Proposed General Fund Budget

Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Board of Education Meeting

Presented by Tonya Crosby, CFO and Dr. Frank Rodriguez

Date May 19, 2026



PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2026–2027

Strategic Financial Planning

- The budget is designed as a strategic plan to support student success and operational excellence.

Unified Leadership and Accountability

- Collaboration demonstrates unified leadership and accountability in decisions.

Transparency and Long-term Planning

- The budget emphasizes transparency and commitment to long-term financial and educational goals.

Impact on Community and Education

- Financial decisions directly influence students, staff, and the broader community's wellbeing.



FY27 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Comprehensive Financial Plan

- The FY27 budget totals approximately $395.3 million, carefully aligned with the district's mission and priorities.

Collaborative Development Process

- Stakeholder feedback from teachers, administrators, students, and community members shaped budget priorities and strategic decisions making

Balanced Resource Allocation

- The budget balances academic outcomes with operational sustainability, ensuring effective resource use.

Focus on Innovation and Improvement

- Budget supports continuous improvement and innovation amid fiscal challenges for future success.

THE CHALLENGE WE FACE

- Our students deserve classrooms led by experienced, well-supported educators—but rising costs and a competitive job market make it harder each year to attract and retain the teachers they need.
- State funding through the new State Aid to Classrooms formula has resulted in a $2.6 million loss for BCSD, putting pressure on the programs and services our families count on.
- Every child in Beaufort County should learn in a safe, well-maintained environment with access to strong academic programs—regardless of shifting state formulas or economic pressures.
- This budget closes those gaps—investing in people, programs, and facilities so every graduate is prepared to succeed.



KEY PRIORITIES

Staff Compensation Importance

- Prioritizing staff compensation helps attract and retain high-quality educators and support staff, key to educational success.

Focus on Academic Programs

- Emphasizing rigorous and innovative academic programs ensures students receive relevant and high-quality learning experiences.

Operations and Safe Learning Environments

- Maintaining safe and well-operational school environments supports student achievement and a positive learning atmosphere.



INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Competitive Teacher Salaries

- A $2,500 increase to every cell of the teacher salary scale reflects the district's commitment to valuing educators' roles

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

- A 3% cost-of-living increase for all other staff supports employee well-being amid inflationary pressures.

Locality Supplement

- Maintain $1,500 locality adjustment to stay competitive in the labor market.

Recognition of Experience

- Step increases are maintained to reward staff experience and tenure, encouraging retention and morale. Extend step from 30 to 31.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Budget Allocation Priorities

- A large portion of funds is dedicated to instruction and student support, showing focus on impactful learning investments.

Revenue Sources

- Funding primarily comes from local and state sources, with two-thirds from local revenues and one-third from state contributions.

Financial Challenges

- State funding formulas create pressure and uncertainty, requiring strategic management for long-term fiscal stability.

Commitment to Stewardship

- The district emphasizes responsible public fund management through sustainable and adaptable financial strategies.



SCHOOL BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Instruction and Student Support — $237.2M (60%)

- Teacher salaries, classroom resources, special education services, and instructional technology investments.

Operations and Maintenance — $63.2M (16%)

- Facility upkeep, transportation, utilities, and safety infrastructure across all district schools.

Administration and Support — $55.3M (14%)

- District leadership, human resources, finance, and technology services that support school operations.

Student Services and Programs — $39.6M (10%)

- Extracurricular activities, counseling, health services, and community engagement programs.

BALANCED BUDGET AND BOARD ACTION

Fiscal Responsibility

- The budget maintains financial stability with no increase in the millage rate, ensuring affordability for taxpayers.

Board Budget Approval

- Board actions include approval of a $395.3 million General Fund and $120.9 million Debt Service Fund budget.

Transparency and Accountability

- The budget emphasizes transparency, accountability, and strategic alignment with district priorities and community needs.

Support for Community

- The balanced budget supports students, staff, and the community without increasing the tax burden.

Proposed motion – General Fund

I move that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 General Fund Budget in the amount of $395,321,600 with an operations millage rate of 126.1 mills.

Note: No mill increase requested

Proposed Motion – Debt Service Fund

I move that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of $120,907,292 with a debt service millage rate of 36.3 mills.

Note: No millage increase requested



Budget Timeline

May 26, 2026

County Council First Reading

June 8, 2026

County Council Second Reading

June 22, 2026

County Council Final Reading