

Alexander City Schools FY2027 Budget Hearing #1



*Inspiring Hope and
Creating Pathways
to Success.*



Dr. Jose Reyes, Jr., Superintendent
Mrs. Lisa Dickerson, Chief Financial Officer



SCAN HERE



Alexander City Schools
Inspiring hope and creating pathways to success

Our District

Teaching & Learning

Child Nutrition

Financial

Transportation

Human Resources



SCAN HERE

FY2027 Budget Hearing

Budget Hearing Dates

Presentation

Meeting #1: September 10, 2026

[FY2027 Proposed Budget Presentation](#)

Meeting #2: September 15, 2026

Meetings begin at 5:00 PM CST.

Meetings will be held at 375 Lee Street, Alexander City, AL 35010.

Important Information

[Proposed Annual Budget](#)

[FY2027 Exhibit P-I-A](#)

[FY2027 Exhibit P-II](#)

[FY2027 Exhibit P-II-A](#)

[FY2027 Flexibility](#)

[FY2027 State and Unit Allocations](#)

[FY2027 Salary Schedule](#)

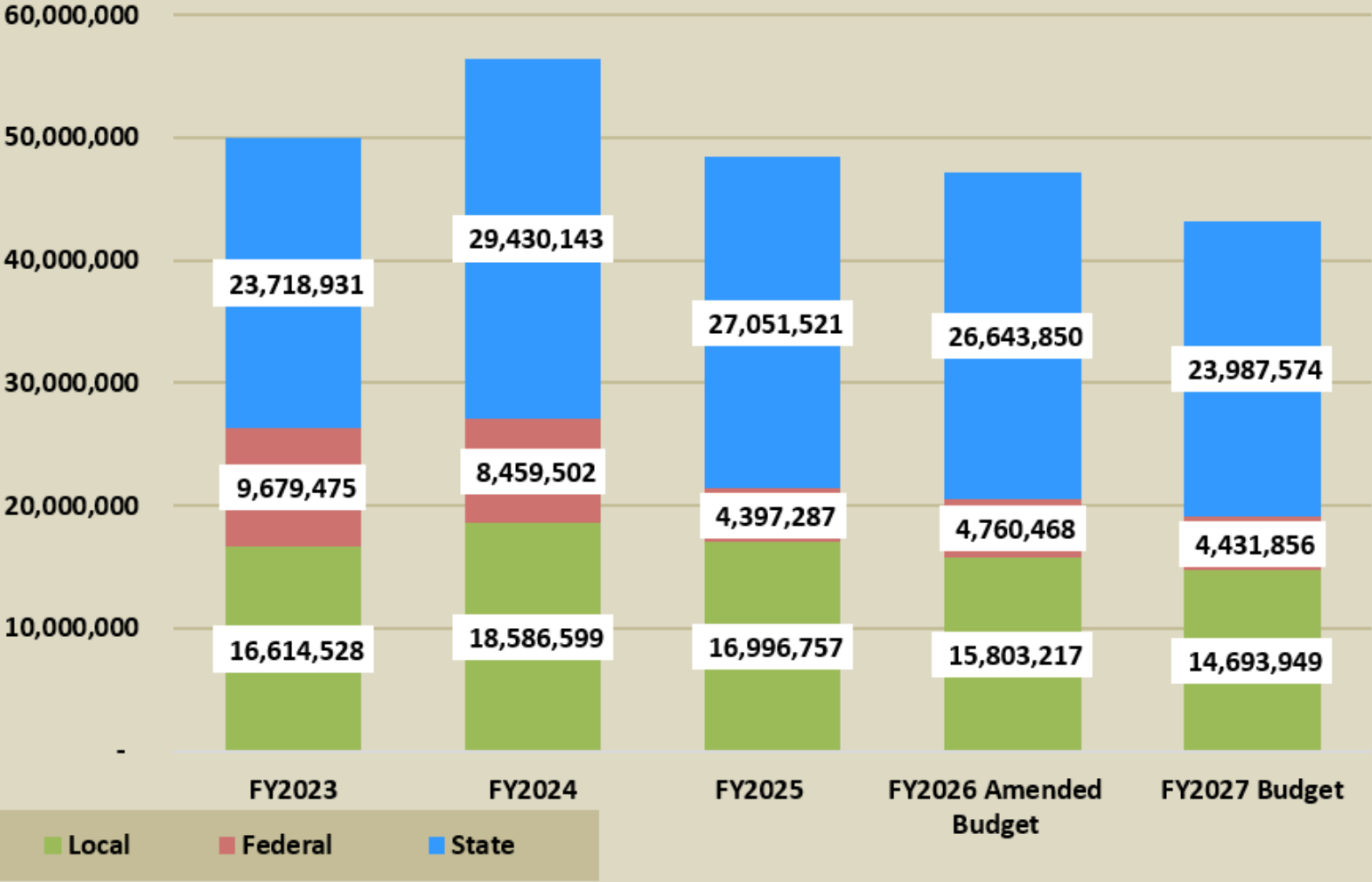
[FY2027 Budget Hearing Response](#)

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS
PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2027

<u>FUND TYPES</u> <u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>GOVERNMENTAL</u>			<u>DEBT</u> <u>SERVICE</u>	<u>CAPITAL</u> <u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FIDUCIARY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>(Memo Only)</u>
	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>	<u>SPECIAL</u> <u>REVENUE</u>			<u>EXPENDABLE</u> <u>TRUST</u>	
REVENUES							
STATE REVENUES	\$ 23,021,292	74.4%	\$ -	\$ 505,254	\$ 461,028	\$ -	\$ 23,987,574
FEDERAL REVENUES	65,518	0.2%	4,366,338	-	-	-	4,431,856
LOCAL REVENUES	7,545,740	24.4%	904,954	5,355,063	175,000	713,192	14,693,949
OTHER REVENUES	70,000	0.2%	62,946	-	-	-	132,946
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 30,702,550	99.2%	\$ 5,334,238	\$ 5,860,317	\$ 636,028	\$ 713,192	\$ 43,246,325
EXPENDITURES:							
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$ 17,538,362	49.7%	\$ 2,066,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 358,698	\$ 19,963,995
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	6,415,848	18.2%	431,039	-	-	118,885	6,965,772
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,343,696	9.5%	68,403	-	-	2,480	3,414,579
AUXILIARY SERVICES	1,956,699	5.5%	2,466,891	-	247,448	8,575	4,679,613
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	1,951,031	5.5%	169,617	-	-	229	2,120,877
CAPITAL OUTLAY	2,550,000	7.2%	-	-	2,424,000	-	4,974,000
DEBT SERVICES	-	0.0%	-	52,109	5,821,874	-	5,873,983
OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,384,142	4.0%	168,423	-	-	70,850	1,623,415
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 35,139,778	99.6%	\$ 5,371,308	\$ 52,109	\$ 8,493,322	\$ 559,717	\$ 49,616,234
OTHER FUND SOURCES (USES):							
OTHER FUND SOURCES	\$ 249,829	0.8%	\$ 189,400	\$ -	\$ 5,808,208	\$ 4,950	\$ 6,252,387
OTHER FUND USES	150,000	0.4%	41,350	5,808,208	-	23,000	6,022,558
TOTAL OTHER FUND SOURCES (USES)	\$ 99,829		\$ 148,050	\$ (5,808,208)	\$ 5,808,208	\$ (18,050)	\$ 229,829
EXCESS REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES							
OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES & OTHER FUND USES	\$ (4,337,399)		\$ 110,980	\$ -	\$ (2,049,086)	\$ 135,425	\$ (6,140,080)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE - OCT 1	\$ 12,000,000		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,594,870	\$ 825,000	\$ 18,819,870
ENDING FUND BALANCE - SEP 30	\$ 7,662,601		\$ 1,110,980	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 545,784	\$ 960,425	\$ 12,679,790

Carryover of State Supplemental Funds including - Advancement & Technology (A&T), School Safety, Summer and After School Programs

5 Year Revenue Trend - State, Federal & Local



Five Year Change

State	\$	268,643
Federal		(5,247,619)
Local		(1,920,579)

Federal stimulus funds were available from FY2020 to FY2024. The drop in federal funds is due to the end of stimulus funding.

The decrease in Local revenue is due to lower interest income as the bond fund balance has been spent down. Interest income was \$5.4 million in FY2024 compared to \$830,049 budgeted for FY2027. This is offset by an increase in local tax revenue.

FY2027 General Fund Budget Summary

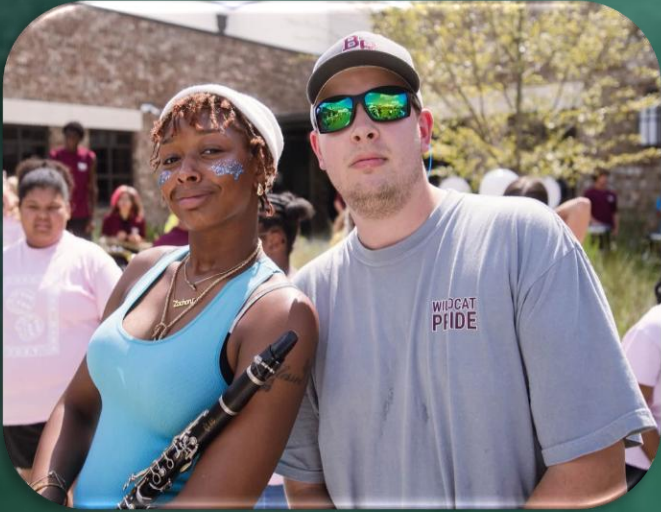
Projected Balance 10/1/2026	\$	12,000,000
Revenue	\$	30,952,379
Expenditures	\$	35,289,778
Fund Balance Change	\$	(4,337,399)
Projected Balance 9/30/2027	\$	7,662,601
One Month Expenses	\$	2,940,815
Number of Months in Fund Balance		2.61

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

General Fund Budget Analysis for FY2027

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
REVENUES		
STATE REVENUES	\$ 23,021,292.10	74.4%
FEDERAL REVENUES	65,518.00	0.2%
LOCAL REVENUES	7,545,740.00	24.4%
OTHER FUND SOURCES	70,000.00	0.2%
OTHER REVENUES	249,829.00	0.8%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 30,952,379.10	100.0%
EXPENDITURES:		
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$ 17,538,362.00	49.7%
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	6,415,848.10	18.2%
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,343,696.00	9.5%
AUXILIARY SERVICES	1,956,699.00	5.5%
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	1,951,031.00	5.5%
CAPITAL OUTLAY	2,550,000.00	7.2%
DEBT SERVICES	-	0.0%
OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,384,142.00	4.0%
OTHER FUND USES	150,000.00	0.4%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 35,289,778.10	100.0%
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ (4,337,399.00)	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE - OCT 1	\$ 12,000,000.00	
ENDING FUND BALANCE - SEP 30	\$ 7,662,601.00	





ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

General Fund Major Funding Sources

State Funding Sources

Foundation Program	\$ 17,648,923
Transportation Operations	\$ 1,823,599
RAISE ACT (Replaces Gifted, ESL & At-Risk)	\$ 649,944
First Class Pre-K Program Grant	\$ 605,000
TEAMS- Teacher Excellence & Accountability for Math & Science	\$ 474,750
School Nurse	\$ 371,663
HIPPY	\$ 304,000
High Needs Special Education (estimate)	\$ 240,000
Math Coaches	\$ 180,000
ARI Reading Coaches	\$ 180,000

Local Funding Sources

Property Tax	\$ 4,252,990
Sales Tax	\$ 1,500,000
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement (ATB)	\$ 350,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$ 275,000

Other Revenues

Indirect Cost (Federal Programs, IDEA, CNP)	\$ 229,829
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General Fund Designated Budgets

Total Budget	\$ 35,289,778	
General Fund Salaries/Benefits	27,928,749	79%
Other General Fund Expenses	\$ 7,361,029	21%
General Fund Expenditure Requirements		
Utilities	\$ 679,575	
Substitute Costs	281,059	
Textbook/Classroom Supplies	252,065	
Pupil Transportation Supplies	478,817	
Building Maint, Renovations & Lawn Care	931,365	
Capital Projects (Carried over from FY2026)	2,550,000	
Pass Thru to Child Nutrition	150,000	
Technology & Software Maint. Agreements	156,890	
Administrative Allocations to Schools (ADM Based)	65,000	
Classroom Instructional Support		
Teacher Supply Money \$1,000	214,000	
Technology \$500	105,500	
Professional Development \$100	21,100	
Library Enhancement \$158	33,338	
Common Purchase \$0	-	
Subtotal	\$ 5,918,709	
Balance to Budget	\$ 1,442,320	

The percentage of salaries/benefits in the General Fund is typically around 85%. The carryover funds from FY2026 caused this percentage to be lower. None of the carryover funds are budgeted for salaries/benefits.



Classroom Instructional Support Per Certified Unit

Classroom Instructional Support	FY2026	FY2027
Teacher Supply Money	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Technology	500	500
Professional Development	100	100
Library Enhancement	158	158
Common Purchase	-	-
	\$ 1,758	\$ 1,758

System-Wide Totals

Classroom Instructional Support	FY2026	FY2027
Teacher Supply Money	\$ 230,000	\$ 214,000
Technology	113,500	105,500
Professional Development	22,700	21,100
Library Enhancement	35,866	33,338
Common Purchase	-	-
	\$ 402,066	\$ 373,938



Total by Location

Benjamin Russell	112,512
Jim Pearson	103,722
Nathaniel Stephens	84,384
William Radney	70,320
Phoenix Academy	3,000
	\$ 373,938

State Funds	\$295,279
General Fund	\$78,659



State Earned Units

	FY2027	FY2026	Change
System ADM	2,520.65	2,729.45	(208.80)
Foundation Program Units - Adjusted for Consolidation			
Teachers	147.24	158.54	(11.30)
Principals	4.00	5.00	(1.00)
Assistant Principals	6.00	4.50	1.50
Counselors	5.00	5.50	(0.50)
Librarians	4.00	5.00	(1.00)
Voc. Ed. Director/Career Coach	1.75	1.75	-
Total Units	167.99	180.29	(12.30)

Fractional Units

All units were assigned where they were earned.



Funding Sources for All School System Employees

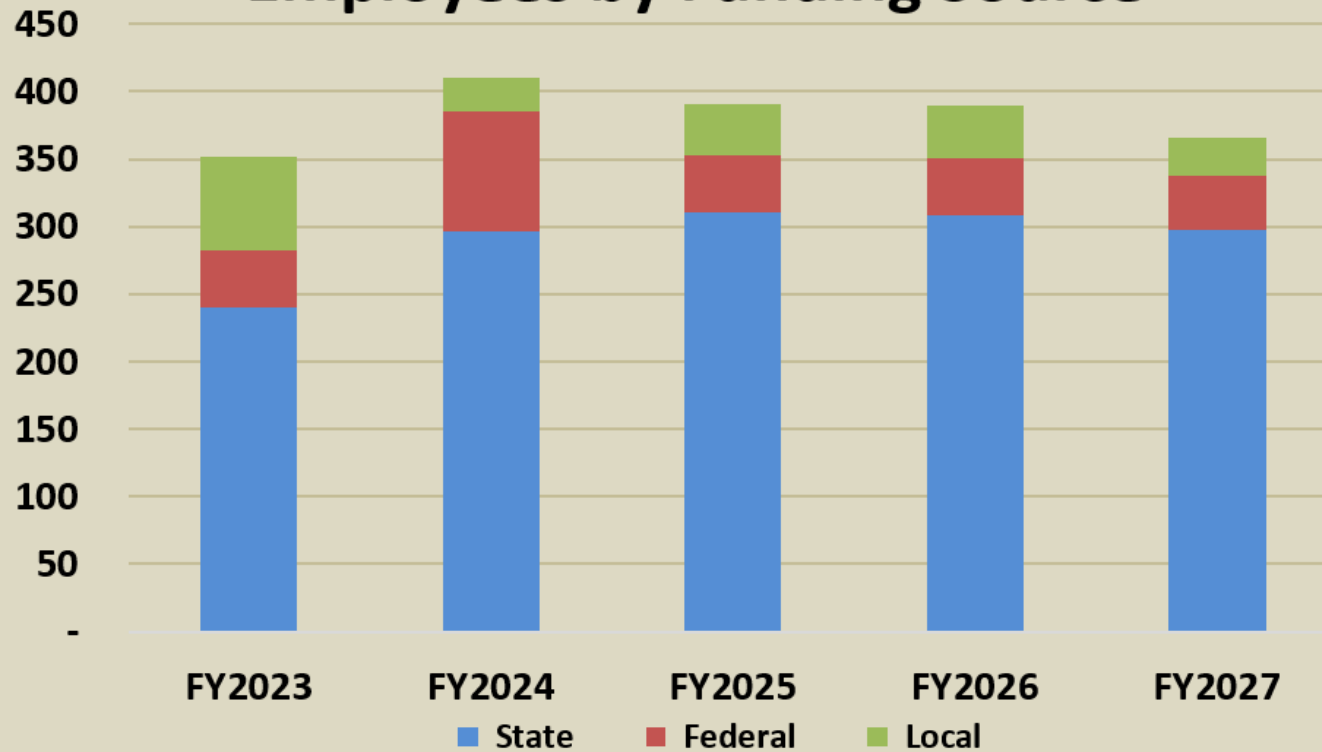
	State Earned	Other State	Federal	Local	Total Employees
Teachers	147.24	2.00	13.83	9.89	172.96
Administrators	10.00	6.00	1.00	5.50	22.50
Counselors	5.00	0.38	0.50	0.12	6.00
Librarians	4.00	-	-	-	4.00
Career Tech Director/Coaches	1.75	-	-	0.25	2.00
Certified Support Personnel	-	14.92	-	3.13	18.05
Non-Certified Support Personnel		106.38	24.41	9.20	139.99
Total	167.99	129.68	39.74	28.09	365.50

Staffing Breakdown

225.51	Certified
139.99	Non-Certified
365.50	Calculated total

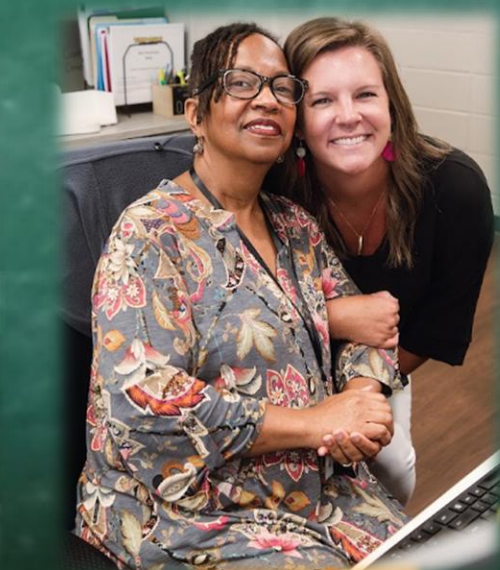


Employees by Funding Source



Employees by Funding Source

	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Year to Year Change	5 Year Trend
State	239.90	296.86	310.18	308.78	297.67	(11.11)	57.77
Federal	42.67	88.16	42.64	42.20	39.74	(2.46)	(2.93)
Local	69.43	25.48	37.68	38.52	28.09	(10.43)	(41.34)
Total	352.00	410.50	390.50	389.50	365.50	(24.00)	13.50



ADM Trends Since 2015

	2015-2016 ADM	2016-2017 ADM	2017-2018 ADM	2018-2019 ADM	2019-2020 ADM	2020-2021 ADM	2021-2022 ADM	2022-2023 ADM	2023-2024 ADM	2024-2025 ADM	2025-2026 ADM	Chg from Prior ADM	Enrollment as of 9/1*	Chg from Prior Year
Alex City Middle	443.85	433.40	445.45	425.35	437.35	467.30	453.35	455.75	425.50	426.00	-	(426.00)	-	-
Benjamin Russell High	943.85	894.60	874.25	861.65	838.60	805.95	781.50	806.15	838.95	848.05	809.15	(38.90)	818.00	8.85
Jim Pearson Elementary	759.60	749.60	745.95	719.35	722.70	666.15	707.85	672.45	652.55	609.35	568.70	(40.65)	541.00	(27.70)
Stephens Elementary	456.95	490.95	504.65	486.20	481.80	463.30	432.75	416.45	426.55	435.25	567.90	132.65	539.00	(28.90)
Radney Elementary	446.80	421.00	425.20	483.10	477.35	450.75	451.10	431.95	407.00	410.80	574.90	164.10	563.00	(11.90)
Total	3,051.05	2,989.55	2,995.50	2,975.65	2,957.80	2,853.45	2,826.55	2,782.75	2,750.55	2,729.45	2,520.65	(208.80)	2,461.00	(59.65)

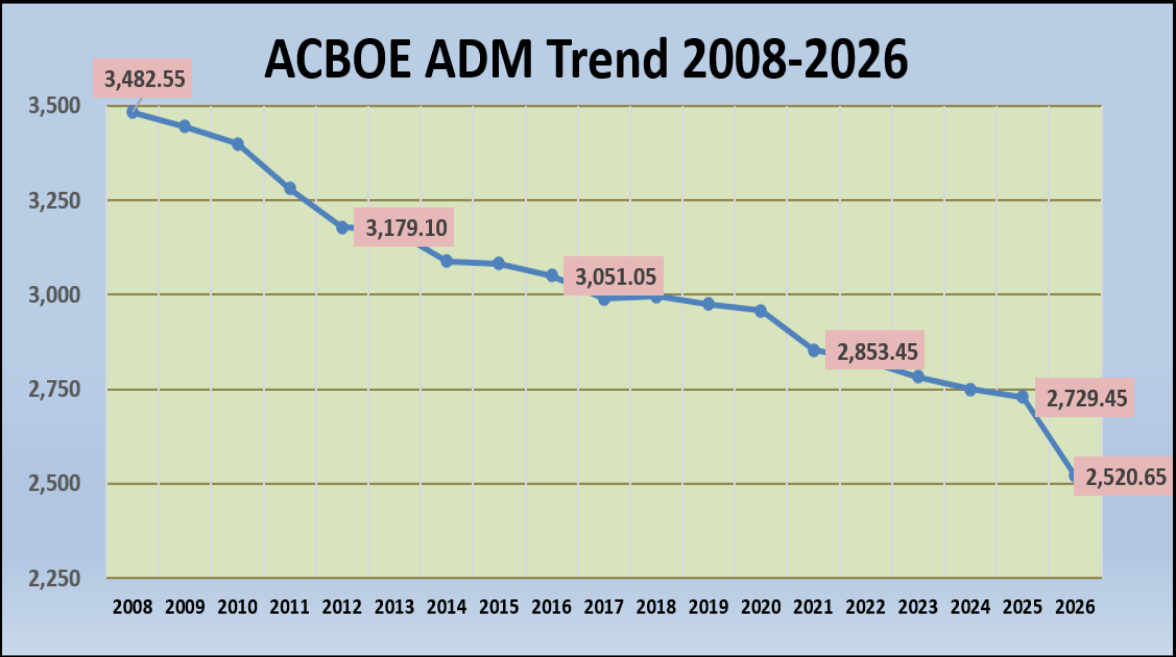
*Will be used to calculate FY2028 funding.



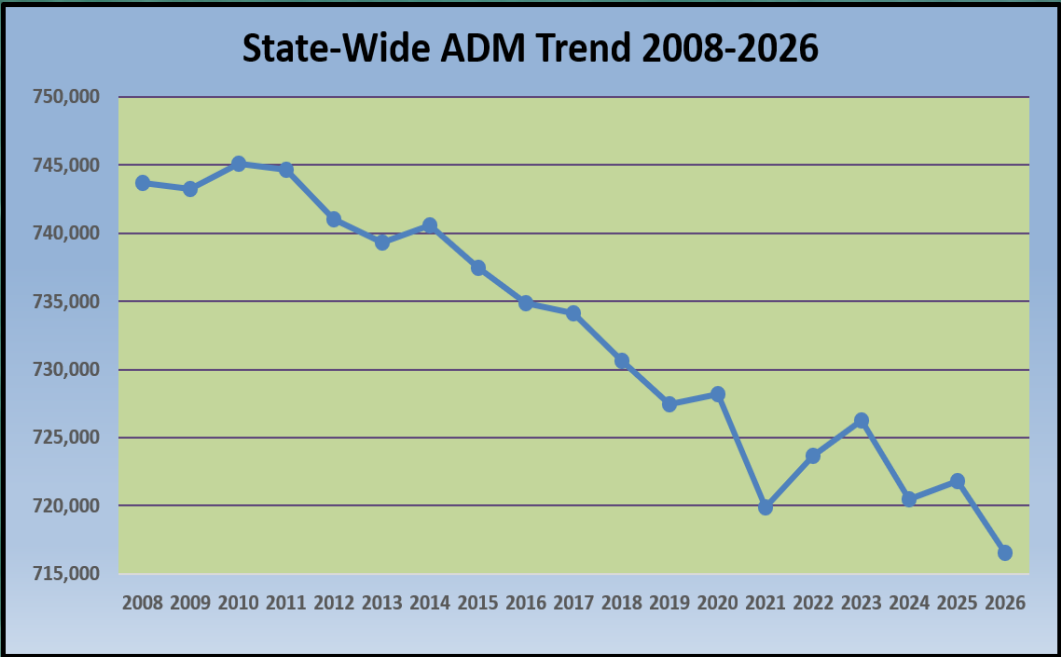
System ADM - Average Daily Membership

ADM represents the total, average daily enrollment for a school system during the first twenty days after Labor Day of the school year as reported to Alabama Department of Education by a school system. ADM information is collected from the district's student database by school.





Alexander City ADM Loss (961.90)



Statewide ADM Loss (27,091.40)





Jim Pearson Elementary School

Type	Source of Funds				Total Employees
	State Earned	Other State	Federal	Local	
Teachers	39.91		2.24	1.03	43.18
Librarians	1.00				1.00
Counselors	1.00				1.00
Administrators	1.50			1.50	3.00
Certified Support Personnel		9.00		0.82	9.82
Non Cert. Support Personnel		24.50	7.25		31.75
Total	43.41	33.50	9.49	3.35	89.75



ADM USED for Funding	
FY2019	745.95
FY2020	719.35
FY2021	722.70
FY2022	666.15
FY2023	707.85
FY2024	672.45
FY2025	652.55
FY2026	609.35
FY2027	568.70





Nathaniel Stephens Intermediate School

Type	Source of Funds				Total Employees
	State Earned	Other State	Federal	Local	
Teachers	31.85		4.66	2.26	38.77
Librarians	1.00				1.00
Counselors	1.00				1.00
Administrators	3.00				3.00
Certified Support Personnel		2.92		1.31	4.23
Non Cert. Support Personnel		12.00	5.25		17.25
Total	36.85	14.92	9.91	3.57	65.25



ADM USED for Funding

FY2019	504.65
FY2020	486.20
FY2021	481.80
FY2022	463.30
FY2023	432.75
FY2024	416.45
FY2025	426.55
FY2026	435.25
FY2027 (Grades 3-5)	567.90





William Radney Jr. High School

Type	Source of Funds				Total Employees
	State Earned	Other State	Federal	Local	
Teachers	30.40		2.00	2.60	35.00
Librarians	1.00				1.00
Counselors	1.00				1.00
Administrators	3.00				3.00
Certified Support Personnel					-
Non Cert. Support Personnel		13.50	5.75		19.25
Total	35.40	13.50	7.75	2.60	59.25



ADM USED for Funding	
FY2019	425.20
FY2020	483.10
FY2021	477.35
FY2022	450.75
FY2023	451.10
FY2024	431.95
FY2025	407.00
FY2026	410.80
FY2027 (Grades 6-8)	574.90





Benjamin Russell High School



Type	Source of Funds				Total Employees
	State Earned	Other State	Federal	Local	
Teachers	45.08		4.93	4.00	54.01
Librarians	1.00				1.00
Counselors	2.00				2.00
Administrators	4.25			1.25	5.50
Certified Support Personnel				1.00	1.00
Non Cert. Support Personnel		15.08	6.16		21.24
Total	52.33	15.08	11.09	6.25	84.75



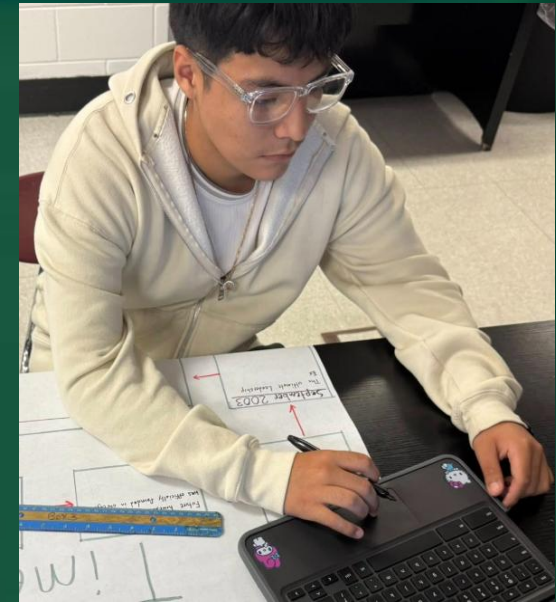
ADM USED for Funding	
FY2019	874.25
FY2020	861.65
FY2021	838.60
FY2022	805.95
FY2023	781.50
FY2024	806.15
FY2025	838.95
FY2026	848.05
FY2027	809.15



Special Revenue Fund

Primary Funding Sources	FY2026 Budget	FY2027 Budget	FY2026- FY2027Chg.
Federal Funds:			
IDEA: Part B - Special Education	\$ 775,600	\$ 747,925	\$ (27,675)
Pre-School	22,691	23,039	348
Title I, Part A	1,035,107	1,030,404	(4,703)
Title II - Class Size Reduction/Prof. Dev.	149,585	167,289	17,704
Title III - English as a Second Language (ESL)	11,976	10,690	(1,286)
Title IV - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	100,023	78,639	(21,384)
Title V - Rural Education	104,334	90,056	(14,278)
Perkins Federal Vocational	50,726	53,778	3,052
Child Nutrition Program	2,361,539	2,396,414	34,875
	\$4,611,581	\$4,598,234	\$ (13,347)
Local School Funds:			
Local School Public Funds (fundraisers)	\$ 925,219	\$ 925,404	\$ 185

Does not include carryover from prior year.
Does not include ALL Special Revenue funding sources.



Debt Service Fund

<u>Debt Service Revenue</u>	<u>Amount</u>
State Capital Projects Funds - PSF	\$ 558,208
State Capital Projects Funds - Fleet Renewal	52,109
Local Tax Revenue	5,250,000
Total Debt Service Fund Revenue	<u>\$ 5,860,317</u>

<u>Debt Service Payments</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BUS (Final payment 12/2026)	\$ 52,109
2023 Warrants	1,590,489
2022 Warrants	1,090,350
2020 Warrants	3,127,369
Total Debt Service Payments	<u>\$ 5,860,317</u>



Capital Projects Fund

Public School Fund Revenue	\$ 308,450
Fleet Renewal Revenue	152,578
Bond Interest Earned	175,000
Transfers in for Bond Payments	5,808,208
Total Capital Projects Fund Revenue	\$ 6,444,236
BRHS Construction & Soft Costs	\$ 2,424,000
Bond Payments	\$ 5,808,208
Fleet Renewal Reserved for Future Bus Purchase	\$ 247,448

Bond Payments	FY2026	FY2027	Year-to-Year Chg.
Principal	\$ 1,736,219.00	\$ 2,300,000.00	\$ 563,781.00
Interest	3,725,039.00	3,508,208.00	(216,831.00)
Total Debt Fund 14	\$ 5,461,258.00	\$ 5,808,208.00	\$ 346,950.00



It's a great
day to be a
WILDCAT!



Fiduciary Expendable Trust

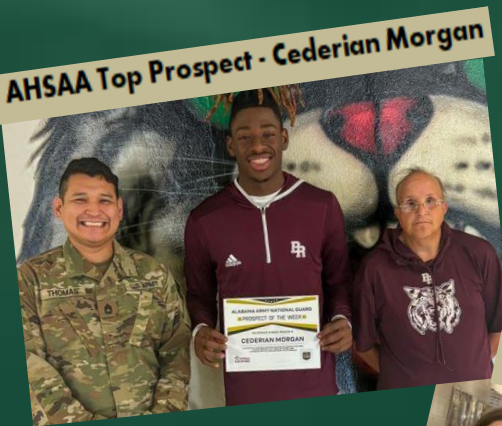
Non-Public Local School Funds

\$ 713,192

Student Organizations

Booster Clubs

Scholarship Funds



PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES BY SCHOOL

ALL FUNDING SOURCES - STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY	BEN RUSSELL HIGH	JIM PEARSON ELEMENTARY	STEPHENS INTERMEDIATE	RADNEY JR. HIGH	TOTAL (Memo Only)
EXPENDITURES:					
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$ 6,717,557	\$ 4,622,692	\$ 3,766,182	\$ 3,802,697	\$ 18,909,128
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	1,634,906	1,364,575	1,213,608	1,039,140	5,252,229
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	648,455	352,569	280,883	295,629	1,577,536
AUXILIARY SERVICES	617,304	666,965	614,926	590,354	2,489,549
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	-	-	-	1,619	1,619
CAPITAL OUTLAY	4,974,000	-	-	-	4,974,000
DEBT SERVICES	5,808,208	-	-	-	5,808,208
OTHER EXPENDITURES	5,941,907	948,824	152,973	108,927	7,152,631
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 26,342,337</u>	<u>\$ 7,955,625</u>	<u>\$ 6,028,572</u>	<u>\$ 5,838,366</u>	<u>\$ 46,164,900</u>





ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

Thank you for attending!

Dr. Jose Reyes, Jr., Superintendent
Mrs. Lisa Dickerson, Chief Financial Officer

Submit questions and comments by 9/14 on the forms provided.

Submit questions and comments by 9/14 on the forms provided.

**ALEXANDER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMBINED BUDGET OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
DEFINITIONS AND TERMS**

Revenues:

State Revenues	State funds raised by taxation
Federal Revenues	Federal funds raised by taxation and awarded to us through SDE
Local Revenues	Property tax, sales tax, use/beer/manuf. home tax, business privilege tax, city appropriation, reimb. field trip bus drivers, tuition
Other Sources	Field trip mileage, extended day program

Total Revenues

Total of amounts listed in the Revenue section

Expenditures:

Instructional Services	*Interaction between teachers and students
Instructional Support Services	Support and administration necessary to facilitate instruction - school admin, counselors, librarians, nurses, speech therapists, technology techs and PD
Operation & Maintenance	Cost of keeping buildings and grounds functional, safe and comfortable - maintenance, groundskeeping, janitorial
Auxiliary Services	Activities or services functioning in a subsidiary capacity and lending assistance to the education process - transportation, child nutrition
General Admin Services	Establishing and administering policy for the operation of the system - central office, technology, Board expenses
Capital Outlay	Site and building purchases and improvements
Debt Services	Payments of debt held on the System's books.
Other Expenditures	Programs that are not considered part of the regular instructional day - extended day programs, tutoring, summer feeding, preschool

Total Expenditures

Total of amounts listed in the Expenditure section

Other Fund Sources (Uses):

Other Fund Sources	Indirect cost from Title Programs, Federal Grants, Child Nutrition
Other Fund Uses	Pass thru to Child Nutrition for raises since 1993 and all benefits (required but can receive a waiver if CNP fund bal exceeds 2 months), other transfers

**ALEXANDER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMBINED BUDGET OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
DEFINITIONS AND TERMS**

EXHIBIT B-1-A

Fund Types & Account Groups		*****Governmental*****				*****Fiduciary*****	
<u>Description</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Expendable Trust</u>		
	Main operating accounts for Board	Restricted Revenues such as Federal, Child Nutrition, and Public local school funds	Transfers to Regions Bank for debt payments	Building maintenance and upkeep, technology, and bus purchases Debt payments	Non-Public local school funds - including boosters and student organizations		
Revenues:	State Revenues Federal Revenues Local Revenues Other Sources	State funds raised by taxation Federal funds raised by taxation and awarded to us through SDE Property tax, sales tax, use/beer/manuf. home tax, business privilege tax, city appropriation, reimb. field trip bus drivers, tuition Field trip mileage, extended day program					
Total Revenues	Total of amounts listed in the Revenue section						
Expenditures:	Instructional Services Instructional Support Services Operation & Maintenance Auxiliary Services General Admin Services Capital Outlay Debt Services Other Expenditures	*Interaction between teachers and students Support and administration necessary to facilitate instruction - school admin, counselors, librarians, nurses, speech therapists, technology techs and PD Cost of keeping buildings and grounds functional, safe and comfortable - maintenance, groundskeeping, janitorial Activities or services functioning in a subsidiary capacity and lending assistance to the education process - transportation, child nutrition Establishing and administering policy for the operation of the system - central office, technology, Board expenses Site and building purchases, improvements and construction Payments of debt Programs that are not considered part of the regular instructional day - extended day programs, tutoring, summer feeding, preschool					
Total Expenditures	Total of amounts listed in the Expenditure section						
Other Fund Sources (Uses):	Other Fund Sources Other Fund Uses	Indirect cost from Title Programs, Federal Grants, Child Nutrition Pass thru to Child Nutrition for raises since 1993 and all benefits (required but can receive a waiver if CNP fund bal exceeds 2 months), other transfers					
Total Other Fund Sources (Uses)	Total Other Fund Sources less Other Fund Uses						
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Fund Uses	Revenues less Expenses plus Other Fund Sources less Other Fund Uses						
Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues less expenses accumulated for previous years						
Ending Fund Balance	Beginning Fund Balance plus Excess Revenues & Other Sources for current month						

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*The function of expenditures include all staffing, materials, equipment, etc. needed to support the function.