

Transylvania County Schools

Budget Message

2025-2026

In compliance with the North Carolina School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Budget of the Transylvania County Board of Education for fiscal year 2025-2026 is submitted herewith. The budget totals \$51,390,762. The budget, as required by state statute, must be adopted, and administered in accordance with GS 115C-425. The adopted budget resolution is balanced, and the sum of the estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balances is equal to appropriations.

State Public School Fund

The State Public School fund accounts for the largest portion of the school system's Operational Budget, representing 54.7% or \$28.1 million. Of the \$28.1 million, over \$24.3 million, 86.65%, is earmarked for instructional purposes. For support services, 12.91% or \$3.6 million has been budgeted. The remaining 0.44% of the budget supports Ancillary Services.

Local Current Expense Fund

For FY26, Transylvania County Commissioners appropriated \$14,677,871 for operations compared to \$13.6 million for FY25. Per the North Carolina Constitution which stipulates the County's responsibility is to provide adequate facilities for public education. County funding is also needed to supplement the State's resources for instruction through unfunded mandates such as cost-of-living increases and employee benefit increases. The State's responsibility lies in providing all students with an equal opportunity for public education but in recent years more of the County resources have been earmarked to supplement state resources for instructional purposes.

Capital Outlay Fund

The Capital Outlay Fund totals \$1,192,006. Of this amount, 58.8%, or \$700,860 supports Instructional Services. For Support Services, 33.2% or \$395,684 is budgeted. For Ancillary Services, 8% or \$95,462 is budgeted to support these services.

Federal Grants Fund

The Federal Grants Fund totals \$2,230,299.16. Of this amount, 97.4%, or \$2,172,129.41 supports Instructional Services. Less than 0.4%, or \$10,820.81 is budgeted for Support Services. The remaining 2.2%, or \$47,348.94, is for Non-Programmed Charges.

Child Nutrition Fund

Last year proved to be a success for the Child Nutrition program and providing access to Free Lunch and Breakfast for all students through the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Section 104 (a) of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 amended the National School Lunch Act to provide an alternative to household eligibility applications for free and reduced-price meals in high poverty local educational

agencies (LEAs) and schools. This alternative is a universal meal program referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The overall purpose of the CEP is to improve access to nutritious meals for students at no cost to the students. Transylvania County School has budgeted over \$3 million for the Child Nutrition Fund for 2025-26.

Other Local Special Revenue Fund

Other Local Special Revenue Fund was established in the 2010-2011 budget and represents funds received through student fees, donations, and state or federal grants received direct from the grantor. The revenues received for the grants in this fund are restricted in use. The Other Special Revenue fund represents \$1.96 million of the total budget.