



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



**Columbia Public Schools
Neil C. Aslin District Administration Building**





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Executive Summary A Message from the Superintendent and Finance Department

The 2025-26 budget represents the financial plan of the Columbia Public School District (“District”) for the coming fiscal year. Its primary purpose is to provide timely and useful information concerning the past, present, and projected financial status of the District to facilitate financial discussions that support the mission, goals, and objectives of the Board of Education. The District’s vision, mission, and values are reflected in the Board of Education-approved five-year strategic continuous improvement plan and guide this process.



Vision:

To be the *best district* in the state.

Mission:

To provide an *excellent education* for all students.

Values:

- Trust
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Empathy
- Grace

The District’s focus areas represent our commitment to our community.

1. All students will graduate college-, career-, and life-ready
2. Every teacher will become the best
3. Our operations make our mission possible

We believe schools exist to allow access.

- Access to a great curriculum;
- Access to skilled educators and a nurturing environment;
- Access to experiences beyond the core curriculum;
- Access to interest-based activities before and after school; and
- Access to school - we must be a system that eliminates barriers for children.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Budget Overview and Statutory Requirements

Chapter 67 of the Missouri State statutes requires school districts to prepare an annual budget to identify available resources and guide district spending for the ensuing school year. The statute requires the school district budget document to include five specific components:

1. A budget message describing the important features of the budget and major changes from the preceding year;
2. Estimated revenues to be received from all sources for the budget year, with a comparative statement of actual or estimated revenues for the two years next preceding, itemized by year, fund, and source;
3. Proposed expenditures for each department, office, commission, and other classification for the budget year, together with a comparative statement of actual or estimated expenditures for the two years next preceding, itemized by year, fund, activity, and object;
4. The amount required for the payment of interest, amortization and redemption charges on the debt of the political subdivision;
5. A general budget summary including individually identified interfund transfers.

In no event shall the total proposed expenditures from any fund exceed the estimated revenues to be received plus any fund balance for the beginning of the budget year. The statute further prohibits a district from budgeting for a negative fund balance in any fund. The school district's Board of Education is to formally adopt this budget in June prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1.

State statutes, in conjunction with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and in accordance with the definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement of principles on fund accounting systems, have determined the funds appropriate for public school operations. The District follows the legal requirements of the State of Missouri for fund accounting and constructs its budget utilizing the following approved funds:

<u>Funds (GAAP)</u>	<u>State Fund</u>
General	Incidental
Teacher's – Special Revenue	Teacher's
Capital Projects	Capital Projects
Debt Service	Debt Service
Grants and Donations – Special Revenue	Incidental
Nutrition Services – Enterprise	Incidental
Adult Education – Enterprise	Incidental
Student Activities – Fiduciary	Incidental

(See the glossary for definitions of these funds)

The District's budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year includes revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the District in total and presents revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the District's Operating Funds, which are comprised of the General and Teacher's Funds. Detailed fund schedules provide further information on the activities within each fund and include an analysis of the proposed budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Budget schedules are also included summarizing estimated revenues by object and source as defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Background on the District

The area served by the District encompasses 303 square miles and includes a population that is estimated to exceed 157,000. This area includes the City of Columbia with a population of approximately 120,000. Columbia is located midway between St. Louis and Kansas City at the crossroads of Interstate 70 and US Highway 63.



The Columbia Public School District was organized on January 7, 1873. The first high school opened in 1895



on the site where Jefferson Middle School now stands. In 1909 a bond issue was approved for Columbia High School, which is now a wing of Jefferson Middle School. In 2025-26, the District will include 21 elementary schools, seven middle schools, three senior high schools, one alternative high school and one career and technical education center. The District also offers Pre-K classrooms in school buildings

and two owned facilities. The Center for Early Learning–North opened in January 2017 housing Pre-K and Early Childhood Special Education classrooms. A new elementary school is under construction and slated to open in 2026.

K-12 enrollment of the District continues to grow and change, reflecting a more diverse student population. More than 42% of our scholars qualify for the free and reduced lunch program and 8% are English Learners. Today 46% of our scholars attend our elementary schools, 22% attend middle schools and 32% attend high schools.

Student Performance

The District is fully accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The District received its most recent Annual Performance Report in Fall 2024. The District’s performance shows academic growth is in the top 20% of school districts in Missouri.

The District uses a scorecard to track and report progress on organizational goals relating to student achievement, including the use of perceptual data (how students, parent, and employees feel about the District). With a focus on academic progress, third grade reading levels, and graduation goals, the District, Board, and Administration realize that continued improvement is needed and the strategic plan emphasizes this purpose through goals in the areas of growth, innovation, and achievement. The most recent MAP data is included below.

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)			
	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Change</u>
All students	43.2%	44.6%	1.4%
African-American students	13.9%	16.7%	2.8%
Student eligible for free or reduced lunch	21.8%	24.5%	2.7%



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Work remains in many areas. Intentional focus is being made in the areas of attendance, the participation gap and disproportionality, when it comes to discipline and career-center courses. Our budget is created being reflective of our needed areas of improvement as well as continuing to provide opportunities and challenges to all scholars focusing on enrichment and opportunity.

Budget Message

We will be fiscally responsible with taxpayer money. This document and the planning that goes into development of the document are primary evidence of the Board's commitment to this statement. The process we use to develop our budget requires a great deal of analysis. The decisions we make in the short-term need to be sustainable in the long-term. Columbia Public Schools works collaboratively with schools, District programs, and District administration to develop strategies and align resources in a manner that reflects our **vision**, **mission** and **values**. We believe budget development is the foundation of meeting our District's vision and mission to be the best district in our state.

As in 1873, available resources and restricted funding impact how we prioritize our budgetary allocations. The economic outlook for Columbia Public Schools, as well as nation-wide and around the world, is still surrounded with uncertainty especially related to revenues at the state and federal level. Realizing our vision and assuring our three focus areas are ever in the forefront require carefully planned current and future budget practices.

Columbia Public Schools continues to rely upon and receive the support of the local taxpayer to fund the operating budget of the District. In 2006-07, a new state foundation formula was implemented driven by four primary factors in order to determine an individual school's state funding -

- Average Daily Attendance (ADA), which is derived by averaging together a twice annual count of students attending during specified count periods multiplied times an attendance rate of all students for the year, is the first component.
- The State Adequacy Target (SAT) is derived by averaging the cost per pupil of districts in Missouri who receive a perfect score in the Annual Performance Report and is to be recalculated every two years.
- The Dollar Value Modifier (DVM) which is an adjustment based on local cost of living indicators.
- The final factor in the calculation is the Local Effort as established in 2004-05. The impact of the local effort factor is to assure that communities continued to support the cost of their local school budgets at a rate equal to or greater than what was in place in 2004-05.

After just three years, the foundation formula appropriation in the state budget was inadequate to fund the formula as written. The SAT was not recalculated every two years as prescribed in the formula and a new component became an unexpected fifth factor in determining a district's annual state funding – appropriation adjustment. In 2009-10, rather than funding the formula as calculated, the state funded 98.66%. This partial allocation continued until 2015-16 and dipped to as low as 92.58% in 2012-13. For 2025-26, the SAT is expected to increase to \$7,145 from \$6,760. However, there is uncertainty whether there will be general revenues at the state level to fund the SAT at this level. Further, additional changes were made to the foundation formula funding when Senate Bill 727 passed in 2024. Districts will receive additional funding for meeting



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

minimum day requirements in the school calendar. There is also a phase in calculation defined allowing districts to use a combination of Weighted Average Membership (WAM) and Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) to calculate funding. All these additional considerations require additional funding at the state level to be able to fund the formula as prescribed and there are doubts again about whether there will be adequate funding in the state budget to fully fund it. Therefore, the state has designated a task force to review the current state foundation formula as written in the upcoming year which creates additional uncertainties around the future of state funding.

For 2025-26, the thresholds required to receive weighted (additional) funding for students in certain groups – free and reduced lunch, special education and English Learners, remain the same as 2024-25. The weighted funding increases funding for districts with high student populations in these categories.

This lack of state funding is being made up by the taxpayers of Columbia through an approval of an increase to our operating tax levy ceiling. In April 2016, our community passed a levy that allowed us to increase our local property tax rate by up to 65 cents for the 2016 tax year. Without this increase, our ability to present a budget that focuses on recruiting and retaining high quality employees, access to achievement, enrichment, and opportunity for all scholars and meeting our ongoing growing operations, would be impossible. The levy estimations allow for an expected increase in operating revenues of \$13.5 million.

However, the Blankenship versus Franklin County decision has greatly affected the amount of revenue from local property taxes. The Court of Appeals found in favor of the taxpayer 619 S.W.3d 491 (MO App ED 2021) on March 2, 2021 and held that Section 137.073.5(2) is unconstitutional to the extent it raises the rate above the voter approved rate. This decision lowered the District's tax rate by \$.3284 which negates approximately half of the 2016 voter approved levy.

The increase in local funding was used to allow for improvement in salaries of all employee groups, increasing staffing and services to support students and to continue the operations of the District, including the increase in the annual operating budget for the opening of John Warner Middle School and Eagle Bluffs Elementary School. Details on these improvements are found throughout the document and on the Budget Goals and Priorities on page 83.

The 2025-26 budget totals \$300.8 million of operating revenue and transfers in and operating expenditures and transfers out of \$307.7 million, resulting in a decrease of operating fund balance by \$6.9 million. When considering all funds, total revenue and transfers in is budgeted at \$359.5 million and expenditures and transfers out at \$395.2 million for a net decrease in fund balance of \$35.7 million.

As summarized by the schedule below, the District is planning for a total beginning fund balance (all funds) of \$206.7 million at July 1, 2025 and ending fund balance of \$171.0 million at June 30, 2026. For District Operating Funds, beginning fund balance at July 1, 2025 is projected to be \$125.0 million and ending fund balance at June 30, 2026 to be \$118.1 million which is 38.38% of budgeted expenditures and transfers. See page 22 for the Summary Budget – All Programs for 2025-26.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

	<u>Operating Funds</u>	<u>All Funds</u>
Projected Beginning Fund Balance, July 1	\$ 125,015,018	\$ 206,704,081
Budgeted Revenues plus Transfers	\$ 300,773,690	\$ 359,492,955
Budgeted Expenses plus Transfers	\$ 307,700,862	\$ 395,180,910
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ (6,927,172)	\$ (35,687,955)
Budgeted Ending Fund Balance, June 30	\$ 118,087,846	\$ 171,016,126

The District has intentionally built the fund balance in the operating funds over recent years for the opening of the new John Warner Middle School in the fall of 2020 and the opening of the new Eagle Bluffs elementary school in the fall of 2026. The opening and operation of new schools has a significant impact on the operating budget. In addition, due to careful and conservative budgeting by the current and prior Board of Education, the District is able to move forward with planned increases to compensation for all employees.

The decrease in total fund balance comes from the budgeted excess expenditures over revenues in the Capital Projects Fund. The decrease in fund balance in the Capital Projects Fund is a planned decrease in fund balance as bond funds received in previous years will be spent down as capital projects are completed, such as the new Eagle Bluffs Elementary School, Columbia Area Career Center addition and renovation and the Eliot Battle Elementary School addition and renovation which will be completed in upcoming years.

We are pleased to present a budget that positions our students to be ready for life after high school. We appreciate the contributions of every stakeholder during the development of this document, and we will not soon forget the trust and support of our taxpayers. The decisions we've made support our mission to provide every child with an excellent education. Our administration is committed to providing transparency with regard to District finances, and we will prudently allocate the funds entrusted to us. This document is presented to you by the Finance Department with a desire to provide a clear and transparent insight into the 2025-26 budget.

Ms. Heather McArthur, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Jeff Klein
Superintendent of Schools



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Revenue Explanation

The District's budget reports total revenue by Total Funds and by Operating Funds. Total Fund reports include the four funds required by Missouri State law for school districts: General (including Incidental, Child Nutrition, Student Activities, Adult Education, and Grants and Donations), Special Revenue (Teachers), Debt Service, and Capital Projects. The Operating Fund reports include only the incidental portion of the General Fund, and the Special Revenue (Teachers) Fund. Not included in operating reports are those funds dedicated to primarily self-supporting activities, Debt Services, and Capital Projects.



Revenue detail is included to report the major sources of revenue and the proportion of those sources as a whole. The District's major sources of revenue are property tax and sales tax (locally generated), and Foundation Formula revenue (State). This document also includes information on the revenue per Average Daily Attendance (ADA) of pupils, as well as statistics on assessed valuations and tax rates (the factors that drive local revenue), details on revenue sources for history, budgets and forecasts and comparative data on current year versus prior year budgets.

Every attempt is made to explain major changes in revenue from one year to the next or any significant change in the method of distribution or source of revenue.

Total Revenue by Fund Comparison

	Projected Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	% of Total Revenue	% Change
General	\$ 109,384,585	\$ 110,606,167	30.77%	1.12%
Special Revenue (Teachers)	\$ 188,574,732	\$ 190,167,523	52.90%	0.84%
Debt Service	\$ 77,176,680	\$ 35,655,200	9.92%	-53.80%
Capital Projects	\$ 15,077,690	\$ 5,550,660	1.54%	-63.19%
Other	\$ 16,519,559	\$ 17,513,405	4.87%	6.02%
Total Funds	\$ 406,733,246	\$ 359,492,955	100.00%	-11.61%

The District's revenue is primarily from local efforts (66%) with greatest portion of revenue from local tax revenue (52%). The assessed valuation is projected to be \$3,349,972,636 for the 2025-26 school year.

Total revenues are budgeted to decrease \$47,240,291 in 2025-26 mostly due to the \$40.3 million in general obligation refunding bonds issued in 2024-25 offset by increased property tax revenue due to the anticipated increase in assessed valuation. The transfer line also decreased between 2024-25 and 2025-26 due to the increase in the threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000 of items being required to be purchased from the Capital Projects Fund. There was a large transfer from the Operating Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to purchase technology devices in the 2024-25 school year.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

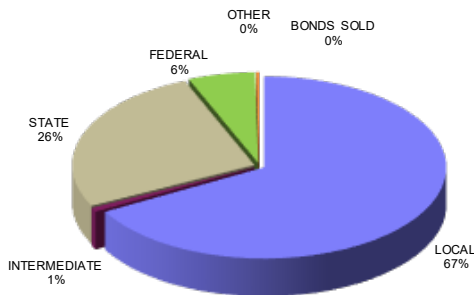
The revenue by source chart below delineates revenue by Total Funds and by Operating Funds. Local property taxes of the District represent 52% of Total and 51% of Operating Revenues.

	Projected Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	% of Total Revenue	% Change
Local	\$ 233,473,746	\$ 238,593,152	66.37%	2.19%
Intermediate	\$ 2,522,358	\$ 2,522,358	0.70%	0.00%
State	\$ 95,009,996	\$ 93,258,068	25.94%	-1.84%
Federal	\$ 23,699,440	\$ 21,225,479	5.90%	-10.44%
Other	\$ 52,027,706	\$ 3,893,898	1.08%	-92.52%
Total Funds	\$ 406,733,246	\$ 359,492,955	100.00%	-11.61%

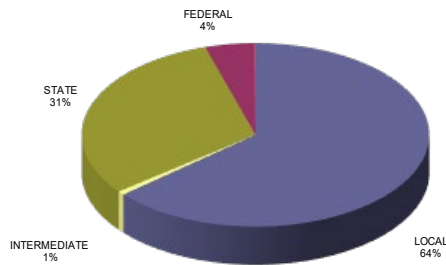
	Total	Operating
Property Taxes	\$ 188,534,264	\$ 153,356,434
Sales Taxes	\$ 28,550,015	\$ 28,550,015
Foundation Formula	\$ 78,541,028	\$ 78,458,330
Other - State	\$ 14,717,040	\$ 14,577,040
Federal	\$ 21,225,479	\$ 13,893,864
Sale of Bonds	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 27,925,129	\$ 11,938,007
	\$ 359,492,955	\$ 300,773,690

Note: The Foundation Formula includes Classroom Trust Fund by state definition.

**TOTAL REVENUES
BUDGET 2025-26**



**OPERATING REVENUES
BUDGET 2025-26**





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Total Revenue by Source

	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Projected 2024-25	Budget 2025-26
Tax Rate	\$ 5.6932	\$ 5.6661	\$ 5.6731	\$ 5.7195	\$ 5.7195
Assessed Valuation	\$ 2,838,808,374	\$ 3,027,141,699	\$ 3,228,251,134	\$ 3,252,400,617	\$ 3,349,972,636
Revenues					
Local Sources					
Property Taxes	\$ 158,380,274	\$ 168,577,466	\$ 180,580,562	\$ 183,227,185	\$ 188,534,264
Sales Taxes	\$ 23,204,641	\$ 24,364,764	\$ 27,480,496	\$ 27,581,990	\$ 28,550,015
All Other Local	\$ 9,044,295	\$ 20,072,291	\$ 23,018,338	\$ 22,664,571	\$ 21,508,873
County Sources	\$ 2,227,319	\$ 2,627,547	\$ 2,522,106	\$ 2,522,358	\$ 2,522,358
State Sources					
Foundation Formula	\$ 66,440,198	\$ 65,896,669	\$ 66,249,448	\$ 77,837,567	\$ 78,541,028
All Other State	\$ 10,544,680	\$ 15,749,058	\$ 10,242,470	\$ 17,172,429	\$ 14,717,040
Federal Sources	\$ 19,663,821	\$ 35,575,053	\$ 35,682,958	\$ 23,699,440	\$ 21,225,479
Other Sources					
Sale of Bonds	\$ 10,130,000	\$ 42,500,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,300,000	\$ -
All Other Sources	\$ 3,156,538	\$ 7,194,864	\$ 3,501,081	\$ 11,727,706	\$ 3,893,898
Total All Revenue Sources	\$ 302,791,766	\$ 382,557,712	\$ 389,277,459	\$ 406,733,246	\$ 359,492,955

Three Major Revenue Sources:

Property Taxes

Property taxes are derived from taxing real and personal property. The tax rate, required by state statute to be adopted annually before September 1, is levied on each \$100 of assessed valuation. This valuation is determined by the assessor's office, based on current market value of residential, commercial and agriculture real estate, and personal property. The assessed valuation is estimated to increase in 2025-26 by 3.00% to approximately \$3.350 billion based upon current information. Listed below is a summary of the District's tax rates.



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Budget 2025-26
Incidental	\$1.6055	\$1.4969	\$1.4969	\$1.4969	\$1.4969
Special Revenue (Teachers)	\$3.0158	\$3.0973	\$3.1043	\$3.1507	\$3.1507
Capital Projects	\$0.1000	\$0.1000	\$0.1000	\$0.1000	\$0.1000
Debt Service	\$0.9719	\$0.9719	\$0.9719	\$0.9719	\$0.9719
Total	\$5.6932	\$5.6661	\$5.6731	\$5.7195	\$5.7195

The District is required by rules and regulations of the State Auditor's Office and the Hancock Amendment to calculate a tax rate to produce substantially the same revenue as collected for property on the tax rolls in the previous year. In addition, the District must take into account "Proposition C", the Missouri one-cent sales tax, dedicated to education approved by voters in



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

1982. The property tax rate is reduced or increased to equal one-half of the adjusted Proposition C revenue received and maintain District revenue because the District does not have a full or partial waiver of the Proposition C approved by voters. The change in the Proposition C rollback between 2023-24 and 2024-25 should not be significant. Property taxes account for over 51% of the operating revenue budget.

Foundation Formula



The District's second largest revenue source is the State of Missouri's Foundation Formula for education. Missouri's Foundation Formula is comprised of two revenue sources: Basic Formula and Classroom Trust Fund. The District is budgeting the 2025-26 Basic Formula revenue to increase \$1.7 million to \$68.7 million. SB 727 allowed for a change in the formula calculation to include Formula Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) combined with Formula Weighted Average Membership (WAM). With the change, the Combined WADA/WAM is anticipated to increase from the current year by 169 to 19,271. In addition, SB 727 allows districts to receive a 169 day calendar incentive payment equal to 1% of the formula payment if they meet the minimum 169 day requirement.

The additional factors affecting WADA are free and reduced lunch count and LEP weighting which are anticipated to continue to increase slightly due to the increased population of scholars in these categories. Another factor affecting State Aid is the State Adequacy Target which is anticipated to increase to \$7,145 from \$6,760 which is the SAT currently set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. However, there is uncertainty about whether the formula can be fully funded at this level. The increase in the SAT is requiring \$300 million in new money to be put into the Foundation Formula at the state level.

The Classroom Trust Fund accounts for gaming revenue distributed to school districts. The payment per WADA is anticipated at \$576 for 2025-26, which is a decrease from the 2024-25 school year due to struggling gaming and lottery revenues statewide. The District is budgeting the 2025-26 Classroom Trust Fund revenue to decrease \$978,178.

These revenue sources equate to approximately 26% of the District's operating revenue budget.

Sales Taxes

Columbia receives sales tax revenue from the State of Missouri, but this revenue is considered locally generated. A 1% sales tax is collected from all retail sales across Missouri, aggregated by the State, and then distributed back to each school district based on the pupil count of the school district. The District's WADA is estimated to increase slightly for 2025-26. Although sales tax has remained strong in recent years, we have not seen the increase in sales tax in the current year. The amount per WADA projected for 2025-26 is \$1,495 which is down from \$1,513 for 2024-25. Based on these factors largely driven by the increase in WADA, the overall sales tax revenue is expected to increase \$968,025 to \$28.5 million in 2025-26. This revenue source equates to nearly 8% of the operating revenue budget.





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Federal Revenues

In recent years, the District has received various sources of stimulus funding related to the response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The decrease in federal funds projected for the 2025-26 school year are largely from the final ESSER III funds received in the current 2024-25 school year but enacted back in March 2021 through the American Recovery Plan. The District received the final payments totaling \$1.7 million in the 2024-25 school year. In addition, Title funding is projected to decrease as increased allocations had been realized with the additional federal dollars coming out of the pandemic. There is also uncertainty around other various federal grants; however, the full budgetary impact is not yet known.

Expenditure Explanation

The following pages report expenditures by fund, by function (how the budget supports the activities of the District) and by object (how we actually spend the budgeted dollars). The District reports expenditure budgets by Total (all funds) and Operating Funds (Incidental and Teachers). Four funds are legally required by Missouri laws governing school districts: General (including Incidental, Child Nutrition, Student Activities, Adult Education, and Grants and Donations), Special Revenue (Teachers), Debt Service, and Capital Projects.

The General Fund expenditures are virtually a “catch all” for anything not supported by another fund. The Special Revenue (Teachers) Fund can only be used for expenditures related to certificated salaries and benefits for those staff members. The Debt Service Fund may only be used for payment of debt obligations resulting from general obligation bond issues, including principal, interest and other agent and cost of issuance payments. The Capital Projects Fund is used for expenditures related to acquisition or construction and major maintenance of all capital assets for the District.

The functions used in the District’s financial accounting system capture expenditures by the program they support. The functions include Instruction, Student Support, Instructional Support, Administration, Maintenance, Transportation, Community Relations, and Other Financing Sources (Debt Service and Transfers). Instructional programs are further broken down to report Elementary, Middle, and High school expenditures as well as Special, Gifted, English Language Learners, and Vocational educational areas. These detail areas are reported in the Summary by Program section of this document.

Expenditures by Object clarifies which classification of expenditures claim the District’s budget dollars. These classifications are broken down into the major areas of Salaries and Benefits, Service and Supply, Capital Outlay, and Debt Service expenditures.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Total Expenditures by Fund Comparison

	Projected Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	% of Total Expenditure	% Change
General	\$ 114,556,047	\$ 121,005,024	30.62%	5.63%
Special Revenue (Teachers)	\$ 179,094,320	\$ 186,695,838	47.24%	4.24%
Debt Service	\$ 77,018,708	\$ 34,456,420	8.72%	-55.26%
Capital Projects	\$ 47,405,139	\$ 35,489,659	8.98%	-25.14%
Other	\$ 16,480,643	\$ 17,533,969	4.44%	6.39%
Total Funds	\$ 434,554,857	\$ 395,180,910	100.00%	-9.06%

Total current projected expenditures for the 2024-25 budget is \$434,554,857 and are budgeted to decrease nearly 10% or \$39,373,947 to \$395,180,910. This decrease is primarily due to the \$41.5 million refunding bond payment made from escrow in March 2025.

Operating expenditures will increase approximately 5% or \$14.0 million. This increase is primarily due to increased compensation for employees and continued 100% funding of insurance benefits for full-time employees.

Expenditures by Function

Columbia Public Schools' expenditures are broken down by the overall area that the budget dollars support. The following illustrates that 66% of the operating budget is spent to support instructional expenditures. Out of the total budget, 51% of the budgeted expenditures support instruction. The difference is due to construction projects and debt service principal and interest payments.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Expenditures by Function

Function	Total	Operating
Instructional & Support	\$ 203,495,514	\$ 203,495,514
Administration	\$ 37,267,464	\$ 37,267,464
Maintenance	\$ 34,803,183	\$ 34,803,183
Transportation	\$ 16,564,899	\$ 16,564,899
Community Services	\$ 12,746,289	\$ 12,746,289
Other Financing Uses	\$ 2,823,513	\$ 2,823,513
Debt Services	\$ 34,456,420	\$ -
Capital Projects	\$ 35,489,659	\$ -
Nutrition Services	\$ 11,885,405	\$ -
Student Activities	\$ 2,081,000	\$ -
Adult Education	\$ 96,064	\$ -
Grants and Donations	\$ 3,471,500	\$ -
Total All Functions	\$ 395,180,910	\$ 307,700,862

Expenditures by Object

Total expenditures by object show how the District actually spends the dollars budgeted. Salaries and Benefits account for nearly 62% of total expenditures. The increase in salaries and benefits for 2025-26 can be attributed to improved compensation schedules and continued 100% fully funded benefits for all full-time staff.

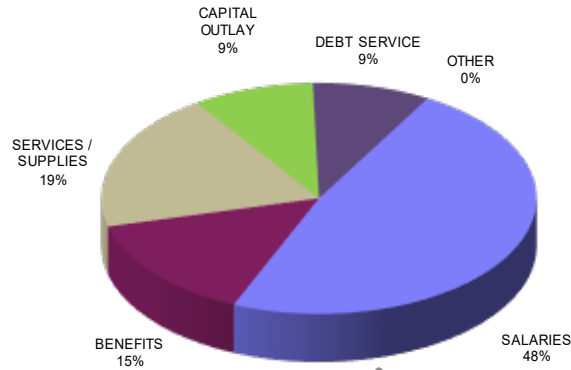
Expenditure Object Category	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Original Budget 2024-25	Projected Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26
Salaries	\$ 152,873,150	\$ 156,916,059	\$ 166,868,231	\$ 178,390,297	\$ 179,918,789	\$ 188,621,971
Employee Benefits	\$ 48,310,169	\$ 50,623,151	\$ 52,919,693	\$ 55,726,945	\$ 55,853,772	\$ 57,509,561
Services/Supplies/Capital Outlay	\$ 84,317,219	\$ 97,736,548	\$ 99,983,035	\$ 157,275,091	\$ 113,273,373	\$ 111,769,445
Debt Service/Lease Purchase	\$ 47,127,114	\$ 29,416,002	\$ 30,248,515	\$ 34,163,708	\$ 77,018,708	\$ 34,456,420
Other Financing Uses	\$ 1,653,509	\$ 3,757,076	\$ 2,921,261	\$ 8,372,709	\$ 8,490,215	\$ 2,823,513
Total	\$ 334,281,161	\$ 338,448,836	\$ 352,940,735	\$ 433,928,750	\$ 434,554,857	\$ 395,180,910



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

EXPENDITURES BUDGET 2025-26



Total Operating Expenditures by Object

Total operating expenditures (General and Teachers Funds) by object show that 77% of the operating fund is budgeted for salaries and benefits.

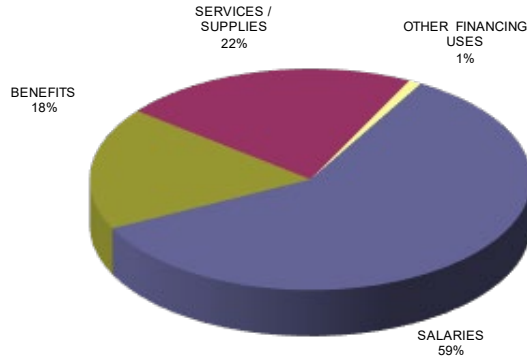
Expenditure Object Category	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Original Budget 2024-25	Projected Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26
Salaries	\$ 148,246,208	\$ 152,214,358	\$ 161,415,576	\$ 172,756,543	\$ 174,229,808	\$ 182,639,302
Employee Benefits	\$ 46,636,518	\$ 48,725,119	\$ 50,793,703	\$ 53,468,119	\$ 53,569,960	\$ 55,165,602
Services/Supplies	\$ 51,999,136	\$ 52,597,321	\$ 54,675,915	\$ 58,100,109	\$ 57,360,384	\$ 67,072,445
Other Financing Uses	\$ 1,653,509	\$ 3,757,076	\$ 2,921,261	\$ 8,372,709	\$ 8,490,215	\$ 2,823,513
Total	\$ 248,535,371	\$ 257,293,874	\$ 269,806,455	\$ 292,697,480	\$ 293,650,367	\$ 307,700,862



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

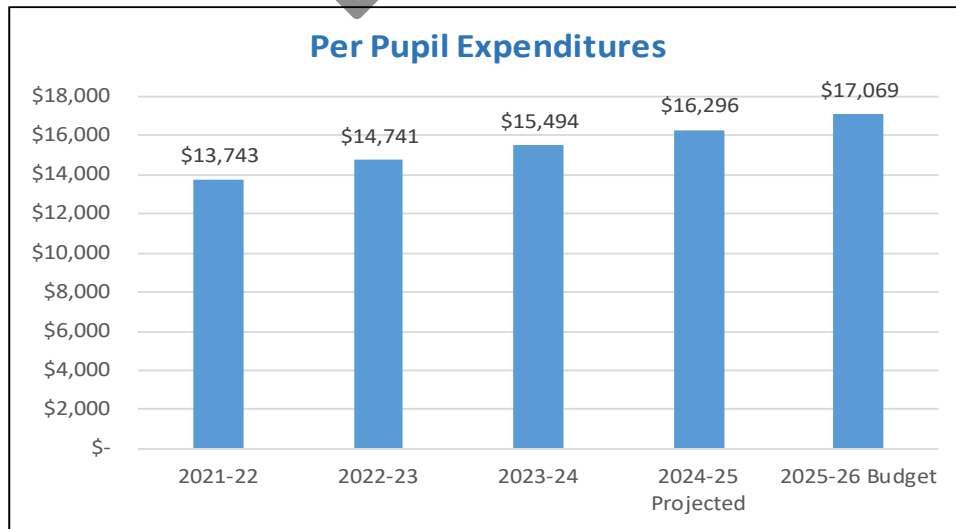
2025-26 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENDITURES BUDGET 2025-26



District Per Pupil Expenditures

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 Projected	2025-26 Budget
Membership	17,748.37	17,837.67	18,170.50	18,020.00	18,027.00
Per Pupil Expenditures	\$ 13,743	\$ 14,741	\$ 15,494	\$ 16,296	\$ 17,069



Membership decreased between 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to the drop in enrollment due to COVID-19. The enrollment has rebounded slightly since the pandemic for the 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. We expect the enrollment for 2025-26 to remain relatively stable. Based on the chart above, you can see as operating expenditures increase due to improvements to compensation and other recurring additions, the per pupil expenditures also increase.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Debt Service

The Debt Service Fund balance is projected to be at \$32.7 million as of June 30, 2026, compared to \$31.5 as of June 30, 2025. Current state law limits the bonded indebtedness to a maximum of 15% of assessed valuation or \$502.5 million (2025-26 estimated assessed value is \$3,349,972,636). At June 30, 2025, the District currently has an outstanding bonded debt level of \$305.4 million, within the legal limits for school districts. The 2025-26 budget for Debt Service includes \$23,545,000 in principal payments and \$10,896,420 in interest payments.

On April 5, 2022, the voters passed an \$80 million bond authorization. The proceeds from the bonds are to be used for the purpose of acquiring and developing sites for school buildings and acquiring, constructing, improving, extending, repairing, remodeling, renovating, furnishing, and equipping new and existing facilities. The largest portion of this debt is being used for the construction of the new Eagle Bluffs Elementary School currently being built in the southwest part of Columbia on the property of John Warner Middle School, an addition and renovation project at Eliot Battle Elementary School and an addition and renovation project at the Columbia Area Career Center.



Boone County Nature School

The bonds are due, in total, by year as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Bond Payment	Interest Payment	Total
2026	\$ 23,545,000	\$ 10,896,420	\$ 34,441,420
2027	23,345,000	9,804,270	33,149,270
2028	22,885,000	8,891,655	31,776,655
2029	13,350,000	8,088,673	21,438,673
2030	27,205,000	7,693,438	34,898,438
2031-2035	118,425,000	26,374,385	144,799,385
2036-2040	62,120,000	8,339,481	70,459,481
2041-2044	14,500,000	1,225,100	15,725,100
	\$ 305,375,000	\$ 81,313,422	\$ 386,688,422



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

All District bonds are general obligation bonds with maturities from 2026 to 2044 and average net interest rates at issue from 1.00% to 6.00%. General obligation bonds outstanding at June 30, 2025 as are follows:

General Obligation Bonds	Sale Date	Original Borrowing	Interest Rates to Maturity	Final Maturity	Outstanding June 30, 2025
Public Improvements	2010	6,465,000	5.19%	2030	6,465,000
Public Improvements	2014	50,000,000	3.00-5.00%	2028	4,380,000
Public Improvements	2015	71,485,000	2.00-4.00%	2029	3,985,000
Public Improvements/Refunding	2016	36,575,000	2.00-5.00%	2036	26,505,000
Public Improvements/Refunding	2017	10,000,000	2.00-5.00%	2037	8,980,000
Refunding	2017	37,955,000	2.10-5.00%	2030	21,515,000
Public Improvements	2018	35,000,000	3.00-5.00%	2038	27,000,000
Public Improvements	2019	35,000,000	3.00-5.00%	2039	24,765,000
Public Improvements/Refunding	2020	54,410,000	1.65-3.00%	2034	53,095,000
Public Improvements	2020	20,000,000	1.00-5.00%	2039	14,225,000
Public Improvements/Refunding	2020	4,620,000	1.00-4.00%	2033	2,955,000
Public Improvements/Refunding	2022	10,130,000	4.00-5.00%	2027	4,710,000
Public Improvements	2022	40,000,000	4.25-6.00%	2042	31,450,000
Public Improvements	2024	40,000,000	4.25-6.00%	2044	35,500,000
Refunding	2024	40,300,000	4.00%	2035	<u>39,845,000</u>
					\$ <u>305,375,000</u>

Certificates of Participation

The District entered into a financing arrangement on October 1, 2011, which was characterized as a lease-purchase agreement, with the Financing Authority whereby the District secured financing of various educational facilities in the total amount of \$9,015,000. The financing was accomplished through the issuance of Certificates of Participation, Series 2011A and 2011B, to be repaid from the proceeds of lease payments paid by the District. The purpose of these agreements was to eliminate long standing operating rents paid for administrative office and early childhood special education learning spaces. The rents paid at the time were the revenue stream that would be utilized to make the lease purchase payment, eventually eliminating the reliance upon the operating budget to fund this expense.

The initial term of the lease is 25 years commencing on October 1, 2011. The properties covered by the lease are, together with the improvements constructed thereon from the financing proceeds, leased back to the District. If the District fails to renew the lease and to provide for the rent payments through to term, the District may be required to surrender the sites included under the ground lease agreement for the benefit of the securers of the certificates.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

The District properties covered by this arrangement include the District's New Administration Building Project now named the Neil C. Aslin Administration Building and the Early Childhood Special Education Building Project now named the Early Childhood Discovery Center.

The lease payments are payable by the District annually on October 1 at interest rates ranging from 0.95 to 4.5%. The outstanding Certificates of Participation were refunded on January 14, 2021 for an estimated net present value interest savings of \$1,738,149. The following is a schedule by years of future minimum lease payments under the lease agreement together with the present value of minimum lease payments as of June 30:

<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal Payment</u>	<u>Interest Payment</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 340,000	\$ 83,900	\$ 423,900
2027	355,000	73,475	428,475
2028	370,000	62,600	432,600
2029	385,000	51,275	436,275
2030	395,000	43,525	438,525
2031-2035	2,125,000	144,963	2,269,963
2036-2037	920,000	13,875	933,875
	<u>\$ 4,890,000</u>	<u>\$ 473,613</u>	<u>\$ 5,363,613</u>

Total Ending Fund Balance Comparison

	<u>Projected Actual 2024-25</u>	<u>Budget 2025-26</u>	<u>% of Total Budget</u>	<u>% Change</u>
General	\$ 90,307,501	\$ 79,908,644	46.73%	-11.51%
Special Revenue (Teachers)	\$ 34,707,517	\$ 38,179,202	22.32%	10.00%
Debt Service	\$ 35,050,814	\$ 36,249,594	21.20%	3.42%
Capital Projects	\$ 41,382,152	\$ 11,443,153	6.69%	-72.35%
Other	\$ 5,256,097	\$ 5,235,533	3.06%	-0.39%
Total Funds	\$ 206,704,081	\$ 171,016,126	100.00%	-17.27%

The fund structure includes the Operating Funds (General and Teachers), Debt Service, Capital Projects, and Other (including Nutrition Services, Student Activities, Adult Education, and Grants and Donations). The total fund balances are budgeted to decrease approximately \$35.7 million in 2025-26. The largest fund balance decrease is in the Capital Projects Fund and is due to a planned spend down of bonds issued in previous years. The decrease is an expected decrease in the balance of this fund as the timing of completion of capital projects often varies from the timing of issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the capital projects.

The Operating Funds fund balance required by the District's Board of Education is to maintain three months of expenditures in reserves for the Operating Funds. The projected Operating



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Funds fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2026 meets this requirement at \$118.1 million or 38.38% of budgeted fund expenditures and the equivalent of 3.00 months in reserves in the five year model.

The District receives nearly 51% of its operating revenue from local tax sources based on assessed valuation of property and our approved tax levy. The ad valorem portion of these taxes are payable December 31 each year. Consequently, the District receives the majority of its revenue dollars in December and January and must support the cash flow requirements with fund balances or by borrowing. This is the basis for the requirement of Operating Funds fund balances to maintain three months of expenditures in reserves at fiscal year end.

Budget Forecasting and Planning

The administration and Board of Education use a five-year model to project and manage the critical long-term health of the combined General and Teachers Fund balances. The model considers current and future projected revenues by primary source as well as current and projected expenditures. The model is a continuously evolving document as new assumptions are made, and actual revenue and expenditures are determined.

Within the current model for the fiscal years of 2025-26 through 2029-30, the priorities of the District are considered. Those include continued improvement of salaries and maintenance of benefit plans for employees. New curriculum implementations and enhanced learning environments across all buildings and all levels are also considered in the model. Growth in number of teachers and specifically, specialization of teachers, for student population increases within specific areas are anticipated and provided for in the model. In addition, intentional support has been dedicated to provide additional resources and to reinforce emerging systems at Title I elementary schools and Title I eligible middle schools and high schools.

The Board of Education has established a minimum Operating Funds fund balance of three months of expenditures in reserves in order to effectively operate the District. The 2025-26 operating budget and the priorities and assumptions made in the five-year model meet that requirement.



The following pages allow the reader of this document to gain an understanding of the projected beginning and ending fund balances of each fund in the District's budget. Additionally, in the document title Summary Budget – All Programs, revenues by primary source and expenditures by primary object show clearly from where our resources are received and how they are used. While good long-range planning is important in each fund, the Board of Education reviews the five-year future projections of the Operating Funds throughout each fiscal year with particular reflection on it during the budget process. The five-year forecast in the coming pages reflects the best projections and estimates currently available and assures all commitments of the District currently made can be realized maintaining the minimum level of fund balance.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-26 BUDGET

SUMMARY BUDGET 2025-26 - ALL PROGRAMS											
	GENERAL OPERATING	TEACHERS	TOTAL DISTRICT OPERATING FUNDS	DEBT SERVICE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	NUTRITION SERVICES	STUDENT ACTIVITIES	ADULT EDUCATION	GRANTS AND DONATIONS	TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDED PROGRAMS	BUDGET 2025-26 TOTAL
<i>Projected Beginning Fund</i>											
<i>Balance as of 07/01/2025</i>	\$ 90,307,501	\$ 34,707,517	\$ 125,015,018	\$ 35,050,814	\$ 41,382,152	\$ -	\$ 1,898,570	\$ 95,882	\$ 3,261,645	\$ 81,689,063	\$ 206,704,081
REVENUES:											
LOCAL	\$ 73,338,902	\$ 118,320,722	\$ 191,659,624	\$ 34,869,059	\$ 4,657,009	\$ 3,424,460	\$ 2,081,000	\$ 75,500	\$ 1,826,500	\$ 46,933,528	\$ 238,593,152
INTERMEDIATE	1,274,441	732,891	2,007,332	466,266	48,770	-	-	-	-	515,026	2,522,358
STATE	29,197,798	63,837,572	93,035,370	-	82,698	50,000	-	-	90,000	222,698	93,258,068
FEDERAL	6,767,526	7,126,338	13,893,864	319,885	-	5,456,730	-	-	1,555,000	7,331,615	21,225,479
OTHER	27,500	150,000	177,500	-	-	892,885	-	-	-	892,885	1,070,385
BONDS SOLD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 110,606,167	\$ 190,167,523	\$ 300,773,690	\$ 35,655,200	\$ 4,788,477	\$ 9,824,075	\$ 2,081,000	\$ 75,500	\$ 3,471,500	\$ 55,895,752	\$ 356,669,442
EXPENDITURES:											
SALARIES	\$ 39,496,100	\$ 143,143,202	\$ 182,639,302	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,755,674	\$ -	\$ 58,789	\$ 1,168,206	\$ 5,982,669	\$ 188,621,971
BENEFITS	12,012,966	43,152,636	55,165,602	-	-	1,964,051	-	17,275	362,633	2,343,959	57,509,561
SERVICES / SUPPLIES	66,672,445	400,000	67,072,445	-	-	5,465,680	2,081,000	20,000	1,940,661	9,207,341	76,279,786
CAPITAL OUTLAY	-	-	-	-	35,489,659	-	-	-	-	35,489,659	35,489,659
DEBT SERVICE	-	-	-	34,456,420	-	-	-	-	-	34,456,420	34,456,420
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 118,181,511	\$ 186,695,838	\$ 304,877,349	\$ 34,456,420	\$ 35,489,659	\$ 11,885,405	\$ 2,081,000	\$ 96,064	\$ 3,471,500	\$ 87,480,048	\$ 392,357,397
EXCESS/(DEFICIT)											
REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES.....	\$ (7,575,344)	\$ 3,471,685	\$ (4,103,659)	\$ 1,198,780	\$ (30,701,182)	\$ (2,061,330)	\$ -	\$ (20,564)	\$ -	\$ (31,584,296)	\$ (35,687,955)
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$ (2,823,513)	\$ -	\$ (2,823,513)	\$ -	\$ 762,183	\$ 2,061,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,823,513	\$ -
<i>Projected Ending Fund</i>											
<i>Balance as of 06/30/2026</i>	\$ 79,908,644	\$ 38,179,202	\$ 118,087,846	\$ 36,249,594	\$ 11,443,153	\$ -	\$ 1,898,570	\$ 75,318	\$ 3,261,645	\$ 52,928,280	\$ 171,016,126

Note: The 06/30/26 Projected combined balance of the Operating and Teachers Funds, \$118,087,846 represents 38.36% of the budgeted expenditures and transfers for 2025-26, as compared to 42.57 % projected for 06/30/25.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-26 BUDGET

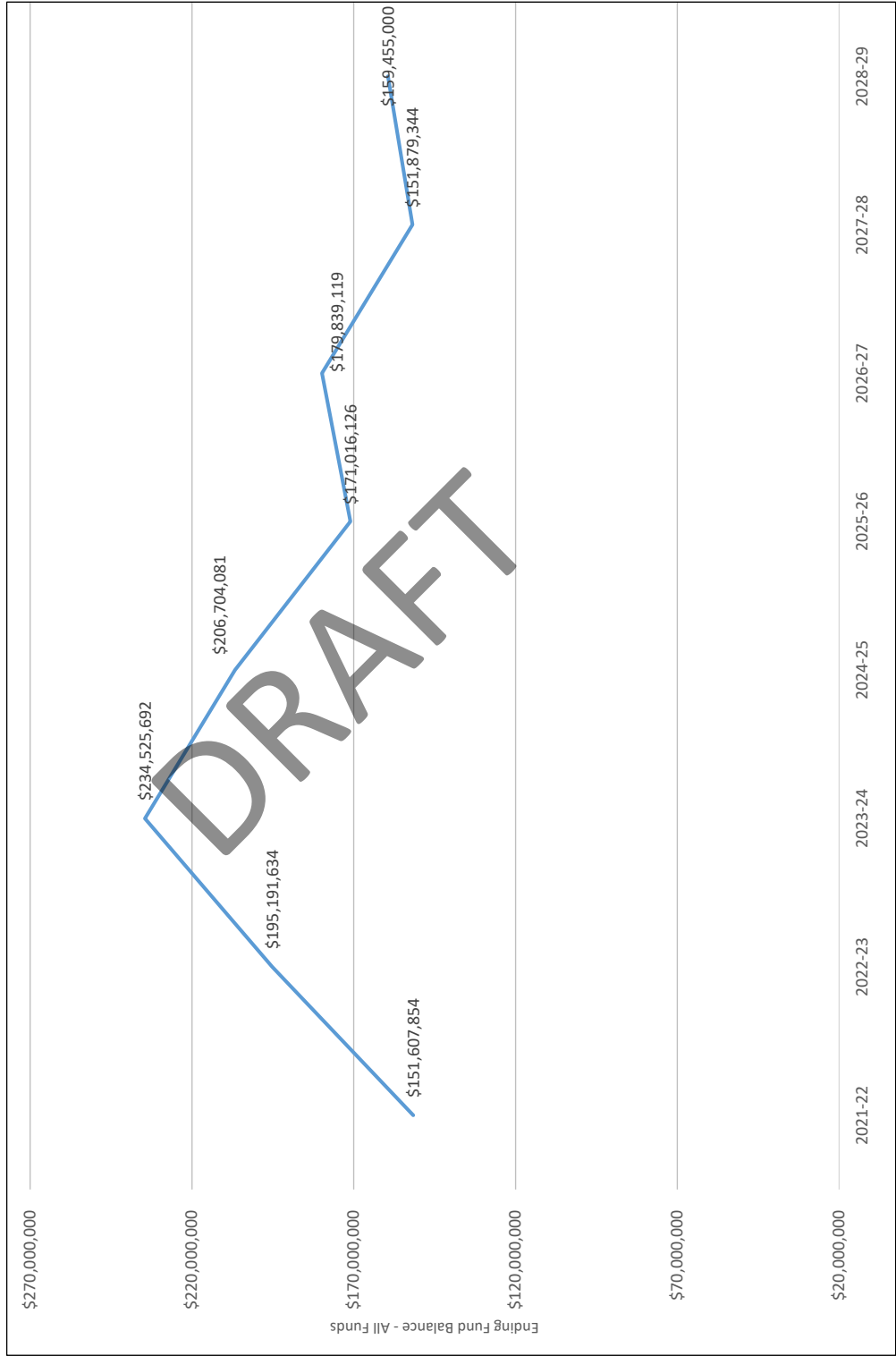
SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS

	ACTUAL			BUDGET			FORECAST		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Projected 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Forecast 2026-27	Forecast 2027-28	Forecast 2028-29	
Beginning Fund Balance - All Funds Revenues	\$ 168,466,266	\$ 151,607,854	\$ 195,191,634	\$ 234,525,692	\$ 206,704,081	\$ 171,016,126	\$ 179,839,119	\$ 151,879,344	
Local revenue	\$ 193,195,700	\$ 212,520,887	\$ 231,220,721	\$ 233,473,746	\$ 236,593,152	\$ 242,281,083	\$ 248,156,244	\$ 252,285,882	
Intermediate revenue	\$ 2,227,320	\$ 2,636,643	\$ 2,522,106	\$ 2,522,358	\$ 2,522,358	\$ 2,522,358	\$ 2,522,358	\$ 2,522,358	
State revenue	\$ 77,063,491	\$ 81,645,727	\$ 76,491,918	\$ 95,009,996	\$ 93,258,068	\$ 94,093,478	\$ 95,737,860	\$ 97,405,802	
Federal revenue	\$ 31,274,746	\$ 35,534,324	\$ 35,650,033	\$ 23,666,516	\$ 21,192,555	\$ 20,485,940	\$ 20,635,940	\$ 20,765,940	
Other revenues	\$ 1,877,985	\$ 3,423,876	\$ 3,418,524	\$ 3,428,367	\$ 1,103,309	\$ 810,424	\$ 810,424	\$ 810,424	
Sale of Bonds	\$ 10,130,000	\$ 42,500,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,300,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000,000	
Other Financing Sources	\$ 1,729,883	\$ 3,883,702	\$ 3,082,341	\$ 8,332,263	\$ 2,823,513	\$ 3,241,423	\$ 3,294,375	\$ 3,296,730	
Total Revenue	\$ 317,499,125	\$ 382,145,159	\$ 392,385,943	\$ 406,733,246	\$ 359,492,955	\$ 403,434,706	\$ 371,157,201	\$ 417,107,136	
change in revenue from prior year	\$ 3,363,360	\$ 64,646,034	\$ 10,240,484	\$ 14,347,603	\$ (47,240,291)	\$ 43,941,751	\$ (32,227,505)	\$ 45,949,935	
	1.07%	20.36%	2.68%	3.66%	-11.61%	12.22%	-8.00%	12.38%	
Expenditures									
Salaries	\$ 152,873,150	\$ 156,895,025	\$ 166,868,230	\$ 179,918,790	\$ 188,621,971	\$ 196,527,825	\$ 199,632,893	\$ 202,753,032	
Benefits	\$ 48,310,169	\$ 50,616,279	\$ 52,919,694	\$ 55,853,771	\$ 57,509,561	\$ 59,888,676	\$ 61,908,484	\$ 63,438,476	
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 201,183,319	\$ 207,511,304	\$ 219,787,924	\$ 235,772,561	\$ 246,131,532	\$ 256,416,501	\$ 261,541,377	\$ 266,191,508	
Total Service/Supply	\$ 61,205,680	\$ 63,378,447	\$ 5,757,473	\$ 65,868,234	\$ 76,279,786	\$ 72,265,109	\$ 73,015,109	\$ 74,115,109	
Capital Outlay	\$ 23,111,539	\$ 34,369,857	\$ 47,405,139	\$ 47,405,139	\$ 35,489,659	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 45,000,000	
Debt Service	\$ 47,127,114	\$ 29,416,002	\$ 77,018,708	\$ 77,018,708	\$ 34,456,420	\$ 33,164,270	\$ 31,791,655	\$ 21,453,673	
Total Expenditures	\$ 332,627,652	\$ 334,675,610	\$ 349,969,244	\$ 426,064,642	\$ 392,357,397	\$ 391,845,880	\$ 396,348,141	\$ 406,760,290	
Transfers (to) from other funds	\$ (1,729,885)	\$ (3,885,769)	\$ (3,082,341)	\$ (8,490,215)	\$ (2,823,513)	\$ (2,765,833)	\$ (2,768,835)	\$ (2,771,190)	
Total Expenditures + Transfers	\$ 334,357,537	\$ 338,561,379	\$ 353,051,585	\$ 434,554,857	\$ 395,180,910	\$ 394,611,713	\$ 399,116,976	\$ 409,531,480	
Increase (decrease) in fund balance	\$ (16,858,412)	\$ 43,883,780	\$ 39,334,058	\$ (27,821,611)	\$ (35,687,955)	\$ 8,822,993	\$ (27,959,775)	\$ 7,575,656	
Ending Fund Balance - All Funds	\$ 151,607,854	\$ 195,191,634	\$ 234,525,692	\$ 206,704,081	\$ 171,016,126	\$ 179,839,119	\$ 151,879,344	\$ 159,455,000	



**COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-26 BUDGET**

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-26 BUDGET

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Columbia Public Schools Community,

I am pleased to present the 2025–26 Budget for Columbia Public Schools—a financial plan crafted to uphold our mission to be the best school district in Missouri and to provide an excellent education for every student. This document embodies our core values of trust, integrity, transparency, collaboration, empathy, and grace, ensuring that every dollar is aligned with our five-year Strategic Plan.

Our commitment to transparency and fiscal excellence is recognized by the Association of School Business Officials International, which honored CPS with the Meritorious Budget Award for our 2024-25 budget presentation. This award highlights our dedication to clear, accessible financial documents that facilitate community understanding and meaningful dialogue.

In addition, CPS has earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report — a distinction we have held for more than three decades. These honors reflect our rigorous budget development process, which prioritizes stakeholder input, strategic resource allocation, and best practices in school business management.

We enter this fiscal year with a robust bond rating, a testament to our prudent debt management and the strong support of our taxpayers. This rating enables us to advance critical capital projects—such as facility upgrades, technology enhancements, and safety improvements—while maintaining low interest costs and preserving our long-term financial stability.

Looking ahead, our budget continues to place students at the core. It invests in attracting and retaining highly qualified educators, expanding mental health support, and enhancing learning environments across all schools and programs. These investments directly support our goal of ensuring that every student graduates college-, career-, and life-ready.

Thank you to our Board of Education for its vision and guidance, to our taxpayers for steadfast investment in our schools, and to every CPS employee whose dedication turns budget decisions into real opportunities for students. Together, we will continue to build on our legacy of excellence and chart a bold path for the future of Columbia Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeff Klein
Superintendent
Columbia Public Schools



Dr. Jeff Klein

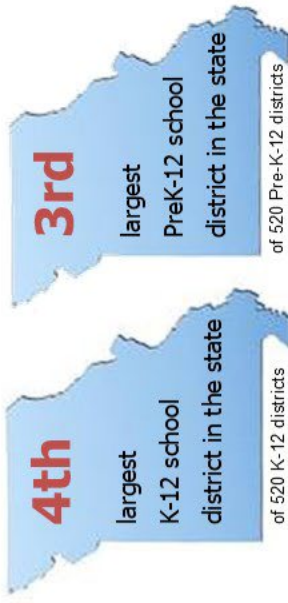
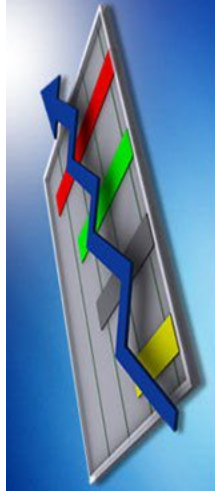


COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

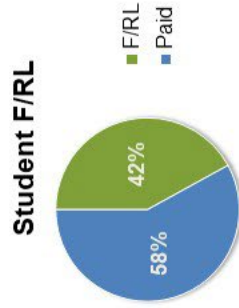
2025-26 BUDGET



CPS By the Numbers



Student Membership	Oct 2024	Feb 2025	Average
	18,711	18,720	18,716



FTE

Teachers	1,608.75
Other professional school staff	162.92
Building administrators	85.00
Support staff	932.34
Central office staff	210.34

61.77% of teachers have a master's degree

Instructional Programs

Program	% Students Served
A+ (grades 9-12)	42.20%
AVID (grades 7-12)	7.40%
EL	8.90%
Gifted	8.30%
Special Services	12.80%
Title I	18.60%



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-26 BUDGET

Vision

To be the **best district** in the state



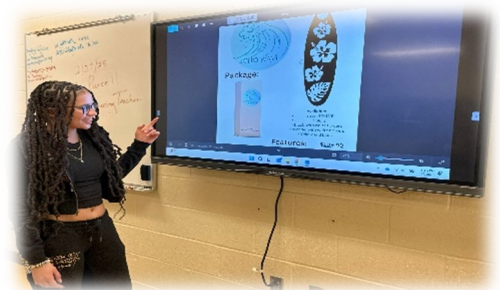
Mission

To provide an **excellent education** for all students



Values

- Trust
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Empathy
- Grace





Student Achievement

At Columbia Public Schools, we believe that schools exist to allow access:

- Access to a great curriculum;
- Access to skilled teachers and a nurturing environment;
- Access to experiences beyond the core curriculum;
- Access to interest-based activities before and after school; and
- Access to school—we must be a system that eliminates barriers for children.

Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)* % of students proficient

	Communication Arts		Math	
	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
	43.2%	44.6%	36.5%	40.1%
	43.7%	43.2%	40.5%	41.2%

ACT

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
AVERAGE SCORE FOR COLUMBIA	21.0	20.6
AVERAGE SCORE FOR MISSOURI	20.1	19.9
AVERAGE SCORE NATIONWIDE	19.5	19.4

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

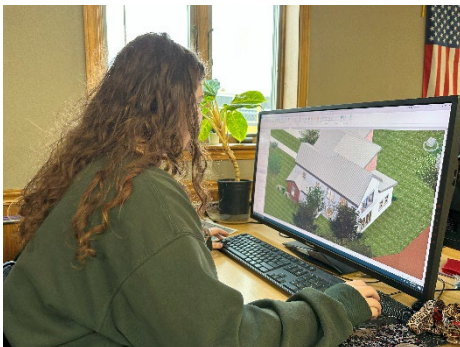
Scores of 3 or higher

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
	80.0%	82.2%
	Not Available	Not Available
	Not Available	Not Available

DIFFERENT ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS IN CPS IN 2023-24
27

OF AP EXAMS TAKEN IN 2023-24 (1,796 in 2022-23)
1,953

OF STUDENTS WHO TOOK AP EXAMS IN 2023-24 (986 in 2022-23)
1113





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-26 BUDGET

Highly Qualified Staff

Teacher and Staff Awards

- Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) Newcomer Athletic Director of the Year Award
- MIAAA Athletic Director of the Year Award.
- Missouri Association of School Psychologists (MASP) school psychological examiner of the year.
- Eastern Missouri District National Speech and Debate Coach of the Year Award
- Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame
- Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) Outstanding Beginning Teacher of the year Award.
- Outstanding Educator by the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders
- Science Teachers of Missouri (STOM) President's Citation
- NFHS/MSHSAA State Coach of the Year
- MO SW-PBS Award of Excellence

District Awards



Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by Association of School Business Officials



Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officials Association



Meritorious Budget Award by Association of School Business Officials International

Professional Development Work of Teachers

- AVID
- Bridges Math
- Benchmark Plus
- Project Lead The Way
- Safe Crisis Management
- Teaching with and iPad
- Advanced Placement
- Artificial Intelligence
- Common Assessments
- Classroom Management
- Digital Citizenship
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Creating Welcoming Communities
- Restorative Practices
- iReady
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- Virginia Model of Threat Assessment
- Techniques for Student Engagement



Teachers spend an estimated 65,000 hours in professional development and training annually

950 teachers hold a master's degree—that is 61.77% of the total teaching staff

30 teachers hold a doctorate degree



11 teachers hold National Board Professional Teaching Certification

42 employees hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology or Speech Language Pathology

6 employees hold National Certification in School Psychology



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-26 BUDGET

Columbia Board of Education



John Lyman, Board of Education President, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2023. He holds a B.A. degree in Geography from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Since 2005, he has been a Senior Loan Officer with Veterans United Home Loans. He is married to a current Columbia Public Schools teacher with three current Columbia Public Schools students.



Paul Harper, Board of Education Vice President, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2023. He holds a B.A. in Social Science Education and Business Administration from Central Methodist College, a M.Ed. in Special Education from The University of Missouri – Columbia, and a JD from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. He works as Legal Counsel for the Office of Childhood with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He is married with two children who are alumni of Columbia Public Schools.



Alvin Cobbins, Board of Education Member, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2024. He holds a B.A. in Theater from the University of Missouri.



Erica Dickson, Board of Education Member, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2025. She holds a M.B.A. in Teaching, a B.A. in Psychology, with minors in Sociology and Education from Columbia College. She is the Executive Director of the Missouri Community Doula Council, and owner of the Mid-Missouri Black Doula Collective. She is a mother of three. Two of her children attend Columbia Public Schools and one is an alumni.



April Ferrao, Board of Education Member, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2023. She holds a A.A.S. degree in Legal Assistant, a B.S. in Business Administration, and a M.B.A. with emphasis in Management Information Systems from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Her past work experience includes Data Analyst at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health. She is married with two children; both are alumni from Columbia Public Schools.



Jeanne Snodgrass, Board of Education member, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2021. She holds a B.A. degree with Honors from the University of Iowa, an M.F.A. degree in dance from the University of New Mexico, and an M.A.J.S. degree from Hebrew College. She is Executive Director of Mizzou Hillel at the Jewish Campus Center. She is married and has three daughters. One attends Columbia Public Schools and two are alumni.



Suzette Waters, Board of Education member, was elected to the Columbia Board of Education in 2022. Suzette served as Board of Education President for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. She has a B.S. degree in Dental Hygiene from University of Missouri Kansas City. She is a dental hygienist for Como Dental. She is married and has two children who are alumni from Columbia Public Schools.



2025-26 Organization

Columbia Board of Education

- **John Lyman**, President
- **Paul Harper**, Vice President
- **Alvin Cobbins**, Member
- **Erica Dickson**, Member
- **April Ferrao**, Member
- **Jeanne Snodgrass**, Member
- **Suzette Waters**, Member
- **Heather McArthur**, Treasurer
- **Noel McDonald**, Secretary

Directors

- **James Cherrington**, Director, Business Services
- **Tonya Ellis**, Director of Technology Services
- **David Egan**, Director, Athletics
- **Shelly Fair**, Director, English Language Learners
- **Laina Fullum**, Director, Nutrition Services
- **Ken Gregory**, Director, Safety and Security
- **TBD**, Director, Certified Personnel
- **Breana Kavanaugh**, Director, Fine Arts
- **Nicole Langston**, Director, Preschool
- **Jennifer Maddox**, Director, Health Services
- **Tony Maltbia**, Director, Transportation
- **Ron Monson**, Director, Facilities and Construction Services
- **Ranita Norwood**, Director, Student Services
- **Susan Perkins**, Director, Elementary School Counseling
- **Dr. Brandon Russell**, Director, Columbia Area Career Center
- **Dr. Katie Siegel**, Director, Workforce Development
- **Joey Schenz**, Director, Human Resources Classified
- **Leigh Spence**, Director, Secondary School Counseling
- **Vince Thompson**, Director, Student Support Services
- **Liana Vessell**, Director, Special Services
- **Annelle Whitt**, Director, Multicultural Achievement
- **Amy Wilson**, Director, Early Childhood Special Education
- **Jack Woodbury**, Director, Custodial Services
- **Dr. Seth Woods**, Director, Professional Development

Superintendent and Cabinet

- **Dr. Jeffrey Klein**, Superintendent
- **Michelle Baumstark**, Chief Communications Officer
- **Carla London**, Chief Equity Officer
- **Heather McArthur**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Dr. Adam Taylor**, Chief Academic Officer
- **Lazell Ofield II**, Chief Operations Officer
- **Dr. Helen Porter**, Chief of Schools
- **Dr. Michelle Holz**, Chief Human Resource Officer

Executive Directors

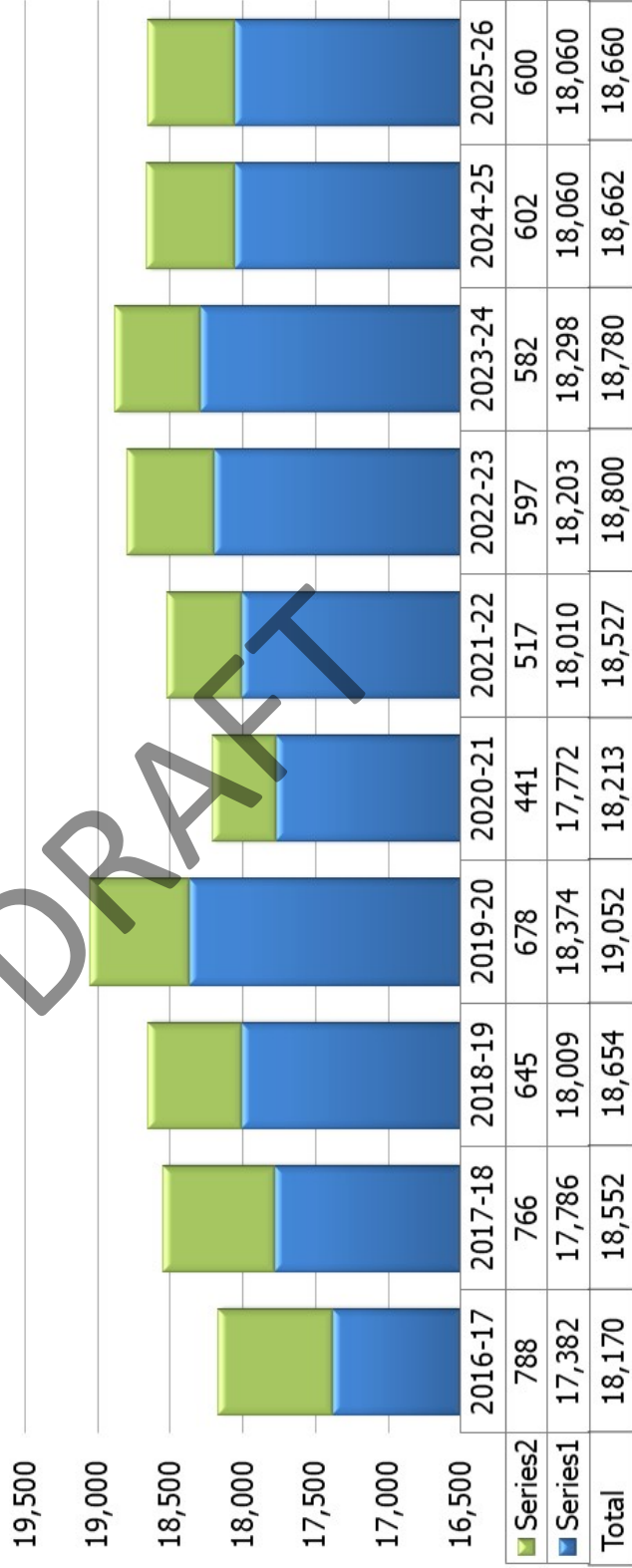
- **Shelli Adams**, Executive Director, School Improvement
- **Dr. Ryan Day**, Executive Director, Elementary Education
- **Kerri Graham**, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction
- **Alyse Monsees**, Executive Director, Special Services
- **Josh Johnson**, Executive Director, Secondary Education
- **Dr. Dave Wilson**, Executive Director, Assessment, Intervention and Data

Coordinators

- **Joy Bess**, Coordinator, Secondary Language Arts/Social Studies
- **Shae Collier**, Coordinator, 504 Programs
- **Bonnie Conley**, Coordinator, Summer School
- **Shanna Dale**, Coordinator, AVID Program
- **Vacant**, Coordinator, Intervention and Assessment
- **Dr. Kim Goforth**, Coordinator, Health/PE
- **Dr. Andrew Kinslow**, Coordinator, Science
- **Jessica Lucas**, Coordinator, Secondary Language Arts
- **Melissa Fike**, Coordinator, Mathematics
- **Kristen Palmer**, Coordinator, Elementary Gifted Services
- **Julie Schaefer**, Coordinator, Elementary Language Arts
- **Jenifer Smith**, Coordinator, K-5 Mathematics
- **Kristine Smith**, Coordinator, Parents As Teachers
- **Jayne Pingrey**, Coordinator, Media Specialists
- **Jamie Thompson**, Coordinator, Practical Arts
- **Dr. Beth Winton**, Online Program Administrator
- **Alexander Terwelp**, Coordinator, World Languages
- **Matthew Leuchtman**, Coordinator, Secondary Gifted



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-26 BUDGET



Projected

Enrollment dropped in 2020-21 due to the pandemic.
We project enrollment will remain stable for the 2025-26 school year



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-26 BUDGET



Per-Pupil Cost and Tax Levy for Comparison Districts, 2023-24



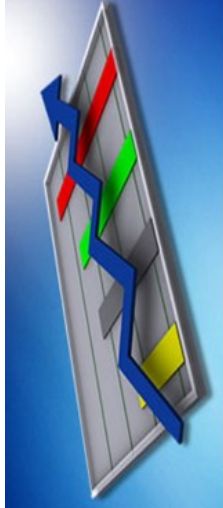
District	ADA	Expenditures per Pupil	Tax Levy	Assessed Valuation per ADA	Assessed Valuation
Francis Howell	15,273.84	\$13,130	\$4.0878	\$252	\$3,854,596,926
Lee's Summit	16,523.18	\$15,156	\$4.7112	\$205	\$3,385,381,197
Columbia	16,888.80	\$15,494	\$5.6731	\$191	\$3,224,803,339
Park Hill	10,985.37	\$15,961	\$5.3955	\$217	\$2,377,094,793
Fort Zumwalt	15,464.33	\$15,089	\$4.2346	\$238	\$3,675,043,107
North Kansas City	19,907.45	\$14,779	\$5.6011	\$168	\$3,337,633,843
Independence	12,863.28	\$12,388	\$5.1171	\$123	\$1,587,290,981
Blue Springs	13,853.86	\$13,996	\$5.0635	\$171	\$2,371,546,590
Parkway	15,203.38	\$15,377	\$3.7885	\$420	\$6,389,932,630
Jefferson City	7,710.16	\$13,800	\$4.7593	\$193	\$1,488,390,201
Springfield	21,996.91	\$13,925	\$3.9787	\$216	\$4,753,992,025
Average of all schools above	15,151.87	\$14,463	\$4.7646	\$218	
St. Louis Public	24,181.69	\$30,105	\$4.6717	\$217	\$5,257,257,054
Kansas City	24,406.08	\$23,444	\$4.9599	\$211	\$5,150,026,589



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Average Class Size and Teacher Student Ratio for Comparison Districts, 2023-24



District	Student-Teacher Ratio	Average Class Size	Students per Admin Ratio
Francis Howell	15	19	221
Lee's Summit	14	17	203
Columbia	12	16	192
Park Hill	13	16	178
Fort Zumwalt	12	16	213
North Kansas City	14	17	205
Independence	14	18	189
Blue Springs	15	18	200
Parkway	14	15	194
Jefferson City	11	15	197
Springfield	13	17	165
Average of all schools above	13.36	16.72	196.09

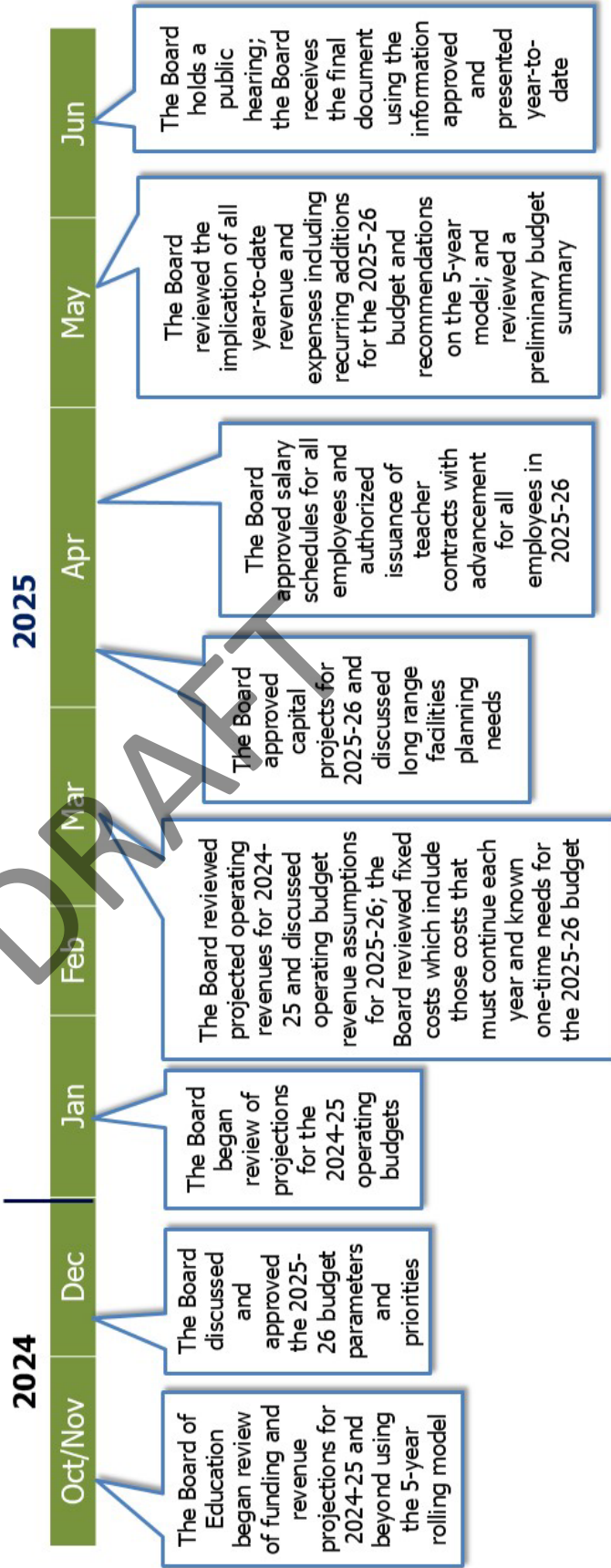


COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



2025-26 Budget Preparation Timeline





COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



SALARY INCREASE

ALLOCATION OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Board of Education authorized nearly \$8.4 million in increases for current employee compensation in the 2025-26 operating budget. With a net increase in the total expenditures of over \$14.1 million, the goal to recruit and retain quality personnel remains a focus of this Board of Education. In total, salaries and benefits equal approximately 77 percent of the total operating budget with these increases.

In addition to the information shared below, teachers and certain other employees have access to improve their salaries based on continued education. This budgetary allocation of nearly \$200,000 encourages high quality continued improvement for educators.

Teacher Schedule – 1,596.77 FTE

- Allow steps for experience totaling \$1,892,042 (1.94% avg.) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$1,200 (2.79%) increasing it from \$43,000 to \$44,200
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$2,890 or 4.73% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$63,940

Total cost of steps and improvement \$4,613,931

Special Services Specialized Personnel – 21.81 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.81%) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$1,200 (2.79%) increasing it from \$43,000 to \$44,200
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$3,087 or 4.60% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$70,114

Total cost of steps and improvement \$92,025

Instructional Coaches, Mentors and Trainers – 29.90 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.84% avg.) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$1,200 (2.80%) increasing it from \$43,000 to \$44,200
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$3,264 or 4.64% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$73,598

Total cost of steps and improvement \$97,586



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



Special Services Process Coordinators – 13.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.72% avg.) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$2,200 (3.04%) increasing it from \$72,300 to \$74,500
- Number of days paid remains at 200 or 210

Average increase is \$4,089 or 4.76% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$90,976

Total cost of steps and improvement \$53,723

Home School Communicators – 32.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.81% avg.) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$1,000 (2.38%) increasing it from \$42,000 to \$43,000
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$2,294 or 4.19% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$56,999

Total cost of steps and improvement \$73,414

Outreach Counselors and Social Workers – 14.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (3.33% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$1,500 (3.26%) increasing it from \$46,000 to \$47,500
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$4,164 or 6.59% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$67,315

Total cost of steps and improvement \$58,290

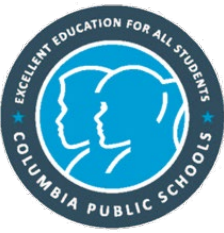
Registered Nurses – 33.55 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.08% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,000 (5.16%) increasing it from \$37,000 to \$39,000
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$3,524 or 6.24% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$59,992

Total cost of steps and improvement \$118,235



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists – 25.86 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.52% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$1,500 (2.82%) increasing it from \$53,000 to \$54,500
- Number of days paid remains at 187

Average increase is \$3,316 or 4.34% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$79,680

Total cost of steps and improvement \$85,763

School Psychologist and Psychologist Examiner – 20.70 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.75% avg.) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$1,500 (3.23%) increasing it from \$46,500 to \$48,000
- Number of days paid remains at 190

Average increase is \$3,559 or 4.98% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$75,072

Total cost of steps and improvement \$73,673

Parent Educators – 18.15 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.78% avg.) and movement for educational credit
- Increase base pay by \$1,500 (3.52%) increasing it from \$42,500 to \$44,000
- Number of days paid remains at 227

Average increase is \$3,226 or 5.30% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$64,153

Total cost of steps and improvement \$58,540

Elementary Assistant Principals – 21.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.84% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,000 (2.65%) increasing it from \$70,500 to \$72,500
- Number of days paid remains at 210

Average increase is \$3,644 or 4.49% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$84,840

Total cost of steps and improvement \$76,532



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



Elementary Principals – 24.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.73% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,650 (3.10%) increasing it from \$81,550 to \$84,200
- Number of days paid remains at 215

Average increase is \$5,004 or 4.83% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$108,600

Total cost of steps and improvement \$120,098

Middle School Assistant Principals – 8.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.95% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,400 (2.81%) increasing it from \$81,300 to \$83,700
- Number of days paid remains at 233

Average increase is \$4,815 or 4.76% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$106,137

Total cost of steps and improvement \$38,524

Middle School Principals – 7.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.93% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,775 (2.86%) increasing it from \$92,425 to \$95,200
- Number of days paid remains at 233

Average increase is \$5,737 or 4.79% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$125,403

Total cost of steps and improvement \$45,901

High School Assistant Principals – 18.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.90% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,700 (2.89%) increasing it from \$90,000 to \$92,700
- Number of days paid remains at 233

Average increase is \$5,090 or 4.79% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$111,396

Total cost of steps and improvement \$91,627



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



High School Principals – 4.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.72% avg)
- Increase base pay by \$3,200 (3.11%) increasing it from \$99,700 to \$102,900
- Number of days paid remains at 233

Average increase is \$6,207 or 4.83% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$134,683

Total cost of steps and improvement \$22,794

Summary of Building Assistant Principals and Principals – 83.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.82% avg)
- Increase base by an average of 2.90%

Average increase is \$4,783 or 4.72% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$106,064

Total cost of steps and improvement \$397,008

Curriculum Coordinators – 14.66 FTE

- Allow steps for experience (1.74% avg.)
- Increase base pay by \$2,400 (3.02%) increasing it from \$79,500 to \$81,900
- Number of days paid remains at 225

Average increase is \$4,669 or 4.76% (not including educational credit)

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$102,756

Total cost of steps and improvement \$68,445

Salaries Support Staff – 163.37 FTE

Employees in this group are those with few or no peers for which the District does not create a salary schedule but rather reviews appropriate ranges of compensation based on experience and responsibility.

- Increase by an average of 4.12% or \$3,802

Number of days ranges from 187 to 261 and averages 240

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$96,020

Total cost of steps and improvement \$536,101



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



Classroom Aides – 60.99 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid remains at 186
- Increase base by \$0.50 per hour or 3.14%

Average increase is \$1,371 or 5.88%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$24,667

Total cost of steps and improvement \$83,606

Instructional Aides – 151.53 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid remains at 189
- Increase base by \$0.75 per hour or 3.99%

Average increase is \$2,193 or 6.53%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$35,780

Total cost of steps and improvement \$332,270

Paraprofessionals – 198.21 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid remains at 186
- Increase base by \$0.75 per hour or 4.06%

Average increase is \$1,867 or 6.45%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$30,835

Total cost of steps and improvement \$370,130

Custodians – 165.15 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid remains at 260
- Increase base by \$0.50 per hour or 3.01%

Average increase is \$2,354 or 5.37%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$46,200

Total cost of steps and improvement \$388,700



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



Nutrition Services Hourly – 118.17 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid remains at 180
- Increase base by \$0.50 per hour or 2.98%

Average increase is \$1,695 or 5.18%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$34,419

Total cost of steps and improvement \$200,413

Technology Services Hourly – 16.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid is 260
- Increase base by \$0.75 per hour or 3.55%

Average increase is \$3,169 or 5.48%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$61,022

Total cost of steps and improvement \$50,698

Hourly Support Staff – 216.74 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid is 260
- Increase column I base by \$0.50 per hour or 2.86%

Average increase is \$2,088 or 4.66%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$46,862

Total cost of steps and improvement \$452,604

Hourly Facilities & Construction – 38.00 FTE

- Allow steps for experience
- Number of days paid is 260
- Increase column I base by \$0.50 per hour or 6.03%

Average increase is \$3,525 or 6.03%

Projected average annual salary in 2025-26 is \$62,019

Total cost of steps and improvement \$133,966



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

Meritorious Budget Award




This Meritorious Budget Award is presented to:

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

for excellence in the preparation and issuance of its budget
for the Fiscal Year 2024–2025.

The budget adheres to the principles and standards
of ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award criteria.




Ryan S. Stechschulte
President


James M. Rowan, CAE, SFO
CEO/Executive Director



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Allison Barton-Kramer
866.682.2729 x7079
Abartonkramer@asbointl.org

ASBO Awards School District for Excellence in Budget Presentation

Reston, VA – December 12, 2024 – The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) proudly recognizes Columbia Public School District for excellence in budget presentation with the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for fiscal year 2024–2025.

ASBO International's MBA and introductory Pathway to the MBA programs promote and recognize excellence in school budget presentation. Program participation enhances school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing, and presenting a school system budget. Participants submit their budget documents to a panel of school financial professionals who review the materials for compliance with the MBA Criteria Checklist and other requirements and provide expert feedback that districts can use to improve their budget documents.

Districts that meet the stringent program requirements may earn either the MBA or Pathway to the MBA (Pathway). Pathway is an introductory program that allows districts to ease into full MBA compliance.

"Presenting a budget that is both accessible and accurate is crucial for school districts to clearly communicate and build trust with their communities," explains Jim Rowan, CAE, SFO, ASBO International Executive Director. "The Meritorious Budget Award program provides districts with the resources and tools to do just that, and the districts that receive the award are recognized for their commitment to upholding nationally recognized budget presentation standards."

Learn more about the program at asbointl.org/MBA.

###

About ASBO International

Founded in 1910, the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is a nonprofit organization that, through its members and affiliates, represents approximately 30,000 school business professionals worldwide. ASBO International is committed to providing programs, services, and a global network that promote the highest standards in school business. Its members support student achievement through effective resource management in various areas ranging from finance and operations to food services and transportation. Learn more at asbointl.org.



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 BUDGET

