FY27 Budget Report

For the September 2026 Board of Education Budget Hearing

The following report outlines the tentative Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Plan for Streator Elementary School District #44. It is presented to the Board of Education for the public budget hearing and for subsequent approval.

This budget reflects the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility and academic excellence. It presents a comprehensive overview of our operating funds, detailing both positive fund surpluses and strategic fund-specific deficits, alongside our non-operating funds, EBF plan, and multi-year expenditure framework.

Breakdown of Operating Funds

While total aggregate operating revenues ($25,278,176) exceed total operating expenditures ($24,018,938), individual operating funds experience a mix of surpluses and planned deficits covered by beginning balances:

- Education Fund: Projected revenues of $21,411,505 against expenditures of $19,893,326, resulting in a surplus of $1,518,179.
- Operations & Maintenance Fund: Projected revenues of $655,489 against expenditures of $1,070,750, resulting in a deficit of ($415,261).
- Transportation Fund: Projected revenues of $2,300,125 against expenditures of $2,267,795, resulting in a surplus of $32,330.
- IMRF/SS Fund: Projected revenues of $746,960 against expenditures of $787,067, resulting in a deficit of ($40,107).
- Working Cash Fund: Projected revenues of $164,097 with zero expenditures, resulting in a surplus of $164,097.

Overall Financial Position

- We started the fiscal year with a projected operating funds balance of $19,192,657.
- Accounting for individual fund activity, we project a strong ending operating fund balance of $20,451,895.

Evidence-Based Funding Plan

The EBF plan focuses on improving student achievement in core subjects and social-emotional learning. Key strategies involve enhancing curriculum, increasing high-quality educators for special student groups, and boosting family engagement. Designated funds will also provide targeted support, including interventions for low-income students, specialized instruction for English Learners, and additional staff for Special Education students.

Three-Year Spending and Cost-Containment Plan

To ensure long-term fiscal health and structural stability, the district maintains a proactive three-year spending reduction and containment framework:

- Continually evaluating program efficiencies, administrative workflows, and operational overhead to align expenditures with sustainable revenue trajectories.
- Phasing non-emergency capital projects and facility improvements to smooth cash flow demands across funds like Operations & Maintenance and Tort.
- Utilizing multi-year financial modeling to anticipate legislative shifts, enrollment patterns, and cost escalations, ensuring the district avoids structural deficits while protecting primary classroom instruction.

Note on Non-Operating Funds
For transparency, we also report on our non-operating funds.

- These funds (comprising Bond & Interest, Tort, and Fire Prevention & Safety) are projected to have a combined deficit of ($919,874), primarily driven by debt service and planned capital/safety spend-downs (such as utilizing Tort Fund reserves).
- Combined non-operating beginning balances of $2,275,045 adjust to an ending balance of $1,355,171.

The fiscal year 2026-2027 budget is financially sound, balancing targeted investments, thoughtful spending controls, and fund-specific drawdowns while maintaining overall financial stability. The administration is confident that this budget is financially sound and recommends its approval.