



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

SD71 Preliminary Operating Budget

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

MAY 13, 2025

Board Strategic Priorities

VALUES

Shared values establish the foundation for our interactions as we pursue common goals. They help us demonstrate consistent and fair leadership, guiding our collaborative and productive efforts to achieve our vision.

LEARNING

Centering learning in all we do.

EQUITY

Leading with diversity as a strength and inclusion as a right.

RELATIONSHIPS

Connection, compassion, and respect in all that we do.

SAFETY

Learning communities where all feel safe and belong.

INTEGRITY

High ethical standards through transparency, honesty and accountability.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT

We are deeply committed to learning, unlearning, and relearning and taking action for lasting Truth and Reconciliation.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To create safe, equitable learning environments that lift each learner to thrive, to grow and to share their unique gifts.

VISION STATEMENT

Compassionate, connected and personalized learning for all.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES VISUALISED



Cedar and cedar weaving hold deep cultural, spiritual, and practical significance for the K'ómoks peoples. Known as the 'Tree of Life,' cedar provides materials for everything from shelter and clothing to tools and sacred ceremonial items.

2025-26 Annual Budget Process Schedule



March 14 – Preliminary Operating Grant Announcement



April 22 – First Review of Revenue Implications from the Operating Grant Announcement



April 23-May 7 – Public and Partner Consultation Survey



May 13 – First Review of Preliminary Operating Budget Position



May 27 – Share Public and Partner Feedback with the Board. Opportunity for Partner presentations if desired



June 10 – Final Draft Annual Budget with adjustments Includes Capital and Special Purpose Funds

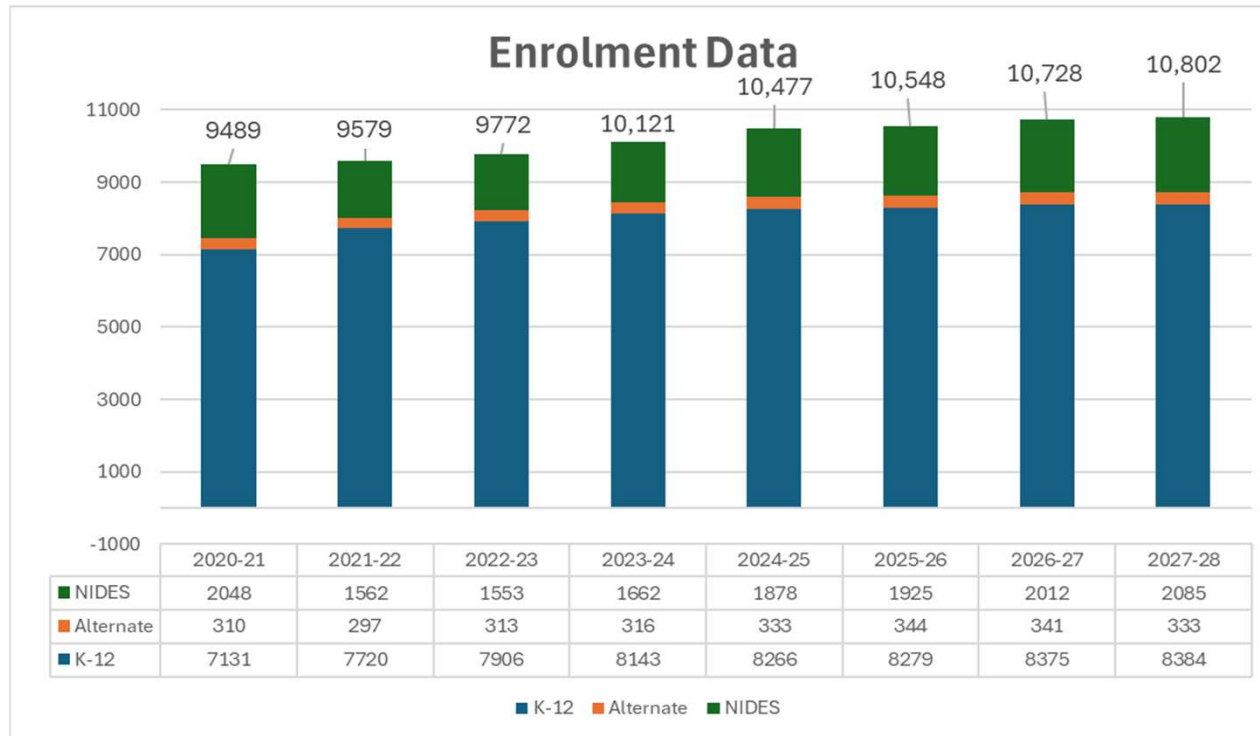


June 24 – Approval 2025-26 Annual Budget Bylaw

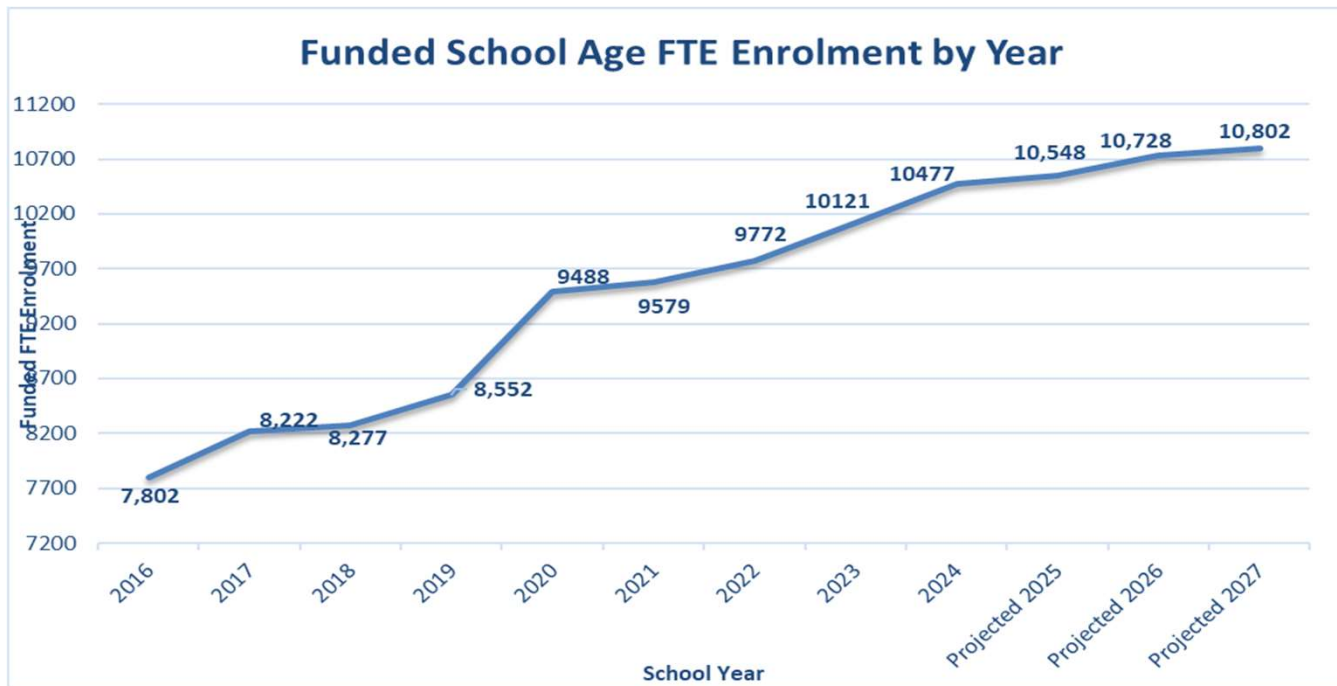
2025/26 Preliminary Operating Budget

- ***School Act* requires adopted Budget by June 30th**
- **2025/26 Balanced Budget Represents:**
 - **Setting priorities for the delivery of student learning**
 - **Projecting student enrolment**
 - **Cost pressures to maintain current levels of programs and services**
 - **Projecting revenues**
 - **Strategies and options to address the net budget position in alignment with the Strategic Plan**

2025-26 Enrolment Projection



Enrolment – Historical and Projected (Sept)



Operating Revenue – Ministry Grant

- ▶ **Ministry of Education and Child Care Operating Grant \$127 M (Increase of \$2.99 M)**
- ▶ **September Enrolment Est = 10,548 FTE (increase of 71 FTE)**
- ▶ **Funding Covers Enrolment Changes & Past Labour Settlement Funding including COLA**
- ▶ **Includes Teacher ProD and previous improvements to extended health benefits for support staff**

	2024-25 Amended Annual Budget (based on actual Total	2025-26 ESTIMATED Annual Total
Total September Enrolment Based Funding	\$ 90,196,186	\$ 91,764,191
Unique Student Needs		
English as a second language	355,410	363,000
Indigenous Education	3,152,370	3,187,990
Level 1 Inclusive Education	202,920	205,200
Level 2 Inclusive Education	12,901,520	13,119,260
Level 3 Inclusive Education	1,009,280	1,082,400
Adult Education (Non Graduated)	144,739	143,875
Equity of Opportunity Supplement	442,701	449,334
Total September Enrolment Based Funding	18,208,940	18,551,059
Salary differential	2,969,255	2,989,187
Unique geographic factors	7,147,853	7,446,817
Curriculum and Learning Support Fund	91,089	94,294
Total September Operating Grant	\$ 118,613,325	\$ 120,845,548
Summer learning	37,370	40,800
Estimated enrolment based funding - February	2,874,975	4,015,505
Estimated enrolment based funding - May	1,504,450	2,265,820
Indigenous Education Councils - NEW 2024-25	69,614	77,946
Total Aggregate Funding Announced	\$ 123,099,734	\$ 127,245,619
Labour Settlement Funding in the 24/25 Amended Budget Tables that has no-		1,160,049
Revised Aggregate Funding Announced - Estimated Budget Impact		\$ 2,985,836

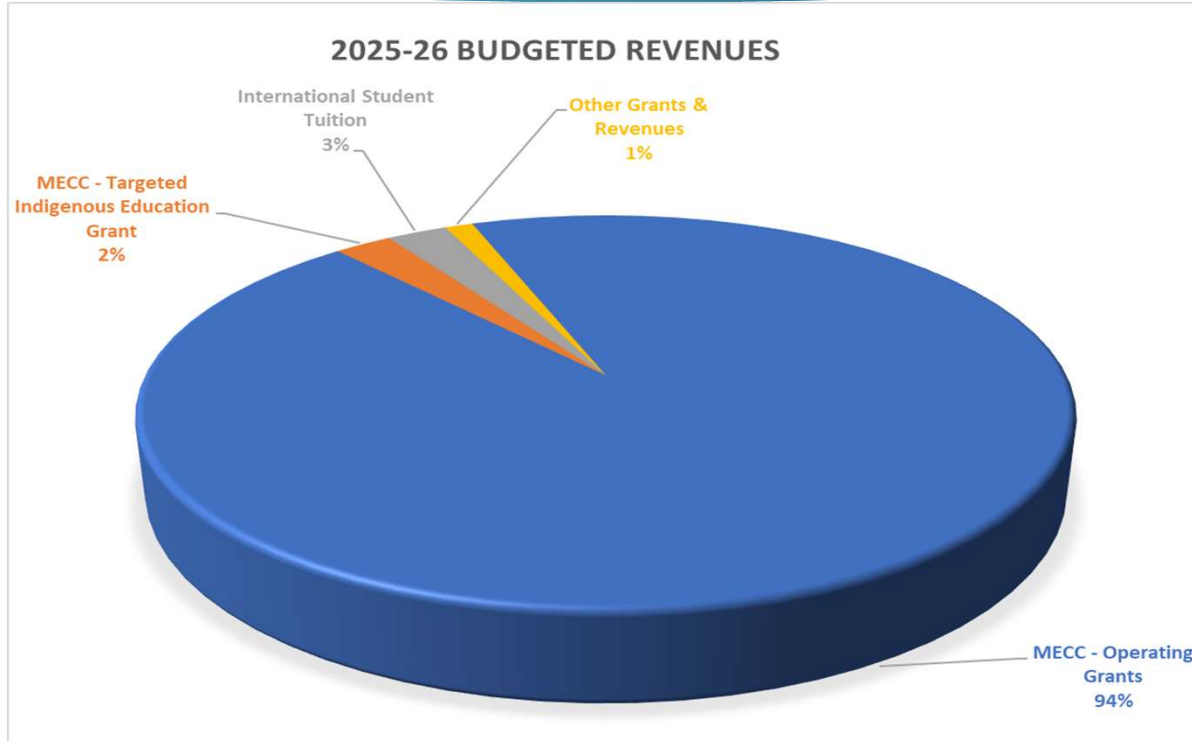
Operating Revenue – Overall Projected Increase

➤ **Overall Increase to Projected Revenues for 2025-26 = \$3,151,362**

- ▶ **International Student Program – Increased Tuition Fees (195 FTE) = \$247K**
- ▶ **NIDES Tuition Revenue – Increased \$40K**
- ▶ **Reduced Interest Revenue (\$90K)**
- ▶ **Net reduction in other revenues as a result of expired/adjusted grants (\$32K)**

			Preliminary Budget Changes 2025-26
REVENUE INCREASES (DECREASES)			
Ministry - Operating Grant			
Enrolment Change	Projected increase in overall enrolment grants		2,977,504
Other Ministry Revenues	Targeted IEC Grant Increase		8,332
Other Ministry Revenues	Integrated Child and Youth Teams (Estimated based on 2024/25 Funding)		43,276
Other Revenue Changes			
International Program	Tuition and Homestay Fee Increases, Application Fees		247,250
Other Revenue	Other Revenues		-35,000
Investment Income	Decrease in estimated future interest rates		-90,000
TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES (DECREASES)			3,151,362

Total Revenues – Operating



Operating – 2025/26 Cost Pressures (Enrolment Changes and Current Levels of Service)

- ▶ **Increased Teacher Staffing - Enrolment Changes, & Online Learning Growth = \$1.24M**
- ▶ **Increased Support Staff (Online Learning/Space) = \$129K**
- ▶ **Increased Services/Supplies (Enrolment/Online Learning) = \$190K**
- ▶ **Existing Staff Salary and Wage increases = \$641K**
- ▶ **Increased Benefit Premiums \$617K**
- ▶ **Increased Indigenous Education/IEC = \$44K**

			Preliminary Budget Changes 2025-26
COST INCREASES (DECREASES)			
Teacher Staffing	Anticipated Staffing costs for Fall 2025 - enrolment changes		1,235,061
Teacher Salary Increases	Estimated Salary Increments		300,000
CUPE Wages	Adjustment for CUPE position rate classifications		39,371
PVP/Excluded/Trustee Salaries	Potential Unfunded Estimated Salary Increases		300,063
Teacher Staffing	Estimated Contractual ProD costs TBD		1,980
CUPE Staffing	NIDES - Administrative Assistant Support 15hrs		31,432
CUPE Custodial	Increased Cleaning - Additional Spaces (Capital Project Completion)		98,029
Benefit Premiums	Benefit premium increases for all employee groups resulting from increased usage and cost of existing plans (experiencing a range of 10-15% in premium increases)		616,669
Indigenous Education	Targeted funding - projected increase in enrolment		35,620
Indigenous Education	Targeted funding - NEW IEC Implementation Funding Increase		8,332
International Program	Increased Service & Supply Expenses (offset by additional tuition and fees)		117,500
School Budgets	Increased Enrolments = Increased Supply & Resources		10,573
NIDES Budget	Increased Enrolments = Increased Supply & Resources		62,300
TOTAL COST PRESSURES - ENROLMENT CHANGES & CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE			2,856,930

Operating – 2025/26 Cost Pressures (Other Levels of Service)

- ▶ **Savings - Utility Costs (Continuous Optimization/Carbon Tax Eliminate) = (\$100.5K)**
- ▶ **Ministry Recoveries (SPP/Class Fees) = \$9K**
- ▶ **IT - Cybersecurity Capacity Building (Net Cost) = \$10K**
- ▶ **Busing Contract Renewal = \$149K**

			Preliminary Budget Changes 2025-26
COST INCREASES (DECREASES)			
Utility costs	Hydro, Fortis, Propane, Oil & Gas - Carbon Tax Elimination		-100,500
Ministry Recoveries	Estimated SPP Premium Increase		6,385
Ministry Recoveries	Estimated BCPSEA Class Fees Increase		3,000
Information Technology	Support for Cybersecurity and Privacy		10,243
Transportation	Estimated Busing Contractual Increase		148,566
TOTAL COST PRESSURES - OTHER LEVELS OF SERVICE CHANGES			67,694

Operating – 2025/26 Cost Pressures (New Priorities – Recommended)

- ▶ **Secondary School Department Head Implementation = \$65K**

- ▶ **Indigenous Engagement and Knowledge Specialist = \$117K**


- ▶ **Increased Supply Budget for Schools (Per FTE rate) = \$34K**

		Preliminary Budget Changes 2025-26
COST INCREASES (DECREASES)		
Teacher Salary Increases	Secondary School Department Head Implementation	65,000
Excluded Staffing	Indigenous Engagement & Knowledge Specialist	117,428
School Budgets	Increased Supply Budget Allocations - inflationary pressures	34,310
TOTAL COST PRESSURES - New Recommended Priorities		216,738

Operating –2025/26 Cost Pressures

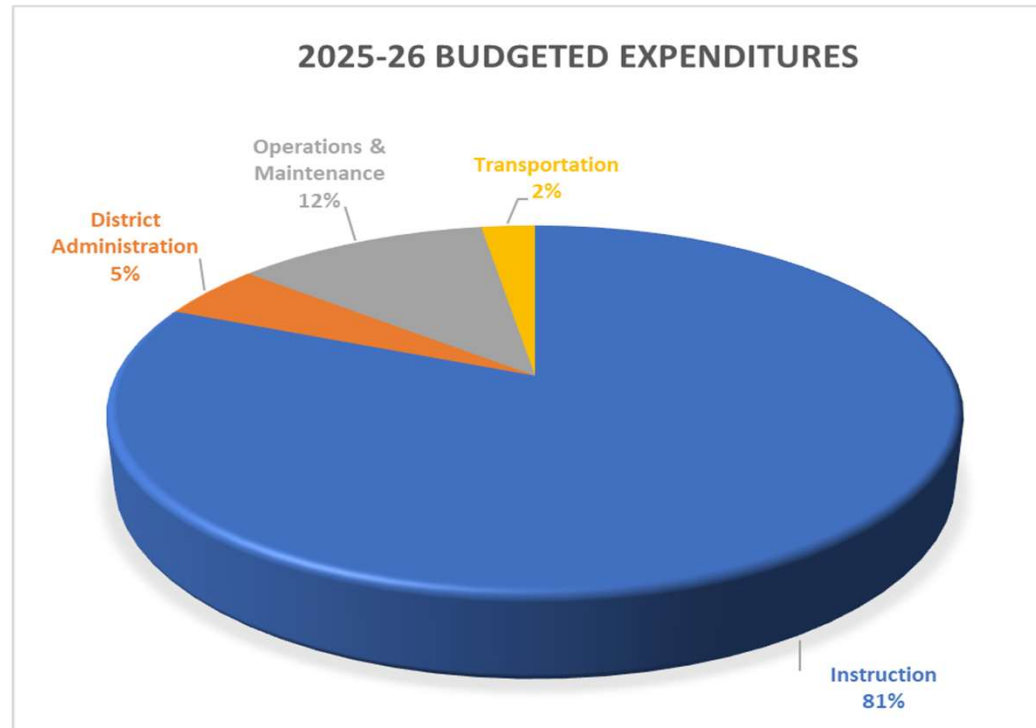
➤ **Overall Increase to
Projected Expenses for
2025-26**

= \$3,151,362

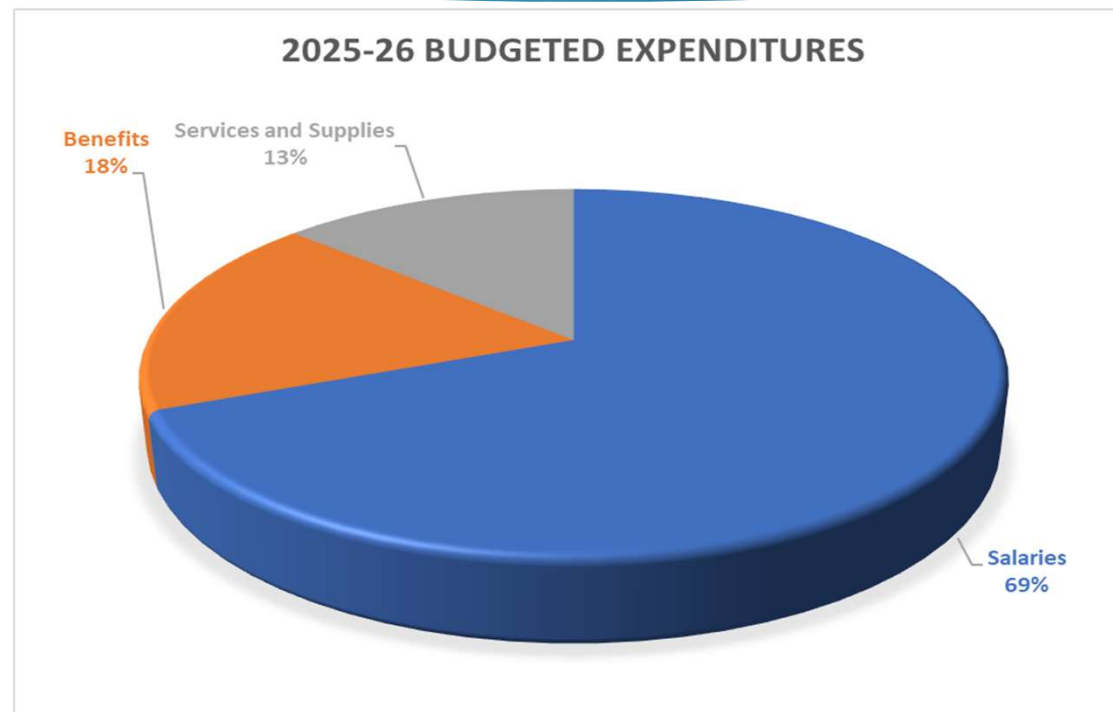


	Preliminary Budget Changes 2025-26
COST INCREASES (DECREASES)	
Enrolment Changes and Current Level of Service	2,856,930
Other Level of Service Changes	67,694
New Priorities	216,738
Local Capital Transfer - Increase	10,000
Overall Total Cost Pressure	3,151,362

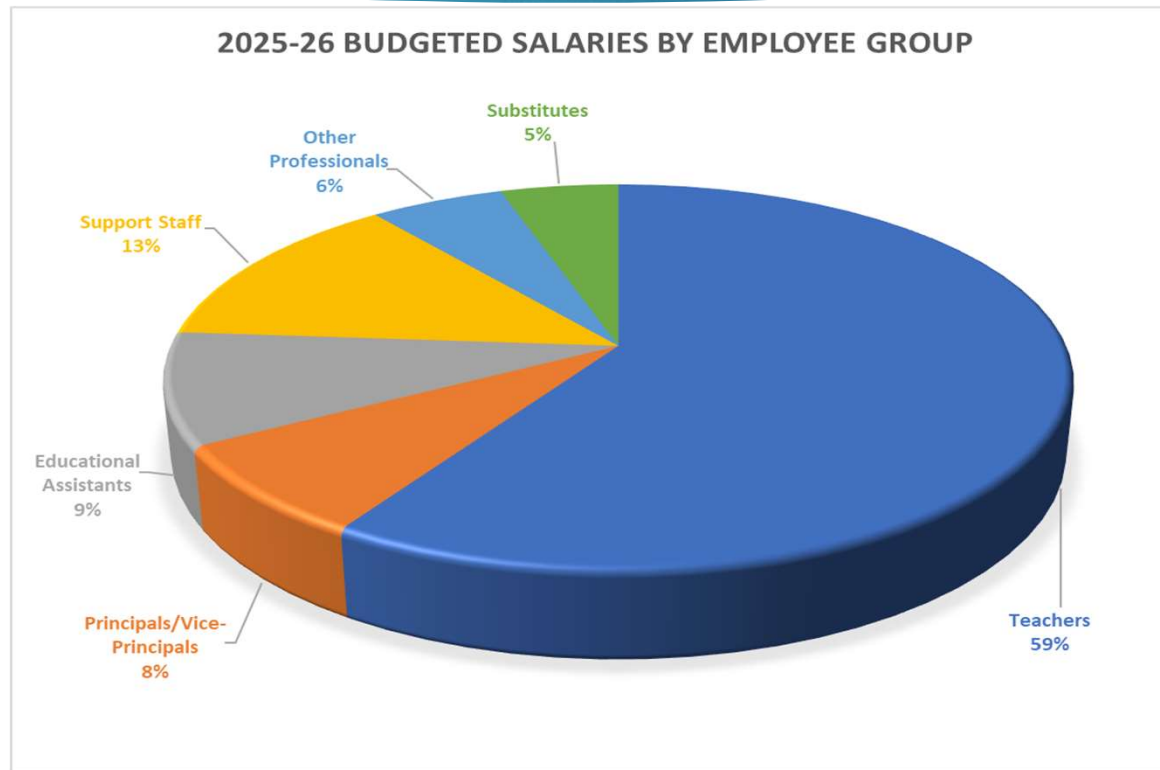
How The Funds Are Spent



Expenditures – Operating

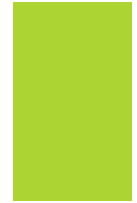


Expenditures – Salaries



Preliminary Operating Budget Position

➤ ***Overall Projected
2025/26
Operating Budget
is Balanced!***



	Preliminary Budget Changes 2025-26
TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES (DECREASES)	\$ 3,151,362
TOTAL COST INCREASES (DECREASES)	\$ 3,151,362
BUDGET CHANGE REQUIRED FOR ALL COST INCREASES	\$ -

District Operating Contingency Reserve

Policy 18

ACCUMULATED OPERATING SURPLUS AND INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

Unrestricted Operating Surplus (Contingency Reserve)

In conjunction with the Board of Education's review and approval of the annual financial statements, the Board of Education will restrict a portion of accumulated operating surplus for the purpose of forming a Contingency Reserve.

The amount of Unrestricted Operating Surplus at the end of a fiscal year should be a minimum of 1.5% and maximum of 3.0 % of actual Operating Expenses in the fiscal year.

District Operating Contingency Reserve 2024/25 Budget

\$3,186,379 = 2.67%

**(Balanced Budget
Maintains this Amount)**



School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Schedule 1

Amended Annual Budget - Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) by Fund
Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Operating Fund	Special Purpose Fund	Capital Fund	2025 Amended Annual Budget
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year	5,282,083	-	38,149,008	43,431,091
Changes for the year				
Net Revenue (Expense) for the year	164,296		(2,848,189)	(2,683,893)
Interfund Transfers				
Tangible Capital Assets Purchased	(375,000)		375,000	-
Local Capital	(1,885,000)		1,885,000	-
Net Changes for the year	<u>(2,095,704)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(588,189)</u>	<u>(2,683,893)</u>
Budgeted Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), end of year	<u>3,186,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,560,819</u>	<u>40,747,198</u>

Board Strategic Priorities

Strategic Alignment

Reporting on the Preliminary 2025-26 Annual Operating Budget aligns with the Boards Strategic Plan Value of **INTEGRITY**, by upholding high ethical standards through transparency, honesty and accountability.

The addition of the Indigenous Engagement and Knowledge Specialist, and commitment to transfer the cost of the Indigenous Education Elders and District Principal to Operating aligns with the Boards Strategic Plan Value of **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT**; as well as the Design Principle of **DECOLONIZING AND INDIGENIZING** - **\$217,428**.

The addition of staffing to support enrolment and the increased demand in online learning aligns with the Boards Strategic Plan Value of **LEARNING**; as well as the Design Principles of **FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS** - **\$1,328,793**

Increasing custodial expenses to ensure the cleanliness of new space, as well as the directing additional funds towards cybersecurity initiatives aligns with the Boards Strategic Plan Value of **SAFETY** - **\$108,272**



Next Steps

- **May 27, 2025 - Public and Partner feedback provided to the Board.**
- **June 10, 2025 – Final Draft Annual Budget with Adjustments (Includes Capital and Special Purpose Funds)**
- **June 24, 2025 – Approval of 2025-26 Annual Budget Bylaw**



Questions