



Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent
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January 9, 2026

Dear Charles County Community:

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is quickly moving toward the end of the first semester for students. As of today, there are 97 days left of the 2025-2026 school year. I look forward to continuing the work of CCPS toward student academic and personal achievement. As we plan for the future, I want to share an important financial update about the school system.

Annually in January, staff presents a proposed operating budget for the following school year to the Board of Education for review and approval that is sent forward to the Board of Charles County Commissioners. At the Board of Education meeting set for Tuesday, Jan. 13, we will provide an initial overview to the Board to include the fiscal landscape that informs the development of the CCPS operating budget for the 2026-2027 school year. At the Board's Jan. 26 work session, staff will provide a detailed presentation of the proposed operating budget for next year. Please note that all Board meetings are streamed live on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com and I encourage you to follow along to hear these updates.

Over the past several years, CCPS has been fortunate to have been consistently funded above the minimum requirements set in law for school systems by our County Commissioners, also known as Maintenance of Effort (MOE). At the same time, the costs of goods and services outpace the revenue we receive each year to operate CCPS. As such, we are strategic in our decision-making processes to ensure the school system operates within the confines of its annual operating budget while always remaining laser focused on our work to educate our students and support the CCPS employees who work every day to make that happen.

Moving forward, I foresee continued financially challenging times ahead. I want to inform you about several cost savings measures we have begun to implement beyond the yearly analysis and prioritization of resources that we do as we develop our budgets. We have instituted several measures to generate savings in this year's budget from central office departments. Those savings will help offset a decrease in our reserve funds that have been depleted in the past couple of years due to higher-than-expected costs due to inflation in various areas such as special education services, building and maintenance costs including utilities, and technology.

Additionally, six central office positions were eliminated for next school year. They include the coordinator of special programs, an instructional resource position in gifted education, a staff and growth retention specialist, a literacy intervention resource teacher, instructional specialist with our English Language Development (ELD) program and a secretary with student services. We will be working through the remainder of this school year to absorb these changes and more importantly, to ensure that staff impacted is able to transition to other areas of the organization following our negotiated agreements. Cutting positions is never the first option when looking at the budget.

Budget cuts and personnel decisions are some of the hardest ones I have to make as Superintendent. While other school systems have eliminated positions in recent years to help with budgets, it is not something I have had to explore before. However, I have to prepare for the realities of anticipated funding shortfalls. I appreciate the support from CCPS stakeholders. I encourage you to follow our budgeting process and continue to support the full funding of public education so we can help our children learn and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Navarro', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
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