

GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD MEETING

2026 Budget Hearing

October 9, 2026



2026 Budget Hearing

Agenda



Budget Process



Budget Principles



Proposed 2026 Budget



Next Steps

Budget Process



Budget Purpose

Why the annual budget process matters



Ensure resources align with academic priorities and community expectations



Determine high water mark for spending



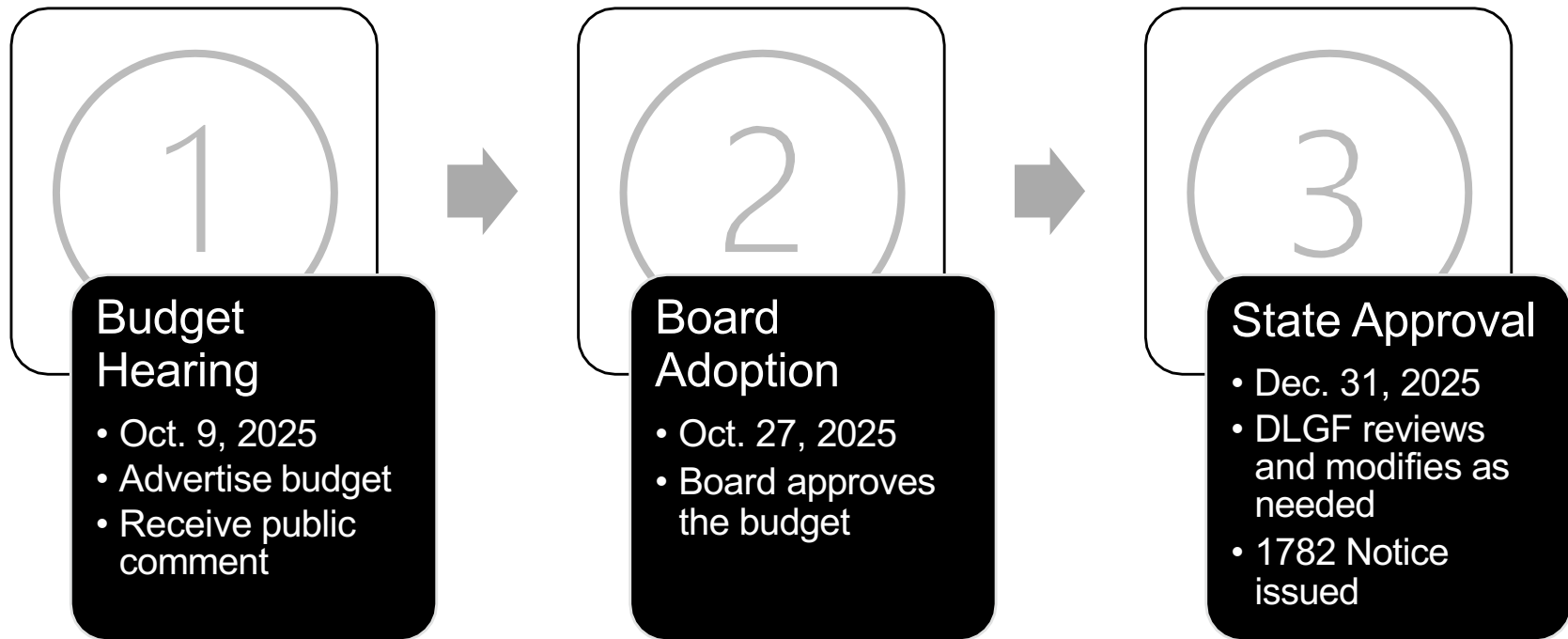
Set tax levies for school funds and subsequent tax rates



Receive appropriations for major operating and debt service funds
(Education, Operations, Debt Service, Pension Debt, Referendum, Rainy Day)

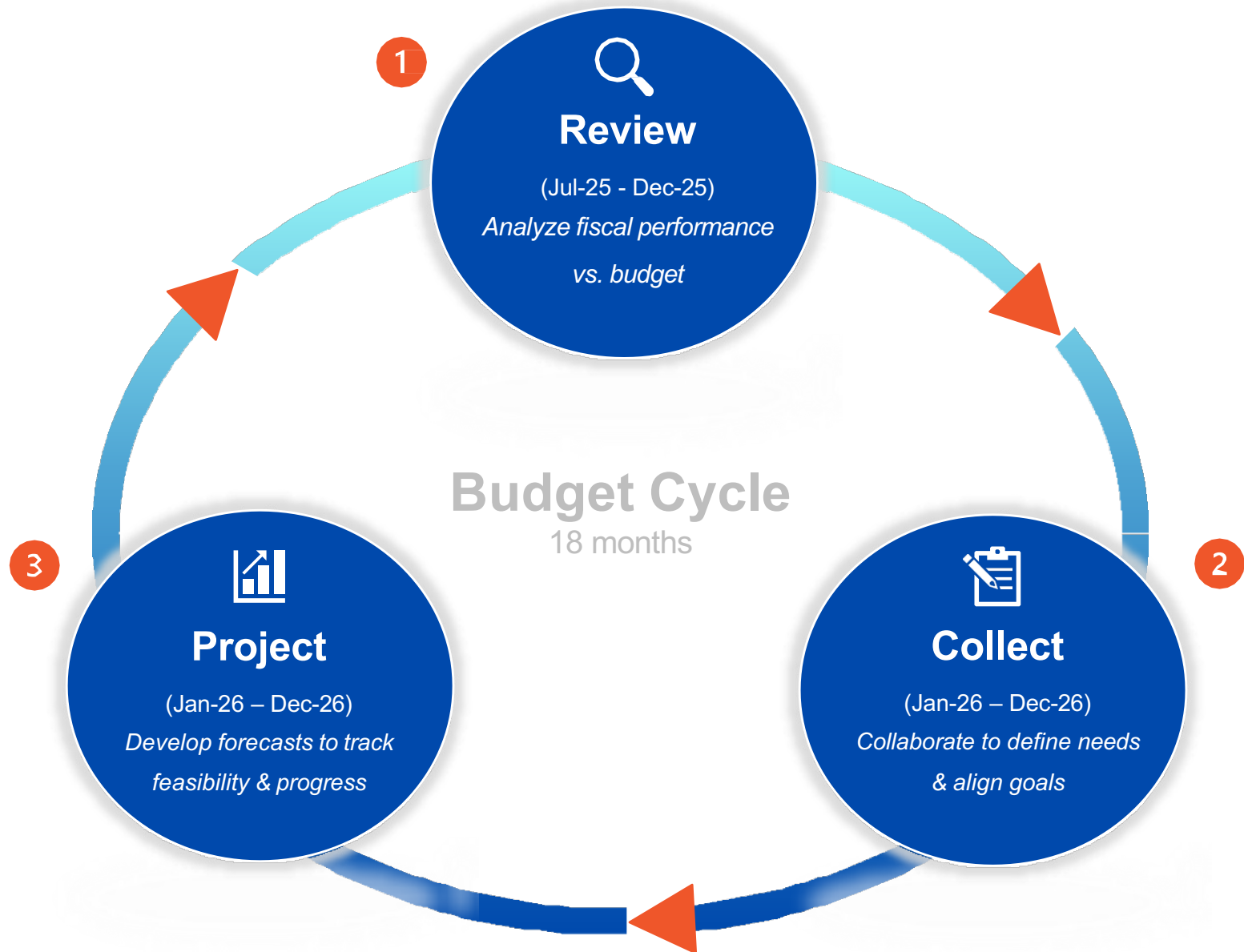
Note: Budget adoption establishes legal spending authority and tax levies under Indiana Code.

Budget Process



Note: Budget process prescribed under Indiana Code.

Budget Cycle



Budget Principles



Expenditures

Identifying and projecting needs



Build projections with high-side risk protections

Factor in contingencies to provide flexibility in unforeseen circumstances; much can change in 18 months.



Consider Unknown Costs

Inflation, insurance, salaries, facilities, utilities.



Anticipate Uncertainty

Emergencies, mandates, enrollment shifts, litigation.

Note: Budget adoption establishes legal spending authority and tax levies under Indiana Code.

Revenue

Identifying and projecting income



Build projections on conservative assumptions

Use conservative estimates to protect against revenue volatility projections; much can change in 18 months.



Enrollment

Average Daily Membership (“ADM”) is reported twice each year (Feb. and Oct.) and determines funding for the Education Fund and part of the Operations Fund.



Assessed Value

Net assessed valuation (“NAV”) and the levy set the annual tax rate. Fluctuations in NAV affect circuit breaker losses, referendum revenues, and debt issuance capacity.



Miscellaneous Revenue

Includes interest earnings, vehicle and license excise tax, local income tax, facilities rental, and other non-traditional revenues.

Note: Revenue projections are estimates and subject to economic, enrollment, and policy changes.

Proposed 2026 Budget



Appropriated Funds



Education

Purpose: Instruction and teacher compensation

Revenue source: State tuition support, miscellaneous revenues

Circuit breaker: Not applicable (no property tax levy)



Operating Referendum

Purpose: Teacher pay, pre-school, athletics and extracurricular activities, student safety, balanced budget

Revenue source: Voter-approved property tax levy (2021 – 2028)

Circuit breaker: Exempt from circuit breaker tax credits



Operations

Purpose: School operational expenses

Revenue source: Property tax levy, transfers from Education Fund

Circuit breaker: Non-exempt, reduced by circuit breaker tax credits



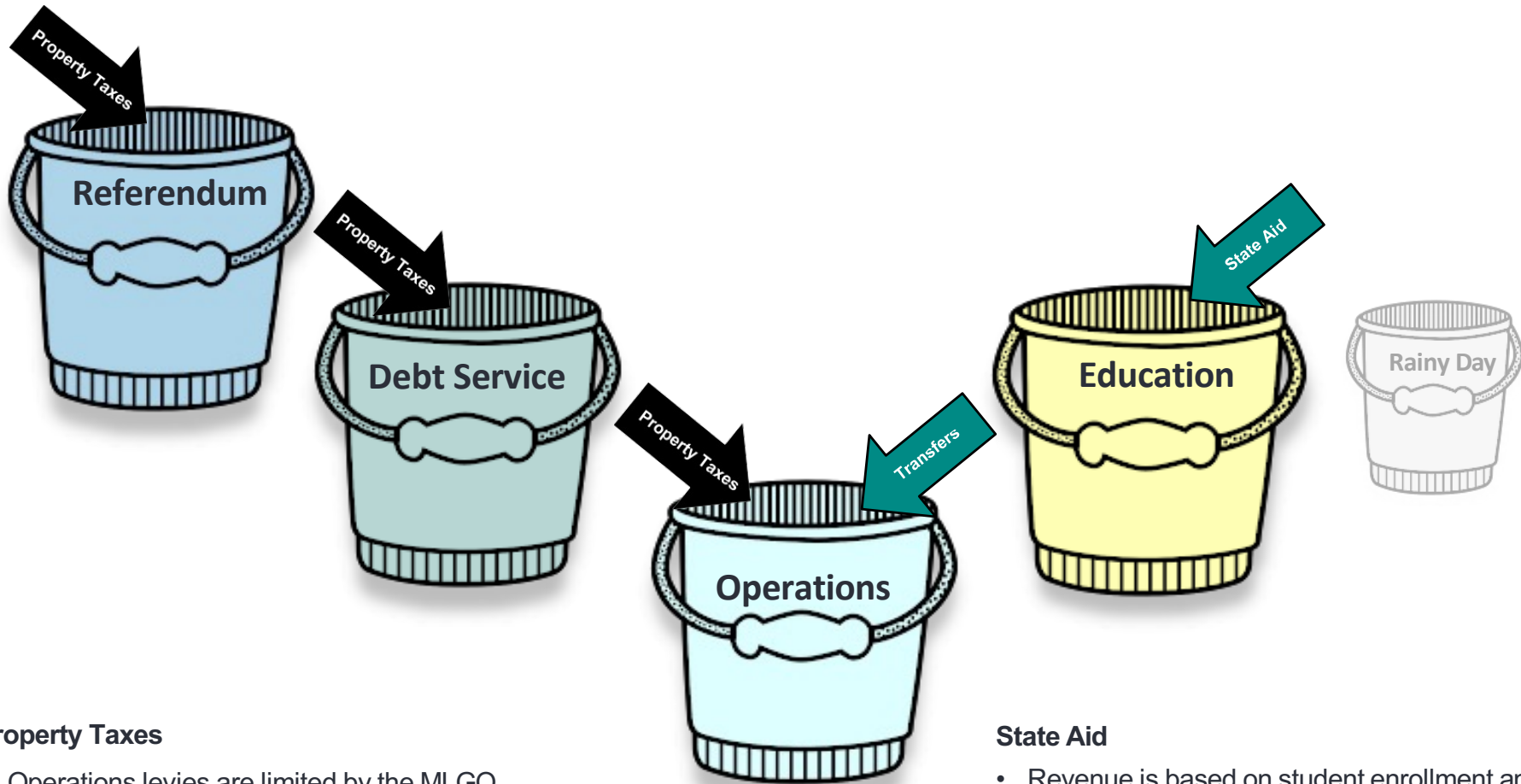
Debt Service

Purpose: Debt repayment

Revenue source: Property tax levy

Circuit breaker: Non-exempt but protected. Funding debt service takes priority over operations

Flow of School Funding



Property Taxes

- Operations levies are limited by the MLGQ.
- Property tax revenue cannot be shifted between funds.
- Collections are capped by circuit breaker (tax caps).
- Circuit breaker losses are absorbed by the Operations Fund.
- Property taxes cannot fund classroom instruction or teacher pay unless approved by referendum.

State Aid

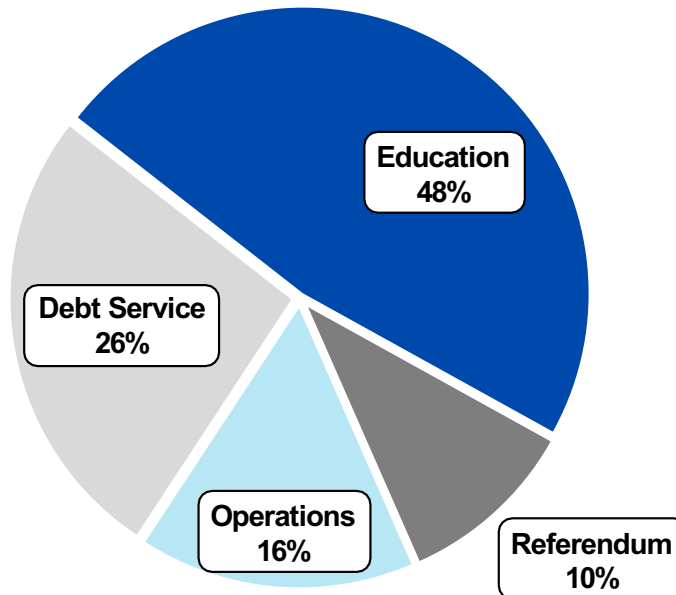
- Revenue is based on student enrollment and per-pupil funding under the state formula.
- The formula is set as part of the biennial state budget adopted by the legislature.

Proposed 2026 Appropriated Budget - Advertised

Total Budget: \$30,874,023

Total Levy: \$14,245,205

Advertised Rate: \$1.5769

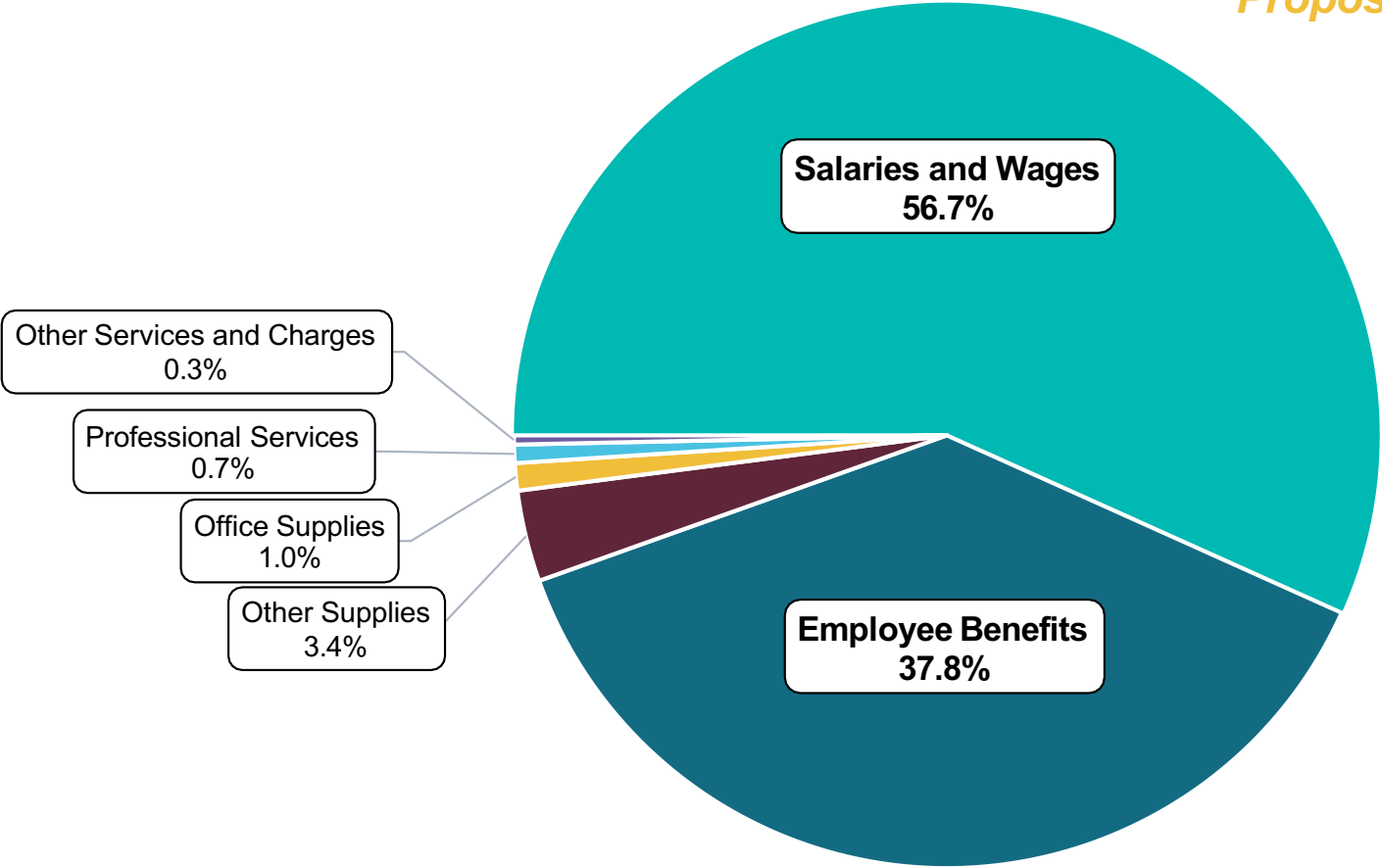


Budget Comparison		
Year	2025	2026
Budget	\$30,963,515	\$30,874,023
Levy	\$13,709,341	\$14,245,205
Rate		\$1.5769

Summary of Proposed 2026 Budget					
Fund	Education	Referendum	Operations	Debt Service	Rainy Day
Budget	\$14,661,919	\$3,200,000	\$4,891,235	\$8,120,869	\$0
Levy	\$0	\$3,952,800	\$3,300,000	\$6,992,405	\$0
Advertised Rate	\$0.0000	\$0.3294	\$0.4000	\$0.8475	\$0.0000
Estimated Rate	\$0.0000	\$0.3294	\$0.3127	\$0.5958	\$0.0000

Composition of Proposed Budget - Education Fund

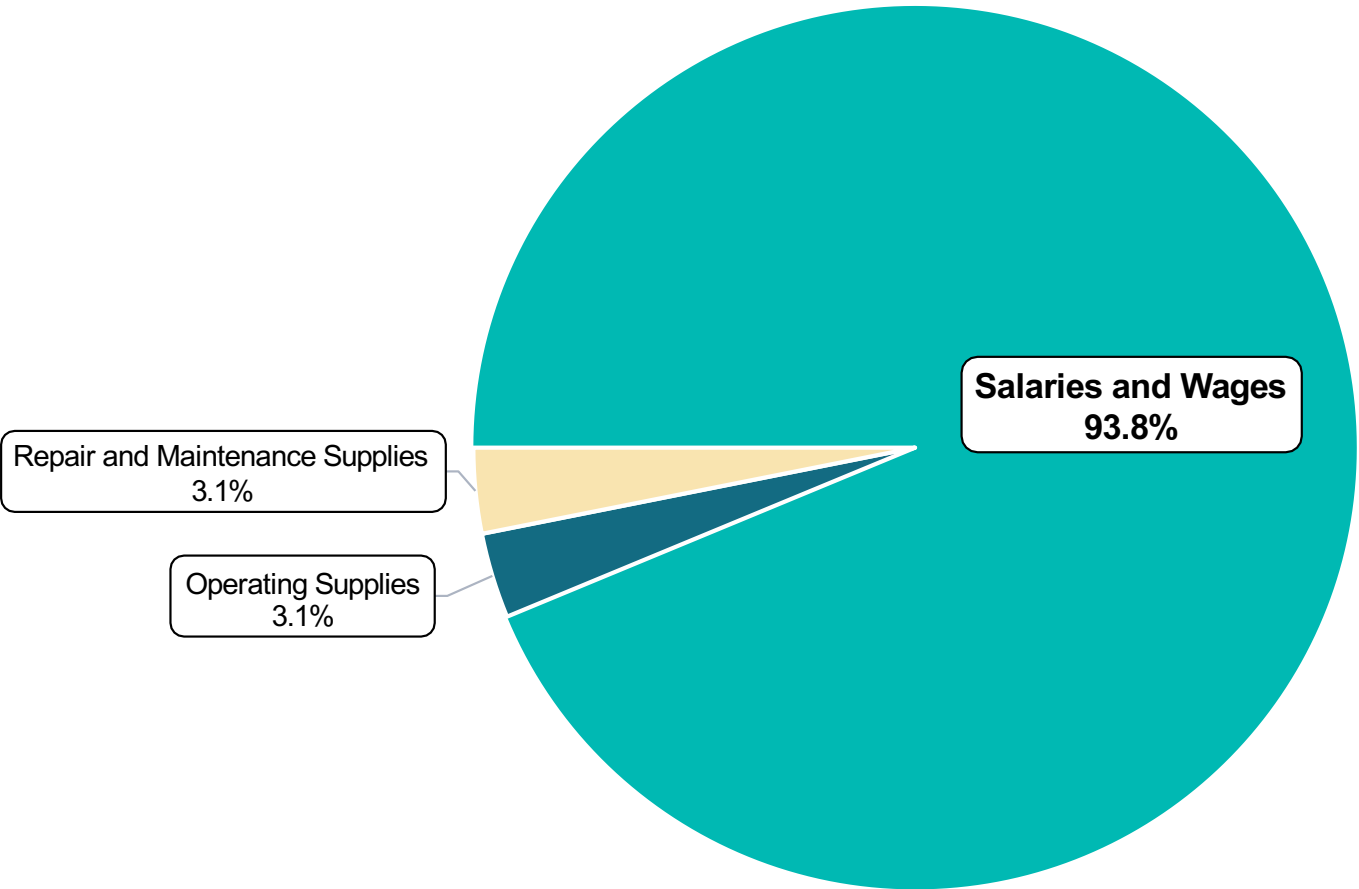
Proposed budget: \$14,661,919



Budget Subcategory	Notes
1. Salaries and Wages	This is the largest portion of the fund, dedicated to teacher and staff salaries.
2. Employee Benefits	Covers health insurance, retirement contributions, and other benefit costs.
3. Other Supplies	Funds classroom materials, textbooks, and student learning resources.
4. Office Supplies	Used for general office needs, utilities, and operational supplies.
5. Professional Services	Pays for outside professional services such as training, consultants, or technical support.
6. Other Services and Charges	Covers memberships, subscriptions, or other miscellaneous service charges.

Composition of Proposed Budget - Referendum Fund

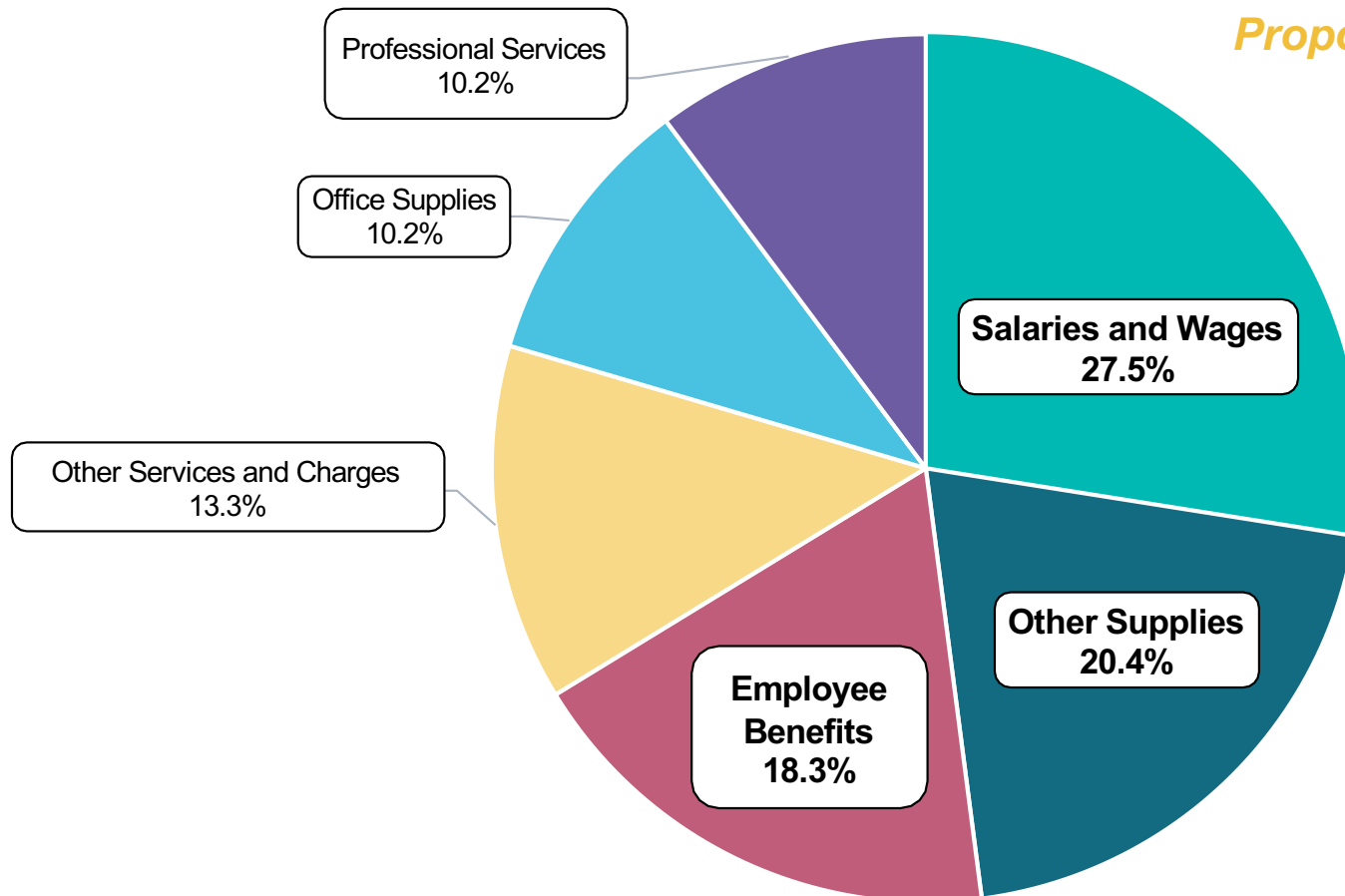
Proposed budget: \$3,200,000



Budget Subcategory	Notes
1. Salaries and Wages	Covers staff pay along with fringe benefits (health, retirement, payroll taxes).
2. Operating Supplies	Allocated for student transportation needs—Bus Cameras, GPS Tracker, bus supplies, or transportation-related materials.
3. Repair and Maintenance Supplies	Used for maintenance, repairs, and upkeep of facilities and equipment.

Composition of Proposed Budget – Operations Fund

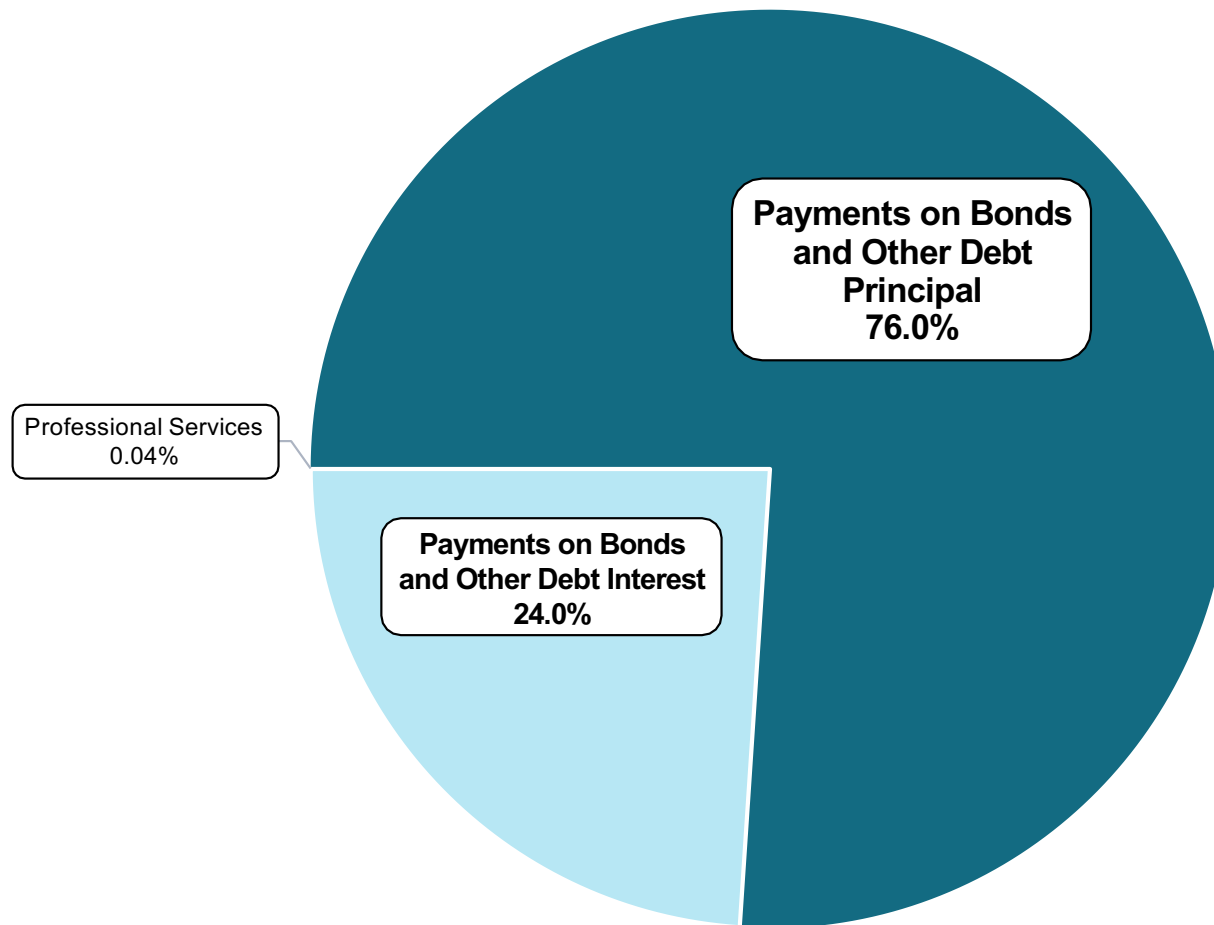
Proposed budget: \$4,891,235



Budget Subcategory	Notes
1. Salaries and Wages	Administrative and Operational Salaries such as Central Office Staff, Maintenance, Custodial, and Transportation.
2. Other Supplies	Operational supplies - maintenance and custodial supplies and materials.
3. Employee Benefits	Health, dental, & vision insurance premiums, retirement contributions, Social Security & Medicare taxes, unemployment and worker's comp.
4. Other Services and Charges	Covers memberships, subscriptions, or other miscellaneous service charges.
5. Office Supplies	Utilities (electric, gas, water) fuel, office materials, administrative supplies, copier/printer paper.
6. Professional Services	Consulting services for technology, attorney fees, financial advisors, software support contracts, and service contracts.

Composition of Proposed Budget – Debt Service Fund

Proposed budget: \$8,120,869



Budget Subcategory	Notes
1. Payments on Bonds and Other Debt Principal	Repayment of bond, lease agreements, and common school fund loan principal.
2. Payments on Bonds and Other Debt Interest	Repayment of interest due on debt instruments.
3. Professional Services	Audit/legal/consulting specific to debt service administration.

Next Steps



Next Steps



Finalize appropriation resolution for Oct. 27 board adoption



Prepare 1782 Notice response packet

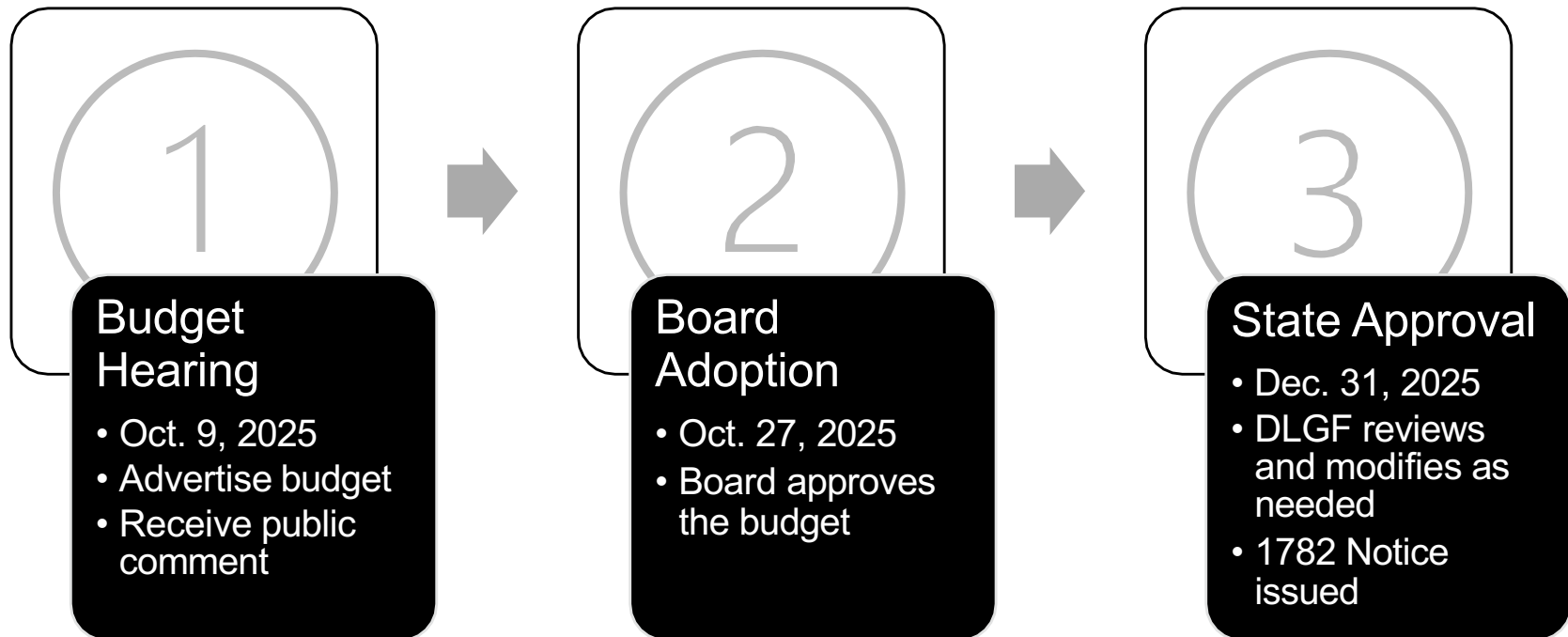


Update cash flow assumptions post-CNAV certification.



Review, collect, project

Budget Process



Note: Budget process prescribed under Indiana Code.

Questions?

