

Understanding the 2025-2026 Operating Budget

The Richmond County School System is working on the operating budget for the 2025-26 school year.
The budget is developed based on our Strategic Plan: Empowering Every Learner, Every Day.



HOW IS OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM FUNDED?

35%

Local Revenue

Comes from millage rate

52%

State Funding

based on Quality Basic Education (QBE)

13%

Federal Grants

Comes from specific programs like Title I, IDEA, and others



2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

\$378,387,483
Million



3%

Increase from last year's budget

MILLAGE RATE AT A GLANCE

Your property tax dollars directly support local education.
Current Millage Rate:

18.33

This helps fund facilities, staff, and classroom resources.



2025-26 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Employee Compensation & Benefits:

Investing in our people through step increases and retirement contributions to support and retain our workforce.

Student Support & Infrastructure:

Preparing for potential student growth with portable classrooms.

Operational Efficiency:

Reducing operating costs by \$4.7 million through strategic savings.

Financial Stewardship:

Using reserves responsibly while maintaining a strong 15% fund balance.



THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF STATE FUNDING: Quality Basic Education (QBE)



Local 5 Mill Share:

The portion our community contributes through local taxes.



FTE (Full-Time Equivalent):

A count based on students and their needs to determine funding.



Equalization:

Extra funding to help less-wealthy districts provide equal opportunities.



WHO WE EMPLOY & HOW THEY'RE FUNDED

Our school system employs two main groups of staff:

Certified Employees

Teachers, counselors, administrators, and other professionals who hold state certification.

- Primarily funded by state dollars through the QBE formula.



Classified Employees

Bus drivers, custodians, nutrition staff, paraprofessionals, clerical support, and more.

- Primarily funded by local dollars from our community tax base.



PROPOSED BUDGET CHALLENGES

QBE Funding is Decreasing

Even though the State is requiring us to pay more for teacher retirement (TRS) and health insurance, our QBE funding is decreasing because our local property values (tax digest) increased.

As a result, we must cover an additional \$9.1 million from our operating budget.



Visit rcboe.org/budget to view our full budget and financial overview.