

2025–2026 Budget



■ June 9, 2025

Dr. Paula D. Knight, Superintendent

Mrs. Victoria A. Glaspy, Chief Financial Officer



Jennings School District

2025-2026 Budget

School Board Members



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Jennings School District

Schools

ELEMENTARY

- FAIRVIEW PRIMARY
- FAIRVIEW INTERMEDIATE
- NORTHVIEW ELEMENTARY
- WOODLAND ELEMENTARY
- HANRAHAN ELEMENTARY

JUNIOR HIGH

- JOHNSON JENNINGS JUNIOR HIGH

HIGH

- JENNINGS SENIOR HIGH



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Introduction



The Jennings School District is dedicated to providing quality educational services to students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Our district serves a diverse community and offers a comprehensive range of academic, extracurricular, and support services. Our facilities include five elementary schools, one junior high, and one senior high school, all of which are focused on creating a safe and engaging environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, we are pleased to present the proposed budget for the District. The budget is a reflection of our commitment to delivering excellence in education while carefully managing our resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of our schools. We have worked collaboratively with educators, administrators, staff, and community members to develop a financial plan that supports both the immediate and future needs of our students and schools.

The proposed budget prioritizes key areas such as enhancing educational programs, expanding professional development for our dedicated staff, and maintaining safe, modern, and well-equipped facilities. We are also focused on addressing the unique of our student population, providing additional support services, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, and we have worked to ensure that this budget reflects a balance between supporting the academic needs of our students and being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. This budget also accounts for changes in funding sources, inflationary pressures, and the evolving needs of our District.

Thank you for your continued support of the Jennings School District. Together, we can ensure that our students have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed and grow in the coming years.

Summary of Budget

The Budget Process

Creating and managing the District's budget is an ongoing process throughout the year. The fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends on June 30, but preparation begins in the preceding year. Once school is in session during the fall, planning for the upcoming year kicks off. Initial projections for enrollment and staff are made, and any new or changing expenditure needs are identified in areas such as curriculum and student services. The capital project plan is also reviewed to determine which major repairs and improvements may be scheduled for the upcoming year.

By late in the calendar year, preliminary revenue estimates are generated. Enrollment figures, staffing needs, program changes and major projects are reviewed and refined. During the winter months, the information gathered is analyzed and adjusted. In early Spring, enrollment projections, staffing needs, and program changes are finalized, and teacher contracts for the next year are printed and distributed.

Preliminary budget details – such as budget assumptions and key projected expenditures are shared with the Board during winter and spring finance committee meetings for discussion. The final budget is present at the June meeting for approval.

The school district's budget is a dynamic document that is continuously reviewed and updated. In the coming months, the Board will be presented with proposed budget amendments to address any evolving needs.



Summary of Budget

Accounting and Reporting

The District's accounts are structured based on legally established funds, each of which operates as a separated accounting entity. Each fund is managed with its own set of self-balancing accounts that track its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures, all using the modified cash basis of accounting. Resources are allocated to and tracked in individual funds based on their intended purposes and the controls in place for their expenditures.

The district's revenues and expenditures are maintained across four primary funds:

- **General Fund:** This is the district's main operating fund, covering expenditures for non-certified employees, pupil transportation, facility operations, student body activities, community services, food service programs, and any other costs not required or permitted to be recorded in other funds.
- **Special Revenue (Teachers') Fund:** This fund tracks revenue from specific taxes or other designated sources. It accounts for expenditures related to certified employees involved in administration and instruction, including revenues, designated by state and local tax levies for teacher salaries and benefits.
- **Debt Service Fund:** This fund receives revenue from the debt service tax levy and other earmarked sources, using these funds exclusively for making principal and interest payments on the district's long-term debt. These funds are restricted for this purpose only.
- **Capital Projects Fund:** This fund tracks major capital expenditures, including bond proceeds. It can only be used for land acquisition, building construction, and other significant capital projects as specified in bond issue documents.

Revenues

Property Taxes

Property taxes are determined based on the assessed valuation, which is the value assigned to real estate and personal property within the district. By May 31 of odd-numbered assessment years, the county assessor must provide the assessed valuation for the year, with updated figures reported in the summer and fall.

The district must submit its tax levy to the County Clerk before October 1. Prior to setting the tax rate, the district is required to hold a public hearing, allowing citizens to voice their opinions on the proposed rate. Public notice of the hearing must be made at least seven days in advance.

This was a reassessment year – where the county assigns new values to residential and commercial properties – and the assessed valuation for the property in the JSD boundary increased by 35.4 percent. The projected new rate is expected to be near \$3.0847 for residential properties and \$3.4082 for commercial real estate. The personal property rate is now projected to be \$4.8034.

The final tax rate will be determined in September, based on the most up-to-date data available at that time. Using current information, the 2025–2026 blended real estate tax rate is projected to be \$4.3161, broken down as follows:

- General Fund: \$3.3991
- Debt Service Fund: \$0.9170
- Total Tax Levy: \$4.3161

Prop C Sales Tax

A statewide 1% sales tax is collected and sent to the State, which then redistributes the funds to school districts on a per-pupil basis. Over the past few years, the collections and payments to districts have seen a significant increase. However, over the past year, there has been a slowdown in spending statewide, which has reduced the amount of Prop C sales taxes received. The trend is expected to continue for the 25–26 school year.

State Funding

The majority of state funding for the district is determined by student attendance and enrollment figures, along with other relevant data that must be reported to the state by June 15 each year.

Before the 2006–2007 school year, the state changed its funding formula for school districts. Under the previous formula, the Jennings School District received more funding per student than under the new formula. As a result, the district was designated as "hold-harmless" meaning it continued to receive the higher per-student amount from the old-formula. The hold-Harmless amount for Jennings is approximately \$5,586 per student.



Typically, the District receives state funding based on the highest average daily attendance (ADA) from the current two prior years. For the 2024–2025 school year, the state used attendance numbers from the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 school years. These attendance numbers are adjusted, or "weighted," for districts with higher percentages of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

In 2024–2025, the weighted ADA was 2327.95, which was the highest from the two fiscal years of 2023–2024 and 2024–2025.

Enrollment and attendance are expected to remain stable for the 2025–2026 school year. Enrollment will be based on the 2024–2025 school year, and the state funding will be based on the 2024–2025 weighted ADA of 2327.95, reflecting a 1.7% increase. The State Adequacy Target is projected to increase to \$7,145 for the 2025–2026 school year, however, we will continue to budget conservatively and budget at the current amount of \$6,760 until a clearer resolution around state funding is gained. As a result of these changes, funding under the state formula is expected to essentially remain at the same funding level, because of the slight increase in enrollment.

Additionally, the state will provide extra funding for preschool programs in the 2025–2026 school year, with the district expected to receive approximately \$725,000.

Federal Revenue

Federal revenue has significantly decreased over the past year due to the ending of ESSER pandemic funds. It was expected that federal revenue would normalize the 2024–2025 school year and it did. For the 2025–2026 school year, Federal revenue is expected to be at about the same levels as the 2024–2025 school year now that the pandemic funds have ended.

Expenditures

Key changes to the 2025–2026 Operating Budget compared to the current year include:

- Staff on the teacher salary scale will get a raise of 2.25%
- Increases of up to 12% for District Administrators at the building level
- Employee health insurance costs will increase by 18%
- The addition of approximately 2 new staff positions, PCBL Coordinator and Bus Monitor
- \$250,000 earmarked for flexible seating for classrooms
- Increased funding for the performing arts
- Allocation of \$200,000 for District capital improvements (2 Vehicles, Painting, and Roofing)
- Allocation of Prop J funds
- Contingency accounts for the Superintendent and CFO to cover unforeseen expenses

Fund Balances

During the 2024–2025 school year, the district experienced a notable increase in its fund balances, with the operating fund projected to reach 68.20% by June 30, 2025. Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, the district is continuing its planned strategic spending of both operating and Proposition J funds, with increased expenditures aligned to support strategic priorities and capital improvement projects. Despite the rise in expenditures, the year-end operating fund balance is expected to remain stable at approximately \$26.5 million, representing around 71.7 % of total annual expenditures.



Bond Indebtedness

In April 2016, voters approved a \$3 million bond for additional renovations and improvements. The bond were sold in July 2016, along with \$5.8 million in refunding bonds used to pay off older, higher-interest debt.

In April 2020, the district issued \$4.445 million in bonds to refinance older bonds, resulting in additional interest savings.

The district's total bonded debt is \$17,650,000. Payments for principal and interest are made from the Debt Service Fund, and the levy in the Debt Service Fund is sufficient to cover these required payments.

On August 6, 2024, voters approved Proposition J where \$9,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds was issued for the purpose of constructing, renovating, improving, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities for school purposed. On November 26, 2024 the \$9,000,000 of bonds was issued at a premium, generating additional funds for the district to spend toward capital projects. The Debt Service Levy, remains unchanged at \$0.99 per \$100 of assessed valuation for real and personal property.

The final budget will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at the June 9, 2025 meeting.

A school district's budget is a living document that is continuously reviewed and upated. Throughout the year, the Board will be presented with proposed budget amendments to address changing needs.

Revenue, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balance

The first page provides an overview of all funds combined, giving a comprehensive summary of the district's financial position. Following this, each individual fund is detailed on separate pages, offering a more specific breakdown of the financial activities and balances for each fund. These sections ensure a clear understanding of the allocation and management of resources across all areas of the district's budget.

- **Total All Funds**
- **General Fund**
- **Special Revenue Fund**
- **Debt Service Fund**
- **Capital Projects Fund**



Jennings School District
Summary of 2025-2026 Budget
Revenues, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balances

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Total All Funds
Estimated Balances 06/30/25	30,299,687	-	1,399,168	262,021	31,960,876
REVENUE	20,710,325	13,422,095	1,338,325	851,000	36,321,745
BALANCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	19,040,063	17,905,397	1,459,000	3,375,950	41,780,410
Balances Before Transfers	31,969,949	(4,483,302)	1,278,493	(2,262,929)	26,502,211
TRANSFERS	(6,746,231)	4,483,302	-	2,262,929	-
BUDGETED BALANCE AS OF 06-30-2026	25,223,718	-	1,278,493	-	26,502,211
OPERATING FUNDS					
SURPLUS (DEFICIT/SPEND DOWN)	(5,075,969)				

FUND BALANCE ANALYSIS - COMBINED GENERAL & SPECIAL FUNDS

ESTIMATED BALANCE 06-30-25	30,299,687
REVENUE	34,132,420
EXPENDITURES	36,945,460
BUDGETED BALANCE 06-30-2026	25,223,718
BALANCE AS PERCENT OF EXPENDITURES	73.90%

Jennings School District

Summary of 2025-2026 Budget

Revenues, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balances

TOTAL ALL FUNDS

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2025-26	BUDGET 2024-25	ACTUAL 2023-2024	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ACUTAL 2021-2022
REVENUE					
Local	13,236,537	13,050,702	13,525,736	11,745,738	10,618,478
County	380,000	407,275	413,676	411,805	418,506
State	17,853,208	14,916,500	15,877,291	15,104,256	14,961,745
Federal	4,795,000	6,739,624	12,597,223	9,978,408	9,179,819
Other Local	-	-	-	22,642	27,378
Amounts received from other LEAs	57,000	27,000	35,531	94,259	77,096
TOTAL REVENUE	36,321,745	35,141,101	42,449,457	37,357,108	35,283,022
EXPENDITURES					
Certificated Salaries	13,761,422	13,718,113	12,648,242	13,454,006	12,770,920
Non-Certificated Salaries	5,994,588	5,602,464	5,532,962	4,863,825	4,539,429
Employee Benefits	6,571,777	5,994,983	5,339,265	5,251,492	5,027,013
Purchased Services	6,841,029	6,426,733	6,043,501	4,732,066	4,488,788
Materials & Supplies	3,776,644	3,180,335	3,157,743	3,907,911	2,381,938
Capital Outlay	3,375,950	562,944	396,036	54,913	866,221
Short & Long-Term Debt	1,459,000	979,362	1,217,295	1,491,380	1,210,127
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	41,780,410	36,464,934	34,335,044	33,755,593	31,284,436
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(5,458,665)	(1,323,833)	8,114,413	3,601,515	3,998,586
TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	-
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	24,759,901	26,083,734	17,969,321	14,367,807	10,369,221
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	19,301,236	24,759,901	26,083,734	17,969,322	14,367,807

Revenues, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balances

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2025-26	BUDGET 2024-25	ACTUAL 2023-2024	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ACUTAL 2021-2022
REVENUE					
Local	9,587,077	10,366,400	10,039,254	8,494,199	6,762,468
County	315,000	352,000	351,735	361,685	355,196
State	6,050,248	5,186,500	10,381,748	4,745,313	4,527,312
Federal	4,701,000	6,645,000	6,818,424	4,124,182	3,048,299
Other Local	-	-	-	4,426	2,993
Amounts received from other LEAs	57,000	27,000	-	94,259	24,385
TOTAL REVENUE	20,710,325	22,576,900	27,591,161	17,824,064	14,720,653
EXPENDITURES					
Certificated Salaries	-	50,000	59,470	28,696	700
Non-Certificated Salaries	5,994,588	5,602,464	5,532,962	4,863,825	4,539,429
Employee Benefits	2,427,802	1,981,412	1,845,087	1,542,779	1,483,743
Purchased Services	6,841,029	6,426,733	6,043,501	4,732,066	4,488,788
Materials & Supplies	3,776,644	3,180,335	3,157,743	3,907,911	2,381,938
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Short & Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	19,040,063	17,240,944	16,638,763	15,075,277	12,894,598
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	1,670,262	5,335,956	10,952,398	2,748,787	1,826,055
TRANSFERS	(6,746,231)	-	-	-	-
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	29,634,065	24,298,109	13,345,711	10,596,925	8,770,869
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	24,558,096	29,634,065	24,298,109	13,345,712	10,596,924

Jennings School District

Summary of 2025-2026 Budget

Revenues, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balances

TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2025-26	BUDGET 2024-25	ACTUAL 2023-2024	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ACTUAL 2021-2022
REVENUE					
Local	1,485,135	1,390,000	1,548,250	1,541,515	1,341,844
County	40,000	30,000	31,592	23,687	10,102
State	11,802,960	9,730,000	10,381,748	10,358,942	10,434,433
Federal	94,000	94,624	6,818,424	5,854,226	6,131,520
Other Local	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts received from other LEAs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	13,422,095	11,244,624	18,780,014	17,778,370	17,917,899
EXPENDITURES					
Certificated Salaries	13,761,422	13,668,113	12,588,772	13,425,310	12,770,220
Non-Certificated Salaries	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	4,143,975	4,013,571	3,494,178	3,708,713	3,543,270
Purchased Services	-	-	-	-	-
Materials & Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Short & Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	17,905,397	17,681,684	16,082,950	17,134,023	16,313,490
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(4,483,302)	(6,437,060)	2,697,064	644,347	1,604,409
TRANSFERS	4,483,302	1,491,241	-	-	-
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	-	4,945,819	2,248,755	1,604,407	-
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	-	-	4,945,819	2,248,754	1,604,409

Jennings School District

Summary of 2025-2026 Budget

Revenues, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balances

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2025-26	BUDGET 2024-25	ACTUAL 2023-2024	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ACUTAL 2021-2022
REVENUE					
Local	1,313,325	1,293,902	1,356,361	1,086,907	1,056,309
County	25,000	25,275	30,349	26,433	24,548
State	-	-	-	-	-
Federal	-	-	-	-	-
Other Local	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts received from other LEAs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	1,338,325	1,319,177	1,386,710	1,113,340	1,080,857
EXPENDITURES					
Certificated Salaries	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Certificated Salaries	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Purchased Services	-	-	-	-	-
Materials & Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Short & Long-Term Debt	1,459,000	933,850	1,176,414	1,335,209	924,536
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,459,000	933,850	1,176,414	1,335,209	924,536
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(120,675)	385,327	210,296	(221,869)	156,321
TRANSFERS			-	-	-
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	1,399,166	1,013,839	803,543	1,025,412	869,091
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	1,278,491	1,399,166	1,013,839	803,543	1,025,412

Jennings School District

Summary of 2025-2026 Budget

Revenues, Expenditures, Transfers, and Fund Balances

TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2025-26	BUDGET 2024-25	ACTUAL 2023-2024	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ACTUAL 2021-2022
REVENUE					
Local	851,000	400	581,870	623,118	1,534,954
County	-	-	-	-	28,660
State	-	-	-	-	-
Federal	-	-	-	-	-
Other Local	-	-	-	18,216	-
Amounts received from other LEAs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	851,000	400	581,870	641,334	1,563,614
EXPENDITURES					
Certificated Salaries	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Certificated Salaries	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Purchased Services	-	-	-	-	-
Materials & Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	3,375,950	562,944	396,036	54,913	866,221
Short & Long-Term Debt	-	45,512	40,881	156,171	285,591
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,375,950	608,456	436,917	211,084	1,151,812
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(2,524,950)	(608,056)	144,953	430,250	411,802
TRANSFERS	2,262,929		-	-	-
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	1,108,209	1,716,265	1,571,312	1,141,063	729,261
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	846,188	1,108,209	1,716,265	1,571,313	1,141,063

Schedule of Bonded Indebtedness



Bond Payment Schedule

JENNINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND PAYMENT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2025

DATE	ISSUE 2016		ISSUE 2020		ISSUE 2024		FISCAL YEAR TOTAL
	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	
Sep-25		73,200		63,000		343,750	
Mar-26		73,200	250,000	63,000	730,000	225,000	1,821,150
Sep-26		73,200		58,000		206,750	
Mar-27		73,200	500,000	58,000	300,000	206,750	1,475,900
Sep-27		73,200		48,000		199,250	
Mar-28		73,200	600,000	48,000	235,000	199,250	1,475,900
Sep-28		73,200		36,000		193,375	
Mar-29	275,000	73,200	450,000	36,000	145,000	193,375	1,475,150
Sep-29		69,075		27,000		189,750	
Mar-30	110,000	69,075	650,000	27,000		189,750	1,331,650
Sep-30		67,425		14,000		189,750	
Mar-31	90,000	67,425	700,000	14,000		189,750	1,332,350
Sep-31		66,075				189,750	
Mar-32	830,000	66,075				189,750	1,341,650
Sep-32		53,625				189,750	
Mar-33	855,000	53,625				189,750	1,341,750
Sep-33		40,800				189,750	
Mar-34	880,000	40,800				189,750	1,341,100
Sep-34		27,600				189,750	
Mar-35	905,000	27,600				189,750	1,339,700
Sep-35		14,025				189,750	
Mar-36	935,000	14,025				189,750	1,342,550
Sep-36						189,750	
Mar-37					790,000	189,750	1,169,500
Sep-37						170,000	
Mar-38					830,000	170,000	1,170,000
Sep-38						149,250	
Mar-39					875,000	149,250	1,173,500
Sep-39						127,375	
Mar-40					920,000	127,375	1,174,750
Sep-40						104,375	
Mar-41					965,000	104,375	1,173,750
Sep-41						80,250	
Mar-42					1,015,000	80,250	1,175,500
Sep-42						54,875	
Mar-43					1,070,000	54,875	1,179,750
Sep-43						28,125	
Mar-44					1,125,000	28,125	1,181,250
TOTALS	4,880,000	1,262,850	3,150,000	492,000	9,000,000	6,232,000	25,016,850

Conclusion

The 2025–2026 budget positions the Jennings School District to continue to delivering high-quality education while maintaining strong financial stewardship. It strategically directs resources toward enhancing student achievement, supporting and retaining dedicated staff, expanding academic and extracurricular opportunities, and improving school facilities across the district.

With a projected fund balance of \$26.5 million (71.7%), the District will remain fiscally sound even as it increases spending in priority areas. Key investments – such as staff compensation, flexible learning spaces, expanded preschool programming, and infrastructure upgrades – reflect a thoughtful balance between current needs and long-term sustainability.

This budget also prepares the District to adapt to changing circumstances, with built-in contingency funds and a commitment to ongoing review and adjustment through future amendments. The continued implementation of Prop J capital funds will further enhance the physical learning environment and help fulfill the promises made to the community.

In summary, the 2025–2026 budget is a student-centered, future-focused plan that supports educational excellence while keeping to our commitment of financial stability. Through collaborative planning and sound financial practices, the District is well-positioned to support every learner, every day.

