

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

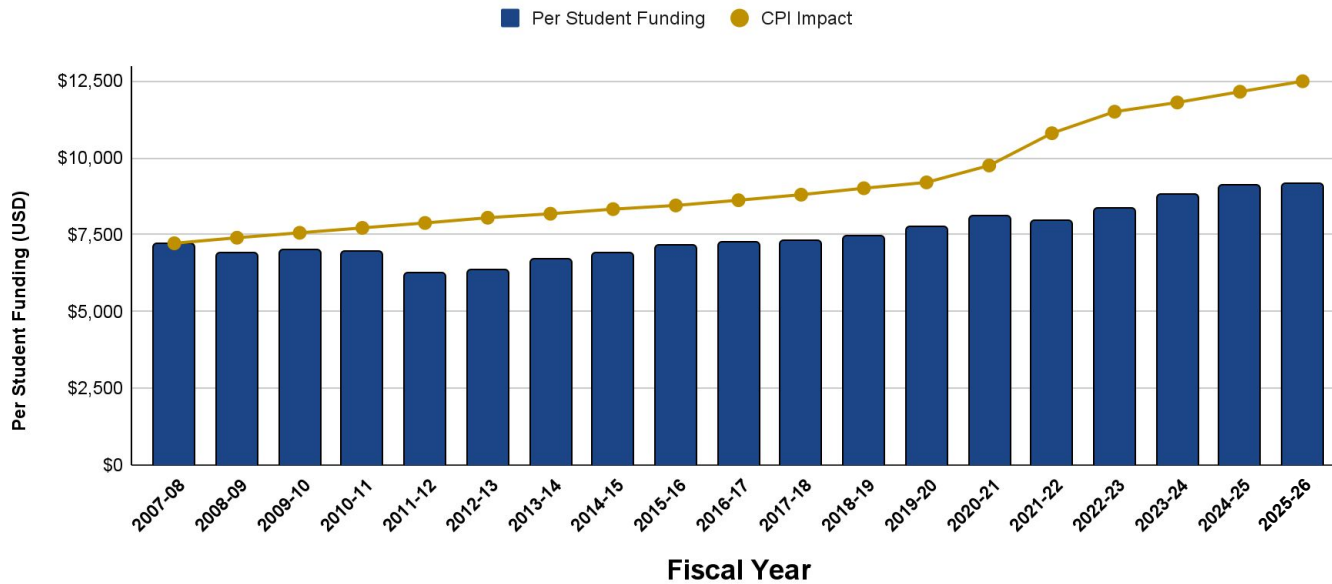


Financial Renaissance

January 27, 2026

Florida's 20 Year Funding Gap

Per Student Funding Since 2007-2008



- The **gold line** represents where FTE would be if FL had kept up with inflation. We are short by \$3,361.
- Schools experience inflation, just like homes and businesses.

Effort index:
Education spend as a % of state GDP

2008 **25th**

↓

2018 **48th**
In the nation

Statewide Financial Challenges

Final disbursement of state funds to the school districts for 2024-25 fiscal year was \$47 million short.

June 2025

New FRS rates take effect across FL (\$76.7 million in FL)

July 2025

72,653 voucher students added to the FEFP for 25-26 (~\$650 million)

July 2025

June-July 2025

Federal funds for Title I, II, III, and IV were initially withheld (\$400 million for FL alone)

July 2025

No 4th calculation released while districts prepare budgets for 25-26

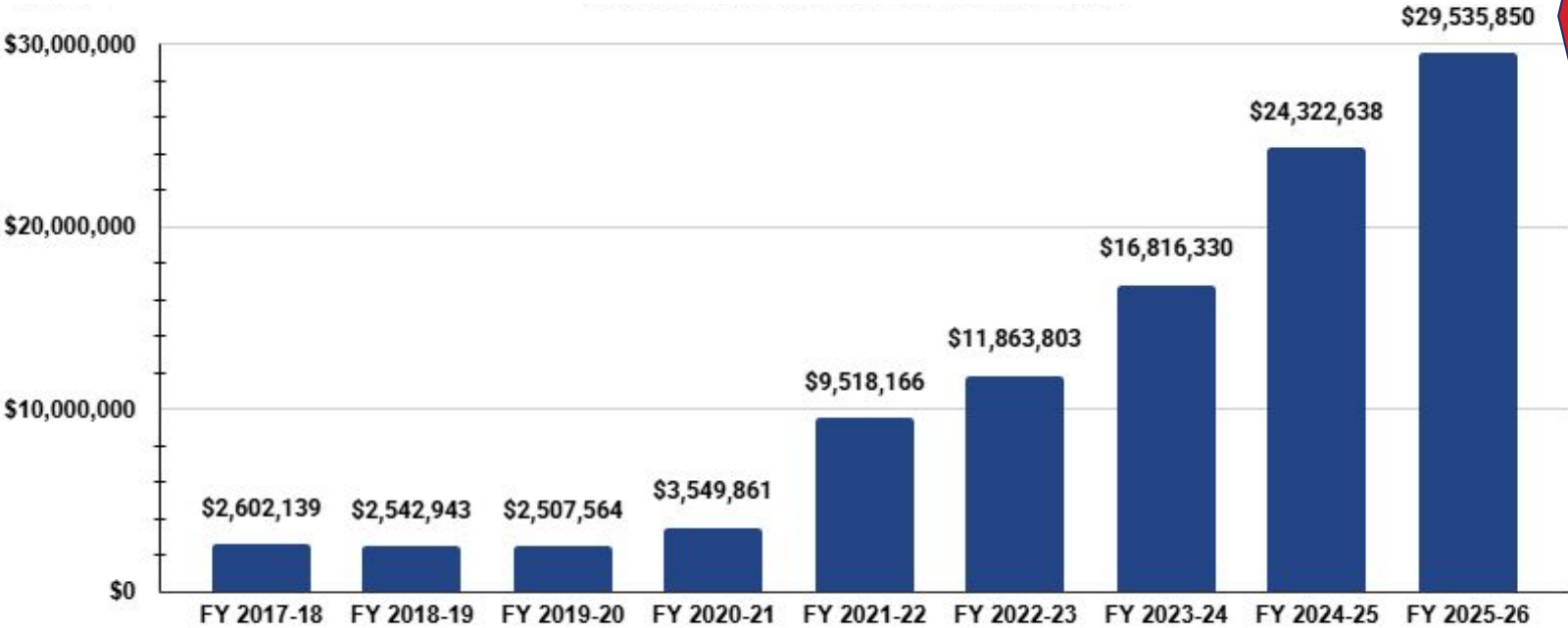
July 2025

Adjusted state funding for FL public school students is down \$400 million from 24-25



Family Empowerment Vouchers in Clay

Taxpayer Funded Vouchers for Homeschool and Private School



Over \$29.5 million in local and state tax dollars will fund private school tuition and homeschool in Clay this year.

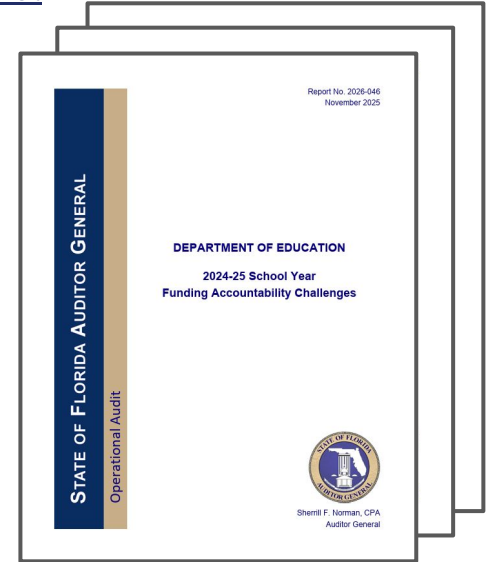


Family Empowerment Vouchers

Auditor General's Report

“The administration and oversight of State education funding for the 2024-25 school year was met with a myriad of accountability challenges that left a Statewide funding shortfall and a system where funding did not follow the child.”

- **Tracking Failures:** The state struggled to locate approximately 30,000 students, representing over \$270 million in educational funding
- **Verification Issues :** Scholarship funding organizations paid out at least \$7 million to families before verifying if the student was enrolled in a private school.
- **Unused Funds & Excess Balances:** Over \$400 million remained unused in accounts, with nearly 300 accounts for students with disabilities holding "excess balances" exceeding the cap of \$50,000 each



Statewide Financial Challenges

“Central Florida School Districts Manage Budget Uncertainty as State Diverts Billions Via Vouchers”

“Marion County Public Schools Working to Reduce \$64M Budget Deficit”

“Lake County Schools to be \$35M Short Amid Huge Loss of Students”

“Volusia School Board to Explore Options to Address \$25M Budget Shortfall”

“Broward Schools Faces Deficit: Board Approves Plan to Cut Costs – Here’s Where”



STATEWIDE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

PREVIOUS ACTION STEPS

STRATEGIC FINANCIAL GOALS

**PILLARS OF THE
FINANCIAL RENAISSANCE**

NEXT STEPS



Previous Action Steps

CONTRACTS

- Ended contract with iReady Math
- Ended contract with Penda
- Reduced Kelly Services substitute budget by 20%
- Conducted a ROI (Return on Investment) on all major programs

OPERATIONS

- Reduced all school and district budgets by 20%
- Reduced transportation ridership from 2.0 to 1.5 miles, in alignment to state statute
- Pause on all non-essential travel

PERSONNEL

- Reduced staffing positions across the district and schools
- Eliminated building substitutes
- Reduced professional learning opportunities

Re-evaluating All Allocations

Administrators

	# of Total Positions	# of Positions Reduced	# of Positions Downgraded	% Impacted
District	87 (no Transportation)	6	1	8.04%
Schools	122 (Principals and APs)	0	0	X

Instructional

	# of Total Positions	# of Positions Reduced	# of Positions Altered*	% Impacted
District	206	40	16	27.18%
Schools	2789	118	0	4.23%

Support

	# of Total Positions	# of Positions Reduced	# of Positions Altered*	% Impacted
District	260 (no Transportation)	10	0	3.84%
Schools	1553	101	0	6.5%

*Altered positions moved from a 12-month to an 11-month contract

Student-centered
Prioritizing students
in the classroom

Proportional
reductions
while
prioritizing
student
programs

Minimize to
the greatest
extent
possible any
impact on
employees

These figures include the number of staff impacted by the June 2025 reduction in force, totaling \$13.5 million, as well as the adjustments made through December.



Mid-year Budget Reviews

- School and department budgets are regularly reviewed.
- District and school budgets recently underwent a rigorous and comprehensive review of every budget line item
- **We are on track**
 - Kelly Subs – 51% expended
 - Electricity – 50% expended
 - Payroll – 50.5% expended
- All budgets will continue to be analyzed to ensure the success of our programs



STATEWIDE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

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Strategic Financial Goals

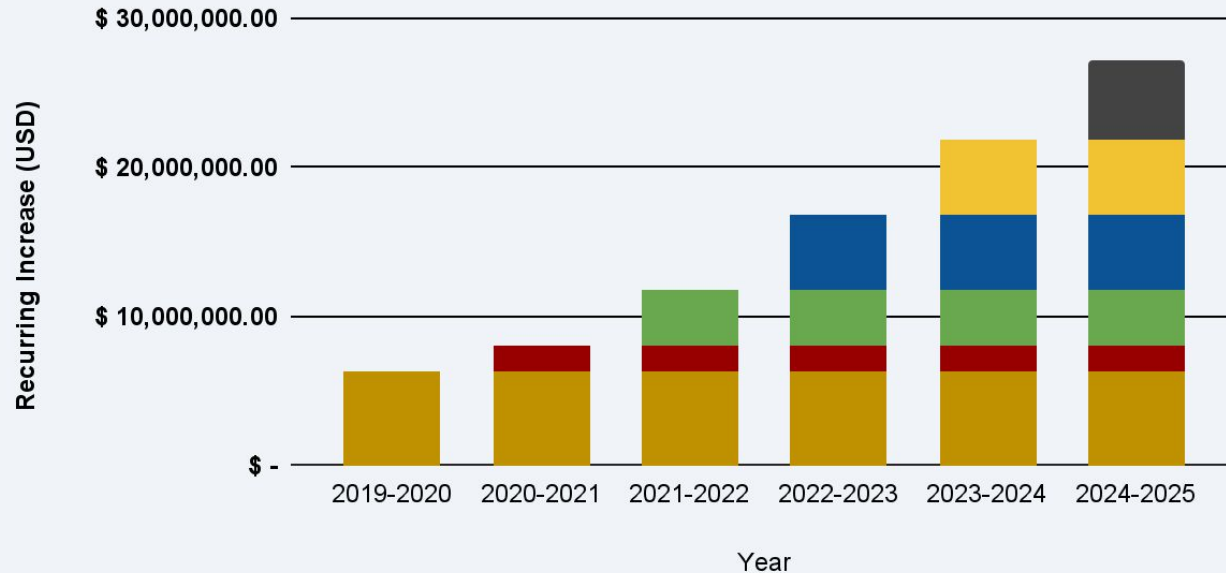


GOAL 1

**Provide
Competitive Staff
Compensation**

Instructional Compensation Since 2019-2020

Recurring Increases for Instructional Personnel (2019-2020 to 2024-2025)



The Board has increased base salaries for instructional personnel by \$27.1 million over six years.

The total increase of compensation for all employees for this period of time is approximately \$49.6 M.

2019-2020	\$6.3 M
2020-2021	\$1.8 M
2021-2022	\$3.6 M
2022-2023	\$5.1 M
2023-2024	\$5.0 M
2024-2025	\$5.3 M

Strategic Financial Goals



GOAL 1

**Provide
Competitive Staff
Compensation**



GOAL 2

**Increase Fiscal
and Operational
Efficiency**

Increase Fiscal and Operational Efficiency

- This must be a goal during a time when revenue is tight
 - Decreasing funds means you will need to be efficient in order to maximize your revenue
- This isn't just about cutting the budget; it is about improving systems that can withstand uncertainty, without impacting student services.
- This area involves streamlining administrative processes, implementing efficient budgeting and financial management practices, and optimizing the allocation of resources to support instructional and non-instructional activities.
- It also encompasses strategies to improve facilities management, technology infrastructure, and safety measures within the school system.



Fiscal Responsibility: Audits

- Operational: Private auditing firms and State Auditor General
- Financial: Private auditing firms and State Auditor General
- Single Audit: Private auditing firms and State Auditor General
- FDOE Audit: Federal and state grants
- FDOE Audit: Workforce development
- FDOE Audit: ESOL
- FDOE Audit: School meals
- Agency for Healthcare Administration (Medicaid)
- FTE Audit
- Informational Technology Audit
- Board's Internal Audit



Strategic Financial Goals



GOAL 1

**Provide
Competitive Staff
Compensation**



GOAL 2

**Increase Fiscal
and Operational
Efficiency**



GOAL 3

**Strengthen
the Fund
Balance**

Strengthening the Fund Balance

- The General Fund is the primary operating fund for all District activities (salaries, supplies, utilities, etc.).
- Florida statute requires a minimum fund balance of 3% for all school districts.
- Currently in Clay, 3% is equal to \$11.52 million.
- The January 15th payroll cycle for Clay County District Schools was approx. \$13.6 M (approx. 3.4%).



Strengthening the Fund Balance CON'T.

Strengthening the fund balance ensures we can pay salaries, retirement benefits, and medical benefits for staff in volatile times:

- Student vouchers
- Enrollment shifts
- Financial uncertainty (federal and state)
- Legislative shifts

It also improves our bond rating (“credit score”), reducing interest cost on money borrowed.



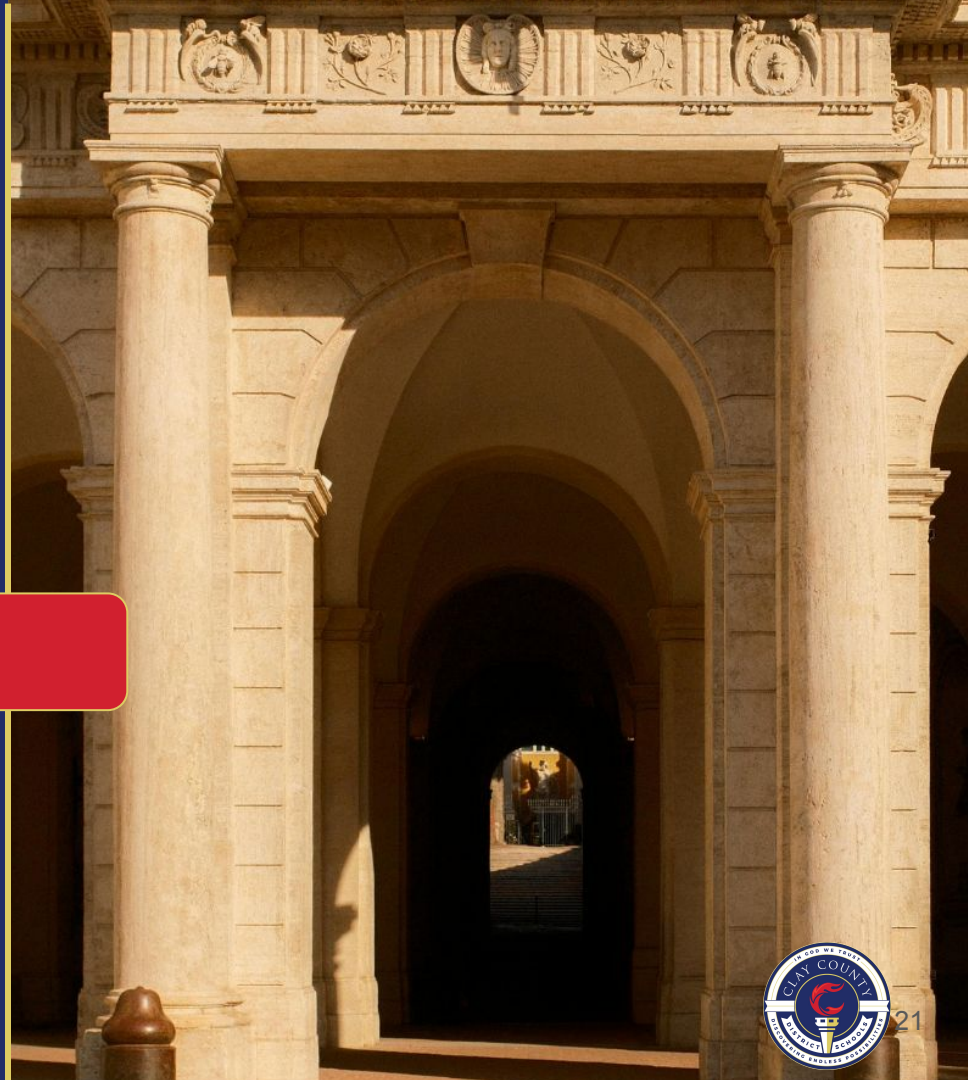
STATEWIDE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

PREVIOUS ACTION STEPS

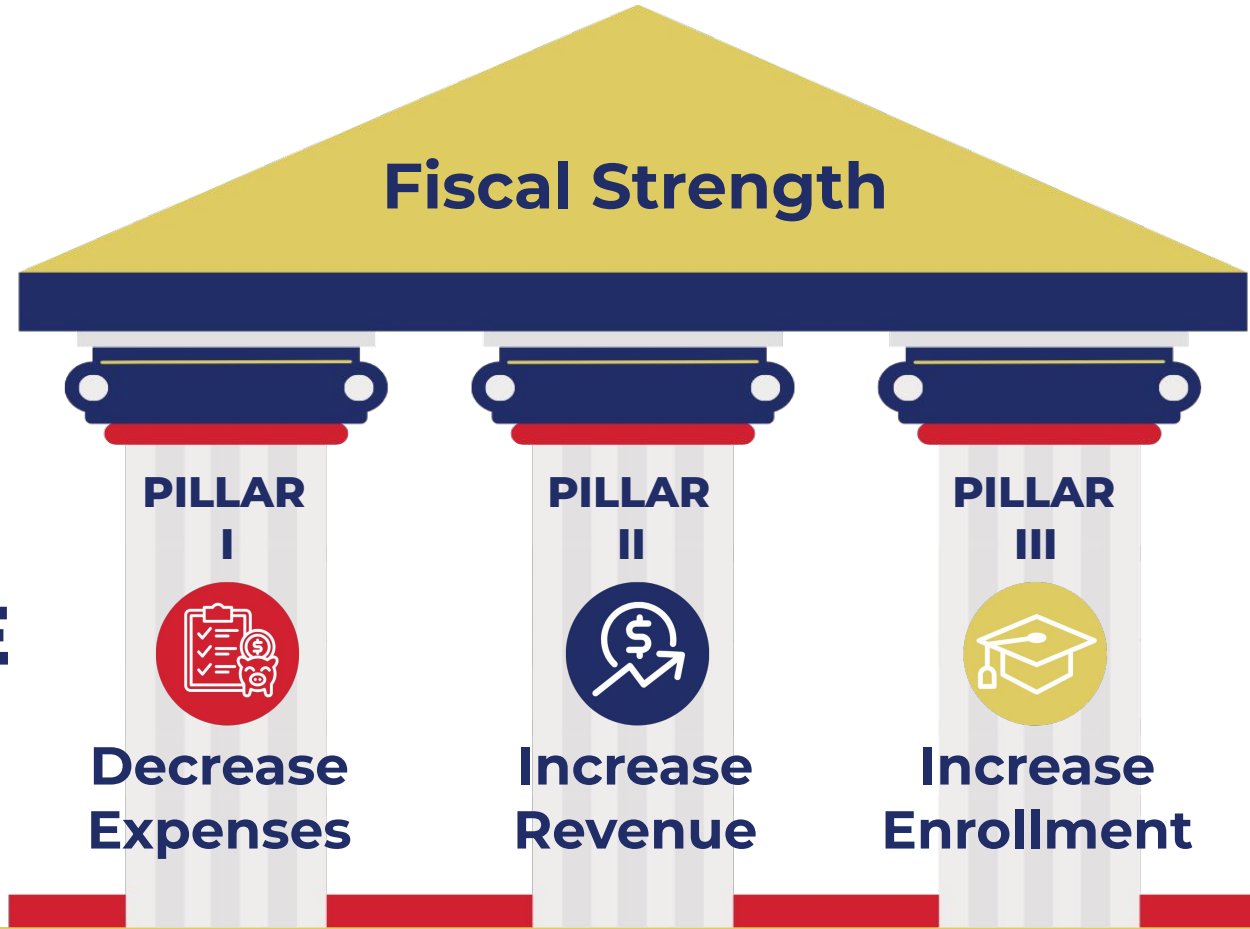
STRATEGIC FINANCIAL GOALS

**PILLARS OF THE
FINANCIAL RENAISSANCE**

NEXT STEPS



PILLARS OF THE FINANCIAL RENAISSANCE



Pillar I: Decrease Expenses

Personnel and Staffing

- Conduct a comprehensive review of all allocations and funding sources
- Conduct a comprehensive review of all supplements

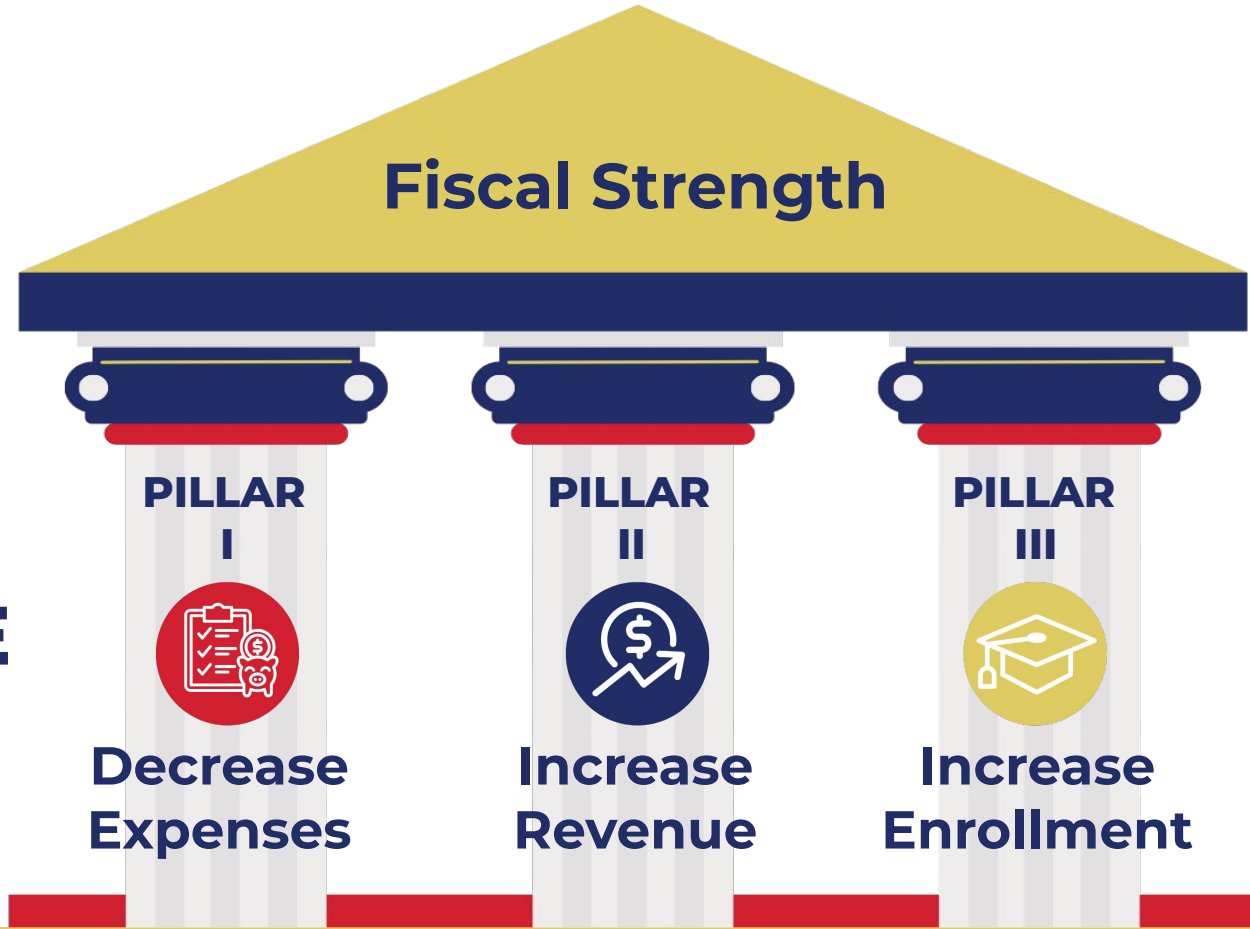
Budget Controls

- Review payroll process
- Reevaluate the process for closing the current year's budget
- Conduct budget meetings with all departments

Operations

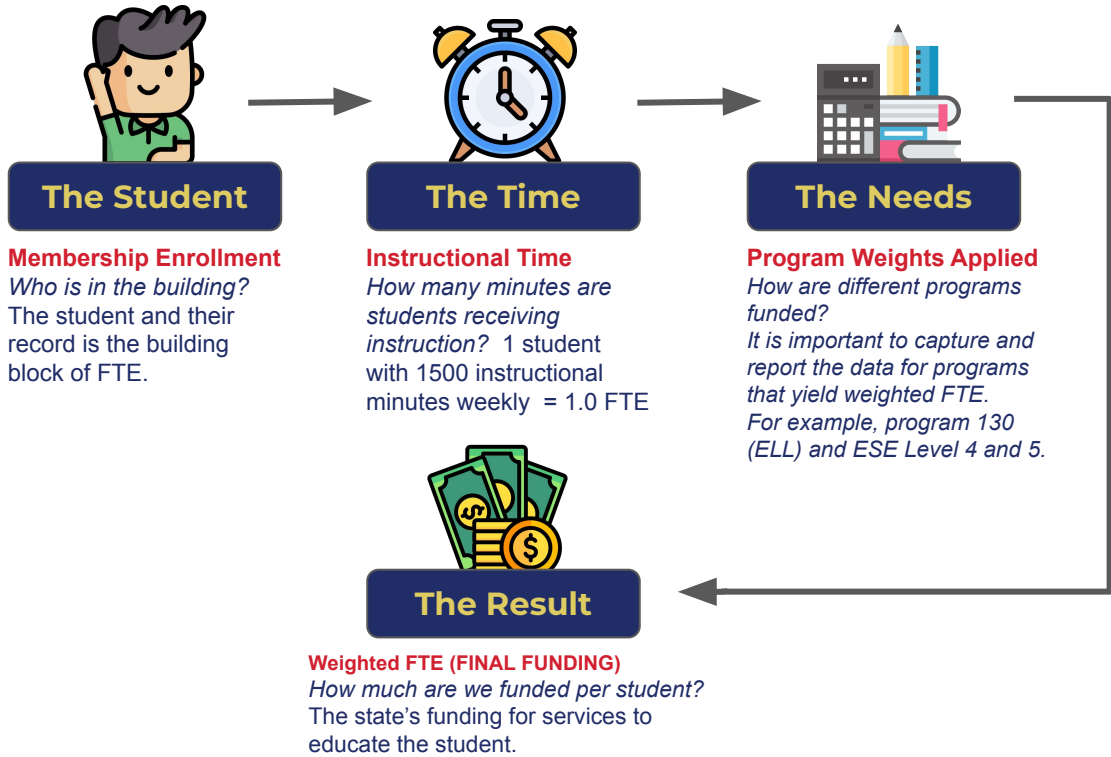
- Reduce the White Fleet
- Review contracts
- Review school boundaries

PILLARS OF THE FINANCIAL RENAISSANCE



Pillar II: Increase Revenue

Maximizing FTE



Program	Description	Cost Factor
101	Basic Ed (KG-3)	1.108
102	Basic Ed (4-8)	1.00
103	Basic Ed (9-12)	.972
111	Basic PK-3 w/ ESE Services	1.108
112	Basic 4-8 w/ ESE Services	1.000
113	Basic 9-12 w/ ESE Services	.972
130	ESOL	1.165
254	ESE Support Level 4	3.609
255	ESE Support Level 5	6.064
300	CTE (9-12)	1.081

Pillar II: Increase Revenue

One Mill

2018 – Present

Safety and Security for Students and Staff

- Safety and Security personnel, including CCSO, GCSPD, and OPPD
- Fencing
- Mechanical gates
- Cameras
- Badging
- Upgraded locks and hardware
- Single points of entry
- Centegix, in compliance with Alyssa's Law requiring silent panic alarms directly linked to law enforcement

2026 Renewal

Continuing:

- Safety and Security personnel
- School hardening maintenance

In Addition:

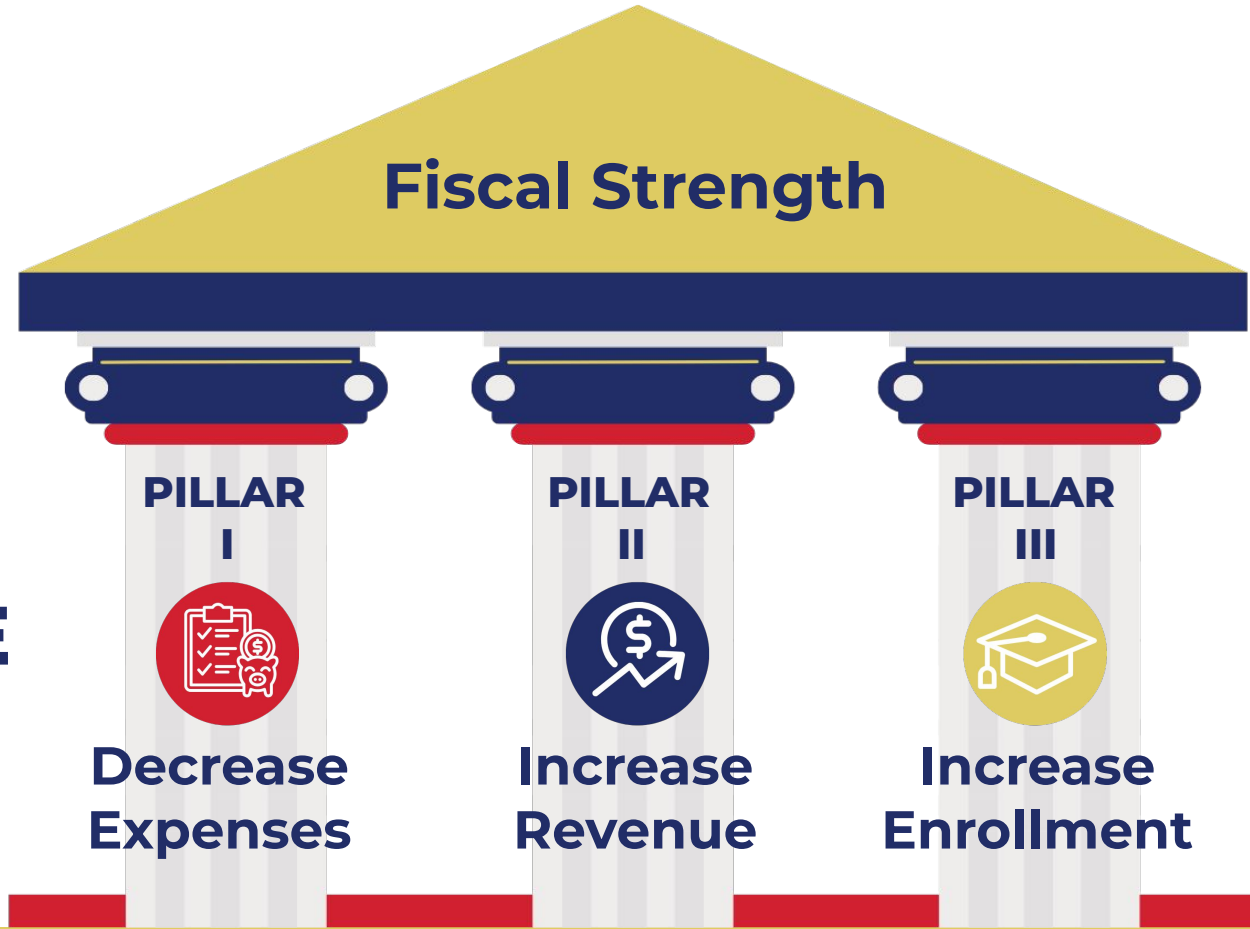
- A portion for competitive staff compensation to attract and retain top-tier personnel

Pillar II: Increase Revenue

One Mill Renewal

ONE MILL RENEWAL: PROPOSED TIMELINE	
Timeline	Item
January 27, 2026	WORKSHOP: Present timeline and funding need
February/March 2026	Draft Formal Resolution and Ballot Language
March 24, 2026	WORKSHOP: PRESENTATION - One Mill
April 2, 2026	BOARD MEETING: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice of Referendum and Resolution
April 14, 2026	BCC MEETING: Board of County Commissioners (BCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopted Resolution to the BCC
June 12 at 12:00 PM	DEADLINE for the BCC to submit the Referendum language to the Supervisor of Elections
October 1st & 15th, 2026	ADVERTISE in Clay Today and on our website <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Notice: At least 30 days' notice must be given before the election. This typically involves newspaper publications in the fifth and third weeks prior to the election.
November 3, 2026	GENERAL ELECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Election Requirement: Under Section 1011.73(3), F.S., millage referendums MUST be held only at a general election.

PILLARS OF THE FINANCIAL RENAISSANCE



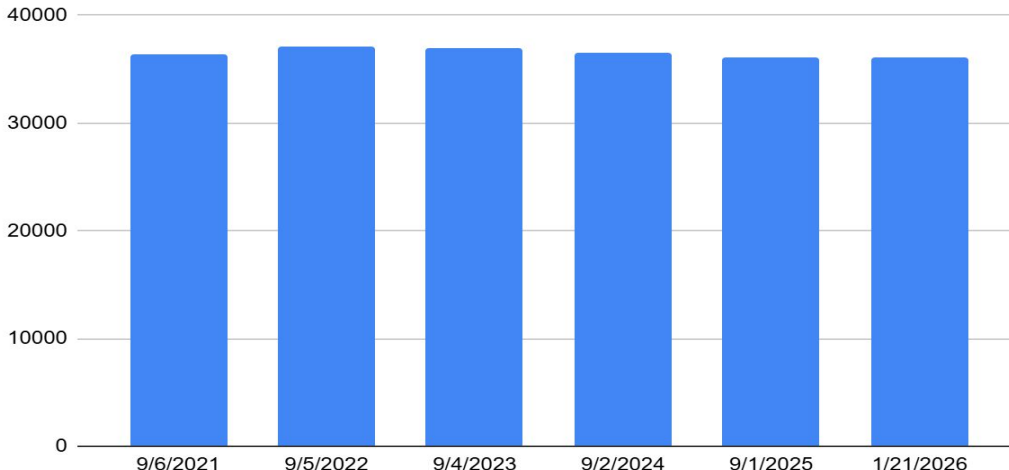
Pillar III: Enrollment Campaign

The Enrollment Council meets monthly to discuss enrollment trends and create action steps for recruitment and retention, such as website updates, registration rallies, and simplifying the enrollment process.



Enrollment is up from September 2025 to January 2026

Total Enrollment in District Managed Schools



9/6/2021	36455
9/5/2022	37038
9/4/2023	36913
9/2/2024	36490
9/1/2025	36085
1/21/2026	36144



Pillar III: Enrollment Campaign con'T.

Digital Excellence & Brand Storytelling

Using Apptegy to share our school stories and keep every family connected.



Capturing the Entry Points

Helping every family find the perfect learning path for their child within our district.



The “Family Experience”

Making it easier than ever for families to connect with us in meaningful and positive ways.



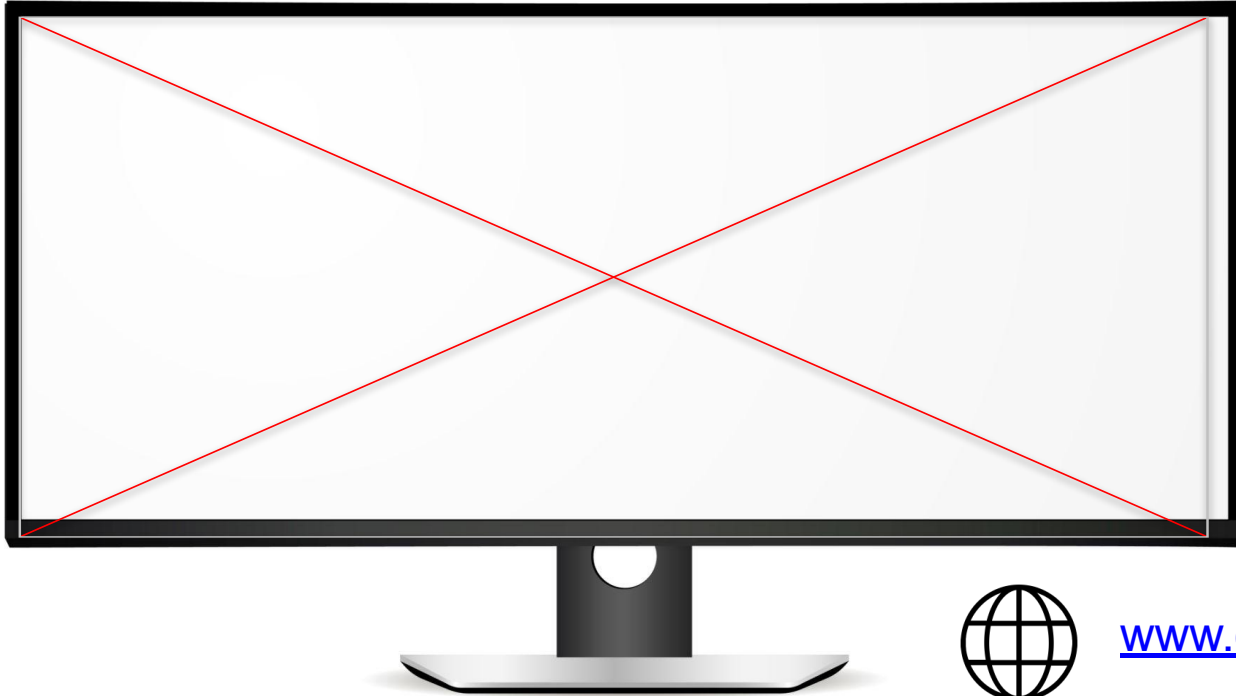
Staying Engaged with OneClay



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