Centennial Academy

DRAFT Budget for the 2026 - 2027 School Year

Important Budget Dates

Date	Task
April 22, 2026	Legal notice posted in AJC
April 30, 2026	Legal notice posted in South Fulton Neighbor
May 5, 2026	Public Budget Hearing #1 (Virtual @ 5:00 PM)
May 19, 2026	Public Budget Hearing #2 (In-Person @ 10:00 AM)
April 2026	Centennial Academy receives FY27 Allocations Projections
April 20, 2026	Draft Budget Presentation to Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee
April 27, 2026	Draft Budget Presentation to CA Governing Board for approval
May 2026	Any budget adjustments presented tp Final Budget Presentation to Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee and Centennial Governing Board

Centennial Academy

- Centennial Academy is a conversion charter school in Atlanta, GA, serving over 700 scholars in K-8.
- Centennial is deeply rooted in its local community, reflecting the legacy and promise of Atlanta's revitalization.
- As a community school, Centennial Academy **extends beyond its campus borders**, creating **strong partnerships** with institutions of early and higher learning, industry, and social service that support an **expansive STEAM curriculum** rooted in the EL Education Framework.

Guiding Principle, Mission, and Vision

Guiding Principle: To ensure that budget resources are allocated to strategic goals, which are aligned with the board approved mission and vision.

Our Mission: The mission of Centennial Academy is to provide all scholars access to a rigorous STEAM curriculum that inspires curiosity, fuels achievement and prepares them for success.

Our Vision: We envision Centennial Academy scholars and educators as high achievers, critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and ethical leaders in a global society.

Intended Impact

By 2030, Centennial Academy will stand as a **model of excellence and innovation** in urban education where scholars are critical thinkers, creators, and compassionate leaders who **shape the future of Atlanta and beyond**. Fueled by deep community partnerships and a relentless commitment to excellence and achievement, we will cultivate a school where **academic success, bold ideas, and civic responsibility are the norm,** not the exception, for every scholar, staff member, and family.

5-Year Strategic Goals

Academic Excellence

Centennial Academy will achieve and sustain top tier academic results by outperforming the district and state average, ultimately achieving a score of 90 or above, as measured by the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI)

School Culture

Centennial Academy will achieve high satisfaction among stakeholders by ensuring a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for every scholar, educator, and parent as indicated by 4 out of 5 stars on the CCRPI School Climate Star Rating

Professional Capacity

Centennial Academy will achieve 90% retention among staff by fostering a positive and healthy working environment that retains, supports, rewards, and attracts talented educators

Community Partnerships

Centennial Academy will cultivate family and community partnerships to ensure success for every scholar and serve as the school of choice for families who value excellence in academics, applied STEAM integrated learning, and ethical leadership in an urban environment

Financial Sustainability

Centennial Academy will align resources to address scholar needs and manage funds to ensure revenue will equal or exceed expenditures annually while achieving all five financial performance standards as stated in charter contract

In order to achieve Centennial's intended impact, we will focus on the following strategic priorities over the next five years.

Academics

Delivering aligned instruction through clear vision, strong materials, and experiential learning ensures scholars meet/ exceed expectations at Centennial and beyond.

Staff Investment & Alignment

A united team – deeply invested in scholar success, grounded in shared priorities, and operating with clear roles – makes the school's vision a daily reality.

School Culture

A strong school culture fosters safety, belonging, and leadership, empowering scholars to persevere, own their learning, and advocate for themselves and others.

Community Partnership

Building authentic, sustained partnerships connects scholars to real-world learning, mentorship, and community impact that reflect Atlanta's innovation.

Operating Conditions

Realizing our impact requires **financial sustainability**, **strong talent systems**, and an optimal physical environment.

EL Education

Our Anchor

Anchored by EL Education's three dimensions of high achievement: Mastery of Knowledge & Skills, Character Building, and High-Quality Work, our educational programming is foundational, formative, holistic, and authentic, integrating academics, social-emotional learning, and leadership into a unique educational experience rooted in equity, exploration, and empowerment.

Mastery of Knowledge & Skills: scholars demonstrate proficiency and deeper understanding within each discipline and across content areas by applying their learning; transferring knowledge and skills to novel and meaningful tasks; thinking critically; analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing complex ideas while considering multiple perspectives; and communicating clearly through writing, speaking, and presenting ideas effectively in a variety of media.

Character: scholars work to become effective learners by developing the growth mindsets and 21st-century skills necessary for success in college, career, and life. Through character development structures and lessons, scholars also learn how to use what they have learned to improve communities and contribute to a better world.

High-Quality Student Work: scholars demonstrate higher-order thinking skills by completing and creating complex work and sharing multiple perspectives, demonstrating craftsmanship in the conception and execution of authentic work products.

EL Education

Core Practice 32: Fostering a Cohesive School Vision

In the EL Education model, leaders unite the staff, scholars, and broader community around an inspirational vision of scholar success rooted in EL Education's three dimensions. This vision transforms schools into places where scholars and adults engage in purposeful, challenging, and joyful learning. School Leaders align resources to support all domains of the school- Curriculum, Instruction, Culture and Charter, Student Engaged Assessment, and Leadership- to this vision.

E. Aligning the Budget to Fulfill the Vision

1. *Leaders regularly analyze existing budget allocations and make decisions to redistribute, eliminate, and/or expand allocations based on the learning needs of scholars. Students with the greatest needs receive the most support.*
2. *Leaders allocate money to support the curriculum, including books and materials that support deeper learning.*
3. *Leaders allocate money to support intensive professional learning during school breaks and throughout the year.*

27-28 FRAMEWORK

"Habits. Heart. High Expectations. High Achievement."

Mastery of Knowledge & Skills

- Ensure coherence between professional learning and classroom practice
- Equip educators with targeted, high-impact reteach tools that address misconceptions and deepen student understanding
- Implement responsive, data-driven instruction cycles by using real-time and longitudinal assessment data to adjust teaching, monitor progress, and accelerate student mastery over time.

Character

- Strengthen a cohesive K-8 PBIS House System
- Establish and maintain consistent schoolwide routines and procedures t
- Align expectations and recognition systems to core character values

High-Quailty Work

- Interdisciplinary STEAM PBLs aligned to the science standards and the real-world school, community, and city-wide challenges.

SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENT

Through partnerships with scholars, families, staff, and the community.

2026 - 2027 Budget Highlights

FY27 Budget Highlights

- We are extremely conservative in our budgeting approach. We promote fiscal responsibility **without** compromising our programming.
- Our budget is based off an enrollment of **730 scholars**.
- APS per pupil funding is set to increase from 25, 794.50 to **26,000 plus 2%.**
- **APS is projecting a use of fund balance** to balance their budget. **Centennial will receive a percentage of that usage.** We are not including this predicted revenue in our FY 27 budget.
- Over the past three years we requested, but have not required the use of the fund balance.

FY27 Budget Highlights

FY27 Budget includes the following highlights:

- APS **salary scale increase between average of 3%** an estimated **$458,000 increase to Centennial's budget** to match APS.

- Several new Centennial positions to support a stronger instructional strategic approach (CAO, COS, DEE & Gifted) net approximately **$150,000 due to other strategic shifts shifts across the org.**

Professional Capacity: *Employee Benefits*

Strategies & FY27 Budget Alignment

Goal: Ensure a competitive compensation structure that rewards and attracts high-performing talent

Compensation @ 100% APS Pay

2% Salary Retention Bonus

FY27 Employee Benefits

Centennial's is still negotiating our rate renewal. Our projections are based on an anticipated 12% increase.

Cigna Local Plus Option	Participants	ER Contribution	EE Contribution	BiWeekly	Total Monthly Premium	Current EE Contribution	EE Contribution + 5
EE	30	$498.43	$148.27	$68.43	$646.70	$141.21	$148.27
EE + Dependent	2	$1,047.18	$311.45	$143.75	$1,358.63	$296.62	$311.45
Family	12	$1,495.82	$444.89	$205.33	$1,940.71	$423.71	$444.89
Annual Cost		**$419,965.36**	**$124,916.00**		**$544,881.36**		

Cigna Plan 2	Participants	ER Contribution	EE Contribution	BiWeekly	Total Monthly Premium	Current EE Contribution	EE Contribution + 5%
EE							
EE + Dependent							
Family							
Annual Cost							

Contri	ER Contrib.	EE Contrib.
Local	$419,965.36	$124,916.00
Plan	$94,201.96	$38,859.20
Plan	$208,439.65	$89,964.47
HSA I	$92,968.37	$33,963.43
Tota	**$815,575.34**	**$287,703.10**

Cigna Plan 3	Participants	ER Contribution	EE Contribution	BiWeekly	Total Monthly Premium	Current EE Contribution	EE Contribution + 5%
EE	13	$497.63	$185.39	$85.56	$683.02	$176.56	$185.39
EE + Dependent	4	$978.37	$456.53	$210.71	$1,434.90	$434.79	$456.53
Family	5	$1,397.46	$652.17	$301.00	$2,049.63	$621.12	$652.17
Annual Cost		**$208,439.65**	**$89,964.47**		**$298,404.12**		

Cigna HSA Plan	Participants	ER Contribution	EE Contribution	BiWeekly	Total Monthly Premium	
EE	6	$403.42	$147.37	$68.02	$550.79	80%
EE + Dependent	2	$847.51	$309.61	$142.90	$1,157.12	
Family	3	$1,210.62	$442.27	$204.12	$1,652.89	
Annual Cost		**$92,968.37**	**$33,963.43**		**$126,931.80**	

Centennial Academy

FY 2026 vs. FY 2027 Budget Comparisons

	FY25/26 budget	FY 26/27 proposed budget	Increase/(Decrease	Highlights
Ordinary Revenues/Expenses				
Income				
42000 · Atlanta Public Schools Revenue	17,992,890.00	19,549,400.00	1,556,510.00	730 student - ($26,000 plus 2%) per student 2% projected increase in APS revenues per student
42001 · Title One revenues	450,000.00	450,000.00	-	
42002 · Donations			-	
42003 · Miscellaneous Revenues			-	
42100 · Grant Revenue	177,000.00		(177,000.00)	
43000 · School Activity Reimbursements			-	
46000 · Interest Income	200,000.00	200,000.00	-	
Total Income	18,819,890.00	20,199,400.00	1,379,510.00	
Expense				
Facilities				
Total Facilities	1,001,000.00	926,356.00	(74,644.00)	
General & Administrative				
Total General & Administrative	595,436.00	688,305.00	92,869.00	
Instructional				
59095 · HOS - Contingency	50,000.00	50,000.00	-	
Total Instructional	1,110,000.00	1,010,536.00	(99,464.00)	
Insurance				
50710 · Employee Benefits - Insurance	1,397,559.00	1,636,440.00	238,881.00	
56130 · Insurance - Other	125,000.00	138,000.00	13,000.00	
Total Insurance	1,522,559.00	1,774,440.00	251,881.00	
Professional Services				
Total Professional Services	630,000.00	515,400.00	(114,600.00)	
Salaries, Consultant & Benefits				
50100 · Salaries	11,096,835.00	11,658,100.00	561,265.00	additional staff and APS increase
50225 · Educational Consultants	300,000.00	300,000.00	-	
50510 · Payroll Taxes	221,936.00	233,162.00	11,226.00	
50740 · Retirement	2,282,127.00	2,517,583.00	235,456.00	
Total Salaries, Consultant & Benefits	13,900,898.00	14,708,845.00	807,947.00	
Technology & Communication				
Total Technology & Communication	110,000.00	112,563.00	2,563.00	
58000 · Professional Development				
58010 · Staff Development & Meetings	400,000.00	451,898.00	51,898.00	
Total 58000 · Professional Development	400,000.00	451,898.00	51,898.00	
Total Expense	19,269,893.00	20,188,343.00	918,450.00	
Net Ordinary Income				
Other Income/Expense				

Centennial is committed to continuous evaluative process that ensures that our budget reflects high quality programming and fiscal responsibility.

FY23 1,830,228

FY24 1,000,729

FY 25 1,501,991

FY 26 750,000

FY 27 201,943.00

Centennial Academy

FY 2026 vs. FY 2027 Budget Comparisons

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Professional Services				
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Net Ordinary Income				
Other Income/Expense				
Furniture - Student lockers, computer science supplies, Classroom furniture		78,000.00		
50 MacBook's - replace 50% of staff computers		60,000.00		
12 classroom interactive boards		25,000.00		
Overall Capital expenditure budget	300,000.00			
Student chrome books		50,000.00		
70000 · Capital Improvements	300,000.00	213,000.00	(87,000.00)	
Total Other Expense	19,569,893.00	20,401,343.00	831,450.00	
Use of Fund Balance	(750,003.00)	(201,943.00)	548,060.00	
Use of Fund Balance				

Centennial is committed to continuous evaluative process that ensures that our budget reflects high quality programming and fiscal responsibility.

FY23 1,830,228
FY24 1,000,729
FY 25 1,501,991
FY 26 750,000

FY 27 201,943.00

FY26 Budget Highlights

Summary:
Our goal, as always is fiscal responsibility and efficiency. Looking ahead to the next fiscal year's budget we anticipate a decrease in overall operating expenses as a result of the removal of some of the one time cost of this year. We also we critically examine our org chart to ensure maximum efficiency without compromising academic programmatic integrity.

Centennial Academy is requesting the use of FY 27 201,943.00 of reserves to support 26-27 operating cost.

Fiscal Stewardship & Responsibility

FY23 $1,830,228
FY24 $1,000,729
FY 25 $1,500,000
FY 26 $750,000
FY 27 201,943.00

Questions & Answers