Citizen's Guide to the District Budget

2026-2027

Lakewood School District No.306

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From the Superintendent

October 2026

Lakewood School District Community Members:

The Citizen's Guide to the District's Budget will be released annually alongside the district's board-approved budget (F-195) and is financial information in a condensed format that helps build understanding of how schools are funded and how we in Lakewood School District choose to allocate district revenues. Thanks for taking the time to review the information in this guide.

Our district has continued to work to create a budget that supports sustainability and solvency. While our district expenditures currently outpace our revenues, we are continuing to work to reduce this gap with plans to create a balanced budget (expenditures aligned to revenues) in the next couple of years. In addition, we are grateful for the support of our community in passing both our Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) and Capital levies in April of 2024. As a community, we truly came together to navigate these turbulent waters and create academic, social, and emotional support to serve our students.

Due to strong fiscal management from the School Board, along with some increases in apportionment from the state of Washington, I am pleased to share that LWSD is in a state of strong fiscal health. The district continues to meet the Board's goal of maintaining a strong fund balance while ensuring these resources support our students and the three foundational pillars established through adoption of our strategic plan. I believe in our schools and the strong work we are doing to support students and families in alignment with these pillars.

In 2023, we created a Citizen's Guide to the Budget for Lakewood School District with the hope that it would provide a baseline from which community members could compare the current district budget (revenues and expenditures) in relation to historical financial data. Each fall, we update this document to reflect the current year's budget and enrollment, and to provide the opportunity for community members to learn more about district finances and compare this year's budget to prior years.

All the information in this Citizen's Guide is based on information contained in our district's F-195 budget document; a financial statement filed annually with Washington State's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). We will gladly provide a copy of that form if you are interested in further detail after reviewing this summary; alternately, you can download the document on our website (https://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/departments/business-office) or on the state OSPI website: (https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/school-apportionment/safs-report and select Fiscal > District > Lakewood School District).

Again, we appreciate that you have taken the time to review this information and thank you for your continued support of our schools and students. Should you have questions about any of the information within, please do not hesitate to call me or James Peckham, Executive Director of Finance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erin Murphy
Superintendent

CONTENTS

Board of Directors 2

Administration 2

From the Desk of the Superintendent 3

Schools and Programs 5

Enrollment and Staffing 6

- Enrollment and Staffing FTE 7
- Enrollment Trends 7

The Budget 8

- District Funds 9
- Total Financing Sources by Fund 9
  - * Explanation of Changes 10
- General Fund Revenue 11
  - * Where Does the Money Come From? 11
  - * General Fund Revenue Source Descriptions 12
- General Fund Expenditures 14
  - * How Are Your Tax Dollars Spent? 14
  - * Expenditures 14

Appendix I 19

- Local Taxes 19
  - * Bonds 19
  - * Educational Programs and Operations levy 19

Appendix II 20

- 2026-27 General Fund Budget Summary 20

Appendix III 21

- Glossary of Selected State Programs 20

Schools and Programs

Cougar Creek Elementary School

Cougar Creek Elementary serves students from Kindergarten through Grade 5. Cougar Creek is situated on a beautifully quiet and serene setting amidst pasture lands and trees. Cougar Creek was built in 2002, opening the doors in the fall of 2003, through the generous support of our community tax dollars.

English Crossing Elementary School

English Crossing Elementary opened in the fall of 1995 and serves students from Kindergarten through Grade 5. The academic program is enhanced by music, PE, and library instruction provided by qualified specialists in those areas. Technology has an important place in our school. All of our teachers receive ongoing instruction in the use of technology and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards, computers, document cameras and projectors.

Lakewood Elementary School

Lakewood Elementary serves students from Preschool through Grade 5 and is centrally located within the district. Originally opening in 1958, LES has experienced multiple additions over the years, with the most recent improvements to the building occurring in 2005 and 2008. LES is also home to our district's Transitional Kindergarten classroom.

Lakewood Middle School

Lakewood Middle School serves students in Grades 6 through 8. The middle school serves as a transition from the broad elementary program to a more specialized and intensive secondary program. Students are given both structure and freedom to begin making their own decisions and to establish their own interests and values. LMS is home to a new STEM Lab, completed in 2021, which was funded with state construction assistance funding. Lakewood was eligible for this state funding thanks to community support of the 2014 bond measure.

Lakewood High School

Lakewood High School is a comprehensive, accredited high school, serving students in Grades 9 through 12. The current building opened in 2017, thanks to community support of the 2014 bond measure. The school opened with features such as safety improvements, science laboratory classrooms, a metal shop/construction classroom, a culinary classroom, a performing arts space, and an auxiliary gymnasium that allows more than one sports team to practice at the same time. The school focus is on preparing students to meet the challenges of college and career by developing strong academic programs in reading, writing, math, and technical skills. We have expanded elective programs to include a growing and diverse Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which includes offerings such as Advanced Animal Biology – Veterinary Science, Core Plus Construction and American Sign Language (ASL). We

also offer a comprehensive range of activities and athletic programs to provide a balanced educational program for our students.

Lakewood Online Academy

Lakewood Online Academy serves students in Grades 6 through 12. Online Academy is an option for students and families who need flexibility in their schedules, who work well independently, and who are resourceful when encountering a challenge.

Enrollment and Staffing

Lakewood School District serves approximately 2,609 students (October 2026 full-time equivalent) with varied needs and abilities. We employ close to 400 full- and part-time staff, including teachers, support personnel and administrators (certificated and classified staff). The following section discusses the importance of enrollment in determining our budget.

Why is student enrollment important? How is it measured?

Most of the revenue we receive from the state is determined by student enrollment. Student enrollment is measured using either Annual Average Full-Time Equivalent (AAFTE) or Headcount, as follows:

- **AAFTE** measures the average amount of time a student is enrolled during a school year and is normally used for determining funding. To be counted as full-time, a student must be enrolled for a minimum number of minutes on each prescribed count day for school months running from September through June. Students who attend less than full-time are considered less than 1.0 FTE. For instance, a student who is enrolled full-time (every day for the entire year) is considered to be 1.0 FTE. On the other hand, a senior who is only enrolled in two courses (two classes each day for the full year) would be approximately 0.4 FTE.

- **STUDENT HEADCOUNT** reflects the actual number of students that attend on a given day regardless of how many minutes per day they attend. This measure is normally used when considering physical capacity. Using the senior example, both a full-time and a part-time senior student would each receive a full headcount of 1 (one).

Staffing

District staffing is also measured by FTE, with 1.0 FTE being the equivalent of a full-time employee. The number of days an employee works varies among positions and bargaining groups. For instance, a 1.0 FTE teacher's base contract includes 180 days a year, for 8 hours per day. Administrative staff work 260 days a year (depending on whether they are full-time), for 8 hours per day.

School-based staffing levels, both certificated (instructional staff) and classified (non-certificated staff), are determined by AAFTE for each school and are distributed in consideration of the state funding formula and building-specific needs.

The following table lists the average annual FTE enrollment for each grade level in Lakewood School District, along with full-time equivalent staffing:

Enrollment and Staffing FTE*

3 Year History

Students	2024-25 Actual Average FTE	2025-26 Budget FTE	2026-27 Budget FTE
Kindergarten	189	175	175
Grade 1	174	197	197
Grade 2	221	177	204
Grade 3	204	238	195
Grade 4	181	207	240
Grade 5	206	196	216
Grade 6	236	219	201
Grade 7	210	239	216
Grade 8	204	213	227
Grade 9	218	223	210
Grade 10	182	219	207
Grade 11	182	133	276
Grade 12	119	127	127
Running Start	*34*	*30*	*45*
Dropout Reengagement	*5*	*4*	*5*
ALE Enrollment	*48*	*40*	*41*
Total K-12 Students	**2612**	**2637**	**2682**

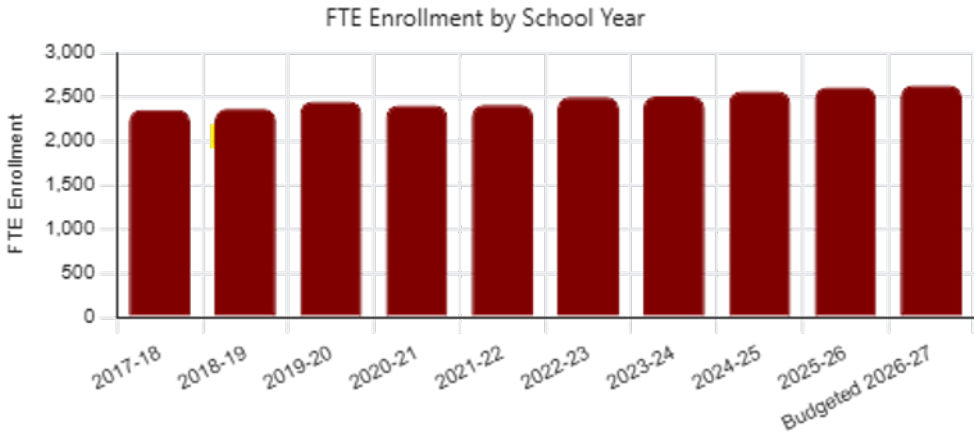
Staff	2024-25 Actual Average FTE	2025-26 Budget FTE	2026-27 Budget FTE
Certificated Employees	185	188	189
Classified Employees	125	128	135
Total Staff (does not include substitutes)	**310**	**316**	**324**

**Enrollment numbers have been rounded to the closest whole number. Note F195 shows actual numbers for 25-26 as of June as budgeted enrollment had to be updated to perform the F200 budget extension*

Enrollment Trends

The following charts and tables illustrate average annual full-time equivalent (AAFTE) enrollment trends. This data looks at average attendance each year and has been taken directly from the OSPI Report 1251

Full-time Enrollment, which is available at: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/school-apportionment/safs-report (Apportionment dropdown). Running Start and ALE students have not been included in the AAFTE enrollment numbers.



School Year	FTE Enrollment*
2017-18	2,356
2018-19	2,368
2019-20	2,448
2020-21	2,403
2021-22	2,412
2022-23	2,503
2023-24	2,510
2024-25	2,564
2025-26	2,613
Budgeted 2026-27	2,632

The Budget

Our budget is a financial tool that guides the collection and distribution of resources in accordance with Washington state law, OSPI regulations, the Board's educational priorities, and District policies, as well as sound financial management principles.

Our fiscal year begins September 1 and ends August 31. The budget process begins in late winter and culminates when the Superintendent submits a recommended budget to the Board, usually in August. This recommendation is based on projected enrollment, projected revenues and other resources, program requirements, and any mandated changes.

The following sections discuss our funds and projected financing sources for each one. The remaining sections focus on the General Fund.

District Funds

To better manage its resources and comply with state and federal accounting requirements, we use five different funds, or accounts, as follows:

The **GENERAL FUND** accounts for daily operations. Included in this fund are all recurring financial activities, such as teacher salaries, food services, custodial and maintenance support, and central administration costs. Revenue sources primarily include a state allocation based on student enrollment, local property taxes, state special purpose, federal special and general purpose, and local non-tax revenue. Detailed descriptions of these sources are included in the following section.

The **CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND** is used to finance and pay for capital improvements. These could include land acquisition, construction of new buildings, site improvements, major building renovations, replacement of plumbing, electrical or heating systems, and the equipping of new facilities. Revenues from bonds, some levies, and sales and lease of property are retained here. In addition, the Capital Projects Fund also includes funds for infrastructure, projects and technology improvements funded through the Technology Levy.

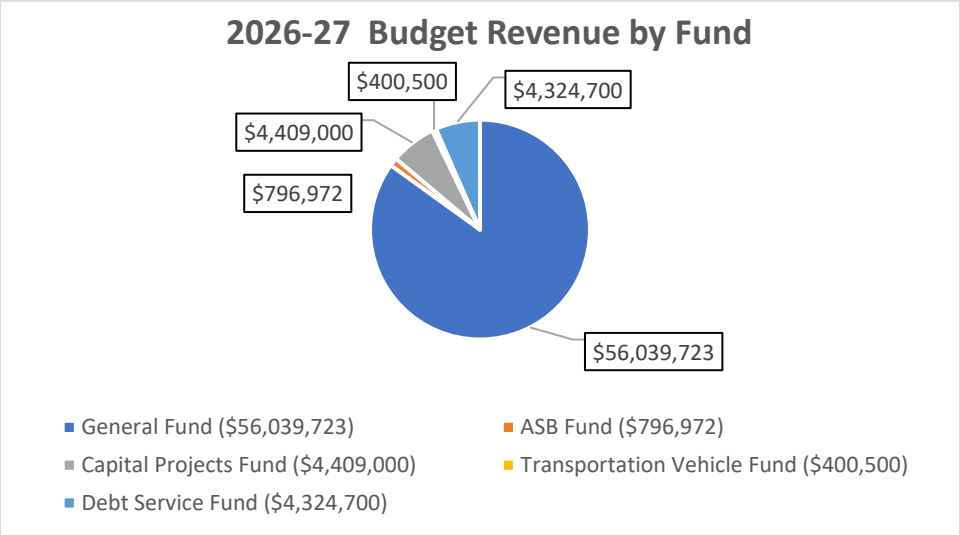
The **DEBT SERVICE FUND** accounts for the redemption of bonds and the payment of interest on bonds, which were sold to fund capital improvements. Proceeds from bond sales are credited to the Capital Projects Fund. The income generated in this fund comes from local property taxes. See **Appendix I** for more information on taxes.

The **ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB) FUND** accounts for funds raised by students at each school. Each student body organization prepares and submits an annual budget for Board approval. Revenues are derived from fundraisers and student fees.

The **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FUND** is used for the purchase, major repair, and rebuilding of school buses. This fund's primary source of revenue is bus depreciation payments received from the state.

Total Financing Sources by Fund

The following chart depicts the current year's budgeted financing sources. A 3-year summary follows and was taken directly from the 2026-27 LWSD F195 Budget document.



Fund	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
General Fund ($56,039,723)	$51,524,877	$52,607,129	$56,039,723
ASB Fund ($796,972)	$370,730	$517,105	$796,972
Capital Projects Fund ($4,409,000)	$2,709,990	$3,885,000	$4,409,000
Transportation Vehicle Fund ($400,500)	$1,954,113	$910,295	$400,500
Debt Service Fund ($4,324,700)	$13,772,133	$4,200,480	$4,324,700
TOTAL REVENUE	$70,331,843	$62,120,009	$65,970,895

State law does not allow funds from the Capital Projects, Debt Service or Transportation Vehicle Funds to be transferred to, and used in, the General Fund, to offset reductions or other needs, such as staffing reductions.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES - 2026-2027

Lakewood School District remains in good fiscal health, once again meeting the Board of Directors' goal of maintaining a 7%-10% fund balance (Policy 6022). As a District, we have worked to be effective stewards of our resources and have expanded our programs and supports for students in alignment with our core mission and vision. We continue to work to recruit and retain high-quality staff to work with our students. To support the Lakewood Strategic Plan, we allocated resources to fund programs and positions that support teaching and learning, create an environment of belonging, and support student social and emotional health.

We utilize state and levy funding to retain staff to support differentiated learning opportunities for our students. This allows us to more effectively meet the individual academic and behavior support needs of our students, while continuing to offer exciting enrichment and academic support programs districtwide. In addition to these instructional support positions, we have continued to invest in our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to serve our secondary students. Upgrades to the District's technology infrastructure – both wired and wireless – has allowed for a significant infusion of devices in schools. Technology training for staff continues to be a priority.

In the **Debt Service Fund**, the District maintains the planned repayment cycle on bonds issued to fund the building of the new Lakewood High School.

In the **Capital Projects Fund**, the District continues to engage in the work that has been generously voted upon and approved by our community. This includes the management of the voter-approved bond in April 2014, from which a bond of $46,285,000 was issued in 2014 and $12,605,000 was issued in 2015. Through the utilization of these funds, the District has accomplished many projects, which can be accessed at: https://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/departments/facilities/capitalprojects. In February 2024 and September 2024, the District worked to reduce the burden of this debt to taxpayers by refinancing our construction bonds at lower interest rates. See more information on the bonds in Appendix I.

In the **Transportation Vehicle Fund**, the district is adapting to Senate Bill 6260, which was adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 2026. This bill enacted two significant changes to school bus depreciation and reimbursement schedules. It extended the replacement timeline for school buses by two years, from 8 to 10 years for large buses and from 13 to 15 years for small buses. It also changed how depreciation funding is calculated for electric buses. Districts will now receive depreciation funding closer to the replacement cost of a diesel bus rather than an electric bus, increasing the local share of future replacement costs for electric buses. While the district has invested in electric buses and supporting infrastructure using state grants and incentives, these legislative changes are likely to affect how the district plans for future bus replacements. As stewards of taxpayer resources, the district will need to evaluate whether continuing to invest in electric buses is financially sustainable and represents the best value for the community.

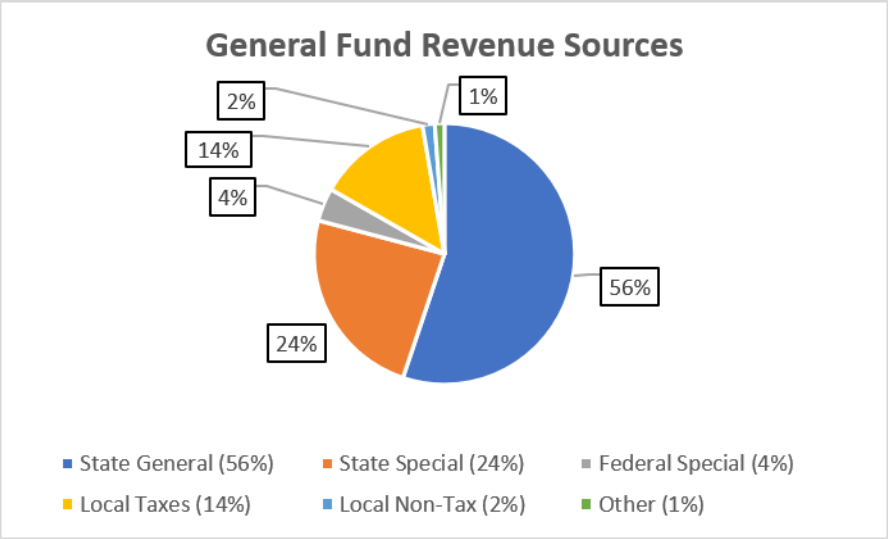
The **Associated Student Body Fund** is where student-raised funds are managed. Each year, we budget the fund near its potential capacity to allow flexibility for students. However, actual spending is typically less, and is limited to the actual funds raised and available.

General Fund Revenue

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Our largest source of revenue comes from the state's General Purpose or Apportionment allocation, which is funded primarily by the state sales tax. This is followed by funding from the state for Special Purpose and our local Educational Programs and Operations levy.

The following chart and table provide a summary of the General Fund revenue sources over the past three years. Descriptions of these sources follow.



Source	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
State General (56%)	$ 28,583,885	$ 29,615,054	$ 30,911,043
State Special (24%)	$ 11,748,277	$ 12,221,859	$ 13,428,453
Federal Special (4%)	$ 2,546,098	$ 2,132,001	$ 2,298,048
Local Taxes (14%)	$ 7,147,716	$ 7,432,715	$ 7,888,639
Local Non-Tax (2%)	$ 1,009,909	$ 712,500	$ 847,500
Other (1%)	$ 488,992	$ 493,000	$ 666,040
TOTAL REVENUE	$ 51,524,877	$ 52,607,129	$ 56,039,723

GENERAL FUND REVENUE SOURCE DESCRIPTIONS

State General Purpose **2026-27 Budget is $30,911,043**

General Apportionment is allocated by the state to support basic education operations. Funding is determined by our ten-month average student enrollment (see Enrollment and Staffing section).

State Special Purpose **2026-27 Budget is $13,428,453**

State Special Purpose allocations are for specific educational and support programs. They include funds for special education, Learning Assistance Program (LAP), student transportation operations, and

transitional bilingual education programs. This funding is specific to its assigned purpose and cannot be used in other ways.

Federal Special Purpose **2026-27 Budget is $2,298,048**

Federal Special Purpose grants provide funding for programs to support specific student populations and programs, such as special education, vocational education, Title I, Title II, and school food service. Each federal grant comes with its own requirements and rules for its use and can only be used for the intended purpose.

Local Taxes **2026-27 Budget is $7,888,639**

We receive the second largest portion of our revenue from local property taxes, which fund essential program expenditures beyond our state-provided resources. Current local tax revenues are based on the Educational Programs and Operations levy passed by voters for four years with tax collections in 2025-28.

The Educational Programs and Operations levy property tax rate was $1.75 per $1,000 of assessed valuation for 2022, $1.53 in 2023, $1.61 in 2024, $1.65 in 2025 and $1.57 in the 2026 calendar year. Per state law, the maximum amount of levy taxes that could be collected, starting in 2020, was the lesser of $2.50 per $1,000 of assessed value or $2,500 per pupil (based on prior year enrollment). Levy rates will vary from year to year due to inflationary effects and fluctuations of enrollment, as well as changes to assessed valuation of all properties in the District. See **Appendix I** for more information on taxes.

Other Revenue Sources **2026-27 Budget is $666,040**

Some expenditures in the General Fund can qualify for reimbursement through certain monies from Capital Projects funds. These funds can be used for non-capital technology and/or maintenance and repair costs.

Local Non-Tax **2026-27 Budget is $847,500**

This revenue source includes fees for goods and services, such as facility use fees and Food Service revenues. It also includes donations (PTA) and interest earnings.

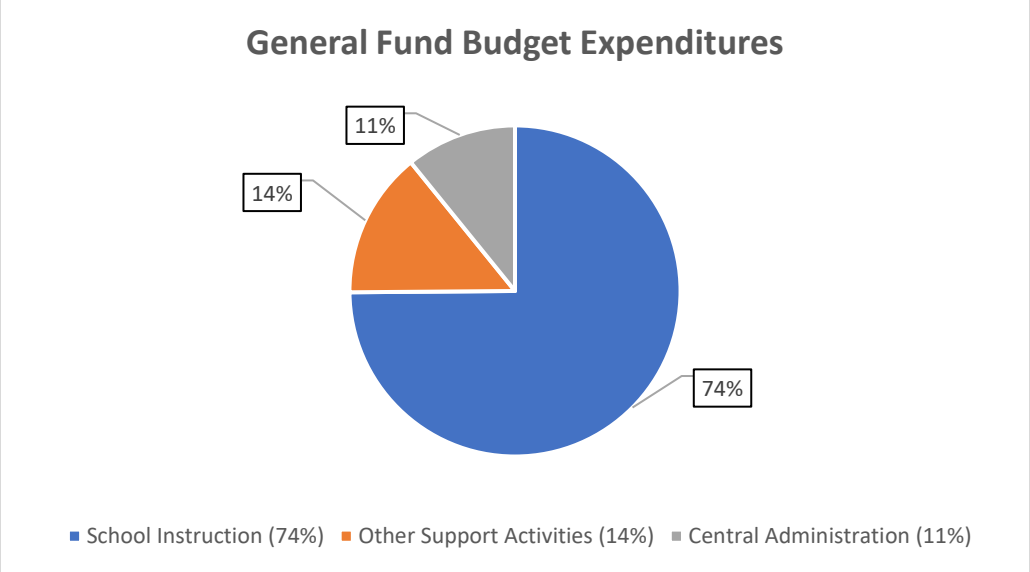
General Fund Expenditures

HOW ARE YOUR TAX DOLLARS SPENT?

Lakewood School District continues to be appreciative of the tremendous support we receive from our community taxpayers and our partners. As a District, we always strive to operate efficiently and to be good stewards of tax dollars.

About three-quarters of the General Fund budget will be spent directly on school instruction, including teaching activities, support and building administration (i.e., teachers, librarians, nurses, principals, counselors, and extracurricular activities). Other support activities, such as custodial and maintenance personnel, food services, and utilities, amount to 14%. Central administration makes up the remaining 11% of the budget.

The following chart and table depict how District revenues are allocated. Descriptions of these activities follow.



EXPENDITURES

We allocate resources according to five categories: Teaching Activities; Teaching Support; Building Administration; Other Support Activities; and Central Administration.

General Fund Expenditures, by Activity

Source	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
Teaching Activities	$28,993,599	$30,456,854	$32,881,574
Teaching Support	$ 5,885,348	$ 6,774,643	$ 7,386,557
Other Support Activities	$ 7,585,713	$ 7,758,173	$ 8,082,477
Building Administration	$ 2,442,104	$ 2,611,059	$ 2,748,680
Central Administration	$ 5,673,034	$ 5,692,061	$ 6,130,368
TOTAL	**$50,579,798**	**$53,292,790**	**$57,229,656**

Definitions are taken from the *Accounting Manual for Public School Districts in the State of Washington* (Olympia: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2026-27, http://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/school-apportionment/instructions-and-tools/accounting-manual) and include their respective OSPI-defined activity codes (**in parentheses**).

Teaching Activities **2026-27 Budget is $32,881,574**

This consists of direct instruction as well as extracurricular activities that enrich the overall quality of classroom instruction.

- **TEACHING (27)** includes classroom teachers and aides who assist students in acquiring new or improved knowledge, skills and comprehension. Supplies, materials and equipment used in classroom instruction are also included.

- **EXTRACURRICULAR (28)** activities include athletic coaching and transportation for activities not paid for by the Associated Student Body (ASB) fund, as well as class or student activity advising, and supervising ASB fund accounting.

Teaching Support **2026-27 Budget is $7,386,557**

This consists of teaching support activities, examples of which include learning resource centers, student guidance and counseling, and health services.

- **LEARNING RESOURCES (22)** includes library services to ensure that a systematic organization of books and other reference materials are available for use by students and staff districtwide. This activity also provides materials and resources specifically designed to improve learning.

- **GUIDANCE & COUNSELING (24)** includes helping students by assessing and understanding their abilities, aptitudes, interests, and educational needs, and providing services to meet those needs.

- **PUPIL MANAGEMENT & SAFETY (25)** includes the cost of student supervision personnel.

- **HEALTH SERVICES (26)** involves the duties of school nurses, psychologists, speech/hearing therapists, and their assistants to support the health and welfare of students.

- **INSTRUCTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (31)** includes in-service training, costs of workshops, conferences, supplies; as well as substitutes for release time, and additional contract days and/or extra pay for professional development.

- **INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY (32)** includes computers and related classroom technology such as projectors, document cameras, and operating software.

- **CURRICULUM (33)** includes costs relating to the development and implementation of curriculum for the school district, as well as the cost of new and/or replacement textbooks and other instructional materials related to curriculum.

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (34)** includes professional development funded by the state.

Other Support Activities **2026-27 Budget is $8,082,477**

These activities directly benefit students and bolster the overall educational experience at schools. They include preparing and serving meals as well as ensuring efficient operations and maintenance of buildings and school grounds.

- **FOOD SERVICE—GROCERIES (42)** includes expenditures for all food used in connection with the regular food services program including expenditures for processing, freight, delivery, and storage of food and commodities.

- **FOOD SERVICE—OPERATIONS (44)** involves preparing and serving breakfasts and lunches in connection with school activities, as well as delivering prepared meals to schools.

- **TRANSPORTATION—OPERATIONS (52)** consists of direct operating expenditures for transporting students to/from school, and from one school to another. This includes costs for transporting pupils other than by school buses (i.e., via passenger vehicle).

- **TRANSPORTATION—FLEET MAINTENANCE (53)** consists of costs for maintaining school buses and other vehicles. It includes services such as mechanical repair, painting, safety inspections, cleaning, and preventive maintenance. Other expenses include related services for the garage, such as repair and maintenance of the garage buildings, grounds, and equipment.

- **TRANSPORTATION—VEHICLE INSURANCE (56)** includes expenditures to insure pupil transportation vehicles and to provide liability protection.

- **TRANSPORTATION—TRANSFERS (59)** includes expenditures for transporting pupils on trips in connection with educational programs (for example, educational field trips and the transport of school teams to compete or perform).

- **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (62)** involves the routine care of grounds, such as raking, hoeing, watering, cutting and protecting lawns, and transplanting, trimming and caring for flower beds. It also includes repairing walks, fences, tennis courts, playground surfaces, lawn sprinkling systems, outside flagpoles, driveways, and sewers.

- **OPERATION OF BUILDINGS (63)** includes expenditures for custodians for daily building operation. This includes costs for all small equipment items and consumable supplies used by personnel in operating the building.

- **GENERAL MAINTENANCE (64)** covers costs for carpenters, electricians, glaziers, plumbers and painters to maintain buildings and equipment through repair and upkeep. Services include repainting, resurfacing, refinishing, reshingling, and repairing structures, foundations, doors, windows, and other buildings and fixtures.

- **UTILITIES (65)** include the cost of water, electricity, propane, heating oil, data/voice telecommunications, sewage, and garbage and recycling.

- **BUILDING SECURITY (67)** includes services to protect buildings and other property from unlawful entry, vandalism and burglary.

- **PROPERTY INSURANCE (68)** consists of costs for maintaining property, employee and liability insurance, as well as fidelity bonds.

- **INFORMATION SYSTEMS (72)** involves expenditures to maintain and operate the District's information system and computer network. Purchase of hardware and software, providing technical support, training, systems and database development and/or maintenance, data processing, and storage of data are included.

- **MOTOR POOL (75)** includes the operating expenditures for cars available for staff business use, maintenance vehicles, delivery trucks, and other non-pupil transportation motor-driven equipment. Includes the expenditures for the acquisition of vehicles and for contracted maintenance of vehicles.

- **INTEREST (83)** Interest expenditures, including interest on conditional sales contracts, purchase agreements, and interfund loans.

- **PRINCIPAL (84)** The principal portion of matured debt.

Building Administration **2026-27 Budget is $2,748,680**

- **PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE (23)** pertains to the management of individual schools. It includes administering the school's instructional programs, supervising and evaluating staff, and providing administrative support to teachers and students.

Central Administration **2026-27 Budget is $6,130,368**

Central Administration includes activities related to the general direction, regulation and administration of the district at large. It includes responsibilities that are carried out by the school district's board of directors, the superintendent's office, the business office, and the human resources office. Duties include personnel administration, public information, finance and accounting, research and planning, bookkeeping and statistical services, business administration, fiscal control, and purchasing.

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (11)** includes expenditures to support responsibilities that are not delegated but are retained and carried out by the school district's governing board. This activity also entails costs for board memberships, audits, elections and legal services.

- **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE (12)** includes general administration and the superintendent's office.

- **BUSINESS OFFICE (13)** consists of financial and accounting operations, including districtwide research and planning for budgeting, accounting, bookkeeping, statistical services, business administration, fiscal control, purchasing and payroll.

- **HUMAN RESOURCES (14)** consists of personnel recruitment, compliance and placement activities, employment services, classification and compensation, employee benefits administration, human resources information systems, and labor relations.

- **PUBLIC RELATIONS (15)** consists of writing, editing, and other preparation necessary to disseminate educational and administrative information to parents, students, staff, and the general public through direct mail, news media, e-mail, internet websites, and personal contact.

- **SUPERVISION OF INSTRUCTION, FOOD SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION & MAINTENANCE (21, 41, 51 & 61)** includes expenditures for providing districtwide leadership in developing instructional programs and curriculum, administering food services, transportation and physical plant activities, as well as secretarial and clerical support of these functions.

Appendix I

Local Taxes

There are two types of local taxes collected: Bonds and Levies. Bonds and Capital Levies pay for major construction, renovations, and implementing technology systems. The Educational Programs and Operations levy in the General Fund supports ongoing operational costs beyond those funded by state revenues.

BONDS

Bonds are similar to a "mortgage" for school construction and renovation. Money is borrowed for major construction projects and paid back over a long time period – usually 15 to 20 years. The District has the following outstanding bonds:

Date of Issue	Amount of Original Issue	Estimated Amount Outstanding as of 9/1/2026
8/06/2014	$46,285,000	$25,415,000
3/17/2015	$12,605,000	$7,815,000
Total Voted Bonds	**$58,890,000**	**$33,230,000**

Based on the amount due in the fiscal year (September 1 – August 31), and on changes in assessed valuations, the rate on collections each year can fluctuate. For 2025, the rate of $0.96 per $1,000 of assessed valuation was collected to make principal and interest payments on that debt.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY

Regardless of grade level, the Educational Programs and Operations levy impacts all schools and all students. The levy pays for programs and operating expenses not funded by the state. This includes many elective and Advanced Placement courses at the high school level; technology, textbooks and class materials; transportation and maintenance services; utilities and insurance; many staff members; and athletics and activities. Levy funds are vital to the success of all students and provide an essential revenue stream to our school district.

Levies can be run a year at a time, or for as many as four years. They must be renewed by voters to continue. Lakewood voters approved a four-year replacement levy in April of 2024 to assist with funding for enrichment programs and the schedule of collection for these levies are in the 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 calendar year. The Educational Programs and Operations levy represents 14% of the District's annual general fund revenue.

Appendix II

2026-27 GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY

	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	**$ 8,748,521**	**$ 7,000,000**	**$ 7,100,000**
REVENUES			
State General	$ 28,583,885	$ 29,615,054	$ 30,911,043
State Special	$ 11,748,277	$ 12,221,859	$ 13,428,453
Federal Special	$ 2,546,098	$ 2,132,001	$ 2,298,048
Local Taxes	$ 7,147,716	$ 7,432,715	$ 7,888,639
Local Non-Tax	$ 1,009,909	$ 712,500	$ 847,500
Other	$ 488,992	$ 493,000	$ 666,040
TOTAL	$ 51,524,877	$ 52,607,129	$ 56,039,723
EXPENDITURES			
Teaching Activities	$ 28,993,599	$ 30,456,854	$ 32,881,574
Teaching Support	$ 5,885,348	$ 6,774,643	$ 7,386,557
Other Support Activities	$ 7,585,713	$ 7,758,173	$ 8,082,477
Building Administration	$ 2,442,104	$ 2,611,059	$ 2,748,680
Central Administration	$ 5,673,034	$ 5,692,061	$ 6,130,368
TOTAL	**$ 48,439,197**	**$ 53,292,790**	**$ 57,229,656**
Ending Fund Balance	**$ 11,834,201**	**$ 6,314,339**	**$ 5,910,067**

Appendix III

GLOSSARY OF SELECTED STATE PROGRAMS

- **BASIC EDUCATION:** Free, appropriate kindergarten through twelfth grade public education. Basic education includes instruction in literacy, mathematics, social studies, science, music, art, health, physical education, industrial arts, and other subjects and activities deemed appropriate by each school district. Minimum standards are set by the State.

- **SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Education and related services for all students who receive specially designed instruction in accordance with a properly formulated Individualized Education Program (IEP), from birth to age twenty-one. Students with disabilities are individuals who are classified as developmentally delayed, emotionally/behaviorally disabled, communication disordered, orthopedically impaired, health impaired, specific learning disabled, multiple disabled, deaf, hearing impaired, visually impaired/blind, deaf/blind, autistic, traumatic brain injured, or who by reason thereof require specially designed instruction and/or related services.

- **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** Work skills programs that have been approved for funding by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including State/local match requirements for Federal vocational grants. Vocational work skills include, but are not limited to, family and consumer sciences education, business education, marketing education, agriculture education, health occupations education, trade and industrial education, technology education, and career education.

- **FOOD SERVICES:** Preparing and serving meals and a la carte items to pupils under the National School Lunch Program. Also selling meals and a la carte items to adults. Lakewood School District contracts with Chartwells for our school food service program.

- **PUPIL TRANSPORTATION:** Transporting pupils to and from school, including between schools for educational purposes.