

Work Session Meeting | 04/17/2025 – 5:15 PM

Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility | 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, GA 30114

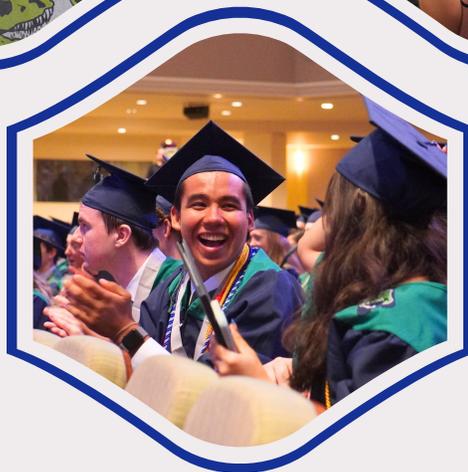
- I. **Call to Order Work Session**
- II. **Superintendent Welcome**
- III. **Board Member Items**
 1. County-wide Policy for School Apparel, Mr. Chance Beam
- IV. **Superintendent Reports**
 1. Finance:
 - a. Monthly Finance Report
Kenneth Owen, Chief Financial Officer
 2. Capital Outlay:
 - a. Monthly Capital Outlay Report
Trey Moores, Chief Support Services Officer
 3. Legislative Report:
 - a. 2025 Legislative Report
Mike McGowan, Chief of Staff
 4. Safety and Security Report:
 - a. Bi-annual Safety and Security Report
Chief Buster Cushing, Chief School Police
- V. **Executive Session (as needed)**
- VI. **Adjournment**



Cherokee
County
School
District

Monthly Financial Report

Work Session | 04.17.2025



Mary Elizabeth Davis, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mary Elizabeth Davis PhD, Superintendent
Kenneth Owen, Chief Financial Officer

FINANCIAL REPORT
MARCH 2025

General Fund

For the month ending March 31, 2025, the ninth month of the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, the School District's Operating Account (General Fund) has received \$469,143,776 in revenue (year-to-date) consisting of state funds of \$174,158,713 (61% of budget), \$291,342,129 local revenues (94% of budget), and other funds of \$3,642,934 (114% of budget). All operating expenditures of \$389,403,626 (66% of budget) are within the Board of Education's approved 2024-25 budget.

Building Fund/Ed-SPLOST Collections

The Capital Outlay Fund balance of \$55,455,039 as of March 31, 2025 reflects Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Education (Ed-SPLOST) collections, proceeds of bond sales for capital outlay purposes, and transfers from the General Fund less bond refundings, bond issuance costs, transfers of Ed-SPLOST to the Debt Service Fund and capital outlay expenses paid.

Cherokee County School District received \$5,157,129 for sales tax collections received in March 2025, for the month of February 2025, the 29th month of 60 monthly sales tax collections for the 2022-2027 SPLOST. Collections received were above projections for the month by \$930,776 and above cumulative projections by \$23,662,526.

Ed-SPLOST collections are accumulated within the Building Fund to be used for specified capital outlay purchases (limited pay-as-you-go) and transferred to the Debt Service Fund at the appropriate time to meet annual bond obligations (January and July). Excess Ed-SPLOST collections above projections are used to meet critical capital outlay needs and/or transferred to the Debt Service Fund as a safeguard against future negative economic conditions, assuring the School District can meet future bond payments.

Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service Fund balance as of March 31, 2025 is \$48,374,118 representing funds accumulated from Ed-SPLOST collections, collections from the 1.5 mills of property tax approved by the School Board, interest earned from investments and Invested Sinking Fund earnings. The Invested Sinking Fund is attached to the Series 2010B Bond issuance and is structured to fully pay the annual debt service on the Series 2010B bonds through August 2028. Annual Debt Service payments are made in February and August of each year, according to the Debt Service Schedule published annually in the Cherokee County School District Budget Book.

Federal/State/Competitive Grants and School Nutrition Funds

The School Nutrition Fund Balance as of March 31, 2025 is \$18,414,598 and represents the difference between revenues from all sources and all expenditures. This amount is held in reserve to cover potential funding shortfalls or unexpected expenses.

Federal, State and Competitive grant funds are annually awarded to the School District based on funding formulas (Federal Title Programs) and/or program applications (State and competitive grants). As funds are expended, reimbursements are sought from the various programs. Local funds are not intended to cover shortfalls within grant programs nor are grants intended to carry a fund balance.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF MARCH 31, 2025**

BALANCE SHEET	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	BUILDING FUND	FED FUNDS/ SCHOOL NUTRITION	TOTAL
ASSETS					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 222,906,384	\$ 17,091,789	\$ 55,455,039	\$ 13,428,740	\$ 308,881,952
Investments	-	31,282,329	-	-	31,282,329
Receivables	985,133	-	-	5,734,123	6,719,256
Inventories	1,287,245	-	-	1,088,267	2,375,512
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 225,178,762	\$ 48,374,118	\$ 55,455,039	\$ 20,251,130	\$ 349,259,049
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	\$ 121,133	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 795,469	\$ 916,602
Salaries and Benefits Payable	17,951,554	-	-	1,041,063	18,992,617
FUND BALANCE	207,106,075	48,374,118	55,455,039	18,414,598	329,349,830
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 225,178,762	\$ 48,374,118	\$ 55,455,039	\$ 20,251,130	\$ 349,259,049
REVENUE AND EXPENSE					
REVENUE	\$ 469,143,776	\$ 28,020,778	\$ 49,405,399	\$ 32,005,230	\$ 578,575,183
EXPENDITURES	389,403,626	79,162,088	102,976,435	33,750,120	605,292,269
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	79,740,150	(51,141,310)	(53,571,036)	(1,744,890)	(26,717,086)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	258,066	28,744,998	(28,744,998)	-	258,066
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	127,107,859	70,770,430	137,771,073	20,159,488	355,808,850
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$ 207,106,075	\$ 48,374,118	\$ 55,455,039	\$ 18,414,598	\$ 329,349,830

**CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025**

	2024-2025			
	APPROVED BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE				
Local Revenue	\$ 308,970,083	\$ 291,342,129		\$ 17,627,954
State Revenue	284,984,603	174,158,713		110,825,890
Federal Revenue	217,661	260,182		(42,521)
Investment Earnings	2,967,607	3,382,752		(415,145)
TOTAL REVENUE	597,139,954	469,143,776		127,996,178
EXPENDITURES				
Instructional Services	395,034,393	255,519,527	\$ 199,487	139,315,379
Pupil Services	26,831,506	19,101,520	15,970	7,714,016
Improvement of Instructional Services	23,570,187	17,353,612	956,386	5,260,189
Instructional Staff Training	823,888	602,136	421	221,331
Educational Media Services	6,213,059	4,206,266	36,585	1,970,208
General Administration	4,379,268	2,993,767	9,678	1,375,823
School Administration	35,164,383	26,112,764	23,137	9,028,482
Support Services-Business	4,254,775	2,843,633	18,303	1,392,839
Maintenance & Operation of Plant Services	49,894,990	29,034,951	1,198,109	19,661,930
School Safety and Security	-	3,575,394	709,700	(4,285,094)
Student Transportation Services	32,323,494	22,791,607	1,161,661	8,370,226
Support Services-Central	7,109,745	5,268,449	2,029	1,839,267
School Nutrition Program	208,408	-	-	208,408
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	585,808,096	389,403,626	4,331,466	192,073,004
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	162,342	708,066		(545,724)
Accounts Transfers Out	(8,505,731)	(450,000)		(8,055,731)
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	(8,343,389)	258,066		(8,601,455)
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,988,469	\$ 79,998,216	\$ (4,331,466)	\$ (72,678,281)

**CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEBT SERVICE FUND COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025**

	2024-2025		
	APPROVED BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE			
Local Revenue	\$ 23,244,600	\$ 25,071,254	\$ (1,826,654)
Investment Earnings	2,741,028	1,195,389	1,545,639
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,803,945	1,754,135	1,049,810
TOTAL REVENUE	28,789,573	28,020,778	768,795
EXPENDITURES			
Debt Service	79,731,161	79,162,088	569,073
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	79,731,161	79,162,088	569,073
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Accounts Transfers In	28,744,998	28,744,998	-
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	28,744,998	28,744,998	-
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	\$ (22,196,590)	\$ (22,396,312)	\$ 199,722

**CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUILDING FUND COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025**

	2024-2025			
	APPROVED BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE				
Local Revenue	\$ 58,268,745	\$ 45,617,051		\$ 12,651,694
State Revenue	3,000,000	-		3,000,000
Investment Earnings	4,882,861	3,788,348		1,094,513
TOTAL REVENUE	66,151,606	49,405,399		16,746,207
EXPENDITURES				
Instructional Services	22,985,051	15,714,506	1,832,068	5,438,477
Support Services-Business	1,160,081	-	-	1,160,081
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Svs.	187,787,715	87,261,929	2,094,408	98,431,378
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	211,932,847	102,976,435	3,926,476	105,029,936
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Bond Issuance	105,000,000	-		105,000,000
Premiums on Bonds Sold	15,000,000	-		15,000,000
Accounts Transfers In	6,512,531	-		6,512,531
Accounts Transfers Out	(28,744,998)	(28,744,998)		-
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	97,767,533	(28,744,998)		126,512,531
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	\$ (48,013,708)	\$ (82,316,034)	\$ (3,926,476)	\$ 38,228,802

**CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEDERAL FUNDS AND SCHOOL NUTRITION COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025**

	2024-2025			
	APPROVED BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE				
Local Revenue	\$ 8,238,909	\$ 5,609,251		\$ 2,629,658
State Revenue	1,719,985	1,534,539		185,446
Federal Revenue	31,604,659	24,382,392		7,222,267
Investment Earnings	593,240	479,048		114,192
TOTAL REVENUE	42,156,793	32,005,230		10,151,563
EXPENDITURES				
Instructional Services	10,560,299	8,295,712	\$ 125,341	2,139,246
Pupil Services	5,844,962	4,611,352	67,693	1,165,917
Improvement of Instructional Services	609,717	423,726	1,925	184,066
Instructional Staff Training	2,443,104	1,123,702	9,243	1,310,159
Maintenance & Operation of Plant Services	4,350	179,982		(175,632)
Student Transportation Services	521,015	289,358	-	231,657
Support Services-Central	218,190	122,036	-	96,154
School Nutrition Program	23,341,007	18,704,252	1,675,773	2,960,982
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	43,542,644	33,750,120	1,879,975	7,912,549
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Accounts Transfers In	1,385,851	-		1,385,851
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	1,385,851	-		1,385,851
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	\$ -	\$ (1,744,890)	\$ (1,879,975)	\$ 3,624,865

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (2022-2027)
COMPARISON OF COLLECTIONS
THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025

REPORTING MONTH	60 MONTH COLLECTION MONTH	PERIOD	PROJECTED COLLECTIONS	ACTUAL COLLECTIONS	DIFFERENCE ACTUAL AND PROJECTED COLLECTIONS
November 2022	October 2022	1	\$ 4,636,009	\$ 5,328,786	\$ 692,777
December 2022	November 2022	2	4,807,242	5,405,654	598,412
January 2023	December 2022	3	5,104,524	6,617,076	1,512,552
February 2023	January 2023	4	4,824,820	4,852,679	27,859
March 2023	February 2023	5	4,062,238	4,697,475	635,237
April 2023	March 2023	6	4,325,376	5,419,587	1,094,211
May 2023	April 2023	7	4,448,443	5,296,122	847,679
June 2023	May 2023	8	4,604,100	5,494,145	890,045
July 2023	June 2023	9	4,818,522	5,509,360	690,838
August 2023	July 2023	10	4,787,586	5,922,789	1,135,203
September 2023	August 2023	11	4,848,609	5,339,709	491,100
October 2023	September 2023	12	4,619,404	5,276,069	656,665
November 2023	October 2023	13	4,766,013	5,652,592	886,579
December 2023	November 2023	14	4,899,541	5,628,151	728,610
January 2024	December 2023	15	5,403,573	6,715,254	1,311,681
February 2024	January 2024	16	4,921,317	5,110,321	189,004
March 2024	February 2024	17	4,143,483	5,309,129	1,165,646
April 2024	March 2024	18	4,411,884	5,502,215	1,090,331
May 2024	April 2024	19	4,537,412	5,471,342	933,930
June 2024	May 2024	20	4,696,182	5,810,715	1,114,533
July 2024	June 2024	21	4,914,893	5,612,665	697,772
August 2024	July 2024	22	4,883,338	5,864,797	981,459
September 2024	August 2024	23	4,945,582	5,789,651	844,069
October 2024	September 2024	24	4,711,792	5,345,738	633,946
November 2024	October 2024	25	4,861,333	5,514,947	653,614
December 2024	November 2024	26	4,997,532	5,796,564	799,032
January 2025	December 2024	27	5,511,645	6,812,555	1,300,910
February 2025	January 2025	28	5,019,743	5,147,797	128,054
March 2025	February 2025	29	4,226,353	5,157,129	930,776
			<u>\$ 137,738,487</u>	<u>\$ 161,401,013</u>	<u>\$ 23,662,526</u>

2022-2027 Ed-SPLOST Projected Collections

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL
January	-	4,824,820	4,921,317	5,019,743	5,120,138	5,222,541	25,108,558
February	-	4,062,238	4,143,483	4,226,353	4,310,880	4,397,097	21,140,052
March	-	4,325,376	4,411,884	4,500,122	4,590,124	4,681,927	22,509,432
April	-	4,448,443	4,537,412	4,628,160	4,720,723	4,815,138	23,149,876
May	-	4,604,100	4,696,182	4,790,105	4,885,907	4,983,625	23,959,919
June	-	4,818,522	4,914,893	5,013,191	5,113,455	5,215,724	25,075,784
July	-	4,787,586	4,883,338	4,981,005	5,080,625	5,182,237	24,914,790
August	-	4,848,609	4,945,582	5,044,493	5,145,383	5,248,291	25,232,358
September	-	4,619,404	4,711,792	4,806,027	4,902,148	5,000,191	24,039,561
October	4,636,009	4,766,013	4,861,333	4,958,560	5,057,731	-	24,279,647
November	4,807,242	4,899,541	4,997,532	5,097,482	5,199,432	-	25,001,229
December	5,104,524	5,403,573	5,511,645	5,621,878	5,734,315	-	27,375,934
TOTALS	\$ 14,547,775	\$ 56,408,226	\$ 57,536,391	\$ 58,687,118	\$ 59,860,861	\$ 44,746,770	\$ 291,787,141



Projects in Construction

Cherokee HS Replacement

Replacement Facility

Carroll Daniel Construction

Substantial Completion: 12.2025

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2026

- Installation of the curtain walls, glass, and exterior sheathing is nearing completion. Connection of the exterior canopies and construction of the courtyard planter walls are underway. Painting and ceiling grid installation are scheduled to begin.
- Placement of ceiling grid and tiles, installation of the data cabling, and installation of lay-in light fixtures are ongoing. Power and water service have been established at the building. Placement of the resinous flooring is being scheduled.
- Overhead MEP is near completion. The auditorium drywall painting continues. Metal framing at the stage has begun.
- Overhead MEP and interior framing are nearing completion. The cooler/freezer installation is complete. Field measurements for the kitchen equipment are underway. Prep for ceiling grid installation has begun.
- Overhead MEP installation and interior masonry wall placement is nearing completion in the main gymnasium. The installation of the exterior brick is ongoing, and installation for the precast panels has been scheduled.
- The football stadium bleacher installation is nearing completion. Concessions and restroom CMU placement is underway. Installation of the TPO roof and placement of brick on the retaining walls are underway.
- Installation of the poles for the site lighting continues. Sidewalk prep and pour at CTAE has begun. Site work to backfill the north parking lot wall is underway.







Creekland MS

Classroom Addition

McKnight Construction Company

Substantial Completion: 05.2025

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2025

- Structural steel, concrete slabs, roofing, interior fireproofing, masonry walls, waterproofing, air barrier, interior door frames and metal framing are complete.
- Installation of the fire suppression system, painting, exterior curtain wall windows, and overhead MEP rough in continues.





Creekview HS

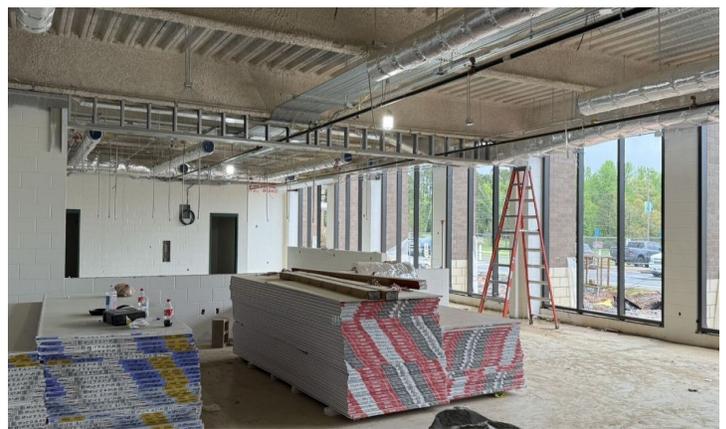
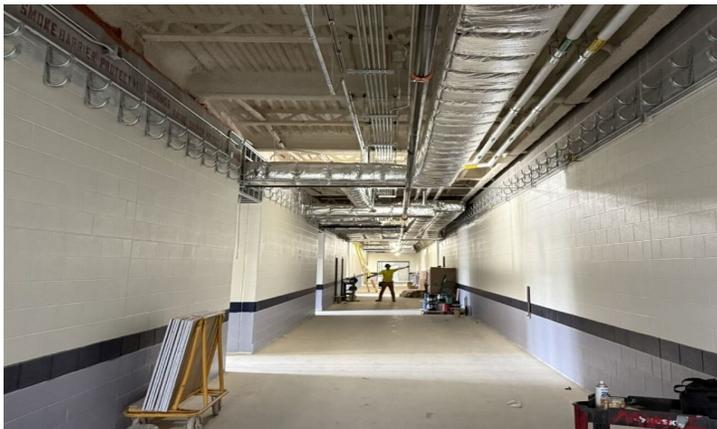
Classroom Addition ~ Auxiliary Gym

McKnight Construction Company

Substantial Completion: 05.2025

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2025

- Construction of the structural steel, concrete slabs, interior door frames, roofing, air barrier, block and interior fireproofing is complete on the classroom addition.
- The installation of the fire suppression system, brick, metal framing, curtain wall windows and overhead MEP rough-in is ongoing at the classroom addition.
- The gym's structural steel, slab on grade, roof, metal framing, masonry walls, and MEP rough-in continue.





Free Home ES

Replacement Facility

Carroll Daniel Construction

Substantial Completion: 12.2024

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2025

- The general contractor has secured the certificate of occupancy. This project is 99% complete, apart from completion of remaining punch list items and receipt of all closeout and warranty documentation.
- Installation of FF&E and technology will be scheduled during the spring.
- Project is on schedule to open August 01, 2025.





River Ridge HS

Auxiliary Gymnasium

SmithBuilt Construction Group

Substantial Completion: 04.2026

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2026

- Installation of the new sanitary sewer, manhole and connection to the building are complete.
- Connection to the domestic water line is complete.
- Drilling for the micropiles is 60% complete and installation of the micropiles is scheduled to begin the week of April 8th.





Teasley MS

Driveway Improvements

Summit Construction and Development

Substantial Completion: 08.2026

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2026

- The Notice of Award for this project was issued on March 21, 2025, and the Pre-Construction meeting was conducted on March 28, 2025.
- Payment and Performance Bonds, along with the Contract for Construction have been secured, and the Notice to Proceed has been issued.
- The site contractor has begun producing submittals.



Woodstock HS

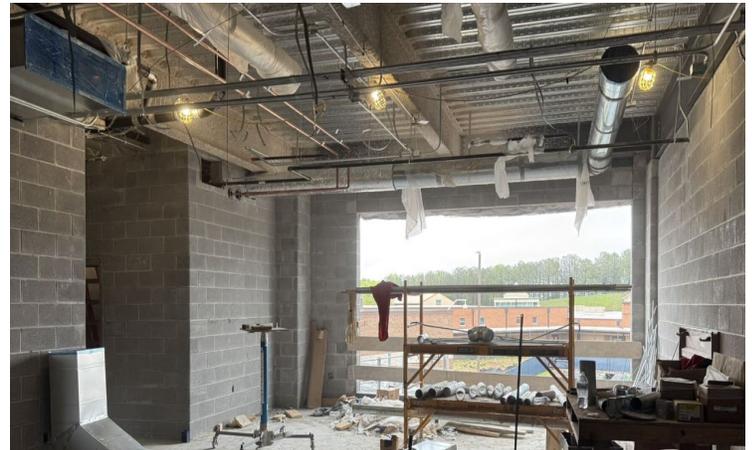
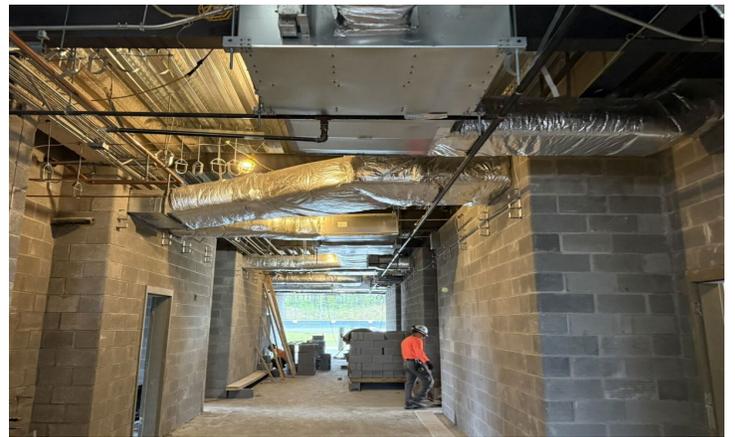
Classroom Addition

SmithBuilt Construction Group

Substantial Completion: 01.2026

Anticipated Occupancy: 08.2026

- The MEP rough-in and sprinkler installation are ongoing on all three (3) floors.
- The second-floor transformer installation is complete.
- Exterior waterproofing is complete.
- Exterior brick installation has been scheduled.





Projects in Development

Sequoyah HS

Auxiliary Gym and Facility Improvements
(Press Box & Field House)

Cooper Carry

Anticipated Construction RFP Issuance: 03.2025

Anticipated Board Action: 05.2025

Anticipated Construction: 06.2025

Anticipated Occupancy: 11.2026

- This project was issued for RFP on February 27th with Proposals due on April 24th.
- Pending Board approval, CI Staff anticipate beginning the construction of this project in May '26.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Presented By: Mike McGowan, April 17, 2025

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TGFS = To Governor for Signature
Veto Deadline - May 14

HB/Sponsor	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
HB37 Leverett - R	Directs local school districts to notify employees about whether Social Security taxes will be withheld from their pay and requires notification of employee eligibility for other pension or retirement plans. Notification must occur at least once every five years and at or near the time of employee separation from a school district. An amendment allows school districts that offer medical and dental insurance benefits to school board members to offer benefits to board members' family members.	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB58 Richardson - R	Authorizes the adoption of local ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or policies that restrict the flight of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) over mass public gatherings that are ticketed events.	03.31.2025 TGFS
HB67 Burns - R	Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, includes \$3M in startup funding for a school threat assessment tracking system.	Act 3 Effective: 03.06.2025
HB68 Burns - R	FY2026 BUDGET	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB78 Franklin - R	Raises the limit of Employees' Retirement System of Georgia total percentage of funds invested in alternative investments	04.02.2025 TGFS
HB81 Ballard - R	Interstate compact for school psychologists	03.13.2025 TGFS
HB90 Efstration - R	Increases the maximum acreage that qualifies a bona fide conservation use property for assessment and taxation.	03.18.2025 TGFS
HB92 Blackmon - R	Property taxation bill that proposes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the millage rate adopted by a taxing authority exceeds the estimated roll-back rate and the estimated roll-back rate was provided in the annual notice of assessment, the tax bill shall include a notice containing the name of the taxing authority with a statement that is specifically outlined in the bill. ○ If a governing authority chose to opt-out of HB 581 and there is not a base year value homestead exemption or adjusted base year value homestead exemption that is generally applicable for homestead residents, each ad valorem property tax bill issued for homestead properties shall contain a notice 	04.01.2025 Act 5

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TGFS = To Governor for Signature
Veto Deadline – May 14

	<p>specifically outlined in the bill every year until December 31, 2029.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It adds a limitation that the floating homestead exemption will apply to the homestead and no more than five acres of immediately surrounding land, unless the property is under CUVA (Conservation Use) or FLPA (Forestland Protection Act), in which case it will apply to two acres or the local zoning requirement, whichever is less. ○ Surviving spouses do not need to reapply for the base year homestead exemption. ○ It requires any governing authority that opted out of HB 581 to conduct the opt-out process once more in 2027 for it to remain effective. ○ It allows local governing authorities, including schools, to rescind their decision to opt out of HB 581 by 2029. ○ It changes to the applications for homestead exemptions. ○ It updates the annual notice of current assessment, contents, posting notice, and new assessment description. ○ Each levying and recommending authority shall annually calculate its estimated roll-back rate for the current year and shall certify such rate to the county board of tax assessors and county tax commissioner no less than 15 days prior to the postmark of the annual notice of assessment. ○ It exempts the purchase of qualifying construction materials used in capital outlay projects for education purposes from local sales and use taxes for school districts that did not opt out of HB 581 	
HB105 Wade - R	Increases indemnification for educators from \$75,000 to \$150,000	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB111 Soo - R	Lowers the state's flat income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19%	03.21.2025 TGFS
HB112 McDonald - R	Provides income tax rebates, courtesy of the State's \$16 billion budget surplus currently on hand, \$1 billion of which is being returned to taxpayers. Those filing jointly will receive a \$500 refund, \$375 for heads of household, and \$250 for individual filers.	03.20.2025 TGFS

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TGFS = To Governor for Signature
Veto Deadline – May 14

HB129 Cannon - R	Relates to preferential assessment for bona fide conservation use property and bona fide residential transitional property by removing a limitation on leased property	04.02.2025 TGFS
HB137 Anderson - R	Increases the financial thresholds (\$250K) for public works, school, and road system contracts in Georgia, exempting more contracts from certain requirements and streamlining administrative processes.	03.31.2025 TGFS
HB175 Jones - R	Revises background check requirements for early care and Head Start	03.27.2025 TGFS
HB192 Gambill - R	“Top State for Talent Act;” further aligns Georgia’s Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) program within the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) with the High Demand Career List created by HB 982 in 2024.	03.28.2025 TGFS
HB217 Hong- R	<p>Extends the Dual Achievement Program until 2031, allowing students to earn a high school diploma and technical college credentials, with updated eligibility and funding provisions, and mandates annual reporting and policy establishment.</p> <p>An amendment added language allowing the Georgia Education Savings Authority to verify the income of Promise Scholarship applicants.</p> <p>Georgia’s Dual Achievement Program is an alternative pathway for students aged 16 and older who have completed at least 10th grade but choose to withdraw from high school to earn their diploma through a Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institution.</p>	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB235 Townsend - R	“Georgia Supporting Living Donor Educators Act:” mandates paid leave for public school and postsecondary employees in Georgia for bone marrow (seven days) and organ (30 days) donations, ensuring these leaves are not deducted from other leave balances and are counted towards retirement benefits, with no waivers allowed.	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB268 Persinger - R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first section now includes SB 17/Ricky and Alyssa's Law, which requires local school systems to implement mobile panic alert systems capable of connecting disparate emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple state and local first responder agencies in the event of a school security issue. It also requires school systems to acquire school mapping data with specific criteria for public and private schools to share with first responders. 	03.31.2025 TGFS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires school districts to send the student record within five business days • Outlines what information must be included in student records • Creates qualified “student advocacy specialist” positions and tiered state grants to fund them in each school system • Provides for RESAs to mediate disputes of student records • Creates a Chief Privacy Officer at the Georgia Department of Education • Defines academic records, disciplinary records, and criminal acts • Requires staff and student training in youth violence and suicide awareness and prevention • Requires each local board to develop and operate an anonymous reporting system • Requires behavioral threat assessment and management plans as part of school safety plans • Mandates reporting of excessive absenteeism and creates procedures if a student has been absent for more than 30 consecutive days and an explanation has not been provided to the school. • Defines terroristic threat upon a school with the first offense being a misdemeanor and terroristic act upon a school as a felony offense • Includes SB 61 language regarding Superior Courts having exclusive jurisdiction for juvenile terroristic acts upon schools 	
<p>HB307 Ballard - R</p>	<p>Amends the Georgia Early Literacy Act to add dyslexia and characteristics of dyslexia. It also requires local boards to certify they have provided copies of the dyslexia informational handbook from GaDOE, and school districts are not allowed to use “three-cueing” curriculum, instructional materials, and strategies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">03.31.2025 TGFS</p>
<p>HB340 Hilton - R</p>	<p>Distraction Free Education Act: mandates Georgia public schools to restrict personal electronic device use for K-8 students during school hours to promote focused learning, with implementation by August 2025 and no waiver options. AMENDED: Beginning no later than July 1, 2026, no public school student in kindergarten through grade eight shall be permitted to access personal electronic devices during the school day, except as otherwise provided in this Code section or required by law” and “by January 1, 2026, each local</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">03.25.2025 TGFS</p>

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	school system and public school shall adopt policies and procedures.”	
HB371 Corbett - R	Provides for an increase of the state's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding from \$300 million to \$375 million annually; amended to include ADA compliant playgrounds in new construction	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB422 McCullum - R	Requires SHBP to offer two high deductible options with pre-tax contributions to health savings accounts allowed	04.04.2025 TGFS
HB495 Dickey - R	Repeals the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation and moves its responsibilities to the Department of Agriculture.	03.31.2025 TGFS
HB771 Thomas - R	Clarifies survivorship eligibility for Cherokee County senior school property tax exemption	03.28.2025 TGFS
HB845 Ridley - R	Requires an internal audit function and establishes a position of internal auditor for Cherokee County School District	04.02.2025 TGFS
HR/Sponsor	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
HR32 Efstration - R	Constitutional Amendment to increase the maximum acreage that qualifies a bona fide conservation use property for assessment and taxation. (HB90)	03.18.2025 TGFS
HR711 Erwin - R	Creates a Study Committee on Student Attendance in PreK-12 Education.	04.04.2025 TGFS
HR887 Blackmon - R	Creates a Study Committee on Reducing and Prioritizing Mandates for Public School Administration	04.04.2025 TGFS
SB/Sponsor	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
SB1 Dolezal - R	Now includes Riley Gaines Act: Requires all K-12 public schools and private schools participating in the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to designate athletic teams as male, female, or coed based on biological sex and to separate facilities and bathrooms based on biological sex. Defines male and female sports and who may participate in those sports, allows for some co-ed sports, requires separate restrooms and changing areas for males and females in schools, and mandates sleeping arrangements on school trips to be made according to sex	03.31.2025 TGFS

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	with exceptions for family members. This applies to public K-12 schools, interscholastic athletics, and postsecondary institutions.	
SB5 Kirkpatrick - R	Requires the state health benefits plan to cover pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANDAS).	04.04.2025 TGFS
SB12 Ginn - R	Revises the Open Records Act to require a government entity to go private persons or entities that possess public documents	04.02.2025 TGFS
SB20 Kirkpatrick - R	Creates a memorial fund for public school teachers and employees killed or disabled in the line of duty. The Georgia Student Finance Authority would manage this fund and provide tuition grants to the children and spouses of educators killed or disabled in the line of service.	04.02.2025 TGFS
SB36 Setzler - R	"Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act:" prohibits a substantial burden on an individual's exercise of religion unless the burden is the least restrictive possible and furthers a compelling interest of the government. The legislation will apply to cities, K-12 schools, and all local governments and state agencies.	04.02.2025 Signed by Governor
SB44 Watson - R	Reduces equalization grant requirement from 14 mills to 10 mills	03.28.2025 TGFS
SB63 Watson - R	Requires that local school systems offer certain exams to home study students without imposing any cost of such students not imposed on enrolled students. The bill specifically applies to PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, PreACT, ACT, and advanced placement exams; amended to include ASVAB.	04.02.2025 TGFS
SB82 Dixon - R	Local Charter School Authorization and Support Act of 2025: if a local board denies a petition, it must provide a written statement of denial to the charter petitioner, the State Board of Education, and the Office of Charter School Compliance, specifically stating the reasons for denial and listing all deficiencies within 20 business days. A district with 10,000-60,000 students that denies two or more local charter petitions that are subsequently approved by the State Charter Commission will lose its flexibility contract and would not be able to renew their strategic waivers for three years or until the State Board of Education (SBOE) determines local boards have demonstrated "commitment to increasing student performance and encouraging innovation through high-quality local charter petition	04.02.2025 TGFS

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	<p>authorizations.” Districts will receive capital outlay credits and a \$250,000 per year incentive for three years on August 1 for each locally approved charter. The bill also creates a 5-star “School Choice Rating” for each school district.</p> <p>The bill requires the Office of Charter School Compliance to prepare guidelines for local boards of education to evaluate charter school petitions.</p> <p>(HB202)</p>	
<p>SB93 Kemp - D</p>	<p>“Georgia Early Literacy Act:” ensures the Georgia Professional Standards Commission adopts rules for state-approved teacher preparation programs that are aligned to the “Science of Reading.”</p>	<p>04.02.2025 TGFS</p>
<p>SB99 Robertson - R</p>	<p>Redefines what a law enforcement officer is to clarify that any state or federal law enforcement personnel who assist a state law enforcement agency or any political subdivision in response to the Governor declaring a state of emergency or disaster.</p>	<p>04.02.2025 TGFS</p>
<p>SB123 Kennedy - R</p>	<p>Mandates that school districts re-establish school climate committees to address chronic absenteeism. The chief superior court judge will head the committee, which is required to convene twice a year. By June 1, 2026, the committees must revise attendance protocols for each district. Each district must also submit an annual absenteeism report to the legislature and make it accessible to the public. If a school system has an absenteeism rate of 10 percent or higher, it must form an attendance review team to investigate the cause of the attendance problem. Additionally, if a school within the district has a 15 percent or higher absenteeism rate, it must establish its own attendance review team. SB 123 also prohibits students from being expelled from public schools solely due to their absences.</p>	<p>03.25.2025 TGFS</p>
<p>SB150 Hickman - R</p>	<p>Allows retired teachers to re-enter the classroom and collect both retirement and teacher pay. Senator Hickman mentioned that retired educators are a valuable resource to combat the teacher shortages Georgia is experiencing. Currently, there are 450 retired educators working in Georgia under this provision. The bill lowers the required number of years served from 30 to 25 years and shortens the one-year waiting period for retirees to 60 days. It also extends the sunset provision from 2026 to 2034.</p>	<p>Passed Committee and sent to actuarial study for 2026 session.</p>
<p>SB154 Hatchett - R</p>	<p>Remove references to US Office of Education in OCGA</p>	<p>03.31.2025 TGFS</p>

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SB180 Dixon - R	High Demand Apprenticeship Program: provides opportunities for apprenticeship sponsors to enter into apprenticeship program contracts with State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia	03.28.2025 TGFS
SB193 Brass - R	Establishes the adult (ages 21-40) workforce high school diploma program of the State Board of the Technical College System	03.25.2025 TGFS
SB199 Watson - R	Provides that the State Ethics Commission shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days before an election, revises provisions related to reporting income on personal financial disclosure statements for office holders, provides that the commission shall not publicly release home address information in its possession, and revises lobbyist reporting requirements to make the reporting dates for such requirements more uniform.	03.31.2025 TGFS
SB209 Goodman - R	Relates to retirement and pensions and permits certain persons who would otherwise be required to be members of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) to make an irrevocable election to become members of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS)	Approved by Committee for actuarial study
SB212 Still - R	Prohibits the disclosure of public student directory information and confidential voter registration details to political candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, political organizations, or persons or groups acting on their behalf. An amendment added recommendations to allow non-profits to run voter registrations on a school campus if they register through the proper channels and that they are not on campus through fraudulent means.	04.02.2025 TGFS
SB213 Kirkpatrick-R	Bans commercial cheating services that target students and examines seeking a professional license as an unlawful, unfair and deceptive trade practice	03.31.2025 TGFS
SR/Sponsor	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
SR217 Kennedy – R	Creates the Senate Study Committee on Combating Chronic Absenteeism in Schools	04.02.2025 Passed Senate
SR237 Hickman – R	Resolution urging the Professional Standards Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Office of Student Achievement, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and the Georgia Student Finance Commission, to provide	04.02.2025 Passed Senate

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	recommendations to support the state's K-12 education workforce and teacher and school leader pipeline.	
SR431 Harrell - D	Creates the Senate Impact of Social Media and Artificial Intelligence on Children and Platform Privacy Protection Study Committee.	04.02.2025 Passed Senate
SR476 Halpern - D	Creates the Senate Study Committee on Local School System Flexibility Options.	04.02.2025 Passed Senate
SR489 Dixon - R	Creates the Senate Study Committee on Inclusive Educational Settings for Students with Disabilities.	04.02.2025 Passed by Senate



Cherokee County
School District

Board Report School Safety & Security Chief Buster Cushing

SUPPORTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY GOVERNANCE MODEL

Core Beliefs

1. All students are highly engaged in their education and capable of reaching their full learning potential.
2. Employees are trusted and supported as professionals and provided with resources to elevate student outcomes.
3. Families and our community are involved partners in student success and can expect all students to receive the best education possible.
4. Schools are positive and welcoming environments with clear expectations and accountability in all academic and operational areas.

Core Policies

- Policy **BAB**: School Board Governance
Balanced Autonomy with Supportive Accountability
Cohesive System of Teaching & Learning
- Standards
 - Instructional Resources
 - Monitoring Student Learning
- Accountability & Support**
- Superintendent Evaluation
 - Aligned School Improvement Goals
 - Targeted Support
- Policy **IFAD**: Literacy in CCSD

Student Achievement Goals

	READING		ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS		MATHEMATICS	
	Baseline (2024) / GOAL (2027)		Baseline (2024) / GOAL (2027)		Baseline (2024) / GOAL (2027)	
3 rd Grade	72%	→ 78%	47%	→ 53%	57%	→ 65%
4 th Grade	65%	→ 71%	47%	→ 53%	61%	→ 70%
5 th Grade	78%	→ 84%	56%	→ 62%	56%	→ 65%
6 th Grade	63%	→ 69%	48%	→ 54%	44%	→ 50%
7 th Grade	74%	→ 78%	45%	→ 54%	48%	→ 60%
8 th Grade	75%	→ 81%	48%	→ 54%	51%	→ 59%
High School	80%	→ 86%	56%	→ 62%	49%	→ 55%

Key Priorities

1. Elevate the Excellence in academics and achievement for all students
2. Elevate the Excellence in effective School Board-Superintendent Governance
3. Elevate the Excellence in the district's coordination of goals, systems, and processes
4. Elevate the Excellence by embracing a pervasive high-quality school environment defined by high standards, effective supports, and consistent practices

Elevate the Excellence!

Framework for Safety and Security at CCSD Schools

We have a three-pillar approach to school safety and security—Preparation, Prevention, and Response—and every investment, process, drill, exercise, and plan is aligned to one of those three pillars.

(1) Preparation

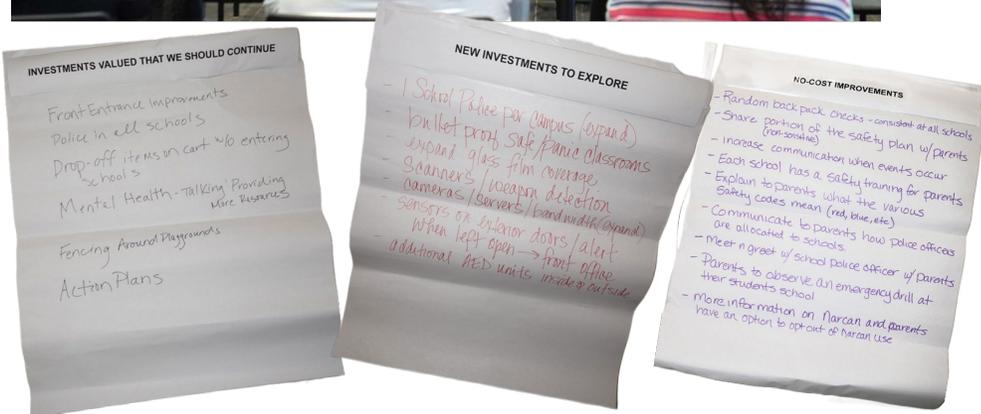
(2) Prevention

(3) Response

Community and Public Safety Forums

The Three Pillars of CCSD Safety & Security

	PREPARATION	PREVENTION	RESPONSE
NO-COST COMMITMENT	PLANS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School safety plan Athletic events safety plan 	DAILY ROUTINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily safety huddle Safety walk by District staff Locked interior doors Locked interior doors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis Response Team Reunification Plan Community reentry/incident communication
	TRAINING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Shooter training CPR training AED training Stop the Bleed training Administrative training 	MONITORING & PREVENTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with all local law enforcement Regular monitoring of social media (IGFB) K-9 safety searches Background checks for employees & volunteers Threat assessment protocol 	
LONG-STANDING INVESTMENT	PLANS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WiFi connected capabilities for police radios for communications with 911 	SECURITY INVESTMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Resource Officer Access control (badge readers, entrance camera and buzzer system) Security window film Fire/security washbasin Visitor management Visitor alert Crisis alert badges Intercoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera Systems Blue Cameras Narcans Alarm/Fire Alarm Emergency radios
	TRAINING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEDs Stop the Bleed kits Narcans 		



Community and Public Safety Recommendations

Next investments	No Cost Improvements
 <p>Increase the number of School Police Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 6 Officers since October • 1 officer to cover 2 elementary schools • Adding Security Monitors for Etowah, Cherokee, Sequoyah 	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident-based • Overall Awareness 
 <p>Expand the window security film</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 	<p>Continued Community/Parent Education</p> 
 <p>Expand our camera capability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing public safety to view school cameras in the event of an emergency 	<p>Bi-Annual Safety & Security Board Report</p> 
 <p>Advance the interoperability of our communications capability with public safety agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed WiFi connections for police radios • Installation of Bi-Directional repeaters 	<p>Expand crisis alert badging to additional job families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All support professionals providing direct service to a school • District staff supporting schools • Custodians, support service technicians, technology, and school nutrition 



Not Started



In Progress



Complete and On-Going

Safety and Security - Prevention



Safety and Security - Preparedness



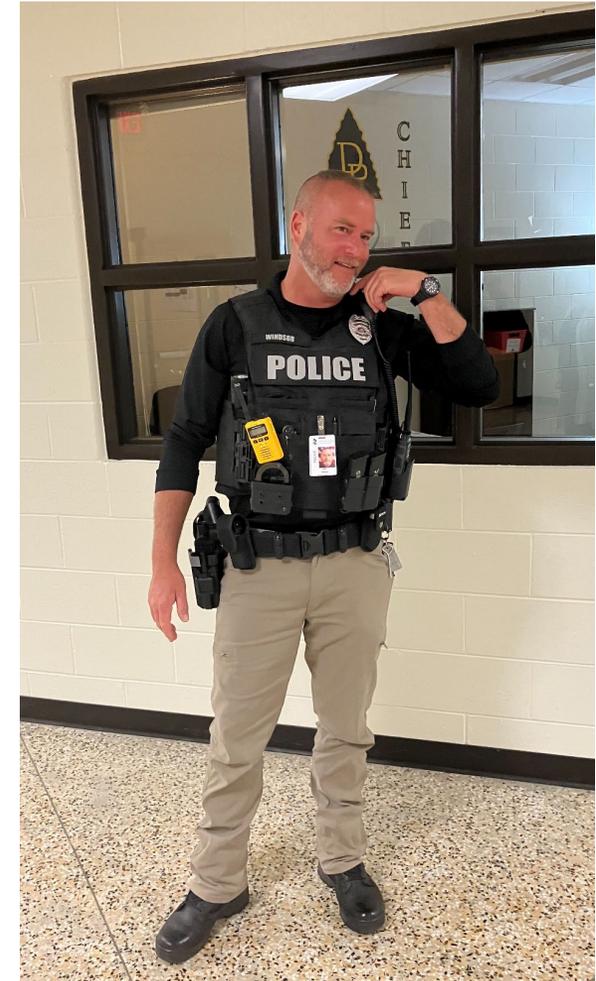
Safety and Security - Response



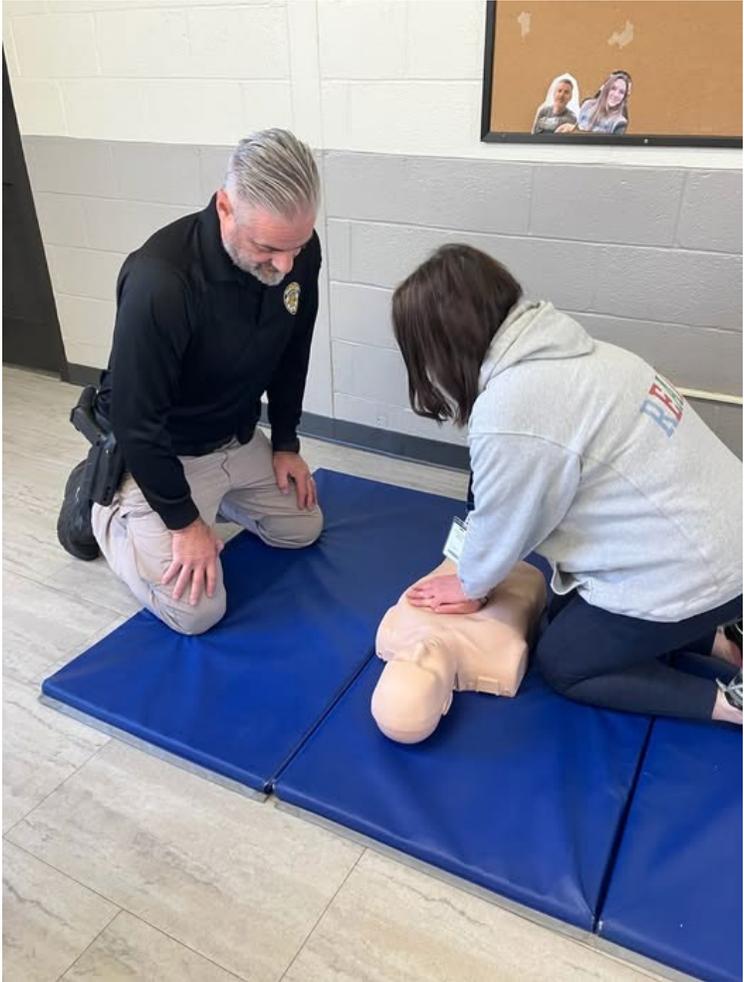
Safety and Security - Response



Safety and Security - Response



CCSD Division of Safety and Security



SUPPORTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY GOVERNANCE MODEL

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