

Griffith Public Schools Budget Workshop

Form 3, Form 4B, Budget Comparisons

October 2026

Agenda



Budget Process & Cycle



Budget Principles — Expenditures & Revenue



Appropriated Funds & Flow of Funding



2027 Budget — Advertised



Prior-Year Comparison



Budget Calendar



Next Steps

Budget Cycle

An 18-month cycle of review, collection, and projection



Review (2025)

Analyze fiscal performance against the prior budget. Reconcile fund balances and receipts.



Collect (Jan-Jul 2026)

Define needs and align goals. Gather source reports: fund reports, levies, settlements, debt.



Project (2026–2027)

Forecast to test feasibility. Advertise, hold the public hearing, and adopt the 2027 budget.

Budget Principles — Expenditures

Build projections with high-side risk protection



Protect the high side when possible

Build in contingencies for flexibility — much can change over 18 months.



Unknown costs

Inflation, insurance, salaries, facilities, and utilities all shift.



Anticipate uncertainty

Emergencies, mandates, enrollment shifts, and litigation.

Budget Principles — Revenue

Build projections on conservative assumptions



Enrollment (ADM)

Counted twice a year; drives the Education Fund and part of Operations funding.



Assessed Value (NAV)

NAV and the levy set the tax rate. Swings affect circuit-breaker losses, referendum revenue, and debt capacity.



Miscellaneous Revenue

Interest, vehicle/license excise, local income tax, rentals, and other non-tax receipts.

Resolutions

Tools to work with:

Additional Appropriations

Appropriations Reduction

Appropriated Funds

The 5 funds requesting 2027 appropriation — \$32,014,330 in total



Education

\$15,263,057

Instruction & teacher pay.
Revenue: state tuition support, misc.
Circuit breaker: N/A (no levy).



Debt Service

\$7,861,234

Debt repayment.
Revenue: property tax levy.
Circuit breaker: protected — funded before Operations.



Operations

\$5,060,039

School operations.
Revenue: property tax levy, transfers from Education.
Circuit breaker: absorbs the loss.



Rainy Day

\$150,000

Reserve against shortfalls.
Revenue: transfers in — no levy.
Appropriated only when the board approves a use.



Referendum

\$3,680,000

Voter-approved operating support.
Revenue: referendum levy at the approved rate.
Circuit breaker: exempt.

Each fund is appropriated separately. A fund not advertised here cannot be appropriated later in the 2027 budget year.

Flow of School Funding

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

State Aid

Tuition support distributed by the State



Education

Property Taxes

Levies certified by the DLGF



Operations

Debt Service

Operating Referendum

Transfers

Movement between the district's own funds



Rainy Day

- Operations levies are limited by the MLGQ.
- The state-aid transfer from Education to Operations is capped at 15%.
- Referendum levies sit outside the MLGQ and are exempt from the tax caps.

Advertised Budget Comparison

2026 certified certified vs 2027 advertised

Fund	2026 certified Levy	2027 Levy	Δ Levy	2026 certified Rate	2027 Rate	Δ Rate
Education	\$0	\$0	+\$0	0.0000	0.0000	+0.0000
Debt Service	\$6,825,051	\$7,872,207	+\$1,047,156	0.6811	0.9820	+0.3009
Operations	\$3,133,451	\$3,346,891	\$213,440	0.3127	0.4175	+0.1048
Rainy Day	\$0	\$0	+\$0	0.0000	0.0000	+0.0000
Referendum	\$3,536,903	\$3,693,669	+\$156,766	0.3294	0.4300	+0.1006
TOTAL	\$13,495,405	\$14,912,767	+\$1,417,362	1.3232	1.8295	+0.5063



Next Steps

Advertise → Public Hearing → Adoption → Submit to DLGF → 1782 Notice → Certification
