



2025-2026 WRDSB Budget

Presented to the Board of Trustees

June 11, 2025

Agenda

- 2025-26 Budget
 - Risk Identification
 - Changes to Ministry Funding
 - Targeted Ministry Investments
 - Revenue Changes
 - Expenditure Changes
 - Budget Pressures and Strategic Spending Plans



2025-2026 Budget

Introduction

- Staff have prepared a budget that:
 - Is balanced
 - Supports literacy, math, classroom safety, student and staff well-being
 - Leverages funding provided by the Ministry of Education in support of our key objectives
 - Provides continuity and stability for the system



Key Budget Risks (Folio 3-5)

- Financial Sustainability
 - Impact on operations, compliance, reputation
- Enrolment Risk (Pupils of the Board)
 - Impact on revenues, and operations (staffing)
- Inflation Risk
 - Increasing costs for supplies and services

Financial Sustainability (Folio 3)

- Financial Sustainability
 - The ability to fund operations using only the in-year revenues generated through Core Ed funding and other revenue sources (i.e. Extended Day).
 - The ability to weather financial and operational challenges that may arise in any given year, without negatively impacting the operations or financial health of the organization.

Enrolment Risk (Folio 4)

| Enrolment - (ADE) | 2024-25 Actual | 2025-26 Budget | Variance | % Variance |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|------------|
| Grades JK - SK | 7,973 | 8,029 | 56 | 0.70% |
| Grades 1 - 3 | 13,386 | 13,259 | (127) | (0.95%) |
| Grades 4 - 6 | 13,638 | 13,812 | 174 | 1.27% |
| Grades 7 - 8 | 9,117 | 9,210 | 93 | 1.02% |
| Elementary | 44,115 | 44,310 | 195 | 0.44% |
| Secondary | 20,223 | 20,193 | (30) | (0.15%) |
| International Fee Paying | 74 | 52 | (22) | (29.73%) |
| Total | 64,412 | 64,555 | 143 | 0.22% |



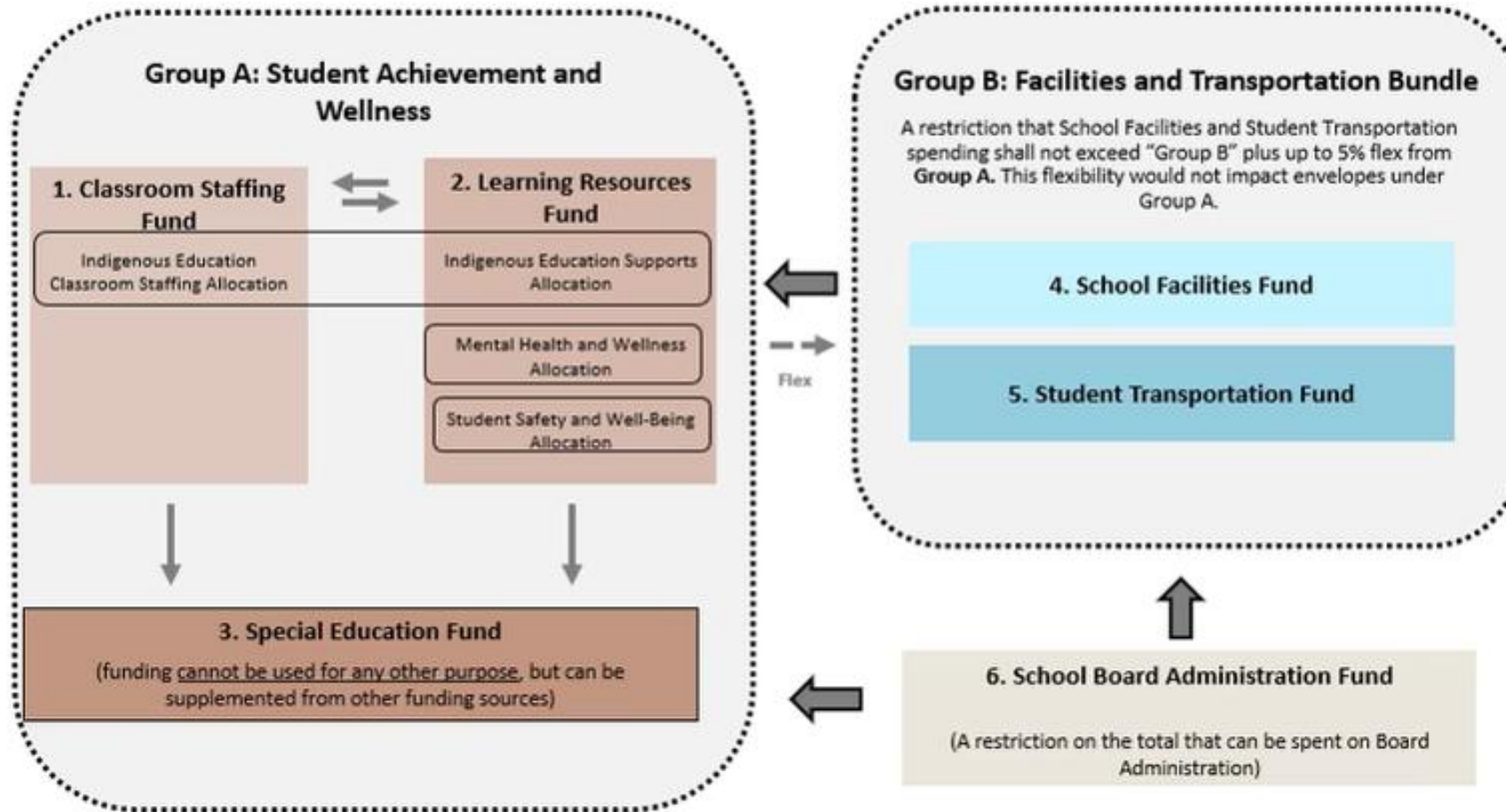
Inflation Risk (Folio 4)

- Inflation Risk
 - Inflation appears to be easing, but we are still experiencing upward pressure on prices for supplies and services (5-15%- contract & commodity specific)
 - Ministry increased non-staff portion of school operations allocation by 2.0% (\$1.8M)



Changes to Core Education Funding

CORE Education Funding



CORE Education Funding (WRDSB Breakdown)

| CED Components | Revenue | Expense | Variance |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF) | 502,125,008 | 504,139,639 | (2,014,631) |
| Learning Resources Fund (LRF) | 126,571,350 | 122,655,519 | 3,915,831 |
| Special Education Fund (SEF) | 107,423,680 | 113,055,841 | (5,632,161) |
| School Facilities Fund (excluding School Renewal Allocation) | 73,367,751 | 73,862,020 | (494,269) |
| Student Transportation Fund (STF) | 27,902,579 | 27,902,579 | - |
| School Board Administration Fund (SBAF) | 19,702,513 | 18,110,444 | 1,592,069 |
| Total | 857,092,881 | 859,726,042 | (2,633,161) |

Changes in Ministry Funding (Folio 6)

- Labour-related Increases
 - \$1/hour increase to education worker salaries
 - 2.5% increase to teacher, principal and vice-principal salaries
 - 2.5% increase for non-union (excluding executives Director, SOs) salary benchmarks
- Employee Life and Health Trust benefits funding amounts have been adjusted to reflect the 2022-2026 collective agreements

Changes in Ministry Funding (Folio 6)

- Student Transportation
 - Benchmarks have been adjusted to reflect increasing costs of transportation services
 - Secondary Program Transportation can now be supported (GRT pass) for system designated magnet programs
 - English as a Second Language/ English Language Development (ESL/ELD), Extended French, Fast Forward, French Immersion, Instrumental Strings, Integrated Arts, International Baccalaureate

Changes in Ministry Funding (Folio 6-7)

- Non-Staff benchmarks
 - 2% increase to non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark
- Recent Immigrant Supplement (ESL Funding)
 - Removal of time-limited funding as immigration levels return to pre-pandemic trends
- Indigenous Education Lead
 - Boards will generate funding when a lead is employed in that role
 - WRDSB plan is to hire an Indigenous SO as the Lead (BAP)



Targeted Ministry Investments (Responsive Education Programs)

Responsive Education Programs (Folios 8-11, 24)

| RESPONSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS (REP) | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 2024-25 Budget | 2025-26 Budget | Variance |
| Critical Physical Security Infrastructure | \$ 261,200 | \$ 261,200 | \$ - |
| Destreaming (Single Stream) Implementation Supports | 67,300 | - | (67,300) |
| Early Reading Enhancements: Early Reading Screening Tools | 410,000 | 410,000 | - |
| Education Staff to Support Reading Interventions K-3 | 2,064,200 | 2,218,900 | 154,700 |
| Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Projects | 30,000 | 30,000 | - |
| Experiential Learning- Guidance Teacher Counsellors | 78,600 | 78,600 | - |
| Graduation Coach for Black Students | 115,300 | 130,400 | 15,100 |
| Health Resources, Training and Supports | 32,000 | 32,000 | - |
| Human Rights and Equity Advisor | 170,400 | 170,400 | - |
| Learn and Work Bursary | 22,000 | 22,000 | - |
| Licenses and Supports for Reading Programs and Interventions | 264,000 | 264,900 | 900 |
| Math Achievement Action Plan: Board Math Leads | 166,600 | 166,600 | - |
| Math Achievement Action Plan: Digital Math Tools | 471,700 | 463,600 | (8,100) |
| Math Achievement Action Plan: School Math Facilitators | 729,600 | 834,200 | 104,600 |
| Mental Health Strategy Supports- Emerging Needs | 33,000 | 33,000 | - |
| Skilled Trades Bursary | 19,000 | 19,000 | - |
| Special Education AQ Subsidy for Educators | 23,400 | 23,200 | (200) |
| Special Education Needs Transition Navigators | 208,500 | 209,000 | 500 |
| Transportation & Stability Supports for Children and Youth in Care | 90,000 | 90,000 | - |
| Responsive Education Programs (REP) | \$ 5,256,800 | \$ 5,457,000 | \$ 200,200 |

Responsive Education Programs (Folios 8)

- Math Achievement Action Plan
 - \$1.46M in 2025-26 (\$1.37M 2024-25)
 - Math Lead (1.0) and Math Itinerant Teachers (7.0)
 - Digital Math Tools (KnowledgeHook, Reflex, Frax, Gizmos)

Responsive Education Programs (Folio 9)

- Literacy
 - \$2.89M in 2025-26 (\$2.74M 2024-25)
 - Early Reading Resource Teachers (18.0)
 - Early Reading Screening Tools & Supports (Acadience, Lexia)

Responsive Education Programs (Folio 9)

- Special Education Needs Transition Navigators
 - \$209,000 in 2025-26 (\$208,500 2024-25)
 - Supporting transition practices for students with special education needs and/or disabilities into, during and out of school.

Responsive Education Programs

| Staffing Impact | FTE |
|--|------|
| Education Staff to Support Reading Interventions K-3 | 18.0 |
| Math Achievement Action Plan: School Math Facilitators | 7.0 |
| Special Education Needs Transition Navigators | 2.0 |
| Graduation Coach for Black Students | 1.0 |
| Human Rights and Equity Advisor | 1.0 |
| Math Achievement Action Plan: Board Math Leads | 1.0 |



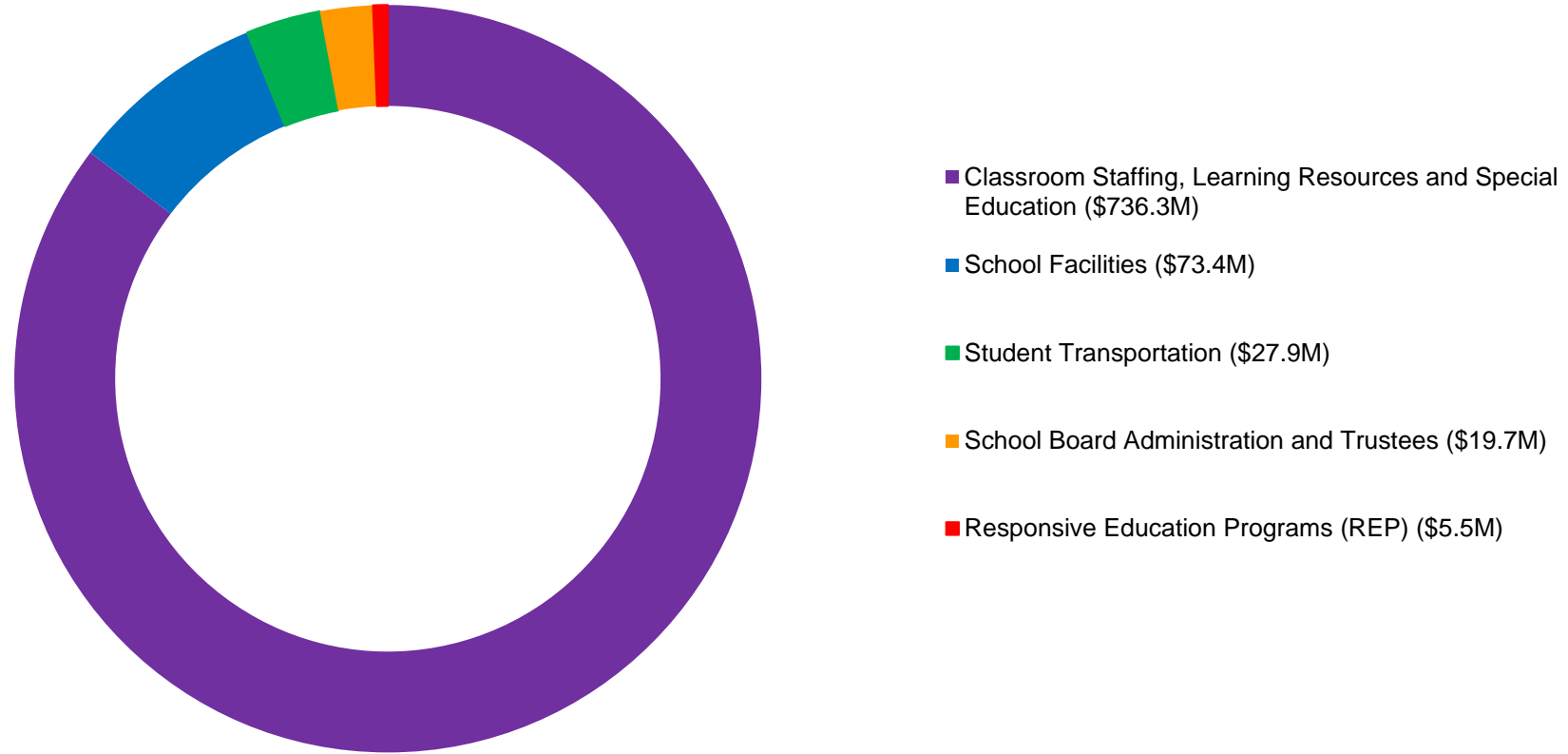


2025-2026 Revenues

Grant Allocations (Folio 23)

| Ministry Allocation | 2024-2025 Budget | 2025-2026 Budget | 2024-25 to 2025-26 Variance | 2024-25 to 2025- 26 % Variance |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Classroom Staffing Fund | \$ 447,315,475 | \$ 502,148,455 | \$54,832,980 | 12.26% |
| Learning Resource Fund | 116,553,146 | 126,572,512 | 10,019,366 | 8.60% |
| Special Education Fund | 99,662,582 | 107,423,680 | 7,761,098 | 7.79% |
| School Facilities Fund | 71,067,209 | 73,367,751 | 2,300,542 | 3.24% |
| Student Transportation Fund | 23,345,002 | 27,902,579 | 4,557,577 | 19.52% |
| School Board Administration Fund | 18,546,258 | 19,702,513 | 1,156,255 | 6.23% |
| Sub-Total Operating Grants | 776,489,672 | 857,117,490 | 80,627,818 | 10.38% |
| Planning Provision (Labour) | 26,500,400 | - | (26,500,400) | |
| Total Operating Grants | <u>\$ 802,990,072</u> | <u>\$ 857,117,490</u> | <u>\$54,127,418</u> | <u>6.74%</u> |

Grant Allocations (Folio 23)



Other Revenue (Folio 24)

| OTHER REVENUES | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | 2024-25 Budget | 2025-26 Budget | Variance |
| Responsive Education Programs (REP) | \$ 5,256,800 | \$ 5,457,000 | \$ 200,200 |
| Other Grants | | | |
| Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) | \$ 421,200 | \$ 427,213 | \$ 6,013 |
| Literacy and Basic Skills | 370,900 | 370,900 | - |
| Planning Provision (Labour) | 25,208,612 | - | (25,208,612) |
| Other EDU Grants - Amounts from Deferred Revenue | 213,605 | - | (213,605) |
| Total Other Grants (including REP Grants) | \$ 31,471,117 | \$ 6,255,113 | \$ (25,216,004) |
| Other Revenue | | | |
| Investment Income | \$ 651,000 | \$ 2,100,000 | \$ 1,449,000 |
| Fees (Ontario Residents, Foreign Students) | 1,377,100 | 1,000,100 | (377,000) |
| Rental Revenue | 1,888,000 | 2,538,200 | 650,200 |
| Education Development Charges | 1,308,600 | 14,783,459 | 13,474,859 |
| Extended Day Program Revenue | 15,879,600 | 17,309,100 | 1,429,500 |
| Other (insurance proceeds, recoverable) | 3,761,500 | 3,944,616 | 183,116 |
| Total Other Revenue | \$ 24,865,800 | \$ 41,675,475 | \$ 16,809,675 |

Capital Grant Allocations (Folio 29)

| Ministry Allocation | 2024-2025 Budget | 2025-2026 Budget | 2024-25 to 2025-26 Variance | 2024-25 to 2025- 26 % Variance |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| School Conditioning Improvement | \$32,999,009 | \$33,164,573 | \$ 165,564 | 0.50% |
| School Renewal Allocation | 10,424,599 | 10,282,379 | (142,220) | -1.36% |
| Capital Planning Capacity | 55,525 | 55,525 | - | 0.00% |
| Temporary Accommodation | 1,287,806 | 1,862,900 | 575,094 | 44.66% |
| Total Capital Grants | <u>\$44,766,939</u> | <u>\$45,365,377</u> | <u>\$ 598,438</u> | <u>1.34%</u> |



2025-2026 Expenditures

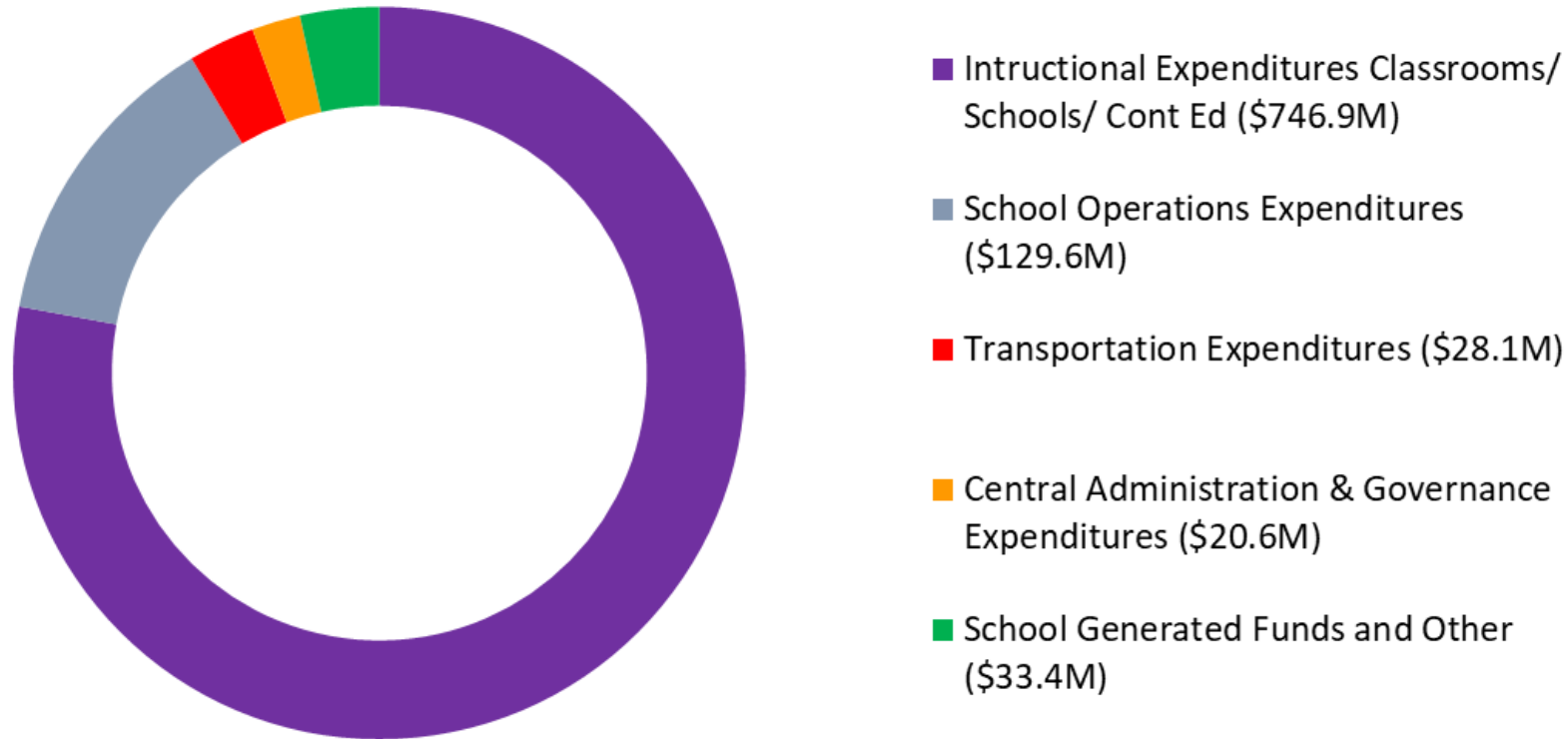
Expenditures (Folio 26)

| | 2024-2025 Budget | 2024-2025 Revised Budget | 2025-2026 Budget | Change from 24-25 to 2025- 2026 | % Change |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Instruction | \$ 672,661,354 | \$ 728,984,920 | \$ 746,877,122 | \$ 74,215,768 | 9.94% |
| Administration | 19,072,983 | 20,214,575 | 20,606,296 | 1,533,313 | 7.44% |
| Transportation | 23,324,900 | 23,335,900 | 28,148,635 | 4,823,735 | 17.14% |
| School Ops and Maintenance | 122,147,773 | 127,445,900 | 129,634,866 | 7,487,093 | 6.13% |
| School Generated Fund | 13,468,334 | 13,468,334 | 13,468,334 | - | 0.00% |
| Other Expenditure | 48,871,272 | 19,216,672 | 19,889,484 | (28,981,788) | -59.30% |
| Total Expenditures | <u>\$ 899,546,616</u> | <u>\$ 932,666,301</u> | <u>\$ 958,624,737</u> | <u>\$ 59,078,121</u> | <u>6.16%</u> |



Total Expenditures (Folio 26-27)

Expenditures by Category



Expenditures (Folio 26-27)

| | 2024-2025 Budget | | 2025-2026 Budget | | Change from 24-25 to 2025- 2026 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits | \$ | 740,232,321 | \$ | 792,145,558 | \$ 51,913,237 |
| Staff Development | | 4,092,804 | | 4,130,497 | 37,693 |
| Supplies, Services Fees and Contracts | | 97,096,372 | | 104,173,171 | 7,076,799 |
| Interest Charges on Capital | | 3,372,642 | | 3,047,713 | (324,929) |
| Rental Expense | | 2,070,900 | | 2,014,605 | (56,295) |
| Other expenses | | 583,472 | | 691,822 | 108,350 |
| Amortization and Accretion | | 52,098,105 | | 52,421,371 | 323,266 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ | 899,546,616 | \$ | 958,624,737 | \$ 59,078,121 |



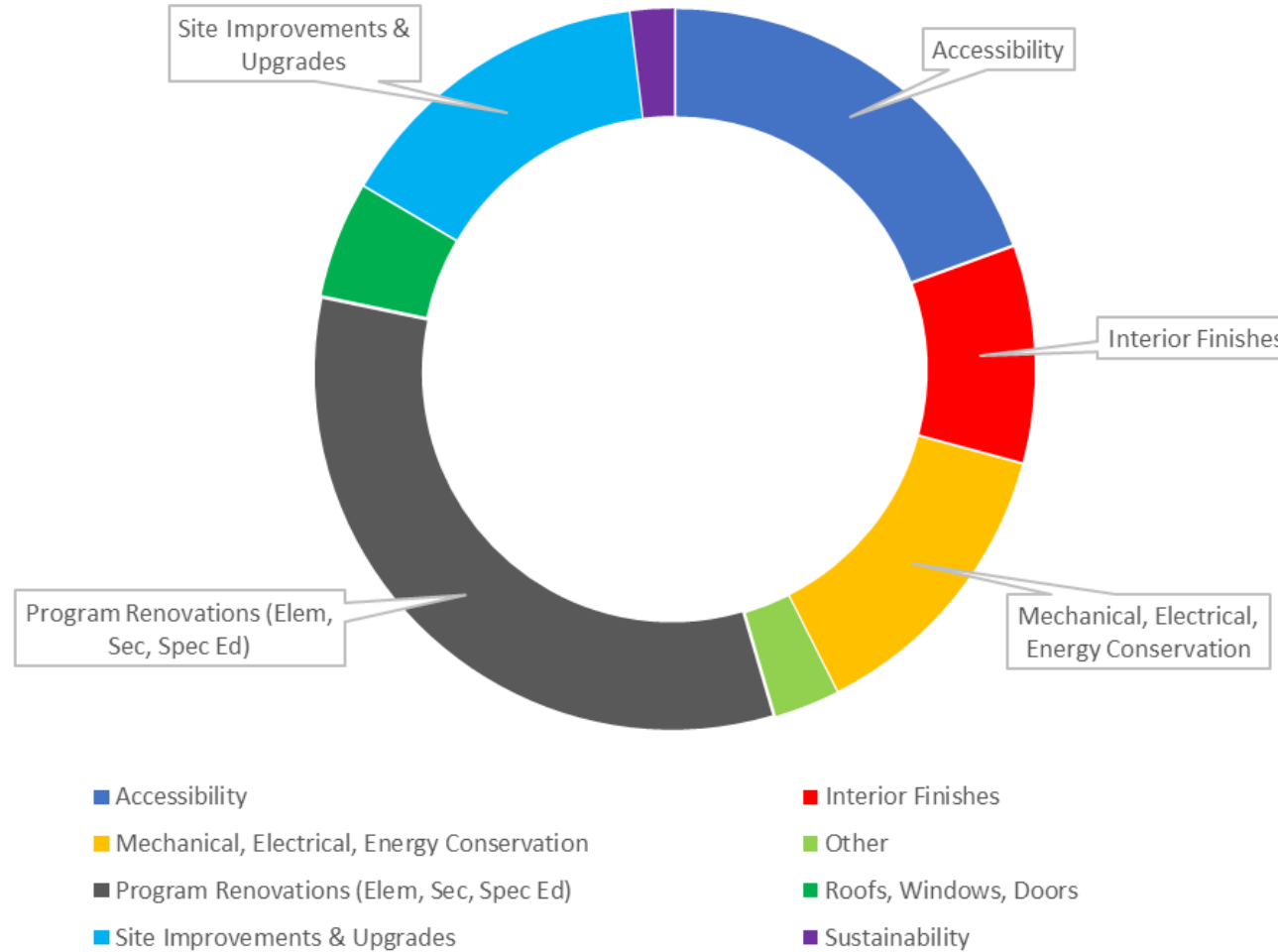
Key Changes in 2025-2026 Budget

- Increase to computer plan by \$500,000
- Increase to legal and professional costs by \$300,000
- Increase to school operating budgets by \$81,000
- Increase to Insurance premiums by \$300,000
- Increase to sick leave by \$1.31M
- Increase to IT Maintenance fees and Software by \$1.35M
- Establish Facilities playground repairs budget \$100,000



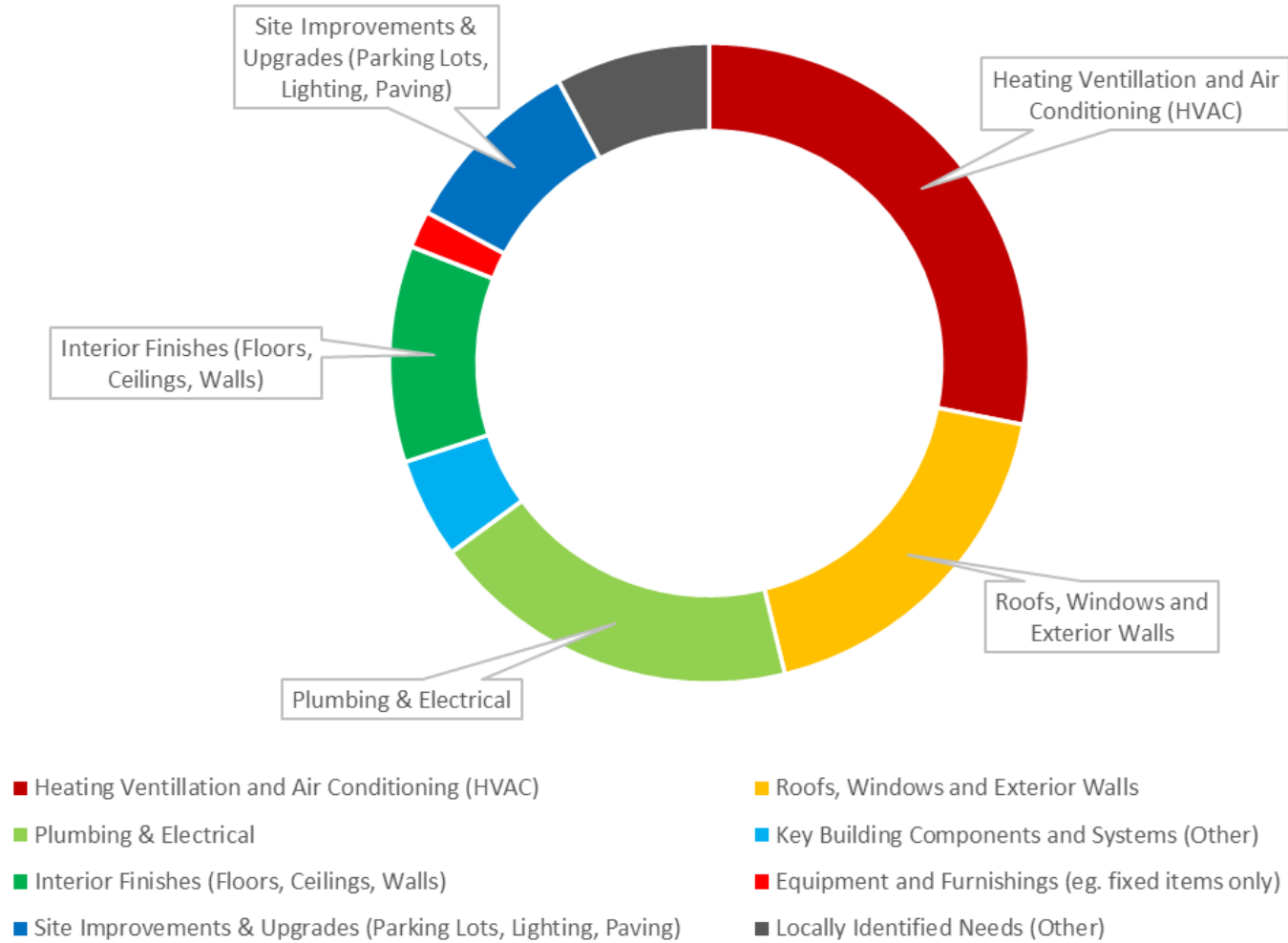
School Renewal Spending for 2025-26

\$10,282,379



School Condition Improvement Spending for 2025-26

\$33,164,573





Budget Pressures & Strategic Spending Plans

Key Budget Pressures (Folio 13-15)

- Commodities and Services (Inflation)
 - Per pupil classroom supplies, classroom computers, textbook and learning materials allocations have increased 13.02% since 2009 (compounded inflation 43.46%).

| LEARNING RESOURCES FUND (FORMERLY PART OF PUPIL FOUNDATION GRANT): Non-Staffing | 2009-10 Funding per ADE | 2025-26 Funding per ADE | % Change: 2009 to 2026 | BOC Inflation (2009 to 2025) |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ELE-Textbooks and Learning | \$ 69.00 | \$ 70.59 | 2.3% | 43.5% |
| ELE-Education Licenses (2020-21) | | 0.86 | | |
| ELE-Classroom Supplies | 82.82 | 84.72 | 2.3% | 43.5% |
| ELE-Classroom Computers | 34.52 | 35.31 | 2.3% | 43.5% |
| ELE-Student Tech Devices (2021-22) | | 7.27 | | |
| ELE-Broadband Tech (2022-23) | | 19.34 | | |
| <i>ELE Per Pupil Benchmark</i> | \$ 186.34 | \$ 218.09 | 17.0% | 43.5% |
| SEC-Textbooks and Learning | 92.29 | 94.41 | 2.3% | 43.5% |
| SEC-Education Lic (2020-21) | | 0.86 | | |
| SEC-Classroom Supplies | 188.87 | 193.21 | 2.3% | 43.5% |
| SEC-Classroom Computers | 45.03 | 46.07 | 2.3% | 43.5% |
| SEC-Student Tech Devices (2021-22) | | 7.27 | | |
| SEC-Broadband Tech (2022-23) | | 19.34 | | |
| <i>SEC Per Pupil Benchmark</i> | \$ 326.19 | \$ 361.16 | 10.72% | 43.5% |
| Total | \$ 512.53 | \$ 579.25 | 13.02% | |



Key Budget Pressures (Folio 13-15)

| CEF Funding for Supply Staff 2025-26 | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Grade Cohort | Average Daily Enrolment | Supply Teacher Benchmark | Supply DECE Benchmark | GSN Funding |
| JK-SK | 8,009 | \$202.50 | \$111.03 | \$2,511,062 |
| Gr 1 to 3 | 13,396 | \$202.50 | | \$2,712,690 |
| Gr 4 to 8 | 22,760 | \$202.50 | | \$4,608,900 |
| Gr 9-12 | 20,231 | \$202.50 | | \$4,096,778 |
| 2025-26 Funding for Supply Staff (Teachers and DECEs) | | | | \$13,929,429 |
| 2025-26 Expense Forecast (Teachers and DECEs only) | | | | \$30,006,740 |
| Funding Shortfall | | | | (\$16,077,311) |



Strategic Spending Plan (Folio 16-17)

- Board is projecting a balanced budget in 2024-25

| Ministry Compliance Summary | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| | 2022-2023 | | 2023-2024 | | 2024-2025 |
| Revenues | \$ | 817,320,029 | \$ | 970,751,863 | \$ 878,502,699 |
| Expenses | \$ | 824,539,260 | \$ | 972,753,264 | \$ 878,502,699 |
| Surplus/Deficit | \$ | (7,219,231) | \$ | (2,001,401) | \$ - |

- “Strategic Spending” cannot be actioned until staff have confirmed 2024-25 balanced budget through completion of financial statements.

Strategic Spending Plan (Folio 16-17)

- Literacy & Numeracy
 - Early Reading Resource Teachers (ERRT), Literacy Intervention Specialists (LIS), Math Intervention Specialists (MIS)
 - \$2,150,500 (~ 17.0 FTE)
- Student Support & Classroom Safety
 - Behaviour Support Teams- Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBAs), Child and Youth Workers, Educational Assistants, Behavior Management Systems (BMS) trained staff, Special Education Teacher
 - \$1,747,900 (~15 FTE or 3 Behaviour Support Teams)

Strategic Spending Plan (Folio 16-17)

- Technology and Operations
 - Office 365 Environment, Disaster Recovery, Firewall refresh and licenses, Internet switches (school based), Attendance Support Program
 - \$2,530,000
- Literacy & Numeracy, as well as Student Support & Classroom Safety resources, would be added for 2025-26 and 2026-27.
 - Technology and Operations amounts would be revisited as part of the 2026-27 budget process

Strategic Spending Plan (Folio 16-17)

| Ministry Compliance Summary | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027* | 2027-2028* |
| Revenues | \$ 970,751,863 | \$ 878,502,699 | \$ 958,671,983 | \$ 977,845,423 | \$ 997,353,176 |
| Expenses | 972,753,264 | 878,502,699 | 958,624,737 | 977,797,232 | 997,353,176 |
| Sub-Total Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ (2,001,401) | \$ - | \$ 47,246 | \$ 48,191 | \$ - |
| <i>Strategic Spending</i> | | - | (6,428,400) | (6,556,968) | - |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ (2,001,401) | \$ - | \$ (6,381,154) | \$ (6,508,777) | \$ - |

* All revenue and expense figures are estimated

Summary

- The 2025-26 budget, as presented, is balanced and complies with all Ministry regulations.
 - This has been achieved through a combination of increased funding (transportation, school ops), and the use of deferred revenues (special education).
 - Ongoing monitoring and attention to our fiscal situation will be critical throughout the 2025-26 school year to ensure we remain within budget.

Recommendation (Folio 1)

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) approve the budget as presented in this report—with revenues of \$966,250,766 and expenses of \$958,624,737 with the difference of \$7,626,029 attributed as follows...



Thank You