



**Board of Education of Howard County  
Meeting Agenda Item**

**DATE:** February 26, 2026

**TITLE:** Operating Budget Financial Report

**PRESENTER(S):** M. Brian Hull, Chief Financial Officer and Darin Conforti, Executive Director of Budget

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

**Mission:** HCPSS creates an innovative and accountable learning community where we expand opportunities and access, remove barriers, and foster an inclusive environment.

**Key Commitment:** Ensuring equitable opportunities and access, Creating innovative learning and working environments, and Nurturing an inclusive culture of belonging

**Priority Area:** Priority 4: Enhance Systemic Planning & Procedures

**Goal:** Ensure equitable distribution of resources to schools to better meet student needs.

**OVERVIEW:**

This Board Report delivers the fourth Monthly Operating Budget Financial Report for fiscal year 2026. It covers revenues and expenditures through the month of December 2025. The report includes the budget to actual information through the period ending December 31, 2025. Based on trend data through six months, budget to actual trends are within budget and are trending slightly lower than prior years. The lower trend is due to the timing of encumbering student transportation contracts. As of the end of December, the rate of encumbering transportation contracts is slower than last year due to a change in practice, not cost. Transportation contracts are expected to be fully encumbered and spent, and this will be reflected in subsequent monthly reports.

The attached document contains the following information through period ending December 31, 2025:

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**RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:**

None

**Submitted**

**by:** Darin Conforti, Executive Director of Budget,  
Budget Office

**Approval/**

**Concurrence:**

William J. Barnes  
Superintendent

Karalee Turner-Little, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent

M. Brian Hull  
Chief Financial Officer

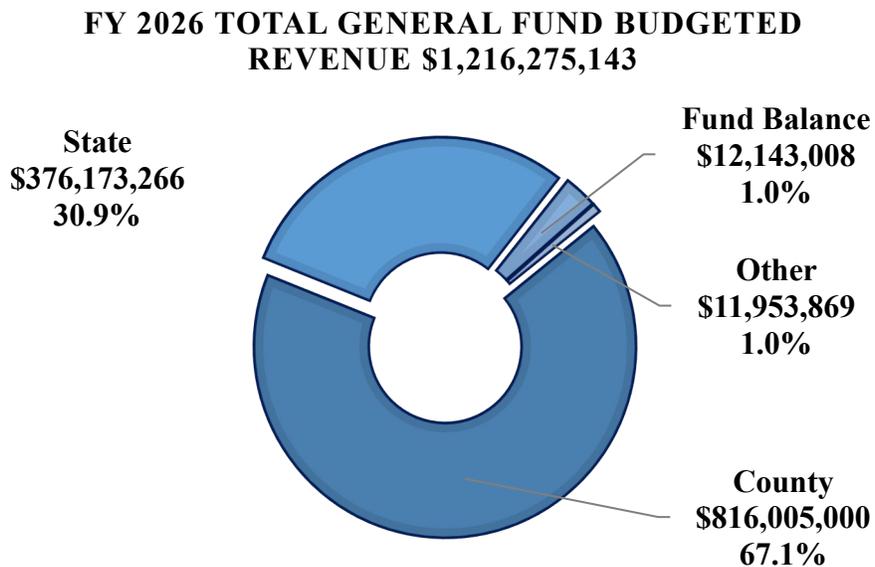
## Executive Summary

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This financial report presents the FY 2026 General Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Encumbrances Budget to Actual for the period ending December 31, 2025. This data is presented using the Maryland State Department of Education categories and does not reflect ongoing projections of revenues and expenditures. The following figures and schedules are included in this report.

- Figure 1 presents a high-level overview of the FY 2026 General Fund budgeted revenue.
- Figure 2 illustrates budget to actual for revenues.
- Figure 3 provides an overview of the FY 2026 General Fund budgeted expenditures by state category as a percentage of budget committed year-to-date (YTD).
- Figure 4 provides a budget to actual comparison for expenditures by state category.
- Figure 5 compares current YTD expenditures as a percentage of the budget for the same period of the prior fiscal year.
- Schedule A presents detailed revenues.
- Schedule B presents detailed expenditures by category.
- Schedule C presents a summary of expenditures by object.
- Figure 6 compares budget to actual salary and wage expenditure rates compared to expected trend.
- Figure 7 compares the budget to actual salary and wage expenditure rates through each reporting period compared to prior years
- Figure 8 reports the number of vacant positions by state category and average workdays vacant.
- Schedule D represents a summary of budget amendments.

*Figure 1:*



## Year to Date Revenue Comparison

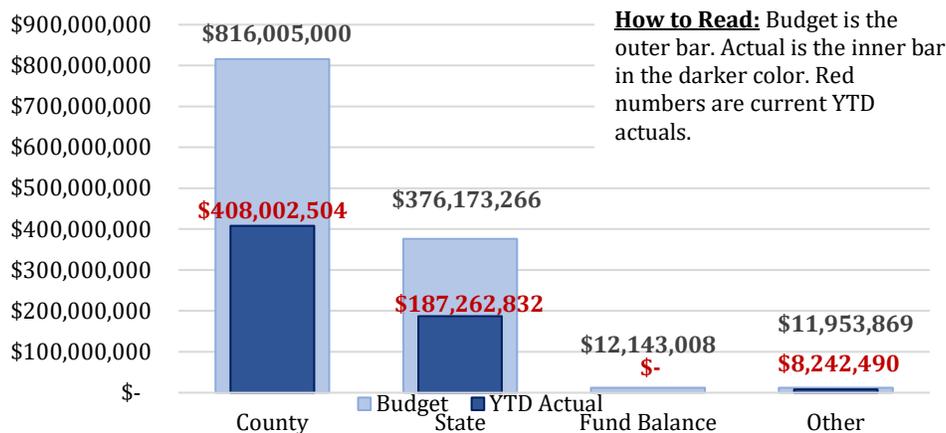
**Howard County** – The FY 2026 County appropriation totaled \$816.01 million, which includes \$1.51 million in one-time funding. Recurring funding totals \$814.50 million, an increase of 7.03 percent over the \$761.00 million approved in FY 2025. County funds are disbursed to the Board in bi-weekly draws scheduled with the county to meet cash flow requirements. Year-to-date county revenue received is \$408.00 million, 50.00 percent of the budget.

**State of Maryland** – The FY 2026 State appropriation totaled \$376.17 million. Most of the state funds are received bi-monthly in six equal installments beginning at the end of July. State revenues received year-to-date equal \$187.26 million, about 49.78 percent of budget. The budget planned for the state to provide the revenues to pay for private provider prekindergarten tuition payments. The state subsequently changed practice for FY 2026 and will make the payments directly. As a result, the budgeted \$993,310 in revenues will not be received.

**Fund Balance** – The FY 2026 budget uses \$2.14 million fund balance in the General Fund as a funding source to support recurring expenses. Additionally, the FY 2026 budget approved the transfer of \$3.00 million from the Health Fund and \$7.00 million from the Technology Fund to the General Fund. The actual amount of fund balance required to support budgeted expenditures will be the result of the difference between actual expenditures and actual revenues when the financial close process is completed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Therefore, this monthly report will not reflect any actual use of fund balance.

**Other Revenue** – The FY 2026 budget includes \$11.95 million in Other Revenue which includes federal sources, federal impact aid, charges for use of facilities, administration charges, E-Rate rebates, gate receipts, investment earnings, and summer school tuition as well as other miscellaneous items. Other revenues received year-to-date equal \$8.24 million, about 68.95 percent of budget. Other revenues are exceeding budget to actual performance compared to last year primarily attributable to favorable trends for investment income, receipt of a E-rate rebates, and additional tuition received for students who are temporarily housed in Howard County from out of state.

**Figure 2: General Fund Revenues Budget to Actual as of December 31, 2025**



## Year to Date Expenditure Analysis

**Total Expenditures and Encumbrances** – Year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances through December 31, 2025, are approximately \$605.88 million, which is 49.81 percent of the total budget committed. The current year expenditure trend through December is slightly less than the prior year expenditure trend through the first 6 months of the fiscal year. FY 2025 was 50.10 percent, and the FY 2024 rate was 48.72 percent of budget. The slightly slower spending rate is primarily due to encumbrances in Student Transportation (09) being less than last year at this time. Last year, Transportation encumbered yearly contracts much sooner than prior years. This trend will smooth out as the fiscal year progresses and the lesser spend rate should not be interpreted as a change expected total cost to be paid in FY 2026.

Total year-to-date salary expenditures through December of this fiscal year are 45.57 percent of budget, which is slightly below the expected trend but slightly higher than the prior year salary expenditure rate. The spend rate for instructional state categories<sup>1</sup> with mostly 10-month positions is 44.87 percent of budget, which is slightly lower than the expected trend. Salaries in state categories<sup>2</sup> with mostly 12-month positions have a spend rate of 48.91 percent of budget, which is below expected trend. The monthly report includes Figures 6 and 7, which show a chart and table tracking actual budget to actual salary and wage expenditures by month compared to expected spend rate based on the payroll calendar. This information is provided to help analyze budget to actual trends for salaries and wages and manage the budgeted turnover savings. In addition, Figure 8 reports the number of vacant positions. There were 307.6 reported vacancies with an average of 45.1 workdays vacant, as of October. Further analysis of expenditures trends is provided in the *Detailed Review of Expenditure Trends by State Category* section.

**Figure 3: General Fund Expenditures and Obligations  
 Budget vs Actual**  
 For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

STATE CATEGORY	Budget (1)	Year to Date	Percent	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Budget	Year to Date	Percent
	FY 2026	FY 2026	Actuals to Budget FY 2026	FY 2025	FY 2025	Actuals to Budget FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2024	Actuals to Budget FY 2024
Administration (01)	\$14,388,369	\$6,779,265	47.12%	\$15,228,243	\$7,559,019	49.64%	\$15,946,385	\$7,680,273	48.16%
Mid-Level Administration (02)	73,840,630	36,541,930	49.49%	70,121,095	34,235,397	48.82%	70,543,148	34,383,310	48.74%
Instructional Salaries (03)	440,542,233	199,030,688	45.18%	422,706,169	190,462,959	45.06%	416,759,697	188,225,137	45.16%
Instructional Supplies (04)	8,010,840	3,223,528	40.24%	8,253,290	3,564,584	43.19%	9,511,736	4,078,805	42.88%
Other Instructional Costs (05)	20,021,010	9,694,531	48.42%	18,941,311	7,290,758	38.49%	19,232,827	7,042,918	36.62%
Special Education (06)	198,657,991	101,073,366	50.88%	180,637,339	94,329,796	52.22%	169,167,514	86,845,758	51.34%
Student Personnel Services (07)	12,388,807	5,849,800	47.22%	10,909,402	4,622,347	42.37%	10,000,470	4,411,911	44.12%
Student Health Services (08)	13,379,803	5,950,386	44.47%	13,514,147	5,620,592	41.59%	12,850,743	5,736,066	44.64%
Student Transportation (09)	74,313,904	51,389,963	69.15%	67,824,058	52,850,741	77.92%	59,784,853	35,008,594	58.56%
Operation of Plant (10)	61,226,241	31,054,565	50.72%	55,860,193	27,248,099	48.78%	55,260,568	28,105,169	50.86%
Maintenance of Plant (11)	32,633,462	18,070,783	55.38%	26,404,846	14,691,356	55.64%	27,166,238	15,237,221	56.09%
Fixed Charges (12)	263,918,156	135,683,347	51.41%	249,341,889	128,486,859	51.53%	232,745,184	118,835,138	51.06%
Community Services (14)	1,725,346	940,196	54.49%	4,254,383	2,170,690	51.02%	4,411,212	2,027,657	45.97%
Capital Outlay (15)	1,228,351	600,749	48.91%	1,170,213	549,553	46.96%	1,195,562	551,217	46.11%
	<b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b>	<b>\$ 605,883,097</b>	<b>49.81%</b>	<b>\$ 1,145,166,578</b>	<b>\$ 573,682,749</b>	<b>50.10%</b>	<b>\$ 1,104,576,137</b>	<b>\$ 538,169,174</b>	<b>48.72%</b>

*Schedule Notes:*

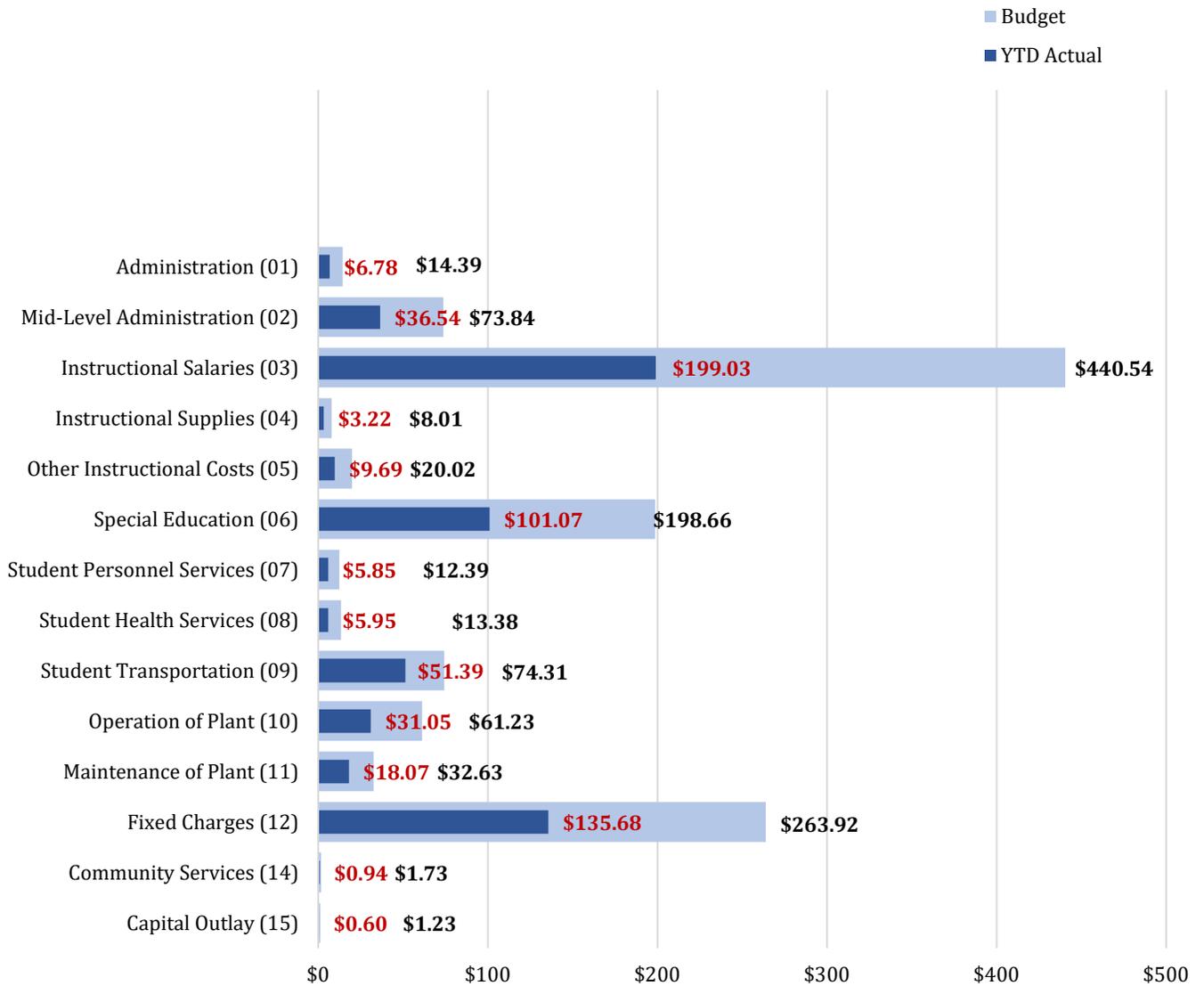
- (1) Budget reflects budget amendments as of the date the report was extracted. Schedule B details original and amended budget.
- (2) Actuals include obligations. Schedule B provides the detailed breakout for YTD actuals and obligations by expenditure type.

<sup>1</sup> State categories with mostly instructional salaries are: Instructional Salaries, Special Education, Student Personnel Services, and Student Health Services.

<sup>2</sup> State categories with mostly 12-month positions are: Administration, Mid-level Administration, Transportation, Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Community Services, and Capital Outlay.

**Figure 4:**

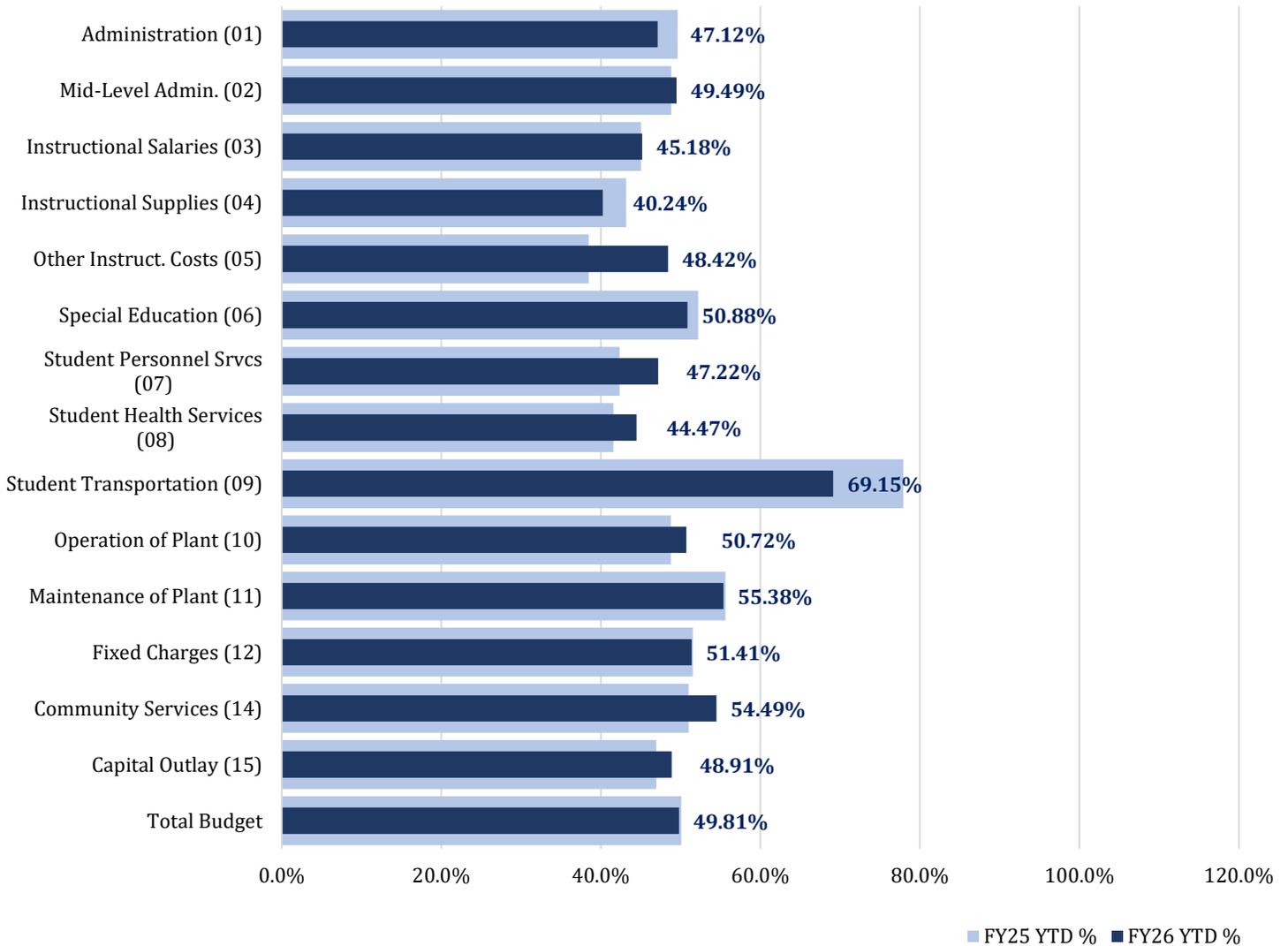
**General Fund Budget to Actual Expenditures by Category  
 as of December 31, 2025  
 (in millions \$)**



**How to Read:** Budget is the outer bar. Actual is the inner bar in the darker color. Red numbers are the current YTD actuals. Black numbers are the budgeted amount. As the fiscal year progresses, the inner bar will fill the outer bar showing how actual expenditures compare to budget.

**Figure 5:**

**General Fund Expenditures by State Category  
 Percent of Budget to Actual Compared to Prior Year  
 as of December 31, 2025**



**How to Read:** The outer bar is prior year (FY25). The inner bar is current year (FY26). The number in dark blue is the current year percent of budget to actual. When the ends of the two bars are closely aligned it means the current year trend and prior year trend are generally consistent through the reporting period.

### ***Detailed Review of Expenditure Trends by State Category***

Below is a review of expenditure trends for each state category. Schedule B shows the Original Budget and the Amended Budget. The Original Budget column is the budget based on the original appropriation approved by the County Council. The Budget to Actual analysis compares year to date actual to the Amended Budget. The Amended Budget is updated throughout the year based on budget amendments approved within state categories by the Budget Office and categorical transfers as approved by the Board and County Council. Schedule D provides a detailed log of budget amendments, with the last page showing how the original budget compares to the amended budget.

- ***Administration (State Category 01)*** – This category includes costs for activities associated with the general regulations, direction, and control of the school system. Year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances in Administration are 47.12 percent of budget spent. This compares to the FY 2025 and FY 2024 spend rates of 49.64 percent and 48.16 percent, respectively.
- ***Mid-level Administration (State Category 02)*** – This category includes administration and supervision of district-wide and school-level instructional programs and activities. Year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances in Mid-level Administration are 49.49 percent of the budget. Last year, the spending rate was 48.82 percent and in FY 2024, it was 48.74 percent.
- ***Instructional Salaries (State Category 03)*** – This category includes activities that directly or adjunctly deal with teaching students in non-special education settings. Year-to-date Instructional Salaries are within the general range of expected budget trend at 45.18 percent expended as compared to 45.06 percent at the same time last year and 45.16 percent in FY 2024.
- ***Instructional Supplies (State Category 04)*** – This category is comprised of expenditures and commitments for instructional supplies for all schools. Approximately 40.24 percent of Instructional Supplies funds are committed compared to 43.19 percent in FY 2025, and 42.88 percent in FY 2024.
- ***Other Instructional Costs (State Category 05)*** – This category is comprised of commitments for contracted services, staff development, and equipment used to support the instructional program. Year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances are 48.42 percent of the budget. Last year, the spending rate was 38.49 percent and in FY 2024, it was 36.62 percent. The higher spending rate is primarily attributed to the timing of encumbering contracted services with the Workforce Development Board.
- ***Special Education (State Category 06)*** – The Special Education category includes costs associated with the instructional needs of students receiving special education services. Special Education year-to-date expenses are running at 50.88 percent of budget compared to 52.22 percent at this time last year and 51.34 percent in FY 2024. The last two years the spend rate was higher due to contracted services and transfer costs as a percent of budget. With the increases in the contracted services and transfer budgets this year, the monthly budget to actual spend percentage has smoothed out to an extent. Due to the nature and potential volatility of Special Education expenditures, they will continue to be an area requiring close monitoring.

- ***Student Personnel Services (State Category 07)*** – Student Personnel includes programs to improve student attendance and to solve student problems in the home, school, and community. Approximately 47.22 percent of the FY 2026 budget has been expended compared to the prior year of 42.37 percent and 44.12 percent in FY 2024. The increased expenditure rate in the current year is primarily attributed to vacancy rates being lower in this state category compared to prior fiscal years.
- ***Student Health Services (State Category 08)*** – Health Services provides staffing for school health rooms, maintains student health records, identifies health problems, enforces immunization laws, and provides other services. Year-to-date, 44.47 percent of the FY 2026 budget in this category is committed compared to 41.59 percent for the prior year, and 44.64 percent for FY 2024.
- ***Student Transportation (State Category 09)*** – Nearly 95 percent of the total Student Transportation budget funds the contracts awarded to private bus owners and bus companies who provide the bus services. Bus services are provided throughout the year, including summer months, with most of the service cost occurring during the regular school year. Year-to-date, 69.15 percent of the transportation budget is encumbered and spent compared to about 77.92 percent last year, and 58.56 percent in FY 2024. The slower spending rate is primarily due to encumbrances in Student Transportation (09) being less than last year at this time and the increase in budget authority. Last year, Transportation encumbered yearly contracts much sooner than prior years. This trend will continue to level out as the fiscal year progresses and encumbrances are adjusted and added to address contractual obligations and student needs. The current spend rate should not be interpreted as an indication that there will be budgetary savings in FY 2026.
- ***Operation of Plant (State Category 10)*** – This category includes custodial costs and grounds maintenance salaries, as well as the cost of utilities. Approximately 50.72 percent of the FY 2026 budget has been committed, compared with 48.78 percent committed at this time last year, and 50.86 percent in FY 2024. Contributing to the higher spend rate is overtime costs, which are running higher this year due to vacancy rates and the arbitration decision altering the computation of hours applicable to overtime calculation.
- ***Maintenance of Plant (State Category 11)*** – This category includes costs of building and grounds maintenance, network and technology support services, and environmental maintenance. Approximately 55.38 percent of the FY 2026 budget has been committed compared to last year's commitment of 55.64 percent, and FY 2024, 56.09 percent.
- ***Fixed Charges (State Category 12)*** – This category includes the cost of employee benefits and other fixed charges. Health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and retirement costs constitute 97 percent of the Fixed Charges budget. The remaining 3 percent is for vehicle and liability insurance, life insurance, Workers' Compensation insurance, staff tuition reimbursements, and accrued leave payouts. Year-to-date, Fixed Charges expenditures are 51.41 percent of budget, compared to 51.53 percent for the same period last year, and 51.06 percent in

FY 2024.

- **Community Services (State Category 14)** – This category provides for the usage of our facilities by the community and other school system community services. The Community Services budget is 54.49 percent committed, compared to last year's 51.02 percent, and 45.97 percent in FY 2024.
- **Capital Outlay (State Category 15)** – The Capital Outlay category includes costs for planning, administration, and oversight of the Capital Budget. Approximately 54.49 percent of the FY 2026 budget has been committed, as compared to 51.02 percent last year, and 45.97 percent committed in FY 2024.
- **Total Budget** –As of December, year-to-date expenditures for all state categories in the General Fund are approximately 49.81% of the FY 2026 budget. This is about 0.29 percentage points below the budget-to-actual expenditure rate for the same period last year.

**The Howard County Public School System**  
*Schedule A - Statement of Detailed Revenues*  
**Budget and Actual**  
 For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Actual</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>	<u>Percent Actual to Budget</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
<b>County Revenue</b>					
Local Appropriations	\$ 816,005,000	\$ 816,005,000	\$ 408,002,504	\$ 408,002,496	50.00%
Total County Revenue	\$ 816,005,000	\$ 816,005,000	\$ 408,002,504	\$ 408,002,496	50.00%
<b>Other Revenue</b>					
Tuition-Non Resident	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 527,283	\$ (152,283)	140.61%
Tuition-School Programs	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,260,437	(110,437)	105.14%
Student Payments/Fees	350,000	350,000	289,139	60,861	82.61%
Earnings on Investments	4,500,000	4,500,000	3,279,629	1,220,371	72.88%
Rent	1,250,000	1,250,000	212,964	1,037,036	17.04%
Transfers In-Maryland LEAs	140,000	140,000	-	140,000	0.00%
Capital Projects Overhead	830,981	830,981	-	830,981	0.00%
Other Nonrevenue <sup>1</sup>	695,000	695,000	295,385	399,615	42.50%
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	1,252,888	1,252,888	1,264,562	(11,674)	100.93%
Total Other Revenue	\$ 11,543,869	\$ 11,543,869	\$ 8,129,399	\$ 3,414,470	70.42%
<b>State Revenue</b>					
State Foundation	\$ 230,455,384	\$ 230,455,384	\$ 115,227,692	\$ 115,227,692	50.00%
State - Career Ladder	2,109,130	2,109,130	1,054,565	1,054,565	50.00%
State - Compensatory Ed	51,728,969	51,728,969	25,864,484	25,864,485	50.00%
Out-of-County Living Arrangements	200,000	200,000	-	200,000	0.00%
Limited English Proficient	15,668,843	15,668,843	7,834,421	7,834,422	50.00%
State-Special Education	28,618,220	28,618,220	14,084,359	14,533,861	49.21%
State-Transportation Regular	22,846,652	22,846,652	11,423,326	11,423,326	50.00%
State-Transportation Special Education	2,397,000	2,397,000	1,198,500	1,198,500	50.00%
State - College and Career Readiness	2,264,707	2,264,707	1,129,958	1,134,749	49.89%
State - Full-Day Pre-K & Pre-K Expansion	3,737,540	3,737,540	1,868,770	1,868,770	50.00%
State Share-Pre-K Private Provider	993,310	993,310	-	993,310	0.00%
State - Comparable Wage Index	14,189,138	14,189,138	7,094,569	7,094,569	50.00%
State - Transitional Supplemental Instruction	870,260	870,260	435,130	435,130	50.00%
State - Blueprint Coordinator	66,980	66,980	33,490	33,490	50.00%
State - Blueprint Transition Grant	27,133	27,133	13,567	13,566	50.00%
Total State Revenue	\$ 376,173,266	\$ 376,173,266	\$ 187,262,832	\$ 188,910,434	49.78%
<b>Federal Revenue</b>					
Unrestricted-Impact Aid & FEMA	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 9,300	\$ 150,700	5.81%
Restricted Direct	250,000	250,000	103,791	146,209	41.52%
Total Federal Revenue	\$ 410,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 113,091	\$ 296,909	27.58%
<b>Other Resources</b>					
Use of Fund Balance	\$ 2,143,008	\$ 2,143,008	\$ -	\$ 2,143,008	0.00%
Interfund Transfers	10,000,000	10,000,000	-	10,000,000	0.00%
Total Other Resources	\$ 12,143,008	\$ 12,143,008	\$ -	\$ 12,143,008	0.00%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>\$ 1,216,275,143</u>	<u>\$ 1,216,275,143</u>	<u>\$ 603,507,826</u>	<u>\$ 612,767,317</u>	<u>49.62%</u>

Note: Variances due to system rounding

<sup>1</sup> Other Nonrevenue includes transfers from Grants and Food and Nutrition Services for indirect costs.

<b>Other Revenue w Federal</b>	<u>\$ 11,953,869</u>	<u>\$ 11,953,869</u>	<u>\$ 8,242,490</u>	<u>\$ 3,711,379</u>	<u>68.95%</u>
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The Howard County Public School System  
 Schedule B - Expenditures by Category  
 Budget and Actual with Encumbrances  
 For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Obligation	Actuals	Year-To-Date Total	Remaining Budget	Percent Actual to Budget
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
<b>Administration (Category 01)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 12,338,146	\$ 12,413,526	\$ -	\$ 5,789,992	\$ 5,789,992	\$ 6,623,534	46.64%
Contracted Services	1,365,296	1,289,716	72,319	622,730	695,049	594,667	53.89%
Supplies and Materials	269,399	261,899	1,446	102,618	104,064	157,835	39.73%
Other Charges	415,528	423,228	-	190,160	190,160	233,068	44.93%
Total Administration	\$ 14,388,369	\$ 14,388,369	\$ 73,765	\$ 6,705,500	\$ 6,779,265	\$ 7,609,104	47.12%
<b>Mid-Level Administration (Category 02)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 68,404,501	\$ 68,402,501	\$ -	\$ 33,991,335	\$ 33,991,335	\$ 34,411,166	49.69%
Contracted Services	2,630,673	2,631,173	16,580	1,419,414	1,435,994	1,195,179	54.58%
Supplies and Materials	2,003,992	1,993,992	1,319	893,588	894,907	1,099,085	44.88%
Other Charges	793,464	804,964	-	219,694	219,694	585,270	27.29%
Equipment	8,000	8,000	-	-	-	8,000	0.00%
Total Mid-Level Administration	\$ 73,840,630	\$ 73,840,630	\$ 17,899	\$ 36,524,032	\$ 36,541,930	\$ 37,298,700	49.49%
<b>Instructional Salaries (Category 03)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 440,542,233	\$ 440,542,233		\$ 199,030,688	\$ 199,030,688	\$ 241,511,545	45.18%
Total Instructional Salaries	\$ 440,542,233	\$ 440,542,233	\$ -	\$ 199,030,688	\$ 199,030,688	\$ 241,511,545	45.18%
<b>Instructional Supplies (Category 04)</b>							
Supplies and Materials	\$ 8,010,840	\$ 8,010,840	\$ 417,032	\$ 2,806,496	\$ 3,223,528	\$ 4,787,312	40.24%
Total Instructional Supplies	\$ 8,010,840	\$ 8,010,840	\$ 417,032	\$ 2,806,496	\$ 3,223,528	\$ 4,787,312	40.24%
<b>Other Instructional Costs (Category 05)</b>							
Contracted Services	\$ 18,033,716	\$ 18,055,794	\$ 1,244,459	\$ 8,254,370	\$ 9,498,829	\$ 8,556,965	52.61%
Other Charges	337,496	337,576	-	142,077	142,077	195,499	42.09%
Equipment	76,300	54,142	-	35,591	35,591	18,551	65.74%
Transfers	1,573,498	1,573,498	-	18,035	18,035	1,555,463	1.15%
Total Other Instructional Costs	\$ 20,021,010	\$ 20,021,010	\$ 1,244,459	\$ 8,450,072	\$ 9,694,531	\$ 10,326,479	48.42%
<b>Special Education (Category 06)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 158,730,539	\$ 157,763,539	\$ -	\$ 69,359,219	\$ 69,359,219	\$ 88,404,320	43.96%
Contracted Services	11,815,981	12,685,465	1,235,725	5,991,596	7,227,321	5,458,144	56.97%
Supplies and Materials	1,177,581	1,133,611	19,467	383,300	402,767	730,844	35.53%
Other Charges	356,345	356,831	-	127,303	127,303	229,528	35.68%
Equipment	101,515	101,515	-	-	-	101,515	0.00%
Transfers	26,476,030	26,617,030	8,287,752	15,669,004	23,956,756	2,660,274	90.01%
Total Special Education	\$ 198,657,991	\$ 198,657,991	\$ 9,542,944	\$ 91,530,423	\$ 101,073,366	\$ 97,584,625	50.88%
<b>Student Personnel Svcs (Category 07)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 11,928,183	\$ 11,928,183	\$ -	\$ 5,671,755	\$ 5,671,755	\$ 6,256,428	47.55%
Contracted Services	406,359	406,359	2,000	156,054	158,054	248,305	38.90%
Supplies and Materials	17,773	17,773	2,805	7,070	9,875	7,898	55.56%
Other Charges	36,492	36,492	-	10,115	10,115	26,377	27.72%
Total Student Personnel Svcs	\$ 12,388,807	\$ 12,388,807	\$ 4,805	\$ 5,844,995	\$ 5,849,800	\$ 6,539,007	47.22%

**The Howard County Public School System**  
**Schedule B - Expenditures by Category (Continued)**  
 Budget and Actual with Encumbrances  
 For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Obligation	Actuals	Year-To-Date Total	Remaining Budget	Percent Actual to Percent
<b>Student Health Svcs (Category 08)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 11,992,754	\$ 11,992,754	\$ -	\$ 5,108,870	\$ 5,108,870	\$ 6,883,884	42.60%
Contracted Services	1,070,768	1,070,768	414,416	364,928	779,344	291,424	72.78%
Supplies and Materials	282,221	282,221	10,240	47,653	57,893	224,328	20.51%
Other Charges	34,060	34,060	-	4,280	4,280	29,780	12.57%
Total Student Health Svcs	<u>\$ 13,379,803</u>	<u>\$ 13,379,803</u>	<u>\$ 424,655</u>	<u>\$ 5,525,731</u>	<u>\$ 5,950,386</u>	<u>\$ 7,429,417</u>	<u>44.47%</u>
<b>Student Transportation (Category 09)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 2,906,851	\$ 2,906,851	\$ -	\$ 1,283,182	\$ 1,283,182	\$ 1,623,669	44.14%
Contracted Services	70,477,958	70,478,024	21,588,207	27,618,697	49,206,904	21,271,120	69.82%
Supplies and Materials	11,468	11,402	-	2,259	2,259	9,143	19.81%
Other Charges	917,627	917,627	447,012	450,606	897,618	20,009	97.82%
Total Student Transportation	<u>\$ 74,313,904</u>	<u>\$ 74,313,904</u>	<u>\$ 22,035,219</u>	<u>\$ 29,354,744</u>	<u>\$ 51,389,963</u>	<u>\$ 22,923,941</u>	<u>69.15%</u>
<b>Operation of Plant (Category 10)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 32,610,572	\$ 32,610,572	\$ -	\$16,275,678	\$ 16,275,678	\$ 16,334,894	49.91%
Contracted Services	2,637,960	2,637,961	988,248	\$1,113,142	2,101,390	536,571	79.66%
Supplies and Materials	1,329,324	1,328,823	88,127	\$631,504	719,631	609,192	54.16%
Other Charges	24,640,885	24,641,385	3,068,459	\$8,889,407	11,957,865	12,683,520	48.53%
Equipment	7,500	7,500	-	-	-	7,500	0.00%
Total Operation of Plant	<u>\$ 61,226,241</u>	<u>\$ 61,226,241</u>	<u>\$ 4,144,834</u>	<u>\$ 26,909,731</u>	<u>\$ 31,054,565</u>	<u>\$ 30,171,676</u>	<u>50.72%</u>
<b>Maintenance of Plant (Category 11)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 12,215,481	\$ 12,215,481	\$ -	\$ 5,488,179	\$ 5,488,179	\$ 6,727,302	44.93%
Contracted Services	18,685,497	18,732,497	3,495,509	8,169,214	11,664,723	7,067,774	62.27%
Supplies and Materials	1,027,194	933,194	295,051	237,247	532,299	400,895	57.04%
Other Charges	50,290	50,290	-	6,691	6,691	43,599	13.30%
Equipment	655,000	702,000	-	378,892	378,892	323,108	53.97%
Total Maintenance of Plant	<u>\$ 32,633,462</u>	<u>\$ 32,633,462</u>	<u>\$ 3,790,560</u>	<u>\$ 14,280,223</u>	<u>\$ 18,070,783</u>	<u>\$ 14,562,679</u>	<u>55.38%</u>
<b>Fixed Charges (Category 12)</b>							
Other Charges	\$ 263,918,156	\$ 263,918,156	\$ 2,083,853	\$ 133,599,494	\$ 135,683,347	\$ 128,234,809	51.41%
Total Fixed Charges	<u>\$ 263,918,156</u>	<u>\$ 263,918,156</u>	<u>\$ 2,083,853</u>	<u>\$ 133,599,494</u>	<u>\$ 135,683,347</u>	<u>\$ 128,234,809</u>	<u>51.41%</u>
<b>Community Services (Category 14)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 871,100	\$ 871,100	\$ -	\$ 460,807	\$ 460,807	\$ 410,293	52.90%
Contracted Services	606,805	606,649	42,780	308,790	351,570	255,079	57.95%
Supplies and Materials	24,610	15,010	-	\$3,779	3,779	11,231	25.17%
Other Charges	21,400	31,156	-	26,525	26,525	4,631	85.14%
Equipment	6,400	6,400	-	-	-	6,400	0.00%
Transfers	195,031	195,031	-	97,516	97,516	97,515	50.00%
Total Community Services	<u>\$ 1,725,346</u>	<u>\$ 1,725,346</u>	<u>\$ 42,780</u>	<u>\$ 897,417</u>	<u>\$ 940,196</u>	<u>\$ 785,150</u>	<u>54.49%</u>
<b>Capital Outlay (Category 15)</b>							
Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,119,057	\$ 1,123,321	\$ -	\$554,927	\$ 554,927	\$ 568,394	49.40%
Contracted Services	92,829	90,349	-	\$41,175	41,175	49,174	45.57%
Supplies and Materials	7,314	6,414	1,397	\$1,460	2,857	3,557	44.55%
Other Charges	9,151	8,267	-	\$1,790	1,790	6,477	21.65%
Total Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 1,228,351</u>	<u>\$ 1,228,351</u>	<u>\$ 1,397</u>	<u>\$ 599,352</u>	<u>\$ 600,749</u>	<u>\$ 627,602</u>	<u>48.91%</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u><b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 43,824,202</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 562,058,895</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 605,883,097</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 610,392,046</b></u>	<u><b>49.81%</b></u>

Schedule Notes:  
 Variances due to system rounding.

**The Howard County Public School System**  
**Schedule C-Summary Expenditures by Expense Ledger**  
**Budget and Actual with Encumbrances**  
 For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Actual (1)</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>	<u>Percent Actual to Budget</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Salaries and Wages	\$ 753,659,417	\$ 752,770,061	\$ 343,014,633	\$ 409,755,428	45.57%
Contracted Services	127,823,842	128,684,755	83,160,352	45,524,403	64.62%
Supplies and Materials	14,161,716	13,995,179	5,953,474	8,041,705	42.54%
Other Charges	291,530,894	291,560,032	149,267,850	142,292,182	51.20%
Equipment	854,715	879,557	414,483	465,074	47.12%
Transfers	28,244,559	28,385,559	24,072,306	4,313,253	84.80%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b>	<b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b>	<b>\$ 605,883,097</b>	<b>\$ 610,392,046</b>	<b>49.81%</b>

Schedule Notes:  
 (1) Actuals include obligations shown on Schedule B

**Figure 6**  
**The Howard County Public School System**  
**Salary and Wage Expenditure Analysis**  
**Projected Budget Spend Rate and Actual Spend Rate**  
**For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)**

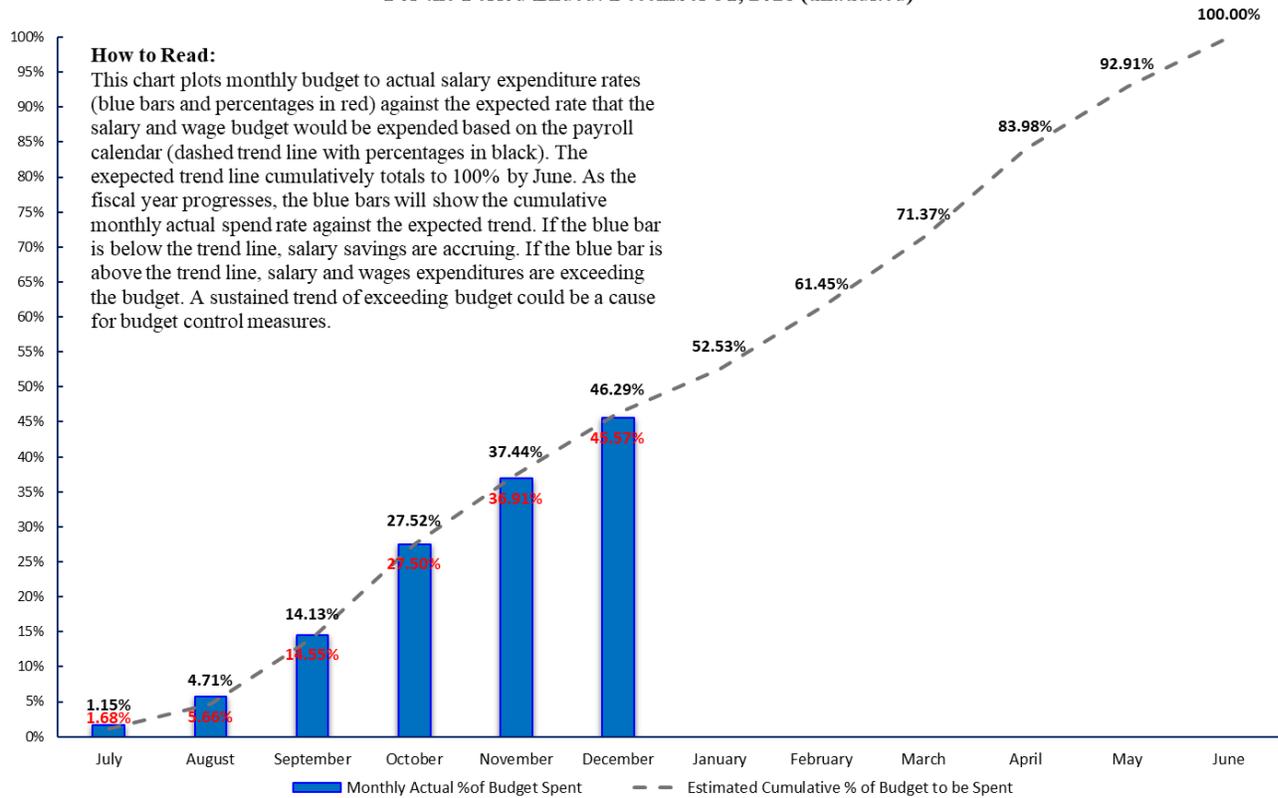


Figure 7

Comparative Summary of Estimated Salary and Wage Expenditures per Month to Actual Salary and Wage Expenditures

Month	FY 2026			FY 2025			FY 2024		
	Estimated Cumulative % of Budget to be Spent	Monthly Actual % of Budget Spent thru December	Estimated Budget to Actual Variance (Percent Pts)	Estimated Cumulative % of Budget to be Spent	Monthly Actual % of Budget Spent thru December	Estimated Budget to Actual Variance (Percent Pts)	Estimated Cumulative % of Budget to be Spent	Monthly Actual % of Budget Spent thru December	Estimated Budget to Actual Variance (Percent Pts)
July	1.15%	1.68%	0.53%	1.20%	1.47%	0.27%	1.37%	1.57%	0.20%
August	4.71%	5.66%	0.95%	4.73%	5.35%	0.62%	4.85%	5.64%	0.79%
September	14.13%	14.55%	0.42%	14.13%	14.35%	0.22%	13.81%	14.30%	0.49%
October	27.52%	27.50%	-0.02%	28.46%	28.29%	-0.17%	23.19%	23.38%	0.19%
November	37.44%	36.91%	-0.53%	37.85%	37.45%	-0.40%	37.04%	37.01%	-0.03%
<b>December</b>	<b>46.29%</b>	<b>45.57%</b>	<b>-0.72%</b>	<b>45.76%</b>	<b>45.46%</b>	<b>-0.30%</b>	<b>46.00%</b>	<b>45.63%</b>	<b>-0.37%</b>

Figure 8

The Howard County Public School System  
 Vacancy Data by State Category - General Fund  
 For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025

State Category	Budgeted FTEs	December Vacancies	December Vacancy Rates	Average Workdays Vacant in FY26
Administration (01)	98.50	6.00	6.09%	49.2
Mid-Level Administration (02)	622.00	18.00	2.89%	68.3
Instructional Salaries (03)	4,540.40	33.80	0.74%	55.8
Special Education (06)*	2,243.30	147.40	6.57%	75.5
Student Personnel Services (07)	121.50	3.00	2.47%	87.7
Student Health Services (08)	148.00	6.00	4.05%	67.2
Student Transportation (09)	23.00	2.00	8.70%	86.5
Operation of Plant (10)	520.25	38.00	7.30%	59.1
Maintenance of Plant (11)	118.00	18.00	15.25%	101.7
Community Services (14)	5.60	0.00	0.00%	0.0
Capital Outlay (15)	8.50	0.00	0.00%	0.0
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>8,449.05</b>	<b>272.20</b>	<b>3.22%</b>	<b>59.2</b>

Notes on Reading and Using this Information:

This table shows the number of vacant positions by state category in the General Fund. The information provides insight on budget to actual spend rates for salaries and wages. The number of vacancies and the number of workdays vacant directly influences the spend rate for salaries and wages shown in the chart above. This information helps to monitor that the budgeted turnover and vacancy savings, (\$11.2) million, are trending above or below budget.

The first column is the number of budgeted FTEs in the state category. The second column is the count of positions that were vacant for part or all of the month. The vacancy rate is number of vacancies divided by the budgeted FTEs. The last column is the average number of workdays the positions have been vacant since July 1, 2025. Note, there are approximately 20 workdays in a month.

\* Special Education position counts includes unbudgeted positions added to the position roster as part the early implementation of the Special Education Strategic Plan.

The Howard County Public School System  
Schedule D – Budget Transfer Report  
For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

Category	Program Name	Expense Type	Budget	From	To	Amended Budget
04	Library Media (1501)	Supplies-General	84,795	15,389	-	69,406
04	Library Media (1501)	Supplies-Audio Visual	198,361	-	15,389	213,750
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority to purchase video production materials at high schools for students.</b>						
11	Fleet Management (7802)	Supplies-General	20,000	920	-	19,080
11	Fleet Management (7802)	Technology-Computer	-	-	920	920
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for one staff replacement laptop.</b>						
06	Early Childhood Special Education: Birth-Five (3324)	Contracted-Labor	600,000	6,000	-	594,000
06	Early Childhood Special Education: Birth-Five (3324)	Contracted-General	-	-	6,000	6,000
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for meeting space for staff related professional learning and training.</b>						
01	Employee and Labor Relations (0306)	Wages-Temporary Help	-	-	2,256	2,256
01	Employee and Labor Relations (0306)	Contracted-Labor	116,879	2,256	-	114,623
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for Interpreter temp wages that were budgeted in Contracted Labor.</b>						
06	Special Education - School-Based Services (3321)	Supplies-Testing	39,743	23,727	-	16,016
06	Special Education - School-Based Services (3321)	Technology-Computer	19,757	19,757	-	-
06	Special Education - School-Based Services (3321)	Maintenance-Software	439,110	-	43,484	482,594
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for Woodcock Johnson software license for student testing.</b>						
01	Board of Education (0101)	Dues & Subscriptions	60,092	-	9,000	69,092
01	Board of Education (0101)	Board Member Expense	146,000	9,000	-	137,000
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for increase in BoardDocs Diligent subscription.</b>						
15	School Construction (0202)	Technology-Computer	1,000	-	500	1,500
15	School Construction (0202)	Maintenance-Software	500	500	-	-
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for one staff replacement laptop.</b>						
06	Speech, Language, and Hearing Services (3325)	Salary-Instruction-NonTeaching	12,451,117	1,000,000	-	11,451,117
06	Speech, Language, and Hearing Services (3325)	Contracted-Labor	765,719	-	1,000,000	1,765,719
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority to cover September-November invoices for speech-language services provided to students.</b>						
05	Workforce Development (3902)	Maintenance-Software	70,000	70,000	-	-
05	Workforce Development (3902)	Contracted-General	1,625,549	-	40,000	1,665,549
05	Postsecondary Access (2802)	Contracted-Labor	3,294,695	-	30,000	3,324,695
09	Workforce Development (3902)	Trans-Bus Contracts	17,157	343	-	16,814
09	Career and Technical Education (3901)	Trans-Bus Contracts	25,981	-	343	26,324
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority to align Workforce Development funding with signed FY26 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Howard County Office of Workforce Development (OWD).</b>						

The Howard County Public School System  
Schedule D – Budget Transfer Report  
For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

Category	Program Name	Expense Type	Budget	From	To	Amended Budget
06	Special Education - Central Office (3330)	Budget Reserve - Contracted Services	1,750,000	180,000	-	1,570,000
06	Special Education - School-Based Services (3321)	Wages-Temporary Help	-	-	180,000	180,000
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority out of the \$1.75m placeholder (Reserve) as part of the Special Education Strategic Staffing plan to provide temporary daily building support.</b>						
01	Procurement Office (0205)	Training	-	-	3,500	3,500
01	Procurement Office (0205)	Repair-Equipment	500	500	-	-
01	Procurement Office (0205)	Contracted-Labor	14,500	3,000	-	11,500
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority to provide Institute of Public Procurement (NIGP) training to one new hire as well as providing ongoing training to existing staff.</b>						
01	Human Resources (0303)	Maintenance-Software	14,000	12,704	-	1,296
01	Procurement Office (0205)	Maintenance-Software	50,423	-	12,704	63,127
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority to consolidate the budget for Docusign. Procurement will be managing the systemwide contract going forward, which will be reflected in subsequent budgets.</b>						
09	Student Transportation (6801)	Budget Reserve - Salaries and Wages	-	-	16,645	16,645
09	Student Transportation (6801)	Salary-Professional	1,818,856	-	64,750	1,883,606
09	Student Transportation (6801)	Wages-Temporary Help	116,800	81,395	-	35,405
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority to establish a budget-neutral reallocation of 2.0 positions from Area Field Specialists to Area Field Managers in order to better support system needs.</b>						
15	School Planning (0212)	Travel-Conferences	984	884	-	100
15	School Planning (0212)	Supplies-General	1,934	1,400	-	534
15	School Planning (0212)	Maintenance-Software	10,700	1,980	-	8,720
15	School Planning (0212)	Wages-Temporary Help	10,500	-	4,264	14,764
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority for wages for an intern to support a variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) projects.</b>						
11	Building Maintenance (7602)	Technology-Supply	-	-	1,222	1,222
11	Building Maintenance (7602)	Technology-Computer	-	-	20,688	20,688
11	Building Maintenance (7602)	Supplies-General	727,500	121,910	-	605,590
11	Building Maintenance (7602)	Repair-Equipment	50,000	-	100,000	150,000
<b>Reason: Transfer budget authority of \$100,000 to Repair-Equipment for repairs to equipment located throughout school facilities. Transfer \$21,910 to Technology-Computer to purchase replacement laptops for employees whose current devices do not meet the Windows 11 upgrade requirement set by the Information Technology department.</b>						

The Howard County Public School System  
Schedule D – Budget Transfer Report  
For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

Category	Program Name	Expense Type	Budget	From	To	Amended Budget
09	Student Transportation (6801)	Trans-Bus Contracts-Pupil	600,455	-	50,000	650,455
09	Student Transportation (6801)	Trans-Bus Contracts-HWS	974,865	-	50,000	1,024,865
09	Student Transportation (6801)	Trans-Bus Contracts	35,816,000	100,000	-	35,716,000

**Reason: Transfer budget authority for transportation services for Homewood and homeless students.**

06	Special Education Compliance & Nonpublic Services (3328)	Contracted-General	441,000	441,000	-	-
06	Special Education Compliance & Nonpublic Services (3328)	Contracted-Labor	778,147	-	300,000	1,078,147
06	Special Education Compliance & Nonpublic Services (3328)	Transfers-Non Public Placement	26,371,030	-	141,000	26,512,030

**Reason: Transfer budget authority for providing compensatory services and non-public placements for students.**

10	Utilities (7201)	Utilities-Water/Sewage	1,808,736	-	440	1,809,176
10	Utilities (7201)	Utilities-Oil	99,739	440	-	99,299

**Reason: Transfer budget authority to cover increased costs for the Maryland Department of the Environment fees for publishing public notices associated with applying for applications for state discharge permits.**

<b>Totals</b>				<b>2,093,105</b>	<b>2,093,105</b>	
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The Howard County Public School System  
Schedule D – Budget Transfer Report  
For the Period Ended: December 31, 2025 (unaudited)

**General Fund Summary of Year to Date Budget Amendments**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Category Name</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
01	Administration	\$ 14,388,369	\$ 110,548	\$ 110,548	\$ 14,388,369
02	Mid-Level Administration	73,840,630	12,500	12,500	73,840,630
03	Instructional Salaries	440,542,233	171,690	171,690	440,542,233
04	Instruction Supplies	8,010,840	18,932	18,932	8,010,840
05	Other Instructional	20,021,010	92,239	92,239	20,021,010
06	Special Education	198,657,991	2,173,816	2,173,816	198,657,991
07	Student Personnel Services	12,388,807	3,000	3,000	12,388,807
08	Student Health Services	13,379,803	-	-	13,379,803
09	Student Transportation	74,313,904	401,804	401,804	74,313,904
10	Operations of Plant	61,226,241	129,727	129,727	61,226,241
11	Maintenance of Plant	32,633,462	248,247	248,247	32,633,462
12	Fixed Charges	263,918,156	-	-	263,918,156
14	Community Services	1,725,346	9,756	9,756	1,725,346
15	Capital Outlay	1,228,351	4,872	4,872	1,228,351
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b>	<b>\$ 3,377,131</b>	<b>\$ 3,377,131</b>	<b>\$ 1,216,275,143</b>