185,044	19,376,895
2213 Instructional Staff Training	584,023	670,377	745,126	749,831	635,678	750,000	750,000	750,000
2220 Media Services	5,279,742	5,632,418	6,088,715	6,544,443	4,744,628	4,839,520	4,936,311	5,035,037
2300 General Administration	1,336,019	1,551,876	1,572,544	1,877,431	2,108,155	2,150,318	2,193,324	2,237,191
2400 School Administration	20,177,914	21,522,631	23,874,972	25,884,456	26,824,909	27,021,694	27,908,635	28,666,808
2500 Business Services	2,117,072	2,388,973	2,843,076	2,911,845	3,513,122	3,583,384	3,655,052	3,728,153
2600 Maintenance	19,886,238	23,229,839	26,556,911	23,614,471	26,715,128	26,750,000	27,285,000	28,251,677
2660 School Safety and Security	-	-	-	4,784,811	6,704,268	6,838,353	6,975,120	7,114,622
2700 Transportation	18,819,884	22,426,370	23,093,620	26,813,653	29,703,609	30,000,646	31,182,187	32,212,672
2800 Central Support Services	4,206,751	5,720,289	6,852,295	8,214,820	8,342,381	8,509,229	8,679,414	8,853,002
2900 Other Support Services	184,561	191,722	196,102	199,301	214,967	219,266	223,652	228,125
3100 SNP	118,705	151,113	132,391	77,438	-	70,000	70,000	70,000
3300 Community Services Operations	473	1,630	12,944	7,567	-	-	-	-
4000 Acquisition & Construction	-	-	13,695	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 311,981,086	\$ 356,313,109	\$ 397,589,500	\$ 428,322,355	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 441,028,061	\$ 449,477,301	\$ 458,122,079
Less: Grants (see below)	1,312,574	2,840,525	2,469,754	2,243,473	2,817,230	1,957,818	1,957,818	1,957,818
	\$ 310,668,512	\$ 353,472,584	\$ 395,119,746	\$ 426,078,882	\$ 435,695,209	\$ 439,070,242	\$ 447,519,483	\$ 456,164,261
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$ 22,133,204	\$ 8,965,390	\$ 13,837,215	\$ 9,394,854	\$ 0	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000
Other Sources (Uses):								
Transfers In	100	80,000,193	95,049,991	166,000,000	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	(28,360,334)	(98,453,384)	(98,629,464)	(172,303,080)	-	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)
Total Other Sources (Uses)	(28,360,234)	(18,453,191)	(3,579,474)	(6,303,080)	-	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)
Change in Fund Balance	\$ (6,227,030)	\$ (9,487,801)	\$ 10,257,741	\$ 3,091,774	\$ 0	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0)	\$ (0)
Beginning Fund Balance	64,301,433	58,074,403	48,586,602	58,844,343	61,936,117	61,936,117	61,936,117	61,936,117
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 58,074,403	\$ 48,586,602	\$ 58,844,343	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117	\$ 61,936,117

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

General Fund								
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
Summary by State Object:								
100 Salaries	\$ 197,110,037	\$ 217,172,796	\$ 244,783,432	\$ 257,945,307	\$ 254,583,486	\$ 258,656,822	\$ 262,795,331	\$ 267,000,056
200 Benefits	80,232,051	99,017,067	114,510,348	130,079,140	133,461,698	137,465,549	141,589,515	145,837,200
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 277,342,088	\$ 316,189,862	\$ 359,293,779	\$ 388,024,447	\$ 388,045,183	\$ 396,122,370	\$ 404,384,846	\$ 412,837,257
Other Expenditures:								
300 Purchased Profess & Tech Services	\$ 5,645,092	\$ 6,350,762	\$ 5,491,342	\$ 5,786,215	\$ 6,044,166	\$ 6,225,491	\$ 6,412,255	\$ 6,604,623
321 Contracted Service - Teachers	1,514	1,243	770	149	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
332 Drug Testing and Fingerprinting	31,076	46,222	118,858	90,554	97,950	100,000	100,000	100,000
334 Bus Driver Physicals	21,725	26,215	27,530	7,680	29,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
335 Cont Ser - POST Certified Law Enforce Off	-	-	-	759,121	466,507	760,000	760,000	760,000
340 Professional Legal Services	159,924	261,744	285,585	322,065	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
361 Per Diem and Fees	-	5,175	4,848	285	700	700	700	700
410 Water, Sewer and Cleaning Services	1,334,205	1,531,627	1,424,764	1,475,380	1,944,983	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
430 R&M Services	1,938,544	2,319,391	2,417,808	2,689,890	2,779,810	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
442 Rental of Equipment and Vehicles	6,412	8,960	10,542	7,940	12,837	10,000	10,000	10,000
444 Other Rentals	2,322	1,970	-	-	-	-	-	-
490 Other Purchased Property Services	27,472	42,340	45,486	36,205	49,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
520 Insurance (non-Employee Benefits)	900,784	1,000,238	1,305,758	1,501,753	1,867,998	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000
530 Communication	706,895	685,365	699,949	631,137	689,232	690,000	690,000	690,000
532 Commun - Web-Based Subt and Licen	1,887,583	2,267,006	2,245,385	3,487,315	2,721,257	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000
534 SBITA greater than 12 months	-	-	344,308	210,796	218,596	220,000	220,000	220,000
535 SBITA Initial Implementation	-	-	65,724	40,238	42,438	45,000	45,000	45,000
563 Tuition to Private Sources	-	47,359	51,067	76,519	87,589	80,000	80,000	80,000
569 Other Tuition	24,160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
580 Travel - Employees	193,464	294,774	281,239	284,709	332,182	300,000	300,000	300,000
595 Other Purchased Services	838,567	1,428,281	1,546,861	1,766,531	1,744,084	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000
610 Supplies	2,227,709	2,686,023	2,818,469	2,810,504	4,430,233	2,820,000	2,820,000	2,820,000
611 Supplies - Technology Related	197,658	298,995	219,736	285,091	186,012	300,000	300,000	300,000
612 Computer Software	579,581	502,441	47,483	48,593	152,000	-	-	-
615 Expendable Equipment	937,585	1,437,599	1,387,033	1,306,242	2,719,343	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
616 Expendable Computer Equipment	4,926,324	5,869,392	5,385,019	5,350,843	6,991,850	5,350,000	5,350,000	5,350,000
620 Energy	6,517,152	5,768,976	6,237,453	6,798,077	7,542,280	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000
640 Digital/Electronic Textbooks	96,226	231,000	1,747,004	316,324	-	300,000	300,000	300,000
641 Textbooks - Printed	1,177,449	800,239	490,993	266,091	1,473,484	500,000	500,000	500,000
642 Books (Non-Textbooks) & Periodicals	397,594	317,742	326,686	381,829	339,551	350,000	350,000	350,000
715 Land Improvements	-	-	173,740	-	-	-	-	-
720 Building Acq, Construction, and Impr	-	-	479,059	-	-	-	-	-
730 Purch of Equip - (Not Buses or Comp)	184,788	1,130,670	1,726,664	1,290,588	492,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
732 Purchase or Lease- Buses	3,074,690	4,137,977	87,507	1,507,271	4,778,625	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
734 Purchase or Lease-Technology Related	-	-	84,500	10,370	-	-	-	-
810 Dues and Fees	414,452	425,873	523,903	523,109	487,417	525,000	525,000	525,000
811 Regional or County Library Dues	20,930	20,922	21,092	22,947	24,999	25,000	25,000	25,000
812 RESA Fees	164,813	171,210	173,349	175,071	180,283	175,000	175,000	175,000
890 Other Expenditures	2,307	5,517	(1,792)	30,479	1,233,350	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Total State Objects	\$ 311,981,086	\$ 356,313,109	\$ 397,589,500	\$ 428,322,355	\$ 438,512,439	\$ 441,028,061	\$ 449,477,301	\$ 458,122,079

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

General Fund									
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast	
Summary by State Grant Programs:									
Revenue									
1435 CS4GA Computer Science Capacity Grant	\$ 4,050	\$ 2,995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1436 Computer Science Capacity Grant - Teacher Equip	-	-	-	5,175	-	-	-	-	
1565 Hygiene Products in Georgia Schools	20,970	18,629	26,983	28,834	28,863	29,000	29,000	29,000	
1611 GOLD Grants	-	4,300	5,324	-	-	-	-	-	
1613 Dyslexia Services Grant – State Funds	-	-	13,860	88,699	-	-	-	-	
1695 School Security Grant	-	-	1,102,145	273,927	273,927	273,927	273,927	273,927	
1697 Custodian Supplement - State Funded	-	-	-	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	
1708 Paraprofessional to Teacher Reimbursement Grant	-	-	-	25,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
2411 Pupil Transportation - State Bonds	192,000	16,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2412 Bus Purchases - State Allotment	-	1,233,540	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2413 Bus Safety Incentive Grant	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	
2414 Alternative Fuel School Bus Incentive Grants	-	144,000	-	144,000	-	144,000	144,000	144,000	
2620 Preschool Handicapped State Grant	747,246	648,589	760,667	897,079	930,028	900,000	900,000	900,000	
3019 Vocational Supervisors	23,340	28,667	28,877	57,768	57,768	57,768	57,768	57,768	
3529 Extended Year Ag.	16,262	17,239	21,742	23,412	23,412	23,412	23,412	23,412	
3532 Vocational Construct Related Equip - State Bond Funds	-	364,061	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3536 CTAE Connect Grant Bond	-	-	44,125	-	-	-	-	-	
3540 Apprenticeship - Spec Approp	36,486	36,890	37,635	37,500	50,180	37,500	37,500	37,500	
3542 CTAE Construct-Related Equip Grants for Vocational Educ	-	-	-	125,705	156,000	-	-	-	
3543 CTAE Construct-Related Equipm Grants for Agriculture Educ	-	-	-	-	90,000	-	-	-	
3550 Vocational Industry Certification State	10,000	17,364	40,492	25,343	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
3553 Extended Day-Agriculture	19,311	20,471	29,277	30,914	30,914	30,914	30,914	30,914	
3554 Extended Day-Technology/Career	103,912	123,429	180,704	204,297	204,297	204,297	204,297	204,297	
7050 Math And Science Supplement	138,997	166,715	177,922	152,476	153,886	153,000	153,000	153,000	
8695 School Security Grant Summer	-	-	-	-	713,955	-	-	-	
Total Grant Program Revenue	\$ 1,312,574	\$ 2,842,889	\$ 2,469,754	\$ 2,234,129	\$ 2,817,230	\$ 1,957,818	\$ 1,957,818	\$ 1,957,818	
Expenditures									
1435 CS4GA Computer Science Capacity Grant	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 2,995.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1436 Computer Science Capacity Grant - Teacher Equip	-	-	-	5,175	-	-	-	-	
1565 Hygiene Products in Georgia Schools	20,970	18,629	26,983	28,834	28,863	29,000	29,000	29,000	
1611 GOLD Grants	-	4,300	5,324	-	-	-	-	-	
1613 Dyslexia Services Grant – State Funds	-	-	13,860	88,699	-	-	-	-	
1695 School Security Grant	-	-	1,102,145	273,927	273,927	273,927	273,927	273,927	
1697 Custodian Supplement - State Funded	-	-	-	63,344	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	
1708 Paraprofessional to Teacher Reimbursement Grant	-	-	-	25,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
2411 Pupil Transportation - State Bonds	192,000	16,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2412 Bus Purchases - State Allotment	-	1,233,540	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2413 Bus Safety Incentive Grant	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	
2414 Alternative Fuel School Bus Incentive Grants	-	144,000	-	144,000	-	144,000	144,000	144,000	
2620 Preschool Handicapped State Grant	747,246	648,589	760,667	897,079	930,028	900,000	900,000	900,000	
3019 Vocational Supervisors	23,340	28,667	28,877	57,768	57,768	57,768	57,768	57,768	
3529 Extended Year Ag.	16,262	17,239	21,742	23,412	23,412	23,412	23,412	23,412	
3532 Vocational Construct Related Equip - State Bond Funds	-	364,061	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3536 CTAE Connect Grant Bond	-	-	44,125	-	-	-	-	-	
3540 Apprenticeship - Spec Approp	36,486	36,890	37,635	37,500	50,180	37,500	37,500	37,500	
3542 CTAE Construct-Related Equip Grants for Vocational Educ	-	-	-	125,705	156,000	-	-	-	
3543 CTAE Construct-Related Equipm Grants for Agriculture Educ	-	-	-	-	90,000	-	-	-	
3550 Vocational Industry Certification State	10,000	15,000	40,492	25,343	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
3553 Extended Day-Agriculture	19,311	20,471	29,277	30,914	30,914	30,914	30,914	30,914	
3554 Extended Day-Technology/Career	103,912	123,429	180,704	204,297	204,297	204,297	204,297	204,297	
7050 Math And Science Supplement	138,997	166,715	177,922	152,476	153,886	153,000	153,000	153,000	
8695 School Security Grant Summer	-	-	-	-	713,955	-	-	-	
Total Grant Program Expenditures	\$ 1,312,574	\$ 2,840,525	\$ 2,469,754	\$ 2,243,473	\$ 2,817,230	\$ 1,957,818	\$ 1,957,818	\$ 1,957,818	

Level Three: Summary Data for Individual Funds

Special Revenue Funds

The **Special Revenue Funds** account for resources that are legally restricted for specific purposes. Although reported within the General Fund for audited financial reporting, the Special Revenue Fund is presented separately for budget appropriation and internal reporting purposes. Most of the federal, state, local and private grants that the District receives are accounted for in the special revenue fund and must be spent and accounted for according to the specific grant requirements.

- The **School Nutrition Fund** accounts for activities associated with the District's School Nutrition Program (SNP). Although a Special Revenue Fund, the School Nutrition Fund is presented separately for budget appropriation and internal reporting purposes.

Most federal grants are allocated through the Georgia Department of Education to the local school district. For Paulding County, IDEA 611 Special Education Flowthrough and Title I will be the largest grants awarded for FY2026 at \$6.1 million and \$4.2 million respectively. These two grants exceed 86% of the total budgeted expenditures for Special Revenue Funds. Below are brief descriptions of these grants and their anticipated FY2026 award.

IDEA 611 Special Education Flowthrough (Program 2824, \$6,087,268)

The IDEA 611 Special Education Flowthrough grants help the District with excess cost related to special education and the services prescribed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as authorized by Congress. The grant provides support services to children with disabilities including but not limited to physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, special transportation and audiology.

Title I-A Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged (Program 1750, \$4,199,163)

Title I-A provides funding for educationally disadvantaged children in identified economically deficient schools. It helps ensure that all children are meeting the State academic content and student academic achievement standards. In FY2026, Title I will be able to serve 9 schools in the Paulding County School District.

Major (Significant) Funding Sources and Uses (Expenditure Categories)

Federal Revenue

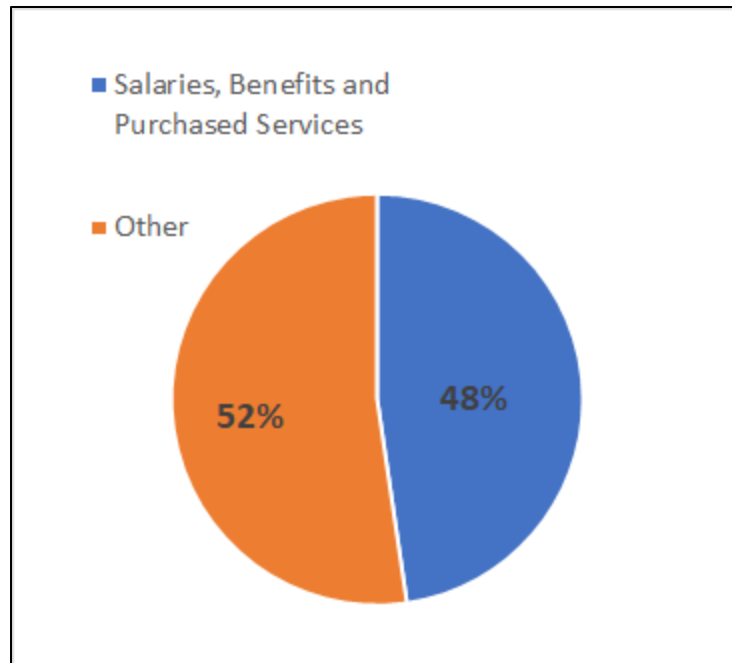
Federal revenue (U.S. Department of Education) accounts for 56.5% of all FY2026 Special Revenue Fund Proposed Budget.

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Service Expenditures

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Service Expenditures (including Purchased Professional & Technical Services and Contracted Services for Teachers) account for 48% of the FY2026 Special Revenue Expenditure Budget.

The proposed FY2026 budget includes:

- \$6.3 million in Salaries or 27.6%
- \$3.3 million in Benefit costs or 14.3%
- \$1.3 million in Purchased Services or 5.7%



Underlying Assumptions and Significant Trends for Major Funding Sources and Uses

Underlying Assumptions:

Federal Funding Sources

- For most grants, should the funding of these programs be eliminated or reduced, it is likely that the services provided would be negatively impacted unless another funding source is identified.
- Each grant is adjusted in the current year before funds are spent based on the actual grant award for that year.
- Increases in enrollment, especially enrollment in Exceptional Students Educational Programs (ESEP), should continue to increase grant opportunities, but will also likely place higher demands on local resources.

Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services

- When grant awards do not fully support the initiative, local revenue sources (General Fund) may be required to address allotment quantity, total compensation and benefits.
- Cost of labor will continue to grow at a higher rate than awards, resulting in a decline in resources available for non-labor related expenditures. For example, 52% of the Proposed Budget is for non-labor related expenditures, compared to the prior three-year average of 39%.
- Increases to local pay scales do not always result in additional grant resources.

Significant Trends or Factors Influencing Budget Decisions:

Demographic and Economic Factors

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program Eligibility. *Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program (FRL)* is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes free or reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house.

FRL participation is a measurement of student wealth and is directly impacted by the demographic and economic conditions of Paulding County.

FRL is a key element in the allocation of several grants, including Title I and Special Education VIB Flow-through.

The FRL participation percentage decreased 2.7% from October 2023 to October 2024, from 53.9% to 51.2%, respectively.

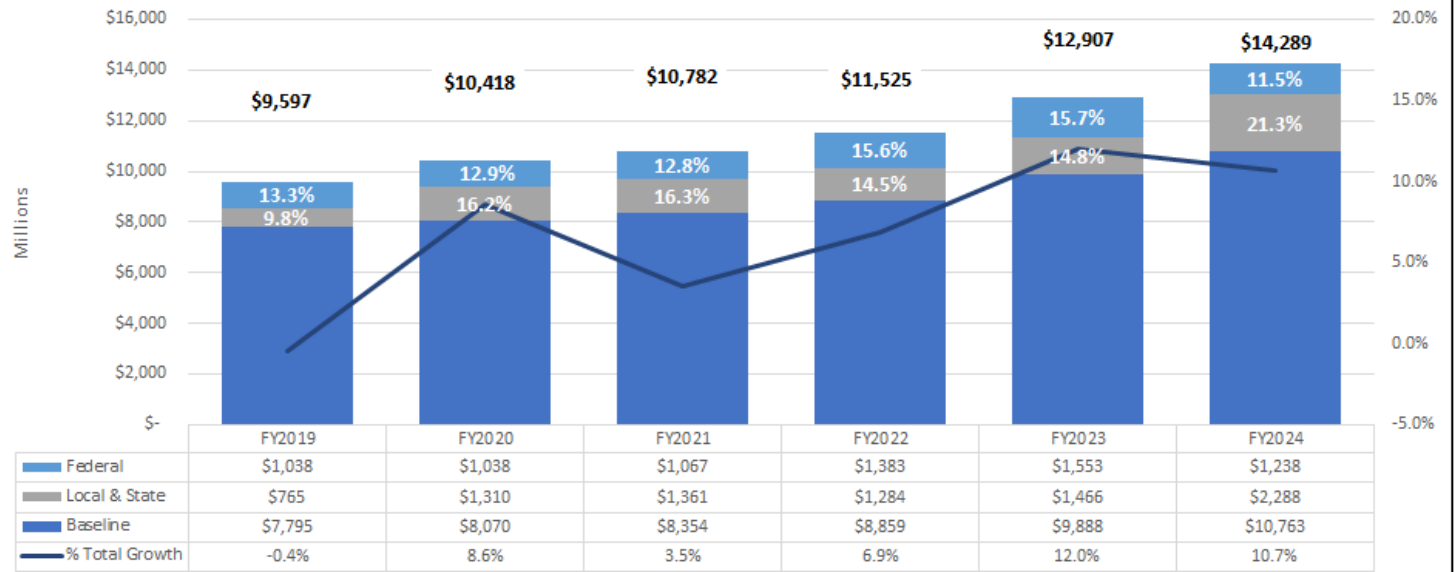
The Statewide participation percentage increased 3.9%, from 63.7% to 67.6%.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility (FRL)

School	Oct-23 %FRL	Oct-24 %FRL	Change
0299 - Allgood Elementary School	76.17	72.75	(3.42)
0103 - Bessie L. Baggett Elementary	70.93	70.59	(0.34)
0110 - Burnt Hickory Elementary School	29.13	27.10	(2.03)
0199 - C. A. Roberts Elementary School	61.30	54.91	(6.39)
0410 - Carl Scoggins Sr. Middle school	54.51	52.78	(1.73)
0304 - Connie Dugan Elementary School	66.09	65.09	(1.00)
1050 - Dallas Elementary School	82.19	79.69	(2.50)
0292 - East Paulding High School	50.95	48.51	(2.44)
0394 - East Paulding Middle School	52.13	46.35	(5.78)
0194 - Floyd L. Shelton Elementary School at Crossroad	29.35	27.79	(1.56)
0310 - Hal Hutchens Elementary	72.43	71.24	(1.19)
2352 - Herschel Jones Middle School	73.92	71.70	(2.22)
5050 - Hiram Elementary School	72.14	71.76	(0.38)
0101 - Hiram High School	67.66	63.22	(4.44)
0404 - Irma C. Austin Middle School	63.63	58.31	(5.32)
0297 - J. A. Dobbins Middle School	75.00	71.37	(3.63)
0201 - Lena Mae Moses Middle School	53.07	47.99	(5.08)
0104 - Lillian C. Poole Elementary School	64.03	62.03	(2.00)
0188 - McGarity Elementary School	61.00	57.97	(3.03)
0198 - Nebo Elementary School	63.20	59.91	(3.29)
2052 - New Georgia Elementary School	55.69	52.10	(3.59)
0109 - North Paulding High School	31.65	29.29	(2.36)
0294 - Northside Elementary School	60.03	58.62	(1.41)
0213 - P. B. Ritch Middle School	68.94	68.26	(0.68)
2552 - Paulding County High School	61.11	59.12	(1.99)
0204 - Roland W. Russom Elementary	37.46	33.58	(3.88)
0197 - Sam D. Panter Elementary School	71.27	70.69	(0.58)
0108 - Sammy McClure Sr. Middle School	27.35	24.82	(2.53)
0210 - Sara M. Ragsdale Elementary	66.19	61.36	(4.83)
0106 - South Paulding High School	48.92	46.89	(2.03)
0192 - South Paulding Middle School	61.49	58.78	(2.71)
4052 - Union Elementary School	59.80	50.58	(9.22)
0113 - WC Abney Elementary	49.65	48.77	(0.88)
Paulding County School District	53.94	51.16	(2.78)
Statewide Average	63.69	67.55	3.86

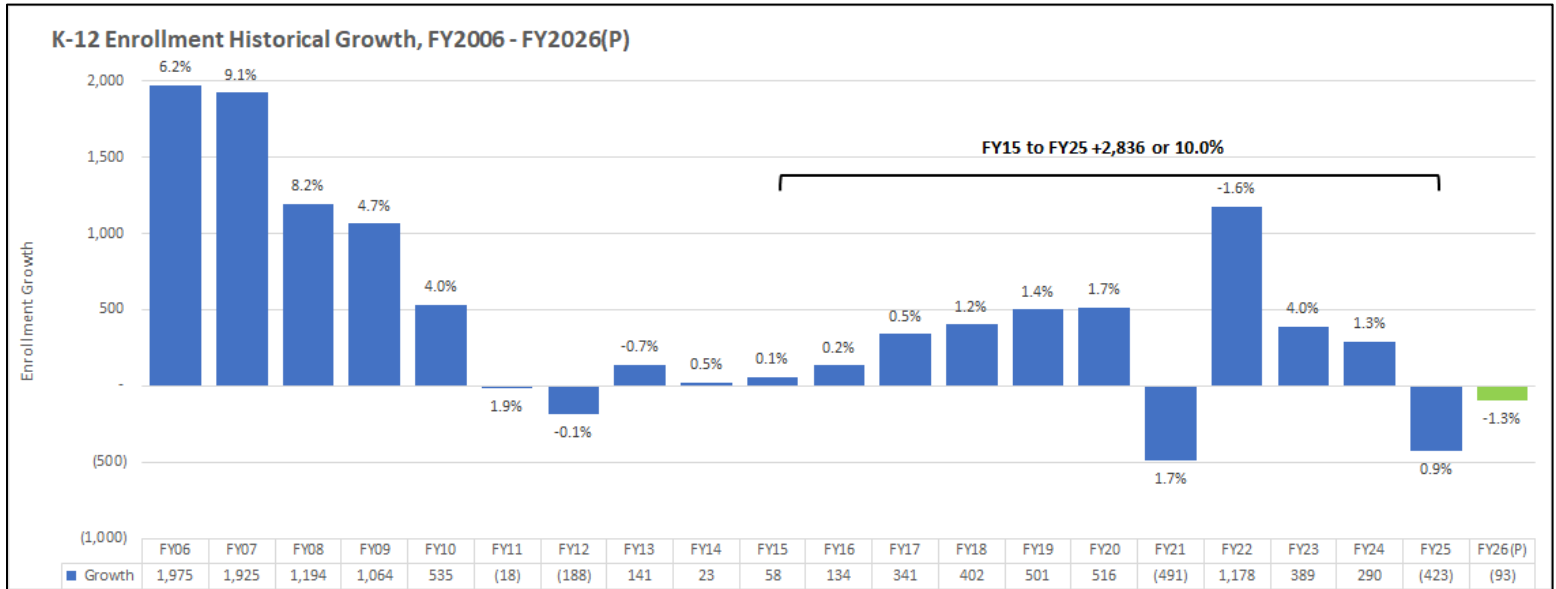
ESEP Enrollment. ESEP enrollment has steadily increased over the past several years. In FY2024, per-pupil ESEP cost an additional 11.5% and 21.3% in Federal and State/Local funds, respectively, over the \$10,763 baseline cost of a student. That is a total additional cost of 32.8%, representing a 10.7% increase from FY2023 and a 48.9% increase from FY2019.

Additional ESEP Cost by Category, FY2019 - FY2024



Enrollment Factors

Enrollment Growth. Increases in enrollment may result in additional grant awards, but funding may not cover all the additional costs associated with required services. For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. In the prior decade, from FY2015 to FY2025, enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0%. FY2025 enrollment decreased 423 or -1.3% to 31,168. 2026 is projected to decline 93 to 31,075 or -0.3%.



Funding Factors

Federal Budget. Changes in the appropriations for grants and/or the allocation methodology.

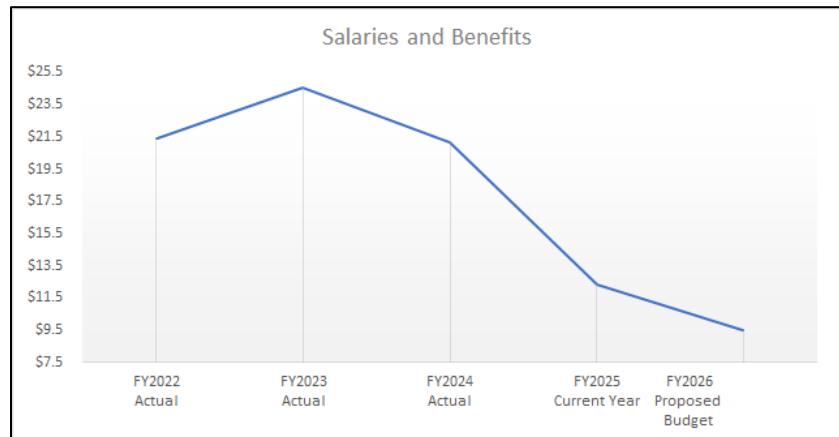
Grant Requirements. Specific requirements, including restrictions on expenditures, may impact decisions regarding grant application, especially when local funds are required to fully support the initiative.

Operating Factors

Rising Cost of Human Capital. With around 48% of the budget focused on salaries, benefits and purchased services, the rising cost of human capital is a major factor bearing on the District's future. These increases include, but are not limited to, the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and State Health Benefit Plan, which have seen unprecedented increases over the past few years. As the demand for highly qualified teachers increases, the District must remain competitive in compensation and benefits.

Salaries and Benefits:

- \$6.3m Salaries, 26.2% Decrease
- \$3.3m Benefits, 15.5% Decrease
- \$9.5m Salaries and Benefits, 22.9% Decrease



Material Changes (Shifts) from Current Year Budget

Changes in Revenue

The proposed revenue budget is \$4.8 million or 16.7% less than the current year. This is primarily due to the L4GA grant ending in FY2025, which was \$4.2 million in the current year.

Changes in Expenditures

The proposed expenditure budget is also \$5.5 million less than the current year, primarily due to the L4GA grant ending in FY2025, which is represented across several objects.

As a result of the rising cost of human capital, Salaries, Benefits and Purchased Services (including Purchased Professional & Technical Services and Contracted Services for Teachers) account for 53% of the current year budget as opposed to 48% of the Proposed Budget. Conversely, non-labor related expenditures account for 47% of the current year budget as opposed to 52% of the Proposed Budget.

Material or significant changes are defined as a minimum of 0.05% of proposed expenditures and a 10% change (absolute value) from the current to Proposed Budget.

Significant Changes in Fund Balance

The \$1.3 million increase in the proposed fund balance is due to an increase in school level revenue. These funds are primarily from donations and fundraising efforts by the schools.

The budget does not reflect a negative trend in fund balance during the three-year forecast period.

Anticipated FY2026 Grants

Below is a brief description of other common grants awarded to the District and a table of anticipated awards for FY2026.

Title I-A Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged (Program 1750)

Title I-A provides funding for educationally disadvantaged children in identified economically deficient schools. It helps ensure that all children are meeting the State academic content and student academic achievement standards.

Title I-A 1003 School Improvement (Program 1770, 8770)

The Title I-A 1003 School Improvement funds provide funding on behalf of Title I schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), or any school identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). School improvement funding supports the identified needs outlined in the school's improvement plan.

Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Program 1779)

Title IV-A funding supports providing all students access to well-rounded education, improved school conditions for student learning, and improves the use of technology in order to advance the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Title II Improving Teacher Quality (Program 1784)

The purpose of the Title II grant is to improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals and other school leaders. It will also aim to increase student achievement consistent with the challenging State academic standards, increase the number of teachers, principals and other school leaders, as well as provide low-income and minority students with greater access to effective teachers, principals and other school leaders.

Advanced Placement Grant (Program 1791)

The Advanced Placement grant is committed to supporting local school districts' efforts to improving the academic achievement of students. The grant achieves this by providing financial support for teachers to receive training during the summer to be able to offer AP courses to their students in the upcoming school year.

McKinney Vento Grant (Program 1800)

The McKinney Vento grant seeks to ensure that each homeless student has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education.

Title III Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students (Program 1816)

Title III funds are used to provide language instructional programs to English Learners or Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. The purpose of the grant is to have English language learners, or Limited English Proficient (LEP) students develop English proficiency and meet the same academic achievement standards that all other students are expected to meet.

Title III Part A: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students (Program 1828)

Title III helps ensure that English Learners including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English.

High-Cost Fund (Program 1831)

These funds assist the local school district in covering the direct special education instructional costs of children with disabilities who meet the criteria of a High Needs Child. The intensity, frequency and diversity of the special education and related services needs of the child exceed the typical needs of a child with a disability.

JROTC (Program 1862)

The JROTC program offers the opportunity for high school students to enroll in a leadership/citizenship program coordinated under the umbrella of the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Division of the Georgia Department of Education. The funding from this grant provides partial reimbursement to the local school district for instructor salaries.

Family Connections (Program 2720)

Georgia Family Connection is the only statewide network in the country dedicated to the health and well-being of families and communities. The program connects partners with the resources they need, helps coordinate and manage efforts and empowers our communities to craft local solutions based on local decisions.

IDEA 619 Special Education Preschool (Program 2820)

The funding from this grant assists in providing special education and related services to children with disabilities ages three through five.

IDEA 611 Special Education Flowthrough (Program 2824)

The IDEA 611 Special Education Flowthrough grants help the District with excess cost related to special education and the services prescribed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as authorized by Congress. The grant provides support services to children with disabilities including but not limited to physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, special transportation and audiology.

IDEA Parent Mentor (Program 2831)

The funding of this grant assists in providing support for the special education Parent Mentor. The Parent Mentor helps to enhance communication and collaboration among families, educators, and communities to lead to greater success for students with disabilities and increase family engagement.

Perkins V Program Improvement Grant (Program 3324)

These funds are used to strengthen the academic, lifetime career and technical skills of students participating in the career and technical education programs. The grant also helps provide professional development to teachers and administrators who are involved in career and technical education programs.

Perkins V-Perkins Plus Reserve Grant and Perkins Plus Carryover (Program 3325 and Program 3327)

The Reserve grant is designed to supplement the resources of local school systems in rural areas, areas with high percentages of career education students; or areas with high numbers of career and technology education students and were adversely affected by the change in the Perkins IV funding formula.

Stronger Connections (Program 4406)

The Stronger Connections grant supports the health and safety of students in Georgia. The funds can be utilized for professional development & training, safety personnel, equipment and supplies to improve district safety practices and infrastructure, and programs that foster safe and supportive drug-free environments.

E-rate (Program 4475)

E-rate funding, also known as the Schools and Libraries Program, is a federal program that provides discounted telecommunications and internet access services to eligible schools.

COPS School Violence (Program 9602)

The purpose of the COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is to improve security at schools and on school grounds through school safety programs and technology. Funding under this award program will be used by the school jurisdiction to implement evidence-based programs to improve school security and promote a positive learning environment for all students.

Sources of Strength (Program 9608)

Sources of Strength is a radically strength-based, upstream suicide prevention program with shown effectiveness in both preventative upstream and intervention outcomes. Sources of Strength is considered the first suicide prevention program to demonstrate effectiveness using Peer Leaders to enhance protective factors associated with reducing suicide across a school population.

GSU Recruitment (Program 9611)

The GSU Recruitment grant provides funding for professional development. It pays for memberships for staff members along with recruiting costs for school psychologists.

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Anticipated FY2026 Grants

Program Names	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget
L4GA - Birth through Age 5	\$ 544,962	\$ 514,976	\$ 672,003	\$ 851,942	\$ -
L4GA - Kindergarten through Grade 5	1,312,855	1,708,089	1,818,260	1,550,227	512
L4GA Middle School	553,660	935,129	678,941	820,268	-
L4GA High School	869,845	918,668	867,248	973,959	-
Title I	3,779,928	4,199,234	4,332,146	4,713,778	4,199,163
Cultivating Teachers Grant – Title II	-	-	10,000	-	-
Title I-A, School Improvement Grant	-	-	23,730	4,517	-
Title III-A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment	121,951	356,790	286,493	281,262	332,732
Title II-A, Improving Teacher Quality	620,152	665,163	861,539	719,727	747,218
Title II-A, Advance Placement	3,100	2,275	7,000	-	7,000
Education of Homeless Children	49,360	52,529	44,673	44,650	45,799
Limited English Proficient	78,087	131,875	173,437	147,224	157,952
Title III-A Immigrant	27,211	21,238	6,529	2,920	2,931
Idea High Cost Fund Pool	78,200	193,051	240,519	138,667	175,898
Jr. ROTC	396,281	411,043	447,825	457,502	477,419
ARP - Homeless 2	37,666	38,929	71,477	-	-
Family Connection	48,000	52,500	52,500	56,250	56,250
Pre-School-Regular Project, Special Education	108,419	113,762	130,491	106,056	101,101
VI-B Flowthrough Special Education	6,033,257	5,948,180	5,700,276	5,867,195	6,087,268
IDEA Supplemental Relief Allocations	1,075	-	-	-	-
IDEA Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Participation Grant	14,400	18,400	18,400	18,400	18,400
Title VI B , Capacity Building	-	-	62,902	36,231	-
IDEA Special Education – Flow-Through ARPA	202,487	1,137,829	-	209	-
IDEA Special Education – Ages 3 to 5 ARPA	33,888	52,666	-	-	-
Perkins V - Program Improvement Grant	193,183	207,857	223,186	222,070	220,000
Perkins V - Perkins Plus Grant	24,986	25,000	24,824	25,000	25,000
Perkins V - Carry-Over Grant	20,830	14,218	15,684	9,165	9,000
CARES Act - ESSER I Funds - CTAE Supervision	5,677	-	-	-	-
CARES IDEA Supplemental Relief	5,789	-	-	-	-
CARES Act - ESSER I - School Nursing Grant	65,651	-	-	-	-
CRRSA Act – ESSER II Funds	10,263,952	-	-	-	-
ESSER III ARP	3,316,900	14,086,249	10,979,420	-	-
ARP FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund Program	807,629	-	-	-	-
ESSER III – L4GA Supplemental Grant – Birth to Five	9,155	140,391	197,963	-	-
ESSER III – L4GA Supplemental Grant – K-5	115,213	700,332	130,743	-	-
ESSER III – L4GA Supplemental Grant – 6-8	48,531	162,545	121,935	1,298	-
ESSER III – L4GA Supplemental Grant – 9-12	13,071	100,852	169,890	-	-
ESSER III - Readiness in Reading	112,500	89,606	-	-	-
ESSER III Funds - Teaching and Learning Opportunity Grants	4,367	1,617	132,638	-	-
ARP ESSER III CTAE STEM PL	-	-	19,900	-	-
ESSER II – Custodian Supplement	-	-	55,767	-	-

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

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Anticipated FY2026 Grants Continued

Program Names	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget
Stronger Connections Grant Program	-	-	-	-	250,000
E-RATE Federal Communications Program Funds	-	-	291,672	-	407,136
CARES Act ESSER Summer	2,570	-	-	-	-
CARES Equitable Svc Summer	634	-	-	-	-
ARP Opportunity grant	-	10,433	554	-	-
Title I Summer	25,973	20,349	41,848	93,995	59,539
Title I School Improvement Grant Summer	-	-	-	6,270	115,644
Title IV SSAE Summer	168,867	-	28,362	46,414	36,206
Title II-A Summer	158,066	86,595	68,949	63,440	78,491
Summer Account, Title II-A Advance Placement	700	-	595	-	-
Ed Homeless Summer	-	-	3,242	68,662	1,206
Title III-A Limited English Summer	-	14,965	-	16,313	14,975
Title III-A Lang Immigration Summer	-	3,349	-	-	-
IDEA ARP 611 Summer	-	-	354	-	-
Sunshine Fund	359	160	110	570	-
SNP Grant Action for Healthy Kids	497	1,571	2,110	55	-
SPED Medicaid Fee For Service	29,982	105,643	357,197	34,523	55,000
SPED Medicaid ACE	309,300	969,278	1,271,125	1,373,453	506,495
Fine Arts - All Inclusive	-	-	-	6,588	-
Fine Arts - Honor Chorus	-	-	-	11,822	-
Fine Arts - Honor Band	-	-	-	6,386	-
Hospitality Vending	400	341	-	-	-
Partners in Ed -District Meetings & Events	-	-	-	560	-
Partners in Ed - Teacher Retirement	-	-	-	6,407	-
Partners in Ed - Undesignated	-	-	-	3,178	-
Partner in Ed - Designated	749	1,994	9,508	3,070	-
District Donations Med ACE	2,149	-	-	479	-
Partners in Ed - Science Olympiad	-	-	-	863	-
Partners in Ed - STEM	-	-	-	304	-
Partners in Ed - ESEP	5,156	5,015	4,469	3,132	-
Partners in Ed - Transportation	2,148	2,416	382	3,922	-
Partners in Ed - CTAE	-	-	1,266	-	-
COPS School Violence Prevent	-	-	-	-	500,000
JCCF Monahan Scholarship	-	-	629	196	-
Sources of Strength	31,526	32,143	77,062	85,406	112,000
GSBA claims	4,962	4,895	2,800	-	-
Dell Repairs	-	259	63,447	82,074	-
GSU Recruitment Misc Grant	-	-	4,074	4,566	11,640
Transition Research Study	-	-	-	632,910	-
Happy Helpings Misc Grants	-	-	16,203	-	-
Misc	5,704,585	6,683,257	6,855,330	8,706,838	7,916,280
	\$ 36,370,839	\$ 40,943,656	\$ 37,679,632	\$ 28,310,911	\$ 22,728,255

Paulding County School District
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Financial Data

Special Revenue Funds								
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
Revenue:								
Other Local Sources	\$ 6,875,341	\$ 8,183,892	\$ 8,494,834	\$ 10,843,518	\$ 9,780,599	\$ 8,549,221	\$ 8,693,692	\$ 8,600,938
State Source	80,000	84,500	135,948	94,304	668,250	668,250	140,000	140,000
Federal	30,231,026	33,031,477	28,961,418	17,898,179	13,570,590	13,313,078	13,800,000	14,000,000
Total Revenue	\$ 37,186,367	\$ 41,299,869	\$ 37,592,199	\$ 28,836,000	\$ 24,019,439	\$ 22,530,549	\$ 22,633,692	\$ 22,740,938
Expenditures:								
1000 Instruction	\$ 21,399,743	\$ 23,370,356	\$ 19,813,745	\$ 16,217,239	\$ 14,135,942	\$ 14,284,951	\$ 14,316,470	\$ 14,423,716
2100 Pupil Services	3,135,732	3,244,528	3,743,742	3,214,437	2,141,180	2,141,180	2,145,000	2,145,000
2210 Improvement of Instruction	611,727	485,241	611,671	250,609	29,921	18,281	20,000	20,000
2213 Instructional Staff Training	5,037,464	8,436,717	8,156,980	5,050,308	2,209,072	2,201,572	2,200,000	2,200,000
2220 Media Services	75,406	8,200	33,092	-	-	-	-	-
2230 Federal Grant Administration	486,881	723,382	783,796	492,660	421,206	425,000	425,000	425,000
2300 General Administration	1,665,008	1,779,080	1,297,998	381,905	232,355	232,343	300,000	300,000
2400 School Administration	695,993	336,591	261,645	4,014	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
2500 Business Services	37,040	210	5,164	1,054	-	-	-	-
2600 Maintenance	285,039	6,137	389,275	82,756	407,136	200,000	200,000	200,000
2660 School Safety and Security	-	-	-	-	750,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
2700 Transportation	1,257,494	1,058,955	1,129,130	1,221,450	1,165,972	1,165,972	1,165,972	1,165,972
2800 Central Support Services	82,248	17,271	97,388	48,055	7,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
2900 Other Support Services	48,000	52,500	52,500	56,250	56,250	56,250	56,250	56,250
3100 SNP	3,898	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
3200 Enterprise Operations	1,201,202	1,336,047	1,253,514	1,244,275	1,172,221	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 36,022,875	\$ 40,855,236	\$ 37,629,641	\$ 28,265,011	\$ 22,728,255	\$ 22,530,549	\$ 22,633,692	\$ 22,740,938
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$ 1,163,492	\$ 444,634	\$ (37,442)	\$ 570,990	\$ 1,291,183	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Sources (Uses):								
Transfers In	323,600	88,228	-	45,900	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	(347,964)	(88,421)	(49,991)	(45,900)	-	-	-	-
Total Other Sources (Uses)	(24,365)	(193)	(49,991)	-	-	-	-	-
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 1,139,128	\$ 444,441	\$ (87,433)	\$ 570,990	\$ 1,291,183	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	3,843,923	4,983,051	5,427,492	5,340,059	5,911,049	7,202,232	7,202,232	7,202,232
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 4,983,051	\$ 5,427,492	\$ 5,340,059	\$ 5,911,049	\$ 7,202,232	\$ 7,202,232	\$ 7,202,232	\$ 7,202,232

Paulding County School District
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	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
Summary by State Object:								
100 Salaries	\$ 15,810,702	\$ 17,426,351	\$ 14,770,113	\$ 8,511,395	\$ 6,278,486	\$ 6,341,271	\$ 6,404,683	\$ 6,468,730
200 Benefits	5,627,204	7,150,145	6,424,889	3,853,305	3,257,191	3,297,461	3,330,435	3,363,740
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 21,437,905	\$ 24,576,496	\$ 21,195,002	\$ 12,364,699	\$ 9,535,677	\$ 9,638,731	\$ 9,735,119	\$ 9,832,470
Other Expenditures:								
300 Purchased Profess & Tech Services	\$ 2,923,111	\$ 2,580,002	\$ 3,021,092	\$ 2,585,265	\$ 1,254,680	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000
321 Contracted Service - Teachers	21,405	59,003	72,321	100,755	50,000	90,379	100,274	110,168
332 Drug Testing and Fingerprinting	-	-	464	-	2,100	3,300	3,300	3,300
340 Professional Legal Services	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
430 R&M Services	3,946	4,426	3,037	4,505	1,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
441 Rental of Land or Buildings	-	200	1,112	-	500	-	-	-
442 Rental of Equipment and Vehicles	-	-	449	682	-	-	-	-
530 Communication	9,185	10,457	295,084	3,226	408,416	200,000	200,000	200,000
532 Commun - Web-Based Subt and Licens	658,322	1,445,878	1,347,324	1,014,886	466,804	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
580 Travel - Employees	54,733	116,322	182,409	138,889	136,128	136,000	136,000	136,000
595 Other Purchased Services	7,849	23,184	72,772	53,984	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
610 Supplies	5,668,611	7,199,769	7,307,005	9,055,415	8,179,652	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
611 Supplies - Technology Related	57,002	75,140	41,270	145,576	1,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
612 Computer Software	4,938	5,575	-	-	-	-	-	-
615 Expendable Equipment	198,796	310,889	246,185	278,271	58,136	250,000	250,000	250,000
616 Expendable Computer Equipment	1,202,552	150,066	150,732	177,997	101,021	150,000	150,000	150,000
620 Energy	193,152	1,056,530	1,084,820	1,213,717	1,165,972	1,085,000	1,085,000	1,085,000
640 Digital/Electronic Textbooks	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
641 Textbooks - Printed	421,713	765	89,225	7,322	-	-	-	-
642 Books (Non-Textbooks) & Periodicals	1,156,148	1,269,035	852,415	420,439	18,220	17,203	20,000	20,000
720 Building Acq, Construction, and Impr	-	-	-	-	750,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
730 Purch of Equip - (Not Buses or Comp)	23,350	10,600	-	6,494	-	-	-	-
810 Dues and Fees	146,300	196,080	303,142	307,378	267,075	255,935	250,000	250,000
880 Federal Indirect Cost Charges	1,647,587	1,748,319	1,244,780	376,728	231,874	250,000	250,000	250,000
890 Other Expenditures	54,270	1,500	119,000	8,783	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total State Objects	\$ 36,022,875	\$ 40,855,236	\$ 37,629,641	\$ 28,265,011	\$ 22,728,255	\$ 22,530,549	\$ 22,633,692	\$ 22,740,938

School Nutrition Fund

The **School Nutrition Fund** accounts for activities associated with the District's School Nutrition Program (SNP). Although a Special Revenue Fund, the School Nutrition Fund is presented separately for budget appropriation and internal reporting purposes.

Major (Significant) Funding Sources and Uses (Expenditure Categories)

Federal Funding Sources (National Child Nutrition Program) account for 68.4% of the proposed revenue budget.

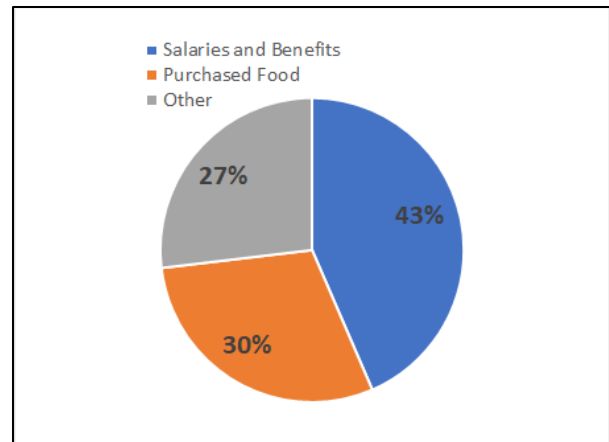
Other Local Sources Revenue

Other Local Sources (Meal Purchases) account for 29.3% of the proposed revenue budget.

Salaries and Benefits Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits account for 44.0% of the Proposed Budget, including:

- \$6.9 million in Salaries or 24.5%
- \$5.4 million in Benefit costs or 19.0%



Purchased Food Expenditures account for \$8.4 million or 29.6% of the Proposed Budget.

Underlying Assumptions and Significant Trends for Major Funding Sources and Uses

Underlying Assumptions:

Federal Funding Sources

- As is the case for most grants, should the funding of these programs be eliminated or reduced, the services provided would likely be negatively impacted.

Local Funding Sources

- Meal purchases are volatile and sensitive to governmental regulations.

Salaries and Benefits

- Cost of labor will continue to grow.

Purchased Food

- As a commodity, purchased food cost is volatile, and has historically increased due to inflation and rising fuel costs.

Significant Trends or Factors Influencing Budget Decisions:

Demographic and Economic Factors

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program Eligibility. *Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program (FRL)* is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes free or reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house.

FRL participation is a measurement of student wealth and is directly impacted by the demographic and economic conditions of Paulding County.

The FRL participation percentage decreased 2.7% from October 2023 to October 2024, from 53.9% to 51.2%, respectively.

The Statewide participation percentage increased 3.9%, from 63.7% to 67.6%.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility (FRL)

School	Oct-23 %FRL	Oct-24 %FRL	Change
0299 - Allgood Elementary School	76.17	72.75	(3.42)
0103 - Bessie L. Baggett Elementary	70.93	70.59	(0.34)
0110 - Burnt Hickory Elementary School	29.13	27.10	(2.03)
0199 - C. A. Roberts Elementary School	61.30	54.91	(6.39)
0410 - Carl Scoggins Sr. Middle school	54.51	52.78	(1.73)
0304 - Connie Dugan Elementary School	66.09	65.09	(1.00)
1050 - Dallas Elementary School	82.19	79.69	(2.50)
0292 - East Paulding High School	50.95	48.51	(2.44)
0394 - East Paulding Middle School	52.13	46.35	(5.78)
0194 - Floyd L. Shelton Elementary School at Crossroad	29.35	27.79	(1.56)
0310 - Hal Hutchens Elementary	72.43	71.24	(1.19)
2352 - Herschel Jones Middle School	73.92	71.70	(2.22)
5050 - Hiram Elementary School	72.14	71.76	(0.38)
0101 - Hiram High School	67.66	63.22	(4.44)
0404 - Irma C. Austin Middle School	63.63	58.31	(5.32)
0297 - J. A. Dobbins Middle School	75.00	71.37	(3.63)
0201 - Lena Mae Moses Middle School	53.07	47.99	(5.08)
0104 - Lillian C. Poole Elementary School	64.03	62.03	(2.00)
0188 - McGarity Elementary School	61.00	57.97	(3.03)
0198 - Nebo Elementary School	63.20	59.91	(3.29)
2052 - New Georgia Elementary School	55.69	52.10	(3.59)
0109 - North Paulding High School	31.65	29.29	(2.36)
0294 - Northside Elementary School	60.03	58.62	(1.41)
0213 - P. B. Ritch Middle School	68.94	68.26	(0.68)
2552 - Paulding County High School	61.11	59.12	(1.99)
0204 - Roland W. Russom Elementary	37.46	33.58	(3.88)
0197 - Sam D. Panter Elementary School	71.27	70.69	(0.58)
0108 - Sammy McClure Sr. Middle School	27.35	24.82	(2.53)
0210 - Sara M. Ragsdale Elementary	66.19	61.36	(4.83)
0106 - South Paulding High School	48.92	46.89	(2.03)
0192 - South Paulding Middle School	61.49	58.78	(2.71)
4052 - Union Elementary School	59.80	50.58	(9.22)
0113 - WC Abney Elementary	49.65	48.77	(0.88)
Paulding County School District	53.94	51.16	(2.78)
Statewide Average	63.69	67.55	3.86

Enrollment Factors

Enrollment Growth. Increases in enrollment may result in additional grant awards, but funding may not cover all the additional costs associated with required services. For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. In the prior decade, from FY2015 to FY2025, enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0%. FY2025 enrollment decreased 423 or -1.3% to 31,168. 2026 is projected to decline 93 students to 31,075 or -0.3%.

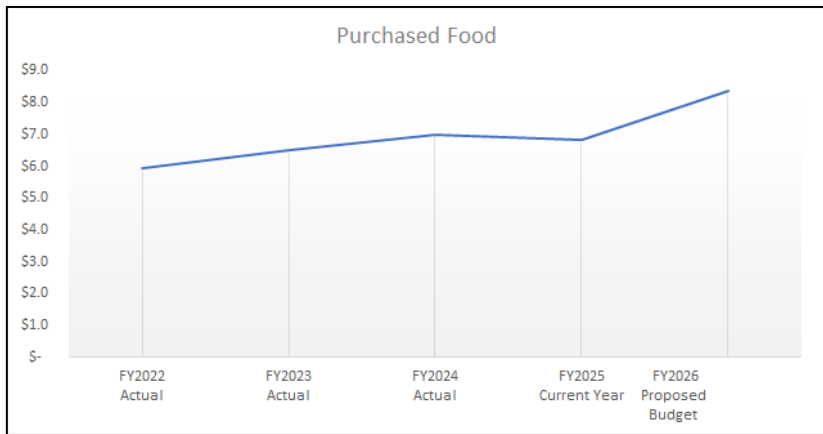
Funding Factors

Federal Budget. Changes in the appropriations for grants and/or the allocation methodology.

Meal Purchases. Meal purchases are volatile and sensitive to governmental regulations.

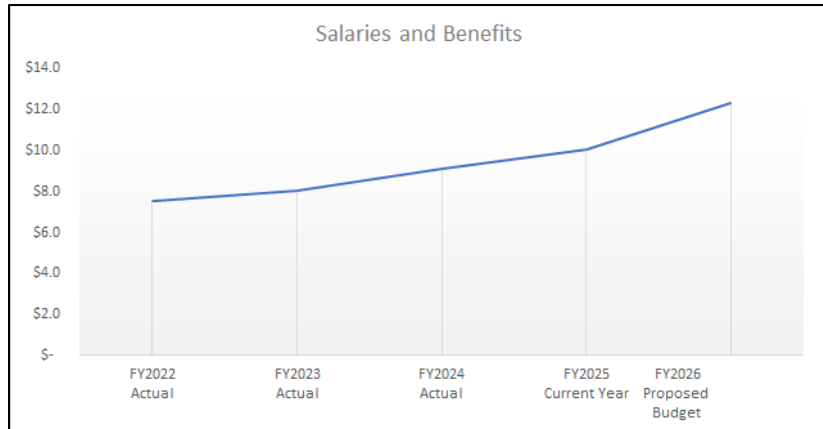
Operating Factors

Food Cost. Purchase Food accounts for \$8.4 million or 29.6% of the Proposed Budget. As a commodity, purchased food cost is volatile, and has historically increased due to inflation.



Rising Cost of Human Capital.

With 44.0% of the proposed focused on salaries and benefits, the rising cost of human capital is a major factor bearing on SNP.



Material Changes (Shifts) from Current Year Budget

Changes in Revenue

No material changes are anticipated, beyond current trends.

Changes in Expenditures

The proposed expenditure budget is \$6.9 million or 32.4% greater than the current year. Part of the anticipated increase is due to a \$1.7 million increase in benefits for FY2026. The State Health Benefit Plan is increasing 19.3% for classified employees with no additional funds from the state to help cover the cost. Food purchases are expected to increase by \$1.5 million due to the current economic conditions of rising food costs and inflation. Lastly, the \$2.3 million purchase of equipment for the new elementary school is anticipated to be ordered before the end of FY2026.

Material or significant changes are defined as a minimum of 0.05% of proposed expenditures and a 10% change (absolute value) from the current to Proposed Budget.

Significant Changes in Fund Balance

The Proposed Budget reflects a decline of \$8.0 million in fund balance. This decline is the result of anticipated cuts from the federal government budget and a spending plan designed to bring fund balance more in line with industry standards. To provide some relief to students who do not qualify for free-and-reduced meals, the School Nutrition program will keep meal prices at before pandemic costs. Fund balance will be used to help cover the additional cost.

The budget does not reflect a negative trend in fund balance during the three-year forecast period.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Financial Data

School Nutrition Program									
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast	
Revenue:									
Other Local Sources	\$ 1,476,030	\$ 5,908,893	\$ 5,768,779	\$ 5,738,154	\$ 5,937,256	\$ 7,011,462	\$ 7,244,525	\$ 7,484,222	
State Source	766,668	553,616	568,172	551,910	482,484	560,000	560,000	560,000	
Federal	22,167,969	12,649,614	14,084,116	13,611,086	13,872,533	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000	
Total Revenue	\$ 24,410,667	\$ 19,112,122	\$ 20,421,067	\$ 19,901,149	\$ 20,292,273	\$ 21,571,462	\$ 21,804,525	\$ 22,044,222	
Expenditures:									
3100 SNP	\$ 17,306,607	\$ 18,709,849	\$ 20,604,173	\$ 21,382,915	\$ 28,302,813	\$ 21,571,462	\$ 21,804,525	\$ 22,044,222	
Total Expenditures	\$ 17,306,607	\$ 18,709,849	\$ 20,604,173	\$ 21,382,915	\$ 28,302,813	\$ 21,571,462	\$ 21,804,525	\$ 22,044,222	
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$ 7,104,061	\$ 402,274	\$ (183,105)	\$ (1,481,766)	\$ (8,010,540)	\$ (0)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Other Sources (Uses):									
Transfers In	1,100,291	847,296	901,740	907,096	906,248	910,000	910,000	910,000	
Transfers Out	(1,100,291)	(847,296)	(901,740)	(907,096)	(906,248)	(910,000)	(910,000)	(910,000)	
Total Other Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 7,104,061	\$ 402,274	\$ (183,105)	\$ (1,481,766)	\$ (8,010,540)	\$ (0)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Beginning Fund Balance	4,445,365	11,549,426	11,951,699	11,768,594	10,286,828	2,276,288	2,276,288	2,276,288	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 11,549,426	\$ 11,951,699	\$ 11,768,594	\$ 10,286,828	\$ 2,276,288	\$ 2,276,288	\$ 2,276,288	\$ 2,276,288	
Summary by State Object:									
100 Salaries	\$ 5,176,060	\$ 5,434,387	\$ 6,144,037	\$ 6,403,367	\$ 6,947,332	\$ 6,531,434	\$ 6,662,063	\$ 6,795,304	
200 Benefits	2,392,378	2,621,255	2,947,012	3,682,016	5,366,021	3,755,657	3,830,770	3,907,385	
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 7,568,438	\$ 8,055,641	\$ 9,091,050	\$ 10,085,383	\$ 12,313,353	\$ 10,287,091	\$ 10,492,833	\$ 10,702,689	
Other Expenditures:									
300 Purchased Profess & Tech Services	\$ 19,926	\$ 32,850	\$ 30,462	\$ 70,792	\$ 144,940	\$ 31,375	\$ 32,317	\$ 33,286	
410 Water, Sewer and Cleaning Services	232,636	282,070	283,322	301,739	294,885	284,792	284,335	284,865	
430 R&M Services	104,190	143,329	147,013	167,493	160,139	162,518	162,894	162,781	
520 Insurance (non-Employee Benefits)	30,131	31,722	34,366	44,410	47,500	47,500	47,500	47,500	
530 Communication	24,885	24,483	24,379	24,468	28,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	
580 Travel - Employees	29,044	41,649	37,213	25,536	55,550	26,302	27,091	27,904	
591 SFS Commodity Hauling	66,083	133,642	147,651	176,630	210,000	176,928	176,236	176,523	
610 Supplies	714,259	747,511	754,216	745,938	1,122,999	745,317	745,676	746,046	
612 Computer Software	43,545	44,750	46,318	46,458	61,300	46,552	46,449	46,542	
615 Expendable Equipment	18,212	33,835	169,800	57,733	143,067	59,465	61,249	63,087	
616 Expendable Computer Equipment	33,450	23,123	33,179	44,954	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	
620 Energy	241,257	257,723	275,230	298,762	326,435	307,725	316,957	326,466	
630 Purchased Food	5,948,228	6,498,249	6,982,799	6,839,603	8,382,666	6,844,791	6,850,134	6,855,638	
635 Food Acquisitions	1,191,885	1,193,346	1,212,614	1,208,887	1,340,538	1,210,154	1,211,458	1,212,802	
730 Purch of Equip - (Not Buses or Comp)	211,285	267,245	342,838	282,030	2,623,400	290,491	299,205	308,182	
810 Dues and Fees	4,986	7,739	10,517	8,549	12,541	8,805	9,070	9,342	
880 Federal Indirect Cost Charges	824,164	890,942	981,206	953,549	1,000,000	982,156	981,620	981,069	
Total State Objects	\$ 17,306,607	\$ 18,709,849	\$ 20,604,173	\$ 21,382,915	\$ 28,302,813	\$ 21,571,462	\$ 21,804,525	\$ 22,044,222	

Capital Projects Fund

Capital Projects Fund accounts for and reports financial resources including Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST), bond proceeds and grants from the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (including the State Capital Outlay Program) that are restricted, committed or assigned for capital outlay expenditures, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

[Major \(Significant\) Funding Sources and Uses \(Expenditure Categories\)](#)

Local Taxes: E-SPLOST

Major fund sources include a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for education (E-SPLOST), a one-cent sales tax to help fund capital improvements and debt repayment. For the Proposed Budget, E-SPLOST VI collections are projected to total \$31.3 million.

FY2026	
Jul-25	\$ 2,773,771
Aug-25	2,763,062
Sep-25	2,566,955
Oct-25	2,542,466
Nov-25	2,611,229
Dec-25	2,644,116
Jan-26	2,976,359
Feb-26	2,338,063
Mar-26	2,267,139
Apr-26	2,628,645
May-26	2,563,362
Jun-26	2,665,657
Total	\$ 31,340,824

State Sources: State Capital Outlay Program

The purpose of the State's reimbursable capital outlay program is to ensure that every public-school student is housed in a facility that is structurally sound, well maintained and has adequate space and equipment to meet each student's instructional needs. State capital outlay funds may be used for new construction projects needed due to enrollment growth; to renovate, modernize or replace facilities that have become obsolete or unsafe; to provide new additions to existing facilities or relocation of existing facilities; and to consolidate facilities.

For the Proposed Budget, State Capital Outlay Program reimbursements will total approximately \$4.5 million for the following projects:

- Baggett Elementary School
 - \$152,463 Renovation/Modification
- Crossroads Middle School
 - \$178,786 Build Middle School #10
- Roberts Elementary School
 - \$181,865 Renovation/Modification
- Poole Elementary School
 - \$1,788,063 Renovation/Modification
- Moses Middle School
 - \$2,211,028 Renovation/Modification



E-SPLOST Capital Projects (Various Expenditures)

The following capital projects will be funded through E-SPLOST:

- Roberts Elementary School – Renovation/Modification
- Poole Elementary School – Renovation/Modification
- Moses Middle School – Renovation/Modification
- Austin Middle School – Renovation/Modification
- Various Technology, Miscellaneous, and Maintenance Projects

Construction Fund Capital Projects (Various Expenditures)

The following capital projects will be funded through the Construction Fund:

- North Paulding High School Addition
- Roberts Elementary School Addition
- Northside Elementary School Addition
- Other miscellaneous maintenance projects

Some major projects span multiple fiscal years. Below are major multi-year projects:

Projects	Prior Years	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Cost
ES #20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,751,332	32,110,178	\$ 8,366,649	\$ 44,228,159
North Paulding HS Addition	\$ 1,300,573	\$16,268,252	\$ 15,948,381	1,207,922	\$ -	\$ 34,725,127
Northside ES Addition	\$ -	\$ 333,155	\$ 8,875,573	1,087,234	\$ -	\$ 10,295,962
Roberts ES Addition	\$ -	\$ 242,699	\$ 5,625,130	3,327,459	\$ -	\$ 9,195,288
Roberts ES Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ 252,840	\$ 5,660,231	474,435	\$ -	\$ 6,387,506
Poole ES Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ 158,779	\$ 4,930,275	1,995,550	\$ -	\$ 7,084,604
Moses ES Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ 108,596	\$ 4,813,326	3,479,550	\$ -	\$ 8,401,473
Austin MS Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	4,560,000	\$ 4,560,000	\$ 9,120,000
Dallas Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,452	560,865	\$ 431,683	\$ 1,000,000
South Paulding HS Ren/Mod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 222,929	4,155,989	\$ 8,275,082	\$ 12,654,000
				52,959,183		

Underlying Assumptions and Significant Trends for Major Funding Sources and Uses

Underlying Assumptions:

Transfers Out

Debt service is primarily funded through E-SPLOST VI (transferred from the Capital Projects Fund). An underlying assumption is the anticipated collection of E-SPLOST VI proceeds.

FY2026	
Jul-25	\$ 2,773,771
Aug-25	2,763,062
Sep-25	2,566,955
Oct-25	2,542,466
Nov-25	2,611,229
Dec-25	2,644,116
Jan-26	2,976,359
Feb-26	2,338,063
Mar-26	2,267,139
Apr-26	2,628,645
May-26	2,563,362
Jun-26	2,665,657
Total	\$ 31,340,824

Debt Service

On February 1, 2025, the School District issued General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, Series 2025 in the original principal amount of \$58,720,000.00, for the purpose of refunding the Series 2022 Bond.

Then on May 13, 2025, the Board approved the School District to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$61,640,000. The proceeds from these bonds will be used for capital outlay projects. The School District issued these bonds on May 29, 2025. Interest payments will begin in FY2026 with the first Principal payment not until February 2027 (FY2027).

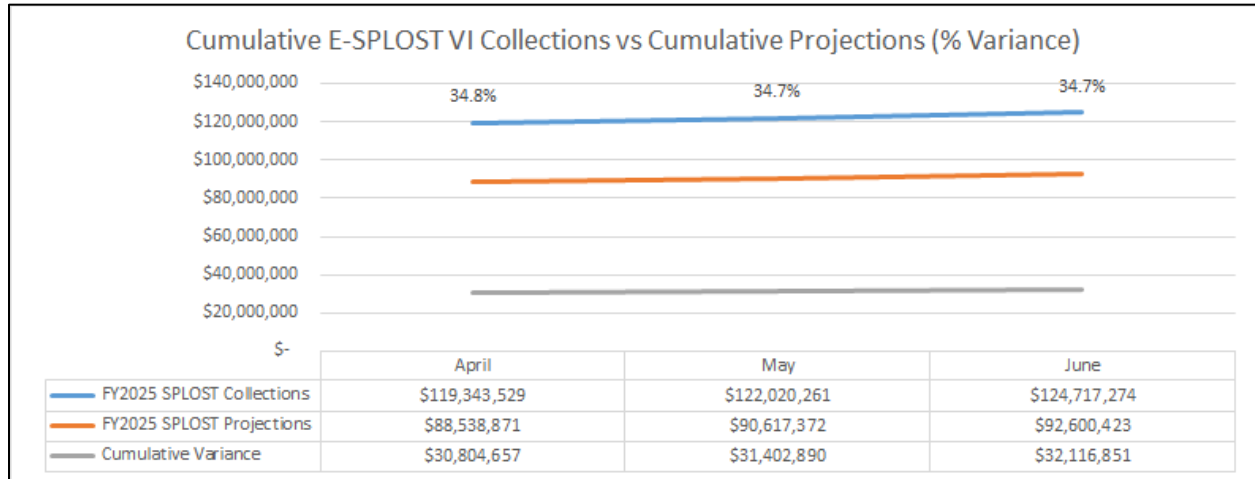
Significant Trends or Factors Influencing Budget Decisions:

Demographic and Economic Factors

Local Economy. E-SPLOST collections are directly impacted by the economy of Paulding County. Which is expected to perform at historical levels during the projected budget period.

Funding Factors

SPLOST Receipts. Capital projects are primarily funded through E-SPLOST collections. Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (Fiscal Research Center) provided the collection projections for E-SPLOST VI. Although volatile, collections have historically exceeded projections. As of June 30, 2025, the cumulative variance to projections was 34.7%.



State Capital Outlay Program. Continued funding of the State's Capital Outlay Program.

Operating Factors

Construction Costs. Operating factors could include the cost of construction.

Material Changes (Shifts) from Current Year Budget

Changes in Revenue

The proposed revenue budget is \$67.9 million or 65.5% less than the current year. This is primarily related to the bond issuance in May 2025 in the amount of \$61.6 million. Other anticipated changes in revenue are related to different capital projects between fiscal years, and their reimbursement-eligible expenditures. The \$2.7 million decrease in other local sources is due to the volatile nature of interest rates and being able to project how much we expect to receive in FY2026 with the issuance of the bond in 2025.

Changes in Expenditures

The proposed expenditure budget is \$8.4 million or 14.7% greater than the current year. This is primarily due to the construction of a new elementary school totaling \$32.1 million in FY2026. The construction project will combat overcrowding due to growth in the north part of the District.

Material or significant changes are defined as a minimum of 0.05% of proposed expenditures and a 10% change (absolute value) from the current to Proposed Budget.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Significant Changes in Fund Balance

The Proposed Budget reflects a decrease of \$45.9 million in Capital Projects fund balance. This anticipated decrease is the result of the bond issuance in FY2025 and starting to use those funds for the various capital projects that span multiple fiscal years.

The budget does not reflect a negative trend in ending fund balance during the three-year forecast period.

Operating Statement

Capital Project Fund Operating Statement as presented to the Board of Education on June 10, 2025.

Paulding County School District						
July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026						
Capital Project Fund(s)						
	SPLOST VII	2025 Bonds	SPLOST VI	2020 Bonds	Fund 300	2025 Budget
Revenue:						
SPLOST Collections						
Collections	\$ 28,567,053		\$ 2,773,771			\$ 31,340,824
Capital Outlay Program			4,512,204			4,512,204
Other Revenue						
Total Revenue	\$ 28,567,053	\$ -	\$ 7,285,975	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,853,028
Expenditures:						
Audit Fees			\$ 5,900			\$ 5,900
Construction, Additions and Renovations						
ES #20		32,110,178				32,110,178
North Paulding HS Addition				\$ 1,207,922		1,207,922
Northside ES Addition				1,087,234		1,087,234
Roberts ES Addition				3,327,459		3,327,459
Roberts ES Ren/Mod			\$ 474,435			474,435
Poole ES Ren/Mod			1,995,550			1,995,550
Moses ES Ren/Mod			3,479,550			3,479,550
Austin MS Ren/Mod			4,560,000			4,560,000
Dallas Ren/Mod		560,865				560,865
South Paulding HS Ren/Mod		4,155,989				4,155,989
Other Projects						
Safety & Security			1,000,000			1,000,000
Fine Arts			751,667			751,667
Multi-Purpose Athletic Facilities		5,238,750				5,238,750
Athletic Improvements			1,075,000			1,075,000
Athletic Field Turf		1,486,339				1,486,339
Athletic Field Lights		2,713,440				2,713,440
Miscellaneous*			310,955		250,000	560,955
Total Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 46,265,561	\$ 13,653,059	\$ -	\$ 5,872,614	\$ 65,791,234
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 28,567,053	\$ (46,265,561)	\$ (6,367,084)	\$ -	\$ (5,872,614)	\$ (29,938,206)
Transfers From/(To) Other Funds			5,000,000	(5,000,000)		-
Transfer for Debt Service	(2,094,644)		(7,930,394)	(5,893,750)		(15,918,788)
Estimated Fund Balance (July 1, 2025)**		65,000,000	12,641,830	17,383,692	5,328,879	100,354,401
Estimated Fund Balance (June 30, 2026)	\$ 26,472,409	\$ 18,734,439	\$ 3,344,352	\$ 6,489,942	\$ (543,736)	\$ 54,497,406

* Other projects includes program-related renovations, recurring renovations, and other miscellaneous projects.

** Based on FY2025 Cash Flow

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Financial Data

Capital Projects Fund									
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast	
Revenue:									
Local Taxes	\$ 27,890,879	\$ 29,868,722	\$ 30,977,473	\$ 32,008,665	\$ 31,340,824	\$ 31,506,787	\$ 31,506,789	\$ 31,506,788	
Other Local Sources	203,002	3,002,333	3,845,712	2,747,972	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	
State Source	1,217,619	6,152,476	4,546,813	3,198,417	4,512,204	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	
Bond Issuance	-	-	-	65,846,468	-	-	-	-	
Total Revenue	\$ 29,311,500	\$ 39,023,531	\$ 39,369,998	\$ 103,801,522	\$ 35,853,028	\$ 37,506,787	\$ 37,506,789	\$ 37,506,788	
Expenditures:									
2500 Business Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,852	\$ 847,365	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2600 Maintenance	-	-	1,260	-	-	-	-	-	
2700 Transportation	-	-	-	5,994,810	-	-	-	-	
4000 Acquisition & Construction	12,234,823	24,599,699	72,064,670	50,507,796	65,791,234	55,184,810	8,334,691	19,600,000	
Total Expenditures	\$ 12,234,823	\$ 24,599,699	\$ 72,069,782	\$ 57,349,971	\$ 65,791,234	\$ 55,184,810	\$ 8,334,691	\$ 19,600,000	
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$ 17,076,676	\$ 14,423,832	\$ (32,699,784)	\$ 46,451,551	\$ (29,938,206)	\$ (17,678,023)	\$ 29,172,098	\$ 17,906,788	
Other Sources (Uses):									
Transfers In	54,275,016	63,211,311	118,378,713	87,101,738	-	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	
Transfers Out	(35,412,571)	(58,589,210)	(134,134,534)	(94,586,775)	(15,918,788)	(26,402,921)	(23,029,121)	(23,042,655)	
Total Other Sources (Uses)	18,862,445	4,622,101	(15,755,822)	(7,485,038)	(15,918,788)	(22,902,921)	(19,529,121)	(19,542,655)	
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 35,939,121	\$ 19,045,933	\$ (48,455,606)	\$ 38,966,514	\$ (45,856,994)	\$ (40,580,944)	\$ 9,642,977	\$ (1,635,867)	
Beginning Fund Balance	52,356,811	88,295,932	107,341,865	58,886,259	97,852,773	51,995,778	11,414,834	21,057,811	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 88,295,932	\$ 107,341,865	\$ 58,886,259	\$ 97,852,773	\$ 51,995,778	\$ 11,414,834	\$ 21,057,811	\$ 19,421,944	
Summary by State Object:									
300 Purchased Profess & Tech Services	\$ 1,297,250	\$ 2,741,848	\$ 2,845,514	\$ 2,997,167	\$ 5,900	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	
520 Other Purchased Property Services	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
532 Commun - Web-Based Subt and Licens	-	-	1,260	8,001	-	-	-	-	
595 Other Purchased Services	55,615	142,192	270,301	312,298	-	300,000	300,000	300,000	
610 Supplies	4,509	3,031	5,489	3,190	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	
611 Supplies - Technology Related	20,365	22,239	68,124	79,827	-	80,000	80,000	80,000	
612 Computer Software	-	-	-	12,979	-	-	-	-	
615 Expendable Equipment	146,915	283,597	1,506,410	1,191,169	2,826,667	2,000,000	-	-	
616 Expendable Computer Equipment	33,073	29,096	739,758	1,215,021	-	739,323	851,301	963,279	
642 Books (Non-Textbooks) & Periodicals	-	-	-	193,928	-	-	-	-	
710 Land Acquisition and Development	-	-	284,671	10,000	-	-	-	-	
715 Land Improvements	-	12,095	1,565,232	1,252,935	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
720 Building Acq, Construction, and Impr	10,583,113	20,053,966	64,053,898	42,287,314	62,647,712	47,060,487	6,098,390	17,251,721	
730 Purch of Equip - (Not Buses or Comp)	83,983	1,311,635	709,180	919,394	-	1,000,000	-	-	
732 Purchase or Lease-Purchase of Buses	-	-	-	5,994,810	-	-	-	-	
734 Purchase or Lease-Technology Related	-	-	19,733	27,737	-	-	-	-	
810 Dues and Fees	-	-	211	-	310,955	-	-	-	
833 Bond Issuance	-	-	-	844,202	-	-	-	-	
890 Other Expenditures	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Total State Objects	\$ 12,234,823	\$ 24,599,699	\$ 72,069,782	\$ 57,349,971	\$ 65,791,234	\$ 55,184,810	\$ 8,334,691	\$ 19,600,000	

Debt Service Funds

Debt Service Funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned, including taxes (property) legally restricted for the payment of general long-term principal and interest and paying agent's fees.

The School District's bonded debt consists of general obligation bonds that are generally callable with interest payable semiannually. Bond proceeds primarily pay for acquiring or constructing capital facilities. Bonds have also been issued to advance-refund previously issued bonds. The School District repays general obligation bonds from voter-approved property and/or E-SPLOST tax collections. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the School District.¹¹

On February 1, 2025, the School District issued General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, Series 2025 in the original principal amount of \$58,720,000.00, for the purpose of refunding the Series 2022 Bond.

Then on May 13, 2025, the Board approved the School District to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$61,640,000. The proceeds from these bonds will be used for capital outlay projects. The School District issued these bonds on May 29, 2025. Interest payments will begin in FY2026 with the first Principal payment not until February 2027 (FY2027).

As of June 30, 2025, the District has \$131.6 million in outstanding bonds. This amount of debt, applicable to debt limits, is well below the legal debt margin. Included in the amortization tables below, debt service for FY2026 includes:

Principal	\$ 12,340,000
Interest	3,546,627
Annual Fees*	<u>9,306</u>
Total Debt Service	\$ 15,895,933

* \$9,306 has been budgeted for the annual agent fees and dissemination services.

Legal Debt Limit and Margin¹²

The Constitution of the State of Georgia provides that the District may not incur long-term obligations payable out of general property taxes without the approval of a majority of the qualified voters of the District voting at an election called to approve the obligations. In addition, under the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the District may not incur long-term obligations payable out of general property taxes in excess of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of all taxable property within the District.

Short-term obligations (those payable within the same calendar year in which they are incurred), lease and installment purchase obligations subject to annual appropriation and intergovernmental obligations are not subject to the legal limitations described above. In addition, refunded obligations cease to count against the District's debt limitations.

¹¹ Annual Financial Report, Basic Financial Statements Note 7

¹² Annual Report on Bond Indebtedness

As computed in the table below, based upon the 2024 gross tax digest, the District could incur (upon necessary voter approval) approximately \$892.5 million of long-term obligations payable out of general property taxes (or general obligation bonds) before reaching its Debt Limit (10% of Assessed Value) of \$1.0 billion.

Computation of Legal Debt Margin	2024
2024 Gross Tax Digest (Gross Assessed Value of Taxable Property): ¹	\$10,241,196,345
Less: District Bond Exemptions: ²	0
Net Tax Digest for Bond Purposes:	10,241,196,345
Debt Limit (10% of Assessed Value):	1,024,119,635
Less: Amount of Debt, Applicable to Debt Limit, after the issuance of the bonds	(131,570,000)
Legal Debt Margin	\$892,549,635

¹ Figure per the Georgia Department of Revenue - 2024 Tax Digest Consolidated Summary.

² Not reported. The legal debt margin should be based upon the net general obligation bond digest. The digest was not prepared because the outstanding General Obligation Bonds have been paid with proceeds of the Existing Sales Tax. If prepared, the net general obligation bond digest would have been smaller than the gross digest, resulting in a lower debt margin.

Major (Significant) Funding Sources and Uses (Expenditure Categories)

Transfers In

The Capital Projects Fund is the primary source for the Debt Service Fund. Debt service is primarily funded through a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for education (E-SPLOST), a one-cent sales tax to help fund capital improvements and debt repayment (transferred from the E-SPLOST Capital Projects Fund).

Prior to 2011, a bond millage rate was imposed to fund debt service through property taxes. Collected delinquent property taxes are also used to fund debt service

Debt Service

Debt service expenditures account for \$15.9 million or 100.0% of the Proposed Budget.

Underlying Assumptions and Significant Trends for Major Funding Sources and Uses

Underlying Assumptions:

Transfers In

Debt service is primarily funded through E-SPLOST VI (transferred from the E-SPLOST Capital Projects Fund). An underlying assumption is the collection of projected FY2026 E-SPLOST VI proceeds. For more information, see Capital Projects Funds.

FY2026	
Jul-25	\$ 2,773,771
Aug-25	2,763,062
Sep-25	2,566,955
Oct-25	2,542,466
Nov-25	2,611,229
Dec-25	2,644,116
Jan-26	2,976,359
Feb-26	2,338,063
Mar-26	2,267,139
Apr-26	2,628,645
May-26	2,563,362
Jun-26	2,665,657
Total	<u>\$ 31,340,824</u>

Debt Service Amortization Schedules

	Series 2020					Series 2025 - Refs Callable 2022					Series 2025 - GO Bond					Combined		
	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Semi-Annual Total		Principal	Coupon	Interest	Semi-Annual Total		Principal	Coupon	Interest	Semi-Annual Total		Principal	Interest	Semi-Annual Total
8/1/2025	5,470,000	5.000%	280,250	5,750,250		-	-	525,544	525,544		-	-	-	-		5,470,000	805,794	6,275,794
2/1/2026	-	-	143,500	143,500		6,870,000	1.790%	525,544	7,395,544		-	-	2,071,789	2,071,789		6,870,000	2,740,833	9,610,833
8/1/2026	5,740,000	5.000%	143,500	5,883,500		-	-	464,058	464,058		-	-	1,541,000	1,541,000		5,740,000	2,148,558	7,888,558
2/1/2027	-	-	-	-		7,000,000	1.790%	464,058	7,464,058		9,500,000	5.000%	1,541,000	11,041,000		16,500,000	2,005,058	18,505,058
8/1/2027	-	-	-	-		-	-	401,408	401,408		-	-	1,303,500	1,303,500		-	1,704,908	1,704,908
2/1/2028	-	-	-	-		7,135,000	1.790%	401,408	7,536,408		12,475,000	5.000%	1,303,500	13,778,500		19,610,000	1,704,908	21,314,908
8/1/2028	-	-	-	-		-	-	337,549	337,549		-	-	991,625	991,625		-	1,329,174	1,329,174
2/1/2029	-	-	-	-		7,275,000	1.790%	337,549	7,612,549		13,100,000	5.000%	991,625	14,091,625		20,375,000	1,329,174	21,704,174
8/1/2029	-	-	-	-		-	-	272,438	272,438		-	-	664,125	664,125		-	936,563	936,563
2/1/2030	-	-	-	-		7,415,000	1.790%	272,438	7,687,438		13,755,000	5.000%	664,125	14,419,125		21,170,000	936,563	22,106,563
8/1/2030	-	-	-	-		-	-	206,074	206,074		-	-	320,250	320,250		-	526,324	526,324
2/1/2031	-	-	-	-		7,545,000	1.790%	206,074	7,751,074		12,810,000	5.000%	320,250	13,130,250		20,355,000	526,324	20,881,324
8/1/2031	-	-	-	-		-	-	138,546	138,546		-	-	-	-		-	138,546	138,546
2/1/2032	-	-	-	-		7,675,000	1.790%	138,546	7,813,546		-	-	-	-		7,675,000	138,546	7,813,546
8/1/2032	-	-	-	-		-	-	69,855	69,855		-	-	-	-		-	69,855	69,855
2/1/2033	-	-	-	-		7,805,000	1.790%	69,855	7,874,855		-	-	-	-		7,805,000	69,855	7,874,855
Total	11,210,000		567,250	11,777,250		58,720,000		4,830,942	63,550,942		61,640,000		11,712,789	73,352,789		131,570,000	17,110,980	148,680,980

Significant Trends or Factors Influencing Budget Decisions:

Demographic and Economic Factors

Local Economy. E-SPLOST collections are directly impacted by the economy of Paulding County. Which is expected to perform at historical levels during the projected budget period.

Funding Factors

SPLOST Receipts. Debt service is primarily funded through E-SPLOST collections. Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (Fiscal Research Center) provided the collection projections for E-SPLOST VI. Although volatile, collections have historically exceeded projections. As of June 30, 2025, the cumulative variance to projections was 34.7%.

Operating Factors

New Debt Issuances. Operating factors could include the issuance of new debt or the advance-refunding of existing bond issues.

On February 1, 2025, the School District issued General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, Series 2025 in the original principal amount of \$58,720,000.00, for the purpose of refunding the Series 2022 Bond.

Then on May 13, 2025, the Board approved the School District to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$61,640,000. The proceeds from these bonds will be used for capital outlay projects. The School District issued these bonds on May 29, 2025. Interest payments will begin in FY2026 with the first Principal payment not until February 2027 (FY2027).

There are no plans to issue any further debt in the Proposed Budget Year.

Material Changes (Shifts) from Current Year Budget

Changes in Revenue

The increase in revenue in FY2025 was due to earnings from investments. With volatile interest rates, this was not budgeted for FY2026.

Changes in Expenditures

The Proposed Budget reflects a 15.5% increase in expenditures due to the issuance of general obligation bonds in FY2025.

Material or significant changes are defined as a minimum of 0.05% of proposed expenditures and a 10% change (absolute value) from the current to Proposed Budget.

Significant Changes in Fund Balance

The \$5.7 million increase in fund balance for FY2024 was due to transferring SPLOST VI funds from Capital Projects Fund for the August 2024 principal and interest payments for the 2020 Bond.

The budget does not reflect a negative trend in fund balance during the three-year forecast period.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Financial Data

Debt Service Fund									
	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast	
Revenue:									
Local Taxes	\$ 191	\$ 82	\$ -	\$ 171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Other Local Sources	14	14	113,240	181,761	-	-	-	-	
Total Revenue	\$ 205	\$ 96	\$ 113,240	\$ 181,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Expenditures:									
5100 Debt Service	9,525,653	13,831,283	13,784,342	13,783,426	15,918,788	26,402,921	23,029,121	23,042,655	
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,525,653	\$ 13,831,283	\$ 13,784,342	\$ 13,783,426	\$ 15,918,788	\$ 26,402,921	\$ 23,029,121	\$ 23,042,655	
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$ (9,525,449)	\$ (13,831,188)	\$ (13,671,102)	\$ (13,601,494)	\$ (15,918,788)	\$ (26,402,921)	\$ (23,029,121)	\$ (23,042,655)	
Other Sources (Uses):									
Transfers In	9,522,153	13,831,283	25,816,036	25,561,377	15,918,788	26,402,921	23,029,121	23,042,655	
Transfers Out	-	-	(6,430,750)	(11,773,259)	-	-	-	-	
Total Other Sources (Uses)	9,522,153	13,831,283	19,385,286	13,788,118	15,918,788	26,402,921	23,029,121	23,042,655	
Change in Fund Balance	\$ (3,295)	\$ 96	\$ 5,714,184	\$ 186,623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Beginning Fund Balance	3,325,599	3,322,304	3,322,400	9,036,584	9,223,207	9,223,207	9,223,207	9,223,207	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 3,322,304	\$ 3,322,400	\$ 9,036,584	\$ 9,223,207	\$ 9,223,207	\$ 9,223,207	\$ 9,223,207	\$ 9,223,207	
Summary by State Object:									
810 Dues And Fees	\$ 7,306	\$ 8,306	\$ 9,306	\$ 7,386	\$ 9,306	\$ 9,306	\$ 9,306	\$ 9,306	
830 Interest	4,633,347	3,077,977	2,835,036	2,326,040	3,569,482	4,153,615	3,409,815	2,658,349	
831 Redemption of Principal	4,885,000	10,745,000	10,940,000	11,450,000	12,340,000	22,240,000	19,610,000	20,375,000	
Total State Objects	\$ 9,525,653	\$ 13,831,283	\$ 13,784,342	\$ 13,783,426	\$ 15,918,788	\$ 26,402,921	\$ 23,029,121	\$ 23,042,655	

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

The District reported the following accrued obligation for OPEB (other post-employment benefits) in its FY2024 Annual Financial Report. FY2025 data was pending during the budget process.

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

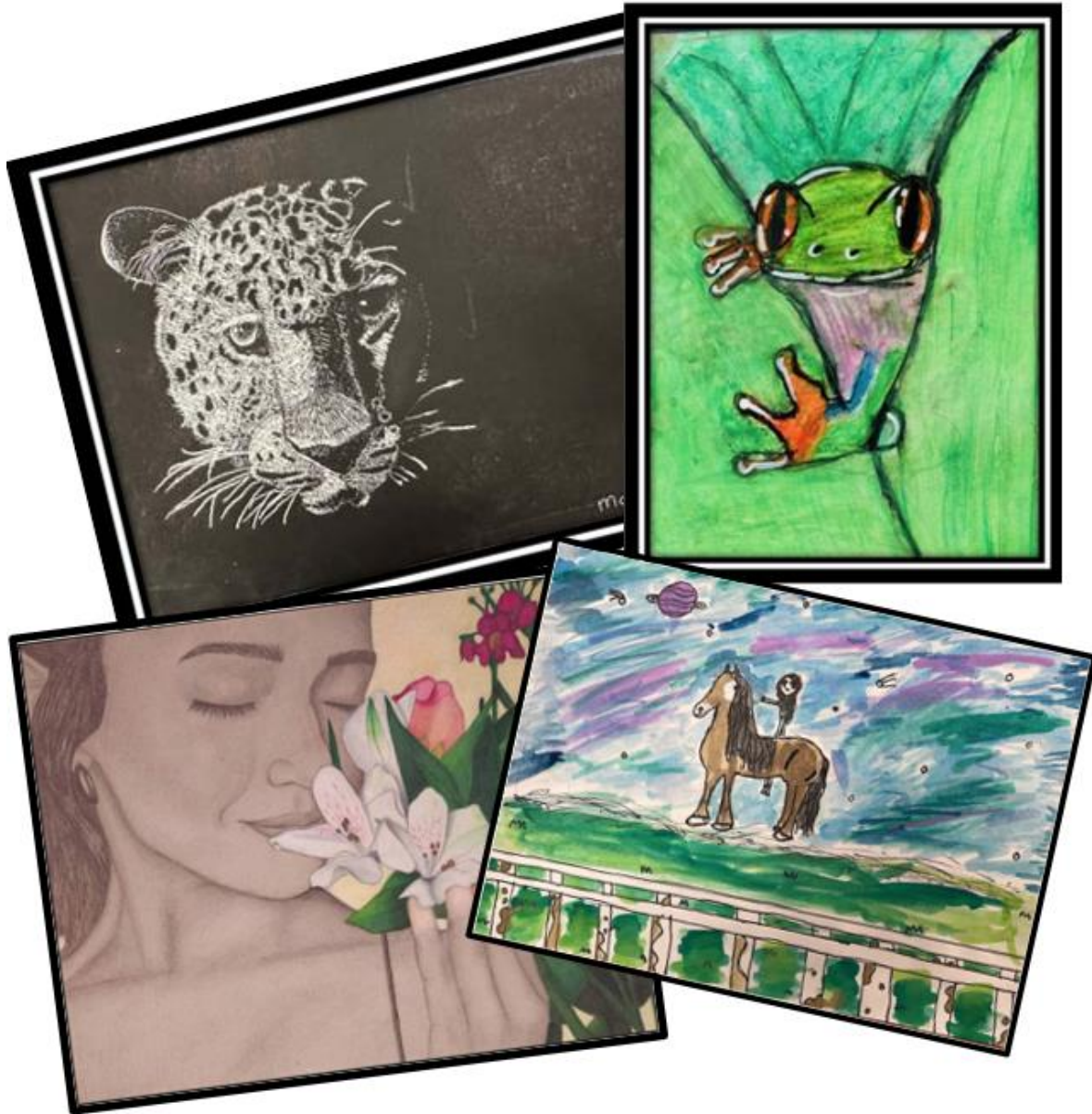
At June 30, 2024, the School District reported a liability of \$185,972,620.00 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022. An expected total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability was actuarially determined based on employer contributions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. At June 30, 2023, the School District's proportion was 1.697851%, which was an increase of 0.122603% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the School District recognized OPEB expense of \$642,827.00. At June 30, 2024, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	OPEB	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 5,420,794.00	\$ 53,413,521.00
Changes of assumptions	33,787,569.00	23,225,159.00
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	111,575.00	-
Changes in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	23,274,623.00	-
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	7,091,015.00	-
Total	\$ 69,685,576.00	\$ 76,638,680.00

Informational Section

Featured Student Artwork from 2024-2025



From left to right: Mason Romo, 8th Grade at Ritch MS; Kylie Stuart, 4th Grade at Baggett ES;
Adriana Bannister, 12th Grade at NPHS; Raegan Ruple, 3rd Grade at New GA ES

Property Taxes & Values

What are property taxes?

Property tax is an ad valorem tax - which means according to value - based upon wealth. Wealth is determined by the property a person owns. All real property and all personal property are taxable unless the property has been exempted by law.

- Real property is land and generally anything that is erected, growing or affixed to the land; and
- personal property is everything that can be owned that is not real estate.

In Georgia, property is required to be assessed at 40% of the fair market value unless otherwise specified by law.

Property Taxable Values

Property is assessed at the county level by the Paulding County Board of Tax Assessors (BOA). The State Revenue Commissioner is responsible for examining the digests of counties in Georgia in order to determine that property has been assessed uniformly and equally between and within the counties.

Property owners that do not agree with the assessed value on their proposed assessment may file an appeal with the BOA.

Each year, the BOA is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the BOA is required by Georgia law to re-determine the value of such property and increase the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

Net Digest

The net digest refers to the assessed value (40%) of all properties in a jurisdiction (or tax district), less appropriate exemptions. For 2024, the net digest for the maintenance and operations of PCSD was \$8.4 billion.

Who Does What?

Board of Tax Assessors:
Determines Property Value

Board of Education:
Recommends a Millage Rate

Board of Commissioners:
Levies the Tax

Tax Commissioner:
Collects the Tax

Georgia Department of Revenue:
Oversees the Process

Millage Rate

The tax rate, or millage, is set by the Paulding County Board of Commissioners (the tax levying authority) at the recommendation of the Board of Education. A tax rate of one mill represents a tax liability of one dollar per \$1,000 of assessed value.

A millage rate can be for the maintenance and operations of the school district (M&O) or for bond debt service, including principal and interest (Bond).

The FY2026 budget reflects an 17.675 M&O millage rate, to be used for the maintenance and operations of the school district. The budget does not anticipate a bond millage rate, as E-SPLOST funds will be used to pay bond debt service.

Rollback Rate

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia Law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's new digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

Property Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ¹³

Senate Bill 177, Act 431 was signed April 30, 1999, and became effective January 1, 2000 (O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1). The bill has two main thrusts:

- Prevention of indirect tax increases resulting from increases to existing property values due to inflation,
- Enhancement of an individual property owner's rights when objecting to and appealing an increase made by a county board of tax assessors to the value of the owner's property.

Rollback of Millage Rate When Digest Value Increased by Reassessments ¹⁴

The Revenue Commissioner developed rules and regulations to implement the terms and provisions of O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

Prevention of Indirect Tax Increases: Each year there are two types of value increases made to a county tax digest:

- increases due to inflation, and
- increases due to new or improved properties.

There are no additional requirements if the levying (or recommending) authority rolls back the millage rate each year to offset any inflationary increases in the digest.

Rollback of Millage Rate to Offset Inflationary Increases: When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia Law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the

¹³ Georgia Department of Revenue: Local Government Services Division

¹⁴ Georgia Department of Revenue: Local Government Services Division

same total revenue on the current year's new digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

If the county (school district) elects to set their millage rate higher than the rollback rate, they will be required:

1. Notification of Tax Increase with Three Public Hearings: The levying (or recommending) authority must hold three public hearings allowing the public input into the proposed increase in taxes.
2. Publish Notice in Paper One Week Before Each Hearing: The levying (or recommending) authority must publish a notice in the paper one week in advance of each of these three public hearings.
3. Press Release to Explain Tax Increase: The levying (or recommending) authority must issue a release to the press explaining its intent to increase the taxes.

More Information?

For more information, visit the Georgia Department of Revenue's website at <https://dor.georgia.gov/local-government-services>.

Example of Millage Rate Calculation

In the example provided, the Tax Amount is calculated by doing the following:

1. Multiply the Fair Market Value by 40%
 $(\$386,000 \times 40\% = \$154,400)$
2. Deduct the relevant Exemption, in this case \$2,000 Homestead
 $(\$154,400 - \$2,000 = \$152,400)$
3. Divide by 1,000 for the mills
 $(\$152,400 / 1,000 = 152.4)$
4. Multiply the mills by the Millage Rate (152.4 x 17.675 = \$2,693.67)

Bond millage rate is 0.000 because debt service is funded through E-SPLOST.

Paulding County Tax Commissioner
240 Constitution Blvd, Room 3008
Dulles, GA 30132-4814
(770) 443-7581

Scan this code with your mobile phone to view or pay this bill

Paulding County Board of Tax Assessors
240 Constitution Blvd, Room #3008
Dulles, GA 30132
(770) 443-7808

Sample Bill

INTERNET TAX BILL

State, County & School Ad Valorem Tax Notice

Bill No.	Account Number	Fair Market Value	Assessed Value	Tax District	Assessed	Homestead Code
Sample	Sample	229800	\$154,400	\$1	0.25	\$1

Map Number / Property Description / Street Address	Tax Entity	Exemptions	Not Taxable	Tax Rate	Tax Amount
Sample Bill	SCHOOL M&O			17.675	\$ 2,694
	SCHOOL BND			1.257	\$ 192

Local Option Sales Tax Information

Local Option Sales Tax Information	COUNTY B&O				
State required to produce county support					
State reduction due to sales tax reduction					
Actual net rate set by county officials					
Net savings due to sales tax reduction					

TOTAL DUE

DATE DUE

2025 (Proposed Budget) Millage Rate

The budget assumes a 17.675 millage rate for the maintenance and operation (M&O) of the District, which is slightly below average among comparable school districts. Coupled with above average school-aged persons per household, this results in an extremely low levy and local revenue per student. The chart to the right shows comparative data for 2024, the most current data available.

M&O Millage Rate History

The last material change to the M&O Millage Rate occurred in 2007, with an increase of 2.500 mills.

Lowered Six Times in Last 20 Years:

- 2023 -0.075
- 2022 -1.000
- 2019 -0.129
- 2013 -0.030
- 2003 -0.881
- 2002 -1.610

Raised Once in the Last 20 Years:

- 2007 +2.500

Millage Rate Reduction

Considerations:

- ✓ Perpetual Loss of Revenue
- ✓ Loss will Compound as Digest Grows
- ✓ Impact on Equalization Grant
- ✓ Low Wealth School District
- ✓ Net Digest per Pupil Not Back to Pre-Recession Levels (Inflation Adjusted)

Rank	Millage Rate		Levy	Revenue
	2024 M&O Millage Rate	% Variance to PCSD	FY2024 Levy per Student	FY2024 Local Revenue per Student
1	Muscogee 23.075	Muscogee 5.400	Cobb \$7,694	Muscogee \$15,666
2	Douglas 18.900	Douglas 1.225	Bartow \$7,080	Richmond \$14,990
3	Cobb 18.700	Cobb 1.025	Cherokee \$6,760	Avg >10k \$14,859
4	Richmond 18.330	Richmond 0.655	Avg Comp \$6,426	Cobb \$14,840
5	Avg Comp 18.069	Avg Comp 0.394	Coweta \$6,419	Bartow \$14,836
6	Paulding 17.675	Paulding 0.000	Avg >10k \$6,284	Avg Comp \$14,402
7	Avg >10k 17.511	Avg >10k -0.164	Douglas \$5,245	Cherokee \$14,261
8	Bartow 17.430	Bartow -0.245	Muscogee \$5,035	Paulding \$13,785
9	Cherokee 16.450	Cherokee -1.225	Richmond \$4,825	Coweta \$13,718
10	Carroll 16.259	Carroll -1.416	Paulding \$4,774	Carroll \$13,511
11	Coweta 15.410	Coweta -2.265	Carroll \$3,959	Douglas \$13,391

Bond Millage

In FY2012, the District eliminated the Bond millage rate of 2.963, with debt service now funded through E-SPLOST.

2025 Millage Rate Highlights:

- An M&O millage rate of 17.675 was utilized in the FY2026 Budget.
- Bond millage rate of 0.000 will be maintained in the FY2026 Budget, with bond principal and interest paid through E-SPLOST. A bond millage of approximately 1.257 would be required to meet FY2026 debt service.
- Net M&O Digest is projected to increase \$341.1 million or 4.1% to \$8.8 billion.
- Changes in assessed property values (reassessment) will increase 2025 property taxes by an average 2.9% (17.675).
- Other changes to the digest will decrease 2025 property taxes by 1.1%.
- Net Taxes or levy will increase 4.1% (17.675).

2025 Current Tax Digest and Eight-Year History of Assessed Value and Taxes Levied

Below is an eight-year history, tax years 2021-2028 (FY2022 – FY2029), of assessed value of taxable property, tax rates, and taxes levied. The three- year forecast of assessed value utilizes a two-year average growth rate (2024 and 2025). The taxes levied forecast assumes no change in the M&O Millage Rate. In addition, the information below provides an analysis of the millage rate's effect on the average taxpayer for the same period.

Fiscal Year	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	Current - FY2025	Proposed - FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Tax Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Real & Personal Ad Valorem	\$ 6,308,413,844	\$ 8,016,129,739	\$ 9,699,155,792	\$ 10,195,084,232	\$ 10,713,260,059	\$ 11,259,406,737	\$ 11,833,395,191	\$ 12,436,644,756
Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem	50,251,310	47,147,590	45,834,700	43,543,380	39,318,630	36,428,418	33,750,658	31,269,734
Mobile Home Ad Valorem	1,534,173	1,591,706	1,729,204	2,185,042	2,164,492	2,439,606	2,749,688	3,099,183
Timber Ad Valorem (100%)	225,181	574,328	824,622	165,874	254,836	221,386	192,326	167,081
Heavy Duty Equipment	86,134	144,573	177,148	217,817	365,622	531,642	773,047	1,124,069
Gross Digest	6,360,510,642	8,065,587,936	9,747,721,466	10,241,196,345	10,755,363,639	11,299,027,789	11,870,860,911	12,472,304,823
Less M&O Exemptions	(995,663,606)	(1,286,131,802)	(1,608,831,149)	(1,822,910,964)	(1,996,001,891)	(2,223,564,538)	(2,477,071,428)	(2,759,480,444)
Net Digest	5,364,847,036	6,779,456,134	8,138,890,317	8,418,285,381	8,759,361,748	9,075,463,251	9,393,789,484	9,712,824,379
Gross M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks								
Net M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Net Taxes Levied	\$ 100,590,882	\$ 120,335,346	\$ 143,854,886	\$ 148,793,194	\$ 154,821,719	\$ 160,408,813	\$ 166,035,229	\$ 171,674,171
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$ 10,235,224	\$ 19,744,464	\$ 23,519,540	\$ 4,938,308	\$ 6,028,525	\$ 5,587,094	\$ 5,626,416	\$ 5,638,942
Net Taxes % Increase	11.3%	19.6%	19.5%	3.4%	4.1%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%
Impact on Taxpayer								
Homestead Exemption	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)	\$ (2,000)
Market Value	\$ 262,536	\$ 314,068	\$ 375,453	\$ 388,342	\$ 404,076	\$ 418,658	\$ 433,342	\$ 448,060
40% Market Value, less Exemption	\$ 103,015	\$ 123,627	\$ 148,181	\$ 153,337	\$ 159,630	\$ 165,463	\$ 171,337	\$ 177,224
M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,932	\$ 2,194	\$ 2,619	\$ 2,710	\$ 2,821	\$ 2,925	\$ 3,028	\$ 3,132
Increase	\$ 200	\$ 263	\$ 425	\$ 91	\$ 111	\$ 103	\$ 104	\$ 104
% Increase	11.6%	13.6%	19.4%	3.5%	4.1%	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Property Tax Rates and Collections								
M&O Millage Rate	18.750%	17.750%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%	17.675%
Taxes Levied	\$ 100,590,882	\$ 120,335,346	\$ 143,854,886	\$ 148,793,194	\$ 154,821,719	\$ 160,408,813	\$ 166,035,229	\$ 171,674,171
Collections	\$ 100,868,919	\$ 120,516,262	\$ 143,744,501	\$ 149,094,066	\$ 154,410,173	\$ 160,036,250	\$ 165,867,318	\$ 171,910,847
% Collections vs Levy	100.3%	100.2%	99.9%	100.2%	99.7%	99.8%	99.9%	100.1%
Collections Less 2.09% Fee*	\$ 98,347,196	\$ 117,503,355	\$ 140,740,241	\$ 145,978,000	\$ 151,183,000	\$ 156,691,492	\$ 162,400,691	\$ 168,317,910
* Reflects the Collection Fee charged by the Tax Commissioner of Paulding County (fee changed to 2.09% in 2023 or FY2024).								

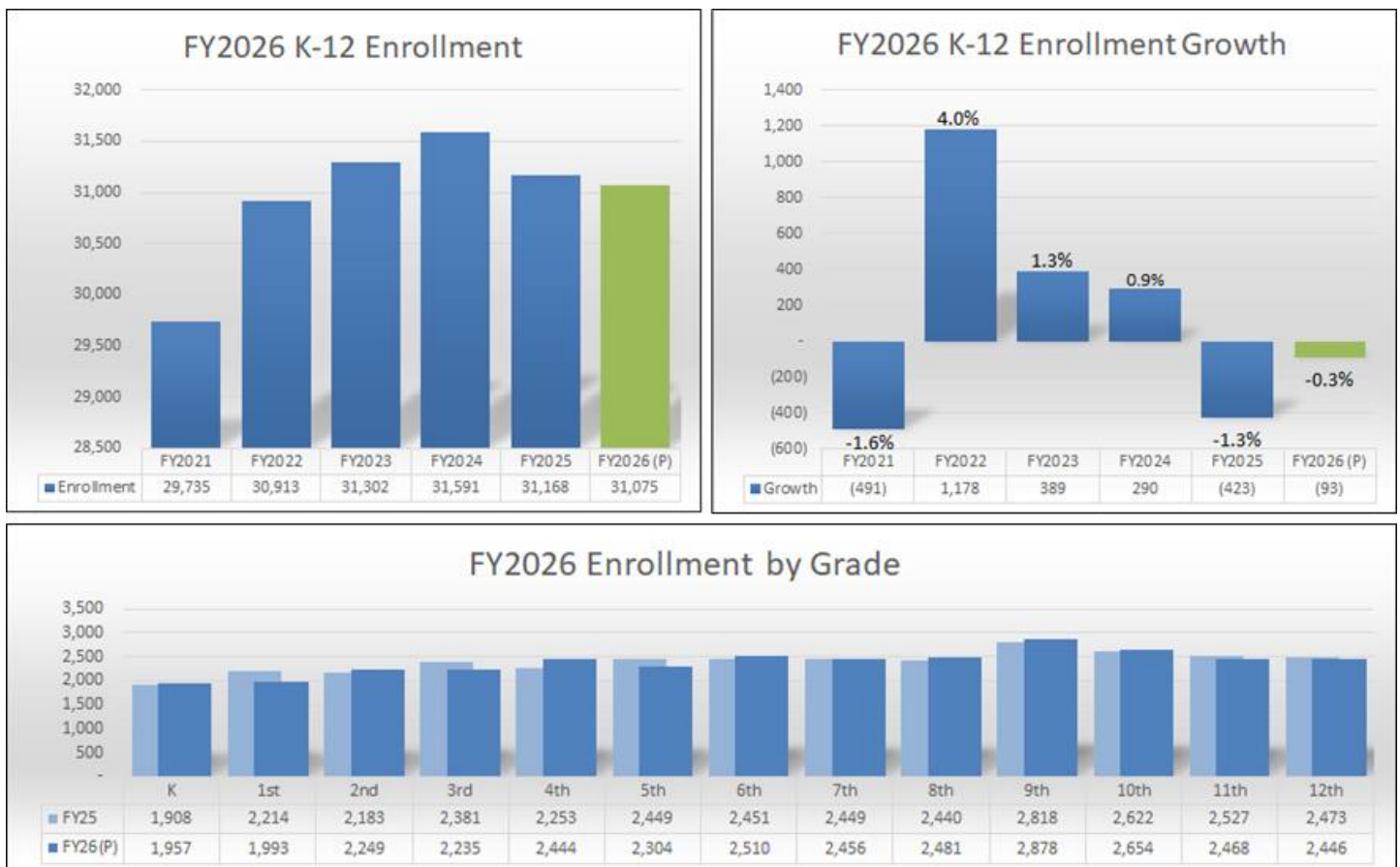
Alternative Tax Collections

Fiscal Year	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	Current FY2025	Proposed FY2026
Tax Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Alternative Tax Collections:						
Title Ad Valorem Tax (411910)	\$ 10,779,671	\$ 11,887,973	\$ 11,967,245	\$ 12,188,934	\$ 11,576,159	\$ 12,616,000
Other Sales Taxes (411210)*	5,504,289	5,530,394	4,016,200	3,781,958	3,536,463	3,834,000
Other Taxes (411900)**	32,791	33,740	-	34,349	37,515	35,000
Total	\$ 16,316,752	\$ 17,452,107	\$ 15,983,445	\$ 16,005,241	\$ 15,150,137	\$ 16,485,000
<i>* Other Sales Tax: Every holder of a long-term note secured by real estate must record the security instrument in the county in which the real estate is located. A recording tax, or intangible tax, is charged based on the value of the property. A transfer tax is also imposed on the transfer of real estate.</i>						
<i>** Other Taxes: Primarily used for Railroad taxes.</i>						

Student Enrollment

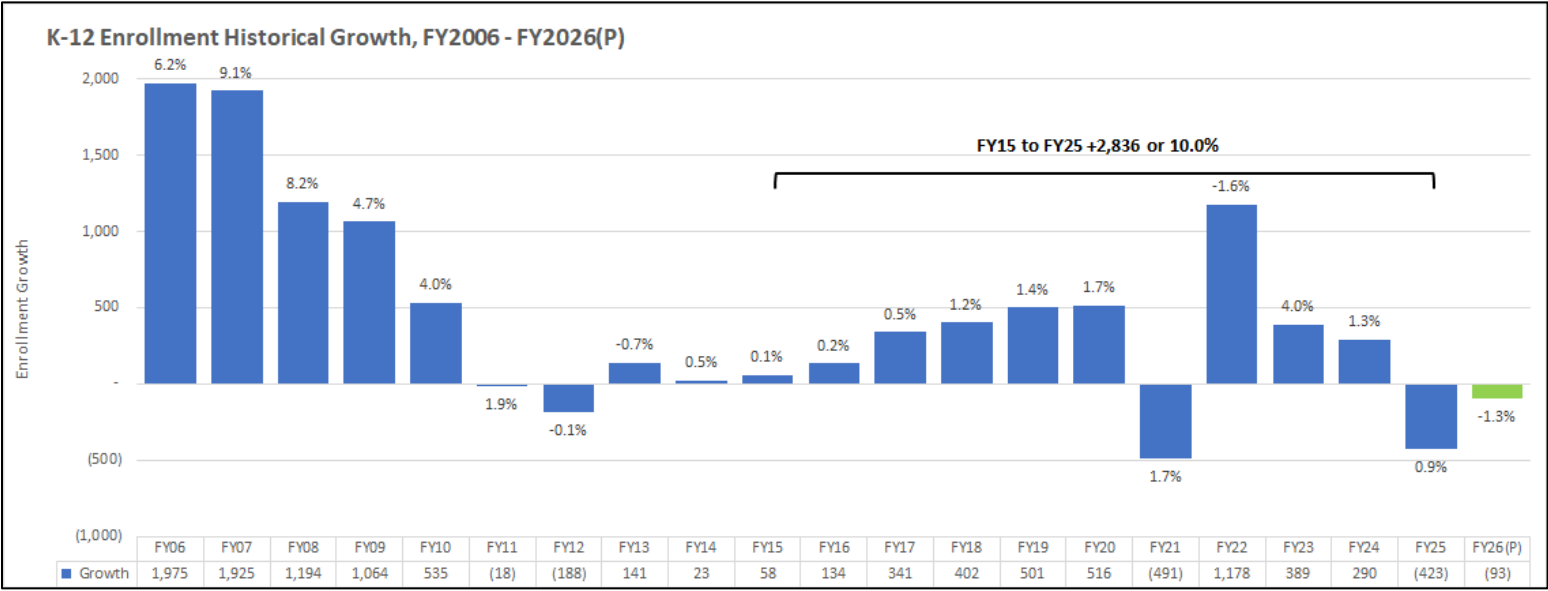
PCSD is projected to educate 31,075 students in FY2026 (school year 2025-2026), a decrease of 93 students or -0.3%. Due to changes in educational environments from COVID-19, the District Plans to educate 220 students in a digital learning environment and 30,855 face-to-face.

- Elementary School Growth: 13,181 Students a Decrease of 207 or -1.5%
- Middle School Growth: 7,447 Students an Increase of 107 or 1.5%
- High School Growth: 10,447 Students an Increase of 7 or 0.1%



Historical Enrollment Growth

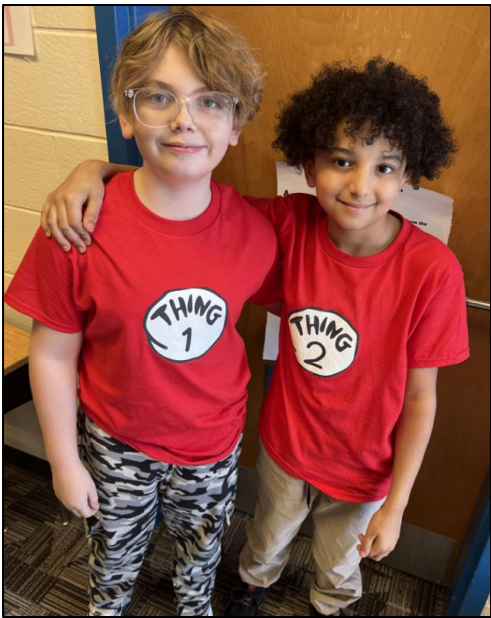
For the 10 years ending FY2025, the District had an annual growth rate of 1.0%. FY2015 to FY2025 enrollment increased 2,836 or 10.0% even with an anomaly in FY2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2022 enrollment grew 4.0%, the largest growth rate in a decade. 2026 is projected to decline by 93 students or -0.3% with both digital learning and face-to-face instruction.



Student Enrollment for Eight Years

See the following *FY2026 Projection Summary Report*, which includes the following:

- Three years of enrollment history
- Current year enrollment
- Proposed Budget year enrollment projection
- Three years of enrollment forecasts



Paulding County School District Fiscal Year Budget

2026

FY2026 Projection Summary Report

Elementary Schools

	2021	2022	2023	2024
34 Abney Elementary	1,239	1,195	1,247	1,271
20 Allgood Elementary	814	872	809	831
23 Baggett Elementary	603	606	586	571
31 Burnt Hickory Elementary	1,026	1,082	1,039	1,040
2 Dallas Elementary	431	485	497	494
26 Dugan Elementary	611	615	647	631
3 Hiram Elementary	737	743	794	768
33 Hutchens Elementary	637	649	633	642
5 McGarity Elementary	579	601	586	600
18 Nebo Elementary	598	614	699	818
6 New GA Elementary	347	391	423	343
15 Northside Elementary	580	633	627	603
16 Panter Elementary	506	519	508	529
25 Poole Elementary	420	448	464	481
32 Ragsdale Elementary	545	605	582	624
19 Roberts Elementary	576	635	657	633
24 Russom Elementary	844	940	921	961
14 Shelton Elementary	1,200	1,383	1,417	1,397
8 Union Elementary	455	471	463	398
All Total Elementary	12,748	13,487	13,599	13,635

Middle Schools

	2021	2022	2023	2024
27 Austin Middle	802	783	792	811
17 Dobbins Middle	607	611	532	556
9 East Paulding Middle	887	882	858	869
10 Herschel Jones Middle	818	804	807	809
22 Moses Middle	773	878	907	929
29 McClure Middle	1,472	1,511	1,536	1,499
36 Ritch Middle	697	700	755	718
35 Scoggins Middle	745	743	760	776
11 South Paulding Middle	472	473	481	509
37 Crossroads Middle	-	-	-	-
All Total Middle School	7,273	7,385	7,428	7,476

High Schools

Note: Includes AltEd

	2021	2022	2023	2024
12 East Paulding High	1,766	1,893	1,905	1,904
21 Hiram High	1,452	1,458	1,468	1,503
30 North Paulding High	2,698	2,836	2,986	3,052
13 Paulding County High	1,906	1,932	2,005	2,116
28 South Paulding High	1,892	1,922	1,911	1,905
All Total High School	9,714	10,041	10,275	10,480

Total Enrollment

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	29,735	30,913	31,302	31,591

Current Year

2024-2025			
Rank	2025	Var	% Var
2	1,304	33	2.6%
6	800	(31)	-3.7%
14	544	(27)	-4.7%
3	989	(51)	-4.9%
15	512	18	3.6%
10	613	(18)	-2.9%
7	765	(3)	-0.4%
11	612	(30)	-4.7%
13	571	(29)	-4.8%
5	843	25	3.1%
19	334	(9)	-2.6%
12	609	6	1.0%
16	505	(24)	-4.5%
17	453	(28)	-5.8%
9	616	(8)	-1.3%
8	641	8	1.3%
4	962	1	0.1%
1	1,371	(26)	-1.9%
18	344	(54)	-13.6%
19	13,388	(247)	-1.8%

FY2026 Projection

2025-2026		
2026	Growth	% Var
1,390	86	6.6%
796	(4)	-0.5%
508	(36)	-6.6%
929	(60)	-6.1%
499	(13)	-2.6%
623	10	1.6%
700	(65)	-8.6%
606	(6)	-0.9%
542	(29)	-5.0%
915	72	8.6%
309	(25)	-7.4%
608	(1)	-0.1%
495	(10)	-1.9%
461	8	1.7%
584	(32)	-5.3%
635	(6)	-1.0%
928	(34)	-3.5%
1,336	(35)	-2.6%
317	(27)	-7.7%
13,181	(207)	-1.5%

Three-Year Forecast

2027	2028	2029
1,481	1,578	1,681
792	789	785
474	443	413
872	819	769
485	473	460
633	643	653
640	585	535
601	595	589
515	489	465
993	1,079	1,171
286	265	246
608	607	607
486	477	468
468	476	484
553	524	496
629	623	617
895	864	833
1,302	1,268	1,236
293	270	249
13,007	12,866	12,758

2024-2025			
Rank	2025	Var	% Var
5	782	(29)	-3.6%
9	531	(25)	-4.5%
8	630	(239)	-27.5%
6	728	(81)	-10.0%
1	921	(8)	-0.9%
3	834	(665)	-44.4%
7	690	(28)	-3.9%
4	809	33	4.3%
10	507	(2)	-0.4%
2	908	908	0.0%
10	7,340	(136)	-1.8%

2025-2026		
2026	Growth	% Var
766	(16)	-2.1%
540	9	1.6%
623	(7)	-1.1%
737	9	1.2%
969	48	5.2%
821	(13)	-1.5%
747	57	8.2%
804	(5)	-0.6%
518	11	2.1%
924	16	1.7%
7,447	107	1.5%

2027	2028	2029
750	734	718
548	557	566
617	610	604
745	754	763
1,019	1,071	1,127
809	797	784
808	875	947
799	794	789
528	539	551
940	956	972
7,563	7,687	7,822

2024-2025			
Rank	2025	Var	% Var
3	1,985	81	4.3%
5	1,460	(43)	-2.9%
1	3,015	(37)	-1.2%
2	2,099	(17)	-0.8%
4	1,881	(24)	-1.3%
5	10,440	(40)	-0.4%

2025-2026		
2026	Growth	% Var
1,953	(32)	-1.6%
1,473	13	0.9%
3,051	36	1.2%
2,118	19	0.9%
1,852	(29)	-1.5%
10,447	7	0.1%

2027	2028	2029
1,922	1,891	1,860
1,486	1,500	1,513
3,087	3,124	3,161
2,137	2,156	2,176
1,824	1,795	1,768
10,455	10,466	10,477

FY2026 Title I Schools

Forecasting Methodology and Techniques

When projecting enrollment, PCSD considers a variety of census, state and local data, including:

- Survival Rate
- Population Growth
- Birth Rate
- New Home Construction
- School Choice
- School Programs
- Historical Growth

Projections are primarily based on the survival rate of a grade level. Meaning, the current growth of a particular grade level applied to the advancing grade level in the subsequent or projected school year. For example:

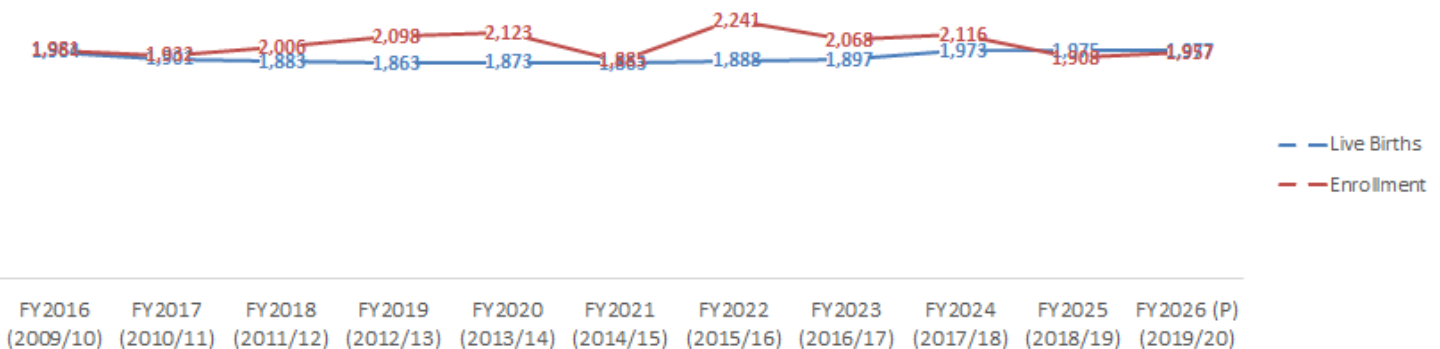
FY25 2nd Grade (216) divided by FY24 1st Grade (203) = Survival Rate (1.064)

FY25 1st Grade (242) multiplied by the Survival Rate (1.064) = 257

These projections may be adjusted based on other factors, such as construction, school choice, etc.

Kindergarten is primarily projected using the birthrate but may be adjusted for other economic conditions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PCSD saw a decline in kindergarten enrollment verses the live births of that cohort. Meaning, the county was declining (net) in population for this group. However, in FY2022 this trend reversed – a clear indication that growth has returned.

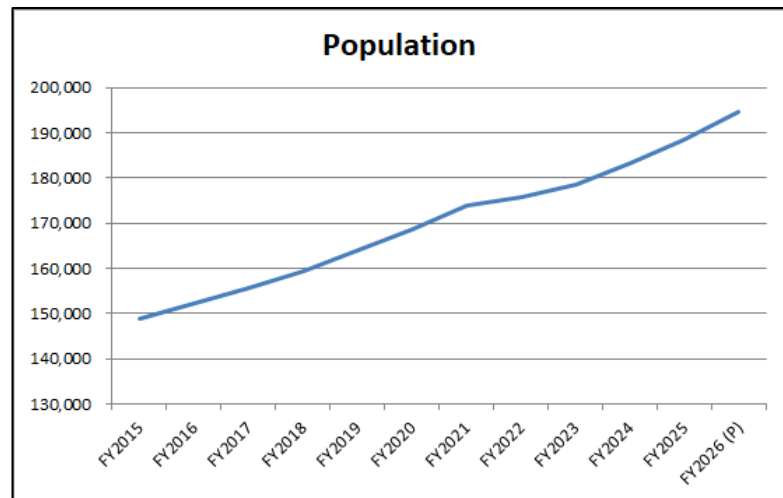
Birth Rate vs Enrollment



Forecasts are typically calculated using the most recent growth rate. Other factors that may influence projections and forecasts include population and new home construction.

Population

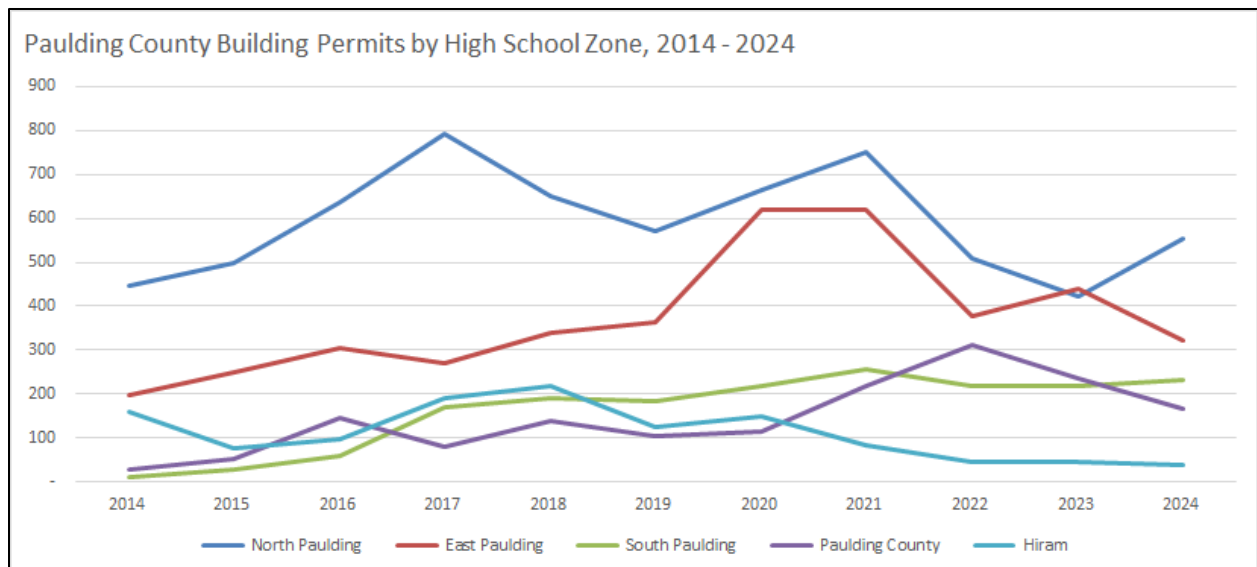
Paulding County continues to see strong population growth. In fact, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) predicts Paulding County will reach a population of almost 260,000 by 2040, the third fastest growing county in the 20-county metro Atlanta area.



New Home Construction

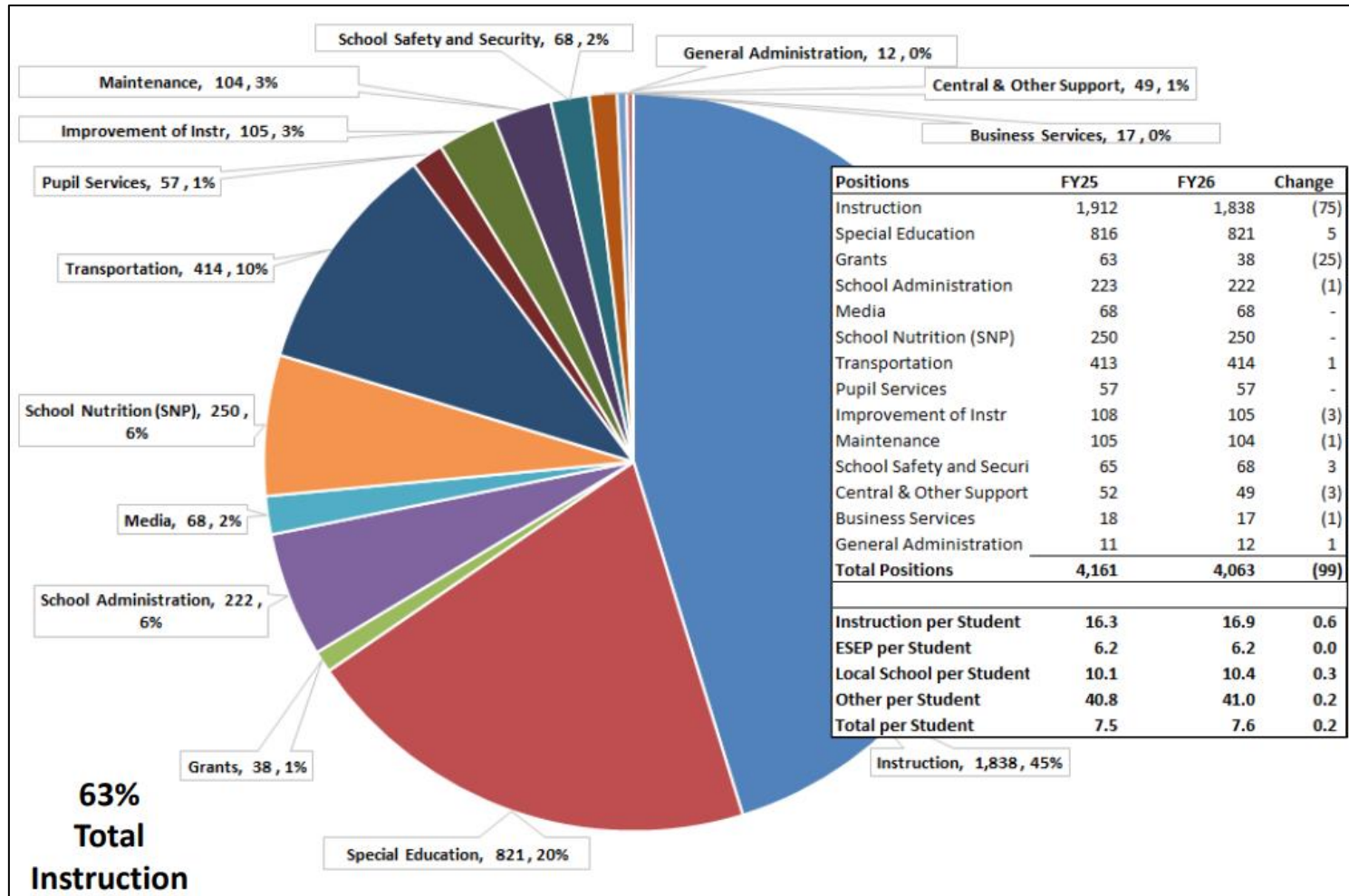
In calendar year 2014, Paulding County issued only 844 building permits. By 2017, over 1,500 were issued, with most of the growth clustering around North and East Paulding High Schools. The overall growth trend continued into 2018. Beginning in 2019, building permits started to retract. By 2024, over 1,300 permits were issued, with most of the growth clustering around North and East Paulding High Schools.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
North Paulding	446	497	636	792	649	570	664	750	510	421	555
East Paulding	199	251	304	269	340	365	620	621	378	441	323
South Paulding	11	29	60	170	190	184	219	258	219	219	231
Paulding County	28	53	146	81	137	105	113	217	311	235	165
Hiram	160	75	96	189	218	124	148	82	44	44	39
Total	844	905	1,242	1,501	1,534	1,348	1,764	1,928	1,462	1,360	1,313



Personnel Resource Allocation

The proposed budget anticipates 4,063 allotments, broken down by the following functions and programs. The tables on the subsequent pages detail proposed allotment changes and a summary of all employees grouped by Certified and Classified Personnel Information (CPI) for five years (including three prior years actual, current year and Proposed Budget).



Proposed Budget Personnel Changes

The Proposed Budget reflects a net reduction of 99 position dues to the decrease in enrollment in FY2025. Below is a list of allotment changes contained in the Proposed Budget.

	Original FY2026 Allotments														
	FY2026 Changes														
	General Fund					Grants					SNP		Total		
	Original GenEd	+/-	Original ESEP	+/-	Total	Original ESEP	+/-	Original Other	+/-	Total	Original SNP	+/-	Original	+/-	FY2026 Total
School Based Allotments:															
Elementary Schools	1,170	(50)	300	(2)	1,419	39	-	25	(9)	55	116	-	1,650	(61)	1,590
Middle Schools	528	(6)	154	5	681	1	-	12	(5)	8	69	-	764	(6)	758
High Schools	610	(18)	183	4	779	4	-	7	(3)	8	50	-	854	(17)	837
Total School Based Allotments	2,308	(74)	637	7	2,879	44	-	44	(17)	71	235	-	3,268	(84)	3,185
NHEC Based Allotments	24	-	1	1	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	1	26
Total School Based Allotments	2,332	(74)	638	8	2,905	44	-	44	(17)	71	235	-	3,293	(83)	3,211
Other Direct Instruction & Support:															
School Leadership Division*	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Safety & Security*	14	(1)	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	(1)	13
Teaching & Learning Division*	35	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	35
Student Services*	5	-	111	1	117	6	(1)	-	-	5	-	-	123	-	123
School Supports*	13	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
Total Direct Instruction & Support	2,402	(75)	749	9	3,086	50	(1)	44	(17)	77	235	-	3,481	(84)	3,398
Transportation**	413	1	-	-	414	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	413	1	414
Maintenance**	39	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	41	-	41
Total Direct Instruction, Support, Transportation and Maintenance	2,854	(74)	749	9	3,539	50	(1)	44	(17)	77	237	-	3,935	(83)	3,853
Divisions and Departments															
Office of Associate Superintendent	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
School Leadership Division	9	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Safety & Security	16	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	16
Teaching & Learning Division	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Curriculum	21	-	-	-	21	-	-	3	(3)	-	-	-	24	(3)	21
School Improvement	39	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	39
Title I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	(5)	10	-	-	15	(5)	10
Special Education	15	(5)	127	-	137	6	-	1	-	7	-	-	150	(5)	145
Office of Deputy Superintendent	5	(1)	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	(1)	4
Communications	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Facilities	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Maintenance	39	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	41	-	41
School Support	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Transportation	413	1	-	-	414	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	413	1	414
Custodial	15	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	15
SNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13	-	13
Central Registration	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
Nursing	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Technology Division	54	(1)	-	-	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	(1)	53
Human Resources Division	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Office of Superintendent	5	(2)	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	(2)	3
Business Services Division	22	(1)	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	(1)	21
Total Divisions and Departments	693	(8)	127	-	812	6	-	19	(8)	17	15	-	861	(16)	845
Board of Education	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
Grand Total	3,032	(82)	765	8	3,724	50	-	63	(25)	89	250	-	4,161	(99)	4,063

* Instruction and support allotments based at a non-school facility that directly support students

** Total instructional and support allotments, plus transportation and maintenance allotments

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Five Years of Allotments by CPI

CPI	Title	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget
85	Kindergarten Regular Education Teacher	106	114	112	110	99
100	Grades K-5 Combination Teacher	48	39	34	40	33
101	Grade 1 Teacher	95	114	103	106	97
102	Grade 2 Teacher	100	108	118	111	107
103	Grade 3 Teacher	105	112	112	120	107
104	Grade 4 Teacher	86	96	94	92	93
105	Grade 5 Teacher	86	94	97	94	89
106	Grade 6 Teacher	85	89	89	94	91
107	Grade 7 Teacher	86	92	92	92	90
108	Grade 8 Teacher	88	93	92	94	91
113	Grades 6-8 Combination Teacher	31	28	27	10	17
114	Grades 9-12 Combination Teacher	357	382	389	383	361
115	Military Science Teacher	12	12	12	12	12
120	Middle School Connections (6-8) Teacher	12	12	11	10	10
122	In-School Suspension (ISS) Teacher	5	4	5	5	5
123	Middle School Career, Technical and Agricultural Teacher	18	18	18	20	20
124	Work Based Learning (WBL) Teacher (School Level	2	2	2	2	2
130	Instructional Specialist (P-8)	134	133	130	133	133
131	Early Intervention Teacher (Kindergarten)	9	9	9	8	8
132	Early Intervention Primary Teacher	23	23	26	24	26
133	EIP 4th and 5th Grade Teacher	25	25	25	23	23
141	Preschool Special Education Teacher	19	22	22	22	22
142	Career Technical Instruction Teacher	5	5	5	5	5
144	ESOL Teacher	24	28	31	32	32
145	Hospital/Homebound Instructor	3	4	4	4	4
146	Gifted Elementary Teacher (P-5)	24	25	26	27	30
149	Adapted Physical Education Teacher	2	2	2	2	2
150	Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (9-12) Teacher	69	74	75	76	77
156	Other Instructional Provider	3	3	3	3	4
157	Other Instructional Provider	10	9	11	19	10
158	Teacher of Emotional/Behavioral Disorder Students	11	10	10	9	9
160	Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disability Students	42	43	40	41	44
161	Teacher of Moderate Intellectual Disability Students	15	19	21	24	25
162	Teacher of Severe Intellectual Disability Students	4	6	6	5	5
163	Teacher of Profound Intellectual Disability Students	1	1	1	1	1
164	Teacher of Hearing Impaired Students	2	2	2	3	3
165	Teacher of Visually Impaired Students	2	2	2	3	3
167	Teacher of Autistic Students	15	16	17	20	22
169	Teacher of Orthopedic Impaired Students	1	1	1	1	-
171	Special Education Interrelated Teacher	249	261	267	266	269
304	Special Education Bus Aide	54	104	104	104	104
309	Nursing Supervisor	-	-	-	1	1
380	School Resource Officer	-	-	-	-	30
381	Dispatcher	-	-	-	-	1
395	Facilitator	2	2	3	3	3
397	Instructional Specialist	14	13	-	-	-
398	Graduation Coach/Specialist	3	3	3	3	3
399	Superintendent Secretary	1	1	1	1	1
400	Elementary Counselor	24	25	27	27	26
401	Middle School Counselor	16	16	18	19	20
402	High School Counselor	26	29	29	28	28
405	School Psychologist	19	20	22	22	22
407	School Social Worker	1	5	5	5	5
408	Family Services Coordinator	2	1	1	1	1
409	School Nurse	38	39	39	39	37
410	School Food Service Worker	194	194	194	201	201
411	Attendance Worker	4	3	3	3	3
413	Parent Coordinator	1	1	1	1	1
415	Information Services Personnel	1	1	1	2	2
420	Secretary	71	71	71	72	72

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

- Continued -

CPI	Title	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Current Year	FY2026 Proposed Budget
424	Information Services Personnel - Central Support Services	10	10	10	12	14
425	Bookkeeper	33	33	33	34	34
427	Information Services Personnel - School Food Service	3	3	4	4	4
429	Data Clerk	6	6	5	5	5
431	Business Services Secretary/Clerk	14	14	14	15	14
435	Paraprofessional/Teacher Aide Personnel	121	147	129	134	117
436	Special Education Para-professional/ Teacher Aid- Ages 6-21	248	273	272	285	290
437	Interpreter	1	1	1	2	2
438	Rehabilitation Counselor	1	1	1	1	1
440	Librarian/Media Specialist	33	33	33	34	34
441	Teacher Support Specialist	3	3	3	3	1
442	Library/Media Support Paraprofessional Personnel	33	33	33	34	34
444	Nursing Assistant / Health Technician	-	-	-	-	1
445	Technology Specialist	23	31	36	36	36
451	Support Services Secretary/Clerk	10	10	10	11	11
452	Student Clerk/Aide	-	2	2	2	2
453	Special Education Paraprofessional - Ages 3 to 5	14	2	1	1	-
454	School Nutrition Maintenance Personnel	1	2	2	2	2
455	Plant Operations Director or Manager	3	4	4	4	4
456	Maintenance Personnel	38	40	40	39	39
457	Custodial Personnel	55	55	57	58	57
458	Plant Operations and Maintenance Secretary/Clerk	2	2	2	2	2
459	Miscellaneous Activities	0.49	-	-	-	-
460	Transportation Director/Manager	3	4	4	4	4
461	Bus Driver	283	282	282	282	282
462	Transportation Mechanic	11	10	10	11	11
463	Transportation Secretary/Clerk	10	11	11	11	12
464	Other Transportation Personnel	-	1	1	1	1
465	Finance & Business Service Manager	2	2	2	2	2
466	Finance & Business Service Personnel	13	13	14	13	12
473	Human Resources Personnel	4	4	5	5	5
474	Central Support Clerk	9	11	12	10	9
477	School Food Service Secretary/ Clerk/Bookkeeper	3	3	3	3	3
478	School Food Service Manager	37	37	37	38	38
479	Diagnostician	1	-	-	-	-
480	Speech-Language Pathologist	35	37	46	45	48
482	Physical Therapist (PT)	2	2	3	3	3
483	Occupational Therapist (OT)	11	14	13	14	14
487	General Administration Secretary/Clerk	1	1	1	1	1
488	Public Relations Personnel	1	3	5	5	3
489	Construction Manager/Director	2	3	6	5	5
490	Security Personnel / Security Officer	7	43	44	54	35
600	Superintendent	1	1	1	1	1
601	Deputy/Associate/Assistant/ Area Superintendent	6	5	5	5	6
602	Personnel/Human Resources Director	2	1	1	1	1
610	Principal	33	33	33	34	34
614	Alternative School Director	1	1	1	1	1
615	Assistant Principal	66	66	72	74	74
620	Director of Curriculum/Instruction	8	8	8	8	8
621	Instructional Supervisor	90	116	133	112	82
622	Director of School Safety	1	1	1	1	2
630	Food Service Administrator	1	2	2	2	2
640	Special Education Director	2	1	1	1	1
641	Director of Student Services	1	2	3	3	3
643	Technology Director	3	4	4	5	4
648	Title I Director	1	1	1	1	-
670	Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Director (LUA)	1	1	1	1	1
673	Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator	1	1	1	1	1
691	District Board Member	7	7	7	7	7
Total		3,798	4,097	4,132	4,162	4,063

School-Based Allotments

Each fiscal year Paulding County School District (PCSD) reviews all allotment assumptions and guidelines to ensure school-based programs throughout PCSD are adequately and equitably funded.

School allotment assumptions (or formulas) and guidelines are the responsibility of the Superintendent and senior leadership. This group develops the assumptions and guidelines based on the District's mission, the Board's vision, the District's strategic priorities and all existing mandates and requirements (federal, state, AdvancED, etc.).

Once the allotment assumptions and guidelines are established, Business Services calculates the allotments using the following steps:

1. Enrollment Projections. Enrollment is projected for each facility. Projections are determined by variables such as historical survival rate, allocation of rising grade levels and area growth rates. (See Schools and Enrollment Projections)
2. Teacher Allotments. Once projections have been made at each school by grade level, allotment counts are determined based on the established assumptions and guidelines. Generally, allotments are determined by dividing the total projected enrollment (by grade level or category) by the target ratio.

FY2026 elementary, middle and high school allotment assumptions are on the following pages.

Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP)

ESEP allotment assumptions (or formulas) and guidelines are the responsibility of the Superintendent, Senior Executive Director of Student Services and senior leadership. Allotment decisions are based on the specific needs of each student.

Grant Funded Allotments

Grant funded allotments are the responsibility of the Superintendent, Grant Administrator and senior leadership. Allotment decisions are based on the needs of the students and within the parameters of the grant requirements.

The District may establish additional school, central office and support personnel allotments based on enrollment, current initiatives, historical trends and funding levels.

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

FY2026 Elementary Allotment Assumptions (19)

As of May 7, 2025

General Education Student : Teacher Ratio and Allotments

Kindergarten	22 : 1
1st - 3rd Grade	23 : 1
4th- 5th Grade	29 : 1

FY2026 Elementary School - School-Based Certified Allotments									
Principal			Assistant Principal			Evaluation and Assessment Coordinator			
Principal (235 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Assistant Principal (205 x 8, 2400)	per FTE	Count	EAC (205 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	
				1	1-799				
				2	>= 800				
Counselor			Media Specialist			Specialist Teacher			
Counselors (185 x 8, 1000)	per FTE	Count	Media Specialist (185 x 8, 2220)	1	per School	PE, Music or Art (185 x 8, 1000)	per FTE	Count	
	1	1-699					3	1-549	
	2	700-1399					3.5	550-700	
	3	1400-1800					4	701-800	
							4.5	801-900	
							5	901-1000	
							5.5	1001-1100	
							6	1101-1200	
							6.5	1201-1300	
							7	1301-1400	
		7.5	1401-1500						
		8	1501-1600						
		8.5	1601-1700						
Early Intervention Program			Gifted Teacher			ESOL			
EIP Teacher (185 x 8, 1000)	Eligibility Based		Gifted Teacher (185 x 8, 1000)	Eligibility Based		ESOL Teacher (185 x 8, 1000)	Based on Case Load		
						Allotments are at Facility Code 99			
STEM									
STEM Teacher (185 x 8, 1000)	0.5	<600							
	1*	>=600							
Schools may have more depending on allocation of specials and/or space limitations									

FY2026 Elementary School - School-Based Classified Allotments									
School Nurse			Secretary			Clerk			
Nurse (179 x 8, 2100)	1	per School	Secretary (200 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Clerk (185 x 7.5, 2400)	1	500-1,199	
	1.5	>=1,200					2	>=1,200	
Media Clerk			Bookkeeper			Kindergarten Paraprofessional			
Media Clerk (185 x 7.5, 2220)	1	per School	Bookkeeper (200 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Kindergarten Para (181 x 7.5, 1000)	1	per Class	
School Nutrition Manager			School Nutrition Assistant			Safety & Security			
SNP Manager (184 x 8, 3100)	1	per School	SNP Assistant (179 x 4, 3100)	Based on Demand		Safety & Security Coordinator (185 x 8, 2660)			
						or Security Guard (179 x 8, 2660)	1	per School	
Day Porter			Facilities Lead Custodial Service						
Day Porter (255 x 8, 2600)	1	>1,000	Facilities Lead (255 x 8, 2600)	1	per School				
2 Itinerant Day Porters per Feeder Pattern									

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

FY2026 Middle School Allotment Assumptions (10)

As of May 7, 2025

General Education Student : Teacher Ratio and Allotments

6th - 8th Grade

29 : 1

FY2026 Middle School - School-Based Certified Allotments									
Principal			Assistant Principal			Evaluation and Assessment Coordinator			
Principal (235 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Assistant Principal (205 x 8, 2400)	per FTE	Count	EAC (205 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	
				2	per School				
				3	>=1,000				
Counselor			Media Specialist			Specialist Teacher			
Counselors (185 x 8, 1000)	per FTE	Count	Media Specialist (185 x 8, 2220)	1	per School	PE (185 x 8, 1000)	per FTE	Count	
	1	500-999					2	1-600	
	2	1,000-1,599					3	601-1,000	
	3	>=1,600					4	1,001-1,200	
							5	>=1,201	
Counselors (205 x 8, 1000)	1	per School				Music (185 x 8, 1000)	2	per School	
						Art (185 x 8, 1000)	1	per School	
						Foreign Language (185 x 8, 1000)	1	per School	
							2	>=1,000	
Connections			Remedial			ESOL			
Engineering Tech (185 x 8, 1000)	1	per School	Math Study Skills and/or	1	per School	ESOL Teacher (185 x 8, 1000)	Based on Case Load		
Computer Science (185 x 8, 1000)	1	per School	Reading Recovery (185 x 8, 1000)			Allotments are at Facility Code 99			

Paulding County School District Fiscal Year Budget

2026

FY2026 High School Allotment Assumptions (5)

As of May 7, 2025

General Education Student : Teacher Ratio and Allotments

9th - 12th Grade* 22.8 : 1

* Ratio includes positions noted below. May also be modified based on program enrollment (i.e. Dual Enrollment, PCA, etc.)

FY2026 High School - School-Based Certified Allotments									
Principal			Assistant Principal			Evaluation and Assessment Coordinator			
Principal (235 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Assistant Principal (205 x 8, 2400)	2	per School	EAC (205 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	
				1	1,100-2,099				
				1	2,100-2,599				
				1	>= 2,600				
			Assistant Principal (235 x 8, 2400)	2	per School				
Counselor			Media Specialist			Specialist Teacher			
Counselors (205 x 8, 1000)	per FTE	Count	Media Specialist (185 x 8, 2220)	1	per School	Band Director (205 x 8, 1000)	1	per School	
	5	0-2100							
	6	2100-2599							
	7	>2600							
District Grad Coach (185 x 8, 1000)	0.2	per School	PE, Art and Foreign Language are designated from the General Education allotments (above) by the Principal						
						JROTC and CTAE are designated from the General Education allotments (above) by the Principal			
ISS Instructor			ESOL						
ISS (185 x 8, 1000)	1	per School	ESOL Teacher (185 x 8, 1000)	Based on Case Load					
FY2026 High School - School-Based Classified Allotments									
School Nurse			Secretary			Clerk			
Nurse (179 x 8, 2100)	1	per School	Secretary (200 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Clerk (190 x 7.5, 2400)	2	per School	
	1.5	>=3,000	Secretary (255 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	Clerk (190 x 7.5, 2400)	1	>=2,500	
Guidance Clerk			Media Clerk			Bookkeeper			
Guidance Clerk (195 x 7.5, 1000)	1	per School	Media Clerk (185 x 7.5, 2220)	1	per School	Bookkeeper (255 x 8, 2400)	1	per School	
ISS Paraprofessional			Security Guard			School Nutrition Manager			
ISS Para (181 x 7.5, 1000)	1	per School	Safety & Security Coordinator (185 x 8, 2660)	1	per School or Campus	SNP Manager (184 x 8, 3100)	1	per School	
			Security Guard (179 x 8, 2660)	2	per School				
School Nutrition Assistant			Day Porter			Facilities Lead Custodial Service			
SNP Assistant (179 x 4, 3100)	Based on Demand		Day Porter (255 x 8, 2600)	1	>1,000	Facilities Lead (255 x 8, 2600)	1	per School	
				1	>2,500				
			2 Itinerant Day Porters per Feeder Pattern						

Outstanding Bond Issues


Series 2020, Sales Tax Bond

Outstanding bonds include the 2020 Series (Sales Tax Bond), which includes, which includes 11,210 \$1,000 par value bonds or \$11,210,000. These bonds carry coupon rates of approximately 3.0% to 5.0%.

The 2019 referendum approved the 2020 Series for the purpose of providing funds to:

1. continue to retire bond debt from Series 2014;
2. finance new school facility construction, strategic additions and/or improvements to existing schools;
3. technology enhancements;
4. fine arts initiatives;
5. safety and security upgrades; and
6. athletic facility improvements.

Projects include, but are not limited to, the construction, addition, modification and/or renovation of the following facilities:

PROPOSED FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	PROPOSED RENOVATION PROJECTS	PROPOSED SAFETY & SECURITY
Technology Enhancements \$2.5 million Fine Arts Initiatives \$1.6 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-5 Music & Visual Arts equipment • 6-8 Band, Choral and Visual Arts Equipment • 9-12 Band, Choral, Visual Arts Equip. & Performing Arts Center Upgrades Physical Education \$1.4 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts resurfacing • Track resurfacing • Gym floor refinishing (elementary/middle) Athletic Facilities \$1.9 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal distribution for all five high schools 	Tentative Projects: \$15.8 million* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allgood Elementary School • Baggett Elementary School • Dugan Elementary School • Poole Elementary School • Austin Middle School <small>*Includes capital outlay estimated reimbursement</small> Future Facility Needs/Improvements \$13.8 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor growth needs • Monitor aging facilities 	Upgrades \$6.0 million  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed connecting corridors (elementary/middle) • Fire alarms & intercoms

Ratings

Moody's Aa1 or Very High Grade as of the 2020 Bond Issue (11/04/2020 rating date, Aa1 Underlying and Aa1 Enhanced)

Series 2025, Refunding Bond

On February 1, 2025, the School District issued General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, Series 2025 in the original principal amount of \$58,720,000.00, for the purpose of refunding the Series 2022 Bond.

Outstanding bonds include 58,720 \$1,000 par value bonds or \$58,720,000. These bonds carry coupon rates of approximately 1.79%.

Ratings

Moody's Aa1 or Very High Grade as of the 2022 Bond Issue.

Series 2025, Sales Tax Bond

On May 29, 2025, the School District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$61,640,000. The proceeds of the Series 2025 Bonds will be used for the purpose of (a) financing the acquisition, construction, and equipping of facilities and equipment throughout the District, including new school facility construction, strategic additions, improvements, renovations, and/or modifications to existing schools, safety and security enhancements, technology, athletic and physical education facilities, and fine arts initiatives (collectively, the "Projects"), and (b) paying the cost of issuing the Series 2025 Bonds.

Outstanding bonds include 61,640 \$1,000 par value bonds or \$61,640,000. These bonds carry a coupon rate of 5.0%.

Ratings

Moody's Aa1 and an underlying rating of Aa2.

Major Rating Agencies Rating Guide for Long and Short Term Debt									
Moody's		S&P		Fitch		Risk			
Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term	Characteristic			
Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+	AAA	F1+	Prime			
Aa1		AA+		AA+		High Grade			
Aa2		AA		AA					
Aa3		AA-		AA-					
A1		P-2	A+	A-1	A+	F1	Upper Medium Grade		
A2	A		A						
A3	A-		A-						
Baa1	P-3	BBB+	A-2	BBB+	F2	Lower Medium Grade			
Baa2		BBB		BBB					
Baa3	Not Prime	BBB-	A-3	BBB-	F3				
Ba1		BB+		B		BB+		B	Non-investment grade speculative
Ba2		BB				BB			
Ba3		BB-				BB-			
B1		B+				B+	Highly Speculative		
B2		B	B						
B3		B-	B-						
Caa1			CCC+	C	CCC	C	Substantial Risks		
Caa2			CCC				Extremely Speculative		
Caa3			CCC-				In default with little prospect for recovery		
Ca			CC						
			C						
C			D	/	DDD	/	In default		
/	DD								
/	D								

Amortization Schedules

	Series 2020				Series 2025 - Refs Callable 2022				Series 2025 - GO Bond				Combined		
	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Semi-Annual Total	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Semi-Annual Total	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Semi-Annual Total	Principal	Interest	Semi-Annual Total
8/1/2025	5,470,000	5.000%	280,250	5,750,250	-	-	525,544	525,544	-	-	-	-	5,470,000	805,794	6,275,794
2/1/2026	-	-	143,500	143,500	6,870,000	1.790%	525,544	7,395,544	-	-	2,071,789	2,071,789	6,870,000	2,740,833	9,610,833
8/1/2026	5,740,000	5.000%	143,500	5,883,500	-	-	464,058	464,058	-	-	1,541,000	1,541,000	5,740,000	2,148,558	7,888,558
2/1/2027	-	-	-	-	7,000,000	1.790%	464,058	7,464,058	9,500,000	5.000%	1,541,000	11,041,000	16,500,000	2,005,058	18,505,058
8/1/2027	-	-	-	-	-	-	401,408	401,408	-	-	1,303,500	1,303,500	-	1,704,908	1,704,908
2/1/2028	-	-	-	-	7,135,000	1.790%	401,408	7,536,408	12,475,000	5.000%	1,303,500	13,778,500	19,610,000	1,704,908	21,314,908
8/1/2028	-	-	-	-	-	-	337,549	337,549	-	-	991,625	991,625	-	1,329,174	1,329,174
2/1/2029	-	-	-	-	7,275,000	1.790%	337,549	7,612,549	13,100,000	5.000%	991,625	14,091,625	20,375,000	1,329,174	21,704,174
8/1/2029	-	-	-	-	-	-	272,438	272,438	-	-	664,125	664,125	-	936,563	936,563
2/1/2030	-	-	-	-	7,415,000	1.790%	272,438	7,687,438	13,755,000	5.000%	664,125	14,419,125	21,170,000	936,563	22,106,563
8/1/2030	-	-	-	-	-	-	206,074	206,074	-	-	320,250	320,250	-	526,324	526,324
2/1/2031	-	-	-	-	7,545,000	1.790%	206,074	7,751,074	12,810,000	5.000%	320,250	13,130,250	20,355,000	526,324	20,881,324
8/1/2031	-	-	-	-	-	-	138,546	138,546	-	-	-	-	-	138,546	138,546
2/1/2032	-	-	-	-	7,675,000	1.790%	138,546	7,813,546	-	-	-	-	7,675,000	138,546	7,813,546
8/1/2032	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,855	69,855	-	-	-	-	-	69,855	69,855
2/1/2033	-	-	-	-	7,805,000	1.790%	69,855	7,874,855	-	-	-	-	7,805,000	69,855	7,874,855
Total	11,210,000		567,250	11,777,250	58,720,000		4,830,942	63,550,942	61,640,000		11,712,789	73,352,789	131,570,000	17,110,980	148,680,980

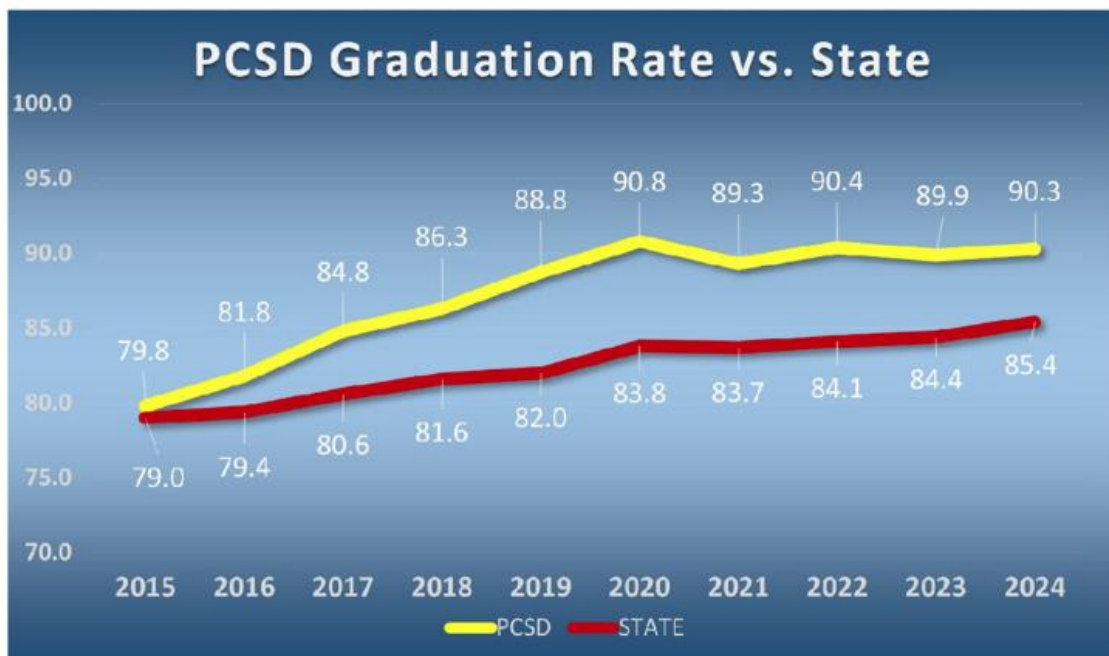
Performance Measures

Graduation Rates

PCSD Graduation Rate Tops 90 Percent, Ranks 6th Among 16 Largest Districts

They were freshmen when the COVID-19 pandemic began, but Paulding County School District's Class of 2024 has shown remarkable resilience by completing their high school credits and boosting the school district's four-year graduation rate back above 90 percent. The school district's five high schools achieved an average graduation rate of 90.3 percent, according to data released yesterday by the Georgia Department of Education. PCSD's 2024 graduation rate is well above the 85.4 percent average graduation rate of all school districts in Georgia and just a half of one percentage point from equaling PCSD's all-time high graduation rate of 90.8 percent in 2020.

Impressively, of the 16 school districts in Georgia with a graduation class of more than 2,000 students, the Paulding County School District's graduation rate ranked 6th highest. These rankings are a remarkable achievement for a low-wealth school district. While PCSD's graduation rate ranks 6th among the 16 largest school systems (graduating class of more than 2,000 students), the district's local revenue per pupil ranks 13th among the same group, 33 percent below the average local revenue per pupil. Despite this disparity, Paulding County students continue to outperform their peers across the state. Over the last 10 years, PCSD's graduation rate has increased by a remarkable 10.5 percentage points.



“The 2024 graduation rate is an outstanding achievement for our school district,” said Superintendent Steve Barnette. “This year’s graduating class came into high school at the height of the pandemic and faced tremendous academic challenges, including a large amount of time spent learning remotely along with numerous health-related protocols when they returned to school. For more than 90 percent of this class to graduate on time is truly remarkable. The students deserve a lot of credit, as do the teachers and administrators who helped them stay on track academically.”

Mr. Barnette often notes that the most important aspect of a student graduating is the quality of education that the student received. “While the number and percentage of graduates is certainly important, the value of the PCSD diplomas they earn is even more important. Our mission is to prepare all students for success today and tomorrow and ensure that every graduate has the academic and life skills to succeed in their post-secondary education, future careers, or military service.”

All five PCSD high schools topped the state average. Perhaps most notable, Hiram High School posted a 5.1 percentage point gain in its graduation rate compared to last year. The Paulding County School District graduation rate has topped the state average for the past 14 years.

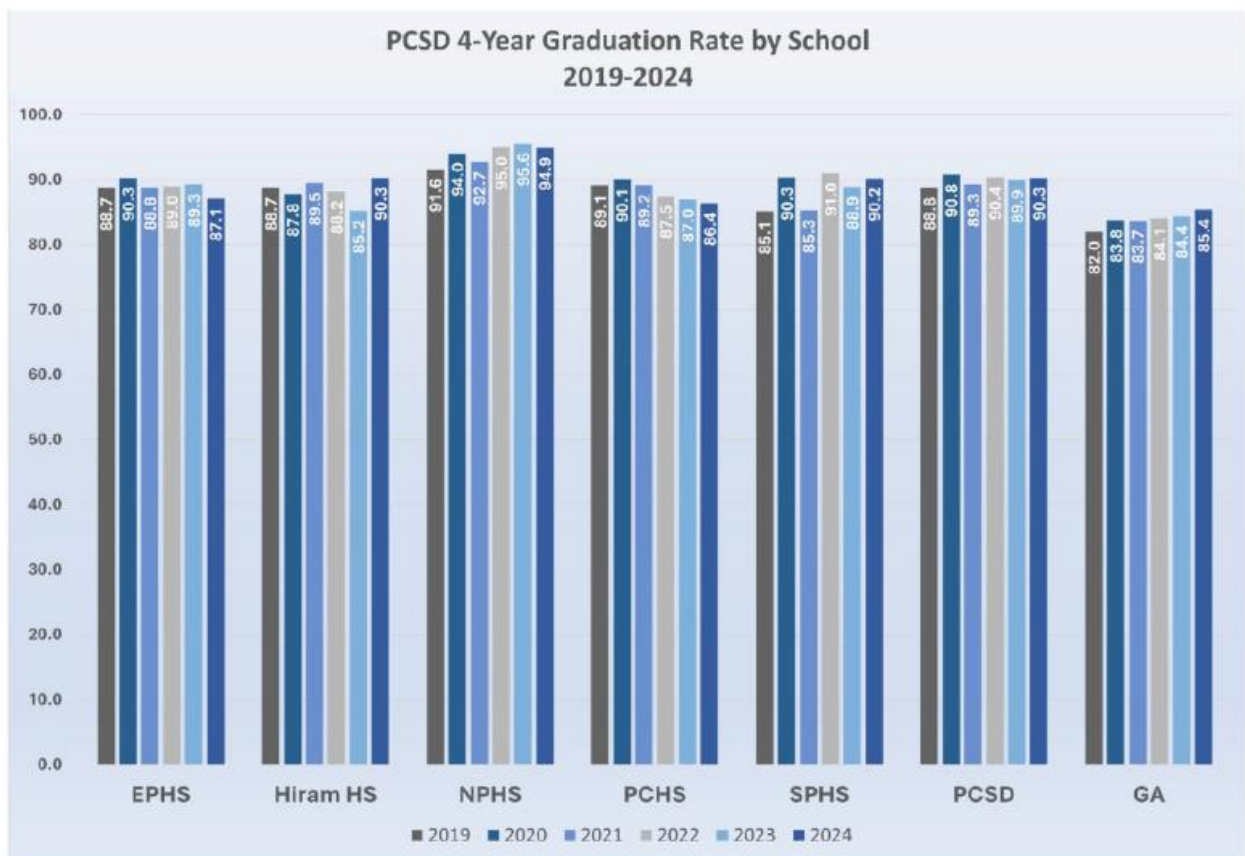
According to the school district’s Teaching and Learning Department, the significant increase in graduation rates over the last 10 years can be attributed to the implementation of evidence-based instruction in high schools and the more recent implementation of structured literacy initiatives, which have had a measurable effect on K-12 student achievement in all 34 district schools. The school district also implemented a range of academic mitigations for literacy and mathematics following the pandemic to address gaps in student learning.

Georgia calculates the graduation rate using a formula known as the adjusted cohort rate, which is required by the U.S. Department of Education. The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate defines the cohort based on when a student first becomes a freshman. It is calculated using the number of students who graduate within four years and includes adjustments for student transfers.

The state measures both a four-year and a five-year graduation rate as part of each school district’s CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index) calculation. PCSD’s five-year graduation rate for 2023 is 90.8 percent, the highest five-year graduation rate in PCSD history.

Georgia Department of Education				
2024 Four-Year Graduation Rate - Districts with Graduating Class More Than 2,000				
	System Name	Graduation Class Size	Total Graduated	Graduation Rate
1	Forsyth County	4349	4183	96.2
2	Cherokee County	3368	3149	93.5
3	Columbia County	2229	2082	93.4
4	Houston County	2301	2099	91.2
5	Fulton County	7695	6977	90.7
6	Paulding County	2584	2333	90.3
7	Atlanta Public Schools	3250	2873	88.4
8	Cobb County	9260	8138	87.9
9	Hall County	2164	1880	86.9
10	Savannah-Chatham County	2335	2027	86.8
11	Henry County	3956	3433	86.8
12	Douglas County	2339	2028	86.7
	All Systems	137718	117658	85.4
13	Gwinnett County	15431	12983	84.1
14	Clayton County	3895	3232	83.0
15	Richmond County	2072	1692	81.7
16	DeKalb County	6594	5213	79.1

PCSD HIGH School Graduation Rates Since 2015									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
East Paulding HS	86.7	80.6	87.1	88.7	90.3	88.8	89.0	89.3	87.1
Hiram HS	75.8	79.1	82.0	88.7	87.8	89.5	88.2	85.2	90.3
North Paulding HS	91.1	92.6	93.1	91.6	94.0	92.7	95.0	95.6	94.9
Paulding County HS	74.8	83.9	85.2	89.1	90.1	89.2	87.5	87.0	86.4
South Paulding HS	80.0	86.2	83.1	85.1	90.3	85.3	91.0	88.9	90.2
PCSD	81.8	84.6	86.3	88.8	90.8	89.3	90.4	89.9	90.3
Georgia	79.4	80.6	81.6	82.0	83.8	83.7	84.1	84.4	85.4



Graduation rates for FY2025 were not available at the time of this report.

College and Career Ready Performance Index

2024 CCRPI Results Highlight Significant Gains for PCSD Schools

The 2024 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) results showcase impressive gains and progress across the Paulding County School District’s elementary, middle, and high schools. The district achieved notable growth in several key performance areas, including gains at the elementary and middle school levels in Content Mastery, significant improvements in middle and high school levels in Progress, and continued strong outcomes in Readiness and Graduation Rate.

“This year’s CCRPI results are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, and school leaders,” said Paulding County School District Superintendent Steve Barnette. “These scores highlight the academic growth happening in our classrooms every day and demonstrate that we are moving in the right direction. As we celebrate these successes, we remain focused on ensuring every student has the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.”

PCSD 2024 CCRPI Component Scores			
COMPONENTS	ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE	HIGH
Content Mastery	64.3	65.2	67.1
Progress	78.0	82.1	78.4
Closing Gaps	77.8	64.8	61.1
Readiness	85.2	82.6	68.1
Graduation Rate	NA	NA	4-year 90.29 5-year 90.79

Key Achievements in the 2024 CCRPI

Content Mastery, which evaluates student performance in core subjects, saw notable growth at the middle school level, rising by 3.1 points to 65.2. Elementary schools showed steady improvement, scoring 64.3, and increased by 2.39 points in English Language Arts (ELA). High schools maintained consistent performance with a score of 67.1, demonstrating stability in subject-area achievement.



Progress, which measures students' academic growth over time, was a standout area as high schools achieved a remarkable 12.2-point increase, boosting the high school progress score to 78.4. Much of this growth was due to double-digit progress in Algebra. Middle schools also saw substantial gains, with Progress increasing by 3.4 points to 82.1, mainly attributable to across-the-board increases in ELA, Math, and English Language Proficiency. Elementary schools demonstrated a 4.76-point gain in English Language Arts progress and maintained their 100+ score for English Language Learners' progress.

Readiness, which measures preparedness for the next stage of learning and life through literacy, attendance, and participation in beyond-the-core opportunities, remained a strength across all grade levels. Elementary schools showed improvement with a score of 85.2, middle schools maintained a strong score of 82.6, and high schools improved to 68.1.

Although only one-third of the CCRPI Readiness score reports Reading Readiness, PCSD's median Lexile scores remain at or above grade-level expectations across every tested grade level and align with statewide reading performance. American Literature students demonstrated a median Lexile of 1305L, indicating that the average PCSD high school student is prepared to read entry-level college and career materials (1300L) by 10th or 11th grade.



District Strengths Compared to Statewide Trends

PCSD's results reflect alignment with or outperformance of state averages in several areas. The district's middle schools demonstrated more substantial Progress growth than the state average, with a 3.4-point gain compared to the state's 1.5-point increase. High schools showed even more impressive Progress, with a 12.2-point gain far exceeding the state's average growth of 3.5 points.

PCSD high schools' combined 4- and 5-year graduation rate of 90.5 remains a significant achievement, outperforming the statewide combined average of 85.7. Meanwhile, Students with Disability recorded a 4-year graduation rate of 85.37, improving by 5.52 points, and English Learners recorded a 4-year rate of 91.89, improving by 14.4 points.

End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) Metrics

2023-2024 Georgia Milestone Assessments

Paulding County School District & State of Georgia Comparisons

READING AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Paulding County School District began transitioning to the Science of Reading and systematic literacy instruction in 2016. Despite low PreK participation rates within the community, by 5th grade, more Paulding students read on or above grade level than their Georgia peers, with 73% of fifth graders reaching reading proficiency.

PCSD students also meet Reading Readiness Lexile targets across all tested grade levels and have higher Lexile scores than their Georgia peers in 5/7 tested grade levels. A Lexile score is a number that measures how well someone can read or how difficult a text is to read. Lexile scores are used to match readers with books that are at their reading level.

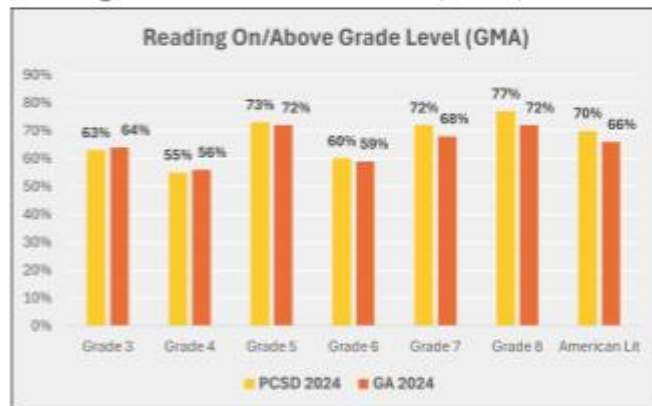
Research indicates that the materials students first encounter when entering college and careers are 1300L. Paulding graduates are ready for college and career success with 70% reading on or above grade level by 11th grade, 4% higher than their Georgia peers, and a median Lexile score of 1305L.



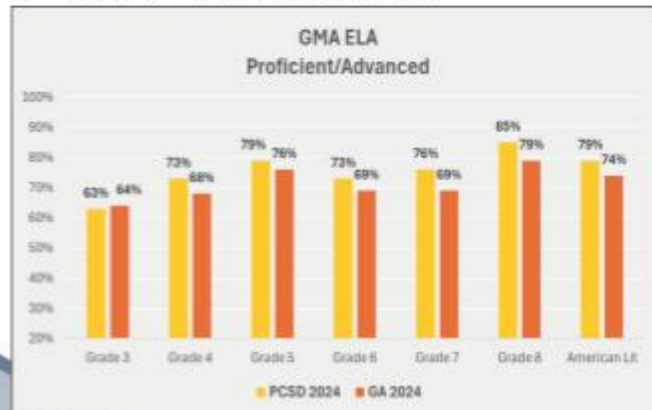
Reading Readiness



Reading On/Above Grade Level (GMA)



GMA ELA Proficient/Advanced



MATH

The 2023-2024 school year was a year of transition in mathematics. The Georgia Department of Education adjusted Georgia Mathematics Standards, and the district adopted a new K-12 mathematics curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics. Additionally, high schools began offering year-long Algebra to provide students more time for mastery of foundational Algebra skills.

Considering the major shifts in instruction and curriculum, PCSD students still saw increases with middle school students making the most gains, increasing proficient or advanced scores by 4-8% from 2023. Paulding students met or exceeded state scores in 4/7 tested grade levels.

MATH LEADER SCHOOLS

Three PCSD schools were named Math Leader schools by the Georgia Department of Education for achievement or growth in the percentage of students scoring at the Proficient Learner level or above in mathematics. This new award was created to recognize schools for performance in meeting the new Georgia K-12 Mathematics Standards implemented during the 2023-2024 school year. East Paulding Middle School and Paulding County High School were recognized for growth in mathematics, while McClure Middle School was recognized for both achievement and growth. Click [here](#) for more information.

2023-2024 MATH LEADERS

McClure MS
Achievement & Growth

East Paulding MS
Growth

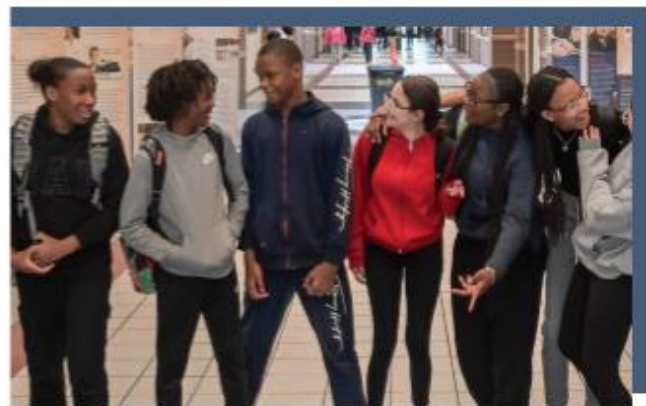
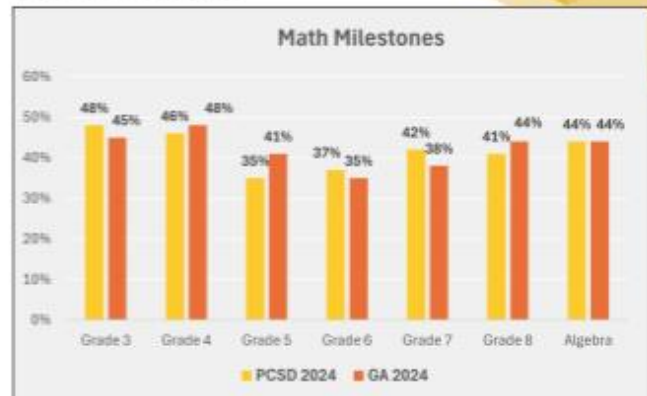
Paulding County HS
Growth

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

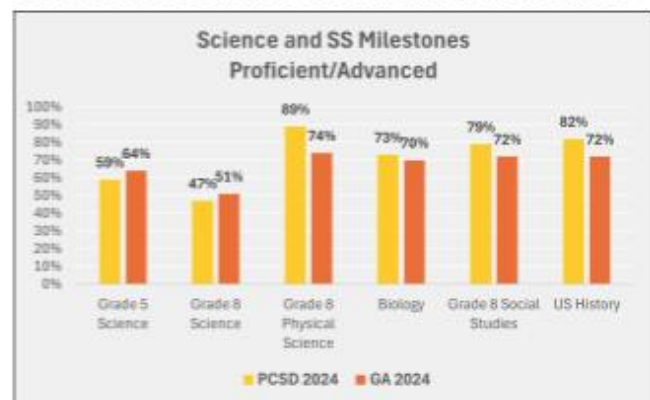
Paulding students continue to make great strides in Science and Social Studies. Paulding adopted new K-12 Social Studies instructional materials for the 2023-2024 school year. PCSD students significantly outperformed their state peers in Social Studies, with 7-10% more PCSD students scoring proficient or advanced in 8th-grade Social Studies and U.S. History compared to their Georgia peers.

In addition to Social Studies, Paulding students exceeded state averages in 8th Grade Physical Science and Biology by 3-5%. PCSD is adopting new K-12 science instructional materials for the 2025-2026 school year.

Math Milestones



Science and SS Milestone Proficient/Advanced



The Georgia Milestones Assessment for FY2025 was not available at the time of this report.

3-Year Financial Efficiency Star Rating

Please note, the data below for FY2020 - FY2023 was not available by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement due to the pandemic and incomplete CCRPI data.

What is the Financial Efficiency Star Rating?

OCGA § 20-14-33 requires that the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, in coordination with the Georgia Department of Education, create a financial efficiency rating. The Financial Efficiency Star Rating (FESR) measures an individual school district's per-pupil spending in relation to the academic achievements of its students.

How is the rating calculated?

The FESR utilizes a three-year average of per-pupil expenditures (PPE) and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores to determine a district's rating.

The matrix below shows the method for determining the FESR using both the PPE percentile and the CCRPI scores. Districts can earn between a one-half star and five stars, with a one-half star rating for districts with the highest PPEs and low CCRPI scores, and a five-star rating for districts with the lowest PPEs and high CCRPI scores. The 2024 district FESR is based on a three-year average (FY2019, FY2023, and FY2024) of PPE and CCRPI scores, the most current data available.

★★★★★	CCRPI Average					
Percentile of Average PPE	Less than 50	50-59.9	60-69.9	70-79.9	80-89.9	90 and Above
81-100 (High Spending)	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
61-80	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
41-60	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
21-40	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5
0-20 (Low Spending)	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5

The PPE is calculated by dividing a district's expenditures by the district's fall enrollment count. The PPE calculation only includes certain expenditures. In general, expenditures that do not directly affect the K-12 population, those associated with food and facility construction, and expenditures that cannot be associated with a specific year are omitted from the PPE calculation. Additionally, expenditures for students that are outside of a district's enrollment zone are excluded from the calculation. The calculation guide provides a complete list of excluded expenditures.

FESR Results

In FY2024, the most current rating period available, PCSD received a district wide **3.5-star rating**. Here is how PCSD compared to large districts (school districts with over 10,000 students) and all 180 school districts in Georgia:

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

>10,000 School Districts												
	4 Stars FY2015		4 Stars FY2016		4 Stars FY2017		4 Stars FY2018		4 Stars FY2019		4 Stars FY2024	
Higher	4	12%	4	12%	5	15%	5	15%	5	15%	6	17%
Lower	22	67%	22	67%	26	76%	26	76%	24	71%	24	67%
Same	7	21%	7	21%	3	9%	3	9%	5	15%	6	17%
% Same or Lower	88%		88%		85%		85%		85%		83%	

All School Districts (Compliant)												
	4 Stars FY2015		4 Stars FY2016		4 Stars FY2017		4 Stars FY2018		4 Stars FY2019		4 Stars FY2024	
Higher	9	5%	10	6%	12	7%	12	7%	14	8%	14	8%
Lower	150	84%	147	82%	150	84%	150	84%	148	83%	143	80%
Same	20	11%	22	12%	17	9%	16	9%	17	9%	22	12%
% Same or Lower	95%		94%		93%		93%		92%		92%	

Five Year FESR Results Summary

2016 Rating			
Average CCRPI	Average PPE	Percentile PPE	Star Rating PPE
74.2	\$ 7,566	11	4.0

2017 Rating			
Average CCRPI	Average PPE	Percentile PPE	Star Rating PPE
76.0	\$ 7,957	13	4.0

2018 Rating			
Average CCRPI	Average PPE	Percentile PPE	Star Rating PPE
76.3	\$ 8,319	16	4.0

2019 Rating			
Average CCRPI	Average PPE	Percentile PPE	Star Rating PPE
77.6	\$ 8,649	16	4.0

2024 Rating			
Average CCRPI	Average PPE	Percentile PPE	Star Rating PPE
76.5	\$ 10,121	23	3.5

Paulding County School District
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2026

FY2024 FESR Results by School

					Average	Average								
ID	School	Size	FTE	CCRPI	FSER	FSER	FTE	Lower	%	Same	%	Higher	%	
7102052	New Georgia Elementary	<=500	343	78	2.50	2.00	376	266	47%	119	21%	175	31%	
7104052	Union Elementary	<=500	398	71	3.00	2.00	376	386	69%	76	14%	98	17%	
710104	Poole Elementary	<=500	481	65	2.50	2.00	376	266	47%	119	21%	175	31%	
7101050	Dallas Elementary	<=500	494	66	2.50	2.00	376	266	47%	119	21%	175	31%	
710197	Panther Elementary	>500 to <=750	529	75	2.50	3.00	607	92	18%	106	20%	319	62%	
710103	Baggett Elementary	>500 to <=750	571	61	2.50	3.00	607	92	18%	106	20%	319	62%	
710188	McGarity Elementary	>500 to <=750	600	66	2.50	3.00	607	92	18%	106	20%	319	62%	
710294	Northside Elementary	>500 to <=750	603	64	2.00	3.00	607	26	5%	65	13%	426	82%	
710210	Ragsdale Elementary	>500 to <=750	624	77	3.00	3.00	607	199	38%	113	22%	205	40%	
710304	Dugan Elementary	>500 to <=750	631	61	2.50	3.00	607	92	18%	106	20%	319	62%	
710199	Roberts Elementary	>500 to <=750	633	71	3.00	3.00	607	199	38%	113	22%	205	40%	
710310	Hutchens Elementary	>500 to <=750	642	76	3.00	3.00	607	199	38%	113	22%	205	40%	
7105050	Hiram Elementary	>750 to <=1000	768	75	3.00	3.00	850	37	21%	30	17%	107	61%	
710198	Nebo Elementary	>750 to <=1000	818	70	3.00	3.00	850	37	21%	30	17%	107	61%	
710299	Allgood Elementary	>750 to <=1000	831	67	3.00	3.00	850	37	21%	30	17%	107	61%	
710204	Russom Elementary	>750 to <=1000	961	84	4.00	3.00	850	99	57%	38	22%	37	21%	
710110	Burnt Hickory Elementary	>1000	1,040	88	5.00	4.00	1,186	63	89%	4	6%	3	4%	
710113	Abney Elementary	>1000	1,271	71	4.00	4.00	1,186	31	44%	9	13%	30	42%	
710194	Shelton Elementary	>1000	1,397	81	4.50	4.00	1,186	41	58%	21	30%	8	11%	
			19		3.00	3.00	572	628	47%	230	17%	466	35%	
ID	School	Size	FTE	CCRPI	FSER	FSER	FTE	Lower	%	Same	%	Higher	%	
		<=500												
710192	South Paulding Middle	>500 to <=750	509	76	2.50	3.00	627	25	17%	33	22%	90	60%	
710297	Dobbins Middle	>500 to <=750	556	64	2.50	3.00	627	25	17%	33	22%	90	60%	
710213	Ritch Middle	>500 to <=750	718	72	3.50	3.00	627	88	59%	32	21%	28	19%	
710410	Scoggins Middle	>750 to <=1000	776	78	3.50	3.00	868	60	44%	27	20%	49	36%	
7102352	Hershal Jones Middle	>750 to <=1000	809	62	3.00	3.00	868	33	24%	26	19%	77	56%	
710404	Austin Middle	>750 to <=1000	811	62	3.00	3.00	868	33	24%	26	19%	77	56%	
710394	East Paulding Middle	>750 to <=1000	869	81	3.50	3.00	868	60	44%	27	20%	49	36%	
710201	Moses Middle	>750 to <=1000	929	76	4.00	3.00	868	88	64%	29	21%	19	14%	
710108	McClure Middle	>1000	1,499	80	4.50	4.00	1,390	66	66%	22	22%	11	11%	
			9		3.00	3.00	783	162	33%	77	16%	254	51%	
ID	School	Size	FTE	CCRPI	FSER	FSER	FTE	Lower	%	Same	%	Higher	%	
		<1500												
710101	Hiram High	>1500 to <=2000	1,503	65	3.50	4.00	1,743	19	23%	19	23%	45	54%	
710292	East Paulding High	>1500 to <=2000	1,904	67	4.00	4.00	1,743	39	46%	24	29%	20	24%	
710106	South Paulding High	>1500 to <=2000	1,905	70	3.50	4.00	1,743	19	23%	19	23%	45	54%	
7102552	Paulding County High	>2000	2,116	78	4.00	4.00	2,576	24	35%	15	22%	28	41%	
710109	North Paulding High	>2000	3,052	77	4.00	4.00	2,576	24	35%	15	22%	28	41%	
			5		4.00	3.00	1,196	294	63%	71	15%	102	22%	
Below State Average (by level and size)														

Where can the information be accessed?

FESR information is located on the Governor's Office of Student Achievement website:

<https://gosa.georgia.gov/financial-efficiency-star-rating-0>

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

5-Year Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility

Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility (FRL)

School	Oct-20 %FRL	Oct-21 %FRL	Oct-22 %FRL	Oct-23 %FRL	Oct-24 %FRL	Change
0299 - Allgood Elementary School	58.97	48.51	63.04	76.17	72.75	(3.42)
0103 - Bessie L. Baggett Elementary	59.70	36.96	61.77	70.93	70.59	(0.34)
0110 - Burnt Hickory Elementary School	18.42	12.11	18.29	29.13	27.10	(2.03)
0199 - C. A. Roberts Elementary School	38.72	28.50	44.60	61.30	54.91	(6.39)
0410 - Carl Scoggins Sr. Middle school	46.85	30.15	47.37	54.51	52.78	(1.73)
0304 - Connie Dugan Elementary School	49.59	37.89	55.02	66.09	65.09	(1.00)
1050 - Dallas Elementary School	69.61	54.64	74.45	82.19	79.69	(2.50)
0292 - East Paulding High School	35.73	22.93	37.74	50.95	48.51	(2.44)
0394 - East Paulding Middle School	36.53	23.58	39.16	52.13	46.35	(5.78)
0194 - Floyd L. Shelton Elementary School at Crossroad	21.17	13.30	21.74	29.35	27.79	(1.56)
0310 - Hal Hutchens Elementary	55.10	44.07	61.61	72.43	71.24	(1.19)
2352 - Herschel Jones Middle School	56.48	41.67	61.34	73.92	71.70	(2.22)
5050 - Hiram Elementary School	59.70	43.88	61.21	72.14	71.76	(0.38)
0101 - Hiram High School	49.79	34.02	54.77	67.66	63.22	(4.44)
0404 - Irma C. Austin Middle School	45.01	31.93	51.39	63.63	58.31	(5.32)
0297 - J. A. Dobbins Middle School	56.34	34.21	60.90	75.00	71.37	(3.63)
0201 - Lena Mae Moses Middle School	41.14	25.74	42.12	53.07	47.99	(5.08)
0104 - Lillian C. Poole Elementary School	49.29	34.38	55.39	64.03	62.03	(2.00)
0188 - McGarity Elementary School	46.29	36.61	50.68	61.00	57.97	(3.03)
0198 - Nebo Elementary School	47.83	33.22	53.79	63.20	59.91	(3.29)
2052 - New Georgia Elementary School	46.69	32.48	49.17	55.69	52.10	(3.59)
0109 - North Paulding High School	18.61	12.55	21.33	31.65	29.29	(2.36)
0294 - Northside Elementary School	50.86	31.44	49.44	60.03	58.62	(1.41)
0213 - P. B. Ritch Middle School	58.82	39.43	59.87	68.94	68.26	(0.68)
2552 - Paulding County High School	45.75	31.06	47.83	61.11	59.12	(1.99)
0204 - Roland W. Russom Elementary	26.07	18.51	28.77	37.46	33.58	(3.88)
0197 - Sam D. Panter Elementary School	55.34	39.50	63.39	71.27	70.69	(0.58)
0108 - Sammy McClure Sr. Middle School	18.00	11.78	17.06	27.35	24.82	(2.53)
0210 - Sara M. Ragsdale Elementary	53.21	34.88	55.33	66.19	61.36	(4.83)
0106 - South Paulding High School	32.61	22.16	36.00	48.92	46.89	(2.03)
0192 - South Paulding Middle School	47.03	35.94	47.40	61.49	58.78	(2.71)
4052 - Union Elementary School	45.71	29.09	41.90	59.80	50.58	(9.22)
0113 - WC Abney Elementary	31.80	26.95	38.25	49.65	48.77	(0.88)
Paulding County School District	40.05	27.80	42.64	53.94	51.16	(2.78)
Statewide Average	56.18	45.34	59.31	63.69	67.55	3.86

QBE Made Simple

A look at how the Georgia's Quality Basic Education formula provides funding for Paulding County schools. The information on this page explains how QBE funding is calculated by the State of Georgia. The next page shows where the calculation is shown on the QBE sheet. This page along with the following page is intended to be viewed at the same time to simplify the QBE formula into 7 steps.

STEP 1 Count the Students

Count the full-time equivalent of students at each school for each education program

STEP 2 Consider State of Georgia QBE Educational Programs Weights & Training and Experience (T&E) Factor

Since different programs vary in their cost of operation, the State assigns an appropriate weight to reflect these differences. The T&E factor takes into consideration Paulding County teachers' years of experience and level of education to increase the program weights. The revenue amounts per student and Paulding County's T&E factor can be found on the Georgia DOE website.

STEP 3 Multiply the number of students counted in each QBE program x the Per Student Revenue Amount x Paulding County's Training & Experience Factor

STEP 4 The State adds additional funding for Indirect Cost

Indirect school district costs (Maintenance, School/Central Administration, Media and Professional Development)

STEP 5 The State deducts the Local 5 Mill Share Amount

The State of Georgia requires that Paulding County levy 5 mills (Local 5 Mill Share) locally to support education and these 5 mills are deducted from QBE Formula Earnings.

STEP 6 The State deducts Austerity Cuts from the District's earnings

As a result of the difficult economic environment, the State of Georgia has identified budget reductions to K-12 Education in Georgia called Austerity Cuts. These State reductions have been assessed since 2002 and are deducted from QBE Formula Earnings

STEP 7 The State adds funding for State of Georgia Categorical Grants

Paulding County currently has State Categorical Grant funding for Transportation and Nursing

Paulding County School District Fiscal Year Budget

2026

Step 1: Student FTE Count

Step 2: Review Program Weights

Program	Weight
Kindergarten	1.6532
Kindergarten EIP	2.0382
Grades 1-3	1.2859
Grades 1-3 EIP	1.7955
Grades 4-5	1.0358
Grades 4-5 EIP	1.7892
Grades 6-8	1.0281
Middle School	1.1317
Grades 9-12	1.0000
Vocational Lab	1.1907
Remedial	1.3099
Alternative	1.4727
Special Ed Cat I	2.3828
Special Ed Cat II	2.7933
Special Ed Cat III	3.5559
Special Ed Cat IV	5.7624
Special Ed Cat V	2.4532
Gifted	1.6609
ESOL Program	2.5096

Step 3: Step 1 x Step 2 x (1+CCPS
T&E Factor) = QBE Direct Instruction

Step 4: State Adds Addt'l Funding

Step 5: Deduct Local 5 Mill Share

Step 6: Deduct Austerity Adjustment

Total QBE Formula Earnings

Step 7: Add Categorical Grants

Total QBE Funding

OFFICIAL

Georgia State Department of Education
Earnings Sheet

School System: 710 - Paulding County

FY 18 INITIAL A

Earnings (\$)

DIRECT INSTRUCTIONAL COST	FTE	SALARY	OPERATING	QBE EARNINGS	LESS LOCAL 5 MILLS	STATE FUNDS
Kindergarten Pgm	1,671	9,246,802	130,587	9,377,389	997,574	8,379,815
Kindergarten Early Intr Pgm	172	1,237,800	13,442	1,251,242	133,108	1,118,134
Primary Grade(1-3) Pgm	5,196	23,109,658	446,333	23,555,991	2,505,905	21,050,086
Primary Grd Early Intr(1-3) Pgm	564	3,749,682	48,447	3,798,129	404,048	3,394,081
Upper Elementary Grd(4-5) Pgm	3,334	11,317,328	234,747	11,552,075	1,228,919	10,323,156
UppElem Grd Early Intr(4-5)	447	2,971,822	31,478	3,003,300	319,493	2,683,807
Middle Grade(6-8) Pgm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middle School(6-8) Pgm	5,742	22,062,841	404,349	22,467,190	2,390,078	20,077,112
High School Gen Educ(9-12)	6,248	19,969,897	709,773	20,679,670	2,199,920	18,479,750
CTAE(9-12) PGM	1,590	5,793,228	521,838	6,315,066	671,802	5,643,264
Students with Disab Cat I	178	1,537,214	44,315	1,581,529	168,244	1,413,285
Students with Disab Cat II	182	1,931,883	23,906	1,955,789	208,056	1,747,733
Students with Disab Cat III	1,125	15,505,225	229,758	15,734,983	1,673,900	14,061,083
Students with Disab Cat IV	214	4,902,321	90,329	4,992,650	531,122	4,461,528
Students with Disab Cat V	530	4,581,416	224,095	4,805,511	511,214	4,294,297
Gifted Student Category VI	1,367	7,898,626	137,931	8,036,557	854,935	7,181,622
Remedial Education Pgm	166	794,598	9,535	804,133	85,544	718,589
Alternate Education Pgm	339	1,622,703	23,873	1,646,576	175,164	1,471,412
Eng Spkrs of Other Lang (ESOL)	69	660,879	3,963	664,842	73,918	620,924
Spec Ed. Itinerant				7,393	786	6,607
Spec Ed. Supplemental Speech				0	0	0
TOTAL DIRECT INSTRU.	20,134	138,923,903	3,326,999	142,250,995	15,133,730	127,126,265
INDIRECT COST						
Central Admin and One Time QBE		3,453,261	443,128	3,896,389	414,501	3,481,888
School Admin		6,881,532	202,777	7,084,309	753,635	6,330,674
Facility M & O			8,681,923	8,681,923	923,560	7,758,363
Sub Total (INDIRECT COST)		10,334,793	9,327,828	19,662,621	2,091,726	17,570,895
MEDIA CENTER PGM		3,366,375	405,562	3,771,937	401,262	3,370,675
20 DAYS ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION		1,155,492		1,155,492	122,922	1,032,570
STAFF & PROFESSIONAL DEV				655,513	69,734	585,779
PRINCIPAL STAFF & PROF. DEV				10,131	1,078	9,053
MIDTERM HOLD HARMLESS						(2,974,867)
Amended Formula Adjustment						0
Charter System Adjustment				0		0
QBE FORMULA EARNINGS		153,780,563	13,062,089	167,515,652	17,820,452	149,720,370
CATEGORICAL GRANTS						
Pupil Transportation Pgm (Includes 90 Drivers and bus replacement funds of 0)				1,384,284		1,384,284
Sparsity - Regular				0		0
Nursing Services				582,010		582,010
TOTAL EARNINGS FOR QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION				169,481,983		148,686,664
Education Equalization Funding Grant				27,368,078		27,368,078
TOTAL STATE FUNDING ON THIS ALLOTMENT SHEET				196,850,061		176,054,742
Charter Commission Admin - State						0
Military Counselors						0
DCH Direct Payment						0
State Commission Charter Supplement				0		0
TOTAL FUNDING ON THIS ALLOTMENT SHEET				196,850,061		176,054,742

Paulding County School District
Fiscal Year Budget

2026

PCSD FY2026 QBE Earnings Sheet

Georgia State Department Of Education
Earnings Sheet for FY 2026

04/23/2025
FY26 Initial--Published

System: 710 - Paulding County										THE BASIC UNIT COST IS DEFINED TO BE THE AMOUNT OF \$3,243.94											
School: ALL																					
<----- Earnings (\$) ----->							<----- Earned Positions ----->														
							K12														
DIRECT INSTRUCTIONAL COST	FTE	Salary	Operations	QBE Earnings	LESS LOCAL 5 MILLS	State Funds	Teacher	Subj. Spec	Couns.	Tech. Spec	Supt.	Asst Supt	Prin.	Asst Prin.	Secty.	Acctn.	VT/SW	Psych.	Sp Ed Ldr	Media Center	
Kindergarten	1,374	10,424,794	107,378	10,532,172	1,508,680	9,023,492	91.60	0.00	3.04	1.25											
Kindergarten Early Intervention	412	4,068,838	32,198	4,101,036	587,452	3,513,584	37.45	0.00	0.91	0.37											
Primary Grades 1-3	3,442	21,071,073	295,668	21,366,741	3,060,677	18,306,064	202.47	9.98	7.63	3.12											
Primary Grades 1-3 Early Intervention	1,975	18,072,920	169,653	18,242,573	2,613,156	15,629,417	179.55	5.72	4.38	1.79											
Upper Elementary Grades 4-5	1,937	9,051,733	136,404	9,188,137	1,316,154	7,871,983	84.22	5.61	4.29	1.76											
Upper Elementary Grades 4-5 Early Intervention	1,589	14,540,694	111,897	14,652,591	2,098,909	12,553,682	144.45	4.61	3.52	1.44											
Middle Grades 6-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00											
Middle School 6-8	5,603	29,632,884	394,563	30,027,447	4,301,279	25,726,168	280.15	16.24	12.42	5.08											
High School Grades 9-12	6,718	29,555,393	763,165	30,318,558	4,342,979	25,975,579	292.09	0.00	14.89	6.09											
Vocational Lab 9-12	1,955	9,804,559	641,631	10,446,190	1,496,363	8,949,827	97.75	0.00	4.33	1.77											
Special Education Category 1	181	2,189,309	45,062	2,234,371	320,062	1,914,309	22.63	0.00	0.40	0.16											
Special Education Category 2	255	3,778,816	33,494	3,812,310	546,094	3,266,216	39.23	0.00	0.57	0.23											
Special Education Category 3	1,398	26,808,202	285,472	27,093,674	3,881,031	23,212,643	279.60	0.00	3.10	1.27											
Special Education Category 4	325	10,323,186	137,287	10,460,473	1,496,409	8,962,064	108.33	0.00	0.72	0.29											
Special Education Category 5	527	6,374,394	222,615	6,597,009	944,988	5,652,021	65.88	0.00	1.17	0.48											
Gifted - Special Education Category 6	2,688	21,939,498	271,219	22,210,717	3,181,572	19,029,145	224.00	0.00	5.96	2.44											
Remedial	562	3,702,780	32,281	3,735,061	535,028	3,200,033	37.47	0.00	1.25	0.51											
Alternative	358	2,358,712	25,210	2,383,922	341,485	2,042,437	23.87	0.00	0.79	0.32											
ESOL	267	3,679,647	15,336	3,694,983	529,287	3,165,696	38.14	0.00	0.59	0.24											
Special Education Itinerant				13,203	1,891	11,312															
Special Education Supplemental Speech				50,829	7,281	43,548															
TOTAL DIRECT INSTRUC.	31,566	227,377,432	3,720,533	231,161,997	33,112,777	198,049,220	2,248.88	42.16	69.96	28.61											
Cent. Admin/ Tch. Sal Incr.		5,793,199	0	5,793,199	829,846	4,963,353					1	6			1	1	12.76	13.04	26.87		
School Administration		9,817,272	216,979	10,034,251	1,437,355	8,596,896							34	52.30	61.22						
Facility M&O			9,406,668	9,406,668	1,347,457	8,059,211															
MEDIA CENTER		4,921,636	435,769	5,357,405	767,421	4,589,984														52.28	
20 Days Additional Instruction		1,618,075		1,618,075	231,781	1,386,294															
Staff & Professional Development				999,282	143,142	856,140															
Principal Staff and Prof. Dev.				13,339	1,911	11,428															
Midterm Hold Harmless				0	0	0															
ONE TIME QBE PAYMENT						0															
Charter System Adjustment				0		0															
QBE FORMULA EARNINGS	31,566	249,527,614	13,779,949	264,384,216	37,871,690	226,512,526	2,248.88	42.16	69.96	28.61	1	6	34	52.30	62.22	1	12.76	13.04	26.87	52.28	
CATEGORICAL GRANTS							NOTES: 1. Expenditure controls as set forth in O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-167 are reinstated, subject to each district's approved flexibility contract. 2. Health Insurance for Certificated Personnel is funded on a per member per month amount(PMPM) of \$1,885 for an annual funding amount of \$22,620 in QBE under appropriation in FY26(HB68). 3. Teacher Retirement is funded at 21.91% in QBE in FY26(HB68).														
Pupil Transportation Pgm (Includes 90 Drivers and Bus Replacement Funds of 0)				7,204,969		7,204,969															
Sparsity - Regular				0		0															
Nursing Services				743,350		743,350															
Educational Equalization Grant				28,990,495		28,990,495															
Charter Commission /GADOE Admin - State				0		0															
Military Counselors				0		0															
Local Charter Supplement				0		0															
State Special Charter Supplement				0		0															
TOTAL FUNDING ON THIS ALLOTMENT SHEET				301,323,030	37,871,690	263,451,340															
							Total T&E: 105,762,520 Includes T&E : 59,097,460 and HI : 46,665,060														

Local School Administration 2025-2026 School Year

Elementary Schools



Abney Elementary School

- Principal: Kimberly Hembree
- Assistant Principal: Timothy Quinn
- Assistant Principal: Jodie Henson
- EAC: Anna Light



Allgood Elementary School

- Principal: Shetal Slusher
- Assistant Principal: Scott Ragsdale
- Assistant Principal: Dana Packer
- EAC: Monica Gambrell



Baggett Elementary School

- Principal: Alisha Queen
- Assistant Principal: Thomas Beames
- EAC: Melissa Maycumber



Burnt Hickory Elementary School

- Principal: Kristi Davis
- Assistant Principal: Benjamin Brooks
- Assistant Principal: Andrea Davis
- EAC: Tricia Langford



Dallas Elementary School

- Principal: Tasha Adams
- Assistant Principal: Karen Kirby
- EAC: Jonicia Thurston



Dugan Elementary School

- Principal: DeAnna Byers
- Assistant Principal: Elizabeth Davis
- EAC: Rhonda Magill



Hiram Elementary School

- Principal: Emily Black
- Assistant Principal: Anjeanetta Cooper
- Assistant Principal: Lisa Brocious
- EAC: Ginger Land



Hutchens Elementary School

- Principal: Priscilla Smith
- Assistant Principal: Camille Alderman
- EAC: Kimberly Shaw



McGairty Elementary School

- Principal: Jamesa Hodge
- Assistant Principal: Jackie Thomason
- EAC: Beth Becraft



Nebo Elementary School

- Principal: Rodney Wilkerson
- Assistant Principal: Alicia Jones
- Assistant Principal: Kristi Kidd
- EAC: Heather Powers



New Georgia Elementary School

- Principal: Lori Morgan
- Assistant Principal: Kelly Koch
- EAC: Elizabeth McCrary



Northside Elementary School

- Principal: Lindy Beyea
- Assistant Principal: Robert Prince
- EAC: Jayson Willis



Panter Elementary School

- Principal: Jacob Griffith
- Assistant Principal: Amy Delaney
- EAC: Anna Carter



Poole Elementary School

- Principal: Kelly Davis
- Assistant Principal: Carol Ammons
- EAC: Taylor Stapp



Ragsdale Elementary School

- Principal: Ann Arnold
- Assistant Principal: Mary Cameron
- EAC: Courtney Osley



Roberts Elementary School

- Principal: Paul Wilder
- Assistant Principal: Tracy Sellars
- EAC: Jennifer Wilson



Russom Elementary School

- Principal: Dustin Schularick
- Assistant Principal: Betty Nell Gassett
- Assistant Principal: Gina Zuganelis
- EAC: Gwyneth Posey



Shelton Elementary School

- Principal: Endea Hudgins
- Assistant Principal: Andy Davis
- Assistant Principal: Katie Bell
- EAC: Laura Wallace



Union Elementary School

- Principal: Blake Keown
- Assistant Principal: Michelle Kudwa
- EAC: Alecia Pence

Middle Schools



Austin Middle School

- Principal: Larry Sailors
- Assistant Principal: Sean Schinella
- Assistant Principal: Dannison Curtis
- EAC: Alisa Houston



Crossroads Middle School

- Principal: Tom Alverson
- Assistant Principal: Kimberly Burford
- Assistant Principal: Michelle Pritchett
- EAC: Dr. Monique Prince



Dobbins Middle School

- Principal: Donna Broyles
- Assistant Principal: Meredith Barnhill
- Assistant Principal: Ronnetta Simpson
- EAC: Wendy Mace



East Paulding Middle School

- Principal: Lorilyn Harrell
- Assistant Principal: Inester Jones
- Assistant Principal: Christopher McAllister
- EAC: Jacob Runyon



Herschel Jones Middle School

- Principal: Kim Silas
- Assistant Principal: Jason Yohe
- Assistant Principal: Justin Munoz
- Assistant Principal: Shannon Toler
- EAC: Lorraine Reeves



McClure Middle School

- Principal: Tammy Ponder
- Assistant Principal: Jenette Allen
- Assistant Principal: Jon Goodfriend
- EAC: Alyssa Trapp



Moses Middle School

- Principal: Tammy Skelton
- Assistant Principal: Bryce Sellers
- Assistant Principal: Chris Stafford
- EAC: Heather Byrd



Ritch Middle School

- Principal: Christine Carson
- Assistant Principal: Pamela Swiney
- Assistant Principal: Chris Munoz
- EAC: Jennifer Korb



Scoggins Middle School

- Principal: Dustin Skelton
- Assistant Principal: Marc Renna
- Assistant Principal: Jennifer Godbout
- EAC: Paula Kennedy



South Paulding Middle School

- Principal: James A. Neal, Jr.
- Assistant Principal: Sandra Wood
- Assistant Principal: Robert Jarvis
- EAC: Trina Wheeler

High Schools



East Paulding High School

- Principal: Brad Thomason
- Assistant Principal: Gene Reynolds
- Assistant Principal: Angela Johnson
- Assistant Principal: Leslie Ellis
- Assistant Principal: Matthew Hardage
- Assistant Principal: Lynne Watters
- EAC: Andrea Salmon



Hiram High School

- Principal: Darius Hodge
- Assistant Principal: Jeff Wallace
- Assistant Principal: April Byrne
- Assistant Principal: Chad Tittle
- Assistant Principal: Michelle Stubbs
- Assistant Principal: LaRoyce Sublett
- EAC: Kimberely Gray



North Paulding High School

- Principal: Gabe Carmona
- Assistant Principal: Tracy Gaynor
- Assistant Principal: Matthew Dyer
- Assistant Principal: Chris Davies
- Assistant Principal: Shannon Lawson
- Assistant Principal: Julie Speeney
- Assistant Principal: Ben Bredeson
- Assistant Principal: Stephen McClure
- EAC: Kathryn Daniell



Paulding County High School

- Principal: Andy Dorsey
- Assistant Principal: Kevin Thomas
- Assistant Principal: Heather Dejohn -Mathis
- Assistant Principal: Zachary Romain
- Assistant Principal: Ryan Brady
- Assistant Principal: Karmel Moulder
- EAC: Michelle TaiSee



South Paulding High School

- Principal: Edward Thomas
- Assistant Principal: Cristin Thomason
- Assistant Principal: Chad Mathews
- Assistant Principal: Brittany Drumgold
- Assistant Principal: Julian Hicks
- Assistant Principal: Jim McMichen
- EAC: Charlotte Morgan



New Hope Education Center

- Director: Vladimir Labossiere
- Assistant Director: Barbara Crutchfield



Paulding College and Career Academy (PCCA)

- CEO: Jana Stegall
- Administrator: Vladimir Labossiere

E-SPLOST VI Information



E-SPLOST NOV. 5 2019

www.paulding.k12.ga.us/planningforthefuture

On Nov. 5, 2019 the voters of Paulding County will be asked to continue the penny sales tax that goes toward constructing new schools, adding classrooms to existing schools, renovating existing facilities, and providing classroom resources and technology for Paulding County students.

WHAT IS E-SPLOST?

- Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Education)
- **NOT A NEW TAX** - An E-SPLOST funding school construction, renovation and improvements has been in place in Paulding since 1997. Voters must approve every five years.
- One-cent sales tax to help fund capital improvements, including debt repayment for prior bond issues.
- Cannot be used for operating expenses, such as salaries or utilities.
- Everyone who makes a purchase in Paulding County contributes to our schools – even those who don't live in Paulding but spend money here.
- E-SPLOST is a consumption tax, not a property tax.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

PROJECTED RECEIPTS

\$113,250,182* (60 Months)

*Collection ceiling, listed on referendum, is \$120 million.

PROPOSED NEW CONSTRUCTION

New Middle School Facility \$32.5 million

Strategic Additions \$4.1 million



PROPOSED RENOVATION PROJECTS

Tentative Projects: \$15.8 million*

- Allgood Elementary School
- Baggett Elementary School
- Dugan Elementary School
- Poole Elementary School
- Austin Middle School

*Includes capital outlay estimated reimbursement

Future Facility Needs/Improvements \$13.8 million

- Continue to monitor growth needs
- Monitor aging facilities

E-SPLOST FACTS

- Because of E-SPLOST, currently no Bond Millage on Paulding property owners' tax bills.
- Without E-SPLOST, current Bond Millage (2019) would be approximately 1.815.

Over 22 years, E-SPLOST has:

- Paid off bond debt, which keeps property taxes lower;
- Purchased land;
- Helped construct 21 new schools;
- Added, renovated, and equipped hundreds of classrooms;
- Funded Technology, Fine Arts, and Athletics
- Helped maintain and renovate existing facilities.

PROPOSED FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Technology Enhancements	\$2.5 million
Fine Arts Initiatives	\$1.6 million
• K-5 Music & Visual Arts equipment	
• 6-8 Band, Choral and Visual Arts Equipment	
• 9-12 Band, Choral, Visual Arts Equip. & Performing Arts Center Upgrades	
Physical Education	\$1.4 million
• Tennis courts resurfacing	
• Track resurfacing	
• Gym floor refinishing (elementary/middle)	
Athletic Facilities	\$1.9 million
• Equal distribution for all five high schools	

PROPOSED SAFETY & SECURITY

Upgrades \$6.0 million



- Enclosed connecting corridors (elementary/middle)
- Fire alarms & intercoms

E-SPLOST VII Information

E-SPLOST

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

On November 7th, the citizens of Paulding County will have an opportunity to go to the polls to vote on whether to continue E-SPLOST for five years. The penny sales tax will go toward new school construction, classroom additions, renovations for existing facilities and classroom safety, fine arts and technology upgrades. Citizens are encouraged to research and understand the implications of their vote as the decision made will shape the educational landscape in Paulding County for the next five years.



- Not a new tax. E-SPLOST been in place since 1997.
- Consumption tax, not property tax.
- Anyone who spends in Paulding contributes to schools.
- Cannot be used for operating expenses like salaries.



Over 25 Years E-SPLOST has:

- ✓ Paid down bond debt, which keeps property taxes lower;
- ✓ Purchased land for new school construction; Helped fund the construction of 22 new schools;
- ✓ Helped maintain and update existing facilities with critical renovations;
- ✓ Added and renovated hundreds of new classrooms, and equipped existing classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, fine arts and physical education improvements.

Please Note: With approximately 2 ½ years remaining in SPLOST VI and, if approved, SPLOST VII potentially extending to 2031, collections and the projects they fund could change for a host of reasons. With the exceptions of the referendum requirements (the language of the referendum) and debt service, proposed projects and dollar amounts are subject to change based on evolving conditions.

www.paulding.k12.ga.us/capitalimprovements
planningforthefuture@paulding.k12.ga.us
 Please exercise your right to vote on November 7th.



PROPOSED E-SPLOST VII PROJECTS

"BUILDING ON OUR PROGRESS"

Debt Service

- Retiring previous long-term debt

New Construction

- Proposed New Elementary in NE Paulding
- Proposed New Elementary in South Paulding

Renovations

- Dallas Elementary
- Abney Elementary
- Dugan Elementary
- McClure Middle School
- South Paulding High School

Fine Arts Initiatives

- Theater Stage Floors
- Instrument Refresh
- Acoustical Shells

Athletic Facilities

- Artificial Turf Replacement
- Field Lighting
- Multipurpose HS Buildings with M/F Dressing Rooms

Campus Improvements

- On-Campus Paving
- Gym Floor Refinishing (recurring)
- ES Playground Enhancements

Safety/Security

- Safety/Security Upgrades
- Access Control
- Strategic Fencing
- Crosswalks
- Camera System Upgrades

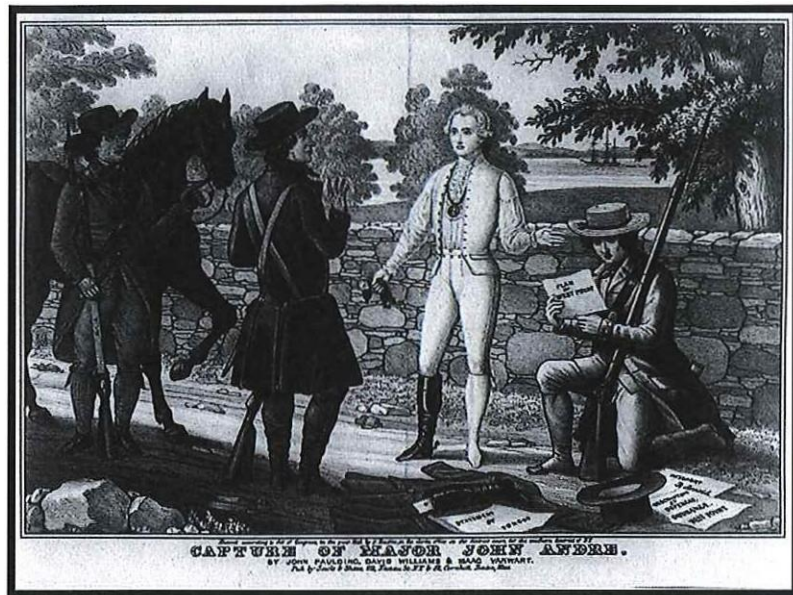


History of Paulding County

The Beginning:

Paulding County was founded on December 3, 1832, as Georgia's 89th county. Paulding County is named after John K. Paulding, a Revolutionary War hero, who captured the British spy Major John Andre. Major Andre was an accomplice to Benedict Arnold in the attempted surrender of the fort in West Point, New York to the British Army.

Paulding County was one of ten counties that formed Cherokee County. On December 3, 1832, an act of the Georgia General Assembly separated Cherokee County into Union, Murray, Lumpkin, Gilmer, Forsyth, Floyd, Cobb, Cherokee, Cass (now known as Bartow), and Paulding. Van Wert became the county seat. Van Wert was named after Isaac Van Wert, another Revolutionary War soldier who participated in the capture of Major John Andre.



In the Gold Lottery of 1832, Paulding County was separated into forty-acre "gold lots." People came from other parts of Georgia and other states to seek gold; however, many were not successful. Some of the immigrants remained in the county for agricultural purposes thus farming became the main occupation for Paulding County. Primary crops grown in Paulding County were cotton, corn, wheat and tobacco. Although the Removal Act was passed in 1830, most Cherokee Indian tribes that had inhabited much of Georgia did not leave Paulding County until 1838 on the Trail of Tears.

Between 1832 and 1874, parts of Paulding were annexed into Carroll, Cobb, Polk, and Douglas counties. On December 20, 1851, a section of Paulding was used to form Polk County, and the county seat of Van Wert was included in Polk County. Dallas became Paulding County's new seat in 1851. Dallas is named after George Mifflin Dallas, Vice President of the United States under James Polk. On May 14, 1852, Dallas was founded on land deeded from Garrett H. Spinks and became incorporated in 1854. Paulding County has two other incorporated cities, Hiram and Braswell.

Our Courthouse:

The first two courthouses of Paulding were built in the county seat of Van Wert. In 1854, Paulding County purchased land to build another courthouse in the county seat of Dallas. In 1892, the new courthouse was constructed. The building has been renovated several times throughout the years. The George T. Bagby Annex building was constructed in 1990. In 2008, the new Watson Government Complex opened and was dedicated to the Watson family. The new site is located at Constitution Boulevard in Dallas. The complex is the location of the courthouse and the administration offices for Paulding County.



The Civil War & Other Happenings:

Paulding County is well known for its role in the Civil War. In 1864, Union General William T. Sherman planned to take over Dallas to control the traffic on the county roads that led to larger cities such as Atlanta and Kennesaw. Confederate General Joseph Johnson

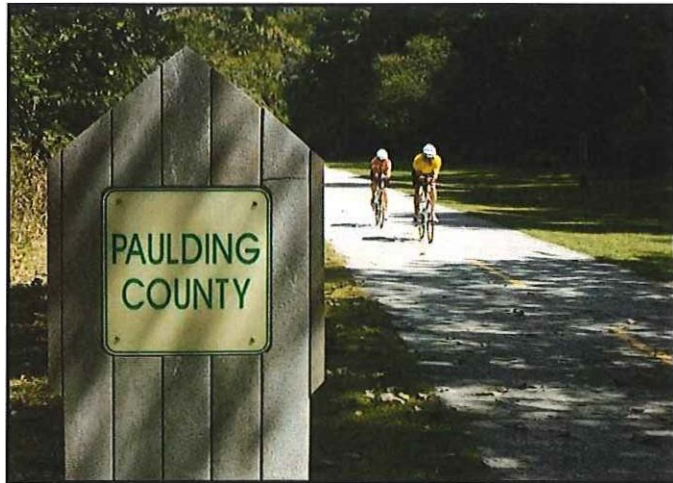
commanded his troops to stop the Union from the attempted take-over. Because of the Union's attempt to control part of Paulding County, three battles took place at New Hope Church, Dallas and Pickett's Mill. The battles delayed Sherman's attack on Atlanta. Paulding County's historic Henderson House served as the Union headquarters. Today, Pickett's Mill is one of the best-preserved Civil War sites in the nation.

After the reconstruction period, Paulding County began to flourish. Construction of the Southern and Seaboard Railroads began in 1882. Paulding County was also introduced to the textile industry at this time. Both industries played a great role in the growth of the county. Along with the introduction of the railroad and the textile industry, Paulding County's first newspaper was introduced, The Dallas New Era.

On October 18, 1903, "Ole 88" Engine 345, jumped the tracks and tore down part of the Pumpkinvine Creek Trestle. Pumpkinvine Creek Trestle, which was originally built in 1901, was rebuilt after the accident. The trestle is over 750 feet long and towers 126 feet above Pumpkinvine Creek. The trestle was restored in 1999 and now serves as part of the Silver Comet Trail.

On April 4, 1977, Southern Airways Flight 242 departed from Huntsville, Alabama traveling to Atlanta. The flight crew was advised of the presence of thunderstorms and possible tornadoes along their route prior to their departure. The flight crew had flown that same route from Atlanta earlier in the day and only encountered mild turbulence and light rain. During the flight, the weather intensified. The aircraft entered a thunderstorm cell and encountered excessive amounts of water and hail. The windshield was damaged by hail. Due to the massive amounts of water ingested, both engines failed.

The pilots executed an emergency landing on State Route 92, also known as Highway 381 or Dallas-Acworth Highway, located in the New Hope Community. When landing, the aircraft collided with a gas station/convenience store and several other structures. The flight crew and sixty-two passengers aboard the aircraft died including eight people on the ground. Twenty-one passengers including both flight attendants survived.



The famous Silver Comet Trail, which runs through parts of the county, was originally a railroad. The trail is named after the Silver Comet Locomotive. The locomotive was a passenger train with dining and sleeping amenities. In 1992, The Georgia Department of Transportation purchased the abandoned railway from CSX. The land was purchased with the intentions of it becoming a transit extension but currently the land is being used as a trail for Paulding, Cobb, and Polk Counties. Construction on the trail began in Smyrna in 1998 and was completed in 2008 in Anniston, Alabama. The Silver Comet Trail is perfect for walking, biking, rollerblading, dog walking and horse riding.

Glossary and Exhibits

Glossary

This glossary contains definitions of terms necessary for a common understanding of the *PCSD Budget Book*. Some of these definitions are not primarily financial accounting terms but have been included due to their significance to the accounting and budgeting process. The glossary is arranged alphabetically with appropriate cross-referencing where necessary.

AD VALOREM TAXES

Taxes levied on the assessed valuation (less exemptions) of real and personal property, including automobiles.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021, to speed up the United States recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession. ARP ESSER funds will allow SEAs (State Educational Agencies) to take additional steps to safely reopen schools for in-person instruction and keep them open, and to address the disruptions to teaching and learning resulting from the pandemic. At the state level, ARP funds will be used to address lost learning opportunities, remove barriers to learning, and personalize supports for students, schools, and educators.

APPROPRIATION

An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and as to the time when it may be expended.

APPROPRIATION CONTROL

The control or management of a school district's business affairs in accordance with an approved budget and with a responsibility to keep expenditures within authorized amounts.

See also BUDGETARY CONTROL.

AUSTERITY

Measures taken by government to reduce expenditures in an attempt to shrink a growing budget deficit.

BALANCE SHEET

A summarized statement, as of a given date, of the financial position of a local education agency per fund and/or all funds combined showing assets, liabilities, reserves and fund balance.

The Paulding County Board of Commissioners (BOC)

The tax levying authority in Paulding County.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (DISTRICT)

The elected or appointed body which has been created according to State law and vested with responsibilities for educational activities in a given geographical area. These bodies are sometimes called school boards, governing boards, boards of directors, school committees, school trustees, etc. This definition relates to the general term and covers State boards, intermediate administrative unit boards, and local basic administrative unit boards.

BOND

A written promise, generally under seal to pay a specified sum of money, called the face value, at a fixed time in the future, called the maturity date, and carrying interest at a fixed rate, usually payable periodically. The difference between a note and a bond is that the latter usually runs for a longer period of time and requires greater legal formality.

BONDED DEBT

The part of the school district debt which is covered by outstanding bonds of the District. This type of debt is sometimes called "Funded Debt."

BONDS ISSUED

Bonds sold to a holder, to whom the issuer is indebted.

BUDGET

A budget is a plan of financing operation embodying an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period or purpose and the proposed means of financing them. The budget usually consists of three parts. The first part contains a message from the budget-making authority together with a summary of the proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. The second part is composed of drafts of the appropriation, revenue, and borrowing measures necessary to put the budget into effect. The third part consists of schedules supporting the summary. These schedules show in detail the proposed expenditures and means of financing them together with information as to past years' actual revenues and expenditures and other data used in making the estimates.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT (AMMENDMENT)

An administrative procedure used to revise a budgeted amount after the Annual Budget has been adopted by the Board of Education and approved by the State Board of Education.

BUDGETARY CONTROL

Budgetary Control refers to the management of the business affairs of the school district in accordance with an approved budget. Budget managers have a responsibility to keep expenditures within the authorized amounts.

See also APPROPRIATION and POSITION CONTROL.

CAPIAL ASSET

Capital Assets are items owned by the Paulding County School District such as land, buildings, equipment and other that are used over a period of time to provide service to the organization and the organization community. Capital assets may be used to produce goods or to repair, maintain or construct other assets.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The capital budget is a plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current fiscal period. It is usually a part of the current budget. If a Capital Program is in operation, it will be the first year thereof. A Capital Program is sometimes referred to as a Capital Budget.

See also CAPITAL PROGRAM.

CAPITALIZATION

A process of defining the value or threshold used to determine whether an item will need to be recorded as expenditure or kept as a fixed asset.

CAPITAL OUTLAYS

Expenditures which result in the acquisition of or addition to fixed assets.

CAPITAL PROGRAM

A plan for capital expenditures to be incurred each year over a fixed period of years to meet capital needs arising from the long-term work program or otherwise. It sets forth each project or other contemplated expenditure in which the local education agency is to have a part and specifies the full resources estimated to be available to finance the projected expenditures.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Projects are those that result in the acquisition or construction of land, buildings and related improvements.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTAE)

Career & Technical Education programs provide students opportunities to apply mathematics, science and communication competencies in laboratory and occupational settings that develop specific technical skills applicable in broad concentration areas.

CHART OF ACCOUNTS

A list of accounts systematically arranged, applicable to a specific concern, listing account names and numbers, if any. A chart of accounts, accompanied by descriptions of their use and of the general operation of the books of accounts, becomes a classification or manual of accounts: a leading feature of a system of accounts.

CONTINGENCY

Amount of money set aside for emergency school needs during the year.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Contracted Services are a type of expenditure that includes labor, material and other costs for services rendered by personnel who are not on the payroll of the local education agency.

CORONAVIRUS, AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

Passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. The funding provides flexibility for states to respond to the COVID-19 emergency in K-12 schools. Funds to local school districts may be used for coronavirus response activities, such as planning for and coordinating during long-term school closures, purchasing educational technology to support online learning for all student, and additional activities authorized by federal elementary and secondary education laws.

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS (CRRSA) ACT

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 27, 2020, provides an additional \$54.3 billion for an ESSER II fund. Following the same distribution as the CARES Act, which is based on the share of ESEA Title I, Part A funds follows the same use for coronavirus-response activities. Planning for and coordinating activities that address learning loss, preparing schools for reopening, testing, repairing, upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings, and additional activities authorized by federal elementary and secondary education laws are continually permitted.

COST PER PUPIL

By dividing a monetary amount by an enrollment number, can be normalized across schools and districts in order to determine relative efficiencies. Possible measures can include budget or expenditure data for a given period of time, or a pupil unit of measure such as daily membership or daily enrollment.

COUPON RATE

A coupon rate is the yield paid by a fixed-income security; a fixed-income security's coupon rate is simply the annual coupon payments paid by the issuer relative to the bond's face or par value. The coupon rate is the yield the bond paid on its issue date.

CTAE

Career Technical Agricultural Education; 17 Georgia Career Clusters with over 130 career pathway course offerings to prepare students for future career opportunities, apprenticeships, or military.

DEBT

A debt is an obligation resulting from the borrowing of money or from the purchase of goods and services. Debts of local education agencies include bonds, warrants and notes, etc.

DEBT LIMIT

The debt limit is the maximum amount of gross or net debt that is legally permitted.

DEBT SERVICE

Interest and principal payments associated with the issuance of bonds.

DELINQUENT TAXES

Delinquent taxes are those that remain unpaid on or after the date on which a penalty for non-payment is attached.

Digital Learning

Instruction provided in a blended or alternative platform to engage students.

DIVISION (DEPARTMENT)

A division is a major administrative component of the school system that indicates overall management responsibility for an operation or a group of related operations within a functional area.

EAC

Evaluation and Assessment Coordinator

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A school classified as elementary by state and local statutes or practices and composed of kindergarten through grade five.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (FRINGE)

Amount paid by the school system on behalf of employees; these amounts are not included in the gross salary, but are over and above. Such payments are, in a sense, overhead payments. They are fringe benefit payments, and while not paid directly to employees, are part of the cost of salaries and benefits. Examples include: (a) group health or life insurance, (b) contribution to employee retirement, (c) Social Security and (d) Worker's Compensation.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

A program that provides English instruction for students whose first language is one other than English.

ESEP

Exceptional Students Education Program

ESSER

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding

EXPENDITURES

This includes total charges incurred, whether paid or unpaid, for current expense, capital outlay and debt service.

FISCAL PERIOD

Any period at the end of which a local education agency determines its financial position and the results of its operations. The period may be a month, a quarter, or a year, depending upon the scope of operations and requirements for managerial control and reporting purposes.

FISCAL YEAR (FY)

A twelve-month period of time to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a local education agency determines its financial position and their results of its operations. For Paulding County School District this period is July 1 through June 30.

FRINGE BENEFITS

Total employers share of F.I.C.A. taxes, hospitalization, dental, disability, worker's compensation, unemployment and retirement contributions made on behalf of employees.

See also EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT – EMPLOYEE (FTE)

The amount of employed time required in a part-time position expressed in proportion to that required in a full-time position, with 1.0 representing one full-time position. It is derived by dividing the amount of employed time in the part-time position by the amount of employed time required in a corresponding fulltime position.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT – STATE FUNDING (FTE)

Local school systems in Georgia must report enrollment at least twice during the school year for funding purposes. This reporting reflects the school day being divided into six parts (periods). The student is counted six times, according to which programs he or she participates in during the day.

Each student is counted for each one-sixth of the school day for the eligible program in which he or she is enrolled. The resulting total, when divided by six, is known as the full-time equivalent (FTE) program count. An average of three reported counts are used in the funding formula.

See also QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION.

FUNCTION¹⁵

Function is an accounting term relating to both the budget and the financial report. A “function” is a grouping of activities being performed for which salaries and other types of direct costs are expended and accounted. Functions and sub functions consist of activities which have somewhat the same general operational objectives. Furthermore, categories of activities comprising each of these divisions and subdivisions are grouped according to the principle that the activities should be combinable, comparable, relatable and mutually exclusive. Both the budget and the financial reports group activities within “functions.”

INSTRUCTION (1000)

Instruction includes activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers and students. Teaching may be provided for students in a school classroom, in another location such as a home or hospital, and in other learning situations such as those involving co-curricular activities. It may also be provided through some other approved medium such as television, radio, telephone, and correspondence. Included here are the activities of aides or classroom assistants of any type (clerks, graders, teaching machines, etc.) which assist in the instructional process. Note: Counselors and Technology Specialists funded through QBE are allowable charges to this function for expenditure control purposes.

PUPIL SERVICES (2100)

Activities designed to assess and improve the well-being of students and to supplement the teaching process. Activities include guidance, counseling, testing, attendance, social work, health services, etc. Also include supplemental payments for additional duties such as coaching or supervising extracurricular activities.

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (2210)

Technical and logistical support activities designed to aid teachers in developing the curriculum, preparing and using special curriculum materials, and understanding the various techniques that stimulate and motivate students. These services facilitate, sustain, and enhance instruction techniques. Includes costs associated with technology personnel (Technology Specialists), contracted support services, systems planning and analysis, systems application development, network support services, and other technology-related costs that relate to the support of instructional activities. Effective FY 2018 – All Instructional Staff Training (professional development) costs will be reported using Function 2213. Training and professional development for other, non-instructional employees should be reported in their respective functions.

¹⁵ Georgia DOE Chart of Accounts, 6/14/21

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING (2213)

Activities associated with the professional development and training of instructional personnel. These include such activities as in-service training (including mentor teachers), workshops, conferences, demonstrations, courses for college credit (tuition reimbursement), and other activities related to the ongoing growth and development of instructional personnel. Training that supports the use of technology for instruction should be included in this code. The incremental costs associated with providing substitute teachers in the classroom (while regular teachers attend training) should be captured in this function code. All costs should be charged to this code regardless of whether training services are provided internally or purchased from external vendors. It should be noted that the salary of a teacher who is attending training would still be reported in function 1000.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVICES (2220)

Activities concerned with directing, managing and operating educational media centers. Included are school libraries, audio-visual services and educational television.

FEDERAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION (2230)

Activities concerned with the demands of Federal Programs grant management. Federal Indirect Cost Charges should continue to be charged to 2300-880.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (2300)

Activities concerned with establishing and administering policy for operating the LUA (Local Education Agency). These include the activities of the members of the Board of Education. Local activities in interpretation of the laws and statutes and general liability situations are charged here, as are the activities of external auditors. Also recorded here are activities performed by the superintendent, administrative support personnel and deputy, associate, or assistant superintendent having overall administrative responsibility.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION (2400)

Activities concerned with overall administrative responsibility for school operations. Included are activities of principals, assistant principals, full time department chairpersons and clerical staff.

SUPPORT SERVICES – BUSINESS (2500)

Activities concerned with the fiscal operation of the LUA, including budgeting, financial and property accounting, payroll, inventory control, internal auditing and managing funds. Also included are purchasing, warehouse and distribution operations, and printing, publishing and duplicating operations.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PLANT SERVICES (2600)

Activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, comfortable, and safe for use, and keeping the grounds, buildings, and equipment in effective working condition and state of repair. This includes the activities of maintaining safety in buildings, on the grounds, and in the vicinity of schools. Property insurance expenditures are recorded in this function.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY (2660)

Activities concerned with maintaining a safe and secure environment for students and staff. Include costs associated with security plan development and implementation, security monitoring devices, security personnel, security equipment, school crossing guards, school fire alarm and other monitors, and other costs incurred in an effort to ensure the basic security and safety of students and staff. Effective beginning FY 2025.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (2700)

Activities concerned with the conveyance of students to and from school and trips to school activities. These activities include supervision of student transportation, vehicle operation, servicing and maintenance, bus monitoring and traffic direction. Transportation insurance expenditures are charged to this function.

SUPPORT SERVICES – CENTRAL (2800)

Central Office activities other than general administration and business services. Included are personnel services, data processing services, strategic planning including research, development and evaluation on a system-wide basis; and public relations activities, such as writing, editing and other preparation necessary to disseminate information to students, staff and the general public.

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES (2900)

All other support services not properly classified elsewhere in the 2000 series.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM (3100)

Activities concerned with providing food to students and staff in a school or LUA. This service area includes the preparation and serving of regular and incidental meals or snacks in connection with school activities and delivery of food. Activities should be recorded in Fund 600 (School Nutrition Program) except when paid by federal funds from fund 100 on behalf of the food service operation due to a shortage of funds or by special arrangement.

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS (3200)

Activities that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent is to recover costs through user charges. Examples: LUA operated bookstore, cannery or freezer plant operation, stadium operation, etc.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OPERATIONS (3300)

Activities concerned with providing community services to students, staff or other community participants. Examples of this function would be the operation of a community swimming pool, a recreation program for the elderly, a child care center for working mothers, etc.

FACILITIES ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (4000)

Activities concerned with the acquisition of land and buildings; renovating buildings; the construction of buildings and additions to buildings, initial installation or extension of service systems and other build-in equipment; and improvements to sites.

OTHER OUTLAYS (5000)

Outlays which cannot be properly classified as expenditures, but require budgetary or accounting control. Transfers to other funds are recorded as 5000-930.

DEBT SERVICE (5100)

Outlays to retire the long-term debt (obligations in excess of one year) of the LUA. Included are payments of principal, interest and paying agents' fees. Interest on current loans (repayable within one year) is charged to function 2500.

FUND

A fiscal and accounting entity which is comprised of a self-balancing set of accounts that reflect all assets, liabilities, equity, revenue and expenditures (or expenses) necessary to disclose financial position and the results of operations. Funds are established as individual entities in order to segregate financial records for purposes of legal compliance, different natures of the activities performed, measurement of different objectivities and to facilitate management control.

FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance refers to the excess of assets of a fund over its liabilities and reserves. During the fiscal year prior to closing, it represents the excess of the fund's assets and estimated revenues for the period over the liabilities, reserves and appropriations for the period.

FUND BALANCE – UNASSIGNED

That portion of the excess funds which has no legal commitments or formal designations by the Board for future funding needs.

FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for all resources used for acquiring capital sites, buildings, and equipment as specified by the related bond issue. Capital project funds are designated to account for acquisition or construction of capital outlay assets which are not acquired directly by the general fund, special revenue funds or enterprise funds. Capital project funds have been developed to account for the proceeds of a specific bond issue and revenue from other possible sources which are designated for capital outlay, i.e., for land, buildings and equipment.

FUND, DEBT SERVICE

The fund used to finance and account for payment of principal and interest on all long-term general obligation debts. Debt service funds are used to accumulate resources over the outstanding life of the bond issue in an amount equal to the maturity value. Cash of the debt service may be invested in income producing securities which are converted back into cash at the maturity date for use in retiring bonds.

FUND, GENERAL

The fund used to finance the ordinary operations of the education agency. It is available for a legally authorized purpose and consists of money not specifically designated for some other particular purpose.

FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE

A fund used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trusts, or for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

FUND, FIDUCIARY

The fund used to account for money and property held in trust by a school system for individuals, government entities, or non-public organizations. A Trust Fund is usually in existence over a longer period of time than an Agency Fund. Primarily, Agency Funds function as a clearing mechanism for cash resources collected by the District held for a short period and then disbursed to authorized recipients.

GaDOE

Georgia Department of Education

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Bonds issued to finance major projects with resources from tax collection to repay debt. The full faith, credit and taxing power of the government back this type of bond.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPALS (GAAP)

A system of uniform minimum standards for financial accounting and recording, encompassing the conventions, rules and procedures that define accepted accounting principles.

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC)

The State's premier resource for financial and construction management services.

GOLD Grant (Georgia Outdoor Learning Demonstration) Grants

Fund 100. Revenue Source 3800. State Funds. This grant will provide professional learning to teachers, improvements to outdoor learning spaces, supplies procured, and field trips provided to increase student engagement.

GRANT

Contribution of either money or material goods given by a contributing unit (public or private) to another receiving unit and for which the contributing unit expects no repayment. Grants may be for a specific or general purpose.

HIGH SCHOOL (SECONDARY EDUCATION)

A school classified as high school by state and local statutes or practices and composed of grades nine through twelve.

INTER-FUND TRANSFERS

Amounts transferred from one fund to another fund.

IDEA

Individual with Disabilities Act – education law that offers supplemental funding for services to students with very specific educational disabilities.

JROTC

The U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is one of the largest character development and citizenship programs for youth in the world. The National Defense Act of 1916 established organized JROTC programs at public and private educational institutions.

KINDERGARTEN

A group or class that is organized to provide educational experience for children for the year immediately preceding the first grade and conducted during the regular school year.

KPI (Key Performance Indicator)

A quantifiable measure of performance over time for a specific objective.

L4GA

Literacy for Learning, Living and Leading. Collaborative grant for PK-12 reading development.

LAPSE

A lapse is the difference between budgeted revenue and expenses and actual revenue and expenses.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)

As defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a Local Education Agency is a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

LEVY

(Verb) To impose taxes or special assessments or (noun) the total of taxes or special assessments imposed by a governmental unit.

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS (M&O)

Refers to the cost associated with the maintenance and operations of the school district.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (PRIMARY EDUCATION)

A school classified as middle by state and local statutes or practices and composed of grades six through eight.

MILLAGE RATE

The ad valorem tax rate expressed in terms of the levy per thousand dollars of taxable assessed value established by the governing authority each fiscal year.

A millage rate may be levied for the maintenance and operation of the school district (M&O millage) or to fund debt service (Bond millage).

A mill is equal to \$1 for each \$1000 of taxable property value.

MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS

The accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund-type measurement focus. Under this basis, revenues and other financial resources are recognized when they accrue, that is when they become both “measurable” and “available” to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recognized when the fund liability is incurred.

Net Digest

The Paulding County Tax Assessor’s summary of the projected taxable value of all commercial, industrial and residential property in the school district less exemptions and rollbacks.

Net Digest Per Student (NDPS)

The Paulding County Tax Assessor's summary of the projected taxable value of all commercial, industrial and residential property in the school district divided by the number of students enrolled in Paulding County School District.

OBJECT

An accounting term used to describe the service or commodity obtained as a result of a specific expenditure or to describe a specific revenue source.

ORIGINAL BUDGET

Original budget adopted by the governing body before any budget adjustments.

Other Sources (Uses)

Transfers In and Transfers Out in financial reporting. See definitions below.

PAYROLL COSTS

All costs covered under the following objects of expenditures: Certified Salaries, Classified Salaries and Employee Benefits.

PERSONNEL COSTS – FULLY LOADED

Personnel Costs are expenditures for salaries, fringe benefits, etc.

PER PUPIL (ALLOTMENT)

The per pupil allotment is an allotment to each school for materials and supplies based on the quantity and characteristics of those pupils.

PER PUPIL (EXPENDITURE)

This refers to expenditures for a given period of time divided by a pupil unit of measure.

POSITION CONTROL

The control or management of a school district's personnel allotments in accordance with an approved budget and with a responsibility to keep expenditures within authorized amounts.

PROGRAM

In budgeting, a program refers an effort to accomplish a specific objective or objectives consistent with funds or resources available. Budgets and actual revenue and expenditure records may be maintained per program.

PROGRAM WEIGHTS

Since different programs vary in their cost to operate, each of the nineteen (19) QBE programs is assigned a different program weight. These weights reflect the cost of teachers, paraprofessionals and other instructional personnel; instructional materials; facility maintenance and operation (M&O) costs; media center personnel and material costs; school and central office administration costs and staff development.

See also QBE.

QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION ALLOTMENTS (QBE)

Funds are allotted by the State on the basis of “Weighted” FTE (Full-time Equivalent students) to the local school system. The following are nineteen (19) programs of allotment under QBE:

1. Kindergarten (EIP)
2. Grades 1 - 3 (EIP)
3. Grades 4 - 5 (EIP)
4. Kindergarten
5. Grades 1 – 3
6. Grades 4 – 5
7. Grades 6 – 8
8. Grades 9 – 12
9. HS Vocational Lab
10. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
11. Middle School Program
12. Persons with disabilities: Category I
13. Persons with disabilities: Category II
14. Persons with disabilities: Category III
15. Persons with disabilities: Category IV
16. Persons with disabilities: Category V
17. Intellectually Gifted Students: Cat VI
18. Remedial Education
19. Alternative Education
20. ESOL

QBE – MID-TERM ADJUSTMENT

Because the QBE formula is based on FTE counts which are taken primarily in the previous school year, there will be a need to adjust the total allotment as more recent counts become available. If the more recent counts result in an increase in funds needed, the State Board will request the additional funds from the General Assembly.

REIMBURSEMENT

Cash or other assets received as a repayment of the cost of work or services performed or of other expenditures made for or on behalf of another governmental unit or department, or for an individual, firm or corporation.

RESERVE FOR GROWTH (CONTINGENCY)

An amount reserved by the Board to accommodate student growth beyond projections and state compliance situations.

REVENUE

Additions to the assets of a fund that are made available to finance the fund's expenditures during a fiscal period.

ROLLBACK

A rollback is a reduction in the millage tax rate to offset any increased revenue resulting from property re-evaluation.

RTI

Response to Intervention: multi-tier approach to early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs.

SALARIES

This includes expenditures for hourly, daily and monthly salaries including overtime pay and sick pay.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

This dimension identifies the expenditure with the source of revenue, i.e., local, state, federal and others.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Consists of direct instructional activities designed to deal mainly with the following pupil exceptionalities: the physically handicapped, the emotionally and/or socially handicapped, the culturally handicapped (including compensatory education), the mentally retarded, and the mentally talented and gifted.

SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR EDUCATION (E-SPLOST)

Authorized by the State of Georgia and then "opted-in" by local governments, an E-SPLOST is a 1% sales tax voted on and approved by citizenry to be used by that government.

STATE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN

The cost of employee health insurance is determined on an annual basis by the State Personnel Board.

STEM

An approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

STEP INCREASE

A scheduled annual increase to an eligible employee's salary based on pay grade and performance reviews. A step increase may be withheld from employees based on poor evaluations. A step increase is distinct from a salary raise which is determined for all or groups of employees by the Board.

Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS)

Contract between state and county for student achievement accountability. Provides flexibility from state board rules.

STUDENT-ACTIVITY FUNDS

Services for public school pupils, such as entertainment, publications, clubs, band, and orchestra, that are managed or operated by the student body under the guidance and direction of an adult and are not part of the regular instructional program.

TAX DIGEST

The Paulding County Tax Assessor's summary of the projected taxable value of all commercial, industrial and residential property in the school district.

TEACHER ALLOTMENT

The teachers are allotted to each school on the basis of active enrollment. The formula used for allocations meet the provisions of the State Board of Education and accrediting standards.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)

The Georgia Teacher Retirement System is a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system. The participation of all teachers and certain other designated employees is mandated by statute. The TRS is funded through a combination of employee, employer, and State contributions.

TITLE AD VALOREM TAX

Vehicles purchased on or after March 1, 2013 and titled in Georgia are exempt from sales and use tax and the annual ad valorem tax. Instead, these vehicles are subject to a one-time title ad valorem tax that is based on the value of the vehicle.

Title I

Elementary schools receive federal funding to be applied to additional services, support, and resources in support of enabling disadvantaged students.

Title II

Supporting effective instruction grant for development of teachers.

Title IV

Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant to improve school environment conditions to support learning.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE (T&E)

This is a measure representing the combination levels of training and experience held by an employee. This measure is used to augment the base state funding levels.

Transfers-In

Amounts transferred from another fund.

Transfers-Out

Amounts transferred to another fund.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

A program offered for the primary purpose of offering education and training in one or more semi-skilled, skilled, or technical occupations.

WEIGHTED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (WFTE)

The result of FTE counts times the State-assigned program weight for each of the nineteen (19) QBE programs.

WORKING BUDGET

An increase or decrease to the Original Budget amount as adopted by the Board.