

Lyon County School District Board Memo

Date: March 24, 2026
To: Board of School Trustees
From: Harman Bains, Executive Director of Operations
Lilliana Camacho-Polkow, Chief Financial Officer
Re: Preliminary Review of FY2026-27 Budget

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees approve the proposed changes for the FY2026-27 Budget.

Background Information:

Lyon County School District budgeted for an Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) of 8,904 students for the current FY2025-26 budget. Actual daily enrollment as of March 6, 2026, stands at 8,719, a shortfall of 185 students below the budgeted figure. This gap translates directly into lost per-pupil funding. At \$11,491 per pupil in FY2025-26 and \$11,577 per pupil in FY2026-27, the funding shortfall is \$2,125,835 and \$2,141,745 respectively, producing a cumulative biennium impact of \$4,267,580.

Recognizing this decline in enrollment and the corresponding reduction in revenue, the District believes it is necessary to take proactive steps in preparation of the FY2026-27 budget. After an in-depth review of all departments and services, the administration has identified a series of targeted, minimally impactful reductions that address the enrollment-driven funding gap while preserving core instructional and operational functions. Beginning with enrollment-based allocations, the District anticipates a natural reduction in certified positions. The District allocates certified teaching positions to schools based on enrollment and class-size ratios. When enrollment at a given site drops below the threshold that supports an existing position, that allocation is reduced. With a shortfall of 185 students districtwide, the administration anticipates an allocation adjustment of at least five positions across affected school sites.

The District currently funds 22.5 interventionist positions through the College and Career Readiness Interventionist (CCRI) program across all school levels. Given the current fiscal environment, the District proposes a phased reduction of this program to 17.5 positions, with full elimination of all remaining CCRI interventionist positions by summer 2027. This program was created when the State of Nevada transitioned from the former K-12 Nevada State Funding Model to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP). The PCFP required all districts to submit a plan detailing how "at-risk" funding would be utilized to support student outcomes. However, since the transition to the PCFP, at-risk funding allocations have been unpredictable from year to year, with fluctuations exceeding \$500,000. This volatility has resulted in annual general fund transfers to cover budgeted expenditures that at-risk revenue was originally intended to support. The CCRI program, while well-intentioned, has become a general fund liability that the District cannot sustain at current enrollment and funding levels.

***Mission Statement** Lyon County School District fosters learning for life, empowers connected learners, promotes student ownership, and encourages discovery learning for success in a rapidly evolving world.*

The English Language Implementation Specialist (ELIS) position, currently housed at the District Office under Instruction and Curriculum Development, is proposed for elimination. This is a 1.0 FTE certified position that was vacated during FY2025-26 and has not been filled. Operational efficiencies within the curriculum department have absorbed the responsibilities of this role, creating a straightforward opportunity for permanent savings. Elimination formalizes the existing vacancy as a permanent reduction.

The District proposes full elimination of all Teacher Leader stipends, administrative leadership stipends, and related program stipends for the FY2026-27 budget. This leadership program was originally developed using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) allocations provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. ESSER funding was fully expended in FY2024-25, and with Board approval, the program was subsequently absorbed into the General Fund. While this program has demonstrated value across District schools, it is not considered essential to core instructional delivery and therefore is recommended for elimination to relieve ongoing pressure on the General Fund. The District proposes elimination of all summer custodial and grounds staffing for FY2026-27. Traditionally, the District has provided an additional custodian and student helper at each school site during the summer months to support classroom moves and deep cleaning. This has served as a supplemental benefit at the site level. However, given the significant volume of facilities improvements completed over the past four years, the administration believes summer staffing is an area where reductions can be absorbed. Summer deep-cleaning and grounds maintenance responsibilities will be managed within the regular-year staffing schedule or deferred where operationally feasible.

These reductions are not made lightly. Each category represents a deliberate decision to prioritize the District's fiscal health and long-term operational stability over the continuation of programs and positions that current revenue can no longer support. The enrollment decline driving these reductions is structural, not cyclical, and the District must size its workforce and expenditure commitments accordingly. The District estimates these reductions will produce an annualized general fund fiscal impact of \$1.9 to \$2.4 million.

The administration remains committed to maintaining instructional quality, safe facilities, reliable transportation, and essential student services within the constraints of available funding. The Board's support of these reductions will position the District to enter FY2026-27 with a defensible budget, adequate reserves, and the operational flexibility to respond to any further enrollment or funding changes.

Budget Considerations:

The administration estimates these reductions will produce an annualized fiscal impact of \$1.9 to \$2.4 million.

Discussed at Previous Meeting:

N/A

Attachment(s):

N/A