



FY2027 General Fund Budget Overview and Worksheets

This document and an Excel spreadsheet for calculating general fund limits are posted on the OPI website at [General Fund Budget Worksheets](#)

This is an overview of general fund budgeting requirements for Montana school districts. The document is a narrative summary of laws and procedures for setting general fund budget limits and funding for FY2027.

Table of Contents

<p>TIMELINE.....2</p> <p>OVERVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGETING LAWS3</p> <p>AVERAGE NUMBER BELONGING.....3</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">SEPARATE BUDGET UNITS.....4</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">BASIC ENTITLEMENT AND PER-ANB ENTITLEMENT5</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">FLEXIBLE NON-VOTED LEVY AUTHORITY.....5</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ADDITIONAL FUNDING COMPONENTS6</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">STATE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS6</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ESTABLISHING THE BASE & MAXIMUM GENERAL FUND BUDGETS7</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">FUNDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET8</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">GUARANTEED TAX BASE AID (GTB)Error! Bookmark not defined.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">OPERATING RESERVES AND "EXCESS" RESERVES.....9</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">BUDGET AUTHORITY AND VOTER APPROVAL.....10</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">DISTRIBUTION OF DSA AND GTB PAYMENTS11</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">BUDGET AMENDMENTS.....12</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">K-12 DISTRICTS12</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">STATUS AND ANB CHANGES12</p> <p>FY2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND VOTING LIMITS13</p>	<p>AVERAGE NUMBER BELONGING (ANB) CALCULATION..... 14</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">High School 17</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Elementary..... 18</p> <p>BASIC ENTITLEMENT CALCULATIONS..... 19</p> <p>PER-ANB ENTITLEMENT CALCULATION 20</p> <p>ANB BASED FUNDING Error! Bookmark not defined.</p> <p>SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING AND BUDGET 23</p> <p>MAXIMUM BUDGET LIMIT 24</p> <p>BASE BUDGET LIMIT..... 25</p> <p>HIGHEST LEVY OVER BASE AUTHORIZED OR IMPOSED BETWEEN FY22 & FY26 26</p> <p>BUDGET LIMITS AND VOTED AMOUNT 27</p> <p>BUDGETING NON-LEVY REVENUE..... 29</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">GENERAL FUND BASE..... 29</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">GENERAL FUND BASE (Continued).. Error! Bookmark not defined.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">GENERAL FUND OVER-BASE 30</p> <p>CALCULATING GENERAL FUND LEVIES..... 31</p> <p>BALLOTS AND PROPOSITIONS..... 33</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ESTIMATING THE TAX IMPACT OF MILL INCREASES FOR SCHOOL BALLOT ISSUES..... 33</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">BALLOTS AND PROPOSITIONS..... 34</p>
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If you need further assistance, contact the OPI school budgeting staff: Autumn Warren 444-9852, Andrea Mohammadi 444-1960,

TIMELINE

This list is not all-inclusive. For a more detailed calendar, see the [School Accounting Manual](#).

January 31, 2026	Deadline for districts that intend to consolidate/annex effective July 1, 2026, to notify the OPI.
March 1, 2026	Preliminary Budget Data Sheets sent from the OPI to districts and county superintendents § 20-9-369, MCA .
March 31, 2026	Deadline for districts to adopt a resolution and provide notice of intent to impose an increase in a non-voted levy in FY2027.
May 5, 2026	Election Day. Trustee election and general fund levy election, if needed, must be held. Other school elections may be set at times determined by the trustees. § 20-20-105, MCA .
By May 27, 2026	FY2026 school facility reimbursement payment to eligible districts sent to county treasurers for deposit in district's debt service fund. § 20-9-367(3), MCA .
June 1, 2026	FY2027 revenue estimates for coal gross proceeds sent to districts and to county superintendents from the Department of Revenue. § 20-9-141(4), MCA .
June 25, 2026	Final FY2026 Direct State Aid (DSA) and State Special Education payment to schools and cooperatives. § 20-9-344(5), MCA .
June 30, 2026	Fiscal year-end 2026. § 20-1-301, MCA .
July 20, 2026	County treasurer reports final cash balances and bond information for the school year ended June 30 to each district. § 20-9-121, MCA .
Between July 1 & August 10, 2026	Clerk publishes notice of final budget hearing. § 20-9-115, MCA .
By August 3, 2026	County assessors deliver taxable valuation information to county superintendent (1st Monday in August). § 20-9-122, MCA .
August 1, 2026	Last day to hold an election for approval to establish a Building Reserve Fund (61), Technology Fund (28), or Flexibility Fund (29) levy. § 20-9-353, MCA
On or before August 20, 2026	Trustees meet to consider all budget information. § 20-9-131(1), MCA .
Not later than August 25, 2026	Final budget adopted by trustees. § 20-9-131(2), MCA .
By August 15, 2026	Trustees submit FY2026 Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS) to the county superintendent. § 20-9-213(6), MCA .
By August 28, 2026	Trustees submit the final adopted budget to the county superintendent within 3 days of adoption. § 20-9-131, MCA .
By September 1, 2026	Levy requirements reported to county commissioners by county superintendent. § 20-9-141, MCA . (1 st Tuesday in September)
By September 3, 2026, or 30 calendar days after receiving taxable values	Levies fixed by county commissioners. § 7-6-4036, MCA . (1 st Thursday after the 1 st Tuesday in September)
September 15, 2026	FY2027 Final Budget and FY2026 Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS) due to the OPI from the county superintendent. § 20-3-209 and § 20-9-134, MCA* .

***NOTE:** The OPI MAEFAIRS System electronically accepts Trustees' Financial Summary and Final Budget on the same date.

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGETING LAWS

AVERAGE NUMBER BELONGING

Average Number Belonging (ANB) for each district is derived from the October Student Count for ANB reported to the OPI on the Fall Student Count for ANB Report and the February Student Count for ANB reported to the OPI on the Spring Student Count for ANB Report. Pre-kindergarten (PK) students are excluded from the ANB calculation (*note: a student who has reached the age of 5 on or before September 10 and is enrolled in a kindergarten program but is receiving services in a pre-school environment pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP), is reported as a kindergarten student and is included for purposes of ANB*). HB 396(2023) amended section 20-5-101, the admittance of a child to school, requiring trustees of a school district to admit a nonpublic or home-schooled child as a part-time enrollee at the request of the child's parent or guardian. HB 352(2023) permits the inclusion of certain qualified students to be included in the student count for ANB that are enrolled in Early Intervention Programs even when under the age of 5, on or before September 10th. Kindergarten students in a half-time program are included as one-half ANB. Students are counted as quarter-time enrolled for 180-359 aggregate hours, half-time enrolled for 360-539 aggregate hours, three-quarter-time enrolled for 540-719 aggregate hours, or full-time enrolled for 720 or more aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year. Students who are 19 years old on or before September 10 of the school year are not counted for ANB. A pupil with disabilities who is over 19 years of age and has not yet reached 21 years of age by September 10 of the school year and who is receiving special education services from a school district pursuant to § 20-7-411(4)(a) MCA, may be included. Certain students who participate in extracurricular activities may be included as partial enrollment for ANB calculations. Approved students enrolled in Early Intervention Jumpstart Programs may be counted as quarter-time enrolled and approved students enrolled in Early Intervention Classroom Based Programs may be counted for ANB purposes*

A school district may use either Current Year ANB or 3-year average ANB by level (Elementary or High School), whichever generates the greatest Maximum General Fund Budget. Three year or Current year applies to all budget units in the level. **“Current Year ANB”** means the ANB generated by budget unit calculated from the prior year enrollment counts. **“3-year average ANB”** means an average ANB over the most recent 3-year period, calculated by adding the Current Year ANB to the current ANB for each of the previous two school fiscal years, dividing the sum by 3, and rounding up to the next whole number. **“Budgeted ANB”** means the ANB used on the final General Fund Budget for a district. The budgeted ANB will be either the current ANB or the 3-year average ANB, whichever is greater. [§ 20-9-311, MCA](#). Additional information can be found in the NOTES on Enrollment and ANB page in the Hand Sheets section (Page 14).

SEPARATE BUDGET UNITS

Enrollment is generally aggregated, or combined, for all schools of a district. The unit of aggregated enrollment used to determine ANB funding is called a "budget unit." When a school is 20 miles or more from another school in the same district and more than 20 miles beyond the incorporated limits of a city located in the district, the school is funded as a separate budget unit. Additionally, a separate budget unit shall be created for districts with a public charter school operated by a local school board separate budget units are established only with the approval of the OPI.

Districts with a school 20 or more miles away from another school within the district qualify for a separate budget unit and may receive an additional basic entitlement payment. [§ 20-9-311\(8\)\(a\)\(iii\), MCA](#).

Districts with a public charter school operated by a local school board qualify for a separate budget unit and may receive an additional basic entitlement payment (See HB549(2023) § 20-6-812, MCA) when the ANB is equal to or greater than:

- 71 for an elementary school or program
- 21 for a middle school or program
- 41 for a high school or program

The provisions in law for separate budget unit status should not be confused with an isolated school. Pursuant to [§ 20-9-302, MCA](#), the trustees of any district operating an elementary school having fewer than 10 ANB or a high school of less than 25 ANB for 2 consecutive years shall apply to have the school classified as an isolated school. Once approved, isolation status applies for a three-year period so long as the budget limit ANB remains under 10 for an elementary or 25 for high school.

CONSOLIDATION BONUS: Districts that consolidate, or annex are entitled to maintain funding for separate budget units for each district for up to three years. After three years, districts retain a percentage of the basic entitlement for an additional three years as follows: 75% of the basic entitlement in the fourth year, 50% of the basic entitlement in the fifth year, and 25% of the basic entitlement in the sixth year.

[§ 20-9-311\(8\)\(a\)\(iv\), MCA](#).

BASIC ENTITLEMENT AND PER-ANB ENTITLEMENT

The basic and per-ANB entitlements, along with the district's funding components and special education funding, define the BASE and Maximum General Fund budget limits.

The **basic entitlement** for an elementary district, or the elementary program of a K-12 district, without an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program or middle school, is \$62,554 up to 250 ANB, plus \$3,128 for each additional 25 ANB over 250.

For an elementary district, or the elementary program of a K-12 district, with an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program or middle school, the basic entitlement for the district's kindergarten through grade 6 elementary program is \$62,554 up to the first 250 ANB, plus \$3,128 for each additional 25 ANB over 250. The basic entitlement for the district's junior high school, 7th and 8th grade programs or middle school is \$125,110 up to the first 450 ANB, plus \$6,255 for each additional 45 ANB over 450.

For a high school district, or the high school program of a K-12 district, the basic entitlement is \$375,333 up to 800 ANB, plus \$18,768 for each additional 80 ANB over 800.

The **per-ANB entitlement** varies based on the total number of ANB in the district. "Total per-ANB entitlement" means the district entitlement resulting from the following calculations using current year ANB or the 3-year average ANB for all budget units, whichever generates the greatest maximum general fund budget.

For an elementary district, or the elementary program of a K-12 district, without an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school has a per-ANB entitlement of \$6,691 decreased at a rate of \$0.20 per-ANB for each additional elementary ANB, up to 1,000 ANB. For each ANB over 1,000, the district per-ANB entitlement is \$6,491.20.

For an elementary district, or the elementary program of a K-12 district, with an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school, the per-ANB entitlement is \$6,691 for each K-6 ANB, decreased at a rate of \$0.20 per-ANB for each additional K-6 ANB, up to 1,000 ANB. For each K-6 ANB over 1000, the district per-ANB entitlement is \$6,491.20 For the 7th and 8th grade program, the per-ANB entitlement is \$8,567 per-ANB, decreased at a rate of \$0.50 per-ANB for each additional 7th and 8th grade ANB, up to 800. For each 7th and 8th grade ANB over 800, the district per-ANB entitlement is \$8,167.50.

For a high school district, or the high school program of a K-12 district, the per-ANB entitlement is \$8,567, decreased at a rate of \$0.50 per-ANB for each additional high school ANB, up to 800 ANB. For each ANB over 800, the district per-ANB entitlement is \$8,167.50.

FLEXIBLE NON-VOTED LEVY AUTHORITY

The trustees of a district may increase the district's Over-BASE budget levy without a vote if the board of trustees reduces the non-voted property tax levy authority in the Transportation (10), Bus Depreciation (11), Tuition (13), or Adult Education (17) funds by at least as much of the amount of the over-BASE budget levy is increased.

The non-voted levy authority for the Transportation (10), Bus Depreciation (11), Tuition (13), or Adult Education (17) funds cannot be increased until the prior amount of non-voted levy authority used to increase the over-BASE budget levy is decreased to the extent that the trustees of the district imposed any increase in other non-voted property tax levies. A non-voted levy authority transfer from any of the above funds to increase the over-BASE budget levy restricts the ability to increase the non-voted levy authority in all funds.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING COMPONENTS

Schools receive five additional funding components, which expand the General Fund. These components are 100% funded by the state in the BASE portion of the district's General Fund budget.

Quality Educator Component – Each school district and special education cooperative will receive a \$3,896 payment for each full-time equivalent (FTE) licensed educator and for other licensed professionals employed by the school district. Districts report FTE for calculating the Quality Educator payment as pursuant to [§ 20-9-327, MCA](#). Additional component payments may apply for school districts meeting competitive base pay incentives through [§20-9-324, MCA](#). The legislative goal for competitive base pay of teachers is a teacher base pay in an educational entity that in the applicable year:

(a) is equal to at least 11 times the quality educator and qualified staff payment amount provided in § 20-9-306, MCA and

(b) is not less than 64% of the teacher average pay in the prior fiscal year in the educational entity.

A district entity seeking an incentive for the subsequent fiscal year shall, by December 1, provide the necessary data, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, to verify that the educational entity has met the legislative goal for the current year.

Teacher is defined in § 20-9-324(4)(c), MCA as, an individual who:

(i) holds a current class 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7 license issued by the office of public instruction under rules adopted by the board of public education pursuant to § 20-4-102, MCA, and

(ii) is employed by an educational entity in an instructional position requiring teacher licensure.

Indian Education for All Component – Each qualified district will receive an Indian Education for All payment to implement the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Montana, [Article X, section 1\(2\)](#), and the statutory requirements for the recognition of American Indian cultural heritage, [§ 20-1-501, MCA](#). The Indian Education for All payment is the greater of \$100 for each district or \$26.13 per Budgeted ANB, [§ 20-9-329, MCA](#).

Qualification to receive this payment includes compliance with the following requirements through [§ 20-9-329, MCA](#):

Districts are required to report:

- the instruction provided to certified personnel and students as required under 20-1-503, MCA; and
- show this instruction was developed cooperatively with the advice and assistance of Montana tribes pursuant to Title 20, chapter 1, part 5.

It is also required that the revenue received in the prior fiscal year is to be fully expended as reported on the district TFS.

School district(s) that fail to file the annual report (TFS) required is ineligible for Indian education for all funding.

American Indian Achievement Gap Component – A school district will receive \$256 for each American Indian student reported by the district in MAEFAIRS for the Fall Enrollment Count, [§ 20-9-330, MCA](#).

At-Risk Student Component – The legislature appropriated \$6,591,732 for FY2027 for distribution to public schools to address the needs of at-risk students. The money is to be distributed in the same manner as Title I monies are distributed to schools. For FY2027, the OPI will base the distribution of this payment on FY2026 Title I allocations paid to school districts [§ 20-9-328, MCA](#).

Data for Achievement Component – Each district will receive \$25.02 per Budgeted ANB. Funds received must be used to pay for access fees or other costs associated with use of or participation in the statewide data system, [§ 20-9-325, MCA](#).

STATE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS

The state's special education funding is allocated in:

- two block grants for districts, based on current year ANB
- reimbursement for disproportionate costs to districts, and
- an additional administrative/travel costs payment to cooperatives

Block grants are based on the **current year ANB** of a district. Each district that: a) operates a special education program (has a student reported on the most recent special education child count); b) belongs to a special education cooperative; or c) has a signed written agreement with another public entity to provide instructional services to children with disabilities is eligible to receive block grants based on current year ANB. If one or more of the above are true, a "Yes" appears on Line 8 of the Budget Data Sheet indicating eligibility status.

The **Instructional Block Grant (IBG)** per **current year ANB** is sent to each qualified district. The district must match the block grant by spending \$1 of local money for every \$3 received in the IBG. The matching funds and the block grant are spent for allowable special education costs in accordance with [§ 20-7-431, MCA](#).

Each qualified district will also be allocated a **Related Services Block Grant (RSBG)** per **current year ANB**. If the district is a member of a special education cooperative, the district's RSBG will be sent directly to the cooperative from the OPI. The district must match the block grant by providing \$1 of local revenue for every \$3 received from the state RSBG.

The match is required, whether the district or its cooperative receives the RSBG. If the district is a member of a cooperative, the district transfers the match for the RSBG to the cooperative and records it as an operating transfer in the district's General Fund. Again, the matching funds must be spent only for allowable special education costs in accordance with [§ 20-7-431, MCA](#).

If certain conditions are met per [§ 20-9-321\(4\)\(b\)\(iii\), MCA](#), a district will be eligible to receive reimbursement dollars as part of their state payment. If a district's prior year expenditures exceed that district's required spending by a threshold percentage (new percentage each year), the district will be eligible for **reimbursement of 40% of these disproportionate costs**. The required spending level is based upon state special education payments received plus a percentage of local contribution.

In addition to receiving the RSBG for its participating members, **cooperatives will be allocated payments for administrative and travel costs**. These payments will be based on weighted statewide and individual cooperative travel and administrative factors. The cooperative will receive the weighted payment directly and no district or cooperative match is required. The allocation is spent by the cooperative for allowable special education costs in accordance with [§ 20-7-431, MCA](#).

The district's special education allowable cost payments for the Special Education block grants and reimbursements are deposited in the general fund.

ESTABLISHING THE BASE & MAXIMUM GENERAL FUND BUDGETS

State law establishes a minimum (BASE) and Maximum General Fund budget range for each school district based on the district's basic and per-ANB entitlements, the five funding components and the special education allowable cost payment.

The BASE budget of a district is the sum of 80% of the district's basic entitlement, 80% of the district's per-ANB entitlement, 100% of the total Quality Educator component, 100% of the total At-Risk Student component, 100% of the total Indian Education for All component, 100% of the total American Indian Achievement Gap component, 100% of the total Data For Achievement component, 140% of the district's special education allowable cost payments, and 40% of the related services block grant received directly by the cooperative.

The maximum general fund budget of a district is the sum of 100% of the district's basic entitlement, 100% of the district's per-ANB entitlement, 100% of the total Quality Educator payment, 100% of the total At-Risk Student payment, 100% of the total Indian Education for All payment, 100% of the total American Indian Achievement Gap payment, 100% of the total Data For Achievement payment, 175% to 200% of the district's special education allowable cost payments, and 75% to 100% of the related services block grant received directly by the cooperative. This total is increased for a district when the following two qualifications are met:

1. The calculated Maximum is increased for a district where there is district territory in a county in which the median market value for residential properties is greater than 105% of the median county market value for residential properties in the state.
2. Additionally, the district is required to meet the legislative goal for base teacher pay under section 20-9-324, MCA, (Teacher Incentive).

For qualifying districts, it is required that the maximum general fund budget calculated by multiplying the amount calculated as maximum budget limit by the percentage in which the county median market value exceeds the median county market value for residential properties in the state divided by 60. Districts with increased Maximum Budget limits continue to be subject to the same calculated voting limits and budget adoption.

A district may adopt a budget equal to its prior year adopted budget plus any increases in the basic entitlement, the per-ANB entitlement, the five funding components, if applicable, or the ensuing year's maximum general fund budget, whichever is higher. However, voter approval is required for any increase in the over-BASE levy. See "FY2027 General Fund Budget and Voting Limits" on page 13 for more information.

A district may fund the general fund budget from the following sources:

- a) Direct State Aid (DSA) equal to 44.7% of the district's basic and per-ANB entitlements; and
- b) 100% of the total Quality Educator component; and
- c) 100% of the total At-Risk Student component; and
- d) 100% of the total Indian Education for All component; and
- e) 100% of the total American Indian Achievement Gap component; and
- f) 100% of the total Data for Achievement component; and
- g) Special Education Allowable Cost payment from the state (amounts directly paid to district); and
- h) Non-levy revenue and fund balance reappropriated (fund balance reappropriated is limited to 15% of the maximum General Fund budget), [§ 20-9-104, MCA](#); and
- i) Non-voted required revenue to fund the BASE need area for a district (see HB 156(2025)); and
- j) Voted and non-voted county supporting need revenues for the portion of the general fund budget above 80% of the basic and per-ANB entitlements and 140% of special education allowable cost payments, and 40% of the related services block grant payment to the cooperative.

In general, non-levy revenue sources must be **budgeted using actual prior year receipts**. These sources include investment earnings, most taxes and fees, and miscellaneous revenues. [See page 29 for more information on Non-Levy Revenues.]

Non-levy revenue sources that may be **estimated** include Oil and Gas Production Taxes, Coal Gross Proceeds Taxes may be anticipated using estimates provided by the state Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue will make estimates available to districts in May for purposes of budgeting for the ensuing year. The OPI enters this revenue in MAEFAIRS.

There are other non-levy revenues that are available.

OPERATING RESERVES AND "EXCESS" RESERVES

At the end of the school fiscal year, a district may reserve a portion of its fund balance as an operating reserve for the ensuing school year. The amount reserved may not exceed 10% of the final General Fund budget for the following school year or \$10,000, whichever is greater.

Fund balance must be used to fund the ensuing year's BASE budget (not to exceed 15% of the maximum general fund budget) unless it is set aside as an operating reserve or prior year excess reserves.

A district may exceed the 10% reserve limit when the source of the excess reserves is the unexpended balance of any amount received for a prior year from a protested tax settlement, tax audit, or delinquent taxes. Retain documentation supporting the excess reserves for audit purposes.

Excess reserves may be used to fund budget amendments for deferred projects, may be used in a subsequent year's budget to fund the over-BASE portion of the budget, or may be retained for any number of years; if they remain unspent and the operating reserve limit is met. Interest earned on excess reserves is not an allowable addition to excess reserves.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND VOTER APPROVAL

If voter approval is required, the proposition must comply with [§ 20-9-353, MCA](#).

SUGGESTED BALLOT LANGUAGE:

Beginning in 2026, residences that qualify for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate are taxed at a lower tax rate. However, the MCA does not address which tax rate should be used when estimating the impact of a voted levy. Language in this section has NOT been adjusted for estimating the tax impact for a residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate.

Districts must obtain voter approval for an increase in the amount needed for the Over-BASE tax levy from the prior year. [§ 15-10-425, MCA](#), requires the ballot proposing to increase the Over-BASE levy amount to include the following information

PROPOSITION

Shall the district be authorized to impose an increase in local taxes to support the general fund in the amount of \$_____ which is approximately _____ mills for the purpose of _____? Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on a home with a market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$_____, on a home with a market value of \$300,000 by approximately \$_____ and on a home with a market value of \$600,000 by approximately \$_____. The durational limit of the levy is permanent once approved by the voters, assuming the district levies that amount each year thereafter. However, lowering over-BASE tax levies in any year will lower the amount of permissively over-BASE levies in subsequent years.

- FOR the additional levy
- AGAINST the additional levy.

NOTE: The ballot above presents one option. It contains all information required to be included per [§15-10-425, MCA](#). If key information is contained in the ballot, trustees can use their discretion in formulating ballot language for General Fund elections.

The proposition lists an approximate number of mills, since taxable valuation and other information necessary to determine an exact number of mills is not available at the time of the election. Actual mills will commonly differ from this estimate.

How do you determine how much to ask voters to approve?

The **DOLLAR AMOUNT** to vote is any positive difference between the proposed budget and the Highest Budget Without a Vote. (See table on page 28)

The approximate **NUMBER OF MILLS** to put on the ballot is the approximate number of additional over-BASE mills that will result if the proposition passes.

Calculate the mill increase by dividing the proposed dollar increase in the over-BASE levy by the estimated district mill value. District mill value is the taxable valuation times 0.001.

Non-levy revenues or fund balance reappropriated, or excess reserves available to fund the over-BASE budget area do not need to be voted.

NOTE: Do not put the entire proposed budget amount on the ballot. Only the increase in the over-BASE levy from the previous year's over-BASE levy requires voter approval. Asking voter approval for the entire budget amount can cause potential legal questions about the meaning of the voter's approval or disapproval.

How do you determine mill value?

"Mill value" is the total taxable valuation of the district times 0.001.

For example: Taxable Valuation = \$1,234,267

Mill Value = \$1,234,267 X 0.001 = \$1,234.267 per mill

Actual taxable valuation is reported to districts in August and is therefore not available at the time the ballot must be prepared for the May election. For purposes of voting requirements in January through May, districts may estimate mill value using one of the following options:

- 1) Taxable valuation from the previous year's final budget cover page; or
- 2) Taxable valuation reported on the Preliminary Budget Data Sheet posted on the OPI website (that valuation is more current, since it is the "final" prior year value updated by Department of Revenue in the prior December); or
- 3) An estimate based on information gathered through discussions with the local assessor.

For calculating final budget mills in August, the district and County Superintendent must use the taxable valuation delivered to the school district by the Assessment Division of the Department of Revenue in August or a subsequent official revision of that report.

DISTRIBUTION OF BASE Aid PAYMENTS

Each district receives 10% of its DSA, Special Education, Quality Educator, At-Risk Student, Indian Education for All, American Indian Achievement Gap, and Data for Achievement each month during August through November, January through April, and the remainder in June. DSA is not paid in December or May. The OPI posts a monthly payment advice for each district clerk, county superintendent and county treasurer on the OPI website under State School Payments at the following link: [State School Payments](#).

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The trustees may pass a resolution to amend the budget for reasons provided in [§ 20-9-161, MCA](#). without the prior approval of the OPI.

During the 2023 legislative session, with the passage of (HB 36) general fund budget amendments are possible for district qualified for significant enrollment increase (SEI) payments. This process is outlined in §20-9-166, MCA. Qualified districts will be notified by December 15th and districts are required to determine at the next scheduled board meeting and no later than March 1st whether to accept the full or a partial amount of the payment and adopt a general fund budget amendment for any accepted amount.

Additional authority provided under a budget amendment for a significant enrollment increase and/or other approved budget amendment reasons, are not used in calculating the budget growth limits for the ensuing school year or in determining 3-year average ANB.

K-12 DISTRICTS

The per-ANB entitlement for a K-12 district is calculated by applying the funding formulas to the number of K-8 ANB and 9-12 ANB separately.

The BASE-budget levy is prorated based on the ratio of each subsidized BASE budget of the elementary and high school program to the total subsidized BASE budget. The proration will be used to determine GTB aid separately for elementary and high school.

STATUS AND ANB CHANGES

(Annexation/Consolidation)

Districts planning to change status for the ensuing year must notify the OPI as soon as possible, and not later than January 31st. Because lead-time is necessary to process and record changes for a district, notifying the OPI after January 31st may result in lower Title I allocations and delays in other funding areas.

FY2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND VOTING LIMITS

HIGHEST BUDGET WITHOUT A VOTE	HIGHEST BUDGET	VOTING REQUIREMENT
<p>FY2027 BASE + The highest levy over-BASE authorized or imposed between FY2022 and FY2026 + Non-Levy Revenues available to fund the over-BASE budget + FY2026 Excess Reserves used to fund the FY2027 over-BASE budget + Fund Balance Reappropriated available to fund the over-BASE budget + Flexible Non-Voted Levy Authority transferred from the Transportation, Bus Depreciation, Tuition, or Adult Education funds.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total fund balance reappropriated to fund the BASE and over-BASE budgets may not exceed 15% of the maximum general fund budget • Must adopt at least FY2027 BASE budget and highest budget without a vote cannot exceed the FY2027 Highest Budget. 	<p><u>Greater of:</u></p> <p>FY2027 Maximum Budget</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- or -</p> <p>FY2026 Adopted Budget + increases resulting from individually comparing the FY2027 Basic Entitlement, Per-ANB Entitlement, Quality Educator, Indian Education for All, At Risk, American Indian Achievement Gap, and Data for Achievement payments to each FY2026 payment received.</p>	<p>Any increase in Over-BASE tax dollars needed to fund the budget.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equals the difference between the proposed budget (up to Highest Budget) and the permissive budget (Highest Budget Without a Vote).

AVERAGE NUMBER BELONGING (ANB) CALCULATION

		Ex. EL	Ex. HS	Elem	Middle	H S
Total October Enrollment (Most recent fall count)	(a)	50	100			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving less than 180 hours / year* Subtract All	(b)	1 x 1 =1.0	0			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving 180-359 hours / year* Subtract ¾	(c)	2 x .75 =1.5	0			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving 360-539 hours / year* Subtract ½	(d)	1 x .5 =0.5	2 x .5=1			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving 540-719 hours / year* Subtract ¼	(e)	2 x .25 =0.5	0			
Pupils attending MT Youth Challenge program Subtract ½	(f)	N/A	2 x .5=1			
Pupils 19 years of age by Sept 10 or greater included in (a)** Subtract All	(g)	N/A	1 x 1=1			
October Adjusted Enrollment (Student Count for ANB) [a - b - c - d - e - f - g]	(h)	46.5	97			
Total February Enrollment (Most recent spring count)	(i)	52	99			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving less than 180 hours / year* Subtract All	(j)	1 x 1=1	0			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving 180-359 hours / year* Subtract ¾	(k)	2 x .75=1.5	0			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving 360-539 hours / year* Subtract ½	(l)	1 x .5=0.5	2 x .5=1			
SPED PK, ETI Classroom ⁺ & K-12 receiving 540-719 hours / year* Subtract ¼	(m)	2 x .25=0.5	0			
Pupils attending MT Youth Challenge program Subtract ½	(n)	N/A	2 x .5=1			
Pupils 19 years of age by Sept 10 or greater included in (j)** Subtract All	(o)	N/A	1 x 1=1			
Enter Early graduates† Add All	(p)	N/A	2 x 1=2			
February Adjusted Enrollment (Student Count for ANB) [i - j - k - l - m - n - o + p]	(q)	48.5	98			
Pupils Qualified pupils attending a district Jumpstart program Add ¼ ****	(r)	0				
Prior School Year End: Non-Public/Home School Students for Extracurricular Participation						
Individuals completing 6+ week activities (Year Prior to Enroll Count) X 0.0625***	(s)	0	0			
Individuals completing 18+ week activities (Year Prior to Enroll Count) X 0.0125***	(t)	0	0			
[s + t]	(u)	0	0			
Average Student Count for ANB Don't round $(((h + q) + (r \times 2) + (u \times 2)) / 2)$	(v)	47.5	97.5			
Pupil Instruction Related (PIR) Days - for same year as two enrollment counts	(w)	7	7			
Total Days Funded	(x)	180	180			
Current Year ANB $[(v \text{ times } (w + x)) / 180]$ round up	(y)	50	102			
Current ANB from Prior Year	(z)	55	100			
Current ANB from Two Years Prior	(aa)	51	98			
Three Year Average ANB $[(y + z + aa) / 3]$ round up	(ab)	52	100			

*See hour requirements in ARM [10.20.102\(7\)](#)

‡Early Graduates are high school seniors who complete graduation requirements in 7 semesters and are no longer enrolled as of the February count date.

** Some students may be eligible for ANB who are older than 19 by Sept 10. See section 20-9-311(7)(c), MCA. Do not include these students for removal in the "Pupils 19 years of age by Sept 10 or greater" above

(c) A pupil with disabilities who is over 19 years of age and has not yet reached 21 years of age by September 10 of the school year and who is receiving special education services from a school district pursuant to 20-7-411(4)(a) may be included in the ANB calculations if

- (i) the student has not graduated;
- (ii) the student is eligible for SPED services and is likely to be eligible for adult services for individuals with developmental disabilities due to the significance of the student's disability; and
- (iii) the student's individualized education program has identified transition goals that focus on preparation for living and working in the community following high school graduation since age 16 or the student's disability has increased in significance after age 16.

*** Some non-enrolled students may be eligible for ANB, see section 20-9-311(13)

(a) A district may, for ANB purposes, include in the October and February enrollment counts an individual who is otherwise eligible under this title and who during the prior school year:

- (i) resided in the district;
- (ii) was not enrolled in the district or was not enrolled full time; and
- (iii) completed an extracurricular activity with a duration of at least 6 weeks.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b)(ii), each completed extracurricular activity under subsection (13)(a) may be counted as one-sixteenth enrollment for the individual, but under this subsection (13) the individual may not be counted as more than one full-time enrollment for ANB purposes.

(ii) Each completed extracurricular activity lasting longer than 18 weeks may be counted as one-eighth enrollment.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "extracurricular activity" means:

- (i) a sport or activity sanctioned by an organization having jurisdiction over interscholastic activities, contests, and tournaments;
- (ii) an approved career and technical student organization, pursuant to 20-7-306; or
- (iii) a school theater production.

**** Enrolled students may be eligible for ANB, see section 20-9-311(4)(e)(ii), MCA, a pupil who participates in a jumpstart program under Title 20, chapter 7, part 18, may be counted as up to 1 ¼ enrollment for ANB purposes. A district shall add one-quarter for a pupil who participated in an early targeted intervention jumpstart program to the pupil's regular enrollment count under this subsection (4) in both October and February enrollment counts following the student's participation in the jumpstart program.

+ ETI Classroom references Early Targeted Intervention Classroom Based. HB338(2025) updated section 20-9-311(4)(e)(ii), MCA.

NOTES on Enrollment and ANB:

Section 20-5-101, MCA, the admittance of child to school, has been modified through HB 396(2023) stating the following in reference to enrollment of nonpublic or home school:

- (8) The trustees shall assign and admit a child who is enrolled in a nonpublic or home school and who meets the requirements of subsection (1) as a part-time enrollee at the request of the child's parent or guardian.
- (9) For the purposes of this part, "part-time enrollee" means a qualifying pupil who is enrolled and admitted at one of the fractional levels that qualify for part-time ANB pursuant to 20-9-311(4)(a) or (4)(d)."

The section is further amended through HB 338(2025) to modify the definition of "exceptional circumstances" as follows:

- (i) the child is being admitted into a preschool program established by the trustees pursuant to 20-7-117;
 - (ii) the child is determined by the trustees to be ready for kindergarten and the child's parents have requested early entry into the district's regular 1-year kindergarten program;
 - (iii) the child is being admitted into an early targeted intervention classroom or jumpstart program;
 - (iv) the adult is 19 years of age or older and in the trustees' determination would benefit from educational programs offered.
- (c) The admittance of an individual under this subsection (3) does not in and of itself impact the ANB calculations governed by 20-9-311.

Section 20-7-117, MCA, Kindergarten and preschool programs, has been modified through HB 24(2025) stating the following in reference to Kindergarten programs:

- (a) "Kindergarten program" means a 1-year program immediately preceding a child's entry into 1st grade with curriculum and instruction selected by the board of trustees and aligned to the content standards established.
- (b) "Preschool program" means a half-time or full-time program to prepare children for entry into kindergarten and governed by standards adopted by the board of public education."

HB 393(2023) establishes the Montana special needs equal opportunity education savings account program. Where enrolled students shall be counted in the resident school district's ANB calculation pursuant to 20-9-311, MCA No other school district may count the students for ANB purposes. The student is not considered to be enrolled in the resident district.

Section 20-9-311, MCA, Calculation of average number belonging (ANB), has been modified through HB 214(2023) stating the following in reference to concurrent enrollment:

When a pupil is concurrently enrolled in more than one district, any fractional enrollment under subsection (4)(a) must be attributed first to a pupil's nonresident district.

HB 28(2025) updates section 20-6-812, MCA to state that in the second and third operating years of a public charter school, a public charter school's 3-year average ANB is equal to its current year ANB.

These notes are not to be considered a complete listing of enrollment and ANB statutory requirements.

High School



Spring Student Count For ANB Summary By District February

Total of all enrolled for Budget Unit

TOTAL STUDENT COUNT FOR ANB BY GRADE - DISTRICT

Grade	Fall Students	Winter Students	Spring Students
12th Grade H1	515	0	475
H1 Total	2,224	0	2,154
District Total:	2,224	0	2,154

PART-TIME STUDENTS - DISTRICT

	Not Counted For ANB < 180 hrs/yr	Parttime Count 180-359 hrs/yr	Parttime Count 360-539 hrs/yr	Parttime Count 540-719 hrs/yr
9-12 Grade H1 Fall	5	4	6	7
9-12 Grade H1 Spring	6	2	3	6

Students who turned 19 on or before September 10, 2018 are not included in part-time students counted for ANB

OTHER STUDENT COUNTS FOR ANB - DISTRICT

Student Count Type	Fall	Winter	Spring
19 Year Olds H1	2	0	2
Early Graduates H1	0	0	15
Job Corps H1	0	0	1
MT Youth Challenge H1	1	0	12

Subtract 19-Year-Old Students*

Add in Early Graduates

Job Corps Students (No Effect)

Subtract 1/2 Youth Challenge

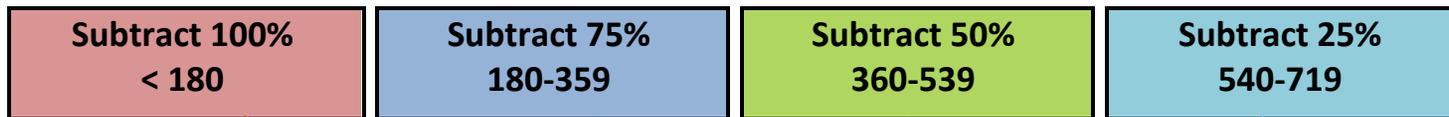
*See section 20-9-311(7)(c), MCA, and/or page 12 above, for exceptions.



Spring Student Count For ANB Summary By District

February

PART-TIME STUDENTS - DISTRICT



		Not Counted For ANB < 180 hrs/yr	Parttime Count 180-359 hrs/yr	Parttime Count 360-539 hrs/yr	Parttime Count 540-719 hrs/yr
Kindergarten E1	Fall	0	0	2	2
Transition 1st - 6 Grades E1	Fall	1	0	0	0
7-8 Grade MI	Fall	2	1	1	1
Kindergarten E1	Spring	0	0	1	1
Transition 1st - 6 Grades E1	Spring	1	0	0	0
7-8 Grade MI	Spring	3	2	1	0

BASIC ENTITLEMENT CALCULATIONS

Elementary District K-6 or K-8 <u>without</u> an accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program or middle school	Elementary District K-6 and 7-8 OR K-12 <u>with</u> an accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program or middle school	High School District OR K-12 9-12 program
<p>If current year ANB is < 250 then basic entitlement equals \$62,554 otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((\text{CY ANB} - 250) / 25) \times \\$3,128 + \\$62,554$</p>	<p>If current year ANB grades K-6 is < 250 then basic entitlement equals \$62,554, otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((\text{CY ANB} - 250) / 25) \times \\$3,128 + \\$62,554$</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>If current year ANB grades 7-8 is < 450 then basic entitlement equals \$125,110 otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((\text{CY ANB} - 450) / 45) \times \\$6,255 + \\$125,110$</p>	<p>If current year ANB grades 9-12 is < 800 then basic entitlement equals \$375,333, otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((\text{CY ANB} - 800) / 80) \times \\$18,768 + \\$375,333$</p>
(a1)	(b1)	(c1)
<p>If 3-year average ANB is < 250 then basic entitlement equals \$62,554, otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((3\text{Y Ave ANB} - 250) / 25) \times \\$3,128 + \\$62,554$</p>	<p>If 3-year average ANB for grades K-6 is < 250 then basic entitlement equals \$62,554, otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((3\text{Y Ave ANB} - 250) / 25) \times \\$3,128 + \\$62,554$</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>If 3-year average ANB for grades 7-8 is < 450 then basic entitlement equals \$125,110, otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((3\text{Y Ave ANB} - 450) / 45) \times \\$6,255 + \\$125,110$</p>	<p>If 3-year average ANB is < 800 then basic entitlement equals \$375,333, otherwise basic entitlement equals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Round Down $((\text{CY ANB} - 800) / 80) \times \\$18,768 + \\$375,333$</p>
(a2)	(b2)	(c2)

Enter basic entitlement on page 24, Line (a1) and (a2) and/or (f1) and (f2)

- If 7th-8th grade students attend a school without an accredited 7th-8th grade, middle school or junior high school program, the district calculates its basic entitlement using formula (a).
- If 7th-8th grade students attend a school with an accredited 7th-8th grade, middle school or junior high school program, the district calculates its basic entitlement using formula (b).

PER-ANB ENTITLEMENT CALCULATION

Elementary Districts with K-6 -OR- K-8 OR K-12 Districts (no junior high school, 7th and-8th grade program or middle school)				
		Current ANB	3-yr average ANB	
(a) With <u>1000 ANB or less</u>	[\$6,691 X Elem ANB] - [0.20 X (Elem ANB / 2) X (Elem ANB - 1)]			
(b) With greater than 1000 ANB	\$6,591,100 + [(Elem ANB - 1000) X \$6,491.20]			
Elementary Districts or K-12 Districts with approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program or middle school				
(c) 7th and 8th Grade With <u>800 ANB or less</u>	[\$8,567 X 7-8 ANB] - [0.50 X (7-8 ANB / 2) X (7-8 ANB - 1)]			
(d) 7th and 8th Grade With greater than 800 ANB	\$6,693,800 + [(7-8 ANB - 800) X \$8,167.50]			
High School or K-12 Districts				
(e) High School With <u>800 ANB or less</u>	[\$8,567 X HS ANB] - [0.50 X (HS ANB / 2) X (HS ANB - 1)]			
(f) High School With greater than 800 ANB	\$6,693,800 + [(HS ANB - 800) X \$8,167.50]			
		Elementary & 7-8 Accredited Programs sum (a) through (d)		High School Districts sum (e) and (f)
		Current ANB	3-yr average ANB	Current ANB
(g) Totals	[Sum of (a) through (d)] and [Sum of (e) and (f)]	(g1)	(g2)	(g3)
		3-yr average ANB	(g4)	

Enter per-ANB entitlement on page 24, Line (b1) and (b2) and/or (g1) and (g2)

- If 7th-8th grade students attend a school without an accredited 7th-8th grade, middle school or junior high school program, the district calculates its per-ANB entitlement using elementary formula (a) or (b).
- If 7th-8th grade students attend a school with an accredited 7th-8th grade, middle school or junior high school program, the district calculates its per-ANB entitlement by using the K-6 ANB in elementary formula (a) or (b) and the 7-8 ANB in high school formula (c) or (d).
- A district with a school that is more than 20 miles from any other school of the district calculates its per-ANB entitlement for that school as if the school were a separate district (i.e., as a separate district). Approval from the OPI is required for additional budget units.
- Districts with a public charter school operated by a local school board calculates its per-ANB entitlement for that school as if the school were a separate district (i.e., as a separate district). Approval from the OPI is required for additional budget units.

ANB BASED FUNDING

This calculation is used exclusively to determine the ANB that generates the greatest Maximum General Fund budget.

Elementary ANB (K-8)	Current Year ANB (K-8)	3-Yr Average ANB (K-8)
(a) Total Basic Entitlement	(a1) page 19, (a1) or (b1)	(a2) page 19, (a2) or (b2)
(b) Per-ANB Entitlement	(b1) page 20, (g1)	(b2) page 20, (g2)
(c) Indian Education for All (Adjusted see page 22) [Budget Limit ANB X \$26.13] minimum \$100.00) – Any Reduction Amount*	(c1) ANB for formula page 14, line (z)	(c2) ANB for formula page 14, line (ac)
(d) Data for Achievement [Budget Limit ANB X \$25.02]	(d1)	(d2)
(e) Totals [Sum of (a) through (d)]	(e1)	(e2)
High School Districts (9-12)	Current Year ANB (9-12)	3-Yr Average ANB (9-12)
(f) Total Basic Entitlement	(f1) page 19, (c1)	(f2) page 19, (c2)
(g) Per-ANB Entitlement	(g1) page 20, (g3)	(g2) page 20, (g4)
(h) Indian Education for All (Adjusted see page 22) [Budget Limit ANB X \$26.13] minimum \$100.00] – Any Reduction Amount*	(h1) ANB for formula page 14, line (z)	(h2) ANB for formula page 14, line (ac)
(i) Data for Achievement [Budget Limit ANB X \$24.02]	(i1)	(i2)
(j) Totals [Sum of (f) through (i)]	(j1)	(j2)

	Elementary School	High School
Totals	(k1) Select the greater of (e1) or (e2)	(k2) Select the greater of (j1) or (j2)
	If the elementary current year ANB total is the highest elementary amount, enter (a1), (b1), (c1), (d1). OR If the elementary 3-year average ANB total is the highest elementary amount, enter (a2), (b2), (c2), (d2).	If the high school current year ANB total is the highest high school amount, enter (f1), (g1), (h1), (i1). OR If the high school 3-year average ANB total is the highest high school amount, enter (f2), (g2), (h2), (i2).
Total Basic Entitlement	(l1) (a1) or (a2)	(l2) (f1) or (f2)
Per – ANB Entitlement	(m1) (b1) or (b2)	(m2) (g1) or (g2)
Indian Education for All (Adjusted)	(n1) (c1) or (c2)	(n2) (h1) or (h2)
Data for Achievement	(o1) (d1) or (d2)	(o2) (i1) or (i2)

*Minus Any Reduction Amount refers to entitlement reductions based on full Indian Education for All TFS expenditures, see page 22 for details.

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL (ADJUSTED)

Section [20-9-329, MCA](#), details the adjusted calculation for the full receipt of Indian Education for All entitlement funding as follows:

1. First, a public school district shall file an annual report with the OPI, that specifies how the Indian education for all funds were expended in the prior school fiscal year in sufficient detail to ensure that all the funds were properly spent. In addition to the expenditure reporting, the report must include detailed descriptions of:

- (i) the instruction provided to certified personnel and students as required under 20-1-503; and
- (ii) how this instruction was developed cooperatively with the advice and assistance of Montana tribes pursuant to Title 20, chapter 1, part 5.

2. Second, if a school district files a report failing to show that all funds received for Indian Education for All were spent for the purposes of Indian Education for All, the district's BASE budget and revenues are to be reduced by the amount of funding received that was not spent for the purposes of Indian Education for All.

A.	[Budget Limit ANB* X \$26.13] minimum \$100.00]	
----	---	--

B.	General Fund (01) Revenue Code (3113) TFS Revenues	
C.	General Fund (01) Program Code (365) TFS Expenditures	

Reduction Amount

D.	If C = \$0.00 Enter A, otherwise Enter \$0.00	
E.	If C is Greater Than or Equal to B Enter \$0.00	
F.	If D is Greater Than \$0.00 Enter \$0.00, If E is \$0.00 Then Enter \$0.00 Otherwise Enter B – C, However, if the product is Greater Than A, Enter A	

G.	Indian Education for All (Adjusted) A – (D + E + F)	
----	--	--

Enter G: in all fields that request Indian Education for All (IEA). See pages 21(h)&(n), 24(e), 25(q),27(e), 31(3e), 32(13e)

MAXIMUM BUDGET LIMIT

	Elementary	High School	K12*
(a) 100% of Basic Entitlement page 21, Line (l1) or (l2)			
(b) 100% of Per-ANB Entitlement page 22, Line (m1) or (m2)			
(c) 100% Quality Educator Component (If Meet Incent See pg. 6) Budget Data Sheet, Line 3 = [FTE X \$3,896] X 2			
(d) 100% At Risk Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 4 [Proportion of Title I X \$6,591,732]			
(e) 100% Indian Ed. for All Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 5 [ANB X \$26.13] - Adjustments			
(f) 100% Student Achievement Gap Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 6 [Indian Students X \$256]			
(g) 100% Data for Achievement Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 7 [ANB X \$25.02]			
(h) Special Education Allowable Cost Payments Budget Data Sheet, Line 8d page 23, Line (d)			
(i) Prorated SPED COOP Payments Budget Data Sheet, Line 8e page 23, Line (e)			
% of Special Ed Funding in Maximum			
(j-1) Actual % (round up to nearest whole %)			
$\frac{\text{FY2025 SPED GF Allowable Cost Expenditures} - 1.00 \times 100}{\text{FY2025 Special Ed Allowable Cost Payments}}$			
<u>SPED GF Allowable Cost Expenditures:</u> From FY2025 Trustees' Financial Summary, SPED Reversion Report, General Fund column.			
<u>Special Ed Allowable Cost Payments:</u> From FY2025 Final Budget Worksheet, Line (I-H)			
(j-2) Minimum % = 75%	75%	75%	75%
(j-3) Required % of SPED Funding in Maximum: Budget Data Sheet, Line 9a Greater of (j-1) or (j-2), but not more than 100%			
(k) Dollar Amount of Required % of SPED Allowable Costs in (j-3) Maximum including prorated SPED cooperative payments: [(h + i) X (j-3)]			
(l-1) Maximum Budget Limit [(a) + (b) + (c) + (d) + (e) + (f) + (g) + (h) + (k)]	Enter on page 27, line 2		
(l-2) Maximum Budget Limit Increase Percent (Refer to Page 7)			
(l-3) Adjusted Maximum Budget Limit [(l-1) x (1+(l-2))]			

* K-12 districts – Calculate Elementary and High School portions separately then add across to the K12 column.

- First 40% of Special Education MUST be in BASE. Between 35% and 60% is applied in over-BASE, totaling up to 100% in the Maximum budget

BASE BUDGET LIMIT

	Elementary	High School	K-12*
(m) 80% of Basic Entitlement [0.80 X page 21, Line l1 or l2]			
(n) 80% of Per-ANB Entitlement [0.80 X page 22, Line m1 or m2]			
(o) 100% Quality Educator Component (If Meet Incent See pg. 6) Budget Data Sheet, Line 3 Unadjusted = [FTE X \$3,896]			
(p) 100% At Risk Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 4 Proportion of Title I X \$6,591,732]			
(q) 100% Indian Ed. for All Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 5 [ANB X \$26.13] - Adjustments			
(r) 100% Student Achievement Gap Component Budget Data Sheet, Line 6 [Indian Students X \$256]			
(s) 100% Data for Achievement Budget Data Sheet, Line 7 [ANB X \$25.02]			
(t) Special Education Allowable Cost Payments (district) page 23, Line d			
(u) **40% of SPED Allowable Costs, including prorated special education cooperative payments [0.40 X page 23 (d + e)]			
(v) Base Budget Limit [(m) + (n) + (o) + (p) + (q) + (r) + (s) + (t) + (u)]	Enter on page 27 line 1		

*K-12 districts – Calculate Elementary and High School portions separately then add across to the K-12 column.

**First 40% of Special Education MUST be in BASE. Between 35% and 60% is applied in OVERBASE, totaling up to 100% in the Maximum Budget.

CALCULATION OF RATIO FOR PRORATION OF SUBSIDIZED BASE BUDGET

For K-12 only	Elementary	High School	K12*
(w) Requirement Area [page 24 Line (a + b) times 35.3%]			
(x) Subsidized BASE Amounts [u + w]	(x1)	(x2)	(x3)
(y) Subsidized BASE Ratio	Enter on page 31 (6aEI) & (6aHS)		
Round to the nearest whole percentage not to exceed 100 %	(y1)	(x1/x3)	(y2) (x2/x3) (y3) 100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This section is to be filled in by K-12 districts only. 			

The OPI suggests that districts verify The hand calculations for Maximum and BASE against the preliminary budget data sheet linked here [Budgets](#).

HIGHEST LEVY OVER BASE AUTHORIZED OR IMPOSED BETWEEN FY22 & FY26

		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
(a)	OB Levy (Imposed) Budget Report, Page 3, Part (II-D)	(a1) If cell (b2) = 0 this cell = 0	(a2)	(a3)	(a4)	(a5)	(a6)
(b)	Amount Approved by Voters on Ballot Budget Report, Page 3, Part (II-L)		(b2)	(b3)	(b4)	(b5)	(b6)
(c)	Highest Voted Amount Budget Data Sheet, Page 2, Line 9f		(c2)	(c3)	(c4)	(c5)	(c6)
(d)	Highest Budget With a Vote Budget Report, Page 3, Part (II-J)		(d2)	(d3)	(d4)	(d5)	(d6)
			FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
(e)	PY OB Levy + CY Amount Approved on Ballot by Voters (a+b)		(e2) (a1)+(b2)	(e3) (a2)+(b3)	(e4) (a3)+(b4)	(e5) (a4)+(b5)	(e6) (a5)+(b6)
(f)	PY OB Levy + CY Highest Voted Amount (a+c)		(f2) (a1)+(c2)	(f3) (a2)+(c3)	(f4) (a3)+(c4)	(f5) (a4)+(c5)	(f6) (a5)+(c6)
(g)	Choose the Lesser of (e) or (f) (Authorized)		(g2)	(g3)	(g4)	(g5)	(g6)
(h)	Choose the Higher of (a) or (g) If the result is higher than (d) then (d)		(h2)	(h3)	(h4)	(h5)	(h6)
(i)	Choose the Highest of line (h2) through (h6) and use this number on, line (6b) of page 28 Line 6b (Budget Year Permissive Over-BASE)						(i)

Recap of General Fund BUDGET LIMITS AND VOTED AMOUNT

1	Current Year (FY27) BASE		page 25(v)	(1)	
2	Current Year (FY27) Maximum		page 24(l)	(2)	
3	Adjusted Prior Year (FY27) Adopted General Fund Budget:				
a	Prior Year Quality Educator Entitlement			(3a)	
b	Current Year Quality Educator Entitlement			(3b)	
c	Increase in Quality Educator Entitlement	(3b)-(3a), but not less than zero		(3c)	
d	Prior Year Indian Ed for All Entitlement			(3d)	
e	Current Year Indian Ed for All Entitlement (Adjusted)			(3e)	
f	Increase in Indian Ed for All Entitlement (Adjusted)	(3e)-(3d), but not less than zero		(3f)	
g	Prior Year American Indian Achievement Gap Entitlement			(3g)	
h	Current Year American Indian Achievement Gap Entitlement			(3h)	
l	Increase in Achievement Gap Entitlement	(3h)-(3g), but not less than zero		(3i)	
j	Prior Year At- Risk Entitlement			(3j)	
k	Current Year At-Risk Entitlement			(3k)	
l	Increase in At-Risk Entitlement	(3k)-(3j), but not less than zero		(3l)	
m	Prior Year Data for Achievement Entitlement			(3m)	
n	Current Year Data for Achievement Entitlement			(3n)	
o	Increase in Data for Achievement Entitlement	(3n)-(3m), but not less than zero		(3o)	
p	Prior Year Basic DSA Entitlement			(3p)	
q	Current Year Basic DSA Entitlement			(3q)	
r	Increase in Basic Entitlement	(3q)-(3p), but not less than zero		(3r)	
s	Prior Year Per-ANB DSA Entitlement			(3s)	
t	Current Year Per-ANB DSA Entitlement			(3t)	
u	Increase in Per-ANB DSA Entitlement	(3t)-(3s), but not less than zero		(3u)	
	1) Sum of Increases in State Funding	[(3c)+(3f)+(3i)+(3l)+(3o)+(3r)+(3u)]		(3v)	
	2) Prior Year Adopted General Fund Budget (DO NOT include budget amendments)	Budget Data Sheet Line 10d		(3w)	
	3) Adjusted Prior Year Adopted Budget		(3v)+(3w)	(3x)	
4	FY27 Highest Budget		greater of (2) or (3x)	(4)	
5	FY27 Minimum Budget is BASE			(5)	

Continued next page

**Recap of General Fund
BUDGET LIMITS AND VOTED AMOUNT
Continued**

6 FY27 Highest Budget WITHOUT A VOTE

BASE	(Line 1)	(6a)	
Plus: Highest Levy Over-BASE Authorized or Imposed Between FY22 and FY26.			
	Budget Data Sheet, Line 10e or page 26(i)	(6b)	
Plus: Fund balance reappropriated and non-levy revenue available to fund Over-BASE area after funding BASE.			
Note: It will be rare to have an amount here.			
BASE levy will be zero when an amount is available to use in this field.		(6c)	
Plus: Other non-levy revenues to fund over-BASE <u>Total of over-BASE TIF, O&G & Tuition</u>		(6d)	
Plus: Excess reserves used to fund over-BASE		(6e)	
Plus: Flexible non-voted levy authority to fund over-BASE		(6f)	
TOTAL	Sum of (6a) through (6f)	(6g)	
Highest Budget Without a Vote:	Lesser of (6g) or (4)	(6)	
7 Largest Voted Amount Possible	Line (4) minus Line (6), but not less than zero	(7)	
8 Proposed FY27 General Fund Budget Cannot exceed line (4)		(8)	
9 Amount Requiring Voter Approval i.e., must vote the dollar increase in over-BASE levies			
	Line (8) minus Line (6)	(9)	

**BUDGETING NON-LEVY REVENUE
GENERAL FUND BASE**

Estimating General Fund Non-Levy (i.e., non-tax) resources for the FY27 budget. [§ 20-9-141, MCA.](#)

Source	Description	Comments	FY27 Amount
ACTUAL - The following revenues MUST BE anticipated on the budget form USING ACTUAL PY receipts			
1130	Tax Title and Property Sales		
1510	Interest Earnings		
1800	Revenue from Community Services Activities		
1900	Other Revenue from Local Sources	AKA "Miscellaneous Revenue"	
1910	Rentals - Buildings and Equipment	Generally deposited into Lease Rental Fund (20) instead of Gen Fund	
1915	Dormitory Charges		
1920	Private Source Contributions/Donations	Not generally a General Fund item	
1940	Textbook Sales and Rentals		
1945	Fees - Users/Resale of Supplies		
1950	Services Provided Other Districts or Coops		
1960	Services Provided Other Local Governments		
1981	Summer School Fees		
3302	State - Payment in Lieu of Taxes - FWP		
Total Actual (Enter on page 31, line 5a)			
ANTICIPATED- The following types SHOULD BE ESTIMATED using the best information available			
0171	Oil & Gas Revenues - BASE Budget	see, 20-9-310, MCA	
1123	Coal Gross Proceeds	Dept. of Rev sends eligible districts an estimate in May, see 15-23-703, MCA	
4800	Federal Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	Rare	
9100	Other revenues	Used to anticipate any revenue type for which a code is not provided	
Total Anticipated (Enter on page 31, line 5b)			
OTHER- MAY BE estimated- NOT RECOMMENDED due to ability to hold receipts as Excess Reserves			
1117	District-Prior Year Taxes	Allowed as excess reserves	
1118	Dist. Dept. of Rev Tax Audit	Allowed as excess reserves	
1190	Penalties and Interest on Taxes	Allowed as excess reserves	
Total Other (Enter on page 31, line 5d)			

GENERAL FUND OVER-BASE

Estimated Revenue to fund the over-BASE:

0172	Oil & Gas Revenues - Over-BASE Budget	see, 20-9-310, MCA	
0175	TIF Applied to the Over-BASE Budget	see, 7-15-4291, MCA	
3449	School Block Grant Coal Mitigation	Limited, see 20-9-638, MCA	
1310	Tuition from Individuals	For attendance in the budget year	
1320	Tuition from In-State Schools	Usually, for attendance in the prior year received from another in-state school district	
1330	Tuition from Out-of-State Schools	Usually, for attendance in the prior year received from an out-of-state school district	
3117	State Tuition	For students placed in a group home, foster care, or by a state agency/court	

Total over-BASE revenues (Enter on page 31, line 10b)

Flexible Non-Voted Levy Authority to fund the over-BASE:

	Flexible Non-Voted Levy Authority (FNVLA)	Levy authority in the Transportation Fund (10), Bus Depreciation Fund (11), Tuition Fund (13), and the Adult Ed Fund (17) may be transferred to the General Fund (01) to fund the over-BASE	
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Total over-BASE Oil & Gas and FNVLA (Enter on page 31, line 10c)

CALCULATING GENERAL FUND REVENUES & BASE NEED AREA

Funding to Support the BASE Budget & Calculation of Need Area			
1. Proposed FY2027 General Fund Budget	page 28, Line 8	(1)	
2. BASE Budget	FY2027 BASE from page 27, Line1	(2)	
3. a. DSA	[0.447 X page 24, Lines (a + b)]	(3a)	
b. Special Education Allowable Costs Funding	page 23, Line (d)	(3b)	
c. Quality Educator Component	Budget Data Sheet, Line 3 Unadjusted = [FTE X \$3,896]	(3c)	
d. At Risk Component	Budget Data Sheet, Line 4	(3d)	
e. Indian Ed. for All	[Budget Limit ANB X \$26.13] minimum \$100 – Adjustment	(3e)	
f. American Indian Student Achievement Gap Component	[Indian Students X \$256]	(3f)	
g. Data for Achievement Component	[Budget Limit ANB X \$25.02]	(3g)	
4. a. Total Unreserved Fund Balance for Budgeting		(4a)	
b. Prior Year Excess Reserves Used to Fund Over-BASE Budget		(4b)	
c. Unreserved Fund Balance for Funding BASE and over-BASE	[4a - 4b]	(4c)	
5. Non-Levy Revenues			
a. Total Actual	See page 29	(5a)	
b. Total Anticipated	See page 29	(5b)	
d. Total Other	See page 29	(5c)	
e. Total Non-Levy Revenues for BASE	[5a + 5b + 5c]	(5d)	
6. a. Additional Revenue Needed to Fund BASE Budget	[Line 2 - (3a + 3b + 3c + 3d + 3e + 3f + 3g + 4c + 5d)] If <0, enter 0	(6a)	
This section is for K-12 Districts only			
K-12 Elem Additional Revenue Needed to Fund BASE Budget	[6a X page 25 (y1)]	6aEI	
K-12 HS Additional Revenue Needed to Fund BASE Budget	[6a X page 25 (y2)]	6aHS	

Funding the Over-BASE Budget (Includes any Over-Maximum Budget)			
7. District Mill Value	[Estimate using most updated Taxable Value X .001]	(7)	
8. Amount Budgeted Over-BASE	[Line 1 - Line 2]	(8)	
9. Prior Year General Fund "Excess Reserves" Used to Fund the Over-BASE Budget	Line 4b	(9)	
10. a. Fund Balance and Non-Levy Revenues Available to Fund the Over-BASE Budget	[Line 2 - (3a + 3b + 3c + 3d + 3e + 3f + 3g + 4c + 5d + 6a)]	(10a)	
b. Non-Levy Revenues Estimated to Fund the Over-BASE: Oil & Gas, OB TIF, & Tuition to over-BASE		(10b)	
c. Flexible Non-Voted Levy Authority (FNVLA) to Fund the Over-BASE	See page 28	(10c)	
11. Tax Levy Needed to Fund Over-BASE Budget	[8 – (9 + 10a + 10b + 10c)]	(11)	
12. Over-BASE Mills Required	[11 divided by 7] Round to XX.XX	(12)	

Add Mandatory Non-Isolated Mill Levy here, if applicable. [§ 20-9-303, MCA](#), Number of mills equals [(Line 3a ÷ by 2) ÷ by Line 7]. This applies only to Non-Isolated elementary districts with less than 10 ANB.

Are Funding Sources Adequate to Cover Budget?			
13. a. Direct State Aid (DSA)	Line 3a	(13a)	
b. Special Education Funding	Line 3b	(13b)	
c. Quality Educator Component	Line 3c	(13c)	
d. At Risk Component	Line 3d	(13d)	
e. Indian Ed. for All Component (Adjusted)	Line 3e	(13e)	
f. American Indian Student Achievement Gap Component	Line 3f	(13f)	
g. Data for Achievement Component	Line 3g	(13g)	
h. Unreserved Fund Balance Reappropriated	Line 4a	(13h)	
i. Prior Year Excess Reserves Reappropriated to Fund Over-BASE	Line 4b	(13i)	
j. BASE Non-Levy Revenues	Line 5d	(13j)	
k. BASE Required Need (Additional Revenue Needed to Fund BASE Budget) [Line 6a – 16k]		(13k)	
l. Over-BASE Estimated Revenue Sources [Line 9 + 10a + 10b + 10c]		(13l)	
m. Over-BASE Levy Tax Revenues [11]		(13m)	
n. TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES (Must = Line 1, may vary slightly due to rounding). If funding sources exceed total budget, BASE levy and Over-BASE levy must equal -0- [Sum Lines 13a through 16m]		(13n)	

Add Mandatory Non-Isolated Mill Levy here, if applicable. [§ 20-9-303, MCA](#), Number of mills equals [(Line 3a ÷ by 2) ÷ by Line 7]. This applies only to Non-Isolated Elem. districts with less than 10 ANB.

BALLOTS AND PROPOSITIONS

ESTIMATING THE TAX IMPACT OF MILL INCREASES FOR SCHOOL BALLOT ISSUES

Beginning in 2026, residences that qualify for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate are taxed at a lower tax rate. However, MCA does not address which tax rate should be used when estimating the impact of a voted levy. Language in this section has been adjusted for estimating the tax impact for a residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate.

[§ 15-10-425, MCA](#) requires that ballots for levy elections must state the estimated tax impact of the proposed ballot issue on the taxes assessed on a residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate with a market value of \$100,000, \$300,000, and \$600,000. The OPI's general fund budgeting spreadsheets are available at <http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Finance-Grants/School-Finance/School-Finance-Budgets> under the Budget Spreadsheet & Guidance tab will also perform these calculations. This applies to the ballot for the General Fund levy election.

This example shows how to calculate the tax impact of a FY2027 general fund levy increase of \$6,800 on a residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate valued at \$100,000, \$300,000, & \$600,000. This example assumes an elementary district is proposing a tax increase from \$35,700 to \$42,500 and that taxable valuation was \$1,000,000 for tax year 2025 and is estimated to be \$1,000,000 for TY2026.

(a) Residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property tax rate:		\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	\$600,000
(b) Times: Assessment Rate §15-6-134, MCA		0.76%	0.76%	See***
(c) Equals: Taxable Valuation [line a X line b]		\$760 *C	\$2,280 *D	\$4,87.80 *E
(d) Est Mills for Ballot for FY2027 over-BASE Budget * Proposed mills for FY2027: FY2027 <u>Actual Over-BASE Levy Amt.</u> = <u>42,500</u> =42.50 (2026 TY Taxable Valuation X 0.001) (1,000,000 X 0.001)	42.50 mills	Example		
		Elem Mills		
		HS or K-12 Mills		
(e) Actual Mills from PY (FY2026) over-BASE Budget ** FY2026 <u>Actual Over-BASE Levy Amt.</u> = <u>35,700</u> = 35.70 (2025 TY Taxable Valuation X 0.001) (1,000,000 X 0.001)	35.70 mills	Example		
		Elem Mills		
		HS or K-12 Mills		
(f) Proposed Increase (Decrease) in Mills [42.50- 35.70] [line d- line e]	6.80 mills	Example		
		Elem Mills		
		HS or K-12 Mills		
(g) Impact of Proposed Tax Increase Residence values of 100,000, 300,000 and 600,000 \$100,000 Residence: [6.80 X 760 X 0.001] \$300,000 Residence: [6.80 X 2,280 X 0.001] \$600,000 Residence: [6.80 X 4,870.80 X 0.001] [line f X line c X 0.001]	Example	\$5.17	\$15.50	\$33.13
	Elementary			
	HS or K-12			

* For a general fund election, the proposed mills would be the number of over-BASE mills needed to support the budget for the coming year. For other types of school elections, enter the estimated number of mills estimated to be levied if the election passes.

** For a general fund election, this amount would be the number of over-BASE mills raised to support the prior year's General Fund budget (Final Budget form, Lines V-K or Budget Data Sheet, Line 4e). For other types of school elections, enter the number of mills levied for the fund in the prior year.

*** Calculating the assessment rate for a residence of 600,000. First Level equal to State Median Rate (TY27 = 378,000) of 0.76% then the remaining portion at 0.90%.

Example: \$600,000 Residence: $[(378,000 \times 0.0076) + ((600,000 - 378,000) \times 0.0090)] = \$4,870.80$

Other requirements of § 15-10-425, MCA:

- a. Disclosure requirements apply to a regular or special school election that proposes to impose or raise a mill levy.
- b. The ballot under [§ 15-10-425, MCA](#), must include: specific purpose for which the money will be used, specific amount to be raised, approximate number of mills required, and durational limit, if any. (i.e., If the law allows you to run the election once to levy for a stated number of years, state that number of years- otherwise, the election applies for one year only). Levies are specific to dollars (not mills) to be raised and include approximate mills to achieve the dollar amount.
- c. The ballot must state the tax impacts for homes valued at \$100,000, \$300,000, and \$600,000 and MAY ALSO state the tax impact for a home of another value.

BALLOTS AND PROPOSITIONS

(a) Proposed Over-BASE Levy	Page 31, Line 11	
(b) Minus: Highest levy over-Base authorized or imposed between FY22 and FY26	Page 26, Line (i) or Budget Data Sheet, Line10e	
(c) Equals: (If <0, enter Zero) Amount of Voted Tax Levy <u>Increase</u> needed to support the over-BASE Budget	[(a) minus (b)]	Insert at *A
(d) Divided by: District Mill Value (see Note 1 below)	[Taxable Value X 0.001] or 31, Line 7	
(e) Equals: Total Number of over-BASE Mills Needed for Ballot	[(c) divided by (d)]	Insert at *B

Example Ballot for Districts -- Insert items above where indicated.

PROPOSITION

Shall the district be authorized to impose an increase in local taxes to support the general fund in the amount of \$ ***A** which is approximately ***B** mills for the purpose of _____? Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate with a market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$ ***C** , on a residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate with a market value of \$300,000 by approximately \$ ***D** and on a residence that qualifies for the homestead or rental property reduced tax rate with a market value with a market value of \$600,000 by approximately \$ ***E** . The durational limit of the levy is permanent once approved by the voters, assuming the district levies that amount at least once in the next five years.

FOR the additional levy.

AGAINST the additional levy.

***C , *D and *E** see page 33.

Note 1: See page 10 & 11 for discussion of taxable valuation and mill values.