



# T/E SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL UPDATE

JUNE 2025

## 2025-26 BUDGET SUMMARY

In the 2025-26 school year, the T/E School District will serve approximately 7,000 students and maintain eight schools, an administration office, a maintenance facility and a network operations center. The 2025-26 budget supports the T/E School District's strong educational program and services while complying with government mandates.



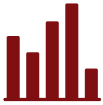
### Authorized 2025-26 Budget

On June 9, 2025, the T/E School Board adopted the 2025-26 Final Budget with an approved authorized amount of \$196,416,579 supported by \$190,299,972 in revenue and \$6,116,607 in fund balance transfers.



### Closing the Gap

The \$11 million deficit in the 2025-26 operational budget was balanced with a fund balance contribution of \$6 million and a property tax rate increase of 4.66% or \$350 on the average assessed home in T/E.



### Strategies Impacting the Budget

Increases in special education costs and professional staffing additions impacted the 2025-26 budget. The capital fund transfer of \$6 million supports the athletic fields project and the renovation of a purchased office building for Bear Hill Elementary School. Anticipated income from state sources has increased by \$1.68 million from the 2024-25 budget.



### Impact on Homeowners

The 2025-26 property tax rate increase of 4.66% includes the Act 1 Index and the special education exception. Homeowners eligible for the homestead/farmstead exclusion under Act 1 of 2006 will receive a reduction of approximately \$344 on their 2025 property tax bills from state gaming revenue.

## BUDGET FAST FACTS

### Total Authorized Spending

\$196,416,579

### Property Tax Rate Increase

4.66%

### Mills

29.6567

### Property Tax Increase on the Average T/E Home

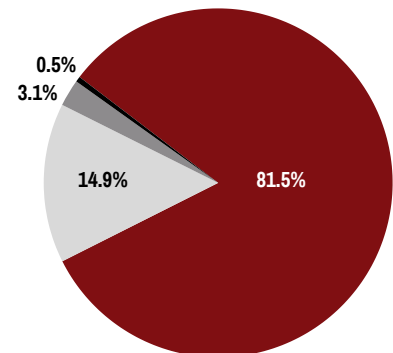
\$350

### Homestead Exemption

\$344

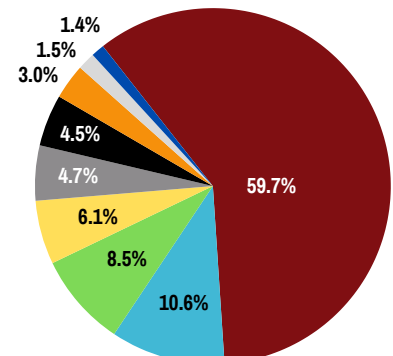
## REVENUES/SOURCES

Local: 81.5%	\$160,055,821
State: 14.9%	\$29,238,859
Fund Balance: 3.1%	\$6,116,607
Federal: 0.5%	\$1,005,292
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$196,416,579</b>



## EXPENDITURES/USES

Instruction: 59.7%	\$117,268,561
Operations: 10.6%	\$20,755,652
Instructional Support: 8.5%	\$16,683,588
Administrative Costs: 6.1%	\$12,039,501
Debt Service: 4.7%	\$9,206,468
Transportation: 4.5%	\$8,800,478
Transfer to Capital Fund: 3.0%	\$6,000,000
Contingency: 1.5%	\$3,000,000
Extracurriculars/Athletics: 1.4%	\$2,662,331
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$196,416,579</b>





## SCHOOL YEAR SUCCESS

THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR WAS MARKED BY  
NUMEROUS DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

The Conestoga High School graduation rate consistently approaches 100%. Approximately 93% of the class of 2024 attends a four-year college and 2% attends a two-year college. More than 75% of Conestoga graduates attend colleges listed in *The Best 378 Colleges*, a publication of The Princeton Review.

### STRONG STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

T/E students scored higher than the Pennsylvania average on the 2024 PA System of School Assessment: 30.3% points higher in English Language Arts (grades 3-8), 30.8% points higher in math (grades 3-8), and 24.6% points higher in science (grades 4 & 8).

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS

In 2024, 1,115 Conestoga High School students completed 2,624 Advanced Placement tests. Of those exams, 92% had a score of 3 or better.

### NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

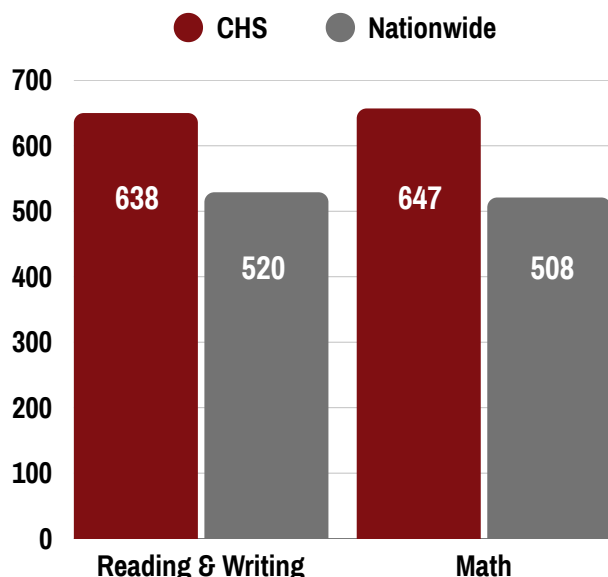
In the fall of 2024, Conestoga High School led Pennsylvania with 51 National Merit Semifinalists, 68 National Merit Commended Students, 3 African American Scholars, and 5 National Hispanic Scholars.

### NATIONALLY RANKED SCHOOLS

T/E School District and its individual schools consistently rank high among public schools nationally in commercial publications.

### SAT SCORES (2024)

Conestoga High School students scored well above the national average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) with a mean score of 638 in Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and a mean score of 647 in Math.



## BEAR HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - COMING IN 2027

TESD is making exciting progress on Bear Hill Elementary School, the District's sixth elementary school, scheduled to open in August 2027.



- The School Board approved the new K-4 elementary school, along with Districtwide full-day kindergarten and a new STEM special, at its May 28, 2024 meeting.
- Bear Hill Elementary School was officially named in March 2025 following a series of public meetings and a multi-step public engagement process.
- The design phase of the school was completed, and construction bid documents were published on March 28, 2025.
- Selective demolition of the interior was completed in February 2025; construction is scheduled to begin in August 2025.
- An Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee has been established to guide the development of new attendance boundaries with parameters to be finalized in 2025-26.
- Community members are encouraged to stay informed and engaged by visiting [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) and subscribing to T/E-News for project updates.

# MAJOR COST DRIVERS OF THE BUDGET

While salaries and benefits consistently make up the bulk of the District's total budget, four of the largest cost drivers behind the need for increases in expenses are capital improvements, debt service, state-mandated contributions to the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS), and special education services.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The School Board is currently in the bidding phase for the new Bear Hill Elementary School project, which will repurpose an existing office building in Berwyn that the District purchased last year. Once bids are accepted, construction is expected to begin later this year and be completed by spring 2027. The budgeted amount for the project, prior to the opening of public bids, is approximately \$53 million. Based on the current capital funds balance and projected operating transfers of approximately \$6 million annually, the District has a plan for two future bond issues. These bond proceeds, along with annual transfers from the general fund to the capital fund, will be used to fund this project, along with other capital projects planned over the next several years.

Adjacent to Conestoga High School, the athletic fields construction project is well underway, with temporary roads, stormwater management, utility installation, and building construction occurring throughout the entire site, with anticipated completion in 2025.

Several infrastructure improvements are planned across the District for summer 2025. These include HVAC renovations and upgrades at elementary, middle, and high schools; interior and exterior renovations at multiple elementary schools, a middle school, and the high school; structured cabling and network upgrades at two elementary schools and the maintenance building; and improvements to elementary school playgrounds.

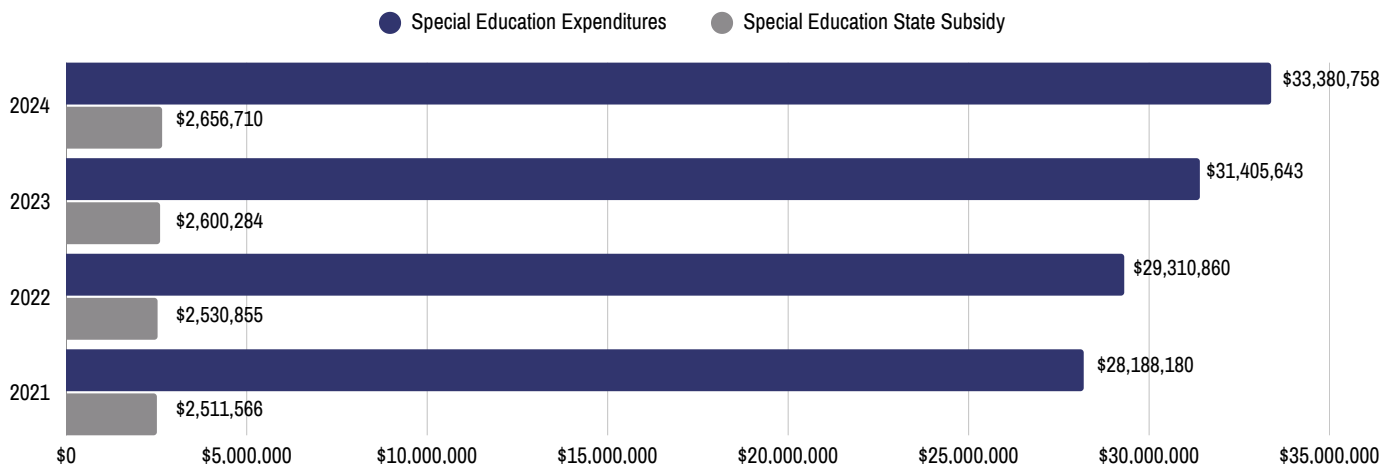
## MANDATED RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

All Pennsylvania school districts are mandated by the PA legislature to contribute a percentage of their payroll to the funding of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). Since 2006, the percentage of the Employer Contribution Rate (ECR) has increased from 6.46% to 34% in 2025-26. The net increases of the ECR have significantly impacted the TESD budget, ballooning from \$1.6 million in 2006 to a projected \$13.49 million in 2025-26.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

TESD remains committed to meeting the diverse needs of all students through inclusive and individualized support. This year, we have continued to see an increase in students with significant needs, increasing demand for specialized programs, and impacting staffing across special education roles. To address this, the District is expanding specialized classrooms and utilizing external vendors for additional adult support. Assistive technology is playing a growing role, with many students relying on devices to access the curriculum. Although state and federal funding have remained stable, overall service-related expenses continue to rise.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES AND STATE SUBSIDY



# Points of Pride

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



## FULBRIGHT TGC PROGRAM

Beaumont Elementary School teacher Shawnette Brown was one of 80 educators nationwide selected for the prestigious Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program. She will collaborate with fellow teachers in Peru and gain insights by spending a week working in a local school community. This experience will help her bring a global perspective to her classroom and the TESD community.

## PMEA ALL-STATE MUSICAL GROUPS

Twelve Conestoga High School students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Choir, All-State Band and All-State Orchestra. The All-State participants advanced to the state competition after successfully qualifying for district and then regional competitions.

## STATE & NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COMPETITIONS

T/E and Valley Forge Middle School students were top scorers in the MATHCOUNTS and PA Math League Competition with strong individual and team finishes at the county and state levels. In addition, middle school students excelled in the AMC 8 Math Competition with multiple students scoring in the top 5% nationally.

## STEM COMPETITIONS

Two T/E Middle School seventh graders qualified to apply for the prestigious Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge after earning top honors in regional competitions and science fairs.

## VEX ROBOTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Two of Conestoga High School's Robotics Teams represented Pennsylvania in the 2025 Vex Robotic World Championships in Dallas, Texas. One of Conestoga's teams was awarded the World Championship Innovate Award.

## STUDENT JOURNALISM STATE FINALS

Three Conestoga High School students won first place in their respective categories at the Student Journalism Competition State Finals sponsored by the Pennsylvania School Press Association. The winning categories included Sports Story Writing, Editorial Cartoon, and Broadcast Writing.

A sampling of  
2024-25  
student & staff  
accomplishments

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Conestoga High School led Pennsylvania with 51 National Merit Semifinalists, 68 National Merit Commended Students, 3 African American Scholars and 5 National Hispanic Scholars.

## DECA COMPETITIVE EVENTS PROGRAM

Conestoga High School's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) members competed at the DECA International Competition in Orlando, Florida. Conestoga students were recognized at the competition for their work in seven categories with multiple top 20 and top 10 finishes in their respective disciplines. Conestoga's DECA advisors received an award for leading PA's largest chapter with 361 members.

## DISTRICT ONE AND STATE ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

Conestoga High School Boys Tennis and Boys Basketball Teams won District One Championships. Girls Field Hockey and Boys Tennis Teams won PIAA State Championships.

## LEARN MORE

- Visit [www.tesd.net/budget](http://www.tesd.net/budget) for additional budget information.
- Sign up to receive the T/E School District's e-newsletter, *T/E-news*, at [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net).
- Tune into TETV, Comcast Channel 14 and Verizon Channel 20, for school district programming. Visit [www.tesd.net/tetv](http://www.tesd.net/tetv) for schedules.