RESIDENT’S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET FY2024
OPERATING BUDGET: $8.5 BILLION
This is the budget figure that most people are familiar with and represents the amount of funds allocated to operate the day-to-day activities of our schools each year.

DEBT BUDGET: $785 MILLION
The debt budget represents the amount of funds allocated to make annual payments on our bonds and other debt payments.

CAPITAL BUDGET: $155 MILLION
The capital budget represents the amount of funds allocated for long-term investments in our school facilities including building construction and renovations, and infrastructure based technology like high speed internet. This money is raised largely through the issuance of bonds, which are debt instruments like loans, and require annual payments on the bond principal and interest.

EXPENSES

We are firmly committed to ensuring that every dollar we spend goes the furthest for our students and families, so 57 cents (57%) of every dollar spent in our operating budget is tied directly to school-based expenditures and positions, with another 38 cents (38%) directly supporting schools through citywide services.

MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Between our students and employees, CPS directly impacts 14 percent of the entire population of Chicago every day. And when you add in the countless numbers of current and former parents and alumni living and working in Chicago, the importance of public education in shaping the lives and future of our great city becomes exceedingly clear. This is why education funding is such an important issue and why we have created this resident’s guide to the budget. We want you, as residents, to understand how CPS is funded and how the success of our public schools is central to the success of Chicago.
WHO PROVIDES OUR FUNDING?

LOCAL REVENUE: $5.2 BILLION
Our largest source of income, 55 percent, is generated by local sources. The majority of this comes from local property taxes, replacement tax and TIF surpluses. CPS also generates revenue from other local sources such as philanthropic donations, interest income, lunchroom fees, and school rental fees.

STATE REVENUE: $2.5 BILLION
State income accounts for 27 percent of our revenue. The bulk of funding we receive from the state is through evidence-based funding (EBF). The amount of EBF that each school district receives is based on a complex formula that considers the number of students, the special needs of the district, household income levels, and many other factors. Though EBF, introduced in FY2018, was a major improvement from the state’s old funding model, the state acknowledges that CPS remains just over $1 billion underfunded. We continue to work closely with our partners in Springfield to advocate for additional education funding for our students.

FEDERAL REVENUE: $1.7 BILLION
Federal income accounts for 18 percent of our revenue. Most federal income is distributed through Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide extra support for low-income children. We have limited flexibility in how we spend federal revenue and the money can be used only for certain types of expenses, such as reading and math instruction and teacher professional development. The federal government also pays for free or reduced-price meals for all CPS students. This year’s budget also includes $670 million in federal emergency relief funding to address students’ needs in three priority areas. More information on federal relief funding and the three priority areas is highlighted below.

INVESTMENT REVENUE: $23 MILLION
Investment income accounts for less than one percent of our operating budget. CPS generates this income based on the interest and dividends received off of investments held by the District.

99 percent of the revenue in CPS’ operating budget comes from tax based income sources.
WHAT DO WE SPEND MONEY ON?

OPERATING BUDGET: $8.5 BILLION

Day-to-Day School Operations: All the money in the CPS’ operating budget is used to pay personnel and non-personnel costs.

Personnel Costs: $5.63 Billion

66 percent of the CPS operating budget is used to pay for the salaries and benefits of our 45,160 employees. This includes school-based staff such as teachers, principals, teacher aides, security officers, school clerks, cooks and janitors. It also includes central office staff that provide administrative and programmatic support to the schools, and network office staff that support schools as they are grouped into 17 networks across the city. We also have city-wide support staff that include coaches, clinicians, nurses, social workers and speech pathologists.

81 percent of CPS employees are school-based and another 15 percent of “citywide” employees - including nurses, custodians, and bus aides - directly support schools on a daily basis.

Non-Personnel Costs: $2.86 Billion

34 percent of the CPS operating budget is used to pay for non-personnel expenses, which are the costs required to keep our schools running. This includes commodities such as food and utilities, instructional supplies, building supplies, and software. It also includes equipment like furniture and computers, transportation via our school bus fleet or CTA passes, and contingency funds for unexpected or discretionary purchases. Lastly, non-personnel costs also include the tuition we pay to charter schools, which primarily funds salaries and benefits for charter school staff.

PERSONNEL COSTS

(of $5.63 Billion)

- Salaries: $1.090 billion (19%)
- Benefits: $957 million (17%)
- Teacher Pension: $1.023 billion (18%)
- Teacher Salaries: $2.556 billion (46%)

NON-PERSONNEL COSTS

(of $2.86 Billion)

- Commodities: $133 million (5%)
- Transportation: $358 million (12%)
- Contracts: $768 million (27%)
- Charter Tuition: $855 million (30%)
- Contingency: $724 million (25%)

RESIDENT’S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET FY2024
WHAT DO WE SPEND MONEY ON?

As part of our commitment to equity, the district is prioritizing renovations at neighborhood schools throughout the city to ensure all students can learn and grow in school buildings that support high-quality learning environments. CPS is allocating $123.2 million in funding for critical maintenance projects and interior improvements:

- $54.2 million for priority roof, envelope, mechanical projects, and support services;
- $50 million for unanticipated emergency repairs;
- $1.6 million for modular refurbishment;
- $10 million for interior improvements;
- $2.2 million for fire alarm system replacement; and
- $5.2 million for building automation system upgrades.

The proposed capital budget includes an additional $23.6 million in site improvements to design and build new playgrounds, playlots, and school yards at schools across the city so that students can benefit from a well-rounded education that promotes healthy and active development.

CPS is investing $8.2 million to prioritize high-quality educational programming and modernize buildings to support 21st century learning environments. These investments include:

- $6.2 million in investments for ITS governance, risk, compliance management, private and public cloud upgrades and data storage capacity, and ITS data center network infrastructure; and
- $2 million in outside funding to support programmatic investments at Simeon HS.

The FY2024 budget includes total appropriations of approximately $785 million for principal and interest payments on the district’s outstanding bonds, which were issued to fund the district’s capital plans and related investments. As of June 1, 2023, the Board has approximately $8.9 billion of outstanding long-term debt and no outstanding short term.
RESOURCING STRATEGY
Continuous learning, equity, commitment to the instructional core.

FY2024 school budgets include $4.8 billion in direct funding, an increase of more than $480 million over the past two years.

$4.8 BILLION OF SCHOOL FUNDING PRIORITIZES INSTRUCTIONAL PRIORITIES AND RESOURCE EQUITY

The FY2024 budget for the coming year includes an additional $243 million in school-level funding, reflecting the District’s investments in core instructional priorities and resource equity.

New school-level investments that CPS is making in FY2024 include:

- $128M in additional funding for special education teachers and paraprofessionals
- $32M in new funding for teaching positions with an emphasis on our highest-need schools
- $15M increase in funding for bilingual instruction, including $8 million in additional funding for enrollment adjustments at schools receiving newly arriving students
- $13M in new funding for school nurses, social workers, and case managers, bringing staffing levels to all-time highs in each of these categories
- $5M increase in Equity Grants for smaller and under-enrolled schools
- 480 additional pre-k seats with programs in all Chicago communities, and increasing the level of direct outreach to parents of young learners

Continued central funding of student devices and curricular supports

Continued funding for students in temporary living situations (STLS), including 50 advocates for students, at 45 schools with high STLS enrollment

RESOURCING STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTRUCTIONAL CORE

Investment Priorities:
- standards aligned, rigorous, and culturally responsive curriculum for all students
- high quality instruction for all students
- comprehensive academic and SEL interventions
- strengthening student engagement and wraparound supports

RESOURCING STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTRUCTIONAL CORE - SCHOOL LEVEL

Resourcing prioritization at the school level:
- reasonable class sizes
- limited splits
- access to arts
- intervention supports
- + plus fund local level priorities

FY2024 BUDGETS INCREASE INVESTMENT IN FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS

The investments reflected in budgets today also include the following:
- 3.5% increase to Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) rates to match teacher cost of living adjustments
- 3.5% increase to Supplemental Aid and Title I rates
- Resources allocated to support fall 2022 enrollment levels; schools will not lose funding in fall if enrollment falls below budgeted level
- Funding will be increased for schools with fall 2023 enrollment gains
Reducing our Reliance on Enrollment-Based Funding

Total Budget $3.51B

In FY2024, CPS is continuing to reduce reliance on enrollment-based funding. For the District’s 500 schools that receive per-pupil funding through Student-Based Budgeting (SBB), this represents only 39 percent of the total resources allocated to these schools.
CPS projects to have spent over $1.82 billion in ESSER funds through the end of FY2023. The remainder of the funds will be spent in FY2024 and FY2025.

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Since the onset of the pandemic, a total of $2.8 billion in federal relief funding has been directed to CPS via Emergency & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants. The largest of these relief grants - ESSER III - will be available to cover expenses through September 30, 2024. Within the context of the graphic below, CPS continues to incorporate feedback from school leaders, teachers, students, parents and community partners to strategically allocate resources within this multi-year context.

ESSER III PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

- **Maintain Continuity of Service**
- **Emerge Stronger Post-Pandemic**
- **Provide vital resources to address diverse needs arising from or intensified by the COVID-19 Pandemic for all schools and students**
- **Address Many Dimensions of Resource Equity**