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Camden City Schools Submits an On Time Balanced Budget for FY23

(The district also received its first “clean” unmodified Audit Report since June 30, 2015.)

CAMDEN, March 29, 2022—The Camden City School District (CCSD) has submitted an on-time, balanced budget for FY23. The District’s proposed budget is instructionally focused to ensure funds are appropriately allocated to provide students the resources they need to learn and teachers the resources they need to teach.

The proposed budget was balanced in large part through the district’s positive financial standing, having a positive fund balance at the conclusion of FY21, and the influx of federal funds through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grants the district received.

“While developing the budget with a focus on our students and instruction, we were also sensitive to the residents of the City of Camden,” expressed State District Superintendent Katrina McCombs. “Our decision-making continues to be guided by what’s best for the students and families of Camden, and how to best serve them,” she continued.

“As board president, I along with the rest of the board are thoroughly impressed with the hard work of the Superintendent and her team for submitting a balanced budget,” states Board President Wasim Muhammed. “I am equally proud that we have more money allocated towards capital improvements to ensure our facilities are well-suited for our students.”

In recognition of the current national economic environment, and knowing the financial difficulties many of Camden families are currently facing, the district sought to minimize the tax impact on residents. The preliminary budget was developed with a tax levy of thirteen million, which is under the statutory tax levy cap. It is important to note that although the FY23 budget was developed with the goal of enhancing instruction and opportunities for CCSD students, 58% of the district’s operating budget is directed to charter and renaissance schools within the City of Camden, thus limiting the operating funds available for district programs. Some key components of the FY23 budget include expansion of the district’s co-teaching model, the development of a district bus fleet for student transportation, and social/emotional supports for students.

“A clean audit and balanced budget is great news for our district,” states Raymond Coxe, School Business Administrator for Camden City Schools. “We’ve worked hard and continue to work hard to ensure financial sustainability and financial solvency so that our students receive the services and supports they so richly deserve.”

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