OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT
341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Ebony R. Pugh (412) 529-3616

Pittsburgh Public Schools Releases Preliminary 2027 General Fund Budget for Public Review

Preliminary budget reflects progress from Future-Ready Facilities Plan while acknowledging ongoing financial challenges

PITTSBURGH, November 16, 2026 – Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) has released its Preliminary 2027 General Fund Budget, now available for public review at www.pghschools.org/budget.

The Preliminary 2027 General Fund Budget of $740 million represents an $11.14 increase from the 2026 Adopted General Fund Budget. The preliminary budget includes an operating deficit of $13.85 million, which is $8.15 million higher than the 2026 operating deficit of $5.71 million. The proposed budget does not include a millage rate increase and does not meet the Board's policy requiring a minimum fund balance of 5%.

The 2027 Preliminary Budget reflects the initial financial impact of the approved Future-Ready Facilities Plan, with implementation beginning in the 2027–28 school year. Designed to better align schools, staffing, programs, and resources to improve student experience, the plan is expected to strengthen educational opportunities while improving the District's long-term financial sustainability. Without the changes approved through the Future-Ready Facilities Plan, the District's projected operating deficit would be nearly $7 million higher. While these changes are helping to improve the District's financial position, expenditures continue to grow at a faster rate than revenues, placing significant pressure on District finances.

"The Future-Ready Facilities Plan has always been about putting students first and ensuring every child has access to the high-quality educational experiences they deserve," said Superintendent Dr. Wayne N. Walters. "By better aligning our resources with student needs, we are strengthening instruction, expanding opportunities, and improving our financial position. While this plan represents meaningful progress, we have never suggested it would solve every challenge facing our District. We are taking responsibility, making difficult but necessary decisions, and continuing the work needed to build a stronger, more sustainable school system."

Since 2023, District revenues have increased by 4.2%, while expenditures have grown at more than twice that rate, increasing by 8.6%. This widening gap between revenues and expenditures continues to contribute to a structural operating deficit. Although the Preliminary 2027 Budget includes measures to reduce operating costs while prioritizing investments in student learning, addressing the District's long-term financial challenges will require continued efforts to control

The Pittsburgh Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or disability in its programs. activities or employment and provides equal access to designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or (412) 529-HELP (4357).

spending, improve operational efficiency, and direct resources where they will have the greatest impact on student success.

“We knew we could not continue stretching limited resources across an oversized system and expect to deliver the outcomes our students deserve. This plan is about investing differently and more effectively in our students, strengthening instruction, expanding opportunities, and ensuring our youngest learners have the strong academic foundation they need to succeed,” continued Dr. Walters. “The Future-Ready Facilities Plan represents meaningful progress, both educationally and financially, and while more work remains, we are committed to strengthening our financial position while keeping students at the center of everything we do.”

The Board is expected to vote on the 2027 General Fund Budget at its December 23 Legislative Meeting. A 2027 Budget Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public interested in providing comments can find information on how to register at www.pghschools.org/publichearing.

###

The Pittsburgh Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or disability in its programs. activities or employment and provides equal access to designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or (412) 529-HELP (4357).