

FY 2027 General Fund Budget Development Highlights

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The development of the FY 2027 General Fund Budget continues to be shaped by significant legislative changes affecting local property tax revenues, rising operational costs, and ongoing state requirements.

The Hall County School District remains committed to maintaining high-quality educational programs and attracting and retaining exceptional teachers and staff while exercising responsible fiscal stewardship. However, current projections indicate that maintaining the existing millage rate will result in a substantial budget deficit.



REVENUE CHALLENGES

IMPACT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION LEGISLATION

The local legislation that reset Homestead property values to 2023 levels and capped annual value increases at 3% has had a significant effect on school district revenues.

FY 2026 IMPACT

- Current millage rate: **14.99 mills**
- Reduction in property tax collections: **\$11.1 million**
- Projected use of district reserves: **\$6 million–\$10 million**
- Final FY 2026 reserve impact will be determined after June expenditures are finalized.

POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL REVENUE LOSS FOR FY 28 AND BEYOND

Local Legislation passed in 2026 allows for lowering the senior property tax exemption eligibility age from 70 to 66.

If approved by local referendum in November:

- Estimated annual revenue reduction: **\$9 million–\$12 million**
- Estimate assumes the current **14.99 millage rate**
- Revenue losses would increase if the millage rate is raised

STATE FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

State per-pupil expenditure data for Georgia's 181 school districts continues to illustrate a longstanding challenge for Hall County Schools:

- HCSD ranks in the **lowest 25% of Georgia school districts** in per-pupil spending.
- FY 2025 funding ranked slightly above the **21st percentile statewide**.
- This limits opportunities for additional budget reductions outside of personnel expenditures.

The district's teachers and staff remain its most valuable resource. Significant reductions in compensation would negatively impact recruitment, retention, and student achievement and are not considered a sustainable long-term solution.

FY 2027 REVENUE OUTLOOK

Because the district has not yet received a preliminary tax digest from the Hall County Tax Assessor's Office, budget planning currently assumes a modest increase in local property values.

Projected Revenue Changes

Revenue Source	Impact
Local tax digest growth (3% assumption)	+ \$4.5 million
State funding	Essentially flat
Total Revenue Increase	+ \$4.6 million

Key Factors

- Local revenue projections are based on a **3% increase in the tax digest**.
- State funding remains largely unchanged due to enrollment declines experienced during the current year.

Any increase would primarily affect:

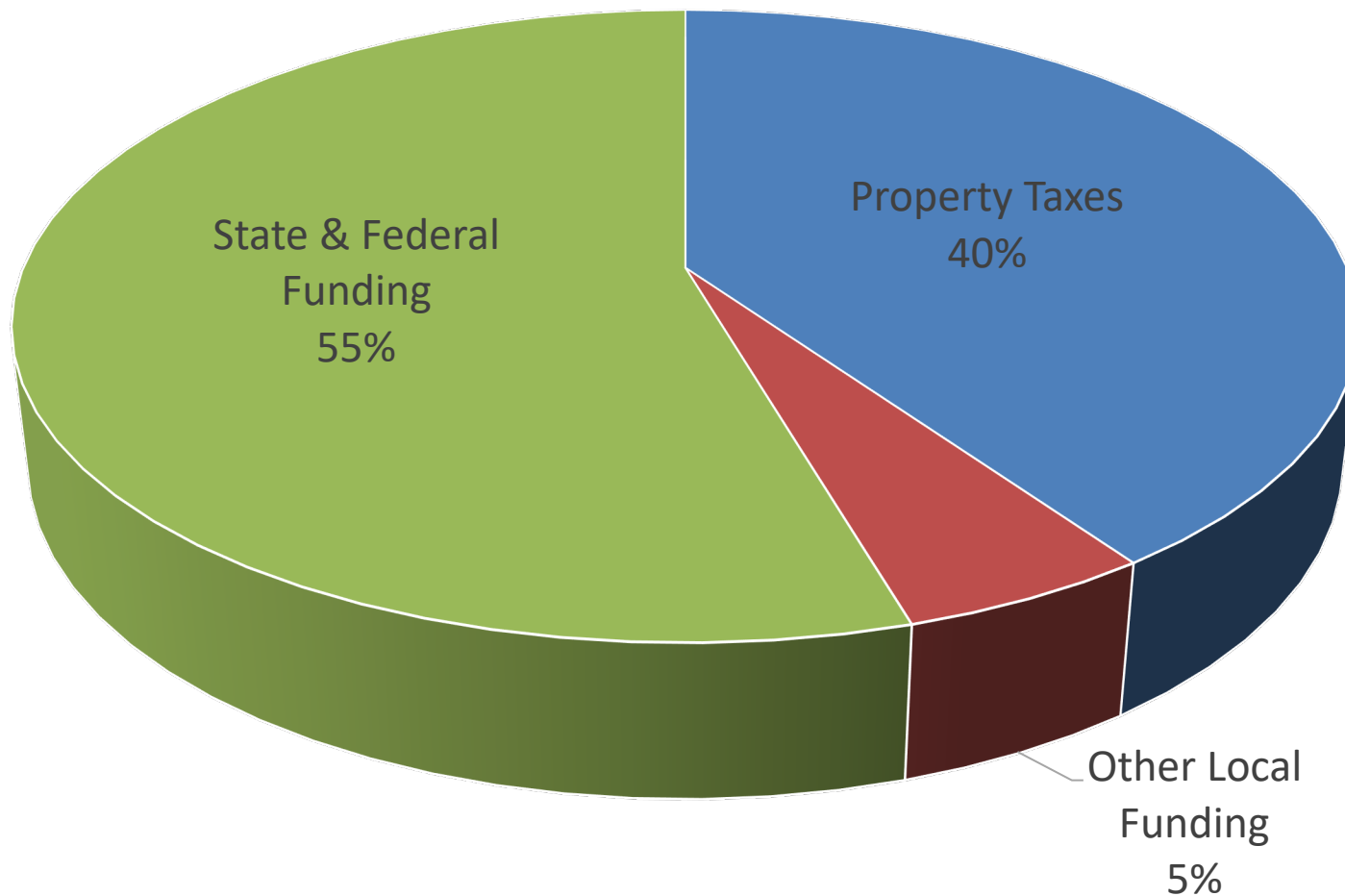
- Commercial and industrial property owners;
- Non-exempt residential properties; and
- Other taxable property not covered by senior exemptions.

The Board of Education will continue reviewing updated tax digest information and expenditure projections throughout the budget development process and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Budget Development Factors

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Sources in the District's General Fund



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