Westminster Public Schools

MONEY MATTER$

FALL 2026-2027



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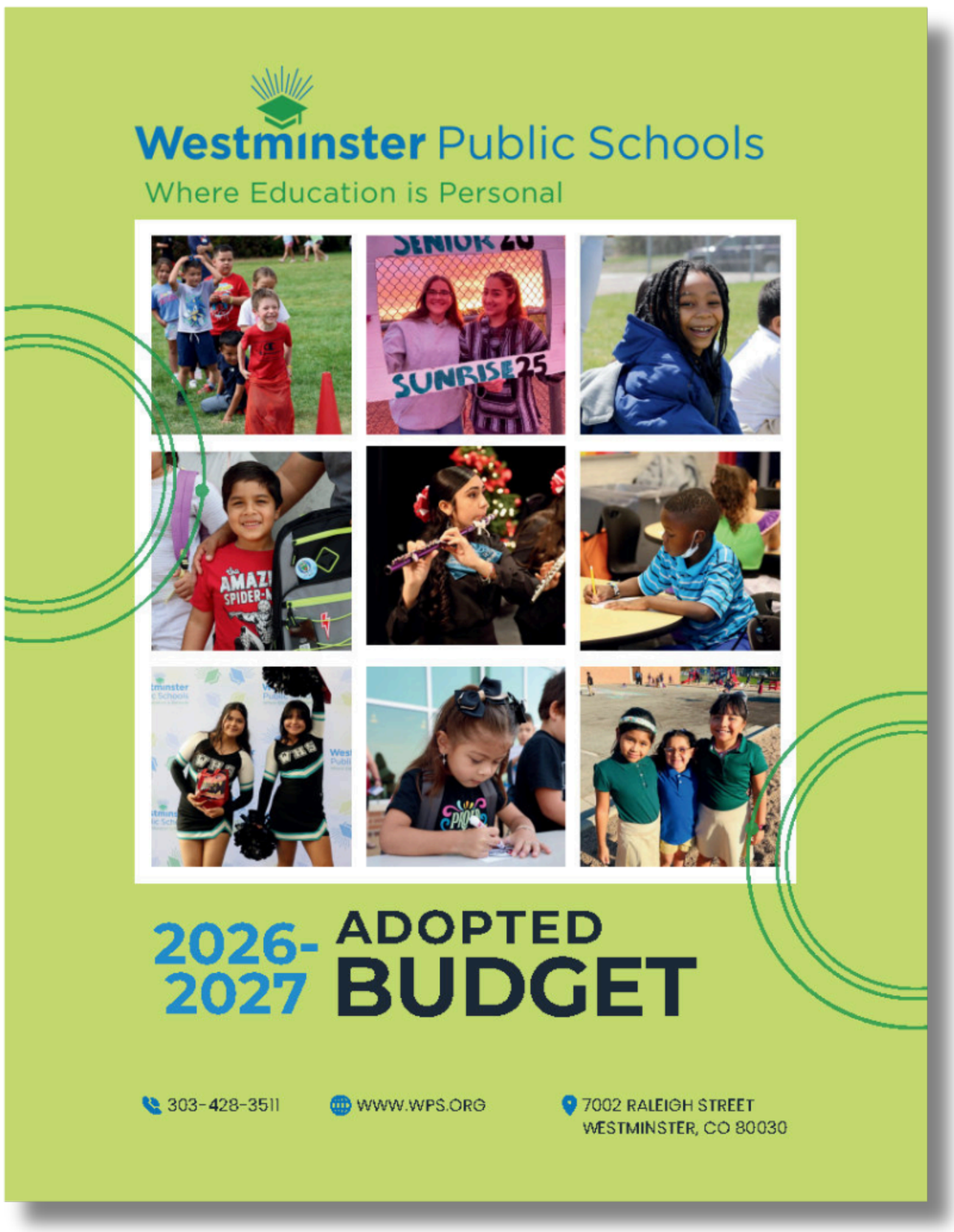


ADOPTED BUDGET

In June, the Board of Education approved the adoption of the 2026-2027 Adopted Budget.

OCTOBER COUNT

The October Count window was September 24th through October 8th, with the official count day on October 1st.

Why the October Count Matters:

Every fall, Colorado school districts participate in the official October Pupil Count, an annual enrollment snapshot that determines each district's Funded Pupil Count (measured in Full-Time Equivalent/FTE students) under the Colorado School Finance Act. Because state equalization aid and total district program funding are tied directly to these counts, October Count serves as the primary financial engine for our operating budget.

BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TOURS RANUM

At the second meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee, the committee met at Ranum Innovation Campus and received a tour of the building and all of the programs currently offered there.

The committee also discussed the ongoing bond projects, including continued work on the Ranum Innovation Campus, beginning construction on the Uplands Discovery Campus, and various building upgrades for the entire district. The committee plans to meet again in either early December or early 2027.

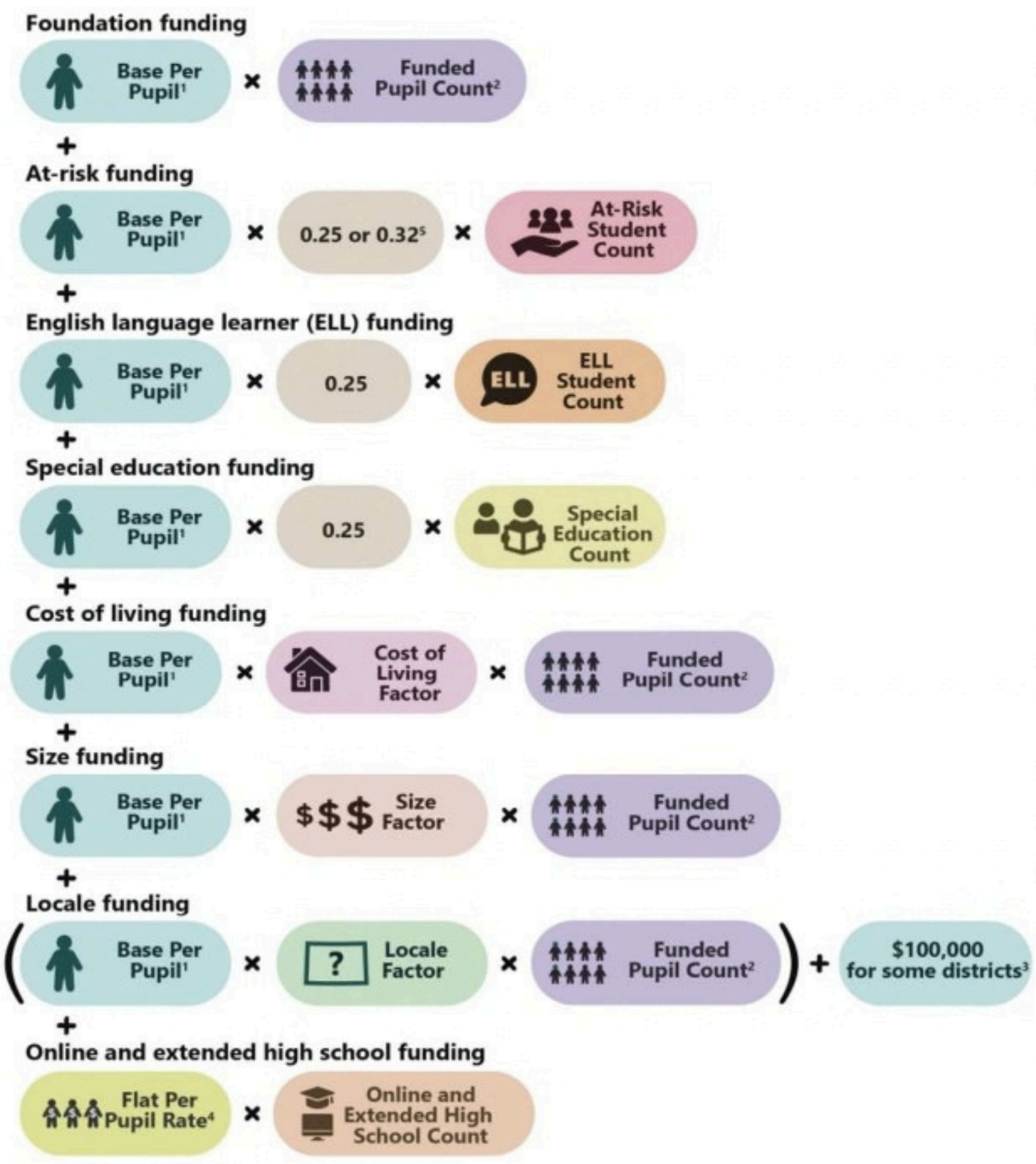
Find more resources here:

Bond Oversight Committee Website

HOW FUNDING WORKS: COLORADO'S NEW FINANCE FORMULA

Under Year Two of Colorado's New School Finance Formula (HB 24-1448), WPS receives a base rate of $8,909.10 per student (including a 2.3% inflation factor). Additional funding multipliers are added based on our student demographics—including +25% for At-Risk students, +25% for English Language Learners (ELL), and +25% for Special Education, plus a Cost-of-Living adjustment.

WPS per-pupil funding is $13,141 per student for 2026–2027 (up from $12,706 in 2025–26). To protect school staffing from fluctuations in student enrollment, state funding relies on a three-year averaging model to keep revenues stable.



NOVEMBER 2026 BALLOT MEASURES AFFECTING EDUCATION

The November 3, 2026 election includes local and statewide measures concerning education funding and taxes. The following summaries provide information and arguments on both sides without recommending a vote.

WPS Mill Levy Ballot Measure

On August 26, 2026, the WPS Board of Education approved placing a mill levy override measure on the ballot. The measure would authorize additional property tax collections under a state-law change increasing the district's override limit from 25% to 27% of Total Program funding. WPS estimates that approval would generate approximately $2 million annually. The district estimates an additional 1.6 mills, increasing property taxes by approximately $4.70 per month, or $56.40 annually, for a home valued at $500,000. Actual amounts would depend on assessed values and applicable assessment rules.
Identified uses include facility safety and security, Career and Technical Education programs, teacher recruitment and retention, and academic achievement initiatives.

- Argument in favor: Additional revenue would provide local funding for the district's identified educational and operational priorities.
- Argument against: Although there is not a new tax, people may see that additional collections could increase property owners' tax bills.

Additional information is available on the WPS ballot measure webpage.

Amendment 87

Amendment 87 would replace Colorado's flat income tax with graduated rates for individuals and businesses beginning in 2027. Rates would decrease on taxable income below $100,000, remain unchanged from $100,001 through $500,000, and increase on portions above $500,000. Additional revenue would fund K–12 education, health care, and early childhood care and education.

- Argument in favor: Supporters cite lower taxes for most taxpayers and additional funding for public services.
- Argument against: Opponents cite potential harm to business investment and economic growth from higher tax rates.

Proposition NN

Proposition NN would permanently increase Colorado's revenue-retention limit, allowing additional spending while reducing or eliminating TABOR refunds. Retained revenue would support education, children's programs, and property tax reimbursements. Some spending requirements change after ten years.

- Argument in favor: Supporters favor directing retained revenue toward schools and children's services.
- Argument against: Opponents argue that reducing or eliminating refunds leaves households with less money and weakens limits on government spending.

For official statewide ballot language, fiscal estimates, and additional arguments for and against these measures, visit the Colorado Blue Book.

EDUCATION FREEDOM TAX CREDIT

Your Tax Dollars. Your Community. Our Students.

What if you could choose to support local public school students with money that would otherwise go toward your federal income taxes?

Starting in 2027, a new federal education tax credit allows eligible taxpayers to donate to qualifying scholarship organizations and receive a dollar-for-dollar federal income tax credit, up to the applicable limit.

Instead of simply paying federal income taxes, you may be able to direct up to $1,700 toward educational opportunities for students through an eligible scholarship organization.

It's a new way to support education with money that would otherwise go toward your federal income tax liability.

You can find additional information here: Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Flyer

NEW THIS YEAR: ONLINE-ONLY OPTION FOR W-2S

For the 2026 calendar year, WPS is offering online only (no paper copies) for W-2s. This option will reduce the cost of paper forms and postage, as well as the possibility of your tax forms getting lost in the mail.

If you would like to elect this option, please complete this form: WPS Employee Consent for Electronic W-2 Delivery

Employees are always able to access their W-2s through the WPS website, under Staff → Employee Portal → Tax documents → Go to pay & tax → Tax documents. All tax forms are in PDF format. This will not change.

Former employees may access their check stubs and W-2s here: Former Employee Access

Should you choose to receive a paper copy, please be sure your address is current. If you need to update it, please complete the Change of Address Form and return it to Amairany Medina.

TSA BENEFITS FOR WPS EMPLOYEES

Employees have the option to participate in payroll deductions for Tax-Sheltered Annuity plans. These employer-sponsored retirement plans offer tax advantages and can significantly boost your long-term savings potential. Contributions must be in whole percentages and may not exceed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Annual Limits.

Employees may elect:
1) PERA 401k, 457 or a Roth
2) 403(b)
3) 457
4) Roth

To participate in a plan with PERA, visit the PERAPlus information page on the PERA website.

To participate in a 403(b), 457, or Roth plan with a different vendor, please see the Universal Availability Notice posted on our website for more information.