



DeKalb County
School District

Building the Future of DeKalb

Progress in Engagement
and Operational Excellence



The Division Highlights consist primarily of a detailed strategic plan summary from the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) for May 2026, outlining progress across six key goal areas. This report provides a transparent update on the focused, high-leverage initiatives undertaken to achieve our district's mission and vision. It demonstrates how our collective efforts are strategically aligned to fulfill the promises of our Strategic Plan, holding us accountable for meaningful progress in every goal area.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029 SUMMARY



GOAL AREA 1



Student Academic Success with Equity and Access

- 1.1 Increase proficiency rates in literacy on district and state assessments for all students.
- 1.2 Increase proficiency rates in numeracy on district and state assessments for all students.
- 1.3 Increase the 4- and 5-year cohort graduation rates.
- 1.4 Ensure all students have equitable access to and support for academic programs and career pathways.
- 1.5 Improve student academic growth as measured by the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI).
- 1.6 Enhance student proficiency in digital literacy skills using innovative technology.



GOAL AREA 2



School, Family, and Community Engagement

- 2.1 Strengthen family, school, and community engagement to establish clear, accessible, and relevant communication tailored to meet stakeholders' preferences.
- 2.2 Create opportunities for collaboration between the district, families, community partners, and businesses to foster partnerships to support district-wide initiatives.
- 2.3 Improve communication processes for stakeholders to ensure the flow of clear, timely, and relevant information.
- 2.4 Establish clear communication channels to effectively engage with multilingual families and provide equitable access to district and school information.



GOAL AREA 3



Recruit, Develop, and Retain Talent

- 3.1 Recruit and hire a diverse and highly qualified workforce that reflects a world-class, innovative talent pool.
- 3.2 Develop high performing staff to ensure quality teaching and learning outcomes, an innovative workforce, and visionary leaders.
- 3.3 Retain highly effective staff in critical needs positions to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of integral district programs and services.
- 3.4 Develop employee pipelines for key staff positions to ensure the long-term viability of essential programs and services.



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GOAL AREA 4

Culture and Climate

- 4.1. Ensure all schools provide a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment for all students and staff.
- 4.2. Implement restorative practice structures in all schools and increase the number of schools using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs each year.
- 4.3. Improve student attendance by creating a positive and engaging school experience.
- 4.4. Ensure all schools have staff trained in de-escalation techniques and Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) strategies.



Mental Health and Wellness

- 5.1. Create safe and supportive environments that promote positive mental health and wellness.
- 5.2. Increase awareness of factors that can impact mental health to foster well-managed learning environments.
- 5.3. Increase mental health support staff to improve classroom behavior and peer relationships.
- 5.4. Expand staff participation in mental health professional learning opportunities.



GOAL AREA 5



Organizational Excellence

- 6.1. Provide clean, safe, and efficient school facilities for all students.
- 6.2. Deliver safe and efficient transportation services to all students.
- 6.3. Deliver efficient school nutrition services and healthy meals to all students.
- 6.4. Improve and maintain a secure, accessible, and equitable digital learning environment for all students.
- 6.5. Ensure excellent financial management of district resources.



GOAL AREA 6



THE FUTURE OF DEKALB (E-SPLOST VII)

CONNECTION (GOAL AREA 2)



School, Family, and
Community Engagement.



OPERATION (GOAL AREA 6)



Organizational
Effectiveness.



**TRUST IS BUILT WHEN WE LISTEN TO OUR
COMMUNITY AND EXECUTE ON OUR PROMISES.**

Our Ecosystem by the Numbers

90,000+
Enrolled Students



172+
Spoken Languages



155+
Countries of Origin



24,000+
English Learners (ELs)



 **DeKalb County**
School District

DCSD is the most diverse school district in Georgia. Clear, accessible, and culturally responsive communication is not optional—it is essential to equitable engagement.

Celebrating Excellence



25 of 25

Half Cap Ceremonies completed across all high schools, engaging families in critical graduation milestones.



Celebrating the district's first graduating cohort of Dual Language Immersion students, alongside Seal of Biliteracy earners.



237 scholars spanning grades 4–12 participating in district honor band events.

Culturally Responsive Communication

District Data & Assessments

Multilingual Communication Funnel

International Student Screening Center (ISSC)

4,927 language services provided this month
Newly enrolled students screened and registered.

Standardized parent letters translated into **15 languages**, ensuring PHLOTE families have equitable access to critical academic data.

English Learners Department Equitable Digital Access



Community Touchpoints



MLK Jr. High School SAFE Center

Partnership with community barbershop services for scholar support.

Fernbank Science Center

Hosted Pre-K Night Out (500+ attendees), Spring into STEM (562 participants), and the Annual Plant Sale (250 community members focused on ecological stewardship).

Rolling Flavors of DeKalb

Launched May 8, 2026. A first-of-its-kind student-operated food truck partnership with Intuit, providing Culinary and Business students hands-on workforce readiness.

Empowering Families & Students

Financial Literacy



Partnership with Georgia United Credit Union hosting Family Financial Literacy Night at Tucker HS for budgeting and financial security.

Empowerment Conferences



Highlighting the Girls Empowerment Conference (Plug Atl) and Boys Empowerment Conference (DeKalb PALS).

49 young ladies in OSK Summer Camp

42 young men in MBK Summer Camp

Student Board of Education



On May 8th, students drafted sample regulations and SOPs based on the Student Assignment Project and District Literacy Plan, learning governance by doing it.

The Transportation Connection

50,000+
Daily student riders

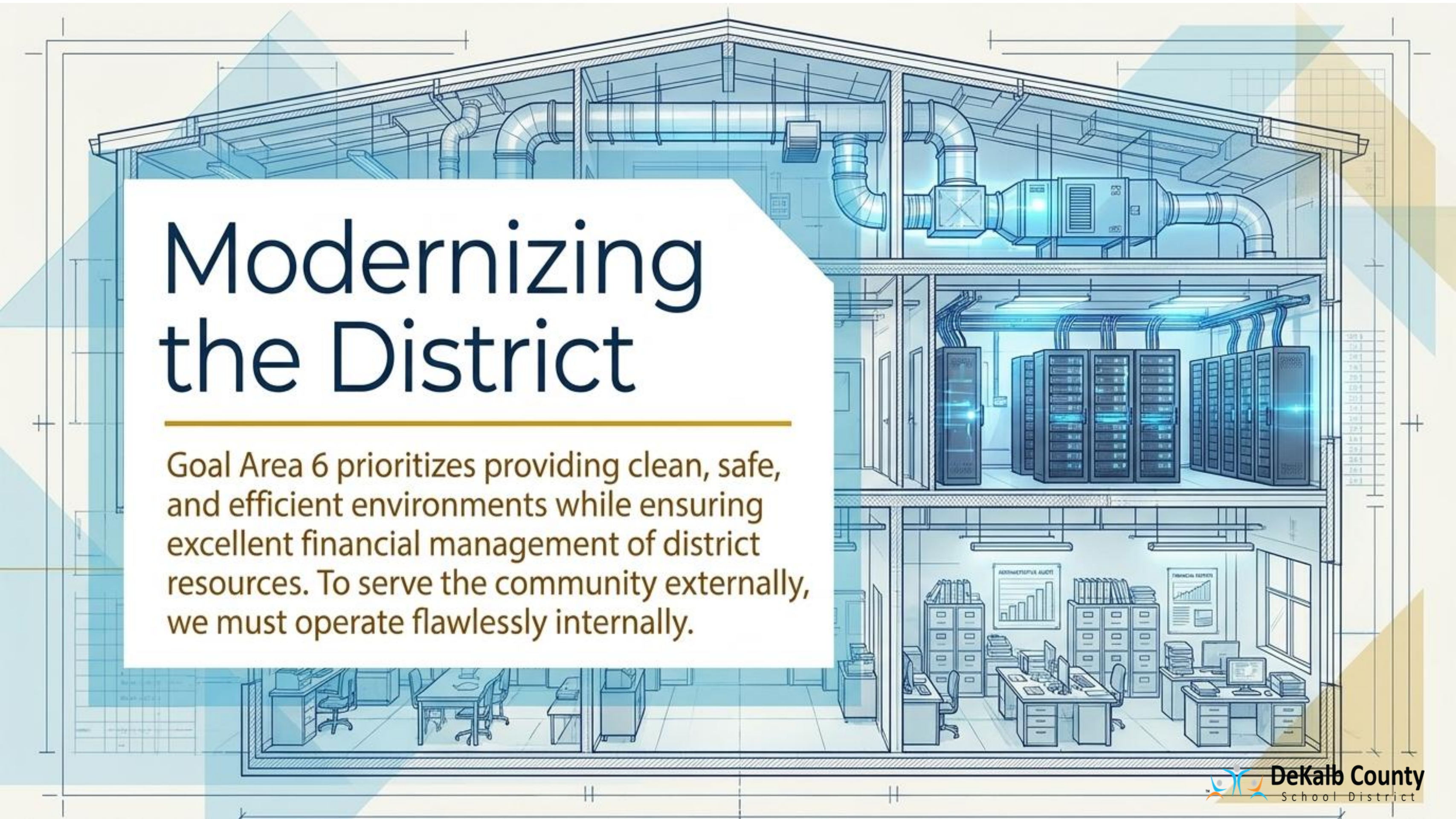
~65,000
Students transported daily
(66% of enrolled students)



1,042
Active buses with ~650
drivers and 126 monitors

93%–94%
On-time delivery rates maintained
through February and March 2026

Reliable transportation arriving prior to the instructional bell builds family confidence, enables working parents to manage schedules, and ensures instructional continuity.

The background of the slide is a detailed architectural cross-section of a building. The top section shows a complex HVAC system with large ducts and a central unit. Below this is a server room filled with rows of server racks. The bottom section shows an office environment with desks, computers, and filing cabinets. The entire illustration is rendered in a blue and white line-art style with some blue shading to indicate depth and light.

Modernizing the District

Goal Area 6 prioritizes providing clean, safe, and efficient environments while ensuring excellent financial management of district resources. To serve the community externally, we must operate flawlessly internally.

Financial & Audit Integrity



2,034 of 2,046 invoices successfully processed.



Invoices processed on time, minimizing financial risk and sustaining critical vendor relationships.

Audit & Compliance Innovation

Relaunch of the TeamMate+ AI audit management platform for standardized analytics and reporting.

- Internal Audits team attending the virtual OCTANE Conference to stay ahead of governmental accounting standards.

The Educator Pipeline

11 Para-to-Teacher
Apprenticeship graduates

27 Elementary
MAT graduates

14 Special Education
MAT graduates

3 STEM IGNITE
graduates

**IGNITE
Residency**

Recruitment

141 DLI applicants

14 DPP applicants

350 Next Level Learning
Conference
registrations

Accountability

100% completion
of Collaborative
Calibration Visits
(CCVs) to strengthen
state accountability
readiness.

Facilities Diagnostic Dashboard

Incident IQ

Kitchen Equipment



Improved ticket closure percentages ensure all students receive warm meals.

Credit: Kitchen Equipment Manager Cavin Williams & 3 technicians.



Incident IQ

HVAC Systems



Closure rates remain below 90% due to aging systems and personnel limits.

Action Plan

- Solution: Long-term PM (Preventative Maintenance) plan led by new Districtwide Engineer, paired with upcoming E-SPLOST funding to replace end-of-life systems.



Upgrading our Systems

Transportation Evolution Matrix

	Current State	Target State
On-time tracking	Manual supervisor reports	Automated GPS-based capture
Data frequency	Daily/summary	Real-time + historical analytics
Reporting accuracy	Supervisor-dependent	System-validated
Family visibility	Indirect	Direct via Edulog Parent Portal app (stop locations, swipe alerts, arrival notifications)



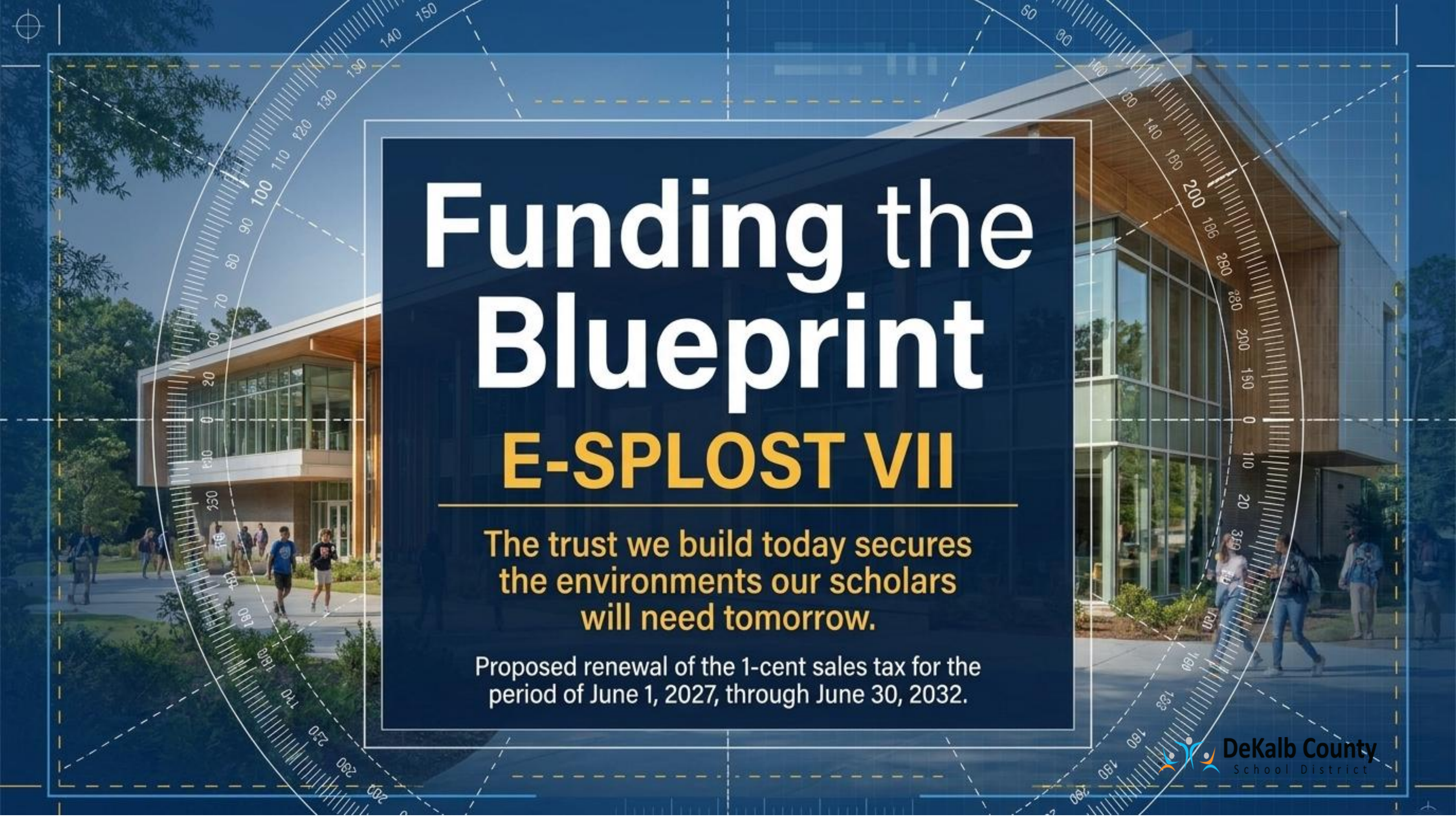
The Intersection of Trust



Key Insight: We cannot ask a community to fund our future if we haven't proven we can manage our present. By executing flawlessly and engaging deeply, DCSD proves its readiness for the next step.

Listening & Adapting: The Student Assignment Project





Funding the Blueprint E-SPLOST VII

**The trust we build today secures
the environments our scholars
will need tomorrow.**

Proposed renewal of the 1-cent sales tax for the
period of June 1, 2027, through June 30, 2032.

The E-SPLOST Impact Framework

\$500 million bond authorization
and revenue allocation



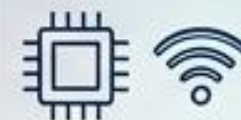
New Construction

Capacity relief for
current/projected
enrollment, addressing
major facility condition
needs.



Renovation & Modernization

Upgrades to existing
facilities, specifically
addressing HVAC
end-of-life challenges,
roofing, and safety.



Technology Improvements

Districtwide instructional
technology, network
infrastructure, and
security systems.



Vehicle & Capital Equipment

Replacement and
refurbishment of the
school bus fleet to
maintain the 94% on-time
delivery metric.



Timeline to Transformation

June 2026

Resolution approval
by the DeKalb County
Board of Education

Jan–Feb 2027

Issuance of E-SPLOST-backed
bonds to accelerate
project delivery

August 31, 2027

First E-SPLOST VII
revenue received
by the district

November 3, 2026

E-SPLOST VII Referendum
public vote

July 1, 2027

E-SPLOST VII
collections officially begin

A large crowd of diverse families and students is gathered at an outdoor school event. The scene is festive, with blue and yellow bunting flags strung across the top and clusters of blue and yellow balloons. Many people are wearing blue polo shirts, some with school logos. The crowd is smiling and clapping, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere. A central dark blue overlay contains white and yellow text.

Every Family. Every School. Every Detail.

**Our commitment to building the future
of DeKalb** through equitable connection
and operational excellence.



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