What is included in the District budget?

District revenues and expenditures are divided into various ‘buckets,’ known as “funds”. (See chart above as reference.)

1. **General Fund**—The General Fund is primarily used to provide the educational program for the school district.
   - The General fund is the largest of all District funds, accounting for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of all District revenues and expenditures.
   - This is the only fund that receives State moneys under the State foundation formula and State moneys for miscellaneous income to the school district.
   - The major revenue generator in the General Fund is the State foundation formula that governs the level of local property tax and State Aid funding based upon the District’s student enrollment. This generally funds the District’s regular program needs.
   - The General Fund also relies on significant “categorical” revenue sources from local, State and Federal sources. Categorical refers to revenues received that must be used for specific purposes. Examples include:

**District Details**

- Approximately 14,285.1 students
- 144 square miles in 5 different communities
- 7 elected Board of Education Members
- 21 Elementary Schools
- 3 Junior Highs
- 3 Comprehensive High Schools
- 1 Alternative High School
- 1 Special Programs Building
- 63 Administrators
- 1,114 Certified Teachers
- 904 Support Staff Members
Title I (reading assistance) and Title II (class size reduction)

- Funding sources: Federal
- Special Education Programs
  - Funding sources: Federal, State and local

- Approximately 84 percent of General Fund monies are used for employee costs. The District is a human resource intensive organization, requiring many certified instructional staff members and related support staff to deliver instruction to the District’s students.

2. **Activity Fund**—Includes: student-related activities, athletics, student organizations, and other extra-curricular activities and their fundraising events.
   - **Revenue Sources:** Student fees, gate admissions, fundraisers
   - **Authority to Generate Revenue:** Athletic Directors and Student Groups

3. **Capital Projects (G.O. & SAVE) Fund**—Used for all infrastructure projects funded by the sale of bonds and Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) sales tax revenues.
   - **Revenue Sources:** Sale Approved General Obligation Bonds and Revenue Bonds
   - **Authority to Generate Revenue:** Voter approved Facility Master Plan bond projects and voter approved Revenue Purpose Statement along with State Legislative Action.

4. **Debt Service Fund**—Used to account for revenues and expenditures related to long-term debt and general obligation bonds.
   - **Revenue Sources:** Local property tax
   - **Authority to Generate Revenue:** Board of Education

5. **Management Fund**—Pays District unemployment charges, property, casualty and workers compensation insurances, and early retirement incentives.
   - **Revenue Sources:** Local property tax
   - **Authority to Generate Revenue:** Board of Education

6. **Physical Plant and Equipment (PPEL) Fund**—Used for the purchase and improvement of sites, buses, and numerous life cycle replacement programs from roofs to classroom furniture and equipment.
   - **Revenue Sources:** Local property tax
   - **Authority:**
     - Board of Education: Maximum 33 cents per $1,000.
     - Voter approved: ($1.34 per $1,000) Ten year levy, expires June 30, 2025

7. **Nutrition Fund**—Used for school lunch and breakfast programs.
   - **Revenue Sources:** Lunch and breakfast sales, ala Carte sales, federal and state reimbursements
   - **Authority:** Board of Education approves lunch and breakfast prices

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Which buckets include costs related to District staff?**
The General and Nutrition Services Funds pay for staff salaries and benefits.

**Can funds from one ‘bucket’ be moved into another bucket?**
With little exception, monies within a fund (‘bucket’) must be used only for the specific purposes of that fund as defined under Iowa law. For example, sales tax revenues cannot be used to pay for a teacher’s salary.

**How is transportation paid for?** Both the General Fund and the PPEL Fund pay for transportation. The PPEL Fund pays for the non-special education bus leases. The remainder is paid from the General Fund.