



FY2026 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

QUESTIONS? Email budget@knoxschools.org

TOTAL FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET - \$700,500,000

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	71% GREAT EDUCATORS IN EVERY SCHOOL General Scale Step Advancements: \$5.9m Certified Scale Adjustments: \$7.4m	\$21.3M
	17% OTHER DISTRICT SPENDING Transport & Utility True-Ups: \$3.4m Student Transportation: \$1.8m Electricity: \$1m	\$5.2M
	7% SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT 10.5 New Student Support Positions: \$594k Middle School ELL Materials: \$241k	\$2.2M
	3% EXCELLENCE IN FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS Textbook Investments: \$540k Preschool Instructional Support: \$194k	\$1M
	2% COLLEGE & CAREER EMPOWERMENT Enhancing Partnerships: \$178.6k Enhancing Enlistment Pathways: \$160k	\$460K

NOTE: Other major investments in key priority areas are reflected in federal budgets such as Title, IDEA, Perkins

REIMAGINING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

By transitioning the Night Alternative Program to the KCS Virtual School, the district will achieve:

- Over \$400,000 in annual savings
- Enhanced academic support for long-term suspended students
- Improved access to flexible, high-quality instruction

\$119.1 MILLION new investments in staff since 2022

MARKET VALUE



GENERAL EMPLOYEE SCALE

- Non-certified Employees, including:
- Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Coaches
- Social Workers
- Nurses
- School Security

YEAR ONE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SALARY SCHEDULES

ALL staff eligible for a step increase will advance one step on the new salary schedules, providing for predictable year-over-year salary growth. These structured increases ensure steady progression and greater stability in long-term financial planning.

CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE SCALE

- Teachers
- Educational Interpreters
- Librarians
- School Counselors

CERT 1: Bachelor's Degree
CERT 2: Master's and Above

TEACHER PAYCHECK PROTECTION ACT

In May 2023, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed the Teacher Paycheck Protection Act, a bill designed to raise the minimum teacher salary to \$50,000 by the 2026-27 school year.

SALARY ADVANCEMENTS

In 2024, KCS implemented new salary schedules designed to provide a market value salary to all employees. Moving forward, KCS will maintain market value by advancing salaries on a structured step system, and conducting a market value assessment every three to five years to realign salary schedules.