



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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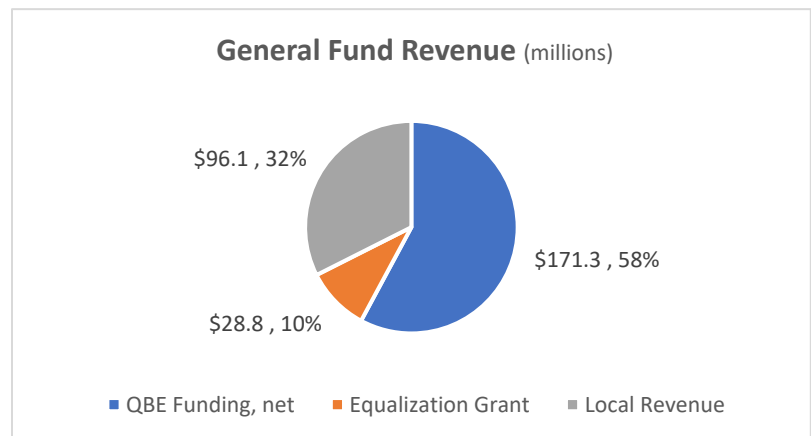
Board of Education Approves FY2020 Budget: Education Improvements, Pay Increases and Tax Rate Cut

The Paulding County Board of Education has approved a budget for Fiscal Year 2020 that includes a 5 percent pay increase for all staff, funding for a wide range of educational programs – including new math materials, support for exceptional students, school safety enhancements, and the opening of the Paulding College and Career Academy – as well as a millage rate reduction. The seven-member board approved the \$296.1 million budget unanimously at its June 11, 2019 regular meeting.

The approved budget represents an increase of \$19.1 million over the FY2019 budget due to an increase in state funding and a county tax digest that grew more than 9 percent. The approved budget includes a reduction in the school district's Maintenance & Operations property tax millage rate from 18.879 to 18.750. The final M&O millage rate will be set in a separate Board of Education vote on June 25, 2019. Unlike some counties in Georgia, property owners in Paulding do not pay a separate Bond Debt millage because debt from prior capital expenditures is currently being paid down by the district's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST.

“The Board and the Superintendent worked together to develop a budget that provides a well-deserved pay increase for the district's outstanding employees, high quality educational improvements in multiple curricular areas, and at the same time lowers the millage rate for Paulding County property owners,” said School Board Chairman Jeff Fuller. “This budget is great news for students, staff, and the broader community of Paulding County stakeholders.”

With projected enrollment expected to top 30,000 students for the 2019-2020 school year, the district is anticipating a 6.4 percent increase in funding received under the state's Quality Basic Education Act funding formula – to \$171.3 million. Being situated in a relatively low wealth county with a smaller tax base, and with a relatively large number of school-age children per household, the Paulding County School District also receives an Equalization Grant





from the state to help offset inequity. That FY2020 grant of \$28.8 million is a slight decrease of about 1 percent from the FY2019 budget.

The budget approved by the Board of Education at Tuesday's meeting includes significant educational and financial improvements for schools, students, teachers and district staff. Some of those improvements include:

FY2020 BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS	
STUDENT SUCCESS FOR ALL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Achievement<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Math Materials Adoption○ Launch of the Paulding College and Career Academy○ Class-Size Ratios Maintained○ Increased Exceptional Students Educational Programs (ESEP) and ESOL Support• Literacy Initiatives<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ English LA/World Languages Coordinator• STEM/STEAM<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ STEM Teaching Allotments and Funding○ STEM Coordinator○ KSU iTeach Collaboration○ Fine Arts Materials Adoption○ Computer Science Magnet at Hiram HS (Opening 2020)	
CULTIVATING & RETAINING QUALITY PROFESSIONALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruit & Retain Highly Qualified Employees<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 5 Percent Pay Raise for All Staff (Minimum \$3,000 for Certified Staff)○ Full Step Increase○ 30-year Teacher Pay Scales (extends current pay scale which ends at 21 years of service)○ Transportation Initiatives○ Substitute and Supply Teacher Pay	
ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilities and Safety<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Security Grants○ Additional Safety Officer○ New Custodial Services Model○ Technology Initiatives	
COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEL/Mental Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Capturing Kids' Hearts	

By allocating 69 percent of expenditures directly toward student instruction, a level that continues to exceed the state average, the school district remains committed to putting students first. The approved budget also leaves the district an emergency reserve that represents a healthy 13 percent of the General Fund. This efficient budget



management has resulted in the Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarding the Paulding County School District a four-star Financial Efficiency Rating as a "low spending" district, which places PCSD in the 85th percentile of Georgia school districts with more than 10,000 students, and the 93rd percentile of all districts statewide.

"It is great that this budget takes care of our teachers and employees and ensures we can recruit and retain a strong, professional staff focused on academic excellence," said Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. "I think parents and students will be pleased to see that next year there will be additional support for our Exceptional Students Educational Programs, as well as additional STEM teachers and STEM support as we look to bolster that area of the curriculum in anticipation of the Computer Science Magnet opening at Hiram High School in 2020. In the meantime, we have the new Paulding College and Career Academy opening this August, and we are thrilled to be able to offer that new option for high school students.

"Lastly, this budget continues our attention to school safety and providing students the best curricular and technological resources available," said Dr. Otott. "The Board of Education deserves a lot of credit for giving us the tools we need to provide the students of Paulding County an exceptional educational experience."

More information about the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, including the budget presentation and the complete FY2020 Budget Book, can be found at <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/budget2020>.

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