



Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget in Brief



Business and Financial Services

425 East Ninth Street | Reno, Nevada 89512

LETTER FROM THE CFO

Dear Washoe County Residents,

In May 2024, the Washoe County School District's Board of Trustees adopted the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025), with \$25.2 million of new investments into our schools. The budget included a \$10 million allocation to implement the District's new strategic plan, which was adopted in June 2023, along with \$15.2 million in English Learner and At-Risk weighted funding. These sources of funding were the result of the 2023 session of the Nevada State Legislature, where lawmakers designated unprecedented revenue increases for K-12 education across the state. Lawmakers increased funding for schools by more than \$1 billion per year statewide.

The 2024-25 budget process was focused on implementing the District's strategic plan by providing additional supports to students and schools. Throughout the process, the District emphasized major themes such as providing additional supports for high-needs schools and expanding Pre-K opportunities to align proposals with the strategic plan. The tables on the following page show various breakdowns of the approved budget items, grouped together by strategic plan goal and major theme.

The \$25.2 million in investments included 135 new positions to support schools. With federal stimulus funding set to expire in June 2024, the District also used the funding to maintain 28.5 positions that became part of the District's core function. Additionally, 79 positions were shifted from other funding sources to stabilize funding for those positions and allow grant funding sources to be utilized for other purposes.

Another significant development during the 2024-25 budget process was the end of Universal Free lunches for students at the completion of the 2023-24 school year. The District's Board of Trustees approved the expansion of Community Eligibility Program schools to provide free meals to approximately 2,700 students who would have otherwise lost access to free meals when Universal Free lunches ended.

This Budget-in-Brief document is intended to provide you with facts about our school district; the District's approach to balancing the budget; major sources of funding; as well as major changes included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget. More information about the budget process and materials from budget meetings can be found at [Budget / FY 2024-2025 Budget Process](#). Additionally, you can view the detail of the District's budget in a variety of ways by visiting [Interactive Budget in the District's Data Gallery](#).

We hope you find this budget document useful to understanding the Washoe County School District's Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

Respectfully,

Mark Mathers
Chief Financial Officer

2024-25 BUDGET INVESTMENTS BY STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget process included \$25.2 million of investments in our schools, aligned with the District's new strategic plan.



* \$0.2 million will be used to implement system-wide improvements.

Budget Investments by Major Theme

- Additional Supports for High-Needs Schools**
\$10.3 million
- Expand Pre-K Opportunities**
\$7.3 million
- Supports for Academic Achievement**
\$4.0 million
- Support Student Engagement & Belonging**
\$3.1 million
- Implement System-Wide Improvements**
\$0.5 million



DISTRICT-WIDE BUDGET

District-Wide Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budgeted Expenditures by Fund Type



General Funds	\$638.2 million
Special Revenue Funds	\$274.6 million
Capital Projects Funds	\$228.9 million
Debt Service Funds	\$124.6 million
Internal Service Funds	\$105 million
Enterprise Funds	\$32.9 million

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 District-wide expenditure budget amounts to \$1.4 billion. This budget includes \$119.7 million in interfund transfers, resulting in a net District-wide expenditure budget of \$1.3 billion. As illustrated in the pie chart, the majority of the expenditures occur in the District's General Fund (\$638.2 million), which supports daily operations.

Capital Projects funds make up \$228.9 million of the District's expenditure budget, which funds projects in the District's Capital Improvement Plan. The District has \$124.6 million of expenditures for Debt Service funds to account for the principal and interest payments for the District's long and medium-term debt payments related to capital projects.

The District also has \$274.6 million in budgeted Special Revenue fund expenditures that account for revenue sources that are restricted for specific purposes, such as Title I, weighted funding under the Pupil Centered Funding Plan, State Special Education, Federal Special Education and other grant programs.

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, WCSD budgeted \$105 million in expenditures of Internal Service funds that account for employee health insurance, worker's compensation, and the District's property and casualty insurance program.

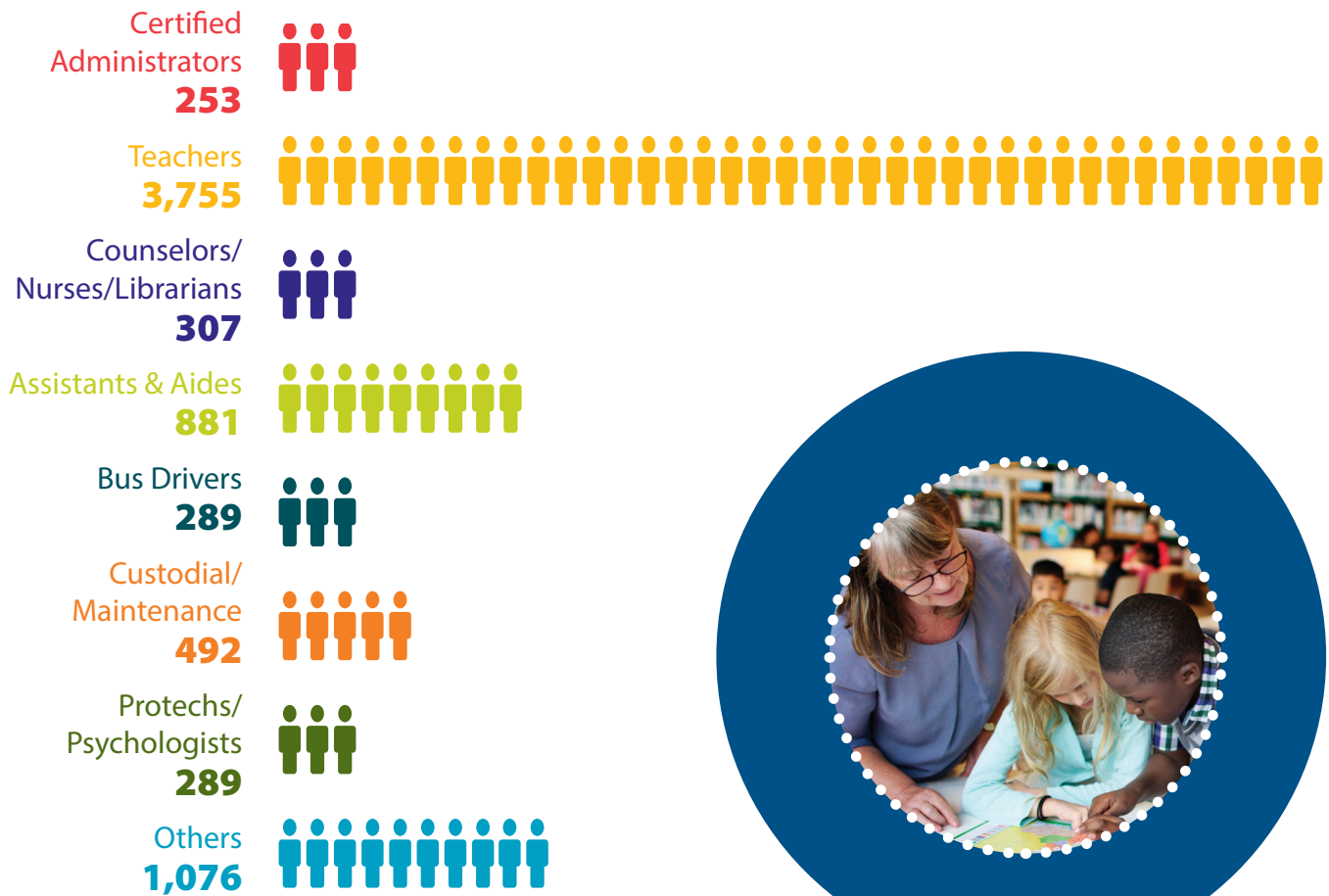
Lastly, the District has \$32.9 million budgeted for expenditures in its Enterprise Fund, which accounts for activities related to the District's Nutrition Services program.

DISTRICT STAFF

In order to provide services to its students and families, the District is staffed with 7,342 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. Of that, 4,315 FTEs are for licensed personnel (teachers, deans, librarians, counselors, nurses, principals and assistant principals) that provide instruction or direct support to our schools.

The remaining 3,027 FTEs represent non-licensed personnel, such as bus drivers, custodian/maintenance positions, school secretaries, clerical staff, teacher aides and assistants, School Police and Nutrition Services workers that all provide direct support to schools. Also included are other central services positions that provide indirect support to schools (Human Resources, Business & Financial Services, Information Technology, etc.)

District-Wide Full-Time Equivalent Positions

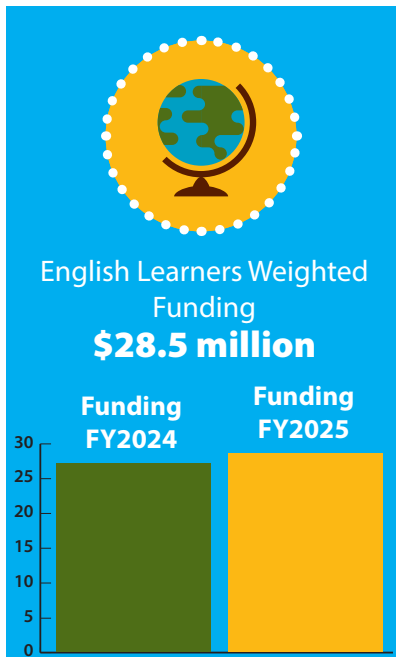


PUPIL CENTERED FUNDING PLAN

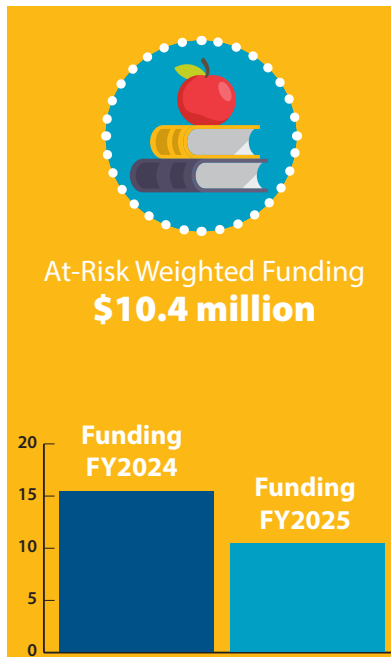


- Base Funding
\$630.2 million
- English Learners Weighted Funding
\$28.5 million
- At-Risk Weighted Funding
\$10.4 million
- Gifted & Talented Weighted Funding
\$1.5 million

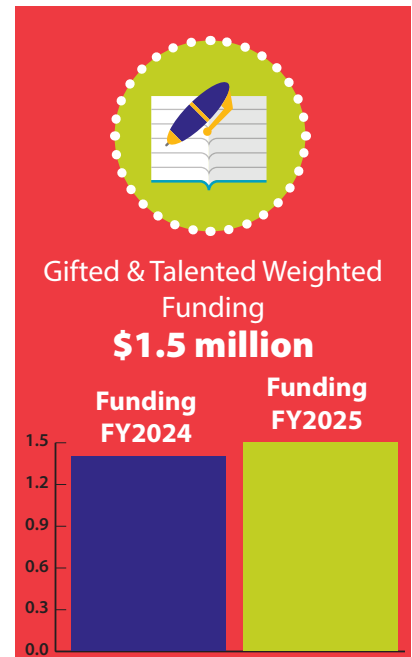
The Fiscal Year 2024-25 District-Wide Budget Includes \$670.6 million in State funding through the Pupil Centered Funding Plan. Base Funding includes \$630.2 million in General Fund revenues to support everyday operations. Weighted Funding categories include funding to provide services to students in need of additional supports. These funds will be spent on students in need of these additional supports and in alignment with the District’s new Strategic Plan.



Weighted funding for English Learners increased by \$1.4 million, from \$27.1 million in FY2024 to \$28.5 million in FY2025.



Weighted funding for At-Risk students decreased by \$4 million, from \$15.4 million in FY2024 to \$10.4 million in FY2025.



Weighted funding for Gifted & Talented students increased by \$0.1 million, from \$1.4 million in FY2024 to \$1.5 million in FY2025.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

General Fund revenues total \$638.2 million, consisting of State, local, federal, and other sources. Under the Pupil Centered Funding Plan, WCSD receives 98.8% of its General Fund revenue from the State. The \$638.2 million is made up of:



Adjusted Base Per-Pupil funding
\$561.7 million

This is the District's per pupil amount of \$9,705 multiplied by the projected average daily enrollment (57,873.26 students) for the 2024-25 school year.



Transportation
\$23.7 million

This is a fixed amount of revenue based on the District's historical transportation costs, so that the District has guaranteed revenue for transporting students to school.



Local Special Education
\$44.9 million

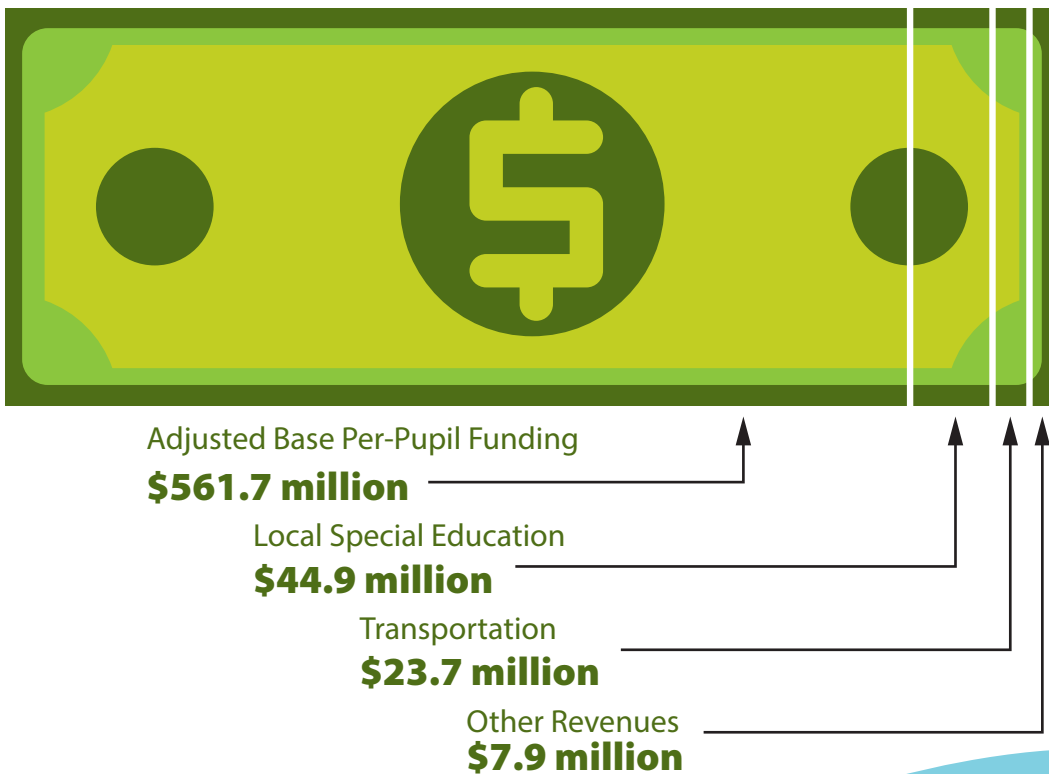
This is a fixed amount of revenue based on historical amounts the District has had to transfer from its General Fund to the Special Education fund due to shortfalls in State Special Education Funding.



Other Revenues
\$7.9 million

In addition to State revenue, WCSD's General Fund receives \$7.5 million in various local revenues, \$360,000 in federal revenues and \$50,000 in other revenues. The largest single revenue in this category is investment earnings.

General Fund Revenue Categories



GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNCTION

The District has a structurally-balanced budget, meaning its General Fund expenditure budget of \$638.2 million equals its total General Fund revenues. The chart below shows how the District spends its per pupil revenue, which is spent mainly on student instruction and student/school supports (76%) and which provides positions like teachers, counselors, nurses, and psychologists, along with curriculum and supplies budgets. The section below the chart provides examples of what is included in each expenditure category on a per pupil basis.



Direct Instruction – \$5,591 per pupil

Regular Instruction, Special Programs, Vocational Programs, Co-curricular Programs, and Transfers to Special Education and Gifted & Talented Instruction

Student & School Support – \$1,770 per pupil

Student Support, School Administration, Instructional Staff Support

Operations & Transportation – \$1,455 per pupil

Operations, Maintenance, Utilities, and Student Transportation

Central Services – \$889 per pupil

General Administration, Central Support, Contingency, and Other Interfund Transfers

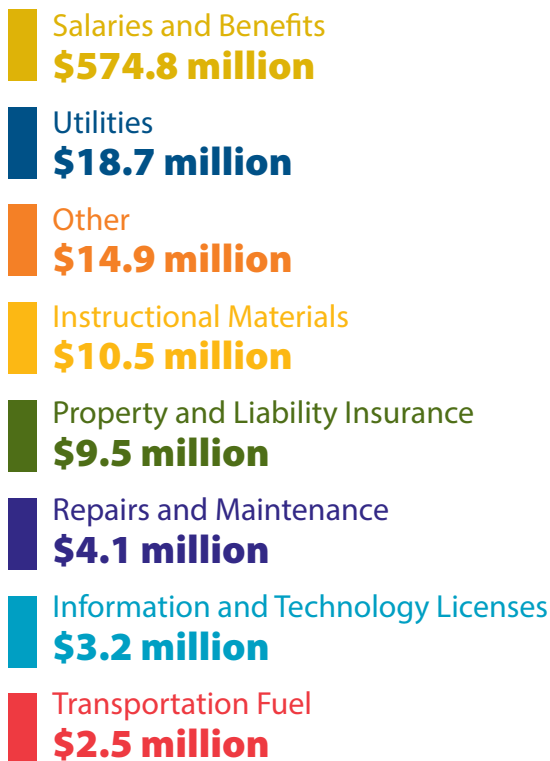
- Direct Instruction includes positions like classroom teachers, deans, aides, assistants, substitute teachers, and athletic coaches, along with textbook and other instructional material costs. In total, these costs are \$367.6 million.
- Student and School Support include positions such as school principals, assistant principals, other office staff, counselors, nurses, psychologists, and curriculum support staff. These costs are \$116.4 million of the District's General Fund budget.
- Operations and Maintenance includes bus drivers and bus fuel, custodians, maintenance staff, utility costs, and school police positions. These costs make up \$95.7 million of the General Fund budget.
- Central Services is for the Board, Superintendent, General Counsel, Community Relations and other services such as Finance and Purchasing, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Accountability, all of which support schools. The General Fund budget for Central Services is \$58.4 million.

GENERAL FUND BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

The chart below shows the major expenditure categories in the General Fund. The most significant cost in the General Fund is for salaries and benefits, due to the 4,656 Full-Time Equivalent positions that provide services and supports to students and schools. The FY25 budget funds employee step increases, cost of living adjustments, and a 2.57% health insurance rate increase.

Of the \$25.2 million invested in the District's Strategic Plan, \$10 million was funded from the General Fund. These costs are budgeted across the various categories shown in the chart below.

Property and liability insurance rates continue to increase due to increased risk and exposure with the addition of new schools and school expansions. The projected property and liability insurance cost will increase by \$1.4 million from \$8.1 million in FY24 to \$9.5 million in FY25. The categories in the chart below include non-personnel costs funded in the 2024-25 General Fund budget.



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Washoe County School District’s Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Projects budget aligns with its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and provides \$228.9 million in capital investments. The District’s CIP is a five-year plan which provides the timeline for forecasted capital projects and equipment purchases, and identifies options for financing the plan. These investments include capital renewal, facility modernization projects, a school information technology device refresh program, and the acquisition of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system, along with other capital projects.

Annual Capital Renewal	\$50,000,000
Facility Modernization Projects	\$88,381,925
Admin Building	\$2,000,000
IT Device Refresh/ERP System	\$12,666,948
Other Major Projects	\$36,622,578
Debt Service Costs	\$39,260,136

Major financing sources for the District’s CIP include:

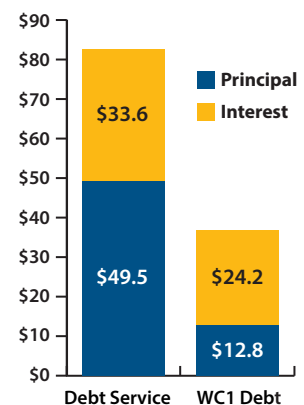
- Mix of debt financing and pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) sources
- WC-1 Sales Tax (0.54% on sales of goods) – \$67 million
 - Supports WC-1 bonds’ debt service and can be used for PAYGO
 - The 2024-25 budget includes a maximum \$75 million bond issuance to fund capital projects
- Property Taxes (\$0.3885 per \$100 of assessed valuation) – \$89.7 million
 - Supports rollover bonds’ debt service and can be used for PAYGO
 - The 2024-25 budget includes a maximum \$150 million bond issuance to fund capital projects
- Government Services Tax (tax on MSRP of vehicles)

DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

The district has two debt services funds to pay the principal and interest payments on its medium and long-term debt. The Debt Service Fund receives property tax revenues that are used to pay the District’s principal and interest on long-term debt from previous issuances of rollover bonds. This fund also receives a transfer from a Capital Projects Fund in order to make debt payments on the District’s medium-term debt vehicle fleet purchases.

The WC-1 Debt Service Fund receives sales tax revenue which is used to make debt payments on long-term debt for new schools and school improvements. This fund is also used for pay-as-you-go capital projects, allowing the District to pay for capital projects without issuing debt. The chart to the right shows the budgeted principal and interest payments for each of the District’s Debt Service funds.

2024–25 Principal and Interest Payments



SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

The District's budgeted total special revenue fund revenues of \$265.7 million and plans to utilize \$9 million in fund balance to pay for program expenditures in Fiscal Year 2024-25, resulting in \$274.7 million of total expenditures. These special revenues funds provide many student and staff support programs outside of the General Fund operations. These funds include federal grants like Title I, IDEA and stimulus dollars (ESSER). State revenues include Special Education and weighted funding under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. The District receives various other grants across the federal, state and local levels.

Revenues by Source (in millions)

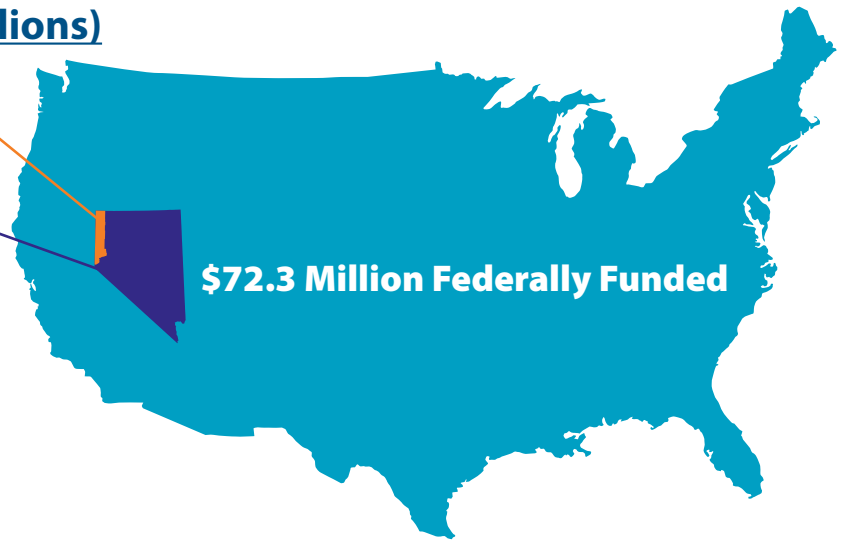
\$22.3 Million Locally Funded

\$94.3 Million State Funded

\$76.8 Million Transfers from General Fund

- \$69.8 m to Special Education
- \$4.6 m to Gifted & Talented
- \$2.4 m to Medicaid

\$72.3 Million Federally Funded



Expenditures by Fund (in millions)

- State Special Ed – \$107.5**
- Other Special Revenue Funds – \$83.8**
- English Learners Weighted Funding – 28.5**
- Title I – \$15.5**
- IDEA – \$13.9**
- At-Risk Weighted Funding – \$10.4**
- GATE Weighted Funding – \$6.1**



INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

WCSD has three internal service funds that fund various programs, The Property & Casualty Fund includes the district's property and liability insurance premium costs, along with costs related to damaged property and other liabilities. The district has a self-funded health insurance program, so the Health Insurance Fund tracks the revenue and expenditures of that program. Lastly, the Workers' Compensation Fund tracks the district's workers compensation insurance and claim costs. The chart below shows the total budgeted expenditures for each of the internal services funds.



Health Insurance – \$91.8 million

The Health Insurance Fund accounts for all revenues and expenditures associated with the District's self-funded health insurance program. A 2.57% health insurance premium rate increase is budgeted effective January 1, 2025.



Property & Casualty – \$9.7 million

The Property & Casualty Fund budgeted included a 20% insurance premium rate increase and a new clerical position to assist with the processing of property and liability claims.



Workers' Compensation – \$3.5 million

The Workers' Compensation Fund accounts for revenues and expenditures associated with the District's workers' compensation program that provides benefits to employees who are injured on the job. There were no major changes to the Workers' Compensation Fund budget for Fiscal year 2024-25.

ENTERPRISE FUND – \$32.9 MILLION

The District has one enterprise fund which accounts for activities related to the its Nutrition Services program. The costs of the Nutrition Services program are supported mainly by federal meal reimbursements and some user charges for a la carte meals.

Universal Free lunches ended at the completion of the 2023-24 school year. The District's Board of Trustees approved the expansion of Community Eligibility Program (CEP) schools to provide free meals to approximately 2,700 students at seven school sites, bringing the total number of WCSD's CEP schools to 68. The cost of expanding the CEP schools will be funded from the fund's net position.



OUTLOOK BEYOND FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

With 98.8% of Washoe County School District's revenues received directly from the State through the Pupil Centered Funding Plan, the District is almost entirely dependent on State Education Fund revenues for daily operations. The status of those revenues and other financial impacts from the 2025 legislative session will impact the District's 2025-26 budget and beyond.

The Washoe County School District has also been experiencing declining enrollment since 2019. Nearly 88% of the District's General Fund revenues are based on enrollment, so future enrollment trends will greatly impact District revenues.



New expenditures that will be included in future budgets include, the new Debbie Smith Career & Technical Academy school that will open in August of 2025, benefit rate increases for health insurance and retirement, cost-of-living adjustments, utility rate increases, and other inflationary increases.

The factors outlined above, along with other future revenue and expenditure impacts, will result in continuous changes to the District's financial outlook. Future budgets will be adjusted to respond to these changes and to align with the District's strategic plan to improve student outcomes.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your time reading about the Washoe County School District's Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget. Again, this Budget-in-Brief document is intended to provide you with facts about our school district; the District's approach to balancing the budget; major sources of funding; as well as major changes included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget. More information about the budget process and materials from budget meetings can be found at [Budget / FY 2024-2025 Budget Process](#). Additionally, you can view the detail of the District's budget in a variety of ways by visiting [Interactive Budget in the District's Data Gallery](#).





OUR PROMISE

We will know every student by
NAME, STRENGTH and NEED
so they graduate prepared for the future they
choose and we will deliver on this promise in
partnership with our
FAMILIES and COMMUNITY.

