

# 2026-2027 Annual Budget



Date: April 8, 2026

Presented: Special Board Meeting

[www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca)

# Values & Guiding Principles

Budget decisions will align to the District's Strategic Plan's goals and strategies and the District Enhancing Student Learning Report

Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support and improve all learners' personal and academic success

Create a culturally responsive learning environment that will support Indigenous learners' personal and academic success

Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support all learners' physical and mental well-being



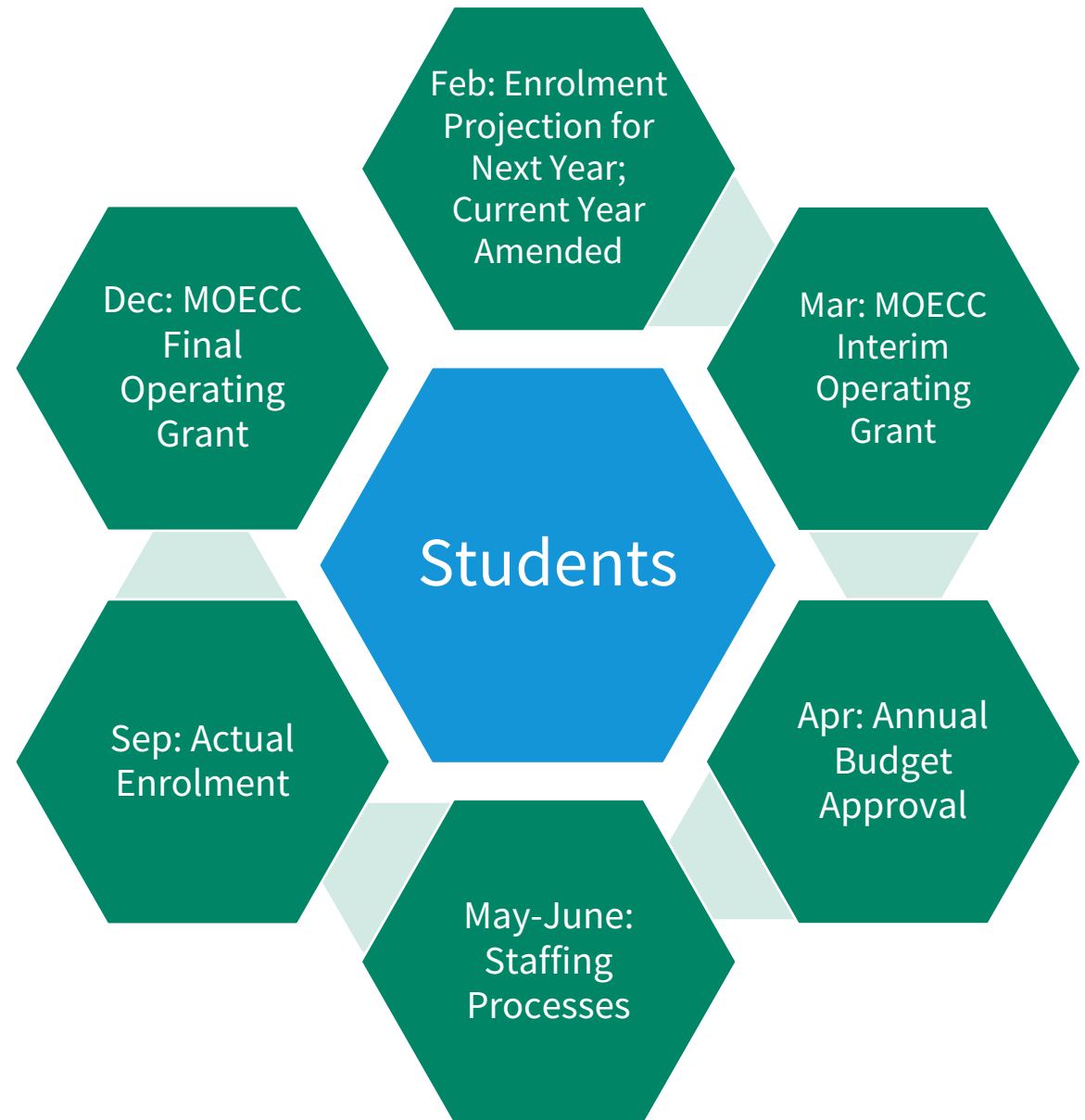
# Budget Development Process

- **Sep 11 – Apr 1** – Partners of SD61 Meetings
- **Feb 12** – Student Connections
- **Feb 24** – Representatives Advisory Council of Students Meeting
- **Mar 9** – Special Budget Meeting
- **Mar 30** – Special Budget Meeting – Public Engagement
- **Mar 30 – Apr 6** – Public Online Feedback Form
- **Mar 12 & Apr 2** – Indigenous Education Council Meetings

# Budget Overview



# Budget Cycle



# Budget Scope

The Board-approved budget is comprised of three separate funds:

## **OPERATING**

Includes revenues and expenses related to the daily operation of the District, including school and administrative functions, facilities operations and transportation. Any surplus at year end is carried forward to future years.

## **SPECIAL PURPOSE**

Includes restricted grants and other funding subject to a legislative or contractual restriction on its use. Revenues are recognized as expenditures are incurred. Any funds received in excess of expenditures are recorded as deferred revenue, not as surplus.

## **CAPITAL**

Includes financial activities for tangible capital assets, including sites, buildings, furniture & equipment, vehicles, computer hardware and software funded from Ministry of Education and Child Care capital grants, local capital, operating and special purpose funds.

# Budget Responsibility

- The Board is required by legislation to approve a balanced operating budget, where revenues equal expenses
- The Board is permitted to use unspent operating budget from the prior year(s) to balance the budget

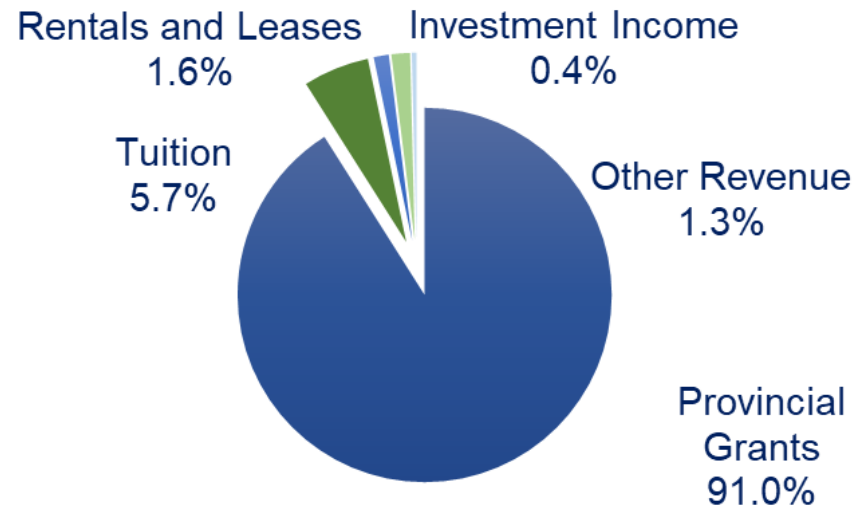
# Operating Fund



# Operating Revenue

	2026-2027 Annual Budget	2025-2026 Annual Budget
Provincial Grants		
Ministry of Education and Child Care	\$ 239,518,146	\$ 239,981,890
Other	237,250	249,350
Tuition	14,966,534	14,986,929
Other Revenue	3,382,977	3,233,333
Rentals and Leases	4,226,770	3,732,987
Investment Income	1,167,883	1,282,015
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 263,499,560</b>	<b>\$ 263,466,504</b>

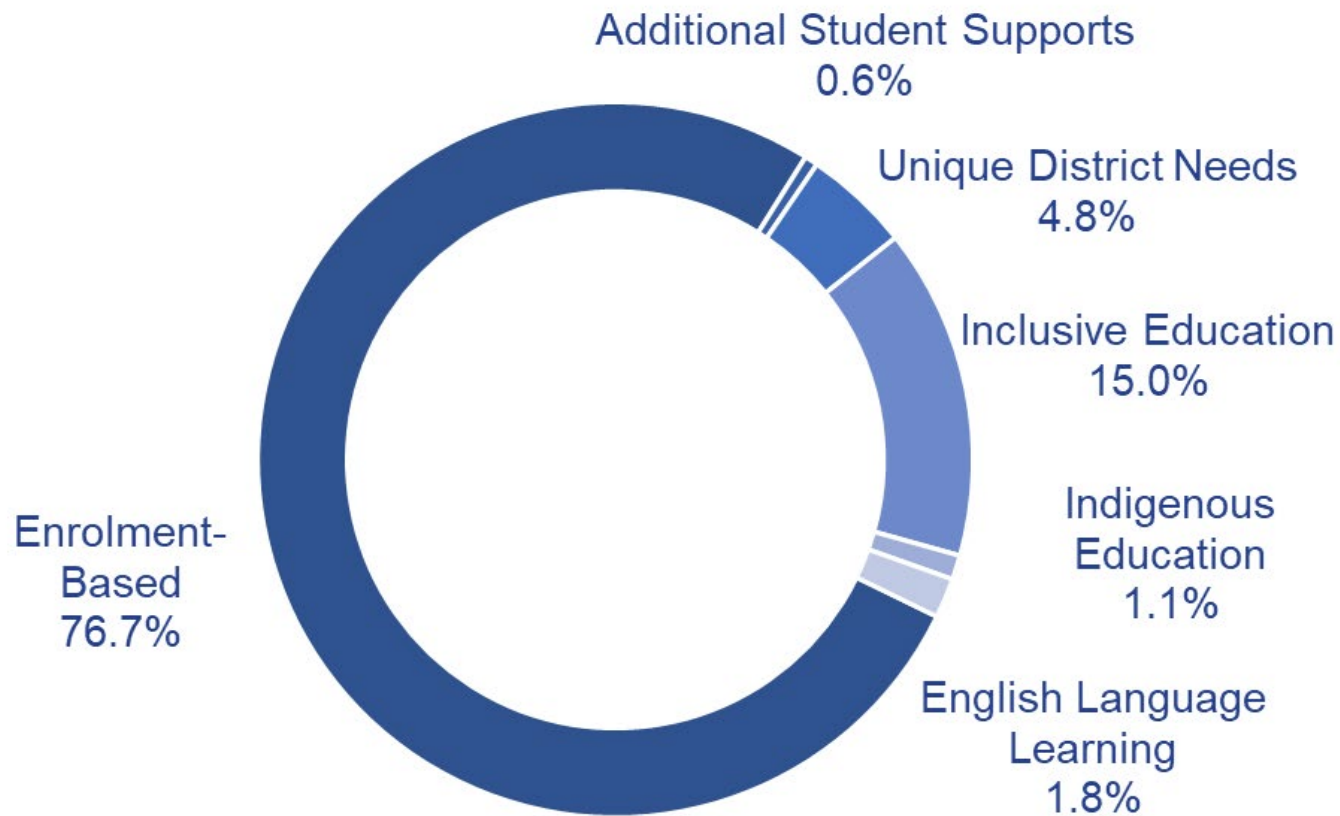
# Operating Revenue



**Provincial Grants** make up approximately **91.0%** of the budget

**Everything else** such as Tuition, Rentals and Leases, Investment Income, and Other Revenue makes up the remaining **9.0%**

# Provincial Grants



**76.7%** based on student enrolment

**23.3%** generated by student characteristics and district factors

The only targeted funding is for Indigenous Education

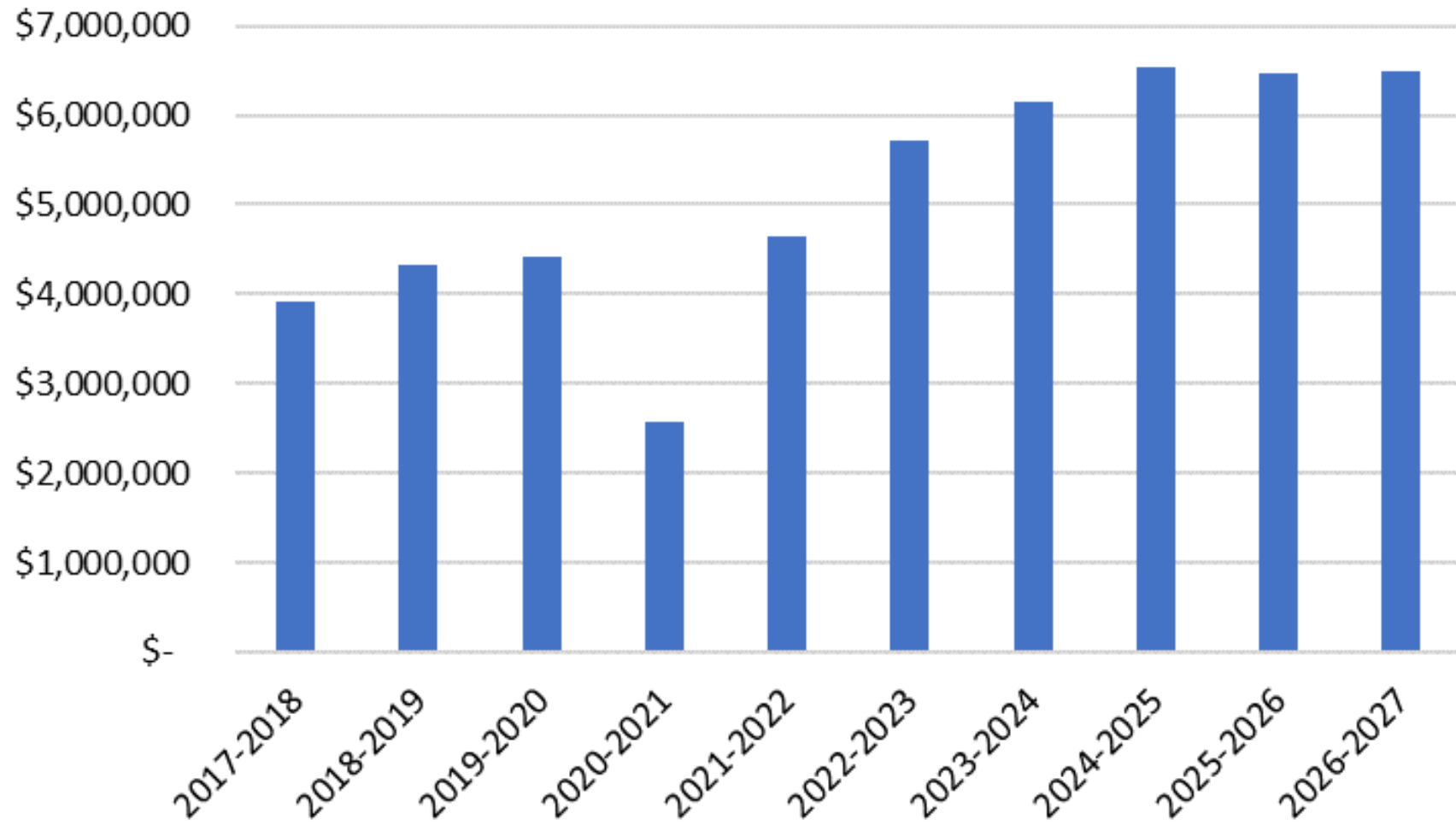
# Enrolment

	2026-2027 Annual Budget	2025-2026 Annual Budget
School-Aged		
Elementary, Middle and Secondary	20,255	20,545
Alternative	147	168
Continuing Education (including February and May 2027)	20	22
Distributed Learning (including February and May 2027)	22	19
<b>Total School-Aged</b>	<b>20,444</b>	<b>20,754</b>
Summer Learning	25	-
Non-Graduated Adult Students	34	40
Unique Student Needs		
Level 1 Inclusive Education	18	18
Level 2 Inclusive Education	1,200	1,088
Level 3 Inclusive Education	465	487
English Language Learners	2,400	2,483
Indigenous Education	1,464	1,482
International Students (Regular, including estimated refunds)	790	790

# Ministry Operating Grant – Funding Levels

	2026-2027 Funding Levels per FTE	2025-2026 Funding Levels per FTE
Basic Allocation (Standard & Alternative)	\$ 9,015	\$ 9,015
Basic Allocation (Continuing Education)	9,015	9,015
Basic Allocation (Distributed Learning)	7,280	7,280
Level 1 Inclusive Education	51,300	51,300
Level 2 Inclusive Education	24,340	24,340
Level 3 Inclusive Education	12,300	12,300
Indigenous Education	1,790	1,790
English Language Learners	1,815	1,815
Non-Graduated Adult Education	5,755	5,755

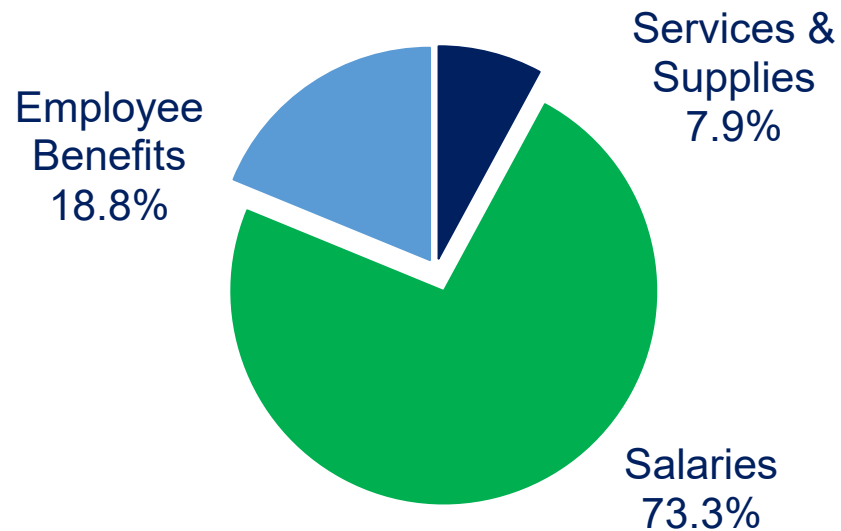
# International Education Financial Contribution to Balance the Annual Budget



# Operating Expense

	2026-2027 Annual Budget	2025-2026 Annual Budget
<b>Salaries</b>		
Teachers	\$ 113,284,885	\$ 115,768,026
Principals and Vice Principals	15,002,407	15,520,085
Educational Assistants	24,530,366	23,702,965
Support Staff	21,856,582	22,304,876
Other Professionals	5,733,844	5,308,327
Substitutes	13,649,578	12,805,807
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>194,057,662</b>	<b>195,410,086</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>49,841,082</b>	<b>49,599,340</b>
<b>Services and Supplies</b>		
Services	8,623,923	7,894,705
Student Transportation	1,119,590	1,258,696
Professional Development and Travel	824,270	670,376
Rentals and Leases	108,851	108,851
Dues and Fees	142,445	137,401
Insurance	758,396	659,087
Supplies	5,098,952	5,147,568
Utilities	4,251,000	4,585,640
<b>Total Services and Supplies</b>	<b>20,927,427</b>	<b>20,462,324</b>
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$ 264,826,171</b>	<b>\$ 265,471,750</b>

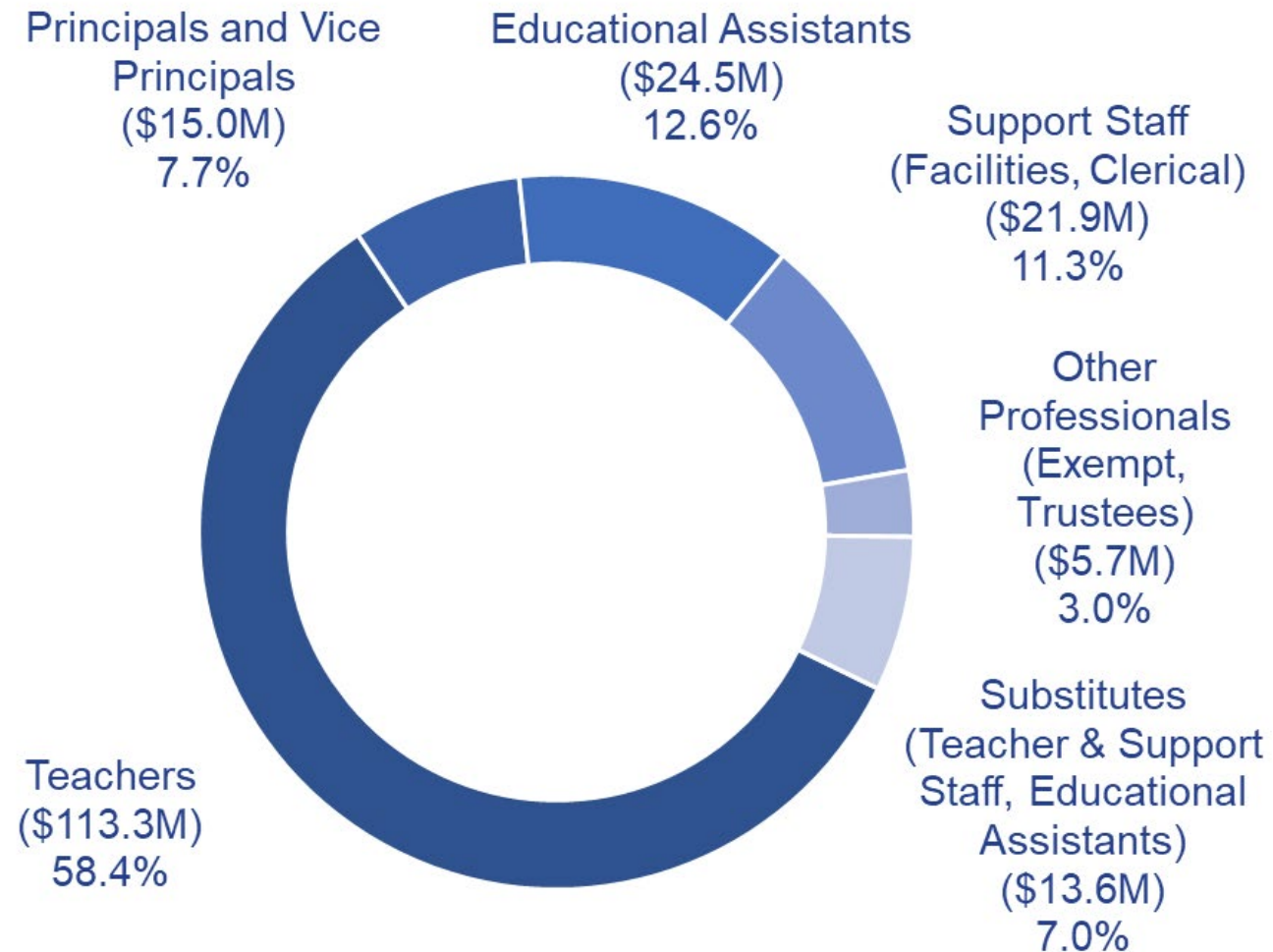
# Operating Expense



**Salaries and Benefits** make up approximately **92.1%** of the budget

**Everything else** (services and supplies) such as technology, textbooks, fuel, travel, toilet paper, library books, etc. makes up the remaining **7.9%**

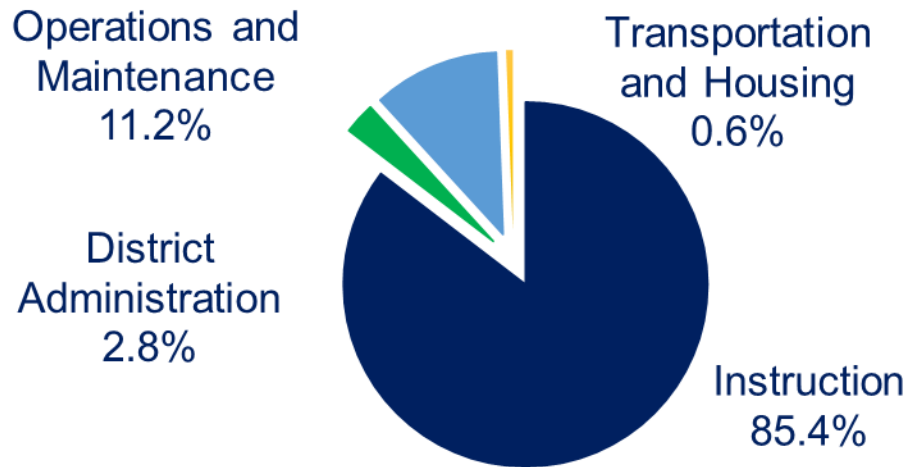
# Operating Fund Staffing Costs



# Operating Expense - Function

	2026-2027 Annual Budget	2025-2026 Annual Budget
Instruction	\$ 226,101,903	\$ 226,997,858
District Administration	7,317,658	6,950,874
Operations and Maintenance	29,704,182	29,672,102
Transportation and Housing	1,702,428	1,850,916
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$ 264,826,171</b>	<b>\$ 265,471,750</b>

# Operating Expense - Function



**Instruction 85.4%** – relates to **delivery of learning experiences:** teachers, principals and vice-principals, educational assistants, classroom technology, and textbooks

**District Administration 2.8%** – relates to **running the District:** finance, human resources, payroll, software, legal, audit, and trustee election for October 2026

**Operations and Maintenance 11.2%** – relates to the **maintenance and upkeep of buildings, grounds and technology:** plumbers, electricians, carpenters, custodians, grounds people, and computer technicians

**Transportation and Housing 0.6%** – relates to **getting students to and from school each day:** bussing staff and contractors

# Current Financial Situation





# Structural Deficit

## What is a Structural Deficit?

- Budgeted expenditures are greater than budgeted revenues
- Can use one-time adjustments to balance the budget:
  - Prior year surplus
  - Potential current year surplus
  - One-time reductions

# 2026-2027 Projected Deficit

	2026-2027 Annual Budget	2025-2026 Annual Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 263,499,560	\$ 263,466,504
Total Expense, including Tangible Capital Assets Purchased	268,666,373	268,532,760
Net Revenue (Expense)	(5,166,813)	(5,066,256)
Budgeted Prior Year Surplus Appropriation	3,626,661	3,416,139
Budgeted Deficit for the year	\$ (1,540,152)	\$ (1,650,117)



# Structural Deficit Causes

- Prior year one-time reductions added back
- Declining enrolment
- Declining interest rates on investments
- Non-enrolling staffing levels greater than Collective Agreement
- Programs not funded by Ministry
- Unfunded inflationary costs, e.g. software renewals and service contracts
- Unfunded costs, e.g. employee benefit increases, step increments, replacement costs for absences
- Unavoidable costs, e.g. trustee election
- Technology replacement



# Deficit Reduction Strategies

- Joint-purchasing and cooperative procurement within the public sector
- Negotiation of longer-term service contracts to secure cost efficiencies
- Audit of contracts, expenditures, and commodity taxes to identify cost-saving opportunities
- Standardization of equipment and strengthened inventory management controls
- Extending the life of assets while balancing risk, including technology, furniture, and equipment
- Investment in energy efficiency, including LED lighting and automated HVAC systems



# Deficit Reduction Strategies

- Transition to digital and online workflows to reduce administrative overhead
- Organization and staffing adjustments, including role consolidation, attrition-based reductions, and shared staffing
- Administrative staffing reductions
- Maximizing revenue from facility rentals and lease agreements

# Budget Categories



# Collective Agreement Obligation

- Enrolling teachers
- Non-enrolling teachers within staffing ratios, e.g. counsellors, librarians, etc.
- Professional development
- Benefits

# No Collective Agreement Obligation Budgeted Expenditures

- Music
  - Middle Music \$1.2M
  - Elementary Strings \$140K
  - Instrument Repairs \$50K
  - Miscellaneous \$40K
- Athletics \$140K
- Non-enrolling teachers exceeding staffing ratios, e.g. Counsellors \$1.6M

# No Collective Agreement Obligation Budgeted Expenditures (Continued)

- Early Learning and Child Care
  - Early Childhood Educators in Kindergarten classes **\$993K**
  - StrongStart Early Childhood Educators in excess of Special Purpose Grant **\$42K**
- Inclusive Learning exceeding Ministry funding for Levels 1 – 3 **\$12.2M**
- Pathways & Partnerships exceeding SkilledTradesBC funding **\$1.2M**

# Service Obligation Budgeted Expenditures

- Departments
- Inclusive Learning – SLPs, Psychologists, OT/PT, Orientation & Mobility **\$3.3M**
- Youth and Family Counsellors (YFCs) **\$1.7M**
- Student Transportation – Inclusive Learning, walk limits, unfunded crossing guards **\$1.4M**
- Technology – network infrastructure, student and staff devices, printers, tec packages **\$1.9M**

# Budget Balancing Considerations



# Budget Balancing Considerations

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	<b>Proposed Change \$</b>	<b>Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$</b>	
<b>Reductions: One-Time</b>			
Network Infrastructure	(155,476)	685,476	Some projects delayed until 2027-2028
Staff Devices	(365,000)	615,000	Some purchases delayed until 2027-2028
Information Technology for Learning Department	(147,102)	6,514,663	Temporary restructure of department leadership due to secondment of Director until April 2027; 1.00 FTE Acting District Principal position held vacant

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# Budget Balancing Considerations

	Proposed Change \$	Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$	
<b>Reductions: Ongoing</b>			
Pathways and Partnerships - Aviation Program	(44,850)	2,272,339	Unable to fill teacher position for several years; other Career Prep programs remain available to students, e.g. TASK, AutoTech
Pathways and Partnerships - Career Centres	(259,946)	2,272,339	Each secondary school will receive one linear Career Centre teaching block; some schools currently have 2-3 blocks; Career Centre Coordinators (CUPE) hours will remain the same at all schools
Pathways and Partnerships - Career Centres	19,996	2,272,339	One secondary school will receive one additional linear Career Centre teaching block

# Budget Balancing Considerations

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	<b>Proposed Change \$</b>	<b>Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$</b>	
<b>Reductions: Ongoing</b>			
Pathways and Partnerships	(139,831)	2,272,339	Restructure department to District Vice Principal and one teacher from District Vice Principal and two teachers
Pathways and Partnerships	(8,000)	2,272,339	No longer able to support attendance at CES Conference; budget for program supplies and services not impacted

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# Budget Balancing Considerations

	<b>Proposed Change \$</b>	<b>Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$</b>	
<b>Reductions: Ongoing</b>			
Middle School Music	(250,871)	1,233,589	Middle schools will continue to offer Concert Band 6, 7 & 8 and Strings 6, 7 & 8; flexibility to use FTE for other ensembles (Choir, Jazz Band, Musical Theatre, etc.); elementary and secondary school music will continue as is
Middle School Music	18,038	1,233,589	Added to middle school music; additional flexibility to use FTE for other ensembles (Choir, Jazz, Band, Musical Theatre, etc.)

# Budget Balancing Considerations

	Proposed Change \$	Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$	
<b>Reductions: Ongoing</b>			
Itinerant Support	(69,916)	4,564,266	0.20 FTE Speech & Language Pathologist, 0.10 FTE Psychologist, 0.20 FTE Deaf and Hard of Hearing; current vacancies and temporary positions will not be filled; no layoffs will result
Itinerant Support	14,147	4,564,266	0.10 FTE added back to Speech & Language Pathologist
Inclusive Learning Student Transportation	(165,921)	1,106,146	Only eligible riders will receive bussing resulting in fewer runs; current cost per rider is \$8,921

# Budget Balancing Considerations

	Proposed Change \$	Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$	
<b>Reductions: Ongoing</b>			
Early Childhood Educators	(159,660)	993,440	3.0 FTE ECEs in Kindergarten classes; will be prioritized for consideration in allocation of contingency funds in Inclusive Learning; ECEs in StrongStart remain the same
Youth and Family Counsellors (YFC)	(44,558)	1,673,145	All Elementary schools will have access to minimum 0.50 FTE Teacher Counsellor*; every school will continue to have access to YFCs; 14 prioritized schools have dedicated YFCs; contracted hours may be slightly reduced for some schools

*\*Sundance-Bank Elementary will receive 0.20 FTE Counsellor allocation due to lower student enrolment*

# Budget Balancing Considerations

	<b>Proposed Change \$</b>	<b>Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$</b>	
<b>Additions: One-Time</b>			
EA Mentor	29,533	101,533	Second EA Mentor position added to budget on a one-time basis in 2025-2026; extending for one more year; net of \$36,000 already included in budget
Student Devices	150,000	275,000	Increase in purchase of Chromebooks to maintain student-device ratio of 4:1 at Elementary and 3:1 at Middle and Secondary

# Budget Balancing Considerations

	Proposed Change \$	Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$	
<b>Additions: One-Time</b>			
Privacy Management Program	38,486	N/A	Contractor to perform Privacy Impact Assessments for district-wide software applications
Privacy Management Program	(38,486)	N/A	The IT Department will reprioritize its work to ensure completion of the required Privacy Impact Assessments for district-wide software applications
Managed Print Strategy	52,960	193,040	Increase in cost of print device replacement; number of printers remains the same
Managed Print Strategy	(13,695)	193,040	Replacement of print device(s) to be delayed until 2027-2028

# Budget Balancing Considerations

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	<b>Proposed Change \$</b>	<b>Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$</b>	
<b>Reallocation: Ongoing</b>			
Counselling - Continuing Education	(27,966)	5,056,149	0.20 FTE Counsellor; low program enrolment for adults; SJ Burnside's current counselling allocation able to support these adult students
Counselling - Elementary & Middle School	27,966	5,056,149	0.20 FTE Counsellor; reallocated from Continuing Education to support an Elementary School and a Middle School (0.10 FTE each)

# Budget Balancing Considerations

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	<b>Proposed Change \$</b>	<b>Total 2026/2027 Budget (prior to any proposed changes) \$</b>
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<b>Appropriation of Accumulated Surplus: One-Time</b>		
Unrestricted Operating Surplus 2024-2025	(2,319,450)	Board approved September 2025
Projected Unrestricted Operating Surplus 2025-2026	(1,307,211)	Board approved February 2026

# Multi-Year Financial Plan



# Multi-Year Financial Plan Assumptions

- Starting point is balanced 2026-2027 Annual Budget
- Future years adjusted for one-time budget decisions
- Provincial grant and international revenue and related expenses based on projected enrolments
- Other revenues, salaries and benefits held constant
- No inflationary increases included

# Multi-Year Financial Plan

	Actual 2024-2025	Amended Annual Budget 2025-2026	Annual Budget 2026-2027	Projected Annual Budget 2027-2028	Projected Annual Budget 2028-2029
<b>Ministry Operating Grant Funded FTEs</b>	<b>20,798.721</b>	<b>20,727.752</b>	<b>20,503.025</b>	<b>20,458.625</b>	<b>20,213.525</b>
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 266,282,022</b>	<b>\$ 267,090,947</b>	<b>\$ 263,499,560</b>	<b>\$ 263,228,609</b>	<b>\$ 260,723,188</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>261,484,888</b>	<b>267,964,062</b>	<b>264,826,171</b>	<b>264,362,226</b>	<b>262,990,522</b>
<b>Net Revenue (Expense)</b>	<b>4,797,134</b>	<b>(873,115)</b>	<b>(1,326,611)</b>	<b>(1,133,617)</b>	<b>(2,267,335)</b>
Interfund Transfers	(2,632,371)	(2,289,265)	(2,300,050)	(4,834,610)	(3,701,000)
Use of Accumulated Surplus	(2,164,763)	3,162,380	3,626,661	-	-
<b>Total Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (5,968,227)</b>	<b>\$ (5,968,335)</b>

# Special Purpose Fund



# Special Purpose Fund

	2026-2027 Annual Budget	2025-2026 Annual Budget
Revenues		
Provincial Grants	\$ 35,550,348	\$ 34,305,739
Other Revenue	7,500,147	6,658,020
Investment Income	149,377	158,151
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>43,199,872</b>	<b>41,121,910</b>
Expenses		
Instruction	42,189,441	40,211,479
Operations and Maintenance	810,431	810,431
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>42,999,872</b>	<b>41,021,910</b>
Tangible Capital Assets Purchased	(200,000)	(100,000)
<b>Budgeted Surplus (Deficit), for the year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# Capital Fund



# Capital Fund

	2026-2027	2025-2026
	Annual Budget	Annual Budget
Revenues		
Provincial Grants	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 3,000,000
Investment Income	1,000	5,000
Amortization of Deferred Capital Revenue	12,133,244	11,850,136
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>15,884,244</b>	<b>14,855,136</b>
Expenses		
Operations and Maintenance	3,750,000	3,000,000
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	16,666,945	16,414,470
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>20,416,945</b>	<b>19,414,470</b>
Net Transfers (to) from Other Funds		
Tangible Capital Assets Purchased	2,451,000	1,732,280
Local Capital	49,050	-
<b>Total Net Transfers</b>	<b>2,500,050</b>	<b>1,732,280</b>
<b>Budgeted Surplus (Deficit), for the year</b>	<b>\$ (2,032,651)</b>	<b>\$ (2,827,054)</b>

# Budget Bylaw



# Budget Bylaw

	2026-2027	2025-2026
	Annual Budget	Annual Budget
Operating Fund - Total Expense	\$ 264,826,171	\$ 265,471,750
Operating Fund - Tangible Capital Assets Purchased	2,251,000	1,632,280
Special Purpose Fund - Total Expense	42,999,872	41,021,910
Special Purpose Fund - Tangible Capital Assets Purchased	200,000	100,000
Capital Fund - Total Expense	20,416,945	19,414,470
Capital Fund - Tangible Capital Assets Purchased from Local Capital	-	3,878,499
<b>Total Budget Bylaw Amount</b>	<b>\$ 330,693,988</b>	<b>\$ 331,518,909</b>



# Recommended Motion

After the approval of the Budget Bylaw, the following motion is recommended:

**That the Official Trustee of The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the contribution from the Save our Music fundraising campaign and direct it towards Middle School Music Programs for the 2026-2027 school year.**