

# SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET MAY 1, 2025

Mr. Mark Leung, Interim Business Administrator  
Mr. Theodore Pugliese, Superintendent of Schools



# DISTRICT GOALS

**Goal #1: Student Achievement:** Ensure lessons are delivered to students at their instructional, independent, and challenge levels to increase student performance.

**Goal #2: School Climate and Culture:** Create a unified school district that embraces our diversity, encourages community pride, and values academic achievement and education.

**Goal #3: Communication and Parent/Community Partnerships:** Ensure effective communication between home, school, and community in order to build strong partnerships that support our students and school community.

# CURRENT YEAR BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Our budget allows us to continue to offer free full day preschool for 3 & 4 year olds.
- Our budget supports new partnerships with Atlas and LinkIt, as we work together to write full standards based curriculum for all subjects and grade levels, and to develop and pilot new standards based grade level benchmark assessments to measure student achievement against the NJSLA.
- Such benchmarks will help monitor the effectiveness of our new curricula and resources as we continue to develop and implement them.
- Our budget also provides professional development (time and training) to support these efforts, as well as new technology for Jordan Road!

# CURRENT YEAR BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- Our budget supports our School Climate & Culture efforts including our SEL program with resources like Second Step and Maggie's Roots to Grow program.
- It supports our BPAG and SEPAG efforts as we continue to partner with our parent advisory groups to help support students beyond the classroom.
- Our budget supports new district wide community events like STEAM Night, including Family Literacy Night, our new Multicultural Night, and the return of school plays for both schools.

# CURRENT YEAR BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- Federal Title funds and carryover from last year helped provide this year's MTSS model.
- The anticipated courtyard project at Jordan Road School was completed and is now ready for spring.
- ARP ESSER funds also allowed for the purchase of a a new box truck and a tractor (following the purchase of a new pick up last year); however, that was the end of \$3.3 million in ARP ESSER grant funding.

# BUDGET CALENDAR & PROCESS

- Special thanks to everybody involved in budget process, from the Board, its committees, the BA, principals, administrators, and teachers. Thank you very much!
- It was good to have the time to have a traditional process in place.
- It featured a zero-based budget, built from scratch, starting with a wish budget of everything the principals & supervisors wanted.
- Then we started a series of cuts to match the revenues to the expenses to balance the budget.

# BUDGET CALENDAR & PROCESS (Cont'd)

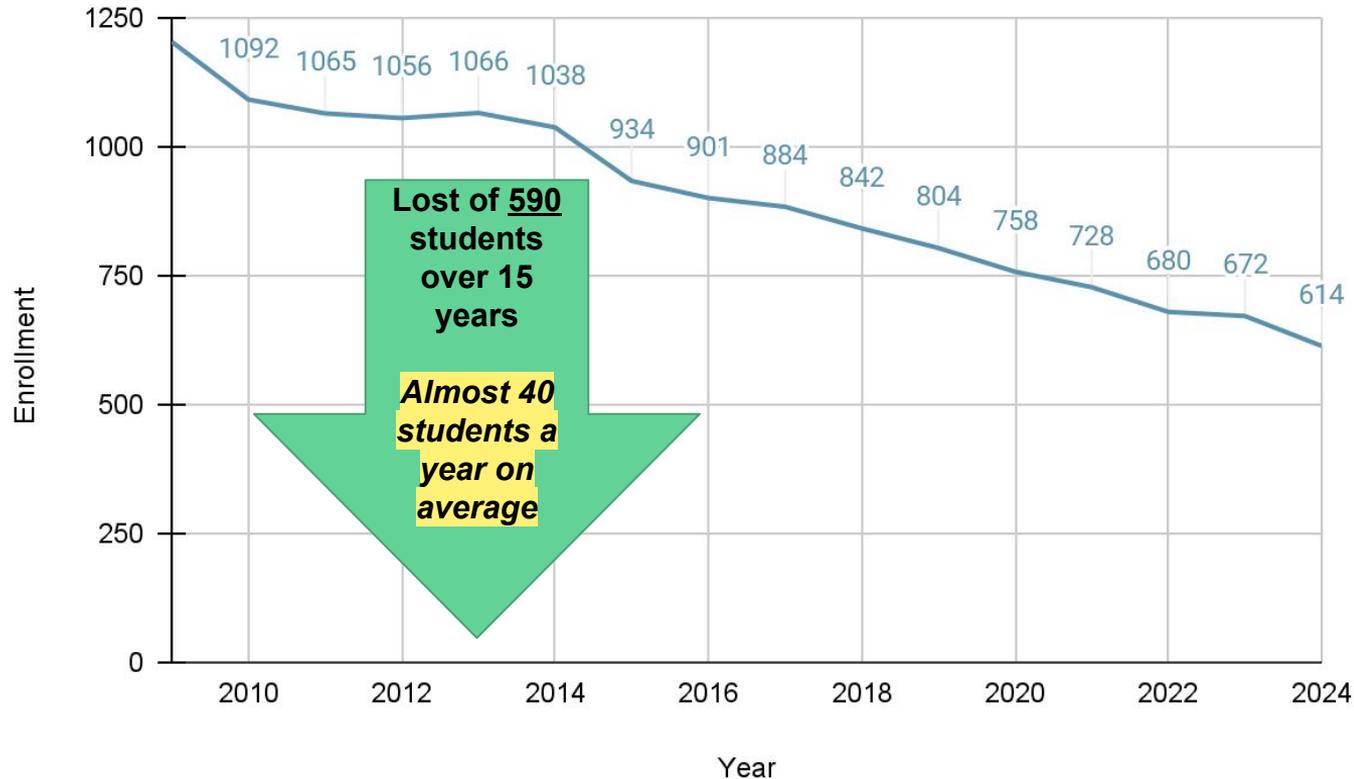
- Next, the preliminary budget was presented to the Board of Education and approved at the special Board meeting on March 19, 2025.
- It was submitted to the county office for their review that night.
- Then the county office approved the preliminary budget on March 26, 2025.
- Tonight is the public budget hearing with a vote after the presentation.

# 2009-2024 K-8 ENROLLMENT (Based upon Oct. 15 count)

- 2009 - 1204 students
- 2010 - 1092 students
- 2011 - 1065 students
- 2012 - 1056 students
- 2013 - 1066 students
- 2014 - 1038 students
- 2015 - 934 students
- 2016 - 901 students
- 2017 - 884 students
- 2018 - 842 students
- 2019 - 804 students
- 2020 - 758 students
- 2021 - 728 students
- 2022 - 680 students
- 2023 - 672 students
- 2024 - 614 students

\* Does not include Pre-K enrollment

2024 Pre-K Enrollment = 80



# STATE AID (7 year S2 Bill)

Year	Enrollment	State Aid	Yearly Loss	Cumulative Loss
2018-19	842	\$6,187,598		
2019-20	804	\$5,790,495	\$397,103	\$397,103
2020-21	758	\$5,699,531	\$90,964	\$488,067
2021-22	728	\$5,637,868	\$61,663	\$549,730
2022-23	680	\$4,405,461	\$1,232,407	\$1,782,137
2023-24	672	\$3,301,645	\$1,103,816	\$2,885,953
2024-25	614	\$2,166,186	\$1,135,459	\$4,021,412
2025-26	?	\$2,101,200	\$64,986	\$4,086,398

# BUDGETING CHALLENGES: DECREASING REVENUE & INCREASING OPERATING COSTS

- 3% State Aid reduction (-\$64,986)
  - 2024-2025 Stabilization Aid is no longer available (-\$510,957)
  - ARP Funding & Carryover is no longer available (-\$145,319)
  - Special Revenue Title & IDEA Funding Carryover is no longer available (-\$250,703)
  - 25% Preschool Aid Carryover reduction (-\$25,000)
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- Anticipated Healthcare cost increases of 20% (+\$724,801)
  - Anticipated Electricity cost increases of 17% (+\$61,000)

# REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS

- Increased use of Budgeted Fund Balance (+\$287,416)
- 2% Tax Levy Cap (+\$230,034)
- Use of eligible Banked Cap tax levy adjustment (+\$170,951)
- Use of Healthcare tax levy adjustment (+\$229,926)

\* Effectively, a tax increase of 5.49% with the 2% Cap & allowable adjustments

# BUDGET CUTS

- First, the wish budget included 5 new special education teachers.
- These wish positions were the first to be cut.
- Unfortunately, further cuts were necessary to balance the budget.
- **These include 15 positions district wide.**
- From teachers, substitutes, and paraprofessionals to clerical and custodial positions district wide, **and that still wasn't enough.**
- Additionally, we had to postpone or cancel capital projects and cut supply lines 20% **and that still wasn't enough.**
- Then we had to cut over another \$100,000.00

# NEXT YEAR BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Fortunately, resignations and retirements account for six (6) of the cut positions, saving jobs.
- Six (6) more cuts involve full time substitutes w/ benefits who can still serve as daily subs.
- We still have free full day preschool for 3 & 4 year olds.
- We still have ESL, Specials, and SEL.
- And we are still working with our partners to support our continued focus on student achievement, especially in ELA, math, and science.

# NEXT YEAR BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite all these efforts to balance the budget and provide our students with the programs and opportunities they deserve, we are still more than **\$1,000,000.00 below adequacy\***.
- That means we are doing more with less than the State thinks we need to educate our students.
- That means there is no fat in this budget.
- And there is nothing else to cut at this time.
- **Again, we are more than \$1,000,000.00 below adequacy\*.**

*\*Adequacy Budget - for every school district the state calculates what would be the minimum necessary funding level to provide a “thorough and efficient education” to every pupil in that district.*

# Budget: What's Included

BUDGET IS DEVELOPED ACCORDING TO GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES – OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “GAAP”

TWO SECTIONS of a **BALANCED BUDGET**

- REVENUES
- EXPENDITURES

**A SCHOOL BUDGET IS DIVIDED INTO FUNDS  
– THINK OF THESE AS BUCKETS.**

**FUND 10 – Operating Budget**

**FUND 20 – Restricted Funds Federal/State/Local**

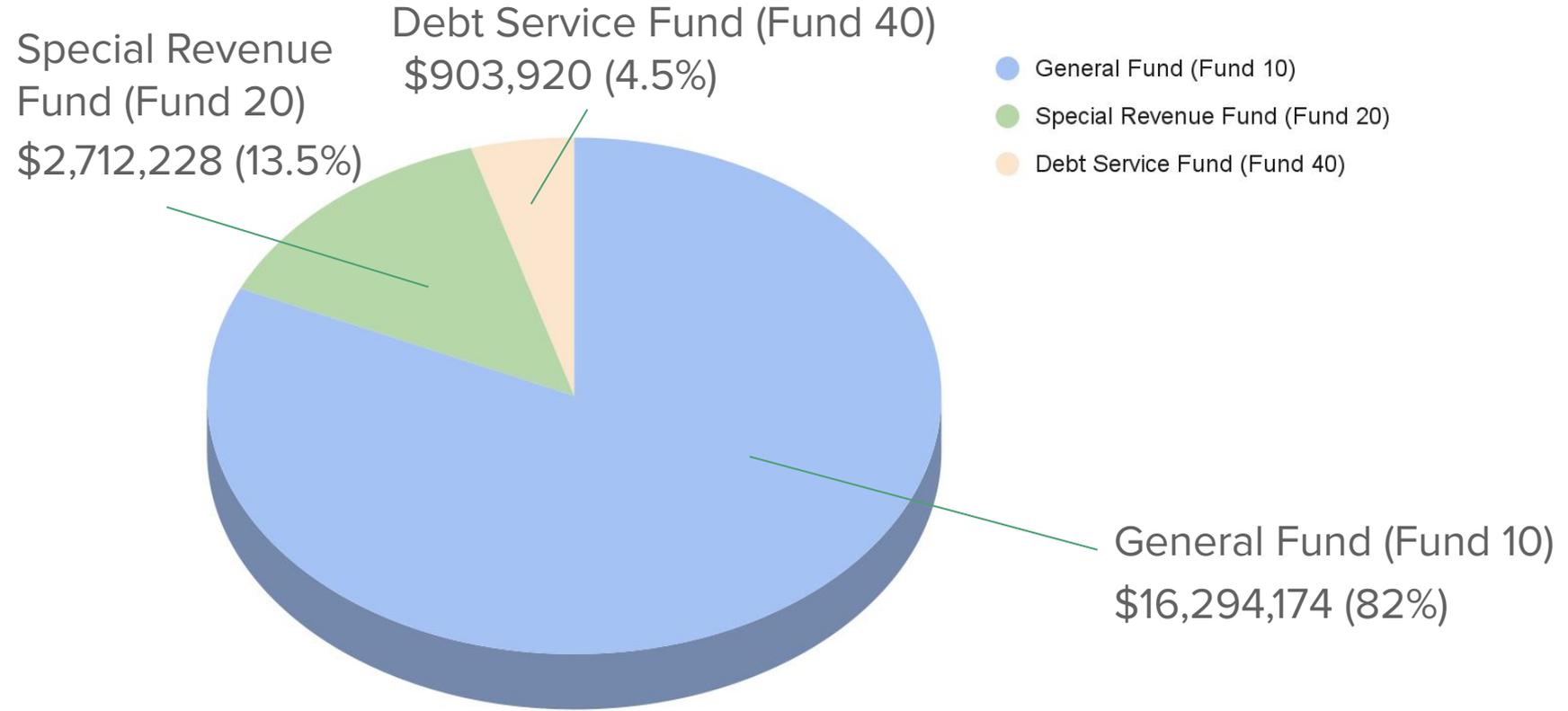
**FUND 30 – Capital Improvements (Referendum/Grants/Local)**

**FUND 40 – Debt Service Payments (Referendums 2011 & 2016)**

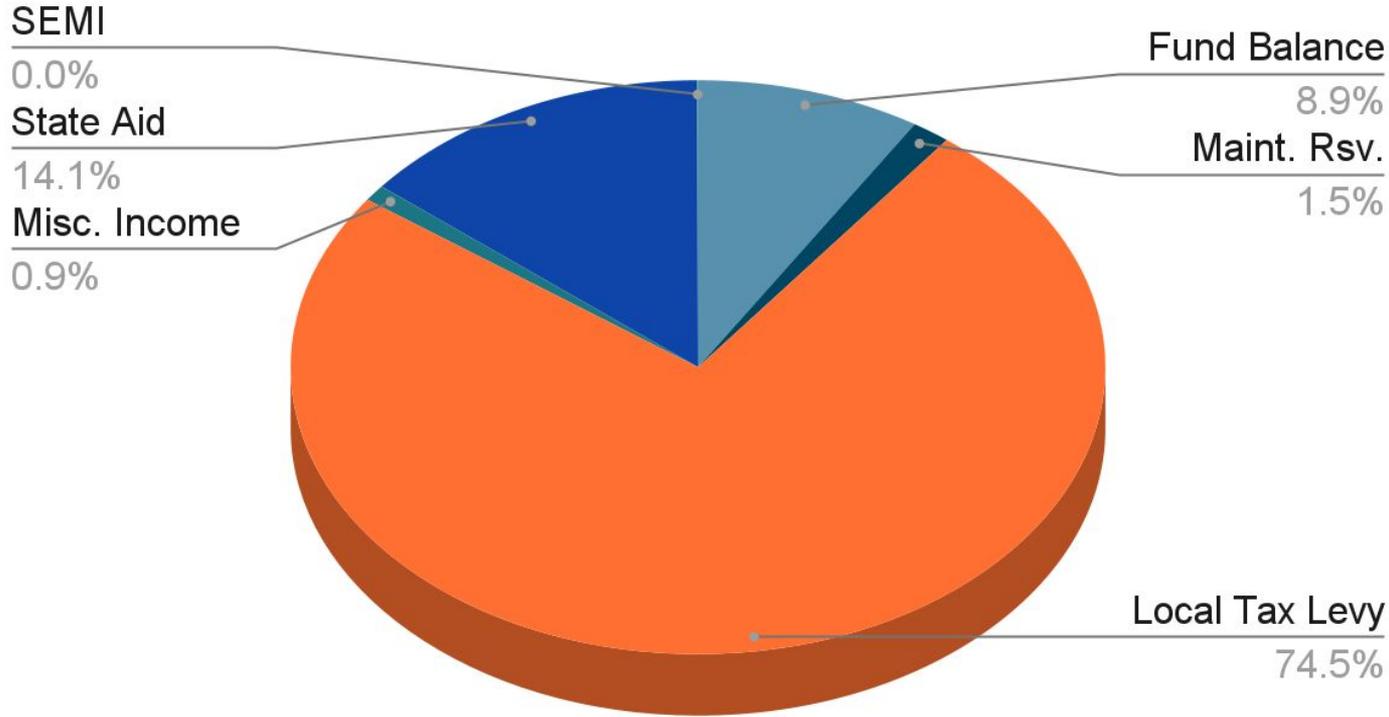


**2025-2026  
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET  
\$19,910,322**

# 2025-2026 TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET (\$19,910,322)

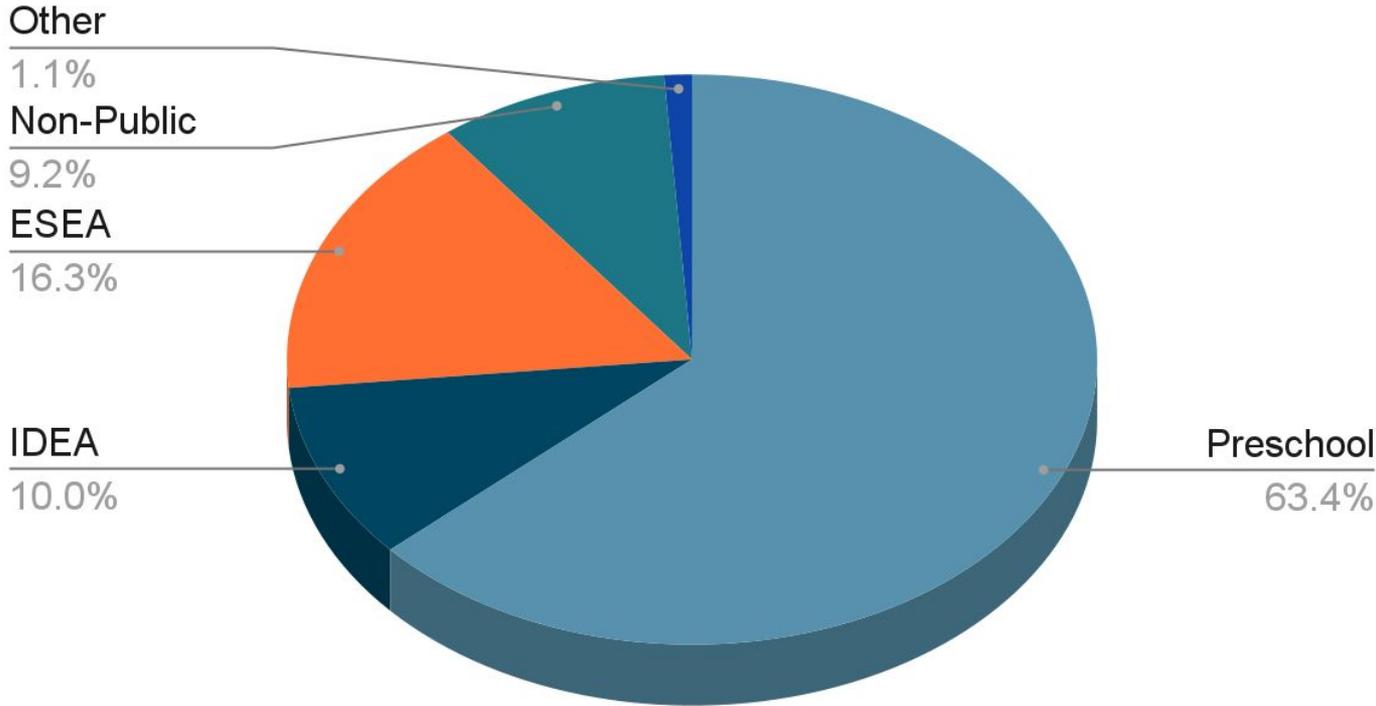


# 2025-2026 General Revenue (Fund 10) (\$16,294,174)



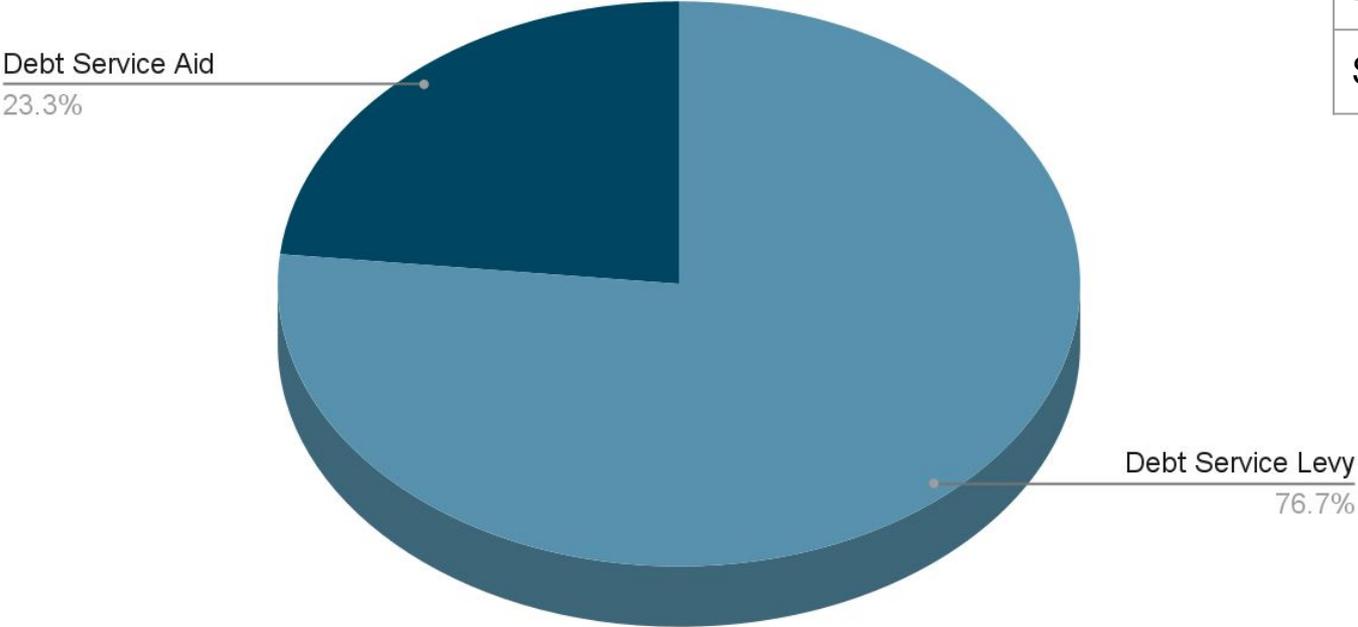
Tax Levy	\$12,132,590
State Aid	\$2,301,200
Fund Bal	\$1,454,244
Maint Rsv	\$250,000
Misc Inc.	\$150,200
SEMI	\$5,904

# 2025-2026 Special/Restricted Revenue (Fund 20) \$2,712,228



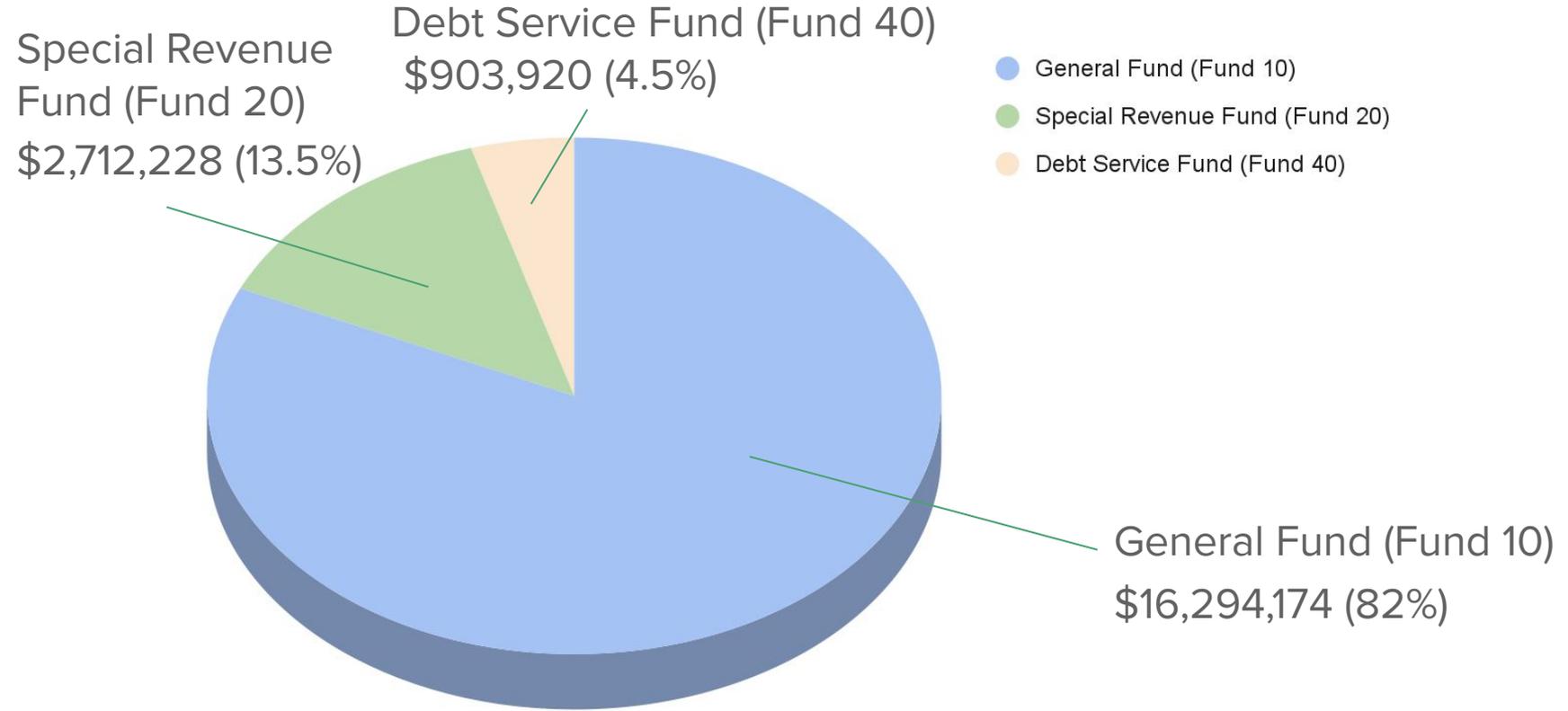
Preschool (State)	\$1,718,775
ESEA (Federal)	\$441,469
IDEA (Federal)	\$272,149
Non-Public (State)	\$249,835
Other (Local)	\$30,000

# 2025-2026 Debt Service Revenue (Fund 40) \$903,920

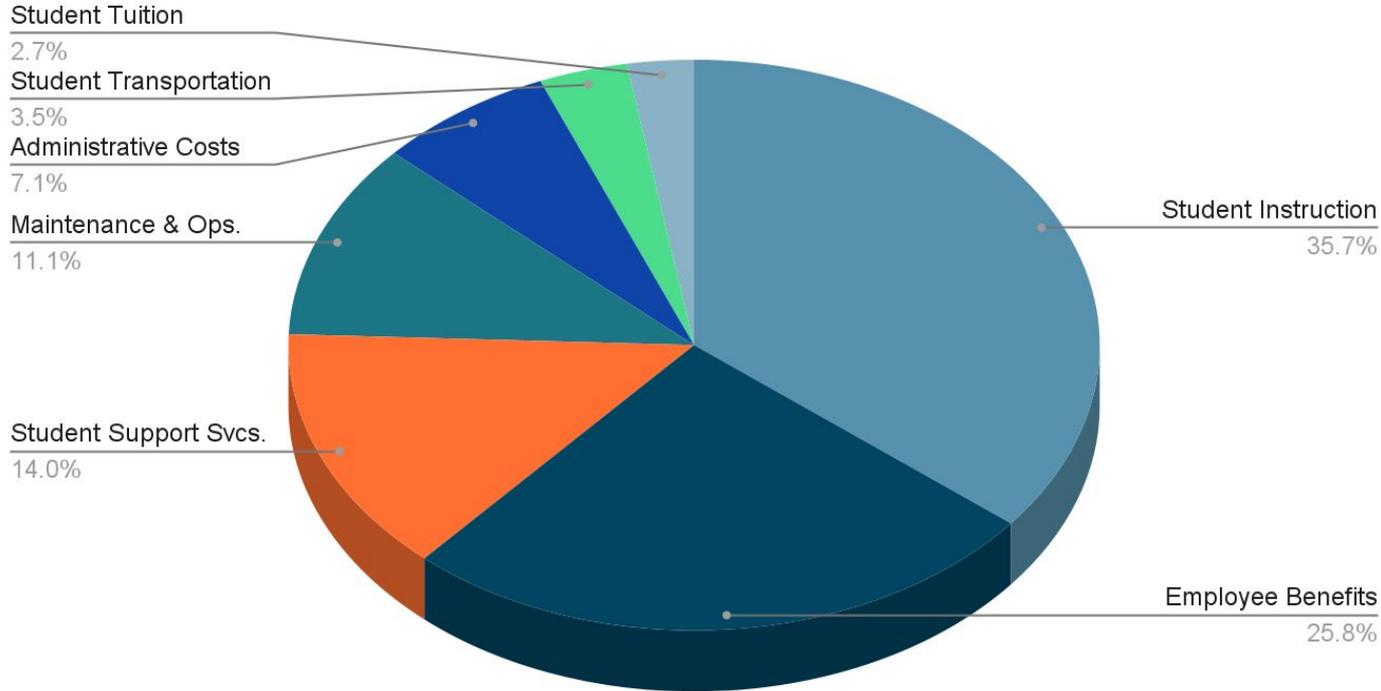


Local Levy	\$693,119
State Aid	\$210,801

# 2025-2026 TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET (\$19,910,322)

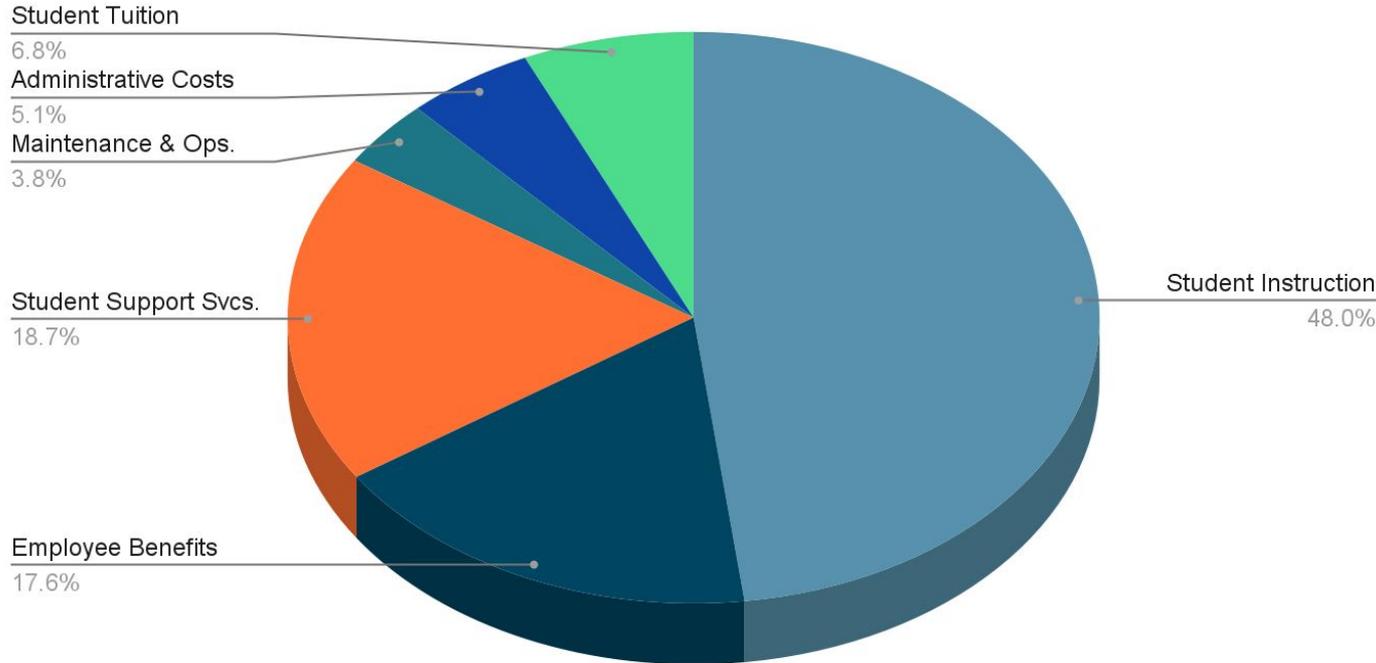


# 2025-2026 General Expenditure (Fund 10) \$16,294,174



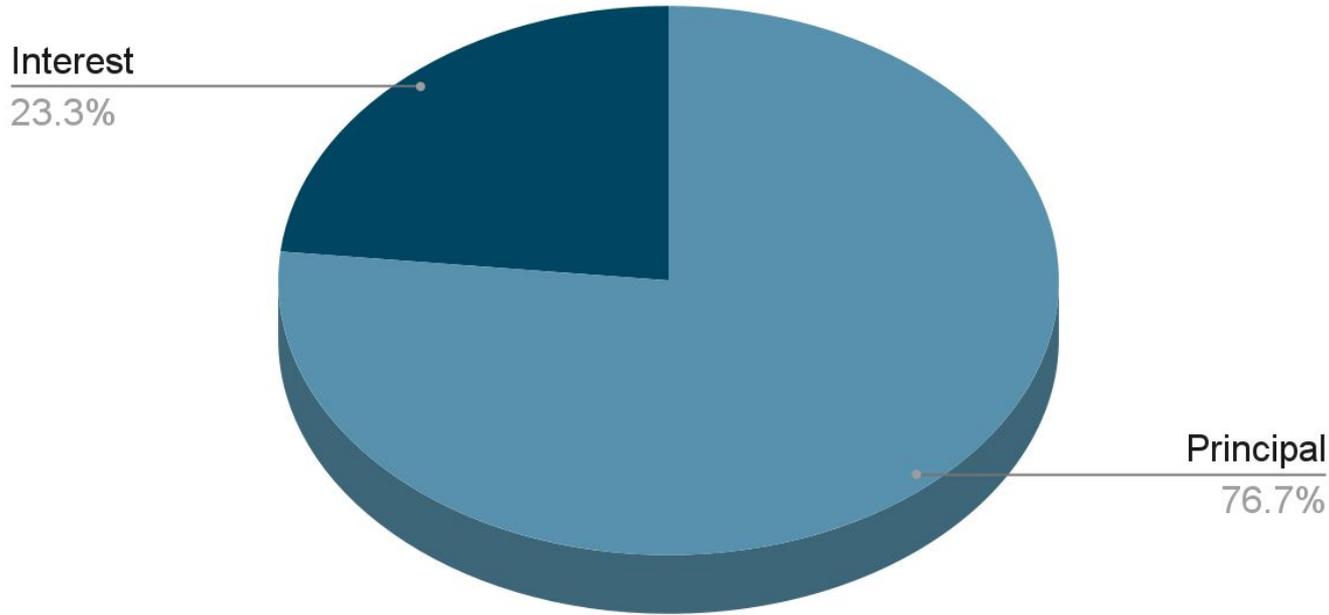
Student Instruction	\$5,823,286
Employee Benefits	\$4,208,917
Student Support Svcs.	\$2,287,505
Maintenance & Ops.	\$1,815,347
Administrative Costs	\$1,150,997
Student Transportation	\$574,102
Student Tuition	\$434,020

# 2025-2026 Special/Restricted Expenditure (Fund 20) \$2,712,228



Student Instruction	\$1,301,754
Employee Benefits	\$477,057
Student Support Svcs.	\$506,633
Maintenance & Ops.	\$103,517
Administrative Costs	\$138,267
Student Tuition	\$185,000

# 2025-2026 Debt Service Expenditure (Fund 40) \$903,920



Principal	\$693,119
Interest	\$210,801

# DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Year	Series 2011	Series 2016	Yearly Total
2025-2026	\$283,920	\$620,000	\$903,920
2026-2027		\$720,525	\$720,525
2027-2028		\$714,175	\$714,175
2028-2029		\$697,675	\$697,675
2029-2030		\$681,175	\$681,175
2030-2031		\$664,675	\$664,675
2031-2032		\$648,175	\$648,175
2032-2033		\$631,400	\$631,400
2033-2034 & 2034-2035		\$614,075 & \$596,338	\$614,075 & \$596,338
2035-2036 & 2036-2037		\$578,325 & \$559,625	\$578,325 & \$559,625

# 2025-2026 PreK - 8th Grade School Tax Impact

	Totals		
	2024-2025	2025-2026 Proposed	Differential
Total School Tax levy	\$ 12,249,606	\$ 12,825,709	\$ 576,103
Total Taxable Assessed Value	\$ 1,139,176,000	\$ 1,147,244,000	\$ 8,068,000
School Tax Rate per \$100 of Total Assessed Value	1.075304	1.117958	0.042654
Average Assessed Home Value	\$ 212,417.80	\$ 213,340.58	\$ 923
School Taxes for the Average House	\$2,284.14	\$2,385.06	\$ 100.92
Tax Increase for the Average House	<b>\$100.92</b>		

ANY  
QUESTIONS  
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