

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINANCIAL FACTS

Winter 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear CPS Community,

I am pleased to present our Winter edition of the Financial Facts Newsletter, which focuses on district financial information through December 2025.

This newsletter is our way of keeping the community informed about how we manage your taxpayer dollars. Our goal is to provide transparency and increased community engagement through clear, accessible information about our finances and the financial decisions that support student learning. In each edition, we attempt to highlight key budget topics, explain complex financial concepts and share important fiscal updates from around the district.

Sound financial planning is essential to maintaining high-performing schools and protecting the public trust. We are committed to responsible oversight of our finances and keeping open communication with you, the taxpayer. We will strive to maintain our role of being great financial stewards with taxpayer dollars.



Thank you,

Michael Gustin
Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer

Michael Gustin
Treasurer / CFO
gustinm@cpsboe.k12.oh.us



Link for survey

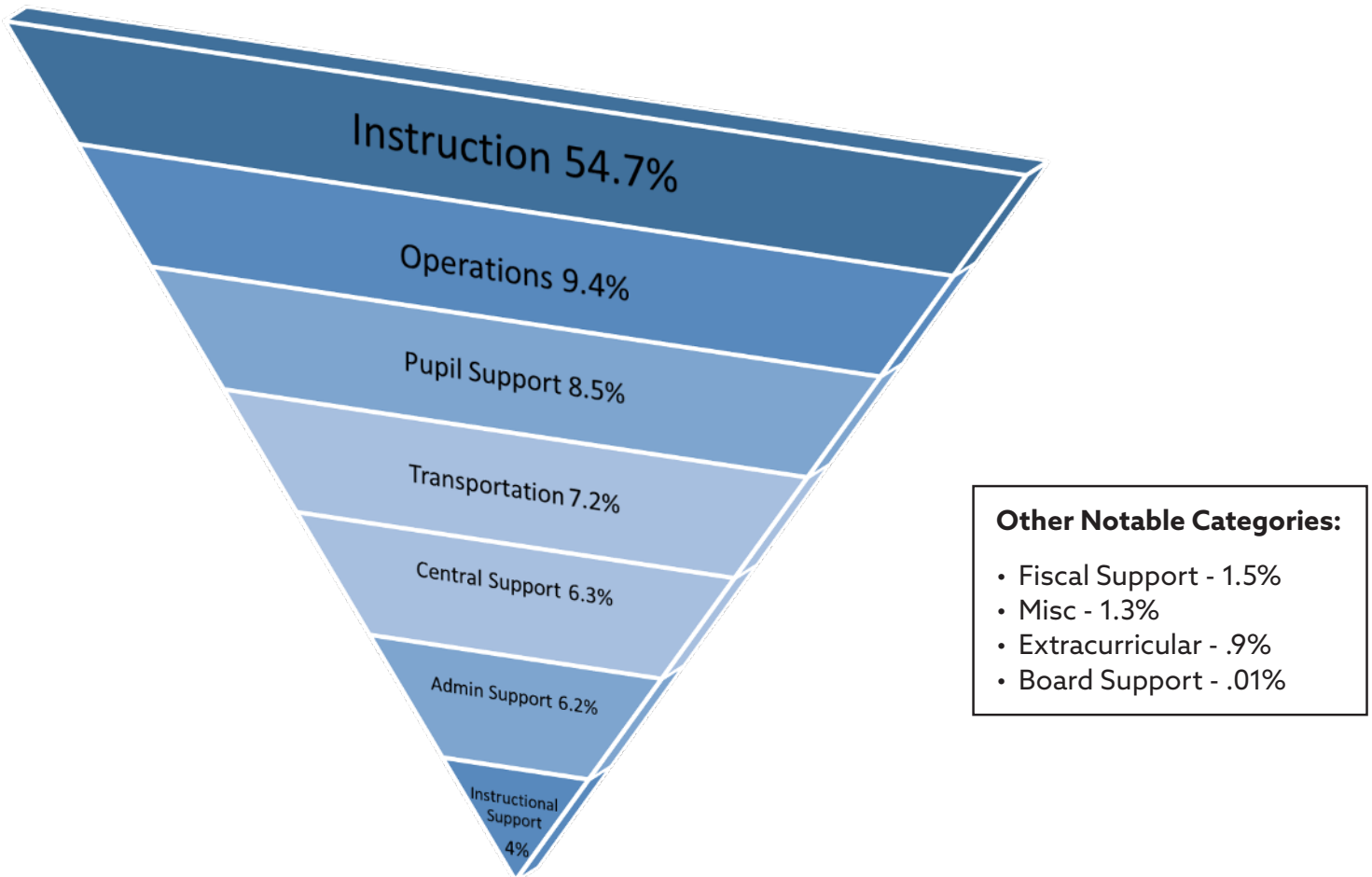


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

General Fund: FY 2026 Expenditures by Category

It is the school district's responsibility to properly record expenditures to the state in order to tell how taxpayer dollars are being spent. The Ohio Auditor of State's Office provides school districts with the Uniform School Accounting System (USAS) as guidance in recording these expenditures. This system allows for a clear understanding of how the funds are being used at the district level.

The following graphs represent the different categories of expenditures Cincinnati Public Schools has recorded for the General Fund (our main operating account for using taxpayer dollars) for the 2026 fiscal year as of December 31, 2025.



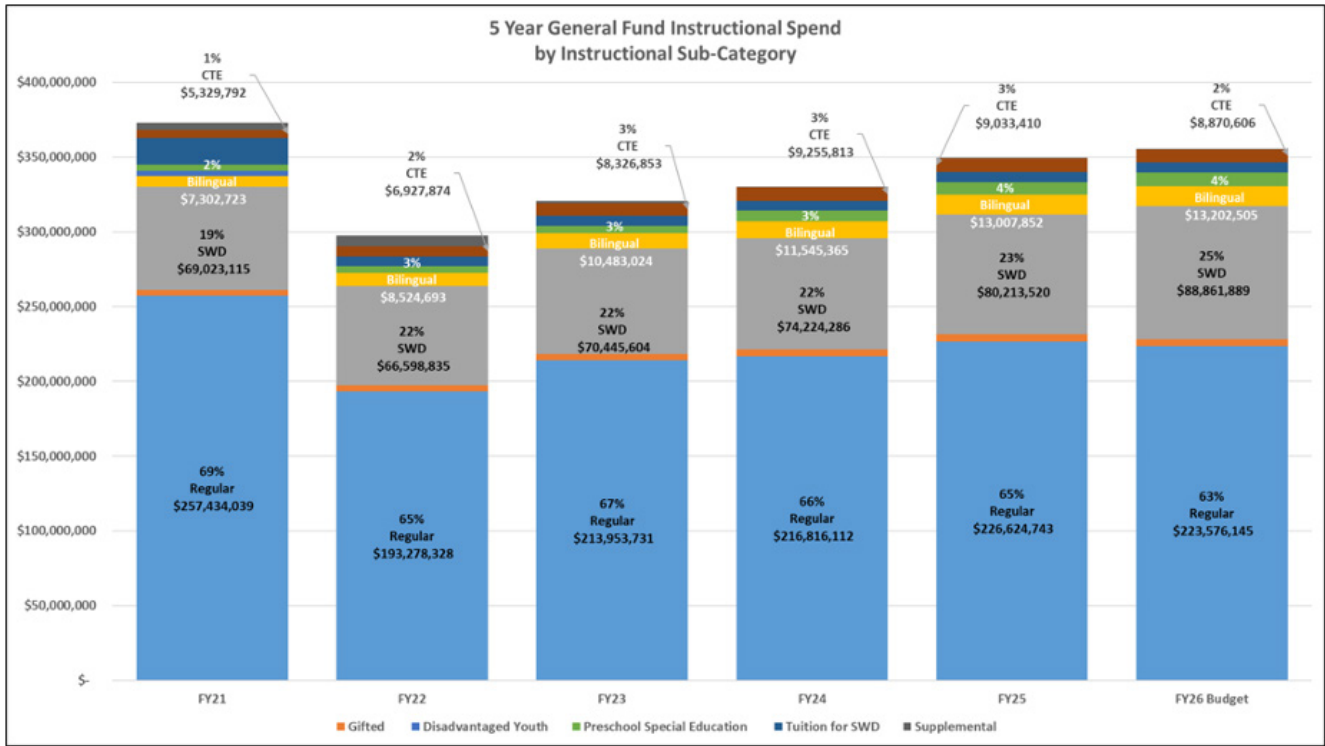
Things to Consider:

- Administrative Support includes activities performed by principals and assistant principals
- Instructional Support include activities used to enhance the effectiveness of teachers through training and/or materials
- Pupil Support supports the idea of "The Whole Child" through activities such as mental / behavioral health (nursing, social work services, guidance services)

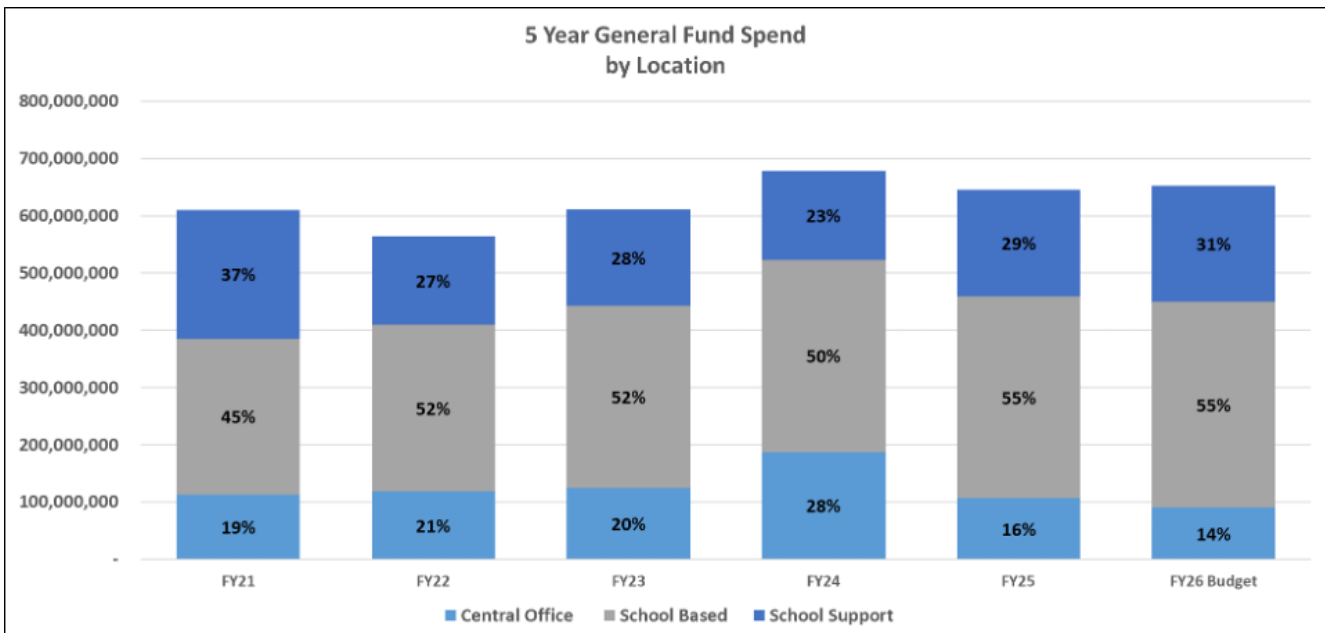
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

General Fund: Historical Expenditures and FY 2026 Budget

The following graph expands on how CPS utilizes its funds. This graph takes the "instruction" category and breaks it down even further through a 5-year comparison of how those funds were used to impact instruction and compares to how we have budgeted in 2026.



This next graph shows a 5-year comparison of where our taxpayer dollars have been utilized and compares them to how they have been budgeted in 2026. The percentage of General Fund spending for schools and school support has increased over the past few years.



FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY & STABILITY

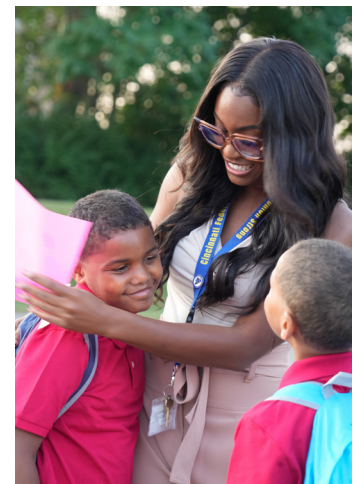
Budget & Three-Year Forecast

As part of the 2026-2027 biennial operating budget (House Bill 96), the state changed the 5-Year Forecast to a Budget and 3-Year Forecast. This change is the state's attempt to improve the accuracy of financial projections. The Budget and 3-Year Forecast is used to determine the direction the district is headed in terms of financial stability. Will our revenues outpace our expenditures or will expenditures outpace revenues? What will our cash balance look like in the future?

Below is a summary taken from the most recent presentation of our Budget and 3-Year Forecast presented in February of 2026 (click [here](#) for the full Budget and 3-Year Forecast report).

Financial Forecast Summary					
	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Fiscal Year 2029	Fiscal Year 2030
Beginning Balance (Line 7.010) <i>*Includes Renewal/New Levy Revenue, see Disclosures</i>	59,683,203	55,612,678	55,612,678	55,612,678	55,612,678
+ Revenue	632,193,360	627,880,543	630,569,177	631,916,628	633,276,617
- Expenditures	(636,263,884)	(627,880,543)	(630,569,177)	(631,916,628)	(633,276,617)
= Revenue Surplus or Deficit	(4,070,525)	0	0	0	0
Line 7.020 Ending Balance with Renewal/New Levies	55,612,678	55,612,678	55,612,678	55,612,678	55,612,678

Financial Summary Notes
Expenditure change is projected to outpace revenue change. By the end of 2030, the cash balance is projected to decline by a total of \$4,070,526 compared to 2025. For fiscal year 2030, expenditures are currently projected to be under revenue, resulting in a revenue surplus the final year of the forecast period.
For revenue, projected change is expected to be less than the historical average. Over the past five years, revenue increased by 1.06% (\$3,531,885 annually). However, it is projected to increase by 0.09% (\$582,449 annually) through fiscal year 2030. Notably, Real Estate, is expected to be \$7,507,864 less per year compared to history, and is the biggest driver of trend change on the revenue side.
For expenditures, projected change is expected to be at a slower pace than the historical trend. Expenditures increased by 0.69% (\$2,813,472 annually) during the past 5-year period, and are projected to decrease by 0.36% (\$2,302,949 annually) through 2030. The forecast line with the most change on the expense side, Other Uses, is anticipated to be \$43,702,006 more per year in the projected period compared to historical averages.



SCHOOL DISTRICT TOOLS FOR DEMONSTRATING FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY, HEALTH AND STABILITY

Financial Health Indicators (FHI):

Used by the Ohio State Auditor's
Office to predict financial stability
for school districts

[CPS FHIs here](#)

[State Auditor's Info on FHIs here](#)

Bond Ratings:

Credit score for school districts

[District Bond Ratings here](#)

Ohio Checkbook:

"The Ohio Checkbook serves as the
singular and most trusted resource
for Ohioans to obtain both local and
state financial information," Ohio
Office of Budget and Management

[Ohio Checkbook here](#)

Annual Audits:

Tool used to demonstrate
transparency and accountability
to our taxpayers

[CPS Annual Audit results here](#)

UNDERSTANDING STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

How the Federal Government Allocates Funds

The federal government determines how much money a district receives using formulas based on Census data. The primary goal is to provide extra resources to districts with higher concentrations of low-income families to ensure all students have an equitable opportunity to succeed.

Title I: A Key Example

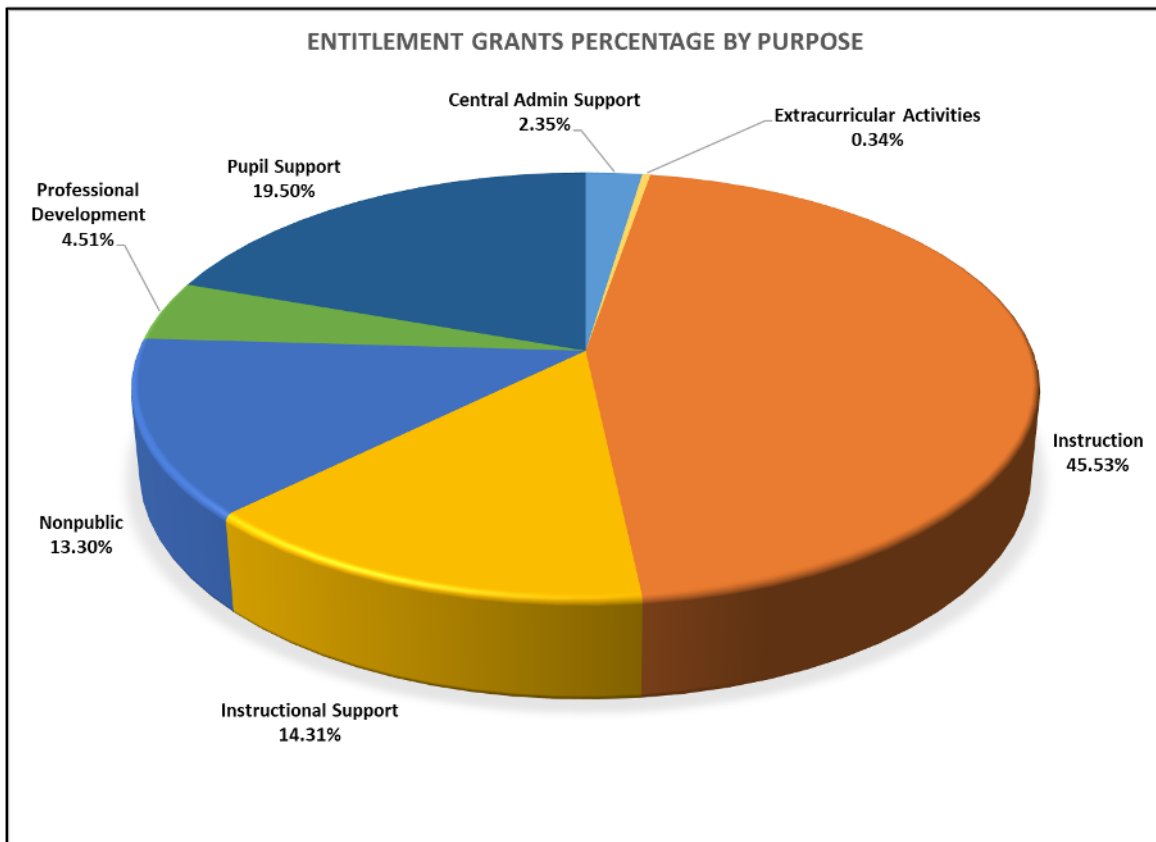
Title I, Part A is our largest federal entitlement grant. It provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.

Allocating Funds to Schools: The Role of CEP

Once the district receives its total Title I allocation, we must distribute it among our individual schools. To do this fairly and accurately, we use the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal program that allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without requiring individual household applications.

Instead of relying on paper applications from parents, we use the Identified Student Percentage (ISP)—data from state assistance programs like SNAP or Medicaid. Because CEP data provides a picture of the economic needs of our community, we use those percentages to rank our schools. The schools with the highest "poverty percentage" (as determined by the CEP formula) receive priority for Title I funds. This ensures that resources follow the students who need the most support for reading, math, and supplemental instruction.



FEDERAL GRANT HIGHLIGHT

Title IV A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE)

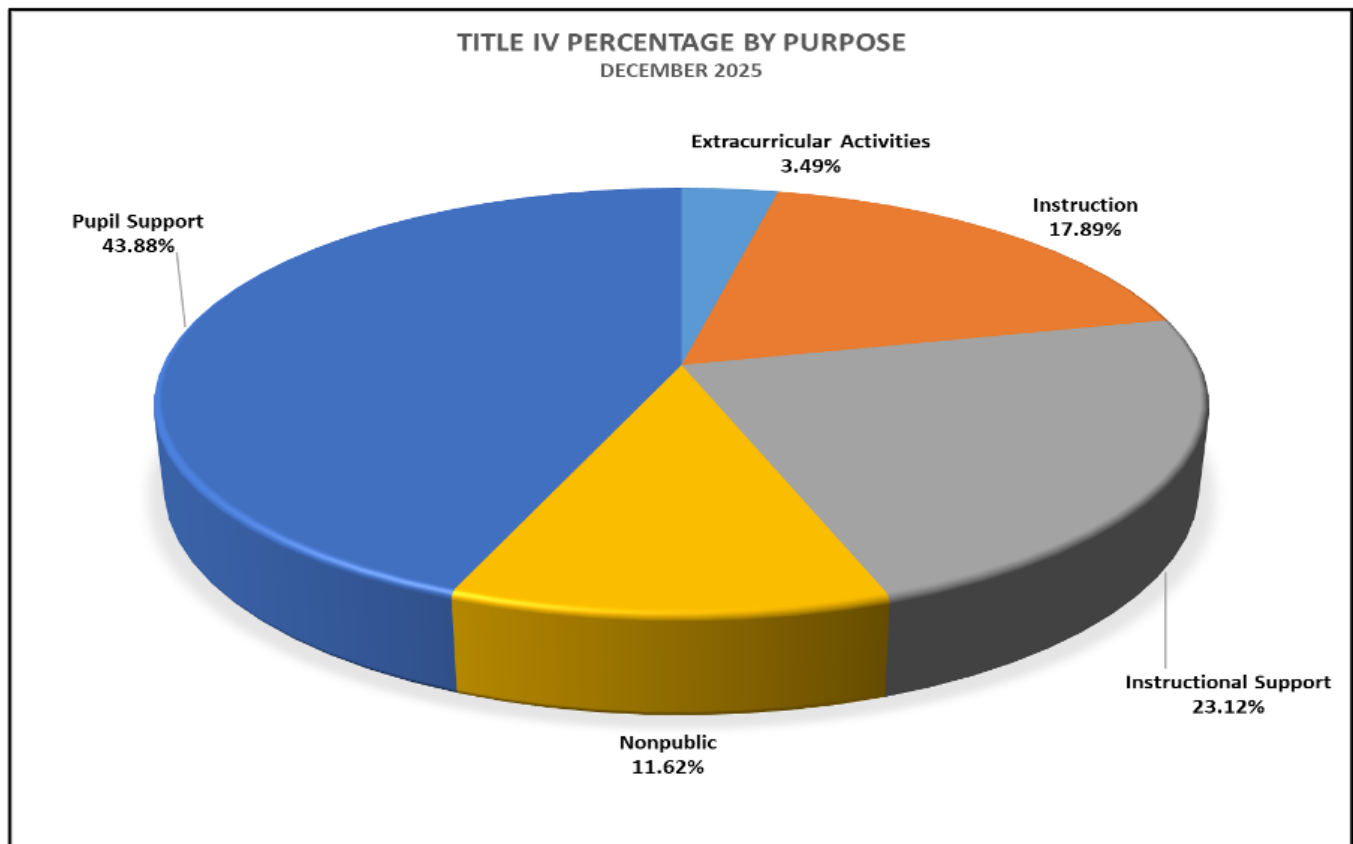
Purpose

The purpose of the Title IV A grant program is to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, LEAs, schools and local communities to:

- Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
- Improve school conditions for student learning; and
- Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students

A major focus of this grant is to support the "Whole Child" through social-emotional well-being along with mental / behavioral health supports. Example of "Pupil Supports" outlined in the graph below include:

- Psychological Services
- Social Work Services
- Family and Community Liaison Services



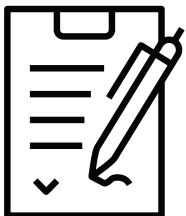
COMMUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

How Does CPS Stack Up?

CPS ranks 9th among the largest employers in Cincinnati measured by number of employees. This is notable as our area is dominated by the healthcare industry. CPS graduates are fortunate that some of the nation's most respected companies reside in Cincinnati, for example Kroger, Procter & Gamble, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.



*Data collected by REDI Cincinnati (Ohio's Ergonomic Development Corporation) from the Cincinnati Business Courier, Book of Lists, 2024-2025



7,506

W2s processed for the 2025 tax year.

This is the number of employees who worked for CPS at some point during 2025.



72,019

Employee checks issued for a total of \$128,378,109

July - December 2025

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS



March 4, 2026 Next Episode of Money Matters with Mike

In this podcast style YouTube series, Treasurer Michael Gustin continues to build off the legacy of former Treasurer, Jennifer Wagner, and addresses different financial topics as they relate to the funding of public education. In each of these video podcasts, Treasurer Gustin sits with a special guest who is an expert in the topic being discussed.

If you would like to view any past recordings and be up to date with any upcoming videos, you can find the Money Matters with Mike YouTube Series by following the link below:

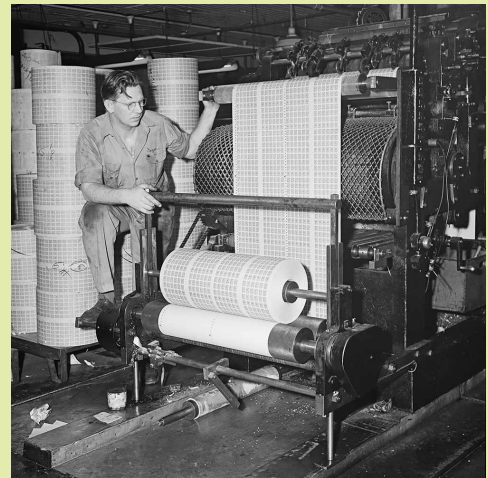
[Money Matters with Mike YouTube Series](#)

100 YEARS AGO

During the mid to late 1920's, CPS went into a period of expansion with significant investments in specialized vocational education. A notable fact from this time period was a heavy financial commitment to niche industrial high schools such as:

- Automotive Vocational School (1928)
- Printing High School (1930)

This period was met with the "Retrenchment Pivot". The high spending on expansion was halted by the stock market crash in 1929 and led the district to a fiscal cliff. During this time, local businesses demanded repayment of loans and massive budget cuts, a process defined as "retrenchment", which ultimately was a part of the Great Depression.



1926

For more information about our District finances, please visit our website at www.cps-k12.org/our-district/financial-information