



2022-2023 Tentative Budget Update

Delivering on community dreams for students was a recurring theme during tonight's Fayette County Board of Education planning meeting.

Board members first received an updated draft of the district's five-year strategic plan, built on input gathered from employees, families, students, and community members during the past 15 months. Then, board members had their first look at the proposed tentative budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which includes significant investments in services for students and the adults who provide them.

This spring, Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent Demetrus Liggins and his leadership team introduced a new budgeting model designed to create a five-year spending plan for the school district based on the priorities identified by the Fayette County Board of Education.

The \$660.8 million spending plan includes an increased investment of more than \$20 million in employee salaries and supports in recognition of their commitment to students and to ensure we are able to continue to recruit and retain the best educators in the Commonwealth.

"The tentative budget presented tonight is built on what we've heard from our school board members and demonstrates a commitment to invest in what our community values most," Liggins said. "We reflect those values in how we allocate the resources entrusted to us."

The Fayette County Board of Education will consider the 2022-2023 Tentative Budget during its regular action meeting on May 23. The tentative budget is the second step of the state-required school district budgeting process that begins with reviewing a draft budget in January and ends with the adoption of a final working budget in September.

Highlights of the 2022-2023 Tentative Budget Presented Tonight Include:

1. A \$5 million allocation to implement the results of a compensation study commissioned by the school board last fall to look at how the salaries of hourly employees compare with competitive market rates. The resulting plan ensures that all hourly employees receive a pay increase and that all employees earn at least \$15 an hour.
2. Salary increases of at least 2 percent for all employees, and the addition of two optional workdays for teachers to work in their classrooms before the first day of school to prepare for the upcoming year.
3. An investment of \$5.5 million in preschool services to renovate existing facilities, open additional classrooms, hire more paraeducators, and cap classroom enrollment at 15 students.
4. Expanded services for students and families whose home language is not English, by adding more interpreters and language ambassadors.
5. An additional \$1 million to fund the first year of a two-year plan to place full-time nurses in every elementary, middle, and high school.
6. Roughly \$5.5 million to provide students and employees access to state-of-the-art technology.
7. An increase of \$1.5 million to expand special programs including Success Academy, Rise STEM Academy for Girls, and Carter G. Woodson Preparatory Academy.
8. An additional \$2.2 million to address deferred maintenance needs.
9. As is required by Kentucky statute, the tentative budget proposed this evening represents a balanced spending plan.

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