

PROPOSED BUDGET

2026-2027

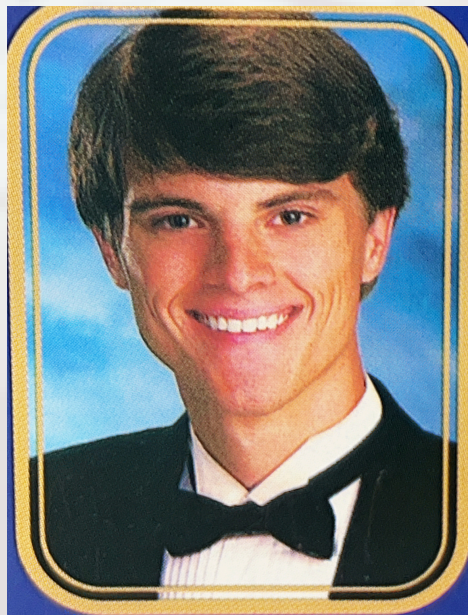


— C E L E B R A T I N G —

50 YEARS

PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

— 1976 – 2026 —



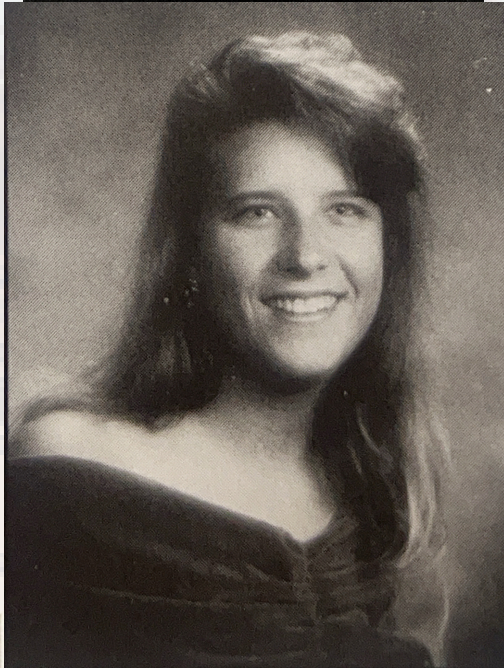
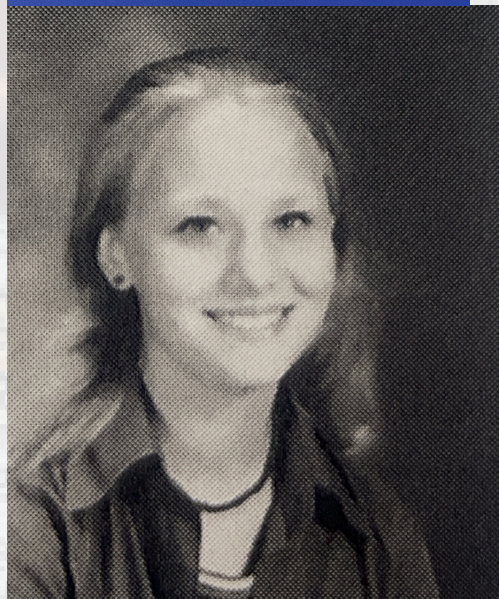
Joel Jordan Downs



Michelle Williams



Melissa Ann
Slowick



Excellence in Education

ABOUT US

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PIRATE!



PEARL PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

The mission of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.

We believe that:

- **Everyone is responsible for his/her choices.**
- **Lifelong learning enriches the individual and the community.**
- **Goal setting and high expectations are the foundation of success.**
- **Everyone has the potential to make a positive difference.**
- **Faith-based values create community stability and prosperity.**

Strategic Plan Goals

GOAL 1

- Increase Student Achievement at an Elite Level

GOAL 2

- Pathways and Opportunities

GOAL 3

- Safe, Secure, & Nurturing Environment

GOAL 4

- State-of-the-Art Facilities

GOAL 5

- Recruit & Retain Quality Faculty and Staff

HONORING YESTERDAY.
LEADING TOMORROW.



What is a school district budget?

A school district budget is a comprehensive financial plan that outlines how the district receives and spends its funds. It helps determine how much tax needs to be levied and estimates the funding expected from state and federal sources. This blueprint supports effective planning and decision-making throughout the year.

A school district budget is really *many* budgets in one, made up of separate funds—each defined by how money is collected, held, and spent. These include:

- District Maintenance
- Local Special Education
- At-Risk Funds
- Alternative
- Career and Tech (CTE) Funds
- Federal Funds
- Activity Funds
- Local Building Funds
- Debt Service Funds
- Child Nutrition Funds

Pearl Public School District's budget consists of 52 individual funds in total. The largest of these is the District Maintenance Fund (1120). It covers the core operating expenses of the district, including instruction, transportation, utilities, and support services. This fund also supports other areas—such as Local Special Education, Alternative, At-Risk, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs—through internal transfers.

Each year, the administrative team works together to align the budget with student needs, staying within available revenue. Budget hearings are held annually, allowing input from each school and department.

Key factors considered in the budgeting process include:

- Instructional priorities
- State and federal funding
- Local tax collections
- Debt obligations
- New laws and regulations

We review all state requirements carefully to ensure our district has the resources it needs to serve students effectively.





Timeline

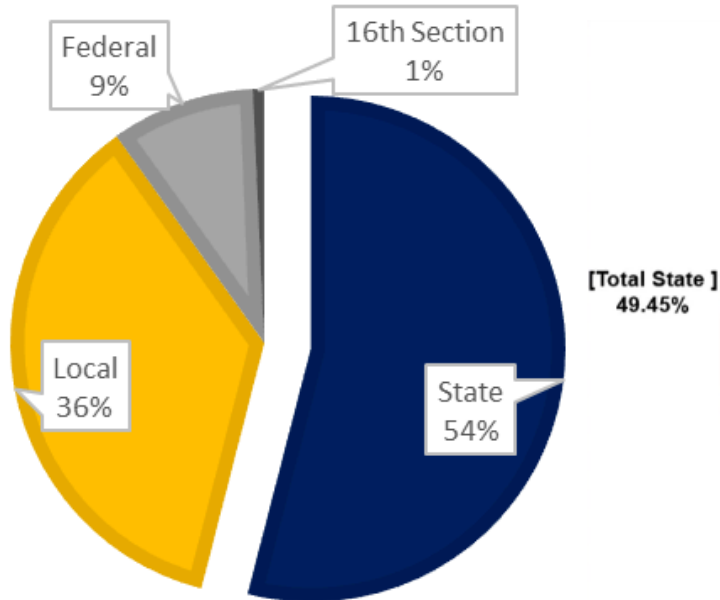
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|------------------|---|
| January 12 | - Adopt budget calendar |
| February 18 - 20 | - Conduct Budget Hearings with the Administrative Team |
| March 26 | - Conduct Board Budget Worksession |
| May 20 | - Advertise for Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Tax Notice |
| May 27 | - Advertise for Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Tax Notice |
| June 3 | - Advertise for Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Tax Notice |
| June 8 | - Hold a Public Hearing |
| June 22 | - Adopt the budget |
| August 10 | - Adopt the Resolution to Request Ad-Valorem Taxes |
| August 15 | - Provide two copies of the budget and resolution to the taxing authority and file with the State Department of Education |

REVENUES

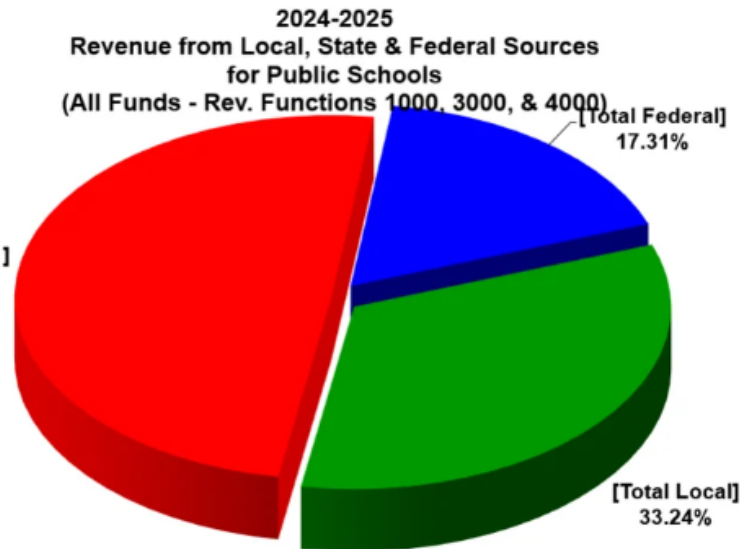
Four major factors determine the amount of money available for the school budget:

- Local Support
- State Appropriation
- Federal Aid
- 16th Section

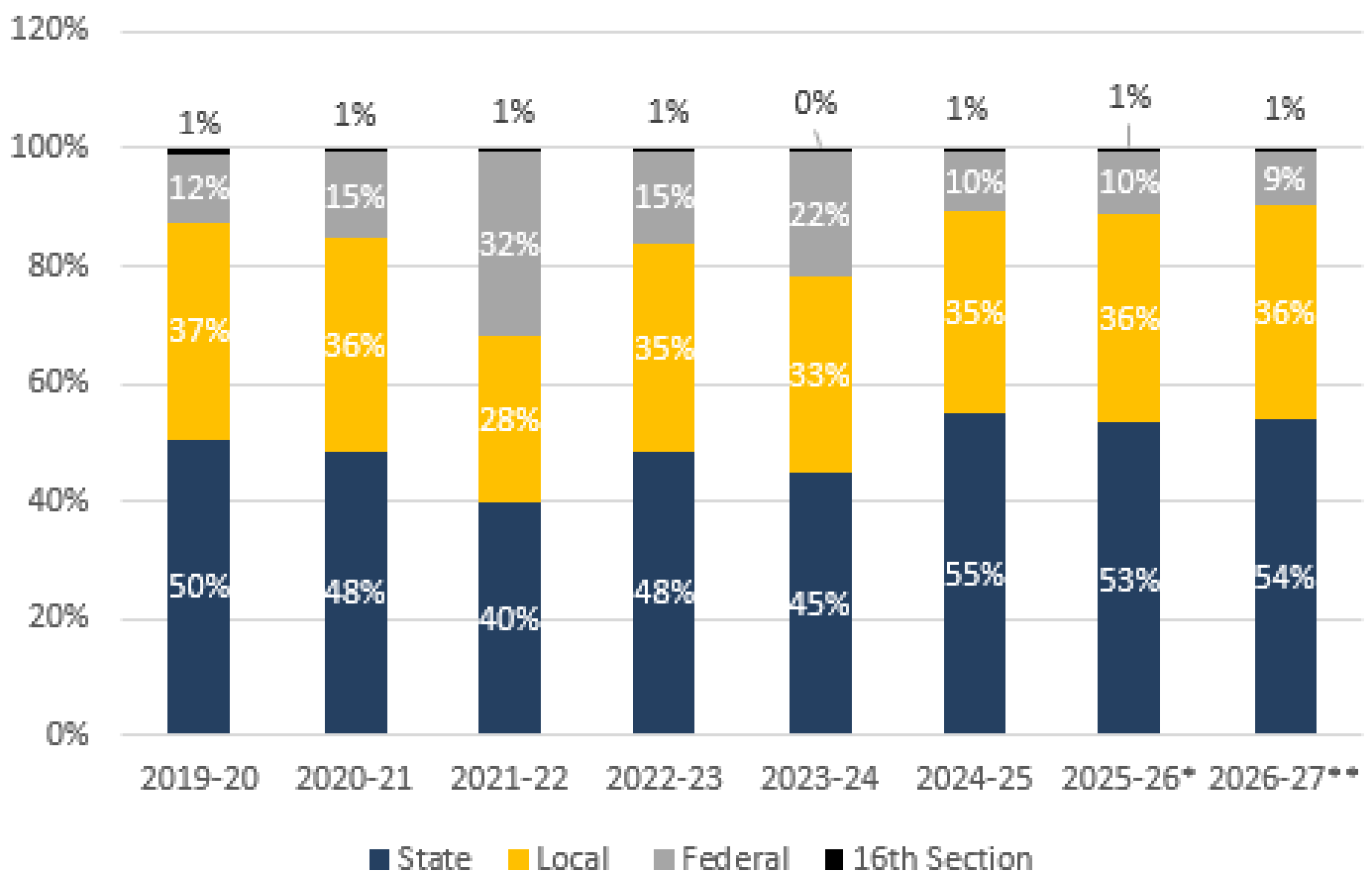
SOURCES OF REVENUE



ALL MS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Historical Revenues by Sources



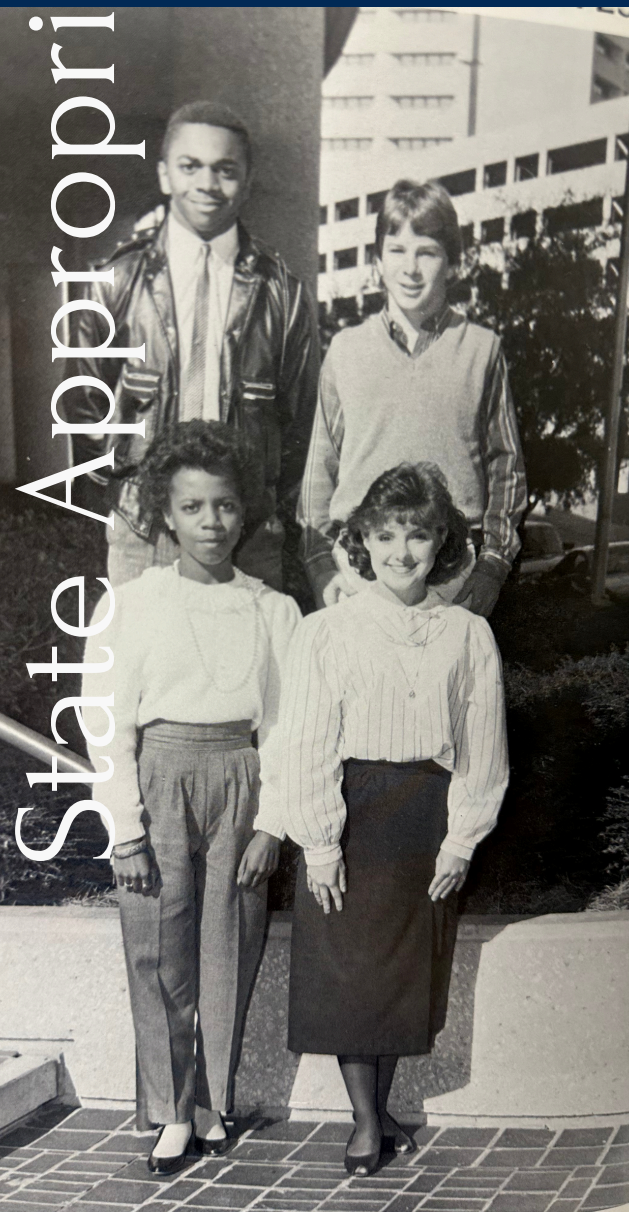
* Approved budget

** Proposed Budget

All other data is from final approved budget reports.

Mississippi Student Funding Formula

State Appropriation



Mississippi's public school funding is now determined by the Mississippi Student Funding Formula (MSFF), implemented in 2024. This formula provides funding based on a base student cost of \$7,201.77 multiplied by a district's average daily enrollment (ADE) during months 2 and 3 of the school year.

In addition to base funding, the state allocates added weights for students who are from low-income households, receive special education services, are identified as gifted, are enrolled in Career & Technical Education (CTE), and are English learners. These added weights ensure that schools receive additional resources to support the varying needs of their student populations. How MSFF is calculated:

$$\text{Base Student Cost} \times \text{ADE} + \text{Added Weights} = \text{MSFF Funding} \\ = \$29,460,812$$

While total state funding reflects an overall increase of \$899,070 from the prior year, this change is driven by two offsetting factors. The district experienced a projected decline of 91 students, resulting in a funding reduction of \$324,939.83 under the MSFF formula. This loss was more than offset by a \$1,224,314.76 increase in Base Student Cost funding attributable to the FY27 teacher pay raise legislation, resulting in the net increase in state funding.

How Local Funding Works

Each year, the school district submits a funding request to the levying authority, which calculates it based on the previous year's assessed property valuation. The levying authority then sets the millage rate needed to generate the requested amount.

Local funding is determined by the total assessed value of all taxable property within the district. The millage rate is the multiplier applied to that value to calculate how much tax revenue will be collected.

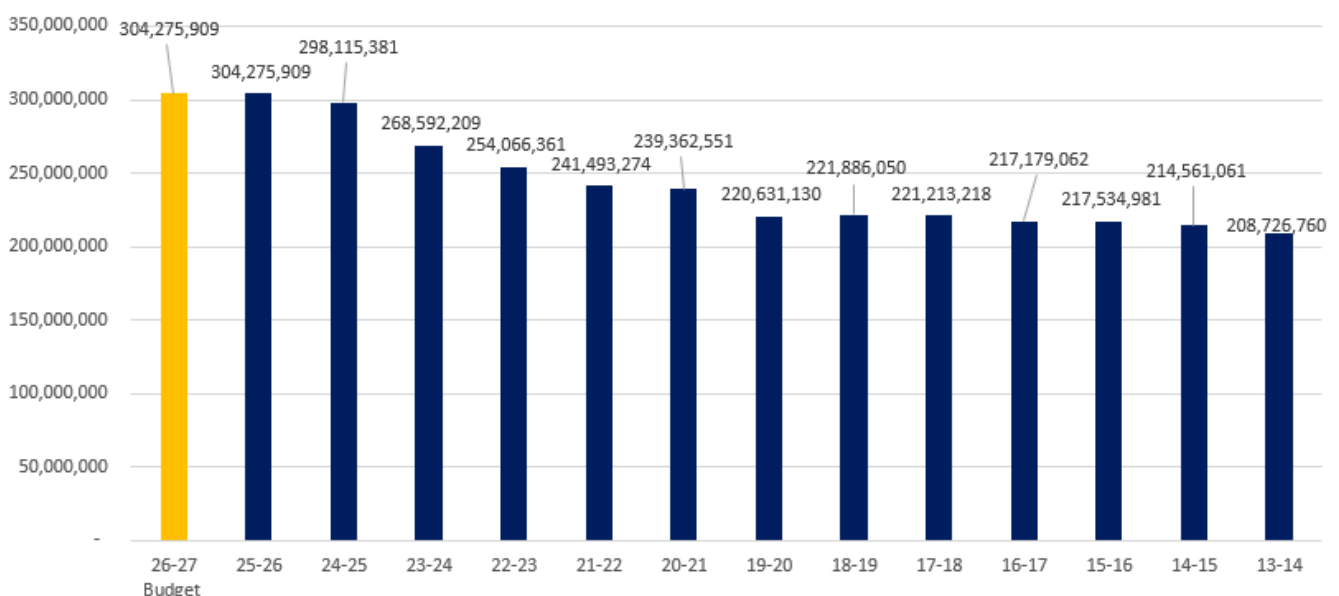
To put it simply:

For every \$1,000 of assessed property value, a property owner pays \$1 for each mill levied.

How are my taxes calculated?
 Market value of a home: \$300,000
 Appraised % of market value:
 10%
 Assessed value:
 30,000
 Taxable property tax rate assessed:
 0.05820
 Property tax due: for school district taxes:
 \$1,746.00

Assessed Valuation							
Total Mills	Assessment Year	Real Property	Personal Property	Public Utility Property	Total Assessed Valuation	Homestead	Value of a Mill
58.20	26-27*	197,920,269	86,126,125	20,229,515	304,275,909	17,658,997	278,612
58.20	25-26	197,920,269	86,126,125	20,229,515	304,275,909	17,658,997	278,612
58.20	24-25	197,430,127	83,083,758	17,601,496	298,115,381	17,697,206	274,809
58.70	23-24	174,320,536	80,032,761	14,238,912	268,592,209	14,287,498	249,186
58.70	22-23	171,175,046	70,648,913	12,242,402	254,066,361	14,285,379	239,781
58.70	21-22	166,298,993	64,461,981	10,732,300	241,493,274	14,253,106	227,240
58.70	20-21	163,916,755	64,671,558	10,774,238	239,362,551	14,215,732	225,147
60.56	19-20	149,271,413	61,773,785	9,585,932	220,631,130	12,505,988	208,125
60.40	18-19	149,043,622	63,798,813	9,043,615	221,886,050	12,222,522	209,663
60.40	17-18	146,890,983	65,003,372	9,318,863	221,213,218	12,344,671	208,869
60.40	16-17	145,186,394	63,072,139	8,920,529	217,179,062	12,549,992	204,629
60.40	15-16	145,104,141	62,876,794	9,554,046	217,534,981	12,253,545	205,281
60.40	14-15	143,532,802	61,858,174	9,170,085	214,561,061	12,219,070	202,342

Final Assessed Valuation Trends





Federal Aid

Federal aid includes a variety of grants and subsidies that support key programs in our schools. These include:

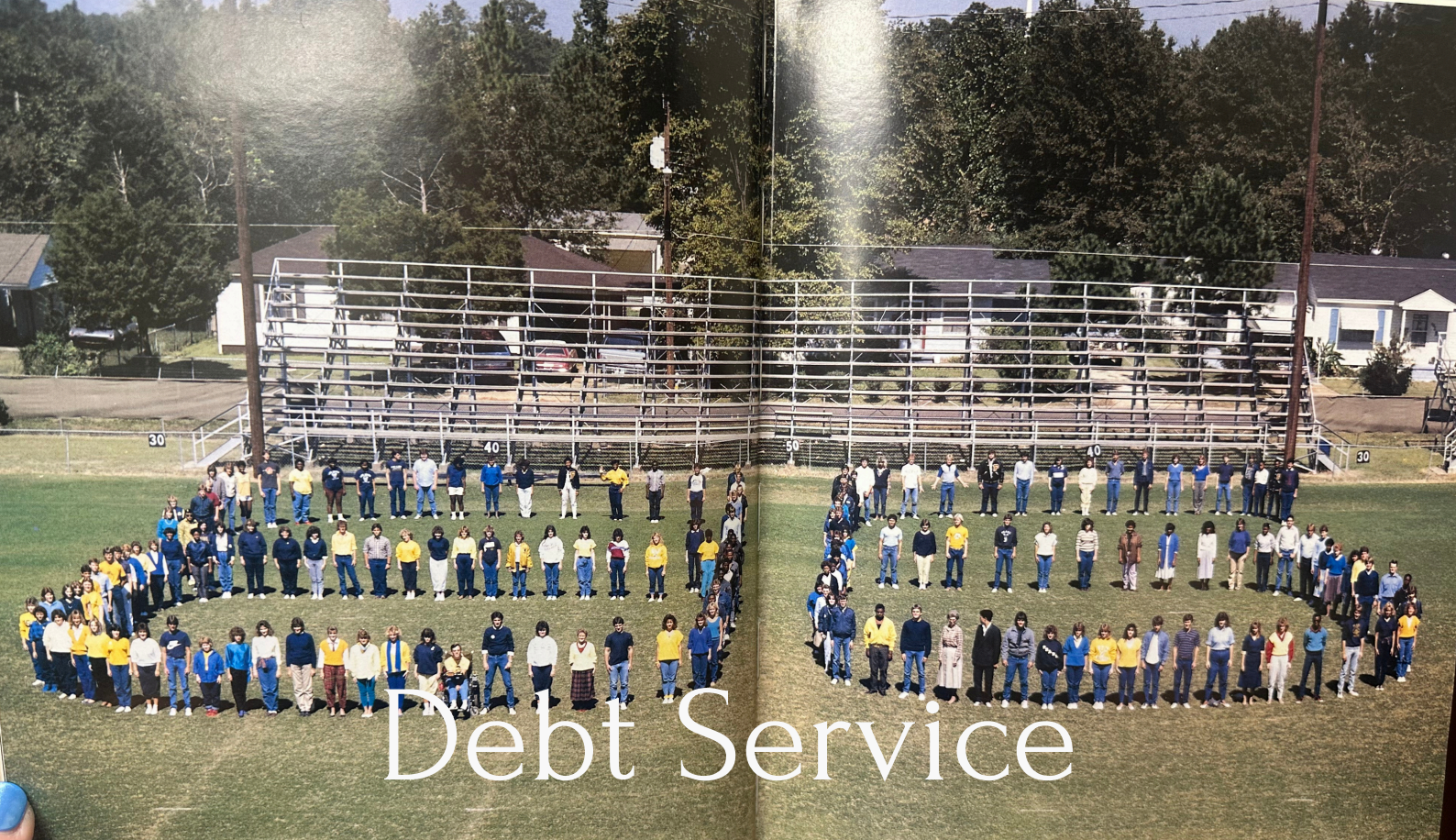
- School lunch and breakfast programs
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Title Cluster programs
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Preschool Cluster services

16th Section

The Pearl Public School District manages over 640 acres of 16th Section public school trust land in Section 16, Township 5N, Range 2E. More than 177 acres are currently under lease, generating approximately \$384,000 in annual revenue.

These funds are deposited into Fund 1840, also known as the 16th Section Interest Fund, which may be used to support annual operations or capital improvement projects across the district.





Debt service refers to the funds required to repay both the principal and interest on the district's outstanding debt within a designated timeframe.

- In Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), the district issued a promissory note to purchase school buses. This debt is being repaid annually using funds from the Education Enhancement Fund (EEF).
- In Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), the district issued a special obligation bond to fund the construction of Pearl Upper Elementary School.
- In Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), the district issued a note for an Energy Service Company to fund the boiler replacement at PJH and NSE.

Debt Service Payoff Dates:

2019 Note - August 2029 (\$ 472,000.00)

2016 Special Obligation Bonds - April 2039 (\$ 17,155,000.00)

2025 ESCO- May 2041 (\$8,557,350.36)

Balances and amounts due in the FY27 budget are below.

Debt Type	Principal	Interest	Paying Agent	Total
1120 - 2025 ESCO	779,809.40	358,381.82		1,138,191.22
4091 - 2019 Note	114,000.00	10,384.00		124,384.00
4034 - 2016 SO Bonds	1,060,000.00	617,187.50	2,500.00	1,679,687.50
Less: 2410 - EEF Funding				(130,958.00)
Total Debt Service Funds				1,673,113.50

Expenditures

Eighty-one percent (81%) of the operational budget for Pearl Public School District consists of salaries and benefits for employees.

Enrollment is projected, and teacher allocations are considered based on needs.

Projected 26-27			
School	Enrollment	25-26 Enrollment	Net Inc(Dec)
ECEC	120	122	-2
PLE	678	661	17
PNE	651	647	4
PUE	636	592	44
PJH	887	910	-23
PHS	1206	1214	-8
	4178	4146	32
	8,356	8,292	64

For FY27, the district budget reflects significant cost pressures and targeted strategic investments rather than expansion of new positions. Major changes include increases related to personnel costs such as step and salary adjustments, a \$2,000 increase to classified hourly rates, rising health insurance, PERS, and property/liability insurance costs (Goal 5). Additional operational increases are included for utilities (projected 15% increase) and transportation fuel (Goal 3). The budget also incorporates continued investments in safety and infrastructure, including expanded access control, camera systems, facility improvements across campuses, and technology upgrades such as network infrastructure and cybersecurity tools (Goals 3 and 4). Instructional investments focus on curriculum resources and digital platforms supporting student achievement (Goal 1), while adjustments were made to offset funding constraints, including a projected decrease in MSFF funding and reallocations between federal and local programs. Overall, the FY27 budget prioritizes maintaining operations, addressing inflationary pressures, and investing in facilities, safety, and instructional resources rather than adding new staffing positions.

Operations

Salaries \$27,578,501.40

Licensed & Non-Licensed
60%

Benefits \$9,844,330.62

Retirement, Social Security, Medical Insurance, etc.
21%

Purchased Services \$6,242,890.70

Property Insurance, Substitute Teachers, Transportation, School Resource Officers, Utilities, etc.
14%

Supplies & Equipment \$2,096,518.00

Instructional Resources, Computer Equipment, Maintenance Supplies, etc.
5%

Other Objects \$182,808.47

Dues & Fees, etc.
0%

Total \$45,945,049.19

Budget Change Summary by Goals

BUDGET BY STRATEGIC GOAL			
Strategic Goal	Description	Total Request (\$)	% of Request
Increase Student Achievement	Goal 1	\$ 398,411.56	10.3%
Pathways & Opportunities	Goal 2	\$ (39,562.47)	-1.0%
Safe & Nurturing Environment	Goal 3	\$ 669,453.61	17.2%
State of the Art Facilities	Goal 4	\$ 1,936,576.78	49.8%
Recruit & Retain Personnel	Goal 5	\$ 920,307.05	23.7%
TOTAL	All Strategic Goals	\$ 3,885,186.54	100.0%

BUDGET BY SCHOOL & DEPARTMENT							
School / Department	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Total (\$)	Funding
District-Wide	\$ -	\$ (90,822.47)	\$ 253,012.34	\$ 412,145.68	\$ 841,571.18	\$ 1,415,906.73	State/Local
ECEC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,820.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 12,320.00	State/Local
Pearl Lower Elementary	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 19,550.00	\$ 69,124.00	\$ -	\$ 89,674.00	State/Local
Northside Elementary School	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 43,413.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,413.00	State/Local
Upper Elementary School	\$ 10,692.42	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 34,668.18	\$ -	\$ 52,360.60	State/Local
Pearl Junior High School	\$ 49,801.90	\$ -	\$ 148,390.50	\$ 175,794.00	\$ 2,531.00	\$ 376,517.40	State/Local
Pearl High School	\$ 30,050.00	\$ -	\$ 29,211.20	\$ 133,649.00	\$ -	\$ 192,910.20	State/Local
Band	\$ 16,783.41	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 43,783.41	State/Local
Choral	\$ 4,429.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,429.25	State/Local
Theatre	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	State/Local
ROTC	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	State/Local
CTE	\$ 20.00	\$ (6,270.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (6,250.00)	Federal/State Local
SPED	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Federal
Federal Programs	\$ (55,004.79)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (55,004.79)	Federal
Counseling/Testing	\$ -	\$ 30,780.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,780.00	State/Local
Curriculum/MTSS/TST	\$ 333,314.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 333,314.37	State/Local/Federal
Gifted	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	State/Local
Nurse	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,175.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,175.00	State/Local/Grant
Transportation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117,502.07	\$ 275,175.00	\$ 63,147.29	\$ 455,824.36	State/Local
Technology	\$ -	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 66,004.50	\$ 137,425.00	\$ -	\$ 213,029.50	State/Local/Federal
Child Nutrition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 330,000.00	\$ -	\$ 330,000.00	Federal
Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,500.00	\$ -	\$ 64,500.00	State/Local
Personnel Assistant Superintendent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (13,400.00)	\$ (13,400.00)	State/Local
Operations/Student Services Asst. Superintendent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	State/Local
Public Relations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,108.10	\$ 7,108.10	State/Local
Finance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	State/Local
Athletics	\$ 4,625.00	\$ 17,150.00	\$ (36,625.00)	\$ 282,595.92	\$ 19,349.48	\$ 287,095.40	State/Local
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 398,411.56	\$ (39,562.47)	\$ 669,453.61	\$ 1,936,576.78	\$ 920,307.05	\$ 3,885,186.54	

Note: The funded request represents changes from the prior year budget and includes both increases and funding shifts. It is not intended to reflect all program expenditures, but rather proposed adjustments for FY27.

Staffing

Location	Administrative	Certified	Classified
Central Office	11	6	9
ECEC	1	9	12
PLE	3	47	49
NSE	3	45	25
PUE	3	48	10
PJH	4	76	11
PHS	7	103	18
Transportation	1		55
Maintenance	1		7
Technology	1		5
Child Nutrition	1		2
Safety	1		
Subtotal	37	334	203
Total			574



Capital Projects

Goal 2 - Pathways & Opportunities

- Tesla Robot
- Career Exploration Lab Improvement and Computer Lab Replacements
- Secondary iPad Replacements
- Athletic facility improvements across multiple sports (track, softball, tennis, gym areas)

Goal 3 – Safe & Nurturing Environment

- Access control expansions across multiple campuses (including PLE, PJH, PHS, Transportation, Maintenance)
- Camera system updates at multiple schools (PLE, NSE, PJH, PUE, PHS)
- Security upgrades, including Guardian Locks and push-bar door replacements at PJH
- Replace barbed wire fencing at the track and stadium areas
- Additional exterior lighting improvements at PHS campus

Goal 4 – State-of-the-Art Facilities

- Generator installation at PLE
- Drain repair at PLE (Old E Hall)
- Dumpster pad and enclosure construction at PJH and repair at NSE
- Creation of “Forgotten Garden” outdoor dining space at PJH
- Facility improvements, including flooring replacements (LVT, carpet, PAC areas, classrooms districtwide)
- Library and classroom renovations (shelving, book nook improvements)
- Track, athletic, and facility improvements, including track resurfacing and visitor entrances
- Access improvements such as an ADA ramp and handrails at PJH
- Paving and site work projects (softball drive area, parking lot improvements, PHS football drive)
- Window tinting, painting, and general facility upgrades across campuses
- New maintenance truck, technology van, district van
- Transportation fleet additions: one gas bus and one diesel bus
- Technology infrastructure investments, including Dell PowerStore storage system, and server room HVAC upgrades

The goal of our school district budget is to offer a high-quality, well-rounded education for the Pearl Public School District students that supports the district's mission.

Operational Funds

	GENERAL	GENERAL	GENERAL	GENERAL	SPECIAL
	1120	1130	1140	1145	REVENUE
	District	Special	Alternative	At-Risk	2711
	Maintenance	Education	School		CTE
Revenues:					
Local Sources	17,722,239.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intermediate Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Sources	26,471,168.34	3,396,909.00	0.00	0.00	462,796.87
Federal Sources	21,420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,717.34
Sixteenth section Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	44,214,828.28	3,396,909.00	0.00	0.00	492,514.21
Expenditures:					
Instruction	23,220,075.34	3,511,303.14	115,491.21	236,183.02	960,215.04
Support services	17,223,814.72	611,520.42	1,000.00	65,446.30	0.00
Noninstructional services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixteenth section	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities acquisition and construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service					
Principal	421,427.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	358,381.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	41,223,699.46	4,122,823.56	116,491.21	301,629.32	960,215.04
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	2,991,128.82	(725,914.56)	(116,491.21)	(301,629.32)	(467,700.83)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Proceeds of General Obligation Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds of Refunding Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds of Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan from School District Emergency Assistance Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inception of Capital Leases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Premium on Debt Issuance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Loss Recoveries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan from Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Transportation Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Other Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indirect Costs	217,823.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transfers in	3,000.00	734,231.47	116,491.21	301,629.32	467,700.83
ESSER Transfers in	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments to Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Other Financing Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indirect Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transfers Out	3,211,952.73	8,316.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
ESSER Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payment to Refunded Bond Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payment to Qualified Zone Academy Debt Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Other Financing Use	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(2,991,128.82)	725,914.56	116,491.21	301,629.32	467,700.83
Net Change in Fund Balances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balances / Retained Earnings					
July 1, 2026	8,301,605.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prior period adjustments					
Reclassify fund equity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrecorded fund equity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reclassify fund types	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
July 1, 2026 as restated	8,301,605.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease) in reserve for inventory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
June 30, 2027	8,301,605.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Highlighted Funds

Apple Initiative Fund - 1989 Goal 1

The Apple Initiative Fund - 1989 supports the district's device replacement cycle for students and staff, ensuring continued access to reliable instructional technology. In Spring FY23, the district entered into a \$3.4 million agreement with Apple to provide a device for every teacher, teacher assistant, and student. These devices have remained in use and form the foundation of the district's one-to-one technology initiative.

Beginning in FY27, the district is implementing a planned replacement cycle for secondary student devices. Each year, devices will be replaced for 6th grade and 9th grade students, with those devices remaining assigned to students through their respective junior high and high school years until graduation.

Devices assigned to teachers, teacher assistants, and elementary students will continue to be replaced on a phased schedule in future years. Additionally, devices collected from secondary students will be evaluated annually and, when feasible, redeployed for use at the elementary level, beginning with Upper Elementary, followed by Northside Elementary, and then Lower Elementary.

To support the sustainability of the program, a \$50 student technology fee is deposited into the fund each year. These funds are used to assist with device replacement, repairs, accessories, and protective cases. The district is budgeted to spend \$504,517 in FY27 to support this ongoing replacement cycle.

This structured approach allows the district to maintain a sustainable one-to-one device program while maximizing the lifespan of existing technology and minimizing reliance on large, one-time purchases in the future.

Textbook Fund - 1992

Goal 1

The Textbook Fund - 1992 supports student and teacher resources of textbooks and instructional materials. Annually, a dedicated curriculum team conducts thorough evaluations of existing resources and gathers feedback from teachers and students. Based on their analysis and insights, the team makes informed recommendations for new textbooks or additional materials, ensuring that the curriculum remains relevant and aligned with educational standards.

In addition to traditional textbooks, the Textbook Fund extends its support to encompass a broader range of resources such as digital platforms, interactive software, and educational apps. By embracing technological advancements, the fund enables educators to adopt innovative teaching methods and create dynamic learning environments.

For FY27, the district is focusing on targeted curriculum enhancements and continued implementation of previously adopted resources, rather than a large-scale adoption cycle. Key investments include updates and additions to instructional platforms and materials supporting core content areas, including literacy, math, and science.

Major components include: Curriculum Associates (literacy and science), STEMscopes (science), SAVVAS (high school resources), Delta Math, Success Maker, NewsELA, and other supplemental digital platforms supporting instruction and assessment.

Instructional Budget: \$618,583.68

Curriculum Associates®



Child Nutrition Fund - 2110

Goal 3



Through its partnership with Chartwells K12, the school district has witnessed a notable boost in sales and achieved significant cost savings. Chartwells K12's expertise in nutrition and menu planning, combined with its streamlined operations, has led to more appealing and balanced meal options for students. This improvement in meal quality and variety has resulted in increased student participation and higher sales within the district's food service program.

Additionally, Chartwells K12's purchasing power and efficient procurement practices have allowed the district to benefit from cost savings, optimizing the allocation of resources and enabling investment in other educational initiatives. Overall, the partnership with Chartwells K12 has not only enhanced the dining experience for students but also yielded financial advantages for the school district.

An excess fund balance refers to the accumulation of funds beyond what is deemed necessary for the operational needs and financial stability of a Child Nutrition Program, which is defined as a balance exceeding three months' average expenditures. Beginning in FY22, the district initiated efforts to reduce an excess fund balance of approximately \$1,124,522.08. Child Nutrition funds remain restricted in their allowable uses, limiting spending to program-related needs. In FY27, the district proposed spending \$377,590.92 of the fund balance for Child Nutrition.

The Child Nutrition team has evaluated each campus to identify needs related to food service operations, equipment efficiency, and student experience. Proposed FY27 projects include replacement of serving lines, upgrades to kitchen equipment, freezer/cooler improvements, and additional storage solutions at multiple campuses. These improvements are designed to enhance operational efficiency, food safety, and overall service capacity.

The district will continue prioritizing upgrades that support long-term sustainability of the Child Nutrition Program while improving the dining experience for students and staff.

EARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Construction Fund 3027

Goal 4

Construction Fund 3027 for FY27 includes a \$1,000,000 grant award to support workforce development initiatives and facility improvements.

Of this funding, approximately \$900,000 is allocated to upgrades at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (Firehouse). Planned improvements include a new roof, fire sprinkler system installation, parking lot repaving, and classroom renovations. These enhancements will modernize the facility and strengthen the district's capacity to provide students with hands-on, career-focused learning experiences that align with local workforce needs.

The remaining \$100,000 is designated for the Pearl Junior High School Career Exploration Lab, providing additional equipment that introduces students to high-demand career pathways and supports early exposure to workforce opportunities.

This investment represents a strategic use of external funding to expand workforce development opportunities, improve district facilities, and better prepare students for postsecondary success—all without placing an additional burden on local funding sources.

Looking Forward

For Fiscal Year 2027, the district continues to manage significant increases in operational costs, particularly related to personnel and fixed expenses. Key cost drivers include a 0.5% increase in PERS (Public Employees' Retirement System), a projected 5% increase in health insurance premiums, and increases in property and liability insurance, utilities, and fuel costs. Collectively, these factors place continued pressure on the district's operating budget.

While state funding increased overall, this growth was not driven by enrollment. The district experienced a decline of approximately 91 students, resulting in a reduction in funding under the Mississippi Student Funding Formula (MSFF). This loss was offset by increased Base Student Cost funding associated with the FY27 teacher pay raise legislation. As a result, the district realized a net increase in state funding, though all of that increase is committed to covering mandated cost increases.

In addition, the district continues to monitor potential changes in federal funding, which may impact program support and staffing levels in future years.

Looking ahead, residential growth is expected within the district's assessed valuation area. The administrative team will continue to monitor enrollment trends, development activity, and funding changes to assess future needs related to staffing, classroom capacity, and facility expansion.

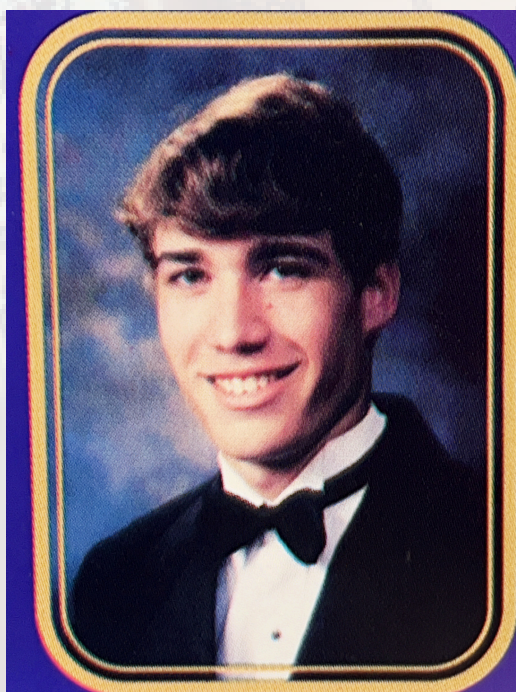
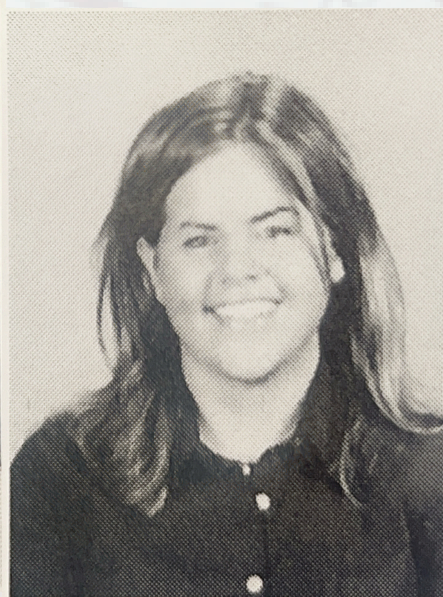
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