



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bryan Thompson, County Manager
FROM: Dr. Anthony D. Jackson, Superintendent
ON BEHALF OF: Members of the Chatham County Board of Education
DATE: December 29, 2025
SUBJECT: Transmittal of Proposed Budget Priorities and Draft Budget Request Items for FY 2026–2027

Dear Mr. Thompson,

As the Chatham County Board of Education and Chatham County Schools begin preparation of the **Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Request**, we are sharing the **preliminary information currently informing our internal modeling and early planning**. This material reflects our best understanding at this point in the process and is intended to support early coordination and transparency with the County.

These preliminary projections are based on known and anticipated factors, including **fixed cost increases, enrollment trends, continued state and federal funding uncertainty, charter school impacts, and operational priorities aligned with the ONE Chatham Strategic Plan**. As you know, we typically share early projections with the County in January. Prior to doing so formally, the Board wanted to ensure that you have a clear picture of where we are at this stage.

In January, the district will continue engaging internal and external stakeholders to gather broader input. Feedback from these groups will further inform refinement of the final budget request presented later this spring.

What follows is a summary of the **preliminary external funding needs**, clearly separated into (A) a **Minimum Sustainability Request** necessary to maintain current services and obligations, and (B) **additional charter, gap, and capital items** provided for context and planning purposes.

Summary of Preliminary External Funding Needs

A. Minimum Sustainability Request for District Needs

Priority Area	Amount
Fixed Employee Costs (REQUIRED)	\$975,000.00
Fixed Operational Costs (REQUIRED)	\$575,000.00
Certified & Classified Supplement Increase (REQUIRED)	\$70,000.00
Expansion of Master's Pay Supplement	\$250,000.00
Unified Stipend Schedule	\$150,000.00
Total Minimum Sustainability Request	\$2,020,000.00

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B. Additional Charter, Gap, and Capital Funding (Contextual)

Item	Amount
Charter School Transfer (26–27) @ 13.5% (REQUIRED)	\$272,700.00
Charter School Funding Gap (25–26) (REQUIRED)	\$450,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$250,000.00
Charter, Gap, and Capital Funding Request	\$972,700.00
TOTAL REQUEST FROM THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	\$2,992,700.00

These items are included for context and planning purposes and are separate from the minimum sustainability request.

We appreciate the continued partnership between Chatham County Schools, the Board of Education, and Chatham County Government. We look forward to ongoing dialogue as this work continues and welcome any guidance or feedback you may have as we move through the budget development process.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional detail or clarification would be helpful at this stage.

c: Board of Education
Ms. Brittany Smith, Interim Chief Finance Officer

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