

FY26 Meridian CUSD 223 Tentative Budget

Introduction

This executive summary presents the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Tentative Budget for Meridian CUSD #223. This document outlines the proposed financial plan to support our district's operations, strategic goals, and commitment to providing an exemplary educational experience for all students.

Background

The FY26 Tentative Budget reflects our commitment to academic excellence, student well-being, and staff development.

Revenue Overview:

The FY26 Tentative Budget projects total revenues of approximately \$26M. Our primary revenue sources continue to be:

- **Local Sources:** \$17.1M
- **State Aid:** \$8.1M
- **Federal Funds & Other Sources:** \$791K

This budget assumes stable state funding and continued local tax base growth, allowing us to maintain essential services while making targeted investments.

Expenditure Overview:

The proposed expenditures for FY26 total approximately \$26.6M. Key areas of expenditure include:

- **Salaries and Benefits:** Representing the largest portion of our budget, this allocation ensures competitive compensation for our dedicated faculty and staff.
- **Instructional Programs and Materials:** Funding for textbooks, technology, classroom supplies, and learning tools that directly impact student achievement.
- **Student Support Services:** Resources for special education, counseling, health services, and extracurricular activities.
- **Operations and Maintenance:** Essential funding for the upkeep of our facilities, transportation, and utilities to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment.
- **Strategic Initiatives:** Dedicated funds for the specific programs and interventions such as elementary math curriculum and Leader in Me.

Please note, this is tentative and further cost-cutting adjustments are likely.

Fiscal Health:

The FY26 Tentative Budget is presented as a deficit budget, and we have fund balance to cover the difference. We are in the process of reviewing all line items to ensure fiscal prudence and maximize the impact of every dollar.

Next Steps:

This Tentative Budget will be available for public review commencing August 7, 2025. A public hearing will be held on a date determined by the Board to gather community input. Following the public hearing and any necessary adjustments, the final budget will be presented to the Board for adoption at a special board meeting immediately following the hearing.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the FY26 Tentative Budget. I look forward to discussing the budget in detail and working collaboratively to ensure the continued financial health and educational excellence of Meridian CUSD 223.