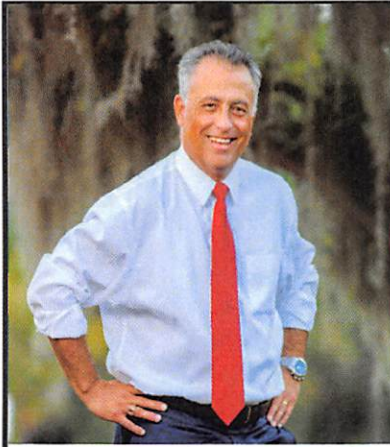




Beaufort County School District

Proposed Budget 2023-2024



Dear Community Members:

Because of YOU, Beaufort County School District (BCSD) has made great strides. **Our district now boasts the highest starting teacher salary in South Carolina.**

Education is a labor intensive endeavor. Amidst the many educational challenges facing the nation, BCSD has experienced dramatic increases in operating costs: fuel, materials, and the cost of labor. Food and housing costs in Beaufort County have also risen at extreme rates.

The operating budget was developed with a top priority in mind:

To lead South Carolina education as an exemplary district by attracting and maintaining high quality educators and staff to continuously focus on and grow students

This chief aim (or essential priority) enables us to focus on recruiting and keeping superior educators and support staff, solidifying our District's commitment to continuous improvement.

Notable expenditure increases include:

- \$3,000 increase for all teachers paid on the BCSD teacher salary schedule (\$1,000 of this increase will move from the locality supplement) plus a step increase to improve the District's ability to recruit and retain staff;
- For the third consecutive year, we are supporting our most experienced teachers by adding a step on the teacher salary schedule, moving the max step from 26 to 27;
- Funding to continue payment of the salary recommendations from the Classified, Professional and Administrative Salary Study that was implemented in January 2023 to maintain our competitive pay rates;
- Proposed increases for all other employees to receive a 2% cost of living increase plus a step; and
- Funding to meet state-mandated healthcare and retirement costs.

The increases in this budget are strategic and position the District to keep building the capacity of our teachers to help students reach their highest potential. I encourage you to support this budget. By investing in our educators and staff, you are investing in the community's most valued priority for the future, our students.

Sincerely,

Frank Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Proud Superintendent of Beaufort County School District

Budget at a Glance

Operating Budget	
2023	\$298,133,593
2024	\$320,412,978
Proposed Increase	\$22,279,385
% Increase	7.5%

Investments

Teacher Pay Increases.....	\$7.2M
Other Pay Increases.....	\$4.3M
Benefit Cost Increases.....	\$6.1M
New Positions.....	\$1.1M
Operational Increases.....	\$3.6M

Funding

Current Operations Millage	125.6
Proposed New Millage:	4.4
Proposed Operations Millage	130.0

Existing local and state dollars will be utilized to fund \$15.7M of the cost increases in this budget.

A tax increase of four (4.4) mills will be needed to fully fund this budget.