

Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 497 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 6:05 PM at 110 McDonald Dr, Lawrence, KS 66044 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, building needs assessment and Board state assessments review is available at the district office on the district website and will be available at this hearing.

The Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2026-2027 Budget. The 'Est. Tax Rate' (column 7), shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.

	Code 99 Line	2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget		
		Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OPERATING								
General	06	90,228,298	20.000	92,444,090	20.000	94,823,828	34,408,392	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	28,791,343	14.530	29,478,973	14.842	30,559,090	28,383,023	14.588
SPECIAL REVENUE								
Federal Funds	07	4,384,886		3,161,990		3,559,165		
Adult Education	10	494,316	0.200	505,661	0.200	868,580	389,139	0.200
Preschool-Aged At-Risk	11	530,994		744,455		1,726,800		
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		25,982		
At-Risk Education Fund	13	12,502,614		13,199,135		15,037,700		
Bilingual Education	14	619,272		780,397		975,408		
Virtual Education	15	2,522,550		2,703,275		3,193,350		
Capital Outlay	16	13,611,988	8.000	19,788,694	8.000	33,297,809	15,673,676	8.000
Driver Training	18	0		0		19,346		
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary School Program	22	0		0		0		
Food Service	24	5,748,142		5,977,837		7,190,000		
Professional Development	26	337,203		325,580		506,994		
Parent Education Program	28	202,426		209,055		264,300		
Summer School	29	37,781		36,972		0		
Special Education	30	33,545,785		34,984,900		39,796,500		
Cost of Living	33	2,374,995	1.235	2,390,736	1.003	3,430,000	2,170,965	1.116
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	1,695,662		2,067,968		2,544,700		
Gifts and Grants	35	1,110,422		1,215,608		3,070,573		
Special Liability Expense Fund	42	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
School Retirement	44	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	45	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47	14,742,248		17,002,321				
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51	9,549,621		10,039,144		12,348,148		
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0				
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55	987,776		1,192,648				
Activity Fund	56	788,868		861,336				
DEBT SERVICE								
Bond and Interest #1	62	13,997,238	8.308	13,999,550	8.300	13,872,125	16,149,342	8.300
Bond and Interest #2	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67	8,718	0.000	9,039	0.000	446,086	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
COOPERATIVES1								
Special Education	78	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES	100	238,813,146	52.273	253,119,364	52.345	267,556,484	97,174,537	52.204
Less: Transfers	105	69,878,305		70,237,941		55,587,882		
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	168,934,841		182,881,423		211,968,602		
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	115	87,270,294		92,500,054		97,174,537		

1. Sponsoring District Only

*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

	Code 99 Line	2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget		
		Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OTHER								
Historical Museum	80	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board/District	82	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	83	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Recreation Commission	84	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Liab	86	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL OTHER	120	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	\$87,270,294		\$92,500,054		\$97,174,537		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	\$1,533,471,034		\$1,631,482,891		\$1,720,419,589		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	\$1,767,266,322		\$1,866,469,201		\$1,945,696,710		
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	\$1,761,301,010		\$1,859,564,767		\$1,959,209,510		
Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1		2024		2025		2026		
General Obligation Bonds	135	149,760,000		141,305,000		132,600,000		
Capital Outlay Bonds	140	0		0		0		
Temporary Note	145	0		0		0		
No-Fund Warrant	150	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	153	9,887,254		12,032,406		6,229,722		
TOTAL USD DEBT	155	159,647,254		153,337,406		138,829,722		

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Board President

Clerk of the Board