Budget and Finance Committee
FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget Work Session

April 21, 2026

FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget Work Session

Today

- Staff will provide an update on the budget timeline and highlights from the Superintendent's Proposed 2026-2027 Operating Budget
- Staff will respond to board member questions about the budget
- Staff will present alternative budget reduction options for board consideration
- Board discussion and direction to staff to make changes

FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget Work Session

Budget Timeline

- Superintendent's Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget Presented to WCBOE on April 7
- Community input sessions held on April 8 & April 15
- ***(Today) April 21 Budget and Finance Committee Session***
- Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget during April 21 Board Meeting

Highlights: Superintendent's Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget

County Appropriation Request

The superintendent recommends the Wake County Board of Education request an increase of $25.3 million for 2026-27 for a total county appropriation of $768.2 million.

	2025-26	Proposed 2026-27	Difference	Percent Increase
County Appropriation				
Current Expense - Recurring	$ 741,944,152	$ 767,203,363	$ 25,259,211	
Crossroads Lease	963,164	971,806	8,642	
	$ 742,907,316	$ 768,175,169	$ 25,267,853	3%
Student Membership				
WCPSS	160,510	160,461	(49)	(<1%)
Charter Schools	18,730	18,939	209	1%
	179,240	179,400	160	<1%
Allocation Per Student	**$ 4,145**	**$ 4,282**	**$ 137**	**3%**

Highlights: Superintendent's Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget

Summary of Local Revenue and Expenditure Changes

The summary below shows how all changes in local revenues, fund balance, and expenditures impact the county appropriation request.

Changes in revenues supporting local expenditures (pages 43-45)	
Tuition and Fees	$ (1,897,150)
Child Nutrition	(1,672,547)
Local Unrestricted Revenues	(640,473)
Local Restricted Revenues	(619,227)
Positions Funded by Individual School Accounts	(1,120,206)
	$ (5,949,603)

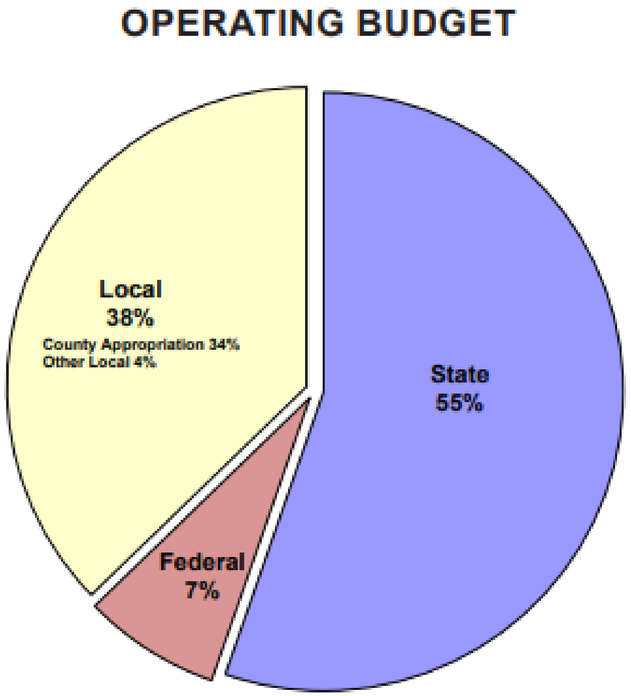
Decreases in fund balance appropriated for the local budget (page 45)	
Beginning appropriated fund balance	$ (2,900,000)
Mid-year appropriations of fund balance for one-time costs	(7,019,994)
	$ (9,919,994)

Changes in local expenditures (page 14)	
Employee Compensation	$ 14,044,595
Legislative Requirements	11,794,540
New Schools and School Changes	3,422,505
Student Membership Changes	(4,789,915)
Program Continuity	7,861,698
Increasing Property Costs	1,562,532
Removal of Prior Year One-time Costs	(15,699,005)
Strategic Budget Realignment	(5,206,527)
Changes to Grants, Donations, and Fees	(3,256,815)
Grants, Donations, and Fees Ending	(335,352)
	$ 9,398,256

Equals change in county appropriation (page 42)	**$ 25,267,853**

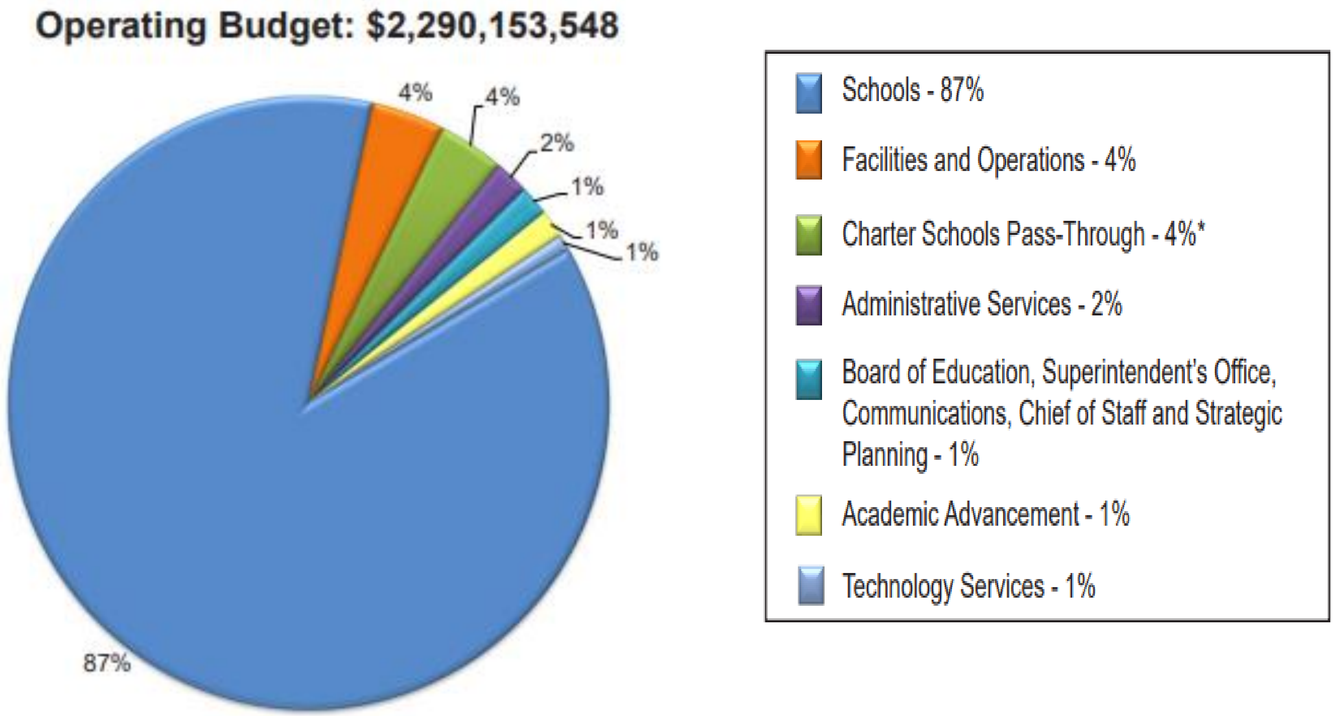
Highlights: Superintendent's Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2026-27					
		Operating Budget			Per Pupil Budget
State	**$**	**1,267,076,327**	**55%**	**$**	**7,896**
County Appropriation	$	768,175,169	34%	$	4,282
Enterprise Funds	$	43,671,802	2%	$	272
Other Local	$	19,227,360	1%	$	120
Fund Balance Appropriation	$	19,111,354	1%	$	119
Local - Current Expense Non-Restricted	$	2,898,864	<1%	$	16
Local	**$**	**853,084,549**	**38%**	**$**	**4,809**
Federal	**$**	**169,992,672**	**7%**	**$**	**1,059**
TOTAL	**$**	**2,290,153,548**	**100%**	**$**	**13,764**



Highlights: Superintendent's Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget

- The operating budget prioritizes schools, with roughly 87% directed to WCPSS schools
- Four percent of funds received by WCPSS must be paid to Charter Schools (*11% of the local funds due to charter schools)
- Remaining 9% support all central services district operations; with 4% going towards Facilities and Operations, (child nutrition services, student transportation services, school building maintenance, operations, and utilities)



Responses to Board Member Questions & Discussion

- Staff will provide responses to questions submitted by board members

Alternative Board Budget Reductions Options

- Staff will present alternative budget reduction options for board consideration

Updates for Board of Education's Budget

- Staff will update the Potential Risk pages in the Board of Education's Budget for awareness for fiscal cliff issues that may occur at the end of 2026-27 (Medicaid $5.0m; IDEA $4.0m, and Community Schools $1.0m).

- Staff will review two funding requests in the Board of Education's Budget due to revised projections in federal carryover for CTE Program Improvement and IDEA Early Intervening Services. No impact to local for these to revisions.

FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget Work Session

Next Steps

- Submit questions to Terri Kimzey, Sr. Director of Budget at tkimzey@wcpss.net
- Questions & responses to be reviewed in work-sessions and posted online
- Budget Work-Session and possible Board approval on May 5
- Additional Work-Sessions as needed before and after May 5 if no budget approval on May 5
- Board of Education's Proposed Budget delivered to county commissioners by May 15