Carver Public Schools

Balanced FY27 Operating Budget

March 9, 2026

Presentation Summary:

1. **FY27 Budget Priorities**

2. **Operating Budget**
   - Detail by DESE Category
   - Executive Summary

3. **Revenue**
   - Part I: State & Local Aid
   - Part II: Grants & Offsets
   - Executive Summary

4. **Executive Summary**

5. **Next Steps**

FY27 Operating Budget: Priorities

- Maintain level services for all students
- Carver Public Schools Educational Blueprint
- Continue development of MHS Pathways

FY27 Operating Budget

Operating Budget Overview

Operating Budget Detail by DESE Category

Operating Budget Executive Summary

FY27 Operating Budget: Overview

- Operating budget developed with input from school and program staff with the goal of maintaining level services
- Organized using DESE Function Codes for Public Accounting
- **Note that the following budget data reflects a level services budget with no new positions added and no reductions either.**

1000: District Wide Leadership & Administration

2000: Instructional Services

3000: Support & Other Services

4000: Operations

5000: Fixed Charges (Benefits & Insurances)

9000: Out of District Programs (Tuitions)

1000 Series (District Wide)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$806,088	$850,078	5.5%

- Increases in tech infrastructure. Shifting to a government linked Managed Detection & Response system. More expensive than our current solution but provides guaranteed data security compliance, data sovereignty and improved response support in the event of any data breach.
- Contractual increases for district wide staff
- Modest reduction in legal services costs. Teacher contract in place – custodians and drivers in FY27.

2000 Series (Instructional Services)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$18,499,126	$19,363,388	4.7%

- Contractual increases for staff as well as latest retirement projections
- SPED Contract Services increased to cover 1:1 RN for medically fragile student
- Google changed terms – now charging for staff access
- Note that this figure does not include new positions or RIF.

3000 Series (Support & Other Services)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$2,939,104	$3,060,290	4.1%

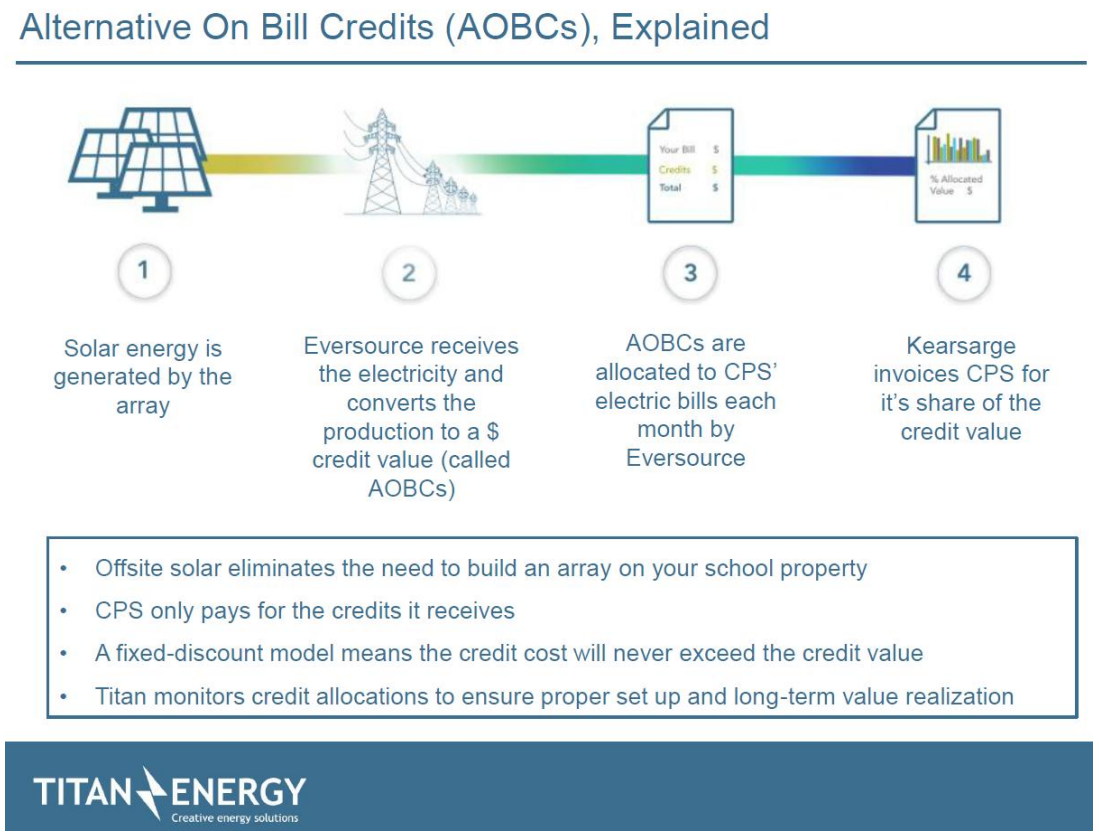
- Typical steps and lanes for nursing and transportation staff. Additional costs for nurse salaries to cover statutory medicine delegation
- In-house SPED OOD, bus monitor, homeless & foster transportation costs increased.
- Decreased contracted services transportation for SPED OOD (now covered in-house)
- Year 4 of athletics uniform replacement & new Athletic Trainer contract pending
- Does not include additional PK bus route

4000 Series (Operations & Maintenance)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$1,902,565	$2,025,406	6.5%

- This cost center has typically been one of our slowest growing but recently, expenses have been on the rise
- Contractual increases for custodial & technology staff
- Repairs costs at the MHS are up in general and in particular with HVAC repairs. CES has fewer repairs than MHS but the systems are more complex, requiring specialized services. This is particularly true of the water systems

4000 Series (Operations & Maintenance)



- Electricity & gas costs are up with new rates. MHS now includes Greenhouse & Culinary Gas Costs.
- However, school department projected to realize some electricity savings through pending AOBC (Alternative On-Bill Credits) agreement
- AOBCs allow CPS to buy a portion of the building's electricity as alternative energy (solar in this case) at a fixed discount rate through a direct credit.

5000 Series (Fixed Costs & Benefits)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$619,335	$651,153	5.1%

- Main cost driver is liability insurance costs which are currently projected at 7.5% and Medicare at just under 10%
- Early retirement costs are projected to increase
- Savings through carryover insurance costs coming down from retired Plymouth-Carver Regional employees as well as reductions in workers' comp

9000 Series (Tuitions – Out of District)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$2,946,571	$2,822,292	-4.2%

9000s reflects costs for enrollments beyond Carver which includes:

- Special education out of district
- Any vocational enrollments that are not Old Colony
- Dual enrollment high school students
- CPS partnership with READS Family Success Partnership (FSP)

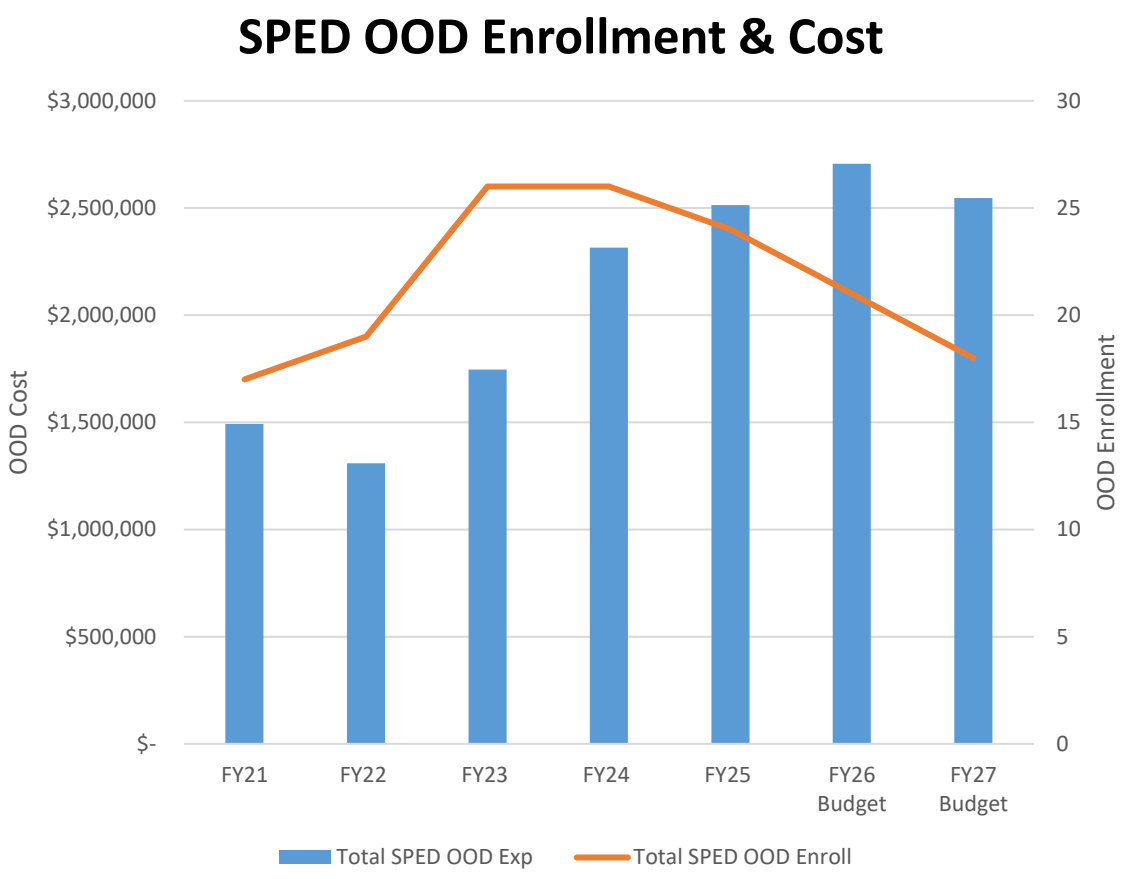
9000 Series (Tuitions – Out of District)

FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced Budget	Percent Change
$2,946,571	$2,822,292	-4.2%

- While vocational (aggie) projected enrollment increased, special education out of district projections are lower
- Less restrictive placements & services has yielded a reduction in anticipated SPED OOD costs by more than 4% next year!
- Some of these changes are occurring now, allowing the district to realize savings in FY26

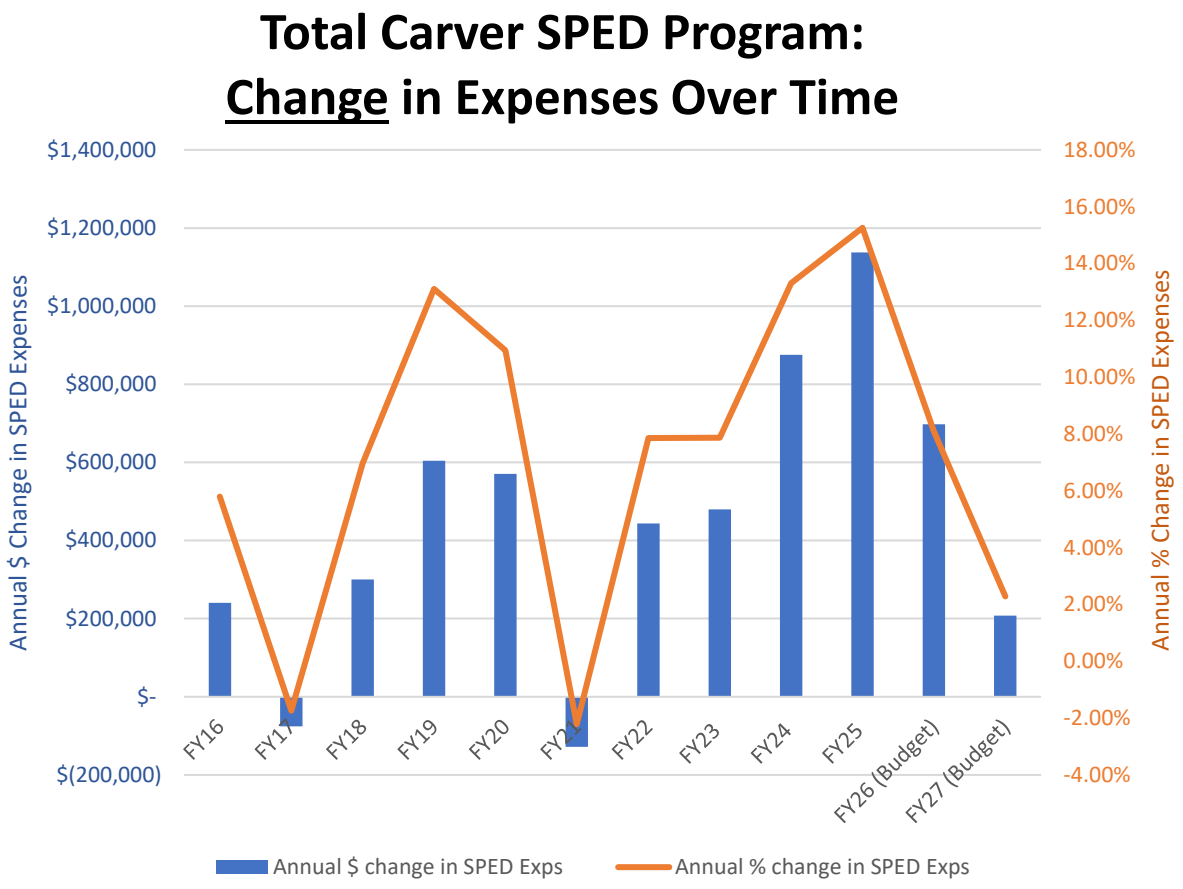
Special Education – OOD Drill Down Analysis

- Over the past few years, SPED OOD costs have been rising across the Commonwealth. This has also affected Carver.
- Overall OOD enrollments have been trending down but as seen in recent years, a larger portion of Carver students have transitioned to private (more intensive & expensive) placements vs public collaboratives
- However, for the 1st time since the Pandemic, OOD costs are projected to decrease!



Special Education – Total Cost Analysis

- Good news for Carver is that while costs are on the rise, the increase in total SPED costs is slowing and are projected to continue to slow
- The biggest driver in slowing our total SPED costs is the decreasing SPED OOD costs.
- Continuing to invest in local public programs wherever possible should both help students and manage costs in the long term



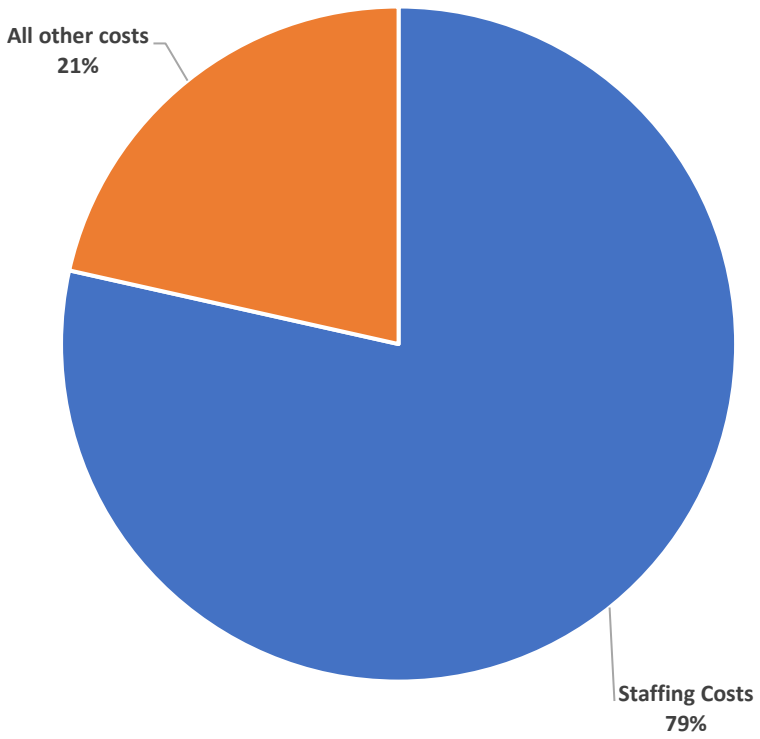
FY27 Operating Budget: Executive Summary

DESE Series	FY26 Budget	FY27 Final Balanced	% Change
1000 (DW)	$806,088	$850,078	5.5%
2000 (Instruction)	$18,499,126	$19,363,388	4.7%
3000 (Support)	$2,939,104	$3,060,290	4.1%
4000 (O&M)	$1,902,565	$2,025,406	6.5%
5000 (Benefits)	$619,335	$651,153	5.1%
9000 (Tuitions)	$2,946,571	$2,822,292	-4.2%
***Total Costs**	$27,712,789	$28,772,607	3.8%

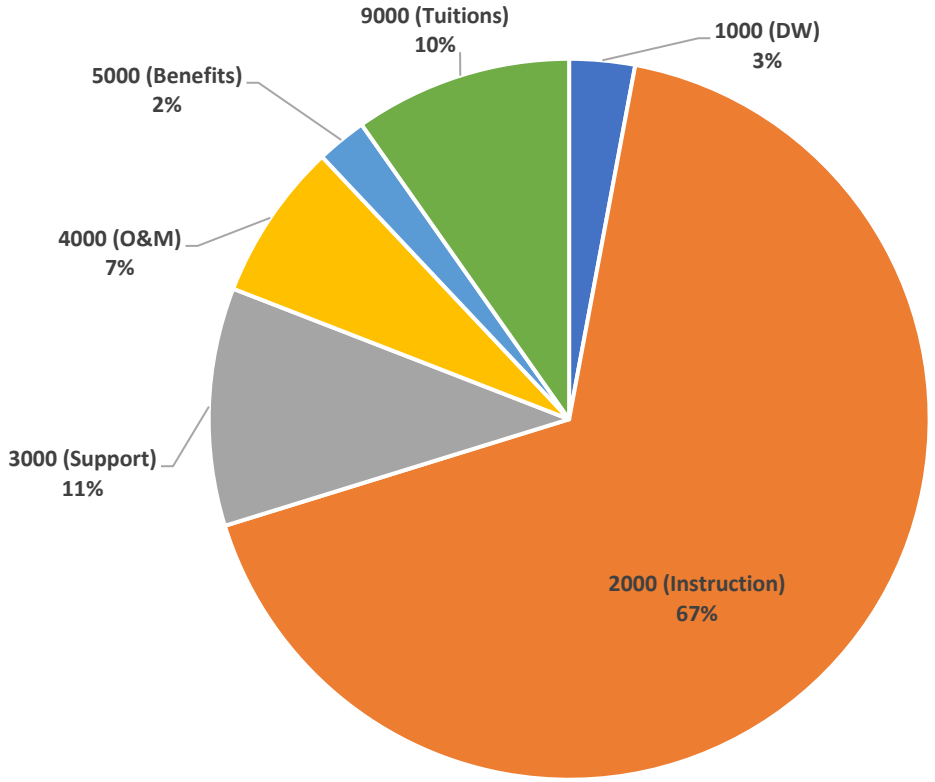
Prior to adding new positions, reducing any positions & budget offsets

FY27 Operating Budget: Executive Summary

FY27 Budget: Staffing vs All other costs



FY27 Budget: DESE Accounting Summary



FY27 Revenue

Revenue Overview

Revenue Part I: State & Local Aid

Revenue Part II: Grants & Offsets

Revenue Executive Summary

Revenue Overview: Two Funding Streams

Part I: ***State and Local Aid:*** The primary source of revenue comes from the town's local taxes plus state aid from the Commonwealth (sometimes referred to as Chapter 70) which are combined as part of the local funding formula. This figure is what you'll see in the town's annual funding appropriation (warrant).

Part II: ***Grants & Offsets:*** Grants, School Choice, Circuit Breaker and User Fees serve as secondary revenue streams which typically offset specific expenses. While these are small in comparison to state and local aid, offsets help balance the budget. Best practice is to use annually recurring offsets but not one-time funds, to balance a budget.

FY27 Revenue
Part I: State & Local Aid

The amount appropriated to Carver Schools on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Part I: State & Local Aid

- The formula is set through the Select Board.
- Available Operating Revenue is the amount of money that can be used to annually cover all municipal employees, services, supplies and materials, after backing out fixed liabilities.

$52.9M Total Revenue

-$14.5M Fixed Costs

$38.4M Available Revenue

- 68.4% of available operating revenue is appropriated to the School Department which is **$26,237,430**, an increase of **3.3%**

- This is what ends up on the town meeting warrant in April

Calculating Total Revenue		**FY27 Est.**
Local Tax Levy	$	37,540,485
Net State Aid	$	11,588,664
Net Local Receipts	$	5,393,768
Less New PILOTS	$	(1,660,295)
Total Revenue	**$**	**52,862,623**

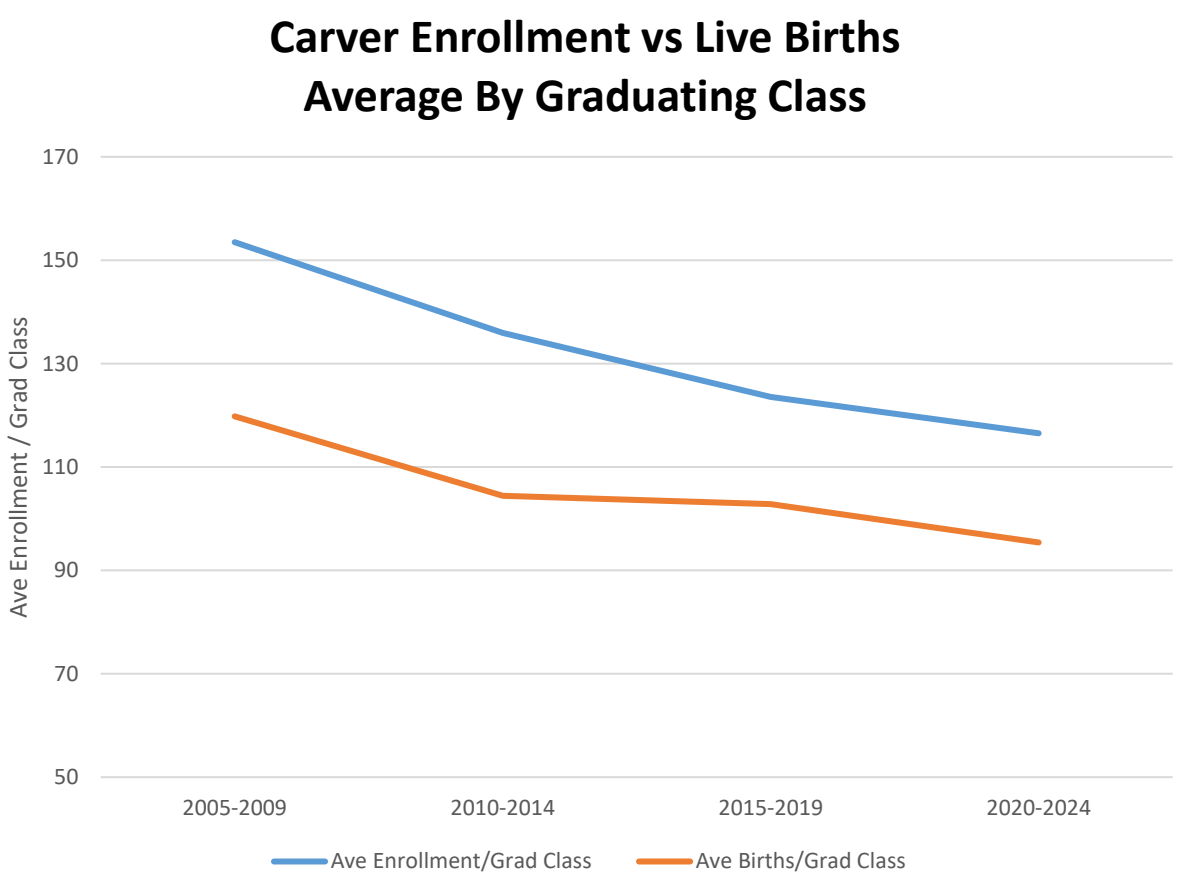
Calculating Fixed Liabilities		**FY27 Est.**
Snow and Ice Operations	$	328,496
Health Insurance	$	6,555,000
Plymouth County Retirement	$	3,732,529
Old Colony Vocational Tuition	$	1,229,306
Unemployment	$	-
Non-Excluded Debt	$	1,464,925
Excluded Debt	$	1,193,550
Total Fixed Liabilities	**$**	**14,503,806**

Calculating Available Operating Revenue		**FY27 Est.**
Total Revenue	$	52,862,623
Total Fixed Liabilities	$	(14,503,806)
Available Operating Revenue	**$**	**38,358,816**

Calculating Revenue "Split"		**FY27 Est.**
Available Operating Revenue	$	38,358,816
General Government Operating Revenue	$	12,121,386
School Department Operating Revenue	**$**	**26,237,430**

Part I: State & Local Aid: *Chapter 70 Analysis*

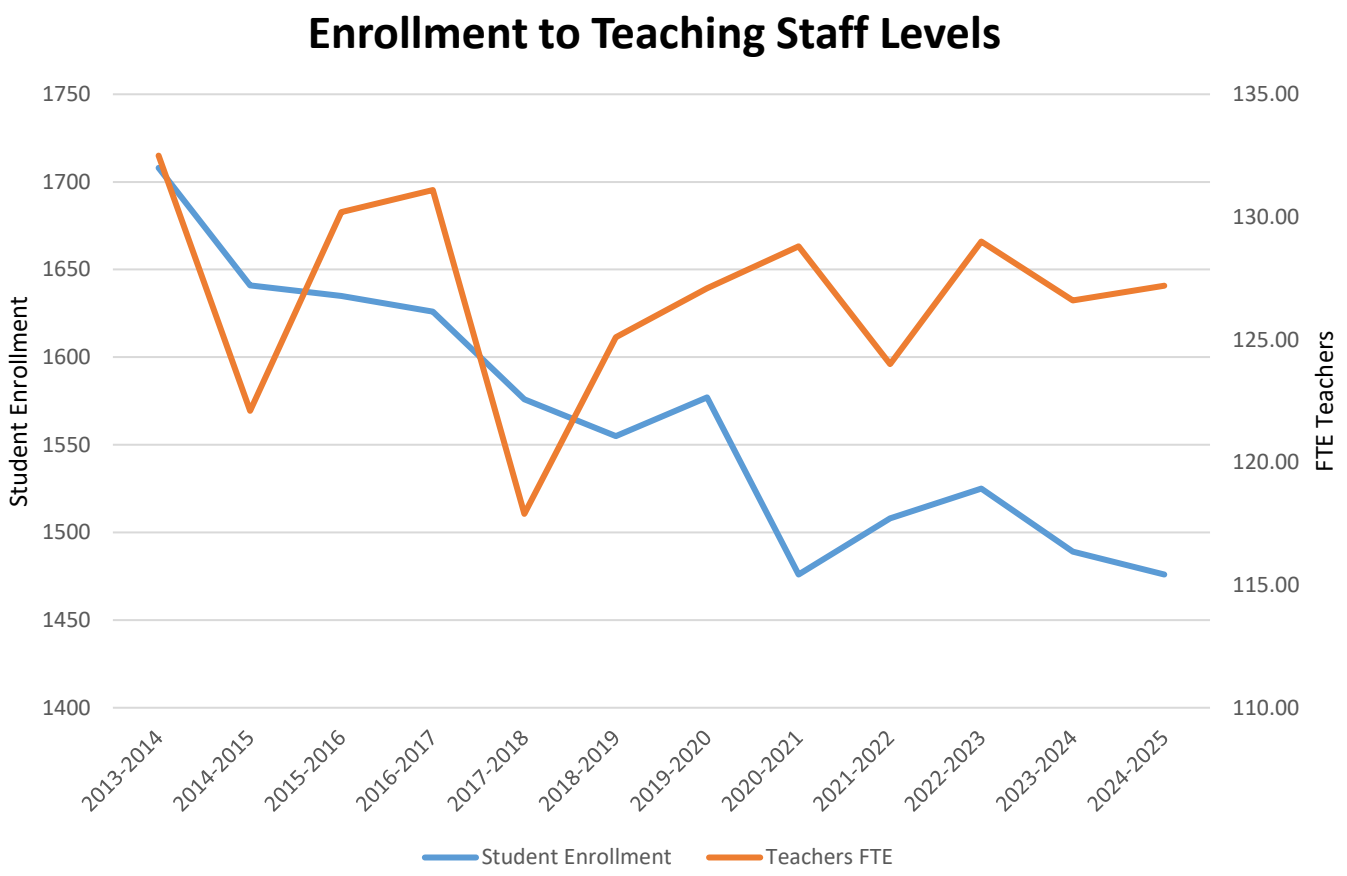
- Carver gets about $11M in Chapter 70 Funding
- MGL Ch.70 & the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) governs how the state funds local school districts. The formula is primarily driven by enrollment.
- Districts with flat or increasing enrollment receive substantially more funding through Ch70 & SOA.
- Over the past few decades, Carver's birthrate and therefore enrollment, have been declining.
- This negatively impacts the amount of state education funding for Carver.



Part I: State & Local Aid: *Chapter 70 Analysis*

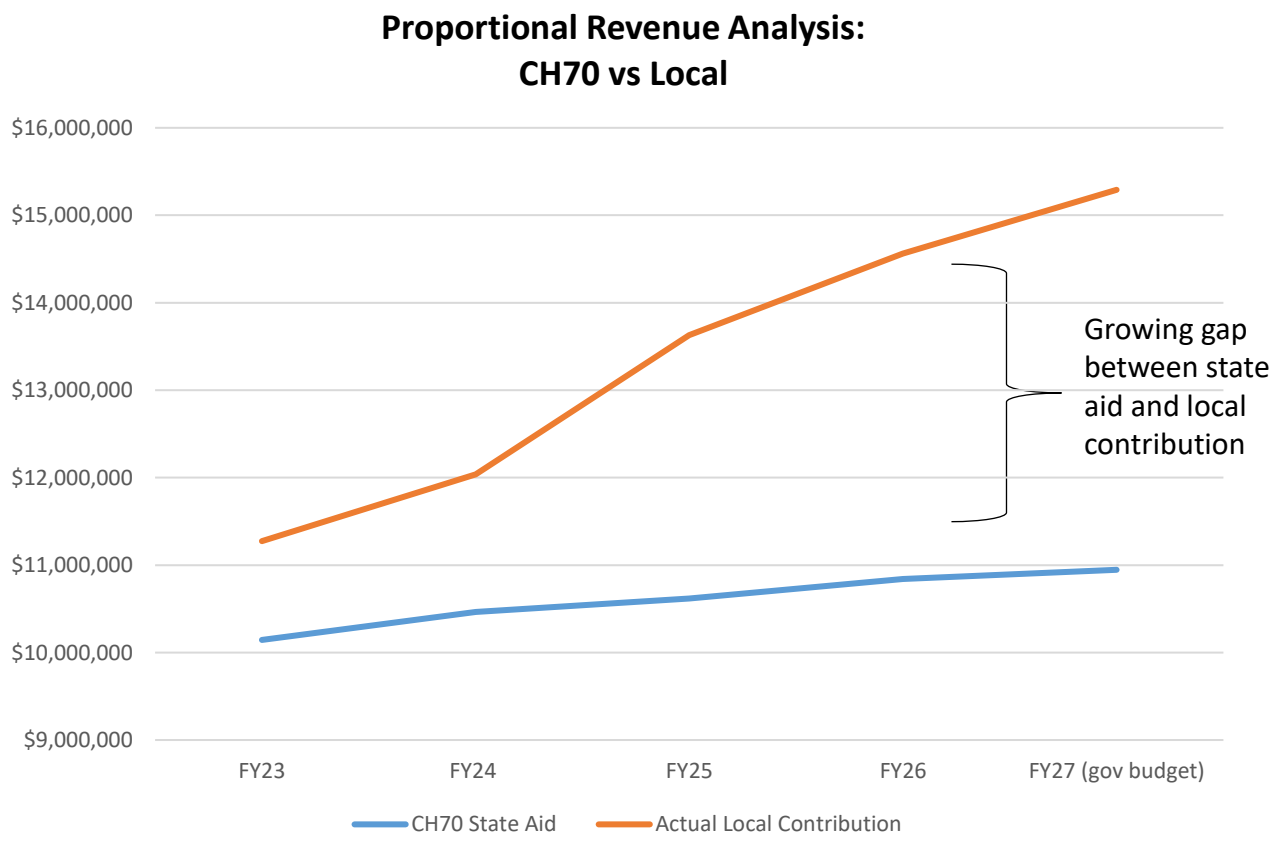
- While enrollment has decreased over the past decade, classroom staffing levels have increased

- With state funding directly related to student enrollment and the majority of the budget dedicated to staffing, this is a difficult pattern to sustain



Part I: State & Local Aid: *Chapter 70 Analysis*

- As of the Governor's FY27 Budget, 272 **(85%)** of all communities in the state have flat or declining enrollment.
- These communities (including Carver) receive "minimum aid" which is a small, flat rate of additional funding per student which has ranged from $30-150 pp. **$75pp in FY27**
- Minimum aid ensures that all districts get some state funding but the gap between state aid and local aid continues to grow.
- Minimum aid communities like Carver shoulder a growing majority of all educational costs



FY27 Revenue
Part II: Grants & Offsets

Other revenue sources Carver Schools secures to help balance the budget

Part II: Grants & Offsets *(Annual Funding)*

Offset	Revenue and Offsets	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
SPED OOD	Circuit Breaker	$ 1,002,998	$ 1,156,567
Salaries	School Choice Tuitions	$ 405,000	$ 410,000
IDEA & T1	Grant Offsets	$ 768,816	$ 766,919
PK Salaries	PK tuition	$ 42,000	$ 38,219
	Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**

- Circuit Breaker is an annual state reimbursement to offset special education costs.
- With the large increase in SPED OOD recently, we are now seeing a portion of those costs offset by Circuit Breaker.
- Expect CB to flatten or dip in future years as SPED costs flatten or dip.

Part II: Grants & Offsets *(Annual Funding)*

Offset	Revenue and Offsets	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
SPED OOD	Circuit Breaker	$ 1,002,998	$ 1,156,567
Salaries	School Choice Tuitions	$ 405,000	$ 410,000
IDEA & T1	Grant Offsets	$ 768,816	$ 766,919
PK Salaries	PK tuition	$ 42,000	$ 38,219
	Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**

- School Choice enrollment ameliorates the overall enrollment decline and offsets what would otherwise be a budget deficit.
- Pre-school tuitions projections reflect a five-year average of actual collections

Part II: Grants & Offsets *(Annual Funding)*

Offset	Revenue and Offsets	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
SPED OOD	Circuit Breaker	$ 1,002,998	$ 1,156,567
Salaries	School Choice Tuitions	$ 405,000	$ 410,000
IDEA & T1	Grant Offsets	$ 768,816	$ 766,919
PK Salaries	PK tuition	$ 42,000	$ 38,219
	Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**

- Annual offsets are typically reliable funding streams you can anticipate to offset specific costs each year.
- Federal grants level funded to FY26 actuals.
- This represents a more aggressive grants projection than preliminary budget
- Still a possibility that the federal government reduces Title 1 funding – estimates are between 15 – 27%. However, nothing is set in law to date.

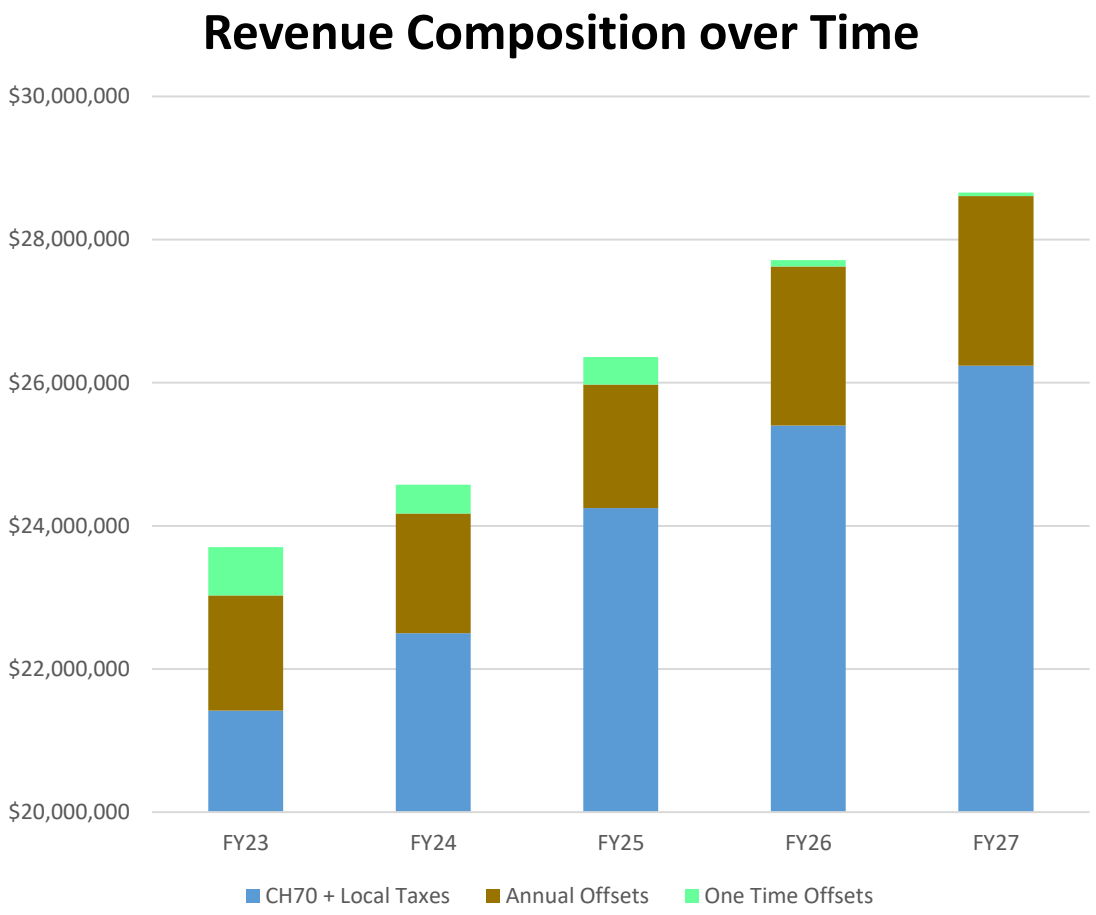
Part II: Grants & Offsets *(One-Time Funds)*

One-Time Offset	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
HRA Ins Red	$ -	$ -
Grant rollovers	$ -	$ -
ESSER 3	$ -	$ -
ESSER 2	$ -	$ -
ESSER	$ -	$ -
SPED – School Choice	$ 90,707	$ 12,824
CARES	$ -	$ -
SPED – OOD Pre-pay	$ -	$ 35,000
Subtotal One-Time Offsets	**$ 90,707**	**$ 47,824**

- CH71, sec71D allows districts to use savings in a previous year to pre-pay a portion of SPED OOD tuitions for the subsequent year.
- Decrease in SPED OOD costs projected for FY27 is based on actuals trending in FY26 which could yield savings at the end of this year. Savings can be used to pre-pay next year's tuitions and help balance budget.
- While only halfway through FY26, anticipate using 35k in savings to pre-pay OOD tuitions along with about 13k in school choice reserves

Revenue Executive Summary

- Best practice is to use no one-time funding to balance a budget.
- Post pandemic, many districts continued to use 1x funds to balance budgets.
- Carver has been making progress to best practice over time
- Goal should be to move away from using any 1x funds to balance operating expenses



FY27 Budget: Executive Summary

Big picture view of all expenses & revenue projections to date.

Next steps in budget planning

FY27 Executive Summary

- Level Services Operating Budget
- Reflects latest retirement notifications, improved SPED OOD estimates & electric costs with AOBC agreement. Also reflects level funding federal grants.
- Does not reflect any new positions nor any reductions.

	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
Gross Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$28,772,607**
New Positions	$ -	$ -
RIFs	$ -	$ -
Net Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,772,607**
Revenue and Offsets		
Circuit Breaker	*$ 1,002,998*	*$ 1,156,567*
School Choice Tuitions	*$ 405,000*	*$ 410,000*
Grant Offsets	*$ 768,816*	*$ 766,919*
PK tuition	*$ 42,000*	*$ 38,219*
Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**
HRA Ins Red	*$ -*	*$ -*
Grant rollovers	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 3	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 2	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - School Choice	*$ 90,707*	*$ -*
CARES	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - OOD Pre-pay	*$ -*	*$ -*
Subtotal One-Time Offsets	***$ 90,707***	***$ -***
Subtotal State & Local Aid [Warrant]	**$ 25,403,268**	**$ 26,237,430**
Total Revenue	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,609,136**
Balance (shortfall)	$ 0	$ (163,471)

FY27 Executive Summary

Reflects new staffing proposed:

- Bus Driver for PK Route
- SPED 1:1 ESP at CES
- 0.5 FTE Music Teacher at MHS
- 0.5 FTE TV Studio Teacher at MHS

Total Cost: $118,513

	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
Gross Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$28,772,607**
New Positions	$ -	$ 118,513
RIFs	$ -	$ -
Net Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,891,120**
Revenue and Offsets		
Circuit Breaker	*$ 1,002,998*	*$ 1,156,567*
School Choice Tuitions	*$ 405,000*	*$ 410,000*
Grant Offsets	*$ 768,816*	*$ 766,919*
PK tuition	*$ 42,000*	*$ 38,219*
Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**
HRA Ins Red	*$ -*	*$ -*
Grant rollovers	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 3	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 2	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - School Choice	*$ 90,707*	*$ -*
CARES	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - OOD Pre-pay	*$ -*	*$ -*
Subtotal One-Time Offsets	***$ 90,707***	***$ -***
Subtotal State & Local Aid [Warrant]	**$ 25,403,268**	**$ 26,237,430**
Total Revenue	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,609,136**
Balance (shortfall)	$ 0	$ (281,984)

FY27 Executive Summary

Reflects reduced staffing through <u>retirements</u> & <u>attrition</u>:

- 1.0 FTE SPED ESPs at MHS
- 1.0 FTE History Teacher at MHS
- 0.6 FTE French Teacher at MHS
- 1.0 FTE Grade 1 Teacher at CES

Total Savings: $234,160

	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
Gross Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$28,772,607**
New Positions	$ -	$ 118,513
RIFs	$ -	$ (234,160)
Net Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,656,960**
Revenue and Offsets		
Circuit Breaker	*$ 1,002,998*	*$ 1,156,567*
School Choice Tuitions	*$ 405,000*	*$ 410,000*
Grant Offsets	*$ 768,816*	*$ 766,919*
PK tuition	*$ 42,000*	*$ 38,219*
Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**
HRA Ins Red	*$ -*	*$ -*
Grant rollovers	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 3	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 2	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - School Choice	*$ 90,707*	*$ -*
CARES	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - OOD Pre-pay	*$ -*	*$ -*
Subtotal One-Time Offsets	***$ 90,707***	***$ -***
Subtotal State & Local Aid [Warrant]	**$ 25,403,268**	**$ 26,237,430**
Total Revenue	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,609,136**
Balance (shortfall)	$ 0	$ (47,824)

FY27 Executive Summary

Reflects one-time funds used to balance final budget:

- $35,000 in SPED OOD pre-paid tuitions (CH71, sec71D) using SPED savings in FY26
- $12,824 in additional 1x School Choice (Increment funds)

Total 1x Funds: $47,824

	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget
Gross Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$28,772,607**
New Positions	$ -	$ 118,513
RIFs	$ -	$ (234,160)
Net Operating Budget	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,656,960**
Revenue and Offsets		
Circuit Breaker	*$ 1,002,998*	*$ 1,156,567*
School Choice Tuitions	*$ 405,000*	*$ 410,000*
Grant Offsets	*$ 768,816*	*$ 766,919*
PK tuition	*$ 42,000*	*$ 38,219*
Subtotal Annual Offsets	**$ 2,218,814**	**$ 2,371,705**
HRA Ins Red	*$ -*	*$ -*
Grant rollovers	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 3	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER 2	*$ -*	*$ -*
ESSER	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - School Choice	*$ 90,707*	*$ 12,824*
CARES	*$ -*	*$ -*
SPED - OOD Pre-pay	*$ -*	*$ 35,000*
Subtotal One-Time Offsets	***$ 90,707***	***$ 47,824***
Subtotal State & Local Aid [Warrant]	**$ 25,403,268**	**$ 26,237,430**
Total Revenue	**$ 27,712,789**	**$ 28,656,960**
Balance (shortfall)	$ 0	$ (0)

Next Steps

- **March 23:** School Committee Votes Budget
- **April 7:** Town meeting
- **July:** Start of FY27