



Boston Public School

**FY27 Central Office Budget Presentation
March.04.2026**

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Presentation Goals



Tonight's presentation is an overview of the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) proposed BPS Central Office budget

Tonight you will understand more about:

1. High-level review of the total proposed FY27 budget
2. The total proposed FY27 central office budget
3. How central budgets support schools
4. Central office efficiencies
5. Next Steps for FY27 budget

FY27 Budget Hearings & Presentations



Wednesday, February 4: Overall FY27 Budget Presentation
High Level Overview and Preview

Thursday, February 12: Budget Hearing: Schools
Process & Details of School Specific Investments & Budgets

Wednesday, March 4: Budget Hearing: Central Office
Process and Details of Central Budgets

Wednesday, March 18: Final Budget Review Hearing

Wednesday, March 25: School Committee FY27 Budget Vote

We are here!



Need more information:

BostonPublicSchools.Org/Budget

**Questions and
Comments?**



FY27 Budget Process



Feb 4:
First Budget
Proposal

March 25:
SC Budget
Vote

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET PROCESS					CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PROCESS				
		Policy Briefing City Council	Initial budget presentation to School Committee		Budget Hearings & Revisions		<i>City Council Budget Hearings and Vote</i>		
CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT									
	Investment Requests	Department and Division Reviews			Budget Reviews & Revisions				
SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT									
	Projections and Budget Development		Budgets Released	Budget Reviews	Budget Revisions				

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget





FY27 Budget Proposal



Last month, we brought you a FY27 budget proposal of **\$1.71B**. This is a **\$74M (4.5%) increase** over our current budget.

The FY27 budget reflects:

1. Continued alignment to the School Committee and District goals
2. A new and reimagined funding formula to ensure our students have access to equitable resources
3. Deep and sustained investments in priority areas such as inclusive education, bilingual programming, instructional resources (e.g. HQIM), student supports, and college and career readiness programming (e.g. early college, dual enrollment, CTE)
4. Management of significant financial pressures stemming from inflation and historically high healthcare costs



FY27 Financial Pressures



For FY27 there are four main obligations totaling approximately **\$86M** of increased costs **on top of typical inflationary increases**:

- ❖ **Escalating Health Insurance Costs:** Significant rise due to higher rates and increased FTEs (Full-Time Equivalents)—a major state trend (**\$34M** budget increase from FY26 to FY27)
- ❖ **Rising Transportation Expenses:** Driven by increased demand for door-to-door services and work to achieve improved on-time performance (**\$11M**)
- ❖ **Accelerating Special Education Costs:** Rapid growth in related services post pandemic (Speech Therapy, 1-1 paras, OT, PT) and out of district tuitions is increasing central budget demands (**\$12M**)
- ❖ **Cost Increases from Collective Bargaining Agreements:** Increased costs based on the agreements with all of our unions (**\$29M**)

Fiscal Year 2027 Central Office Budget



Central Budget Process

FY27 Central Budgets Timeline



The budget process is a year round process. Below is the overview of the central office budgeting process. The school budgeting process that runs concurrently with this timeline

September 2025:	Develop an estimated FY27 budget (Forecast) and send to the City of Boston for their review and planning.
October 2025:	District leadership identifies priorities for the future year with input from departments and the schools team. Collaborate with Central Offices to identify increased costs and efficiencies.
November 2025:	Review proposals from Central Office teams with a variety of stakeholders for feedback.
December 2025:	Finalize a draft budget based on the approved number for the City of Boston.
Feb - Mar 2026:	Central Office budgets are finalized through Budget Collaborative meetings and reviewed by the School Committee.
April 2026 and ongoing:	Central staff review student assignments and add additional staffing out of reserve funds for any areas of unexpected need.

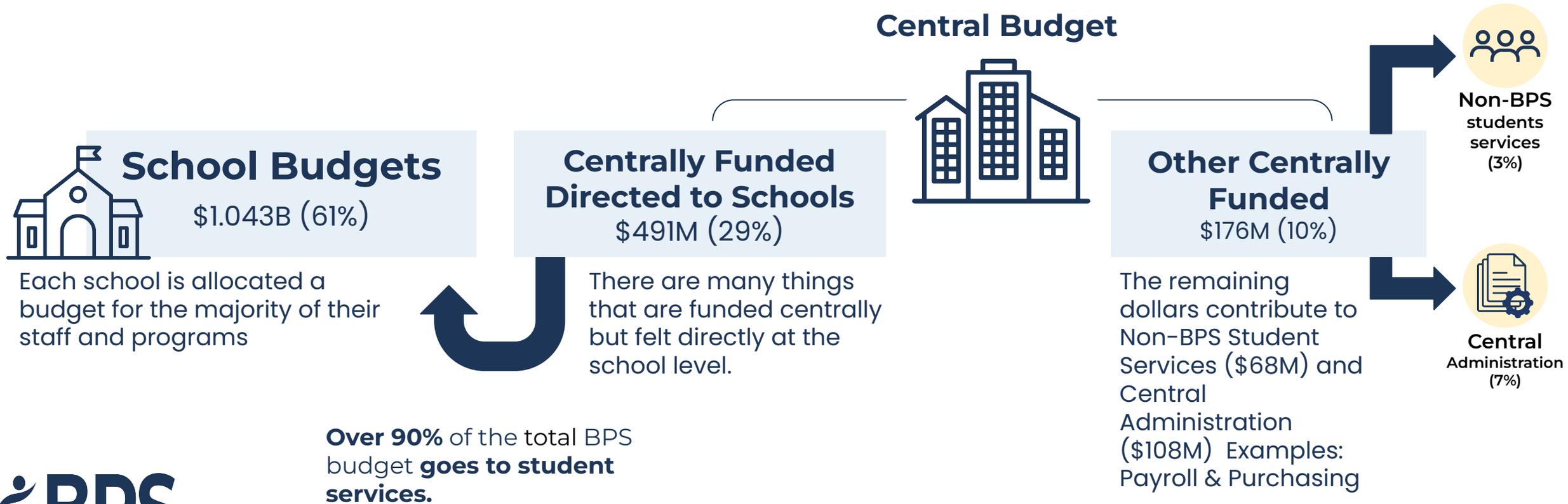
Fiscal Year 2027 Central Office Budget



School Services Budgeted Centrally

The Majority of Central Office Funds Directly Supports Students and Schools

Though we often speak of Central Office and Schools in separate buckets, the majority of the central office budget is spent directly in service to schools and students.



Examples of School Services Budgeted Centrally

Below are examples of things centrally funded that directly support students

Academics

- **(\$34.9M)** Related Service Provision (Speech, OT, PT) and Supports
- **(\$13.3M)** 1:1 Paras
- **(\$6.4M)** Contracts to support students on the Autism Spectrum
- **(\$1.7M)** Multilingual Program Instructional Coaches
- **(\$2M)** Teacher Development

Family & Community

- **(\$5.2M)** 5th Quarter Summer Programming
- **(\$3.4M)** Translation & Interpretation Services
- **(\$1.7M)** Family & Community Engagement Facilitators
- **(\$500K)** Family Helpline

Operations

- **(\$127M)** Yellow Bus Contract
- **(\$19M)** Bus Monitors
- **(\$14M)** Specialized Van Transportation
- **(\$20M)** School Building Maintenance & Repairs
- **(\$2.9M)** Breakfast & Lunch Program Purchases

FY27 School Services Budgeted Centrally



Category	FY26 Current	FY27 Proposed	Change %
School Services Budgeted Centrally (SSBC)			
Transportation	\$149m	\$162m	9%
Special Education	\$70m	\$85m	22%
Facilities	\$114m	\$116m	2%
Other	\$92m	\$98m	6%
Benefits & Salary Savings	\$24m	\$31m	28%
Central Office			
Central	\$99m	\$94m	-5%
Benefits & Salary Savings	\$11m	\$14m	28%

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget:



Central Office Efficiencies

FY27 Central Office Efficiencies



For FY27 we've identified \$34M in reductions to Central Office budgets. Identifying efficiencies isn't just about cost savings: it's about ensuring we are allocating funds strategically to support key priorities.



We made decisions based on these considerations:

- 1. Student impact:** In collaboration with the Schools Division, we worked to prioritize spending toward the initiatives and programs that have the greatest impact on supporting student learning.
- 2. Vacant positions:** We worked with departments to identify vacant positions that could be eliminated by reallocating the work or discontinuing tasks that do not directly impact students.
- 3. Strategic alignment:** We prioritized continued investment in our long-term strategic plans and reviewed non-aligned work for potential pause or reduction.



Operational Efficiencies



Transportation department reductions for FY27:

- ❖ - **\$5M** Lower contract costs for Specialized Vehicle Transportation for students in transition requiring specialized transportation
- ❖ - **\$5M** Policy and Practice Shifts, such as school pairing and ongoing bell time discussions
- ❖ - **\$1.3M** Alignment of staffing due to declines in enrollment and students specific needs

Overall, transportation costs continue to increase, \$12,898,419 (8.7%) - due to inflation and increases in specialized, specifically door-to-door, transportation. The district continues to prioritize improving on time performance by scheduling additional bus routes.

Operational Efficiencies



Food & Nutrition Services - By FY27, we will have fully rolled out our Central Kitchen. This will result in the elimination of vended meals, reducing food service costs by **\$3.5M**.

The **Facilities** Team produced a streamlined budget that ensured repairs needed for health and safety in our schools for FY27. These efficiencies reduced the Facilities budget by **\$3.6M**.

Safety Services was able to identify **\$550K** in efficiencies by consolidating vacant positions while maintaining their priority operations.

Strategic Alignment: Efficiencies



We identified efficiencies aligned to ensuring streamlined, yet consistent, support for families and schools.

Call Center Operations

Strategic reduction to Central Office Call Center staffing identified through a multi-year review of call volume data.

-\$350K

Stipends and Contractors

Reduction to centrally funded stipend opportunities and contracted positions not directly tied to students.

-\$3.3M

Departmental Reductions

Decrease in the number of central office staff, with a focus on retaining student facing positions and programs.

-\$11M

Strategic Alignment: Sustained Investments for Students



By capturing efficiencies in the central office, we can maintain and reinvest in priorities that have a direct impact on students.

- ❖ Inclusive Education
- ❖ Bilingual Education
- ❖ Dual Enrollment & Early College Pathways
- ❖ Summer Programming
- ❖ Equitable Literacy
- ❖ High Quality Instructional Materials

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget:



What's Next?

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Next Hearing:

Review the updated budget that has incorporated feedback shared in the first three hearings

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Questions and
Comments?





Materials for the Public



Go to bostonpublicschools.org/budget and click on FY27 Budget Development

1. FY27 Final Budget Memo_SC
 - a. Equity Impact Statement
 - b. Racial Equity Planning Tool
2. FY27 Budget Presentation
3. FY27 School Committee Tables (PDF and Excel version)
 - a. By Program and Fund
 - b. By Department and Fund
 - c. Account Detail for Multilingual Learners
 - d. Account Detail for Special Education
4. School Allocations
 - a. Total Allocations to Schools
 - b. List of Funding Rules with Descriptions
 - c. Individual School Allocation One-Pagers
5. Supplemental Documents
 - a. Grant Projections

Questions

