



2026-27 Preliminary Budget

Fiscal Blueprint & Strategic Assumptions

LAKE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT 65 | BOARD OF EDUCATION BRIEFING

The District projects a balanced operating budget for FY27

The District is presenting a balanced operating budget, generating a \$178,560 surplus within operating funds while successfully navigating key inflationary pressures.

Operating Revenue \$22.09M	Operating Expenditures \$21.92M	Operating Surplus \$178k
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Category	Revenue	Expenditure
Education Fund	\$18,275,563	\$18,381,987
O&M	\$2,176,500	\$1,975,742
Transportation	\$1,061,000	\$1,033,250
IMRF/SS	\$536,350	\$529,575
Working Cash	\$49,700	\$0
Operating Funds Subtotal	\$22,099,113	\$21,920,553
		✔ \$178,560 (Surplus)

Strategic educational priorities dictate our financial allocation

Curriculum & Coaching



Introducing a new ELA curriculum (CKLA) and adding 2 instructional coaches to enhance and coordinate teacher instructional practices.

Student Support



Providing additional dysregulation space to support students and reduce classroom disruption; continuing True North outplacements.

Specialized Instruction



Delivering more math support by repurposing staff time; continuing the elementary enrichment model to give teachers common grade-level plan time.

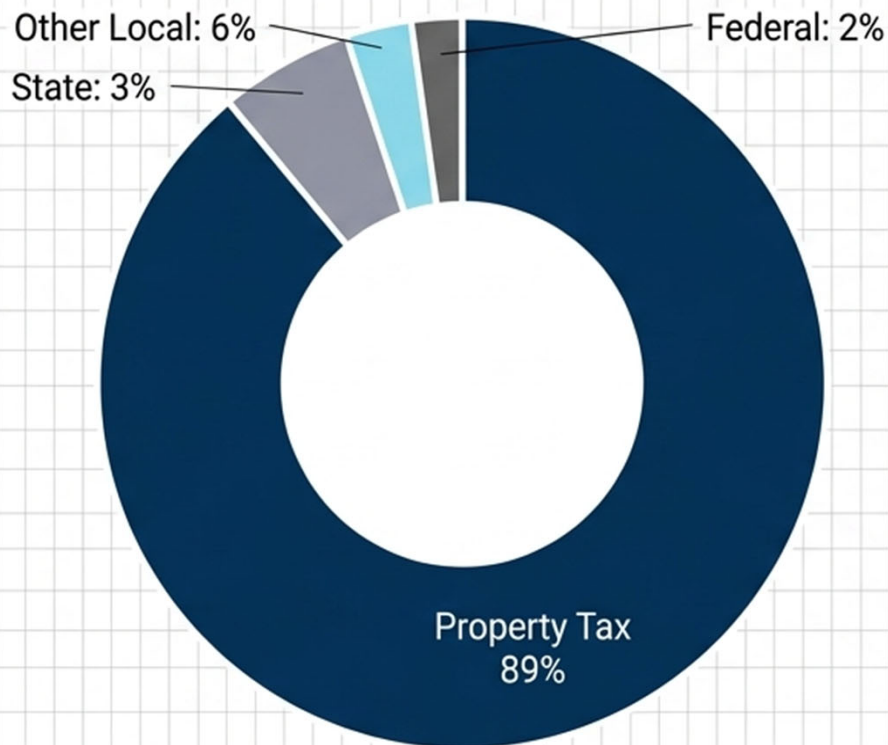
Native Capabilities



Building internal district capacity for essential support services, including speech pathology, adaptive PE, occupational, and physical therapy.

Local property taxes provide 89% of all operating revenue

Total operating revenue is projected flat vs FY26 (+0.3%)



2025 Tax Extension Details

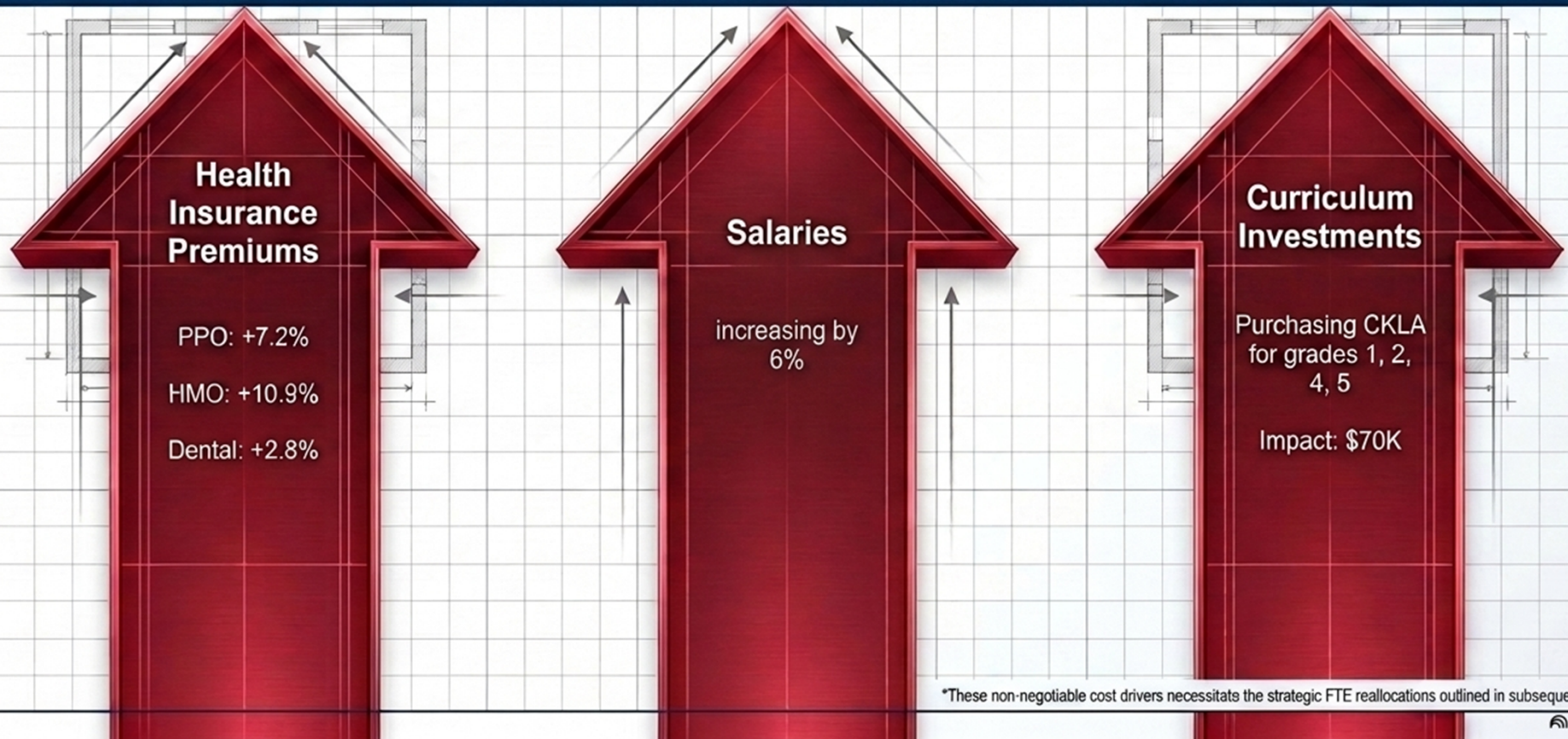
- **Net increase of +1.5%** (net of collections).
- Levy increase: **+2.6%**.
- Operating Funds: **+3.3%** (2.9% existing property).
- Collection Rate assumption adjusted to 99% (down from 100%).

Other Revenue Sources

- **Other Local (6%)**: CPPRT flat, Interest earnings -20%.
- **State (3%)**: Evidence-Based Funding flat; categorical grants slightly down.
- **Federal (2%)**: Flat vs prior year.

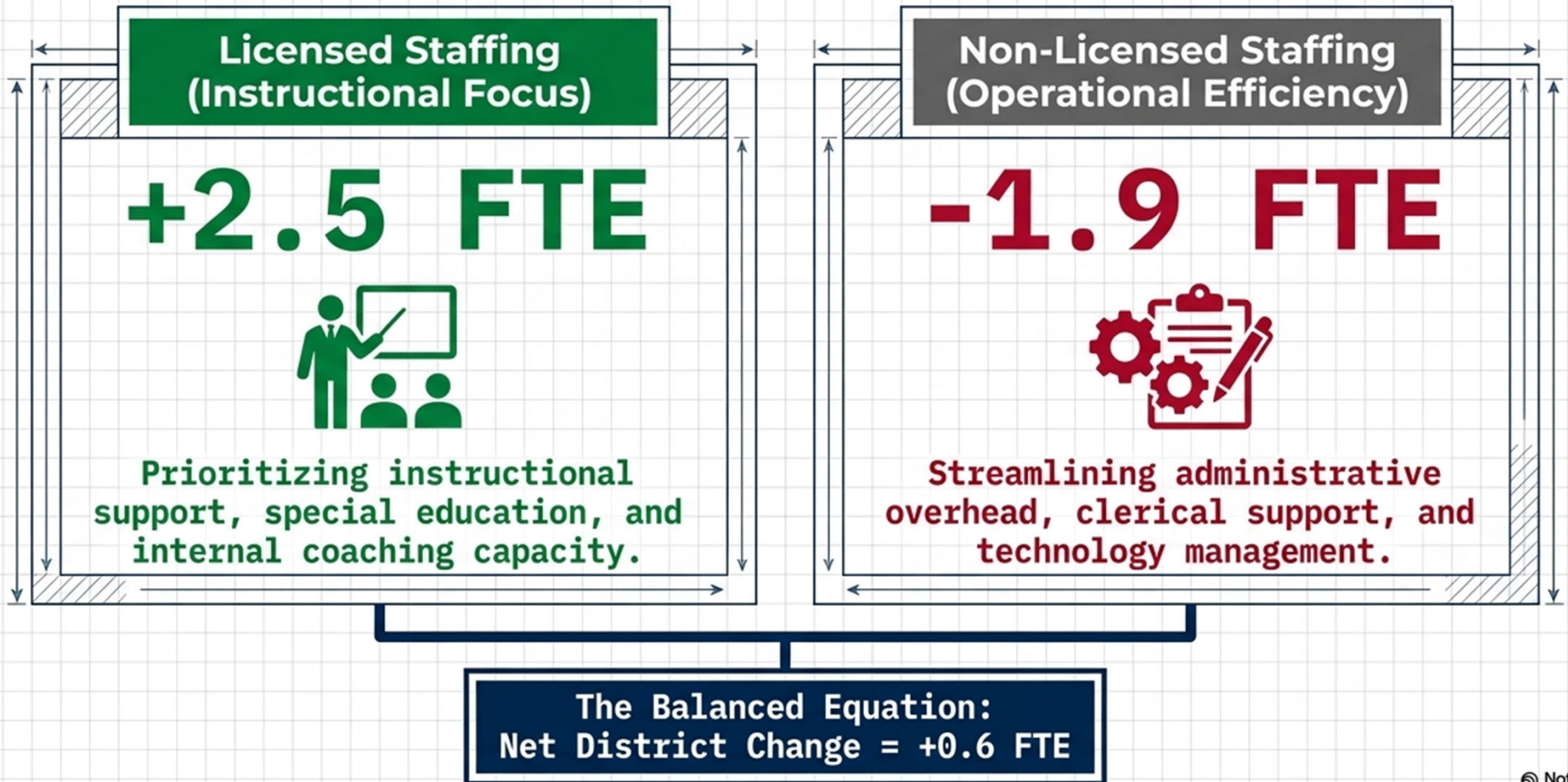
Inflationary increases and investments

Balanced Budget Line



*These non-negotiable cost drivers necessitates the strategic FTE reallocations outlined in subsequent matrices.

Funding instructional priorities through administrative reallocation



Human capital comprises 77% of the \$21.9M operating budget



	Object	Budget Amount	Variance vs FY26
1	Salaries	\$14.11M	+6.0%
2	Benefits	\$2.87M	+6.8%
3	Purchased Services	\$3.52M	+9.5%
4	Supplies	\$681k	+24.0%
5	Capital & Dues	\$237k (Capital) \$489k (Dues)	N/A

\$537k allocated for critical campus infrastructure and safety



**Lake Bluff Elementary
(LBES)**

Generator Replacement
\$350,000
(Primary capital outlay)

Access Points
\$42,000



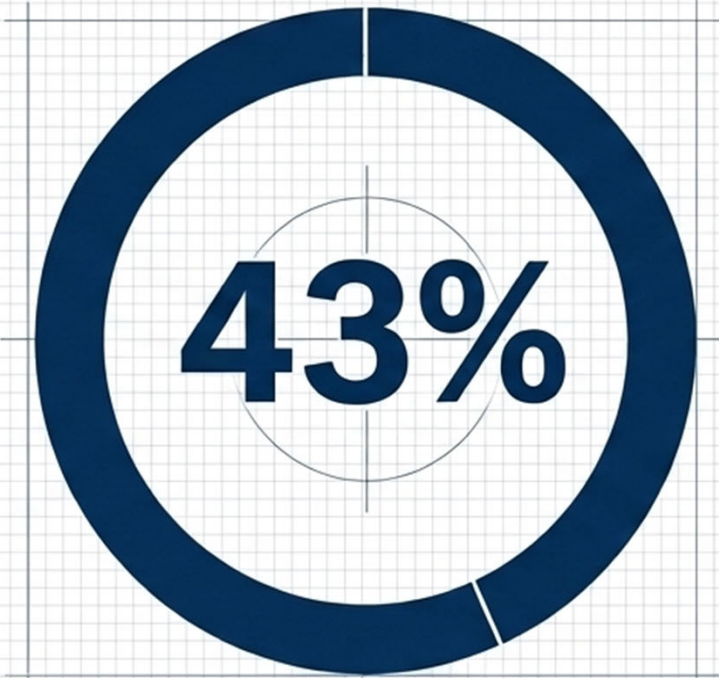
**Lake Bluff Middle
(LBMS)**

Tuckpointing
\$100,000

Concrete Work
\$45,000

Total FY27 Capital Spending: \$537,000

Operating reserves secure long-term district stability



The Reserve Ratio: The projected Operating Fund Balance represents 43% of total 2026-27 Budget Expenditures, within the board policy range of 30-50%.

Projected 2026-27 Ending Balances

Total Operating Funds Balance:
\$9,487,291

Education Fund:
\$6,780,810

Working Cash:
\$1,124,230

O&M:
\$888,421

Fiscally secure, strategically aligned, and highly efficient

1.

Fiscally Balanced

Generating a \$178k operating surplus despite managing 7-10% inflation in health benefits and contractual service increases.

2.

Strategically Reallocated

Funding +2.5 Licensed instructional FTEs by systematically reducing -1.9 Non-Licensed administrative and technical roles.

3.

Highly Secure

Protecting the district's future with \$9.48M in operating reserves, safely maintaining a 43% expenditure-to-reserve ratio.