



2026-2027

Budget

Update

March 4, 2026

Governor Shapiro's Budget Proposal 2026-2027

- ❑ \$50 million proposed increase for Basic Education Funding formula
- ❑ \$50 million proposed increase for Special Education Funding
- ❑ \$565 million in adequacy/tax equity investment formula driven into Ready To Learn
- ❑ \$125 million for school facilities improvement grants
- ❑ \$35 million for stipends to address teacher shortage
- ❑ \$111 million for school security and mental health grants
- ❑ Universal free breakfast to remain in effect
- ❑ Continued Cyber Charter School reform
- ❑ Cell Phone ban and guidance on required recess for students

Basic Education Funding

School District	2026-27 proposed BEF Feb 2026	Base BEF for 2026-27	2026-27 Proposed Student-Weigh ted Distribution	2025-26 Estimated BEF Nov 2025	2026-27 Proposed Increase or Decrease	Percentage Difference
Allentown City SD	\$204,275,982	\$191,610,873	\$12,665,109	\$202,688,768	\$1,587,214	0.78%
Catasauqua Area SD	\$6,664,910	\$6,188,477	\$476,433	\$6,588,660	\$76,250	1.16%
East Penn SD	\$18,293,216	\$17,227,711	\$1,065,505	\$18,166,361	\$126,855	0.70%
Northern Lehigh SD	\$8,482,185	\$8,109,413	\$372,772	\$8,406,854	\$75,331	0.90%
Northwestern Lehigh SD	\$6,762,836	\$6,555,932	\$206,904	\$6,733,993	\$28,843	0.43%
Parkland SD	\$16,068,151	\$14,732,925	\$1,335,226	\$15,917,680	\$150,471	0.95%
Salisbury Township SD	\$3,979,651	\$3,737,512	\$242,138	\$3,964,350	\$15,301	0.39%
Southern Lehigh SD	\$6,257,982	\$5,953,375	\$304,607	\$6,224,293	\$33,689	0.54%
Whitehall-Coplay SD	\$14,443,056	\$13,183,948	\$1,259,108	\$14,220,481	\$222,575	1.57%

Special Education Funding

School District	2026-27 Proposed SEF Feb 2026	2025-26 est SEF Jan 2026	Dollar Change	Percent Change	2013-14 Base SEF	2026-27 Proposed Student-Based Allocation
Allentown City SD	\$18,877,401	\$17,892,893	\$984,508	5.50%	\$9,147,123.80	\$9,730,276.77
Catasauqua Area SD	\$1,413,927	\$1,376,797	\$37,130	2.70%	\$856,835.01	\$557,091.95
East Penn SD	\$5,125,381	\$4,768,161	\$357,220	7.50%	\$2,968,997.64	\$2,156,383.41
Northern Lehigh SD	\$1,808,658	\$1,732,371	\$76,287	4.40%	\$1,106,571.25	\$702,086.31
Northwestern Lehigh SD	\$1,669,114	\$1,641,735	\$27,379	1.70%	\$1,276,342.95	\$392,771.16
Parkland SD	\$4,559,883	\$4,437,705	\$122,178	2.80%	\$3,276,903.16	\$1,282,980.02
Salisbury Township SD	\$1,341,209	\$1,213,298	\$127,911	10.50%	\$785,840.86	\$555,368.63
Southern Lehigh SD	\$1,361,811	\$1,356,219	\$5,592	0.40%	\$1,145,424.93	\$216,385.58
Whitehall-Coplay SD	\$3,405,070	\$3,233,569	\$171,501	5.30%	\$1,753,259.78	\$1,651,810.49

Ready to Learn Grant

LEA Name	2026-27 Proposed Ready to Learn Block Grant Feb 2026	2026-27 Ready to Learn Block Grant (Foundation)	2026-27 Proposed Adequacy Supplement	2026-27 Proposed Tax Equity Supplement	2025-26 Estimated Ready to Learn Block Grant Nov2025	2026-27 Proposed Increase or Decrease
Allentown City SD	\$75,610,792.77	\$55,379,159.91	\$20,231,632.86	\$0.00	\$55,379,159.91	\$20,231,633
Catasauqua Area SD	\$385,080.51	\$325,675.11	\$59,405.40	\$0.00	\$325,675.11	\$59,405
East Penn SD	\$3,989,722.28	\$2,895,143.18	\$1,094,579.10	\$0.00	\$2,895,143.18	\$1,094,579
Northern Lehigh SD	\$422,616.10	\$372,616.10	\$25,991.89	\$24,008.11	\$374,528.09	\$48,088
Northwestern Lehigh SD	\$330,490.00	\$280,490.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$280,490.00	\$50,000
Parkland SD	\$631,722.00	\$581,722.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$581,722.00	\$50,000
Salisbury Township SD	\$203,127.00	\$153,127.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$153,127.00	\$50,000
Southern Lehigh SD	\$247,449.00	\$197,449.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$197,449.00	\$50,000
Whitehall-Coplay SD	\$5,749,820.61	\$4,171,515.05	\$1,578,305.56	\$0.00	\$4,171,515.05	\$1,578,306

March Budget Look..

	Final Budget	Early Look	March	Change from	
	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027	Early Look	% Change
Building & Departments	3,273,186	3,273,186	3,271,052	(2,134)	-0.1%
Salaries	22,607,571	23,891,574	23,891,574		0.0%
Benefits	14,258,875	15,563,282	15,563,282		0.0%
District Wide & Grants	15,064,767	15,799,271	15,846,190	46,919	0.3%
Total Expenditures	55,204,399	58,527,314	58,572,099	44,785	0.1%
Total Revenue	53,976,782	54,917,342	55,335,316	417,974	0.8%
Surplus/(Shortfall) before FB	(1,227,617)	(3,609,972)	(3,236,783)		
Allowable Millage Increase 3.5%		1,224,681	1,245,455		
Revised Shortfall		(2,385,291)	(1,991,328)		

Millage Increase Options

Millage Increase	Potential Revenue	Increase to a property assessed at \$220,000	Use of Fund Balance
3.5%	\$1,245,455	\$160.18	\$1,991,328
3.0%	\$1,067,508	\$137.30	\$2,169,275
2.5%	\$889,562	\$114.41	\$2,347,221
2.0%	\$711,615	\$91.52	\$2,525,168

Next Steps.....

Meeting	Discussion/Action Item
April-May	Finalize staffing plans and make necessary adjustments
May Workshop	Present Proposed Final Budget
May Board*	Adopt Proposed Final Budget
June Workshop	Present Final Budget
June Board*	Adopt Final Budget

*Requires formal Board Adoption of Budget