

Glossary of Terms

Board Approved Budget – The district’s or charter school’s spending plan for the current fiscal year as approved by the Board of Education or Board of Directors.

Current Expense Taxes – General purpose revenues collected on the basis of a tax rate for every \$100 of assessed value of property.

Debt Service Tax – Revenues collected to pay for the principal and interest payments on bonds sold for capital projects. Bonds are generally for twenty-year amortizations and sold by the State on behalf of the District using the State’s credit rating. The State’s credit rating is currently AAA, the highest rating, yielding the lowest possible rates.

Division I Funds – State funds allocated for personnel’s salary and benefits. These funds are earned on the basis of units earned (see below).

Division II Funds – State funds allocated for materials, supplies and services, including energy. These funds are allocated on the basis of units earned (see below).

Division III (Equalization Funds) – Funds allocated by the State on the basis of property values, tax rates, and enrollments to equalize disparities in funding among districts statewide.

Equalization – Attempt to level the playing fields for the property-wealthy districts versus the property-poor districts.

Encumbrance – A purchase order or promise to pay. Vendor has not been paid; the funds are set aside or “encumbered.”

Expenditure – Payment to a vendor or employee.

Fiscal Year (FY) – Period between July 1st and June 30th.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) – Period between October 1st and September 30th.

Intermediate Budget Unit (IBU) – A specific program area in which funds are allocated.

Micro Budget Unit (MBU) – A subunit of the IBU, which allows program managers to allocate funds within a program or school for special curriculum or activities.

Minor Capital Improvements (MCI) – Revenues collected through a separate tax for the upkeep and maintenance of non-capitalized improvements within the District. The MCI funds are matched on a 60%/40% basis by the State.

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Other Employment Costs (OECs) – Employer costs that include pension, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, and health insurance.

Percent Obligated – The total encumbered amount (*promise to pay*) and expenditures (*paid*) as compared to the total budget. It is important to note that school districts and charter schools do not pay proportionally through the year. This means that a district or charter school does not necessarily have 50% of the budget remaining 50% of the way through the school year. For example, the majority of school supplies and materials are ordered at the beginning of the fiscal year in order to be ready for the opening of school.

Preliminary Budget – Operational financial plan in use until such time as the September 30th enrollment count is confirmed.

Revenue Budget – The projected receipts from state, local and federal sources.

Tuition Tax – Revenues collected for funding special schools and programs in the District, including the Bilingual Program, the Meadowood School, and Intensive Learning Centers, and to pay other districts for the attendance of Red Clay residents to schools outside the District.

Unit – A specific allocation of State funds distributed on the basis of the number of students enrolled in a given school. Elementary schools receive one unit for every 17.4 students enrolled in grades 1 through 3, with the exception of kindergarten classes which are calculated on the basis of 34.8 students per unit. Schools with students in grades 4 through 12 receive one unit for every 20 students enrolled.