



# 2026 CCPS Proposed Operating Budget Summary

Total cost per student: **\$18,742**

Estimated SY 2025-26 student enrollment: **28,700**

The Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Operating Budget request supports the existing teaching and learning foundation for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). The request maintains core instructional programs, supports the school system's continuation of the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland for Future requirements and focuses on staff compensation and retention.

The budget request also includes competitive compensation for all CCPS employees, covers mandatory health care costs and supports the extension of counselor positions to provide year-round services for high school students. The budget request also includes staff positions and operating costs associated with the opening of the Margaret J. Thornton Elementary School.

The operating budget supports 23 elementary schools, nine middle schools, seven high schools, seven educational centers (two early learning centers), and three CCPS administrative buildings.

**\$537,904,741**

Increase of \$31.7 million, or 6.3%

**\$273,521,056**

Anticipated Maryland contribution

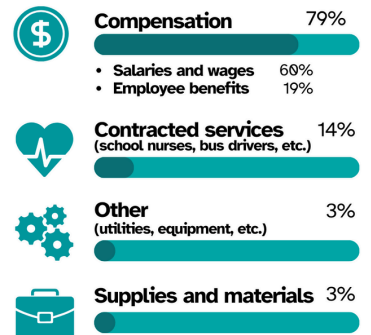
**\$256,743,880**

Anticipated Charles County contribution

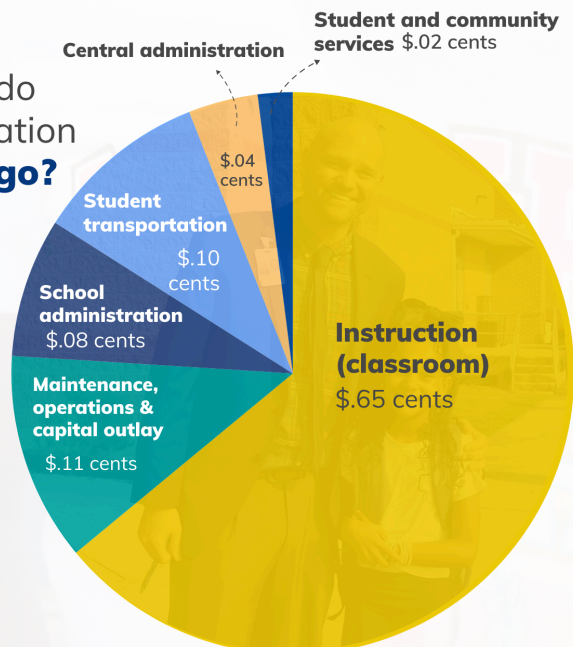
Federal: **\$970,000**

Local: **\$6,669,805**

## Budget by Object Area



Where do your education dollars go?







## OUR STAFF, COMMITTED TO \$13.3M STUDENT LEARNING AND SUCCESS:

CCPS is a people-focused organization that employs more than 3,700 teachers, non-certificated staff and administrators who are committed to the success of all children. CCPS is committed to supporting its workforce and ensuring staff is earning competitive salary wages and benefits.

A large part of the FY 2026 budget request goes to costs associated with employee salaries and benefits. CCPS negotiates annually with the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) for certificated staff, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for its support staff. CCPS employees are the foundation of the school system who ensure students have a high-quality education to prepare them for success in and out of the classroom.



## MARGARET J. THORNTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPENING AUGUST 2025: \$6.5M

In August 2025, CCPS will open its 23rd elementary school located in White Plains in the Highlands neighborhood. The school will accommodate 618 students for the 2025-2026 school year with room for growth. To support the opening of the school, CCPS is set to hire 68 employees including secretaries, teachers, instructional assistants (IA) and building service team members. The opening costs also fund the operating budget expenses for the school such as utilities, software and building maintenance.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAM: \$150,000

The FY 2026 budget request includes a new academic program for CCPS high school students who want a rigorous and challenging academic path toward potential college credit after high school graduation. CCPS is partnering with the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program to foster critical thinking, research skills and a global perspective among CCPS students. During the 2025-2026 school year, CCPS will pilot the program at one high school with plans to expand the program to all CCPS high schools in the future.

## STAFF RECRUITMENT & RETENTION SUPPORTS: \$363,552

The FY 2026 budget request of \$240,000 includes funding for two staff growth and retention specialists who will provide coaching and training to lead teachers in compliance with Blueprint for Maryland's Future requirements. These positions will also examine data and work with staff to support the planning and implementation of countywide in-service offerings and on-going professional development opportunities.

The budget request of \$123,552 also includes an additional position in the Office of Human Resources to expand current efforts on targeted employee recruitment to meet the needs of the school system. The position will contribute to creating an efficient workforce and structure by attracting highly-qualified, committed teachers and staff that meet the needs of the school system.

## EXPANDING RESOURCES AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENTS: \$358,288

The needs of students do not cease when a school year starts and ends. Requested in the budget is funding to support the expansion of high school counselor positions from 10-month to 12-month positions. With the expansion, counselors will be able to support both the academic and personal needs for students on a year-round basis. The request also includes the hiring of additional pupil personnel workers (PPW) to further support the needs of high school students.

## ANTICIPATED BUDGET TIMELINE

