



AIKEN COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025 – 2026 BUDGET
FIRST READING

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

**FUND #1 - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
REVENUE BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

	<u>2024 - 2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 - 2026 Budget - First Reading</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Local:				
Levies For Current Operations	\$ 76,149,445	\$ 92,575,358	\$ 16,425,913 (1)	21.57%
Delinquent Taxes - Operations	2,850,000	3,000,000	150,000	5.26%
Payment/Fee In Lieu Of Taxes	7,850,000	8,500,000	650,000	8.28%
Tuition - Out of District/Out of State/Age Requirements	45,000	45,000	-	0.00%
Interest On Investments	1,900,000	2,500,000	600,000	31.58%
Other Local - Miscellaneous	300,000	300,000	-	0.00%
Total Local Revenue	<u>89,094,445</u>	<u>106,920,358</u>	<u>17,825,913</u>	20.01%
State:				
State Aid to Classrooms - State General Fund	94,967,683	95,890,007 (2)	922,324	0.97%
Health Insurance	2,641,347	3,513,426 (2)	872,079	100.00%
School Bus Drivers	2,853,478	2,886,831	33,353	1.17%
Retiree Insurance	8,526,623	9,308,613 (2)	781,990	9.17%
Tier 1 - Property Tax Relief	8,147,500	8,147,500	-	0.00%
Tier 2 - Homestead Exemption	2,659,778	2,659,778	-	0.00%
Tier 3A - Act 388	29,434,379	30,938,930 (3)	1,504,551	5.11%
Tier 3B - Saluda	15,000	-	(15,000)	-100.00%
Retirement Credit	1,293,418	1,293,418	-	0.00%
Total State Revenue	<u>150,539,206</u>	<u>154,638,503</u>	<u>4,099,297</u>	2.72%
Transfers and Non-Revenue Items:				
Transfer From Fund #3 - State Aid to Classrooms - EIA	19,591,429	13,202,000	(6,389,429)	-32.61%
Other Transfers: EIA Fund Carryover	780,000	13,500,000 (4)	12,720,000	100.00%
Indirect Costs - Fund #2 and Fund #6	700,000	700,000	-	0.00%
Total Transfers and Non-Revenue Items	<u>21,071,429</u>	<u>27,402,000</u>	<u>6,330,571</u>	30.04%
Total - General Fund Revenue	260,705,080	288,960,861	28,255,781	10.84%
Fund balance dollars used	3,166,745	1,007,000 (5)	(2,159,745)	-100.00%
Total - General Fund Revenue and Fund Balance Usage	<u>\$ 263,871,825</u>	<u>\$ 289,967,861</u>	<u>\$ 26,096,035</u>	9.89%

(1) increased revenue results from growth in tax base in combination with a proposed 20.0 mil tax increase

(2) based on Senate version of budget, most recent allocations received to date

(3) estimated 2024 - 2025 allocation per SC Office of Revenue & Fiscal Affairs

(4) EIA State Aid to Classrooms carryover from 2024 - 2025

(5) to cover cost 2025 - 2026 intersession; will re-evaluate whether to continue in 2026 - 2027

**FUND #1 - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
EXPENDITURES BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

	2024 - 2025 Budget	2025 - 2026 Budget - First Reading	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Change
Regular Salaries	\$ 158,968,529	\$ 180,014,269	\$ 21,045,740 ⁽¹⁾	13.24%
Extra Duty and Overtime Salaries	3,387,453	745,184	(2,642,269) ⁽²⁾	-78.00%
Fringe Benefits and Payroll Taxes	74,563,677	82,301,475	7,737,798 ⁽³⁾	10.38%
Unemployment Compensation	33,000	33,000	-	0.00%
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,596,723	1,637,858	41,135	2.58%
Purchased Services - Instructional	3,563,901	2,978,501	(585,400) ⁽⁴⁾	-16.43%
Purchased Services - SRO	895,191	895,191	-	0.00%
Management Services	27,000	27,000	-	0.00%
Data Processing Services	217,629	217,629	-	0.00%
Audit Fees	125,500	125,500	-	0.00%
Legal Fees	175,000	175,000	-	0.00%
Water, Sewer And Garbage	1,050,000	1,150,000	100,000 ⁽⁵⁾	9.52%
Repairs/Maintenance Services	1,218,677	1,249,677	31,000	2.54%
Property/Liability Insurance	1,587,575	1,646,440	58,865	3.71%
Rentals	87,118	102,118	15,000	17.22%
Equipment Repairs	361,505	363,503	1,998	0.55%
Other Property Services	2,475	2,475	-	0.00%
Student Transportation	75,000	50,000	(25,000)	-33.33%
Travel	505,376	515,226	9,850	1.95%
Athletics Transportation	56,271	56,141	(130)	-0.23%
Telephone	414,380	414,380	-	0.00%
Purchased Services - Technology	1,590,679	1,515,287	(75,392)	-4.74%
Advertising	13,522	13,522	-	0.00%
Printing and Binding	51,131	28,131	(23,000)	-44.98%
Purchased Services - Other	990,213	1,178,808	188,595 ⁽⁶⁾	19.05%
Supplies - General	396,206	444,590	48,384	12.21%
Supplies - Recruitment/Retention	20,000	20,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - Instructional	1,212,265	1,217,164	4,899	0.40%
Supplies - Vocational	47,901	47,901	-	0.00%
Supplies - Robotics	9,000	9,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - STEM/STEAM Instructional Materials	5,000	5,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - Office and Postage	162,702	161,082	(1,620)	-1.00%
Supplies - Custodial	665,899	665,899	-	0.00%
Supplies - Maintenance	22,438	22,438	-	0.00%
Supplies - Maintenance Repairs	613,518	613,518	-	0.00%
Supplies - Tools	24,143	24,143	-	0.00%
Supplies - Gasoline/Lubricants	140,024	140,024	-	0.00%
Supplies - Vehicle Repairs	60,000	60,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - Electronic Repairs	45,000	45,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - Landscaping	100,000	100,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - Uniforms	60,000	60,000	-	0.00%
Supplies - Health	22,202	22,195	(7)	-0.03%
Supplies - Library	215,071	214,118	(953)	-0.44%
Supplies - Technology	473,696	494,696	21,000	4.43%
Energy	5,550,000	5,550,000	-	0.00%
Equipment	18,900	43,900	25,000	132.28%
Technology and Software	45,700	45,700	-	0.00%
Debt Service	2,155,725	2,253,725	98,000 ⁽⁷⁾	4.55%
Dues and Fees	123,910	124,910	1,000	0.81%
Transfer to Other Funds - Activity Funds	37,000	37,000	-	0.00%
Payments to Other Governments & Entities	88,000	88,000	-	0.00%
Total - General Fund Expenditures	\$ 263,871,825	\$ 289,946,318	\$ 26,074,493	9.88%

**FUND #1 - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
EXPENDITURES BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

- (1) reflects \$3,000 increase per teacher scale cell plus a step for all eligible teachers, the results from a 90% implementation of the salary study proposal, funding a 2nd assistant principal at elementary schools > 500 students, staffing for extended middle school ELA/math learning, a proposed increase in athletic supplements, among other changes.
- (2) removed FY 24 \$1,000 retention bonus; added FY 25 bonus in lieu of non-teacher COLA
- (3) reflects rise in employer health insurance premiums
(expected at 4.6% going into effect January 1, 2026) plus
- (4) internal shifts within sped IDEA MOE
- (5) based on a trend of increasing expenditures
- (6) reflects internal shifts within sped IDEA MOE plus budgeting for an EAP under Human Resources
- (7) updated based on debt service agreement, scheduled payments for 2025 - 2026

**FUNDS #2, #8 AND #9 - SPECIAL REVENUE
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

	2024 - 2025 Budget*	2025 - 2026 Budget - First Reading*	Increase/ (Decrease)
Federal Funds:			
Title I	\$ 10,338,060	\$ 10,338,060	\$ -
Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)	5,442,919	5,442,919	-
Preschool Handicapped	190,706	190,706	-
Perkins	419,560	419,560	-
Title IV	706,499	706,499	-
Neglected and Delinquent	29,831	29,831	-
Title I - TSI	516,093	516,093	-
Adult Education - Federal	407,694	407,694	-
Title III - Language Instruction	152,693	152,693	-
Title II - Improving Teacher Quality	1,235,081	1,235,081	-
Stronger Connection	203,580	-	(203,580)
NJROTC	472,205	476,927	4,722
Twelve Month Agriculture	50,255	50,758	503
Medicaid Program	500,000	500,000	-
School Food Service Operations	11,660,904	13,450,000	1,789,096
Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) (4K program)	3,054,333	3,054,333 (1)	-
Reading Coaches	1,124,346	1,128,948	4,602
Total Special Revenue Funds	\$ 36,504,759	\$ 38,100,102	\$ 1,595,343

**Reflects current allocations only; no carryovers*

**FUND #3 - EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

	2024 - 2025 Budget*	2025 - 2026 Budget - First Reading*	Increase/ (Decrease)
ADEPT	\$ 21,333	\$ 21,333	\$ -
Education Funding - EIA	19,481,820	20,187,817	705,997
Arts in Education	33,200	22,600	(10,600)
Formative Assessment	143,107	143,107	-
Refurbishment of Science Kits	75,235	75,235	-
Industry Certificates	72,985	72,985	-
Career and Technology Education	560,478	560,478	-
National Board Certified Teachers (Pass Through to Teachers)	321,458	321,458	-
District Teacher of the Year Award (Pass Through to TOY)	1,077	1,077	-
Adult Education	560,478	577,936	17,458
Summer Reading	197,272	250,000	52,728
Teacher Supplies (Pass Through to Teachers)	684,400	700,000 ⁽¹⁾	15,600
EEDA Supplies & Materials	74,110	74,110	-
Total Education Improvement Act Fund	\$ 22,226,953	\$ 23,008,136	\$ 781,183

**Reflects current allocations only; no carryovers*

(1) Teacher supply checks expected to be \$400 for 2025 - 2026

**FUND #4 - DEBT SERVICE
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

	Annual 8% G.O. Bond Issuances	Sales Tax-Related G.O. Bond Issuance	\$90 Million Referendum	Total
Revenue:				
Levies for Debt Service/Sales Tax	\$ 29,484,250	\$ 15,996,750	\$ 6,339,650	51,820,650
Total Revenue	\$ 29,484,250	\$ 15,996,750	\$ 6,339,650	\$ 51,820,650
Expenditures:				
Principal payments				
Series 2016A	\$ -	\$ 9,385,000	\$ -	\$ 9,385,000
Series 2018A	-	5,850,000	-	5,850,000
Series 2019A	-	-	3,130,000	3,130,000
Series 2021	3,825,000	-	-	3,825,000
Series 2022	3,520,000	-	-	3,520,000
Series 2023	3,075,000	-	-	3,075,000
Series 2024	865,000	-	-	865,000
Series 2025 (est)	16,000,000	-	-	16,000,000
Interest Payments				
Series 2016A	-	469,250	-	469,250
Series 2018A	-	292,500	-	292,500
Series 2019A	-	-	3,209,650	3,209,650
Series 2021	191,250	-	-	191,250
Series 2022	361,250	-	-	361,250
Series 2023	485,000	-	-	485,000
Series 2024	186,750	-	-	186,750
Series 2025 (est)	800,000	-	-	800,000
Issuance Costs and Other Fees	175,000	-	-	175,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 29,484,250	\$ 15,996,750	\$ 6,339,650	\$ 51,820,650

Note:

The 8% general obligation bonds are paid-off over five years. The Series 2016A and 2018A general obligation bonds are to be serviced entirely by sales tax collections. The \$90 million bonds approved by referendum are serviced over 20 years.

**FUND #5 - SCHOOL BUILDING
FOR THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET
*PROPOSED***

Revenue:	
General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025 (8% bonds)	\$ 20,000,000
Bond premium amount (estimated)	750,000
Interest on Investments (8%)	500,000
Sales Tax Proceeds*	<u>30,951,000</u>
 Total Revenue and Other Financing Sources	 <u>\$ 52,201,000</u>
 Expenditures:	
Projects approved in the Five Year Facilities Plan and the Athletics Facilities Funding Plan (excludes sales tax related projects), plus interest as supplemental funding	\$ 21,250,000
Projects - sales tax funded	<u>30,951,000</u>
 Total Expenditures	 <u>\$ 52,201,000</u>

**reflects 90% of estimated 2025 - 2026 sales tax collection (10% earmarked for property tax relief)*

Note:

Based upon the Board's decision at its March 31, 2015 special called meeting, bond premiums have been earmarked to address identified athletics facilities needs.