

Understanding the 2026-2027 Operating Budget

The Richmond County School System is working on the operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget is developed based on our Strategic Plan: Empowering Every Learner, Every Day.



HOW IS OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM FUNDED?



Local Revenue
Comes from millage rate



State Funding
based on Quality Basic Education (QBE)



Federal Grants
Comes from specific programs like Title I, IDEA, and others



2026-2027 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

\$397,106,376 Million



Reducing operating costs by \$2.4 million through strategic savings

NO TAX INCREASE PROPOSED

Rollback Millage Rate:

18.33

Your property tax dollars directly support local education.



PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Employee Compensation & Workforce Investment

- Increased starting pay for bus drivers & attendants
- Social worker supplement increase
- Salary increase for several certified school wrap-around support positions (school counselors, library media specialists, MTSS facilitators, etc.) by moving to the teacher salary scale
- \$500 retention supplement for all employees

Classroom & Academic Support

- "Classroom Ready" teacher supply initiative (\$300 per teacher)
- Literacy coaches added at every elementary school



THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF STATE FUNDING: Quality Basic Education (QBE)



Local 5 Mill Share:
The portion our community contributes through local taxes.



FTE (Full-Time Equivalent):
A count based on students and their needs to determine funding.



Equalization:
Extra funding to help less-wealthy districts provide equal opportunities.



WHO WE EMPLOY & HOW THEY'RE FUNDED

Our school system employs two main groups of staff:

Certified Employees

Teachers, counselors, administrators, and other professionals who hold state certification.

- Primarily funded by state dollars through the QBE formula.

Classified Employees

Bus drivers, custodians, nutrition staff, paraprofessionals, clerical support, and more.

- Primarily funded by local dollars from our community tax base.



STATE HIGHLIGHTS

QBE Funding is Increasing

For 2026-2027, our state funding is increasing mainly because of teacher retirement (TRS) and health insurance increases, added literacy coaches for elementary schools, and additional equalization funding from the state.

While QBE funding is increasing overall, many of these additional funds are tied directly to personnel and benefit costs.



Visit rcboe.org/budget to view our full budget and financial overview.