

# **Guide to Understanding the Akron School District's 2025-2026 Budget**

**Presented to the Board  
June 17, 2025**

**The mission of the Akron Public Schools is to provide a safe environment so as to facilitate the optimal growth of each student in accordance with individual needs, abilities, and interests through partnerships among home, school, and the community.**

# Understanding the Budget

This guide is designed to introduce you to the Akron School District budget and how it works. School District budgeting is different than private business budgeting or personal budgeting and can be somewhat complex. This guide is designed to walk you through the basics, covering the budget's main components. You'll learn where the money comes from, how the money is used, and how you can get involved in school District budget decisions.

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## AKRON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SNAPSHOT

The Akron School District budget for 2025-26 will have anticipated revenues and expenditures of approximately 8.9 million dollars. The budget is funded from state, local, and federal sources. Where does this money go?

The Akron School District annual budget is used to teach students, transport them to and from school, feed them breakfast and lunch, and maintain school buildings and grounds. It funds special education programs, programs for students whose primary language is not English, vocational education programs and extra-curricular activity programs. It is used to pay teachers and other staff, provide partial payment of their health and retirement benefits, and support additional training. Bond funds, when approved in local elections, pay for building new schools, renovating and modernizing existing facilities and upgrading the school's technology infrastructure.

At the center of this organization are our children. While businesses have a single overriding concern—the financial bottom line—school Districts have a far broader objective—ensuring excellence and equity in education for our students. Yet this objective also carries with it a financial bottom line.

How does Akron School District distribute funds to meet this goal? What level of quality does your tax and bond dollars provide? Who makes school budget decisions, and how are those individuals accountable? How can you get involved? You'll find out in the sections ahead.

## Akron School District Quick Facts

### 2024-25 Student Data from CDE October Count

Total number of students, including Pre-K	411
English Language Learners (ELL)	1.9%
Migrant	0%
Students receiving free or reduced-price lunch	57.7%
Gifted and talented students	6.8%
Special needs students	14.6%
Graduation rate (2023-24)	92.0%

Funded Pupil Count (FPC) 403.7

Number of School Buildings  
Pre-K – 12 1

### *Ethnic Distribution*

American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%
African-American	1%
Asian	1.2%
Hispanic	21.9%
Multiple Race	3.4%
White	72%

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Most money for public schools comes from state and local governments and not from Washington D.C. The following table shows how much the Akron School District will receive from state, federal, and local sources in the 2024-25 school year.

### 2025-26 Data

Funding Source	Percent of Budget
Local	27%
State	70%
Federal	3%

## **Who determines how much funding each school District receives?**

Every homeowner and business owner in Colorado pay property taxes for schools, along with taxes for other public services. Each year, the budget crafted by the governor and legislature determines how much of the total budget is allocated to education. The portion allocated for K-12 education is then divided among 178 school Districts throughout the state using the state's School Finance Act funding formulas. These formulas determine how much money each District will receive per pupil as well as how much of that funding is paid by the state and how much is paid through local taxes. After the state determines the funding, each school District decides how to fund its local system.

## **Local referenda**

Colorado law allows local school Districts to ask voters to approve additional funding for their District through local tax increases called mill levy overrides. This additional funding is capped by state regulation. All override revenues come from increased property taxes. A District's authorization to raise and expend override revenues does not affect the amount of state funding the District receives, based on the current school finance act. Akron School District voters have not approved any overrides.

## **How does supporting education impact your taxes?**

Local tax money goes to the county treasurer who in turn distributes it to each governmental entity in the county.

State law sets the property tax assessment rate. In 2025, homeowners will pay an assessment rate of 7.05 percent of the actual assessed value of their home, while businesses will pay a 27 percent assessment rate. This same formula may be used to calculate your property taxes for your schools if you know your home's assessed valuation.

## How to figure your school property tax

Here's how to estimate how much the school District's portion of your property tax bill will be next year.

Property tax is the product of three factors:

1. The market value of your home \_\_\_\_\_
2. The assessment rate, which is set by state law. (For residential property, the assessment rate is 7.05 percent for 2025.) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mills/1000 (The tax rate, also known as a mill levy, is set by the local taxing agency. One mill is equal to one one-thousandth, or .001. (The school District's mill levy is **27.141** mills with **9.94** mills added for the bond redemption fund, so the number to use in figuring your tax is **.037081**.) \_\_\_\_\_

*Property Tax* \_\_\_\_\_

## Federal funding for education

In addition to local and state funding for education, the federal government contributes limited funds to local school Districts. Historically, the funding of schools has been the responsibility of local Districts and states. In the 1960s, the federal government began providing financial support to state and local Districts to help with educating poor and disadvantaged students. That support later expanded to include students with disabilities. This money can only be used for specified purposes.

While very important to most school District budgets, the federal support amounts to only a small percentage of the total budget, usually averaging between 3 - 6 percent in most school Districts. In the Akron School District, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, federal dollars make up 3 percent of the budget. This is lower than the previous few years, which is due to the expiration of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II & ESSER III).

# LOOKING AT THE AKRON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

## **Budget fund types**

District funds are distributed in various funds as prescribed by law. Information included in the various funds show actual and budgeted amounts for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years as well as budgeted amounts and projected revenues and expenses for the upcoming 2025-26 year.

The **General Fund**, by law, can be used to account for any legal expenditure of the District. However, traditionally this fund is used to pay the day-to-day operating expenses of the District. It is financed primarily by property taxes and state aid. The majority of all District funds are in the General Fund. This section of the budget provides information for all of the line item accounts that are included in the General Fund.

Other funds included in the district budget are:

1. **Food Service Fund**
2. **Pupil Activity Fund**
3. **Bond Redemption Fund**
4. **Capital Reserve Fund**
5. **Trust and Agency Fund**

## **The funding driver: Student enrollment**

Enrollment is the District's count of students as of October 1 each year and is one of the main factors influencing the revenue that is received from the state. Enrollment is determined by using the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) rules for the School Financial Act.

## **Student count and funded pupil count**

"Student Count" is a count of individual students attending school while "Funded Pupil Count" (FPC) is a modification of the student count. Generally, students in grades kindergarten through twelve are counted as full-time. One student attending school for the entire school day is counted as one "full-time equivalent" (FTE). However, preschool, special education, and a limited number of at-risk pre-school students are considered part-time. Kindergarten students were only counted as .58 FTE up until the 2019-2020 school year. State law then allowed all kindergarten students to become fully funded and count as full-time students.

The following two charts show the enrollment history for the Akron School District for the past few years.

**Actual student count history (CDE October 1 count data)**

GRADE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pre-School(Regular & SPED) *UPK began in 23/24 replacing CPP	8	9	7	7	7	*16	16
Pre-School (CPP)	8	8	9	9	9	N/A	N/A
Kindergarten	23	36	31	43	34	20	33
1 <sup>st</sup>	33	25	34	29	36	31	25
2 <sup>nd</sup>	35	31	24	37	29	32	32
3 <sup>rd</sup>	30	36	34	25	39	27	32
4 <sup>th</sup>	32	26	41	35	29	33	31
5 <sup>th</sup>	25	31	31	43	36	25	31
6 <sup>th</sup>	34	25	34	29	43	37	21
7 <sup>th</sup>	29	34	21	34	30	44	40
8 <sup>th</sup>	17	24	34	23	36	29	40
9 <sup>th</sup>	28	19	26	30	27	37	24
10 <sup>th</sup>	25	27	19	24	29	27	32
11 <sup>th</sup>	17	21	25	21	23	29	28
12 <sup>th</sup>	35	19	22	22	21	28	26
Total	379	371	392	411	427	415	411

**Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students (per CDE)**

FTE	DATE OF COUNT
368	October 1, 2019 (Predicted)
371	October 1, 2019 (Actual)
361.5	October 1, 2020 (Predicted)
381	October 1, 2020 (Actual)
378	October 1, 2021 (Predicted)
411	October 1, 2021 (Actual)
394	October 1, 2022 (Predicted)
415	October 1, 2022 (Actual)
425	October 1, 2023 (Predicted)
399	October 1, 2023 (Actual)
400	October 1, 2024 (Predicted)
395	October 1, 2024 (Actual)
399	October 1, 2025 (Predicted)

## Funded pupil count averaging

District enrollment student numbers have primarily remained steady over the past several years with a slight dip occurring beginning in the 2023-24 school year. When determining actual funded pupil count (FPC), an averaging formula can be used by schools. This averaging formula allows schools that have been experiencing fluctuating enrollment to average their enrollment over the past few years rather than using the actual count each year. This method has been very helpful in maintaining a more stable enrollment as far as funded pupil count and state funding are concerned.

## Recent History of Funded Pupil Count (FPC) Using Averaging Formula

FPC	DATE
351.3	2018-19 (Predicted)
362.9	2018-19 (Actual)
375	2019-20 (Predicted)
384.8	2019-20 (Actual)
383.6	2020-21 (Predicted)
404.5	2020-21 (Actual)
403	2021-22 (Predicted)
416	2021-22 (Actual)
413.3	2022-23 (Predicted)
434	2022-2023 (Actual)
425	2023-2024 (Predicted)
407	2023-2024 (Actual)
405.3	2024-2025 (Predicted)
403.7	2024-2025 (Actual)
402	2025-2026 (Predicted)

## Per pupil revenue (PPR)

The funding from the state comes through the Public School Finance Act. Under this act, revenue is distributed to school Districts on a per pupil basis. Each District's per pupil funding amount is based on characteristics that are unique to the District, such as cost-of-living, at-risk, size, and District enrollment.

**Per pupil revenue (PPR) trends:**

PPR	DATE OF COUNT
\$10,174	2018-19
\$10,470	2019-20
\$9,482	2020-21
\$10,460	2021-22
\$11,007	2022-23
\$12,631	2023-24
\$13,787	2024-25
\$14,662	2025-26

**Total program funding**

Total Program Funding is based on a complex per-pupil formula. For each pupil counted in the Funded Pupil Count (FPC) in the October 1 count, the formula provides a base per-pupil amount of money plus additional money to recognize individual District variances in: (a) cost of living, (b) locale factor, and (c) size. The total program funding also includes additional money for at-risk pupils as determined by the number of students eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced lunch program, English Language Learner (ELL) students, and funding for special education students.

**Formula for determining total program funding**

$$\text{Funded Pupil Count (Oct. 1)} \times \text{Base Per-pupil Funding} + \text{At-Risk Funding} + \text{ELL Funding} + \text{SPED Funding} + \text{Cost of Living Factor} + \text{Locale Factor} + \text{Size Factor} = \text{Total Funding}$$

**HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?**

For every dollar in the Akron School District general fund budget (2025-26),

- **Forty-nine** cents are spent on instruction and student support services
- **Eighteen** cents are spent on administration and overhead at schools, e.g. principals, maintenance, transportation, etc.
- **Seven** cents are spent on District wide leadership and support, which includes the central administration and central support services
- **Twenty-six** cents are allocated as reserve such as unforeseen or future expenditures

Another useful way to break down the annual budget is by the amount spent per pupil. Divide the lump sum of the District's \$8,942,289 budget for 2025-26 by 415 (the predicted number of students for the 2025-26 school year, plus Pre-K students) and you get the figure of \$21,548 budgeted per pupil.

Keep in mind, though, that this number reflects all of the schools' expenses divided by all of their pupils. Every child is different, with different needs and different demands on the system. Some expenses are targeted to specific groups of students like special needs students, gifted students, or students learning English as a second language.

### **The budget driver: District employees**

Education is a very labor-intensive business. For that reason, the largest share of any school District's budget goes to pay for employee wages and benefits. All of Akron School District's full and part-time employees work inside the school or provide direct services to its students. Of these school-based staff, sixty-three percent are teachers or teacher assistants.

### **What does the money in our budget do?**

It costs the Akron School District an average of approximately \$148 per school day to educate a student. This is a bargain when you consider all of the services the school District provides.

#### **For just \$148 a day, the Akron School District provides to each student:**

- Quality instruction from caring and competent teachers
- Specialized learning services for students with special needs
- Access to library resources and computers
- Guidance, counseling, and other support services
- Materials such as textbooks
- Transportation to and from school
- A balanced lunch (and, in some cases, breakfast)
- Healthcare services
- Extracurricular activities
- A safe, orderly learning environment

# WHERE DO WE GET THE MONEY TO IMPROVE AND BUILD NEW SCHOOLS?

## **The capital budget**

While money for schools' day-to-day expenses comes from the general fund budget, money for building, renovating and expanding schools comes from bonds, which by Colorado law must be kept in a separate capital fund. Colorado has established a grant program named BEST (Build Excellent Schools Today). This program was designed to assist school Districts that do not have the bonding capacity to address large facility issues or build new schools, by providing grants that the District matches as they are able. As reported the past fifteen years, the Akron School District built a new school through the BEST grant. A two-story building was built on the high school campus, which tied into the existing field house and the agriculture/art/music areas were renovated. The high school classroom wing, elementary/junior high, and auditorium building were demolished, the current softball field was relocated to the elementary site, and a new transportation and maintenance facility was built on the elementary site.

The District was awarded the BEST grant in June 2010, and the District successfully passed a bond issue at the election in November 2010 for the matching funds. The twelfth full school year of occupancy for the total project and transportation facility is now complete. With the close out of the District BEST project, the unused funds totaled \$1,173,778.40. Per BEST board policy \$828,758.71 was transferred back to the state and \$345,019.76 was returned to the Akron School District through a project-based application process.

After several years of attempting to correct the school's HVAC system, the District, with the help of Millig Design Build submitted a BEST grant application that leveraged the District's ESSER funds and some of its own funds as a match to apply for a BEST grant to provide a permanent state of the art HVAC solution. The grant and District match totaled just over \$3.2 million. The project began at the end of the 2023 school year and was completed in the summer of 2024. With the completion of the project, students and staff have enjoyed the comfort of school learning spaces with ideal temperature control and constant fresh air circulation.

## **What do school bonds pay for?**

When you hear talk of school bonds, you're hearing about money the District borrows to pay for these capital expenses. In Colorado, as in most states, voters must approve these loans at the ballot box. Colorado statute limits a school District's bonded debt to 20% of its assessed valuation. Akron School District passed a bond issue in November 2010 for the maximum 20% or approximately \$7.1 million based on current assessed valuation of property in the school District. The BEST program combined the bonding

ability of all the Districts approved in the 2010 cycle into one bond sale and each District has a financing agreement with the State of Colorado for repayment. The bond redemption fund is a separate fund that will repay the debt over 20 years, initially using 15.243 mills added to the general fund mill levy through a trustee account. In 2021, the State Treasurer's Office allowed Districts that had paid ten years on their bond the opportunity to refinance. The Board of Education approved a resolution, dropping the interest rate from 4.082% to 1.91% saving the Akron taxpayers approximately \$455,000 over the remaining nine years until the bond is paid in full. The new annual debt service on the Akron School District bond issue is \$473,600 and will be paid in full in 2030.

## THE ANNUAL BUDGET

Each year, the school District must decide on its annual budget. The administrative staff of the District work together to create a tentative budget that considers the needs and values of students, parents, employees, and taxpayers and presents it to the Board of Education. The board must balance the needs of students, parents and employees with the fiscal responsibility it has to the taxpayers. The board is the final decision-maker on the budget.

## GENERAL FUND BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

The general fund is the focus of budget decisions because it contains almost all of the District's discretionary resources. The 2025-26 fiscal year budget is a financial plan for operating the District's general fund for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Budget assumptions are used to project available resources and how those available resources will be used. The assumptions presented in this budget are intended to focus attention on the decisions that have the greatest impact on the budget. The budget assumptions may change throughout the budget development process.

### General assumptions

1. Student Enrollment Assumption: The predicted student count for 2025-26 is 399. Using the four-year average, the funded pupil count is predicted to be 402.
2. Total Program Funding Assumption: The total program funding (Local Property Tax + Specific Ownership Tax + State Equalization) used to prepare the 2025-26 budget is \$5,972,339. This amount is \$343,572 more than last year.
3. Beginning Fund Balance Assumption: The estimated Beginning Fund Balance for 2025-26 is budgeted at \$2,200,000, which is \$72,743 less than the revised budget a year ago. A reduction in a beginning fund balance must be approved by the Board.

## Revenue assumptions

Total budgeted net revenues will decrease from last year’s revised budget, with a budgeted decrease of \$102,468. The District received funds from the dissolution of the BEST Health Trust in 2024-25, which is a one-time deposit thus causing a decrease in revenue for 2025-26.

## Expenditure assumptions

Total budgeted general fund expenditures will decrease by \$177,211 compared to last year’s revised budget. Major expenditure factors that were considered are listed below.

1. Salary Assumptions: The total number of staff members and FTE is projected to remain steady in 2025-26. The number of contract days for licensed staff will be 162 days. The budget also includes a 4.5% or \$1,900 increase to the base for teacher salaries. The classified staff, coaching, bus drivers, and non-salary scheduled employees will receive an increase as well.

### Staffing Trends – Fulltime Equivalent (FTE) Data Source: CDE Human Resources Report

Job Description	FTE 2022-23	FTE 2023-24	FTE 2024-25	(Projected) FTE 2025-26
Superintendent	1	1	1	1
Non-Instructional Director	1	1	1	1
Principal	2	2	2	2
Instructional Support	.37	2.4	2.4	2.4
Non-Instructional Program Coordinator-Tech	1	1	1	1
Regular Teachers	31.38	32.03	33	33.3
Spec Ed Teachers	3	3.31	3	3
Title I Teacher	1	1	1	1
Counselor	2	2	2	1
Library/Media Assistant	1	1	1	1
Teaching Assistant, Regular Ed	5	5.55	7	9.1
Teaching Assistant, Special Ed	10.27	10.28	8	7
Tutor	1.5	0	0	0
General Office/Secretary	2.18	2.41	2.41	2.2
Bus Driver/Vehicle Operator/Dispatcher	4	3	3	4
Cook	.5	.5	.5	.5
Custodian	2	2	2	2
Food Service Head	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Maintenance	1	1	1	1
Mechanic	1	1	1	1
<b>District Total</b>	<b>77.49</b>	<b>75.86</b>	<b>75.72</b>	<b>76</b>

**Staffing Trends – Average Teacher Salary**

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Projected 2025-26
Average Daily Rate	\$248.50	\$263.54	\$281.01	\$302.36	\$310.41
Average Salary	\$40,325	\$42,773	\$45,608	\$48,983	\$50,200
Teaching Staff	37	38	38	39	39
Contract Days	162.3	162.3	162.3	162	162

2. Fringe Benefits Assumptions: Health insurance premiums increased by 13.3% for the 2025-26 school year, but the District will receive a \$20,000 refund from Gravie for their 2023-2024 group performance. PERA rates did not increase. The District pays the employer’s share of PERA withholding for all employees including PERA retired employees.
  
3. Instruction Cost Assumptions: Teacher supply budgets will remain the same as previous years. The middle school/high school textbook rotation remains current with paying the remaining half of the language arts curriculum as well as renewing the middle school science curriculum. The elementary plans to renew the handwriting and science curriculums.
  
4. Capital Cost Assumptions: The District will continue the annual payments for the three-year bus lease that began in the fall of 2024 as well as the fifteen-year lease-leaseback payment schedule for a four-classroom addition completed in 2020. Capital expenditures for the maintenance department include the installation of new LED lighting throughout the school and transportation buildings, purchasing a new tractor, and a potential sound system upgrade in the fieldhouse.
  
5. Pupil Services Assumptions: The two counselors are funded in this area. The supply budget is expected to hold steady in the coming school year.
  
6. Instructional Staff Assumptions: The K-12 library is funded in this area, as is the technology coordinator. Purchased services and supplies are budgeted to hold steady with the past year. Staff computer purchases will continue based upon need, and with all students grades K-12 being one-to-one with Chromebooks additional machines will be ordered to have on hand. Additionally, ten new interactive screens will be installed throughout the school replacing projectors and white boards in various classrooms.

7. General Administration Assumptions: The central administration includes the superintendent and board of education activities. The increase in this area of the budget is reflects a slight increase in BOCES and school auditor expenses.
8. School Administration Assumptions: The District has two full-time principals, and continue to have one elementary secretary and one middle school/high school secretary. Purchased services and supplies are projected to be very similar to last year.
9. Operations and Maintenance Costs Assumptions: The 2025-26 budget reflects a variety of maintenance projects. The supply budget remains steady as well as budgeting for installing a fence and adding crushed concrete around the visitor football stands, contracted services for weed spraying/aerating/lawn maintenance, and boiler and HVAC circuit board repairs.
10. Pupil Transportation Assumptions: With the recent purchase of a new big bus and small yellow bus the fleet is up to date. Future considerations of hiring an additional bus driver to allow the transportation director to operate as a substitute when needed will continue to be explored. Fuel expenses remained steady.
11. Other Business Services Assumptions: The central business office handles all of the fiscal operations of the school District: accounts payable, accounts receivable, human resources, inventory control, insurance and state and federal reporting. The expenses in this area remain constant with the previous year.
12. Central Support Services: This line item in the budget contains telecom/internet, workman's comp insurance, and multi-coverage insurance. The District has projected an 8% increase in multi-coverage insurance rates for the 2025-26 school year. The workman's comp insurance changed to Pinnacol Assurance with rates increasing slightly.
13. Transfer Assumptions: The District will continue to allocate funds to the Capital Reserve Fund for the bus lease payment and the annual school addition payment, with the remaining funds used to build up reserves. The 2025-26 budget also projects a \$22,000 transfer to the Pupil Activity Fund to help offset the increase in individual sports budgets, official expenditures, and tournament entry fees. The budget also projects a small transfer to the Food Service Fund to help offset payroll expenses.

14. Pupil Activity Fund Assumptions: The number of extra-curricular activities has increased over the past few years due to the addition of both boys' and girls' golf teams, girl's pom, and an e-sports program. Budget revenues and expenditures for this fund are expected to increase due to these additional programs and activities as well as an increase in official costs.
15. Food Service Fund Assumptions: The primary source of revenue is food sales in the form of meals to students and staff. During the 2023-24 school year, legislation was passed that all students eat free, which has helped the Food Service Fund remain steady and relatively self-sustaining.

### **Who determines needs and decides how we spend school funds?**

Many people, including:

- The principal, staff, and school building accountability committees who make budget decisions at your local school.
- The superintendent, business manager, and other school District staff who draw up the budget each year and present it to the school board.
- The Board of Education, which adopts the budget and presents it to the public.
- The Colorado State Legislature and Governor, who decide how much state money to spend on schools, how to allocate that money to Districts, and what conditions apply.
- The U.S. Congress and President, who decide how much federal money to spend on education, how to divide it up among states and Districts, and what conditions apply.
- And, of course, the most important person, *you*. As citizens, we elect all of these public officials.

### **Accountability for public education spending**

Local school boards are accountable to their communities (to you, the taxpayer) for wisely and efficiently spending public funds to support schools. School boards, in turn, hold the superintendent responsible for developing and properly managing the school District's budget. The state also regulates District spending to a certain degree. And, of course, the portion of the District's budget that comes from the federal government is regulated at the national level. Independent auditors, who report their findings to the school board and the public, audit school District budgets annually.

## BUDGET TALKING POINTS AND TIMELINE FOR 2025-26

School funding in Colorado is based on a complex formula that provides funding to each school District on a per pupil basis called PPR (per pupil revenue). The full impact that Amendment 23 was to have on school finance has now sunset. It initially was intended to require state legislators to increase educational funding each year by a minimum of 1% plus inflation through 2011. However, because of the economic downturn in the state and nation during 2008-2011, the legislature reduced the categorical funding in the per pupil revenue calculation to balance the state budget, which resulted in a reduction of total program funding. The 1% annual increase is no longer in force, as the legislation required that it end with the 2011 finance bill. This reduction of funds during the economic downturn created what is called the “negative factor”. Without the negative factor, the School Finance Act formula would have provided the Akron School District with the additional funds in the appropriate school years:

- \$ 77,897 in 2009-10
- \$350,392 in 2010-11
- \$432,982 in 2011-12
- \$545,182 in 2012-13
- \$529,020 in 2013-14
- \$454,190 in 2014-15
- \$422,632 in 2015-16
- \$431,990 in 2016-17
- \$431,151 in 2017-18
- \$345,075 in 2018-19
- \$298,113 in 2019-20
- \$571,291 in 2020-21
- \$276,707 in 2021-22
- \$176,795 in 2022-23
- \$ 82,926 in 2023-24

The fifteen years of the negative factor or budget stabilization factor totals \$5,426,343. During the 2017 legislative session, legislators began referring to the “negative factor” as the “budget stabilization factor” in the School Finance Act (SB-296). Through Senate Bill 188 beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the Budget Stabilization Factor was completely eliminated. Small rural funds were also written into the school finance act, which will provide reliable permanent ongoing funds to rural schools.

The majority of our school funding comes from state equalization funds with a smaller portion coming from local property taxes, specific ownership taxes, and other sources. According to the present school finance formula, state equalization funding percentages will increase as local funding sources increase as well.

Following is a breakdown of the projected general fund budgeted revenue sources based on data received from CDE School Finance.

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Local Property Taxes	\$ 1,491,996
Specific Ownership Taxes	\$ 240,000
Other Local Revenues	\$ 143,000
State Equalization	\$ 4,240,343
Special Program Funding	\$ 618,100
Federal Revenues	\$ 232,900

Employee wages and benefits account for 55% of the 2025-26 Akron School District's total budgeted expenditures. Of the total budget, benefits account for approximately 15%.

## **Have a say**

Public comments on the budget are always welcome. The tentative timeline for the 2025-26 budget process will be:

Approval of Accountability Goals	October 2025
Board Review of Program Goals	December 2025
Board Review of Future Staffing Needs	December 2025
Final 2025-26 Budget Revisions	January 14, 2026
Review Short- and Long-Term Goals	February 2026
Accountability Committee Budget Discussion	March 2026
Preliminary 2026-27 Budget Presentation	May 13, 2026
2026-27 Budget Adoption	June 10, 2026

Successful schools are everybody's business. Every citizen can have a say in school budget decisions. If you are a public school parent, you can participate with your school's District Accountability Committee and learn all you can about budget decisions at your local school. If you are a citizen living within the Akron School District boundaries, you can share your opinions with the school board at a school board meeting.

To obtain more information about Akron School District's budget process or find out when public meetings are being held, call 970-345-2268.

For information on state education policy and budget, call the Colorado Department of Education at (303) 866-6600 or access its web site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us>.