

GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Wake County, North Carolina, that the following budget ordinance for the General Fund is hereby adopted:

Section 1: TAX LEVY. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of fifty-three and seventy-one hundredths of a cent (53.71¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property that is located within Wake County and listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026. The revenue from this source is included in real, personal and public service property in "Ad Valorem Taxes" in Section 2 of this Ordinance.

This rate is based on estimated valuation of property, for the purpose of taxation of: (1) 100% of total assessed property tax value of real, personal and public service valuation of two hundred ninety-seven billion, two hundred twenty million (\$297,220,000,000) and an estimated collection rate of 99.75%; and (2) 100% of total assessed property tax value of vehicle valuation of nineteen billion, four hundred five million, (\$19,405,000,000) and an estimated collection rate of 99.5%.

The Tax Administrator of Wake County is hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Wake County Tax Administration Department in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Wake, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable the Tax Administrator to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, with or without the assistance of the Wake County Sheriff, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Section 2: GENERAL FUND. (A) REVENUES. It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,690,157,000
Sales Tax	327,640,578
Lease/Rental Vehicle Tax	3,350,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	21,003
Real Property Transfer (Excise) Tax	14,611,785
Federal Shared Revenues	12,894,379
State Shared Revenues	60,719,333
Local Shared Revenues	6,578,310
Licenses and Permits	7,947,352
Charges for Services	97,142,866
Investment Earnings	200
Miscellaneous	496,772
Transfers from Other Funds	6,007,228
Appropriated Fund Balance	35,018,967
Appropriated Fund Balance – Behavioral Health	18,521,093
Appropriated Fund Balance – Revaluation Reserve	914,134
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 2,282,021,000

Section 2(B): Thirty percent (30%) of the proceeds from the local half-cent sales and use tax authorized July 1, 1984 under authority of Article 40 of the North Carolina General Statutes and sixty percent (60%) of the local half-cent sales and use tax authorized October 1, 1986 under the authority of Article 42 of the North Carolina General Statutes are hereby declared to be included in the appropriation for school capital outlay, capital projects, and/or school debt service.

Section 3: GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES. The following is hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of the County government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

General Government	\$ 117,491,763
Human Services	330,182,858
Infrastructure	111,732,677
Community and Environmental Services	70,659,401
Public Safety	280,170,630
Education	
Wake County Public Schools (Section 4(A-C))	\$ 768,175,169
Wake Technical Community College	44,408,177
<u>Other Education Initiatives</u>	<u>10,981,325</u>
Subtotal Education	823,564,671
Transfers to Debt and Capital	
Transfer to County Capital Projects Fund	\$ 116,712,000
Transfer to Wake Tech Capital Fund	4,915,000
Transfer to WCPSS Capital Fund	72,200,000
Transfer to Debt Service Fund (Ad Valorem)	278,107,000
<u>Transfer to Debt Service Fund (Sales Tax)</u>	<u>76,285,000</u>
Subtotal Transfers to Debt and Capital	548,219,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,282,021,000

Section 4: WCPSS APPROPRIATION. (A) PURPOSE AND FUNCTION. The appropriation to the Wake County Public Schools System (WCPSS) is hereby allocated by purpose and function as defined by NCGS 115C-426 and as authorized by NCGS 115C-429(b).

WCPSS Purpose and Function:

	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Appropriation</u>
Instructional Services	
Regular Instructional Services	\$275,861,680
Special Populations Services	\$64,046,273
Alternative Programs and Services	\$26,899,324
School Leadership Services	\$19,747,737
Co-Curricular Services	\$27,175,610
School-Based Support Services	\$40,017,323
	<hr/>
	\$453,747,947
 System-wide Support Services	
Support and Developmental Services	\$8,012,652
Special Populations Support and Development Services	\$8,193,254
Alternative Programs and Services Support and Development Services	\$4,262,367
Technology Support Services	\$23,203,723
Operational Support Services (WCPSS Fund 02)	\$134,164,859
Operational Support Services (WCPSS Fund 04)	\$0
Operational Support Services (WCPSS Fund 08)	\$971,806
Financial and Human Resource Services	\$32,813,834
Accountability Services	\$2,673,419
System-wide Pupil Support Services	\$7,674,442
Policy, Leadership, and Public Relations Services	\$11,491,675
	<hr/>
	\$233,462,031
 Non-Programmed Charges	
Payments to Other Governmental Units	\$80,965,191
	<hr/>
TOTAL WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXPENDITURES	\$768,175,169

Section 4(B): WCPSS AMENDMENT NOTIFICATION. The Wake County Board of Education will notify the Board of Commissioners of amendments to the WCPSS budget. For amendments which would increase or decrease the amount of the County appropriation allocated to a purpose and function by more than fifteen percent (15%) of the adopted appropriation the WCPSS will notify the Board of Commissioners at a public meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Section 5: RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK. There is hereby levied a tax at the rate shown below, per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property listed for taxes as of January 1, 2026, located within the Wake County portion of the Durham-Wake Counties Research Triangle Park Research and Production Service District for the raising of revenue for said district. The estimated total of valuation of property for the special district for the purpose of taxation is as follows:

	Assessed Value	Tax Rate
Research and Production Service District	\$ 2,097,500,000	10.3 cents

There is hereby appropriated to the Durham-Wake Counties Research Triangle Park Research and Production Service District from the net proceeds of this tax the amount for use by said district in such manner and for such expenditures as is permitted by law from the net proceeds of this tax, including a tax administration fee of seventy-five hundredths of one percent (0.75%) to be paid to Wake County for collecting the tax. The anticipated revenue from this tax rate is \$2,130,945. The actual net proceeds from the tax shall constitute the appropriation from said tax levy.

Section 6: AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATION. The County Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a Fund as contained herein under the following conditions:

- A) They may transfer amounts between appropriations within the same Fund. For transfers exceeding \$150,000 they shall make a report of the transfer to the Board of Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board following the transfer.
- B) They may transfer amounts from the salary and benefits reserve to individual departmental appropriations following adoption of the budget in order to properly fund salary and benefit amounts within departments.

Section 7: AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS. The County Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to execute contractual documents under the following conditions:

- A) They may execute contracts for construction or repair projects that do not require formal competitive bid procedures.
- B) They may execute contracts for: (1) purchases of apparatus, supplies, and materials, or equipment which are within budgeted appropriations; (2) leases of personal property for a duration of one year or less and within departmental appropriations; (3) lease of personal property for more than 12 months if the annual expense is less than \$50,000; and (4) service contracts within appropriations or contracts for 12 months or less.
- C) They may execute grant agreements to or from governmental units and other public, private, and non-profit organizations that are within budgeted appropriations, unless a grantor requires approval and execution by the Board of Commissioners.
- D) They may execute contracts, as the lessor or lessee of buildings, land, equipment, vehicles, heavy equipment and other property provided that such leases are of one-year duration or less and that funds therefore are within budgeted appropriations.
- E) They may, within budgeted appropriations, approve all change orders and amendments to contracts previously approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 8: AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS. The County Manager may execute real estate purchase agreements within budgeted appropriations, provided all such agreements contain a condition precedent that the Board of Commissioners must approve the transaction prior to closing.

Section 9: AUTHORITY TO SETTLE CLAIMS. The County Manager, or designee, may authorize payment in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 in settlement of any liability claims against the County or against any of its officers or employees as provided by Resolution of May 20, 1985 and Resolutions of October 6, 2003. The County Manager shall make quarterly reports to the Board of Commissioners of any such payments.

Section 10: ENCUMBRANCES AT YEAR END. Operating funds encumbered by the County as of June 30, 2026 are hereby appropriated to this budget. Multiple year grants unexpended by the County as of June 30, 2026 are hereby appropriated to this budget.

Section 11: FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the General Fund sufficient, specific, detailed accounting records and to report annually on the financial status of this Fund.

Section 12: Copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the County Manager and Chief Financial Officer.

ADOPTED this the 1st day of June 2026.

BUDGET BY PURPOSE AND FUNCTION (UNIFORM BUDGET FORMAT)

NCGS EXCERPT

§ 115C-429. Approval of budget; submission to county commissioners; commissioners' action on budget.

(a) Upon receiving the budget from the superintendent and following the public hearing authorized by G.S. 115C-428(b), if one is held, the board of education shall consider the budget, make such changes therein as it deems advisable, and submit the entire budget as approved by the board of education to the board of county commissioners not later than May 15, or such later date as may be fixed by the board of county commissioners.

(b) The board of county commissioners shall complete its action on the school budget on or before July 1, or such later date as may be agreeable to the board of education. The commissioners shall determine the amount of county revenues to be appropriated in the county budget ordinance to the local school administrative unit for the budget year. The board of county commissioners may, in its discretion, allocate part or all of its appropriation by purpose, function, or project as defined in the uniform budget format.

(c) The board of county commissioners shall have full authority to call for, and the board of education shall have the duty to make available to the board of county commissioners, upon request, all books, records, audit reports, and other information bearing on the financial operation of the local school administrative unit.

(d) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to place a duty on the board of commissioners to fund a deficit incurred by a local school administrative unit through failure of the unit to comply with the provisions of this Article or rules and regulations issued pursuant hereto, or to provide moneys lost through misapplication of moneys by a bonded officer, employee or agent of the local school administrative unit when the amount of the fidelity bond required by the board of education was manifestly insufficient. (1975, c. 437, s. 1; 1981, c. 423, s. 1.)

AUTHORITY:

- G.S. 115C-429(b) allows the Board of County Commissioners to allocate part or all of its appropriation by purpose, function, or project as defined in the uniform budget format.
- G.S. 115C-426 directs the State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Local Government Commission, to prepare and promulgate a standard budget format for use by local school administrative units throughout the State.

PURPOSE: The State Board of Education's Uniform Budget Format (Budget by Purpose and Function) contains the following purposes:

5000: Instructional Services

6000: Systemwide Support Services

7000: Ancillary Services

8000: Non Programmed Charges

9000: Capital Outlay

FUNCTION: The "purpose dimension" is further broken down into function levels. For example, 5000 (Instructional Services) includes 5100 (Regular Instructional Services), 5200 (Special Populations Services), 5400 (School Leadership Services), etc. Another example, 6000 (Systemwide Support Services), includes 6100 (Support and Development Services), 6500 (Operational Support Services), 6900 (Policy, Leadership and Public Relations Services), etc.

TRANSFERS BETWEEN PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

- G.S. 115 C-433(b) requires that if Board of County Commissioners allocates part or all of its appropriation by purpose and function, that the Board of Education must obtain approval of the Board of County Commissioners for an amendment to the budget that increases or decreases the amount of the county appropriation to a purpose or function by twenty five percent (25%) or more from the amount contained in the budgeted ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

- G.S. 115C-433(b) also specifies that the Board of Commissioners can specify in its ordinance a lower percentage threshold as long as that lower percentage is not less than ten percent.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

Function Category	Function Description
Purpose: Instructional Services (5000)	
Regular Instructional Services (5100)	Regular K-12 Instruction. - Teachers, teacher assistants, as well as classroom supplies and materials. - Personnel that develop and coordinate curriculum.
Special Populations Services (5200)	- Special Education, Limited English Proficiency, Academically Gifted, and other Special Populations Services. - Includes costs of teachers, teacher assistants, classroom supplies and materials, and other staff like audiologists, speech therapists, etc
Alternative Programs and Services (5300)	- Alternative school teachers, teacher assistants, classroom supplies and materials. - Also includes summer school, remediation, alcohol and drug prevention, intersession. - For example: early intervention funds, in school suspension teachers, local literacy funds.
School Leadership Services (5400)	- Principal and assistant principals. - School based clerical staff.
Co-Curricular Services (5500)	- Teachers, personnel, and supplies and materials for items such as: band, chorus, choir, speech, debate, athletics, and student financed and managed activities such as clubs and proms.
School-Based Support Services (5800)	- Includes media, guidance, health, instructional technology, etc. Includes materials, teachers, and other staff such as media assistants or guidance assistants.
Systemwide Support Services (6000)	
Support and Developmental Services (6100)	- Staff development and administrative program costs for teachers and teacher assistants in regular K-12 instruction.
Special Populations Support and Development Services (6200)	- Staff development and administrative program costs for special education, gifted, and limited English proficiency.
Alternative Programs and Services Support and Developmental Services (6300)	- Staff development and administrative program costs for alternative schools and alternative programs.
Technology Support Services (6400)	- Costs of central based activities for implementing, supporting, and maintaining the computer hardware, software, peripherals, and technical infrastructure.
Operational Support Services (6500)	- Operational support of the school system such as printing and copying services, telephone/communications services, utility services, transportation, facilities planning and construction, custodial and housekeeping, maintenance, and warehouse and delivery services.
Financial and Human Resource Services (6600)	- WCPSS Finance Department and Human Resources.
Accountability Services (6700)	- Testing and reporting for student accountability such as end of grade and end of course testing.

Function Category	Function Description
Systemwide Pupil Support Services (6800)	- Staff development and administrative program costs for media, guidance, health, instructional technology, etc.
Policy, Leadership and Public Relations Services (6900)	-Leadership Services (Including Superintendent's Office, Deputy Associate and Assistant Superintendent's). - Board of Education, Legal Services, Audit Services, and Public Relations and Marketing.
Ancillary Services (7000)	
Community Services (7100)	- WCPSS allocates no County dollars in this category. - Includes community recreation activities, civic activities, activities of custody and care of children, and community welfare activities provided by the LEA.
Nutrition Services (7200)	- WCPSS allocates no County dollars in this category. - Costs of activities concerned with providing food service to students and staff.
Adult Services (7300)	- Includes adult education services.
Non-Programmed Charges (8000)	
Payments to Other Governmental Units (8100)	- Charter School Payments.
Unbudgeted Funds (8200)	- WCPSS Over/Under Account; Funds cannot be expended unless re-appropriated by the Board of Education.
Interfold Transfers (8400)	- Transfer from one fund to another fund (for example, a portion of a person's salary paid by the building program).
Capital Outlay (9000)	
Capital Outlay	- Expenditures for acquiring fixed assets. Does not include costs which could be coded to one or more specific purpose functions.