

PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

# PROPOSED BUDGET



FISCAL YEAR  
2025-2026



# ABOUT US

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PIRATE!



## PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The mission of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.



We believe that:

Everyone is responsible for his/her choices.

Lifelong learning enriches the individual and the community.

Goal setting and high expectations are the foundation of success.

Everyone has the potential to make a positive difference.

Faith-based values create community stability and prosperity.





# Strategic Plan Goals

## GOAL 1

- Increase Student Achievement at an Elite Level

## GOAL 2

- Pathways and Opportunities

## GOAL 3

- Safe, Secure, & Nurturing Environment

## GOAL 4

- State-of-the-Art Facilities

## GOAL 5

- Recruit & Retain Quality Faculty and Staff





# What is a school district budget?

A school district budget is a comprehensive financial plan that outlines how the district receives and spends its funds. It helps determine how much tax needs to be levied and estimates the funding expected from state and federal sources. This blueprint supports effective planning and decision-making throughout the year.

A school district budget is really *many* budgets in one, made up of separate funds—each defined by how money is collected, held, and spent. These include:

- District Maintenance
- Local Special Education
- At-Risk Funds
- Alternative
- Career and Tech (CTE) Funds
- Federal Funds
- Activity Funds
- Local Building Funds
- Debt Service Funds
- Child Nutrition Funds

Pearl Public School District's budget consists of 49 individual funds in total. The largest of these is the District Maintenance Fund (1120). It covers the core operating expenses of the district, including instruction, transportation, utilities, and support services. This fund also supports other areas—such as Local Special Education, Alternative, At-Risk, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs—through internal transfers.

Each year, the administrative team works together to align the budget with student needs, staying within available revenue. Budget hearings are held annually, allowing input from each school and department.

Key factors considered in the budgeting process include:

- Instructional priorities
- State and federal funding
- Local tax collections
- Debt obligations
- New laws and regulations

We review all state requirements carefully to ensure our district has the resources it needs to serve students effectively.







# Timeline

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| January 13       | - Adopt budget calendar   |
| February 19 - 25 | - Conduct Budget Hearings with the Administrative Team  |
| April 7          | - Conduct Board Budget Worksession  |
| May 21           | - Advertise for Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Tax Notice  |
| May 28           | - Advertise for Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Tax Notice  |
| June 4           | - Advertise for Public Hearing and Ad Valorem Tax Notice  |
| June 9           | - Hold a Public Hearing   |
| June 23          | - Adopt the budget  |
| August 11        | - Adopt the Resolution to Request Ad-Valorem Taxes  |
| August 15        | - Provide two copies of the budget and resolution to the taxing authority and file with the State Department of Education |

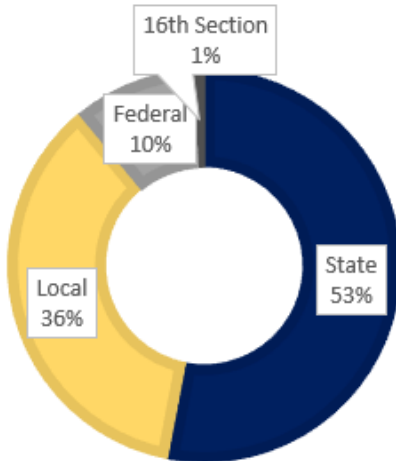


# REVENUES

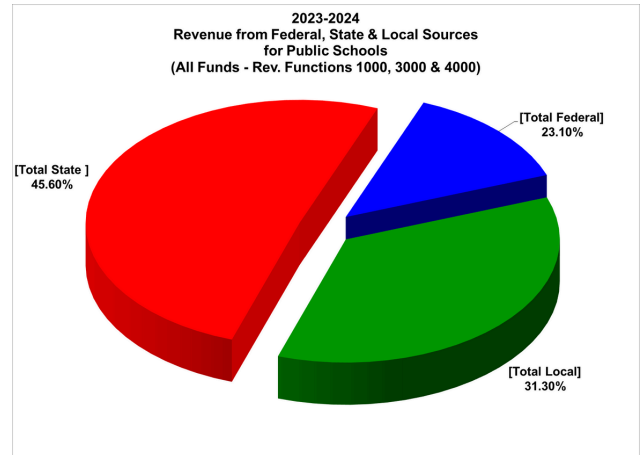
Four major factors determine the amount of money available for the school budget:

- Local Support
- State Appropriation
- Federal Aid
- 16th Section

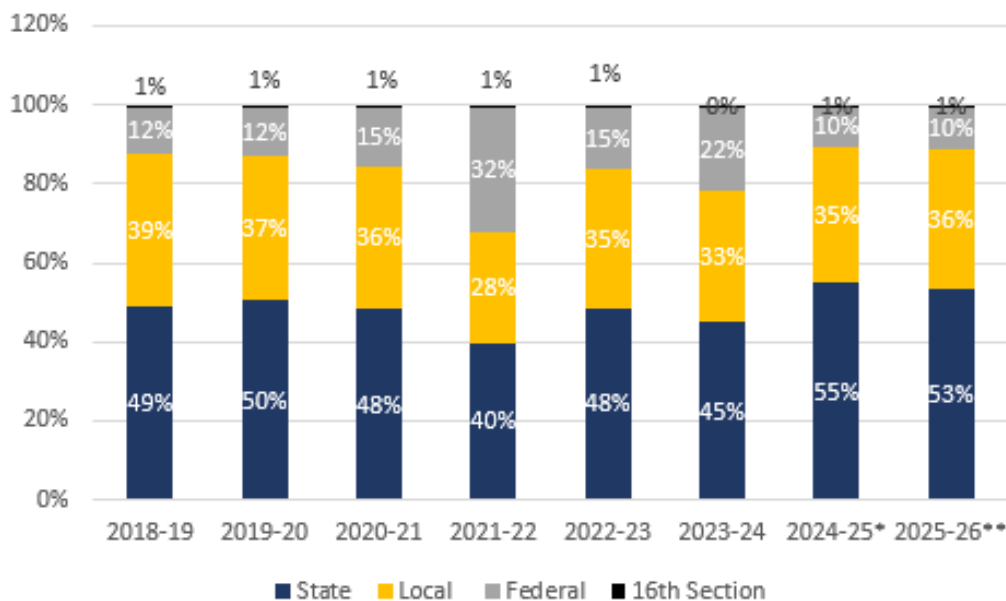
**SOURCES OF REVENUE**



**ALL MS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**Historical Revenues by Sources**



\* Approved budget  
\*\* Proposed Budget  
All other data is from final approved budget reports.





# Mississippi Student Funding Formula



Mississippi's public school funding is now determined by the Mississippi Student Funding Formula (MSFF), implemented in 2024. This formula provides funding based on a base student cost of \$6,842.61 multiplied by a district's average daily enrollment (ADE) during months 2 and 3 of the school year.

In addition to base funding, the state allocates added weights for students who:

- Are from low-income households
- Receive special education services
- Are identified as gifted
- Are enrolled in Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Are English learners

These added weights ensure that schools receive additional resources to support the varying needs of their student populations.

How MSFF is calculated:

Base Student Cost x ADE + Added Weights = MSFF Funding  
= \$28,537,148

Total increase from prior year's state funding: \$422,483.85

Appropriation bill not yet approved. Subject to change in the legislature.

State Appropriation





## How Local Funding Works

Each year, the school district submits a funding request to the levying authority, which calculates it based on the previous year's assessed property valuation. The levying authority then sets the millage rate needed to generate the requested amount.

Local funding is determined by the total assessed value of all taxable property within the district. The millage rate is the multiplier applied to that value to calculate how much tax revenue will be collected.

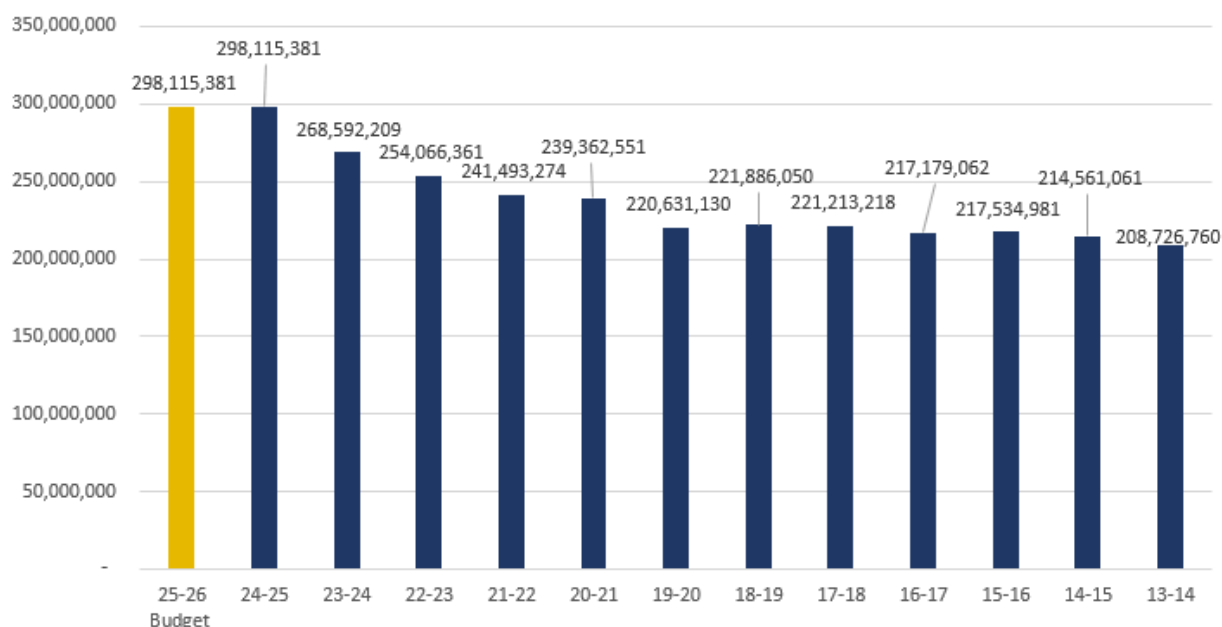
To put it simply:

For every \$1,000 of assessed property value, a property owner pays \$1 for each mill levied.

**How are my taxes calculated?**  
 Market value of a home: \$200,000  
 Appraised % of market value:  
     10%  
 Assessed value:  
     20,000  
 Taxable property tax rate assessed:  
     0.05820  
 Property tax due: for school district taxes:  
     \$1,164.00

Assessed Valuation							
Total Mills	Assessment Year	Real Property	Personal Property	Public Utility Property	Total Assessed Valuation	Homestead	Value of a Mill
58.20	25-26*	197,430,127	83,083,758	17,601,496	298,115,381	17,697,206	274,809
58.20	24-25	197,430,127	83,083,758	17,601,496	298,115,381	17,697,206	274,809
58.70	23-24	174,320,536	80,032,761	14,238,912	268,592,209	14,287,498	249,186
58.70	22-23	171,175,046	70,648,913	12,242,402	254,066,361	14,285,379	239,781
58.70	21-22	166,298,993	64,461,981	10,732,300	241,493,274	14,253,106	227,240
58.70	20-21	163,916,755	64,671,558	10,774,238	239,362,551	14,215,732	225,147
60.56	19-20	149,271,413	61,773,785	9,585,932	220,631,130	12,505,988	208,125
60.40	18-19	149,043,622	63,798,813	9,043,615	221,886,050	12,222,522	209,663
60.40	17-18	146,890,983	65,003,372	9,318,863	221,213,218	12,344,671	208,869
60.40	16-17	145,186,394	63,072,139	8,920,529	217,179,062	12,549,992	204,629
60.40	15-16	145,104,141	62,876,794	9,554,046	217,534,981	12,253,545	205,281
60.40	14-15	143,532,802	61,858,174	9,170,085	214,561,061	12,219,070	202,342
60.40	13-14	137,589,976	62,154,917	8,981,867	208,726,760	11,857,996	196,869

Final Assessed Valuation Trends







# Federal Aid

Federal aid includes a variety of grants and subsidies that support key programs in our schools. These include:

- School lunch and breakfast programs
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Title Cluster programs
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Preschool Cluster services



The Pearl Public School District manages over 640 acres of 16th Section public school trust land in Section 16, Township 5N, Range 2E. More than 177 acres are currently under lease, generating approximately \$342,700 in annual revenue.

These funds are deposited into Fund 1840, also known as the 16th Section Interest Fund, which may be used to support annual operations or capital improvement projects across the district.







# Debt Service

Debt service refers to the funds required to repay both the principal and interest on the district's outstanding debt within a designated timeframe.

- In Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), the district issued a promissory note to purchase school buses. This debt is being repaid annually using funds from the Education Enhancement Fund (EEF).
- In Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), the district issued a special obligation bond to fund the construction of Pearl Upper Elementary School.

## Debt Service Payoff Dates:

2019 Note - August 2029 (\$ 472,000.00)

2016 Special Obligation Bonds - April 2039 (\$ 18,175,000.00)

Balances and amounts due in the FY26 budget are below.

Debt Type	Principal	Interest	Paying Agent	Total
4091 - 2019 Note	110,000.00	12,804.00		122,804.00
4034 - 2016 SO Bonds	1,020,000.00	657,987.50	2,500.00	1,680,487.50
Less: 2410 - EEF Funding				(130,233.00)
Total Debt Service Funds				1,673,058.50



# Expenditures

Eighty-one percent (81%) of the operational budget for Pearl Public School District consists of salaries and benefits for employees.

Enrollment is projected, and teacher allocations are considered based on needs.

Projected 25-26			
School	Enrollment	24-25 Enrollment	Net Inc(Dec)
ECEC	120	115	5
PLE	663	654	9
PNE	667	664	3
PUE	609	599	10
PJH	933	924	9
PHS	1245	1254	-9
DistrictWide	0	0	0
	4237	4210	27

For FY26, the district plans to hire one additional teacher at PHS, a part-time Interventionist at PHS (Goal 1), a new assistant teacher for English Learners at PLE (Goal 1), a new part-time curriculum specialist (Goal 1), an additional School Resource Officer through the City for the High School Campus (Goal 3), and a Network Systems Administrator position (Goal 3). The district issued cost-of-living adjustments ranging from 1-2% for administrative and classified hourly employees (Goal 5), plus a local supplement increase for National Board Certified teachers of \$3,500 (Goal 5).

## Operations

**Salaries \$26,890,751.24**

Licensed & Non-Licensed  
60%

**Benefits \$9,615,013.57**

Retirement, Social Security, Medical Insurance, etc.  
21%

**Purchased Services \$5,999,572.80**

Property Insurance, Substitute Teachers, Transportation, School Resource Officers, Utilities, etc.  
13%

**Supplies & Equipment \$1,681,341.15**

Instructional Resources, Computer Equipment, Maintenance Supplies, etc.  
4%

**Other Objects \$934,534.12**

Dues & Fees, etc.  
2%

**Total \$45,121,212.88**

# Staffing

Location	Administrative	Certified	Classified
Central Office	11	6	9
ECEC	1	9	12
PLE	3	47	49
NSE	3	46	25
PUE	3	48	10
PJH	4	76	12
PHS	8	103	17
Transportation	1		55
Maintenance	1		7
Technology	1		5
Child Nutrition	1		2
Safety	1		
Total	38	335	203





# Capital Projects

The board-approved capital project expenditures for FY26 are as follows:

- Firehouse Remodel (Goal 2)
- Chiller removal at PLE (Goal 3)
- Pilings at Technology Building (Goal 3)
- Power to the Student Parking Lot Pole (Goal 3)
- AC in the Football Locker Room (Goal 3)
- Fence at PUE Blue Playground (Goal 3)
- New Maintenance Truck (Goal 3)
- Generator for PJH (Goal 3)
- PJH Wall Padding in Gym (Goal 3)
- Door under Bleachers at PHS for storage and Railing at PHS Gym (Goal 4 & 3)
- PHS FB Field House Remodel and Visitor Press Box Updates (Goal 4)
- Resurface Football/Tennis parking lot (Goal 4)
- Remove grass cutouts from the PHS parking lot (Goal 4)
- PHS Entrance Sign (Goal 4)
- Big Band Hall Carpet Tiles (Goal 4)
- Replace two (2) buses (Goal 4)
- PJH Hand Dryers (Goal 4)
- Tennis Windscreens (Goal 4)
- Basketball HS & JH, Soccer HS, Track HS, Lockers (Goal 4)
- Baseball metal fence (Goal 4)
- Admin Annex Remodel (Goal 4)
- HVAC Project at NSE, PJH, & PHS (Goal 4)

The goal of our school district budget is to offer a high-quality, well-rounded education for the Pearl Public School District students that supports the district's mission.

## Excellence in Education

# Operational Funds

	GENERAL	GENERAL	GENERAL	GENERAL	SPECIAL
	1120	1130	1140	1145	REVENUE
	District	Special	Alternative	At-Risk	2711
	Maintenance	Education	School		CTE
Revenues:					
Local Sources	16,981,444.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intermediate Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Sources	29,092,827.34	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Federal Sources	21,420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	346,363.93
Sixteenth section Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,987.34
					0.00
Total Revenues	46,095,692.00	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	375,351.27
Expenditures:					
Instruction	22,759,976.39	3,427,880.08	113,649.74	268,541.74	1,178,648.85
Support services	15,903,625.73	585,069.06	1,000.00	63,424.49	0.00
Noninstructional services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixteenth section	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities acquisition and construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service					
Principal	404,487.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	375,321.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	39,443,411.52	4,012,949.14	114,649.74	331,966.23	1,178,648.85
Excess(deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	6,652,280.48	(3,967,949.14)	(114,649.74)	(331,966.23)	(803,297.58)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Proceeds of General Obligation Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds of Refunding Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proceeds of Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan from School District Emergency Assistance Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inception of Capital Leases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Premium on Debt Issuance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance Loss Recoveries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan from Educational Facilities Revolving Load Fund Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Transportation Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Other Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indirect Costs	215,970.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transfers in	0.00	3,981,252.18	114,649.74	331,966.23	803,297.58
ESSER Transfers in	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments to Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Other Financing Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indirect Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transfers Out	6,868,251.37	13,303.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
ESSER Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payment to Refunded Bond Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payment to Qualified Zone Academy Debt Escrow Agent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Other Financing Use	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(Uses)	(6,652,280.48)	3,967,949.14	114,649.74	331,966.23	803,297.58
Net Change in Fund Balances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balances / Retained Earnings					
July 1, 2025	7,918,634.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prior period adjustments					
Reclassify fund equity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrecorded fund equity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reclassify fund types	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
July 1, 2025 as restated	7,918,634.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease) in reserve for inventory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
June 30, 2026	7,918,634.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



# Highlighted Funds

## Textbook Fund 1992 Goal 1

The Textbook Fund supports student and teacher resources of textbooks and instructional materials. Annually, a dedicated curriculum team conducts thorough evaluations of existing resources and gathers feedback from teachers and students. Based on their analysis and insights, the team makes informed recommendations for new textbooks or additional materials, ensuring that the curriculum remains relevant and aligned with educational standards.

In addition to traditional textbooks, the Textbook Fund extends its support to encompass a broader range of resources such as digital platforms, interactive software, and educational apps. By embracing technological advancements, the fund enables educators to adopt innovative teaching methods and create dynamic learning environments.

For FY26, the district is investing in a new 5-year social studies (6-8) and math (6-12) curriculum by SAVVAS.

Major components include: Savvas Math & Social Studies, Curriculum Associates, Art of Education, STEMscopes

Instructional Budget: \$720,600.00

SAVVAS  
realize®

STEMscopes™  
THE LEADER IN STEM EDUCATION

**Curriculum Associates®**

i-Ready

i-Ready Learning  
Magnetic  
Reading™



# Child Nutrition Fund 2110

# Goal 3



Through its partnership with Chartwells K12, the school district has witnessed a notable boost in sales and achieved significant cost savings. Chartwells K12's expertise in nutrition and menu planning, combined with its streamlined operations, has led to more appealing and balanced meal options for students. This improvement in meal quality and variety has resulted in increased student participation and higher sales within the district's food service program. Additionally, Chartwells K12's purchasing power and efficient procurement practices have allowed the district to benefit from cost savings, optimizing the allocation of resources and enabling investment in other educational initiatives. Overall, the partnership with Chartwells K12 has not only enhanced the dining experience for students but also yielded financial advantages for the school district.

An excess fund balance refers to the accumulation of funds beyond what is deemed necessary for the operational needs and financial stability of a Child Nutrition Program, which is defined as a balance over three months' average expenditures. In FY22, the district began trying to spend down the excess fund balance of \$1,124,522.08. Child nutrition funds face limitations in terms of available spending options. In FY26, the district proposed spending \$845,179.76 of the fund balance for Child Nutrition.

We have evaluated each cafeteria to determine the need for new kitchen equipment and dining area furniture, aiming to improve the overall dining experience for students and staff. Projects proposed in FY26 are replacing two PLE serving lines and a storage system, new equipment at NSE, PJH, and PHS, in addition to custom-designed tables for PHS dining. Our efforts to enhance these facilities will persist as we move forward.





# Construction Fund 3026

## Goal 4

# PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

On March 17, 2025, Pearl Public School District entered into an agreement with Path, Inc. to replace outdated boiler systems at Northside Elementary and the main building at Pearl Junior High School with modern HVAC units. The project also includes the replacement of HVAC units in the Pearl High School Library and Auditorium.

The district closed on financing on May 29, 2025, with a total financed amount of \$8,961,838.00. Repayment will be made annually through 2041 using operational funds, at an interest rate of 4.188%.

As part of the project:

- Northside Elementary and Pearl Junior High will receive new Building Automation System (BAS) controls
- Pearl High School will receive an updated control system

This investment ensures greater energy efficiency, improved air quality, and long-term operational savings across the district.



# Looking Forward

For Fiscal Year 2026, the district is managing key increases in operational costs:

- A 0.5% increase in PERS (Public Employees' Retirement System)
- A projected 5% increase in health insurance premiums

Together, these adjustments will result in an estimated \$256,000 increase in expenses. While the state provided \$176,310 in additional funding to help offset these costs in FY25, no supplemental funding beyond the MSFF allocation is expected for FY26 or future years.

In addition, the district anticipates significant changes in federal funding over the next four years, which may impact program support and staffing.

Looking ahead, residential growth is expected within the district's assessed valuation area. The administrative team will continue to monitor enrollment trends and development activity closely to determine the need for future classroom space and facility expansion.

Excellence in Education





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