



**EVANSTON/SKOKIE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65**

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes



**BUDGET  
AT A GLANCE  
Fiscal Year 2023-2024**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Introduction

The Budget at-a-Glance document has been prepared in an effort to give the District 65 community a better understanding of the budget process, expenditure types, revenue sources, and their limitations. The Budget-at-a-Glance and other financial documents can be found on the District 65 website at [www.district65.net/business](http://www.district65.net/business).

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Budget Message</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Budget Process</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>District 65 Quick Facts</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>School Directory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Student Enrollment</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Student Achievement</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ISBE Financial Profile</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Budget Highlights</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Revenue Sources</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Consumer Price Index and State Funding</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Expenditures by Fund and category</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Instruction Takes Top Priority</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Fund Balance and Future Investments</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Future Investments - 5th Ward School</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Contact Us</b>	<b>16</b>

# Budget Message

Dear District 65 Community -

I am honored to serve the Evanston/Skokie community as Interim Superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year. While this official title is temporary, I know the decisions that are being made by our school board and district leadership team are decisions that will impact the students, staff, families, and taxpayers for years to come.



By nature, I am a public servant and my job day-in and day-out is to make decisions that center the needs of the children of this community. District 65 is not immune to the challenges that public school districts are facing across the state and country. And yet, I believe we have a dedicated, talented team that has collaboratively developed a budget that is truly reflective of our instructional and operational priorities with equity as a main driver.

We know the significant investment that residents make in our schools through their property taxes and I believe strongly in remaining sound public stewards. This is not a responsibility that I take lightly and have been working to that end. Last year our district had a deficit budget for the first time in 14 years. I know there are challenging decisions that lie ahead given our financial outlook. I can assure you, that under my watch, we will hold true to our guiding principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity.

In 2023, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recognized District 65 as being in the highest category of financial strength, Financial Recognition, on the ISBE School District Financial Profile. This independent financial rating looks at a variety of indicators and we are pleased to have earned the highest rating. We look to maintain financial strength by making prudent decisions going forward and investing in what makes the most sense for our students in alignment with our district goals and priorities.

I look forward to working alongside our community to ensure all children have access to a high quality, robust educational experience and to ensure we are doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. I encourage you to visit our Business Services page of our website ([district65.net/business](https://district65.net/business)) for more information about our strategic priorities and budget. I also encourage you to check out our district website ([district65.net](https://district65.net)) to learn more about all of the incredible work we have going on in support of our students and schools!

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angel L. Turner (she/her)  
Interim Superintendent

## Budget Process

Each year, the District 65 Business Office must create a budget that presents the district's strategic goals and values in financial terms. The budget is the school district's plan for how it will allocate and expend revenues. It is the basis for the school district's tax levy.

The tentative budget must be on public display for at least 30 days prior to its adoption and a public hearing must be held before the adoption of the budget. The district also publishes a legal notice to provide an opportunity for the public to inspect the tentative budget, including the date, time, and location of the public hearing (105 ILCS 5/17-1).



District 65 School Board is charged with approving and adopting an annual budget by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. September 30 is the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year for most Illinois school districts, including District 65, and is the last day to adopt the annual budget.

## Board of Education

### **Board President**

Sergio Hernandez  
(2027)

### **Board Vice President**

Soo La Kim  
(2025)

### **Board Member**

Mya Wilkins  
(2027)

### **Board Member**

Joseph Hailpern  
(2025)

### **Board Member**

Donna Wang Su  
(2025)

### **Board Member**

Elisabeth "Biz" Lindsay-Ryan  
(2025)

### **Board Member**

Omar Salem  
(2027)

### **School Board Secretary**

Adeela Qureshi

District 65 is governed by a locally-elected, seven-member board. School Board members serve, uncompensated, for four-year terms. The Board of Education is responsible for hiring a superintendent to ensure that schools are managed in accordance with State of Illinois laws and policies set forth by the school board. The Board of Education also sets educational goals for the schools - based on state laws and community values - and ensures that the superintendent as well as all district staff members vigorously pursue those goals.

## Mission Statement

As part of the District's strategic planning process, a mission statement was developed with extensive input from faculty, staff, students, families, and community members. Our mission states:

**Working together as a community, we will inspire creativity and prepare each student to achieve academically, grow personally, and contribute positively to a global society.**

*Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes.*

## District 65 Quick Facts



**18  
Schools**



**6,316  
Total Enrollment**



**646  
Teachers**



**\$25,078 Per Pupil  
Operational Spending**



**40%  
Low-Income  
Students**



**15%  
Students with  
IEPs**



**17%  
English Learners**



**6%  
Student Mobility**

District 65 has ten attendance-area elementary schools serving students in grades K-5, three middle schools serving students in grades 6-8, and two magnet schools serving students in grades K-8. In addition, the Joseph E. Hill Early Childhood Center offers programming and services for children ages birth through five years. Park School is a self-contained special education school that serves students ages 3-22. It is jointly funded and operated by District 65 and District 202. Rice Education Center is a private residential treatment center.

# School Directory

Situated on the shores of Lake Michigan and just North of Chicago, Evanston/Skokie School District 65 is a pre-K through 8th grade school district serving approximately 8,000 students from the City of Evanston and a small neighboring section of the Village of Skokie. The district represents a wide range of diverse ethnic, economic, and cultural backgrounds. Attendance-area maps for District 65 schools are available at [district65.net/attendancearea](http://district65.net/attendancearea).

For assistance determining a child's attendance-area school, please call (847) 859-8055 or (847) 859-8056.



## Magnet Schools

Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School are the two District 65 magnet schools that draw kindergarten through eighth grade students from across the district. They offer a continuous school setting which differs from the traditional elementary or middle school experience. Each school has a specialized focus designed to appeal to children and families. For more information, please visit [district65.net/magnetschools](http://district65.net/magnetschools).

## Joseph E. Hill Early Childhood Center

The Joseph E. Hill Early Childhood Center is home to the following programs designed to prepare children for school readiness: Early Start (serves pregnant women), Early Head Start and Head Start (both programs serve children ages birth through three years), Preschool for All, and Early Childhood Special Education (programs serve children ages three through five). There is no cost for the majority of program options. To qualify, families must reside within District 65 boundaries and meet individual state and federal guidelines. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

## Park School

Park School is a self-contained special education school that is jointly funded and operated by District 65 and District 202. Students, ages 3 to 22, benefit from a self-contained educational facility for reasons of safety, health, and/or the need for an intensive therapeutic environment. Services include speech/language, social work, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and hearing and vision impairment services.





**Dr. Bessie Rhodes Magnet School**

Grades: K-8 (magnet school)  
Principal: TBD  
3701 Davis Street  
Skokie, IL 60076  
847-859-8440  
district65.net/rhodes



**Dawes Elementary**

Grades: K-5  
Principal: Theresa Quinn, Interim  
Programs: **T E**  
440 Dodge Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-905-3400  
district65.net/dawes



**Haven Middle School**

Grades: 6-8  
Principal: Chris Latting  
Programs: **B E**  
2417 Prairie Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8200  
district65.net/haven



**Kingsley Elementary**

Grades: K-5  
Principal: David Davis  
2300 Green Bay Road  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8400  
district65.net/kingsley



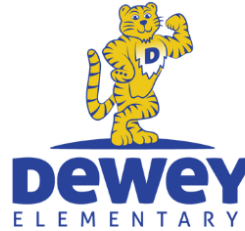
**Lincolnwood Elementary**

Grades: K-5  
Principal: Laura Pinsof  
Programs:  
2600 Colfax Street  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8880  
district65.net/lincolnwood



**Chute Middle School**

Grades: 6-8  
Principal: Jim McHolland  
Programs: **B E**  
1400 Oakton Street  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-859-8600  
district65.net/chute



**Dewey Elementary**

Grades: K-5  
Principal: Anna Marie Newsome  
Programs: **T**  
1551 Wesley Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8140  
district65.net/dewey



**JEH Early Childhood Center**

Ages: 0-5  
Director: Narishea Parham  
Programs: **B E**  
1500 McDaniel Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8300  
district65.net/jehearlychildhood



**Lincoln Elementary**

Grades: K-5  
Principal: Chasity Beckless  
Programs: **E**  
910 Forest Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-905-3500  
district65.net/lincoln



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary & Fine Arts School**

Grades: K-8 (magnet school)  
Principal: Rebecca Calloway  
2424 Lake Street  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8500  
district65.net/kingarts



**Nichols Middle School**  
Grades: 6-8  
Principal: Marcus Wright  
Programs: **B** **E**  
800 Greenleaf Street  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-859-8660  
[district65.net/nichols](http://district65.net/nichols)



**Orrington Elementary**  
Grades: K-5  
Principal: Joshua Seldess, Interim  
Programs: **E**  
2636 Orrington Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-859-8780  
[district65.net/orrington](http://district65.net/orrington)



**Rice Children's Center**  
Grades: 3-8  
Director: Shalema  
Francois-Blue  
1101 Washington Street  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-859-8700  
[district65.net/rice](http://district65.net/rice)



**Washington Elementary**  
Grades: K-5  
Principal: Dr. Elizabeth  
Cardenas-Lopez  
Programs: **T**  
914 Ashland Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-905-4900  
[district65.net/washington](http://district65.net/washington)



**Oakton Elementary**  
Grades: K-5  
Principal: Chris Robinson  
Programs: **T** **A**  
436 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-859-8800  
[district65.net/oakton](http://district65.net/oakton)



**Park School**  
Ages: 3 -22  
Principal: Jill Anderson  
828 Main Street  
Evanston, IL 60202  
847-424-2300  
[district65.net/park](http://district65.net/park)



**Walker Elementary**  
Grades: K-5  
Principal: James Gray  
Programs: **E**  
3601 Church Street  
Evanston, IL 60203  
847-859-8330  
[district65.net/walker](http://district65.net/walker)



**Willard Elementary**  
Grades: K-5  
Principal: Nataly Lopez,  
Interim  
Programs: **T**  
2700 Hurd Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-905-3600  
[district65.net/willard](http://district65.net/willard)

#### Legend

- A** African Centered Curriculum (ACC) Magnet Program
- B** Bilingual Support Program
- E** English as a Second Language (ESL) Program
- T** Two-Way Immersion (TWI) Magnet Program

For more information about schools and programing, please  
visit [district65.net](http://district65.net)

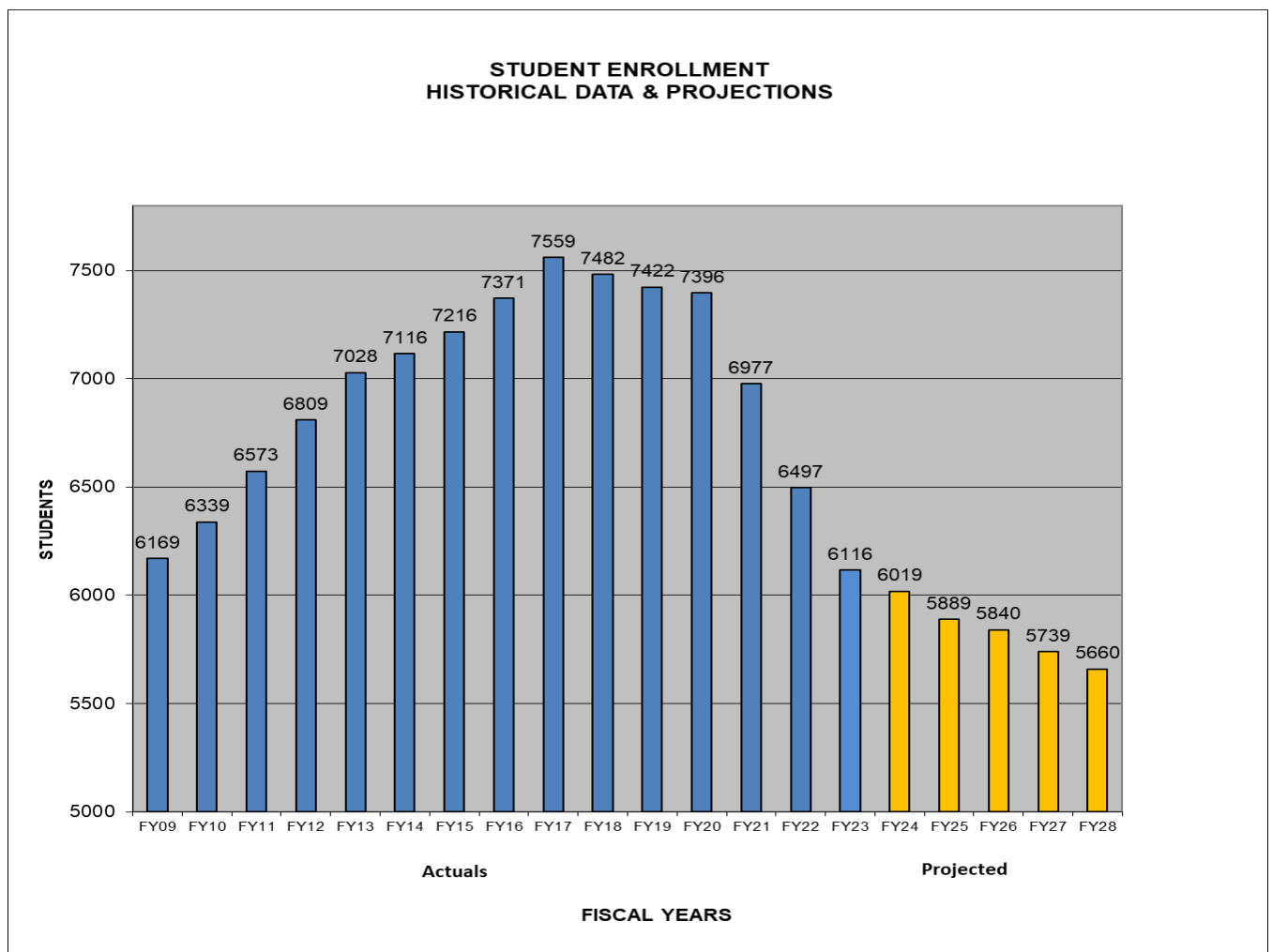


# Student Enrollment

## History and Projections

Staffing cost accounts for approximately 80% of District 65 expenditures, which is typical for school districts in Illinois. Staffing needs are driven by student enrollment and programmatic requirements. District 65 experienced steady enrollment increases from 2009 to 2018, which were followed by six years of decline. Many factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have affected student enrollment.

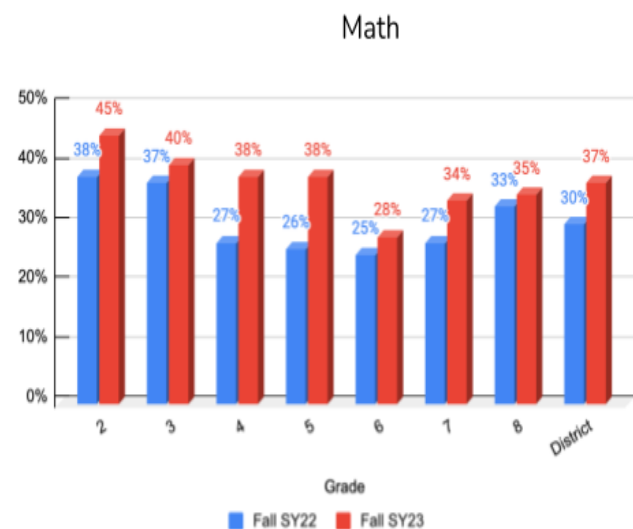
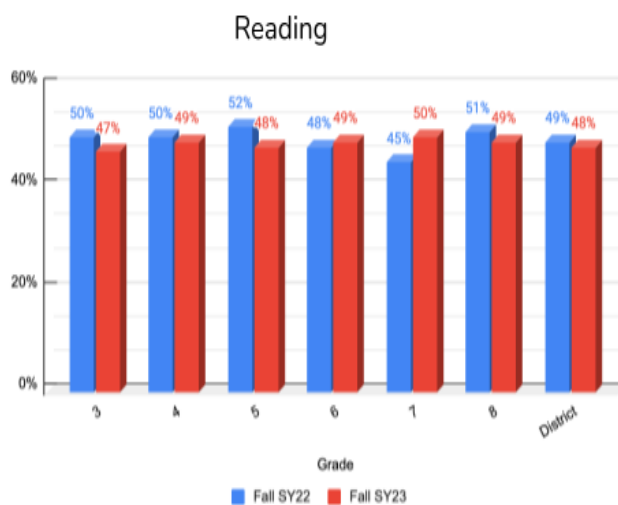
In the 2023-24 school year, the District is projected to serve 6,019 students (excluding Park, Rica center and JEH students) , which is a decrease of 97 students from the 2022-23 school year. Below is the chart depicting historic and projected student enrollment.



# Student Achievement

Post pandemic, student achievement continues to improve. In relation to College Readiness Benchmarks, the district remained steady at 73% in reading. In math, every grade level showed improvement with 5th grade scores demonstrating the most at 10%.

## Student Learning-College Readiness Benchmarks



## ISBE Financial Profile

For fiscal year 2021-22, District 65 received the highest financial profile awarded by the ISBE (Illinois School Board of Education) of Financial Recognition. The score was 3.8 or 0.1 lower than in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The District maintained the Financial Recognition rating since the fiscal year 2018-19.

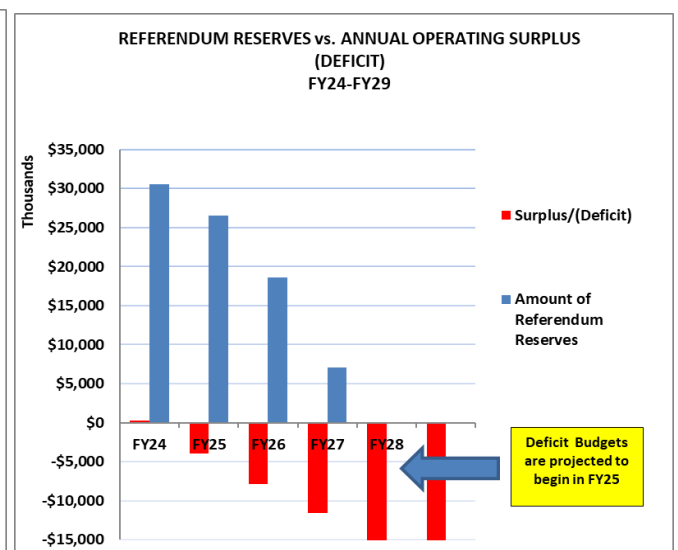
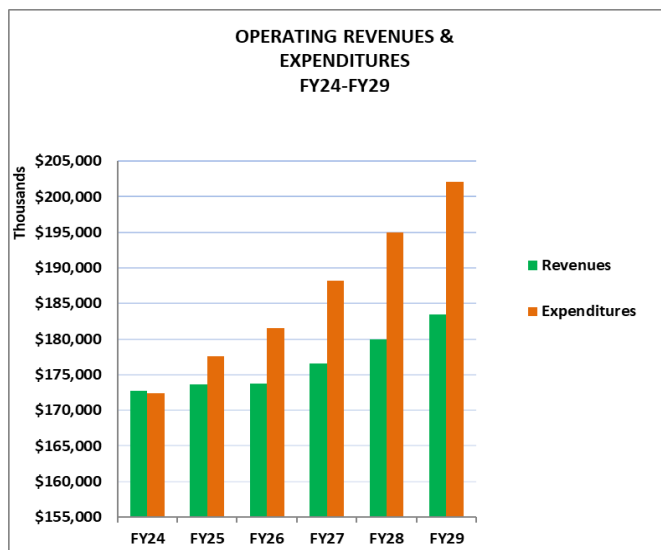
# Budget Highlights

The FY24 Operating Budget is a balanced budget. The budget supports the District's strategic plan and instructional initiatives, such as:

- Improving the instructional core so that all students and especially students of color have access to common core aligned grade level standards,
- Improving instructional and organizational culture which will include continuing the efforts on culturally relevant teaching, equity learning, and restorative practices to disrupt the racial predictability of student performance,
- Improving equity and attracting and retaining quality staff
- Commitment to accountability and financial sustainability
- The budget includes over \$24.9M in initial construction costs of the 5th Ward School
- The operating budget includes \$1.025M for Capital Building projects

FY24 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY	AMOUNT
OPERATING REVENUES	\$172,690,087
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$172,414,067
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)*	\$276,020

*\*The FY24 operating surplus will be saved and preserved*



## Revenue Sources

FY24 operating revenues are projected to increase by 10% to \$172.7 million (in comparison to the FY23 budget). Revenues are derived from the following sources:

**Property Taxes** are paid by Evanston and Skokie property owners in the District attendance areas, which are the largest and the most stable revenue source for District 65. Property Taxes account for 74% of revenues. The 2021 CPI factor of 5% was used to calculate the 2022 tax levy, scheduled to be received in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

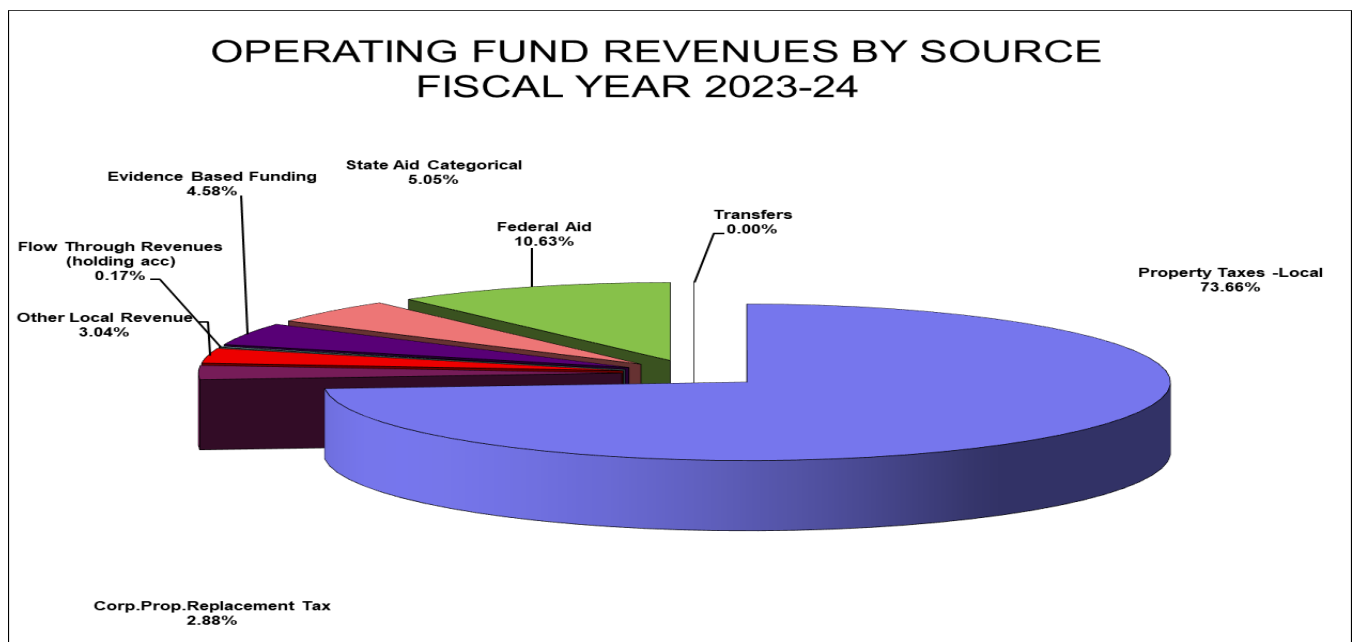
**Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes (CPPRT)** are part of state income taxes and are paid by Illinois businesses. CPPRT accounts for \$5 million or 3% of operating revenues.

**Other Local Revenues**, which include interest income, lunch sales, student and childcare fees, E-rate reimbursements, building use fees, and other local revenues total \$5.2 million or 3% of the budgeted revenues. The increase in Other Local Revenues reflects increase in the investment income.

**Flow Through Revenues** include amounts reserved for mid-year grants and account for \$300,000 or less than 1% of revenues.

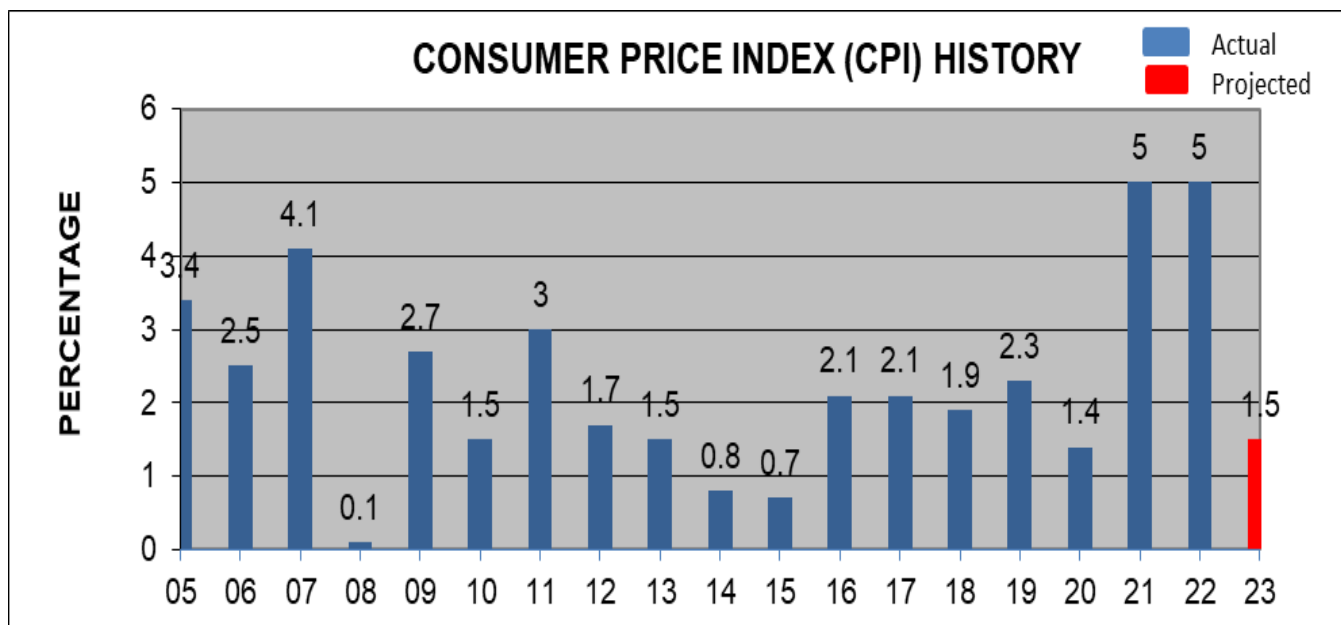
**State Revenues**, which include Evidence Based Funding and State Categorical Aid, total \$16.6 million or 10% of budgeted revenues.

**Federal Revenues**, which include title grants, Medicaid, and Head Start grants, account for \$18.4 million or 11% of the revenues. Federal funds also include \$1 million in ESSER grant revenues; \$2.4 million in the Digital Equity Grant and \$0.6 million in Medicaid Expansion reimbursement funds.



## Consumer Price Index and State Funding

The growth in Property Taxes received by most Illinois school districts annually is limited by the property tax cap law. The property tax cap law limits the property tax extension (amount for which school districts may receive) to the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is lower. The chart below illustrates the CPI history since 2005.



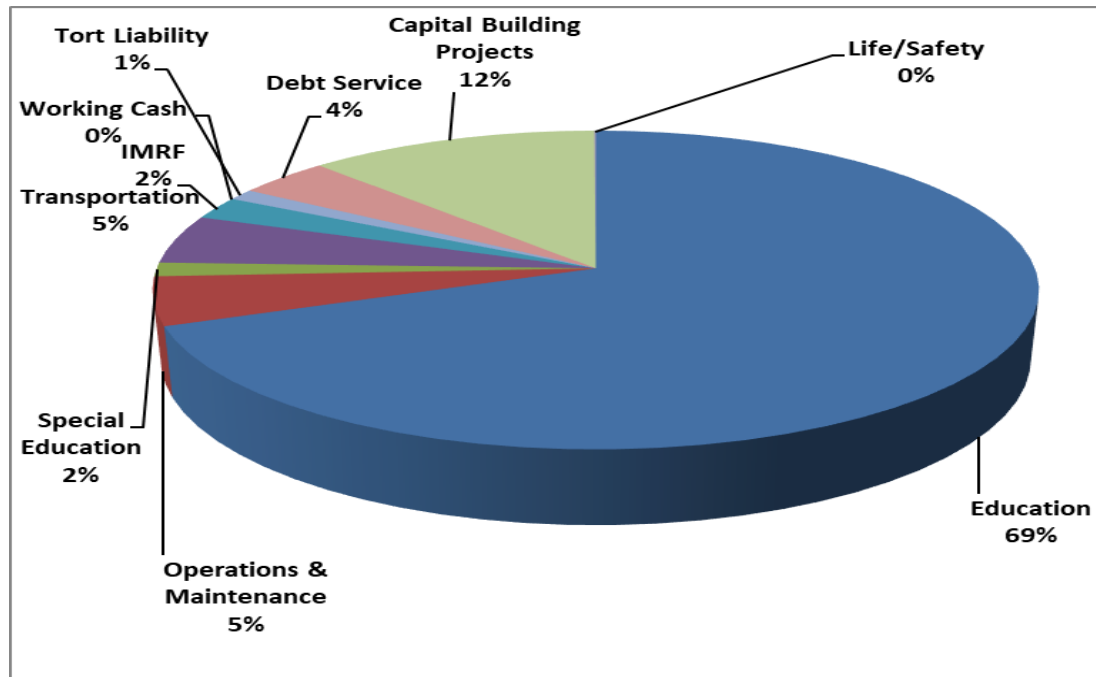
The CPI factor, which determines the growth in Property Taxes, has been under 3% since 2008. The inflation factors of 5% in 2021 and 2022, however, are an exception and the highest in 40 years. Property taxes in the 2023-24 school year will be subject to the 2021 CPI of 5%, while the 2022 CPI of 5% will affect the growth in property taxes next year (2024-25 school year). The District's projections assume 1.5% CPI for future years.

State funding, which includes Evidence Based Funding (EBF), is projected to remain flat assuming student enrollment remains stable. Under the EBF formula, instead of funding all students with the same amount of money, students are funded based on each individual instructional needs. The District's budget includes several one-time grants, including the ESSER grant and the Digital Equity grant.

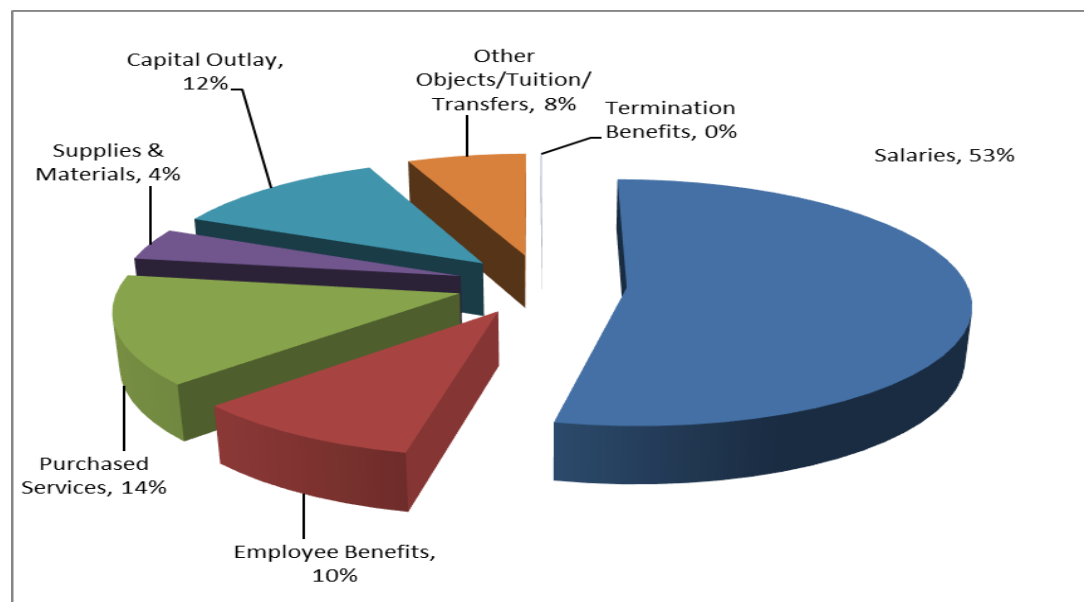


## Expenditures by Fund and Category (Object)

The school district's budget is divided into separate accounting entities called Funds. Each Fund is established for a specific purpose. Unless allowed by law, money received in one fund cannot be transferred to another fund. The Education Fund is the District's largest fund (69%).



Expenditures are also grouped by categories of expenditures, called objects. Salaries and benefits are the largest categories and account for 63% of all expenditures.



# Instruction and Student Supports Take Top Priority

Activities of a school district budget are also grouped by functions. Functions determine the purpose of each expenditure. Categories used by school districts in Illinois include:

**Instruction** - includes general K-8 instruction, special education, bilingual education and remedial education

**Support Services /Students and Staff** - includes social work, psychological and speech services, food and transportation services, staff development, curriculum improvement, data processing, and education media services

**Administration – Schools** - includes school principals, assistant principals, and school administrative support

**Administration – General** - includes business services, human resource services, research and evaluation, information technology services, curriculum and instructions, superintendent's office, and communications office

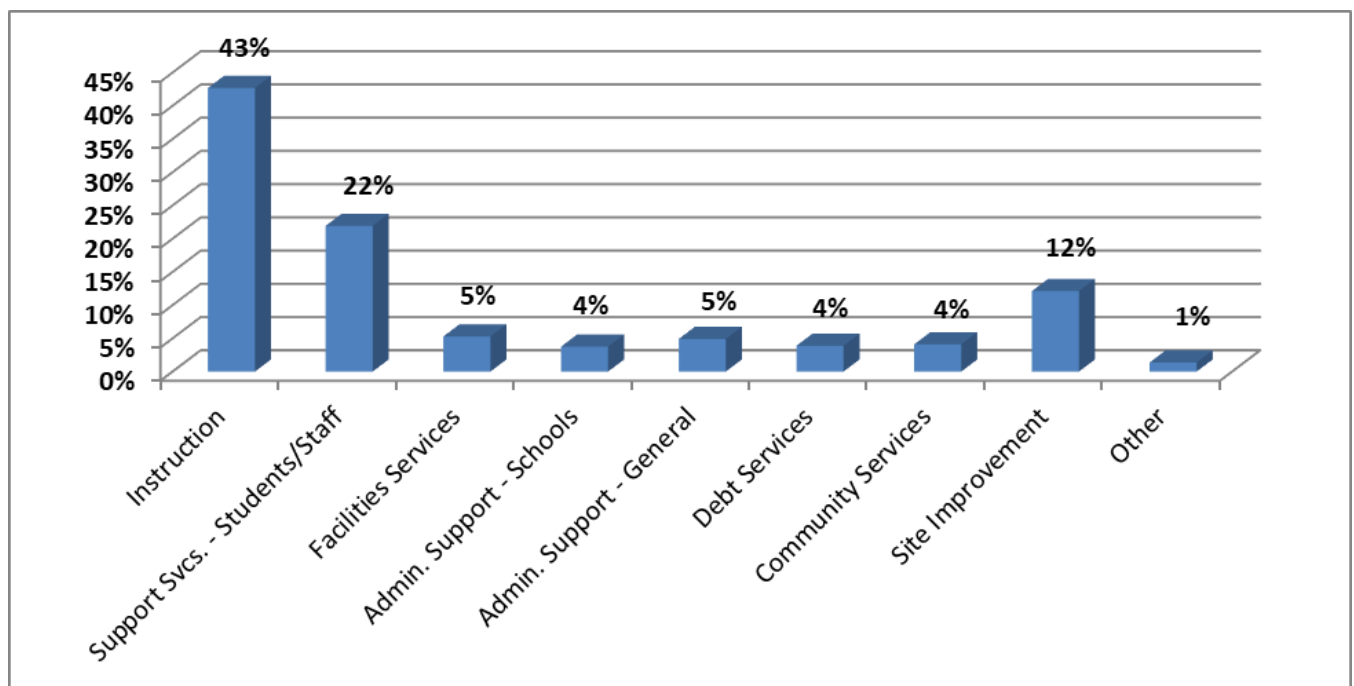
**Facilities Services** - includes building operation and maintenance services, warehousing, and other facility related services

**Community Services** - includes community childcare, Head Start, and school childcare services

**Debt Service** - includes principal and interest payments related to bonds previously sold by the district

**District Site Improvement** - includes capital expenditures related to building projects funded by budget appropriations and bond proceeds

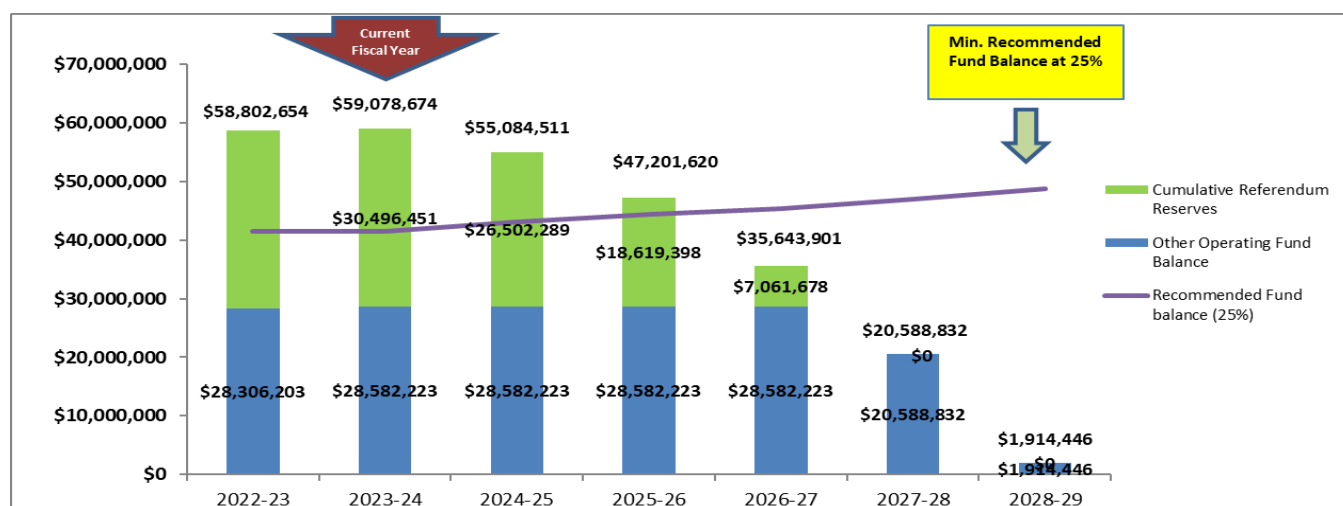
**Other** - includes non-programmed charges, out-of-district tuition, certain benefits and other miscellaneous items.



# Fund Balance and Future Investments

## Fund Balance

District 65's fund balance has been improving since the voter approval of an operational referendum in 2017. Despite an operating deficit caused by the delayed property taxes and much higher transportation and operational costs experienced in FY23, the District's fund balance remains very stable at 34%. Bond ratings agencies and good business practice require a fund balance to be between 25% to 40% of a District's operating budget. The chart below illustrates the District's current operating fund balance, including referendum reserves, and projections.



## Future Investments - 5th Ward School

The FY24 budget includes funds for building the 5th Ward School. At the October 23, 2023 meeting, the School Board reached an initial consensus to shift construction and schematic design plans of the new school in the 5th Ward from serving K-8 students to serving K-5 students as a result of budgetary concerns. It is anticipated that the Board will take final action on the school design in January 2024.

The new school building will be financed through Lease Certificates proceeds exclusively used for funding new construction and must be repaid from the district's operating budget (use of existing funds for the repayment of the debt).

The District began making annual payments of \$3.2 million in FY23. In FY24, these costs are included in the District's Debt Service fund. Starting with the FY25, the costs of Lease Certificates will be shifted to the operating budget. Future budgets will reflect these payments as well as budgetary savings repurposed and used towards making the necessary debt service payments.

## **Contact Us**

**Kathy Zalewski, CPA**

Business Manager/CSBO & Interim Treasurer

(847) 859-8043

[zalewskik@district65.net](mailto:zalewskik@district65.net)

**Visit us online**

[www.district65.net](http://www.district65.net)