

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Development

**FY2026 Budget Development
School Board Work Session
January 16, 2025**

Updated Budget Development Calendar



Thursday, November 21, 2024: 5:15 PM School Board Work Session

- Action:
 - Board Report: Revenue Constraints and Budget Development Calendar
 - Board Report: Recent School Board Priorities
 - Solicit School Board Member Budget Priorities – Due December 12, 2024



Thursday, December 12, 2024: 5:15 PM School Board Work Session

- Action:
 - Board Report: Revenue and Expense Forecast
 - School Board Submission and Discussion of FY2025-26 Budget Priorities



Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 5:15 PM – School Board Work Session

- Action:
 - Board Report: Budget Development Status Report

Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 5:15 PM – School Board Work Session and Meeting

- Action:
 - Board Report: [Budget Development Status Report](#)
 - School Board Business Item: [School Board Consideration of Resolution to Opt Out of Floating Homestead Exemption](#)

Thursday, March 20, 2025 @ 5:15 PM & 7:00 PM – School Board Work Session and School Board Meeting

- Action:
 - Board Report: Superintendent's Recommended Tentative FY26 Budget
 - School Board Business Item: [School Board Table Superintendent's Recommended Tentative FY26 Budget](#)

Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 7:00 PM – School Board Meeting

- Action:
 - School Board Business Item: [School Board Consideration of the Superintendent's Recommended Tentative F26 Budget](#)

Public Hearing Dates

1. Opt Out of State Floating Homestead Exemption

- Wednesday, February 5, 2025 @ 11:30 AM
- Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 11:30 AM
- Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

2. Proposed Millage Rate

- Wednesday, April 9, 2025 @ 11:30 AM
- Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 11:30 AM
- Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

STEP ONE: Identify Revenue and Expenditure Impacts

Table 1

REVENUE: STATE	FY2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
QBE	\$355,750,576	\$360,213,485	\$4,462,909
Less local 5 mills	(\$78,351,453)	(\$81,427,366)	(\$3,075,913)
TOTAL	\$277,399,123	\$278,786,119	\$1,386,996

Table 2

EXPENDITURES: STATE	FY2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
State Health Benefit Plan (Increasing)	\$57,340,800	\$59,608,800	(\$2,268,000)
Teacher Retirement (Increasing 5.77%)	\$67,319,109	\$71,203,422	(\$3,884,313)
TOTAL	\$124,659,909	\$130,812,222	(\$6,152,313)

Table 3

SUMMARY: STATE	FY2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
Revenue	\$277,399,123	\$278,786,119	\$1,386,996
Expenditures	\$124,659,909	\$130,812,222	(\$6,152,313)
TOTAL	---	---	(\$4,765,317)

STEP ONE: Identify Revenue and Expenditure Impacts

Table 4

REVENUE: LOCAL	FY 2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
Property Tax Digest (5.1%)	\$307,374,583	\$323,735,498	\$16,360,915
Senior Tax Exemption	(\$34,693,247)	(\$48,604,385)	(\$13,911,138)
Other Local Revenue*	\$33,493,462	\$34,297,392	\$803,930
TOTAL	\$306,174,798	\$309,428,505	\$3,253,707

*Includes Intangible Tax, Real Estate Transfer Tax, Motor Vehicle, Title Ad Valorem Tax and Mobile Homes

Table 5

EXPENDITURES: LOCAL	FY2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
Daily Operations	\$57,006,941	\$55,296,733	\$1,710,208
Honoring Salary Schedule	\$352,401,361	\$355,927,688	(\$3,526,226)
TOTAL	\$409,408,302	\$411,224,421	(\$1,816,018)

Table 6

SUMMARY: LOCAL	FY2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
Revenue	\$306,174,798	\$309,428,505	\$3,253,708
Expenditures	\$409,408,302	\$411,224,421	(\$1,816,018)
TOTAL	---	---	\$1,437,690

STEP ONE: Identify Revenue and Expenditure Impacts

SUMMARY: STATE	FY 2025	FY 2026	DIFFERENCE
Revenue	\$277,399,123	\$278,786,119	\$1,386,996
Expenditures	\$124,659,909	\$130,812,222	(\$6,152,313)
TOTAL	---	---	(\$4,765,317)

SUMMARY: LOCAL	FY2025	FY2026	DIFFERENCE
Revenue	\$306,174,798	\$309,428,505	\$3,253,708
Expenditures	\$409,408,302	\$417,044,837	(\$1,816,018)
TOTAL			\$1,437,690

FY2026 Revenue and Expenditure Outlook
(\$4,765,317) + \$1,437,690 = (\$3,327,627)

STEP TWO: Decrease Expenditures to Mitigate the Difference

Total Difference Between Revenues and Expenses	(\$3,327,627)
Reduce Division Budgets by 3%	\$1,311,412
Reduce Redundancies	\$1,263,892
Increase TAVT	\$ <u>814,774</u>
DIFFERENCE	\$ 62,451

Assuming Senior Tax Exemption, we are prepared for a balanced budget, honoring the salary schedule and sustaining current operations.

STEP THREE: Analyze All Current Investments to Recognize Opportunities to Re-Align/Re-Focus Expenditures to Meet Key Priorities

- Identify current General Fund expenditures eligible for other grant and revenue sources
 - Federal Title Funds
 - State Formula Funds (ExP, State Staff Development, etc.)
 - Ed-SPLOST Funds
 - Other Grants
- Shed redundancies and re-align funds
 - Instructional Resources
 - Business software
 - Technology
- Identify new/additional revenue
 - Sale of capital improvements at end of useful life
 - Others

STEP FOUR: Identify and Prioritize New and Budget Neutral Investments Aligned with School Board Budget Priorities and Key Priorities

- Honor the CCSD Salary Scales
 - Annual Steps (+\$3.5M)
- Student and Teacher Instructional Resources (ELA and Math)
 - Re-focus current instructional resource material investments to address gaps in core and print materials (budget neutral)
- Increase school-based allocations for consumable instructional materials
 - Re-direct allocations from Central Office budgets to direct additional funds directly to schools (budget neutral)
- Literacy Model and New ELA Standards Roll-out
 - Re-focus current investments in LETRS training (budget neutral)
- School-based/Student-serving personnel allotments
 - Utilize Federal and State grant funds where possible (Title IV, ExP, SSD, Governor's Safety/Security, etc.)
 - Use General Fund freed up by moving expenses to Ed-SPLOST or other revenue sources

STEP FIVE: Following School Board Decision Relative to the Floating Homestead Tax Exemption, Evaluate Budget Enhancements

- Investments to improve salaries and resources for employees closest to the classroom
- Investments for resources and learning materials for students (ELA and Math)
- Investments to improve staffing ratios in critical areas

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