

GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

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-one and sixty hundredths of a cent (51.60¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property that is located within Wake County and listed for taxes as of January 1, 2025. 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-six billion, ten million (\$296,010,000,000) and an estimated collection rate of 99.75%; and (2) 100% of total assessed property tax value of vehicle valuation of eighteen billion, eight hundred and forty-five million, eight hundred and ninety-one thousand (\$18,845,891,000) 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, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,616,788,000
Sales Tax	315,387,000
Lease/Rental Vehicle Tax	3,350,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	21,003
Real Property Transfer (Excise) Tax	13,998,395
Federal Shared Revenues	12,619,222
State Shared Revenues	58,968,764
Local Shared Revenues	6,571,000
Licenses and Permits	8,197,018
Charges for Services	90,367,611
Investment Earnings	200
Miscellaneous	362,422
Transfers from Other Funds	3,863,164
Appropriated Fund Balance	
Committed for Behavioral Health Projects	31,953,318
Committed for Child Welfare	2,500,000
Committed for Public Health	607,883
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 2,165,555,000

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, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

General Government	\$ 98,156,211
Human Services	326,296,979
Infrastructure	82,618,399
Community and Environmental Services	72,184,226
Public Safety	258,295,965
 Education	
Wake County Public Schools (Section 4(A-C))	\$ 737,607,316
Wake Technical Community College	42,594,440
<u>Other Education Initiatives</u>	<u>8,207,464</u>
Subtotal Education	788,409,220
 Transfers to Debt and Capital	
Transfer to County Capital Projects Fund	\$ 135,040,0000
Transfer to Wake Tech Capital Fund	4,415,000
Transfer to WCPSS Capital Fund	57,500,000
Transfer to Debt Service Fund (Ad Valorem)	270,502,000
<u>Transfer to Debt Service Fund (Sales Tax)</u>	<u>72,137,000</u>
Subtotal Transfers to Debt and Capital	539,594,000
<hr/> TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	<hr/> \$ 2,165,555,000 <hr/>

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 2026</u> <u>Appropriation</u>
Instructional Services	
Regular Instructional Services	\$ 265,163,982
Special Populations Services	46,808,083
Alternative Programs and Services	26,849,213
School Leadership Services	24,026,325
Co-Curricular Services	27,161,767
School-Based Support Services	37,185,984
	<hr/> \$ 427,195,354
System-wide Support Services	
Support and Developmental Services	\$ 9,219,317
Special Populations Support and Development Services	8,267,867
Alternative Programs and Services Support and Development Services	4,556,151
Technology Support Services	22,939,981
Operational Support Services (WCPSS Fund 02)	132,065,065
Operational Support Services (WCPSS Fund 04)	-
Operational Support Services (WCPSS Fund 08)	963,164
Financial and Human Resource Services	30,296,072
Accountability Services	2,563,515
System-wide Pupil Support Services	7,725,325
Policy, Leadership, and Public Relations Services	10,575,366
	<hr/> \$ 229,171,823
Non-Programmed Charges	
Payments to Other Governmental Units	\$ 81,240,139
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TOTAL WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXPENDITURES	\$ 737,607,316

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, 2025, 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	\$ 2,262,300,000	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 \$2,499,851. 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 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 9: ENCUMBRANCES AT YEAR END. Operating funds encumbered by the County as of June 30, 2025 are hereby appropriated to this budget. Multiple year grants unexpended by the County as of June 30, 2025 are hereby appropriated to this budget.

Section 10: FEE CHANGES. As authorized in Section 153(A)-102 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the following fees are hereby established or amended, effective on July 1, 2025.

Fee Name	Fee Description	Current Fee	New Fee
Emergency Medical Services			
Ambulance Fee	One EMS ambulance and two employees	\$185.00	\$191.00
Bike/Cart Team Fee	One EMS Bike Team (i.e. two EMS employees, EMS bikes, and medical equipment) or Cart Team (i.e. two EMS employees, patient transport cart, and medical equipment).	\$149.00	\$153.00
Venue Team Fee	One Venue Team (i.e. two EMS employees and medical equipment).	\$108.00	\$111.00
Single Responder Fee	One supervisor or single responder unit (i.e. one employee and medical/supervisory equipment).	\$82.00	\$84.00
ALS Emergency Transport	Transport by an ambulance providing Advanced Life Support	\$768.98	\$1,149.22
ALS 2 Emergency Transport	Transport by an ambulance providing Advanced Life Support (procedures performed go beyond the scope of an ALS Emergency Transport)	\$1,113	\$1,149.22
BLS Emergency Transport	Transport by an ambulance providing Basic Life Support	\$647.58	\$1,149.22
Mileage	Mileage cost of ambulance transport	\$13.73	\$17.88
Wake County Sheriff's Office			
Out-of-State Processing Fee	An item of civil process served to an out-of-state person	\$35.00	\$100.00
Public Health			
Well Reinspection Fee	Fee for repeat permit-related inspections of well construction	\$75.00	\$200.00
Well Construction Permit	Fee for a permit to construct a private water supply well	\$400.00	\$800.00
Hybrid Wastewater Improvement Permit	Fee for a wastewater improvement permit issued under G.S. 130A-335(a2)	\$200.00	\$400.00
Hybrid Wastewater Construction Authorization	Fee for wastewater construction authorization issued under G.S. 130A-335(a2)	\$80.00	\$160.00
Wastewater Improvement Permit	Fee for construction authorization for an onsite wastewater system	\$200.00	\$400.00
Wastewater Reinspection Fee	Fee for improvement permit for an onsite wastewater system	\$75.00	\$200.0

Fee Name	Fee Description	Current Fee	New Fee
Hybrid Wastewater Construction Permit	Fee for repeat permit-related inspections of onsite wastewater system	\$80.00	\$160.00
Environmental Services			
Commercial Mattress Disposal Fee	Cost to dispose of a mattress at the South Wake Landfill	\$10	\$15
Sediment and Erosion Plan Resubmission Fee	A fee for the review of a plan. Fee imposed upon third and subsequent submittals of a plan for the same project	\$75.00	\$250.00
Sediment and Erosion Plan Resubmission Lot-by-Lot Fee	A fee for the third and subsequent review of a plan for the same single-family residential lot development	\$75.00	Lesser of \$250 flat or \$100 per lot
Stormwater Plan Resubmission Fee	A fee for the review of a plan. Fee imposed upon third and subsequent submittals of a plan for the same project	\$150.00	\$250.00
Stormwater Initial Permit (Commercial)	A fee for a permit based upon a plan that was reviewed and approved for commercial development	\$250.00 - \$485.00 (sliding scale) per acre (capped at 50 acres)	\$250.00 per acre
Stormwater Initial Plan Submission (Commercial)	A fee for the first review of a plan for commercial development	\$250.00 - \$485.00 (sliding scale) per acre (capped at 50 acres)	\$250.00 per acre
Stormwater Permit Added Acreage (Commercial)	A fee for a permit whereby the permittee wishes to increase their previously agreed to and approved acreage for commercial development	\$250.00 - \$485.00 (sliding scale) per acre (capped at 50 acres)	\$250.00 per acre
Stormwater Plan Resubmission with Added Acreage (Commercial)	A fee for the review of third and subsequent submittals of a plan for the same project whereby the permittee wishes to increase their previously agreed to and approved acreage for commercial development	\$250.00 - \$485.00 (sliding scale) per acre (capped at 50 acres)	\$250.00 per acre
Failed Inspection Fee	A fee charged for a failed sediment and erosion control or stormwater device inspection	\$0.00	\$250.00
Community Services			
Building Reinspection - First Reinspection	Fee applied if a building reinspection is needed for the first time	\$60.00	\$100.00
Building Reinspection - Second Reinspection	Fee applied if a building reinspection is needed for the second time	\$60.00	\$200.00

Fee Name	Fee Description	Current Fee	New Fee
Building Reinspection - Third Reinspection	Fee applied if a building reinspection is needed for the third time	\$60.00	\$300.00
Building Reinspection - Fourth Reinspection	Fee applied if a building reinspection is needed for the fourth time, and any time after the fourth time	\$60.00	\$400.00
Additional Building Reinspection Fee	Fee applied if there are 15 or more violations after the first building reinspection	\$0.00	\$150.00
After-the-fact Certificates of Appropriateness	Fee assessed if the owner of a Landmark property fails to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to making changes to the property	\$0.00	\$150.00

Section 11: FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING. The Finance Director 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 Finance Director.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of June 2025.

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.

Function Category	Function Description
Accountability Services (6700)	- Testing and reporting for student accountability such as end of grade and end of course testing.
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.