

# W-JCC Schools to review \$201 million budget with local governments today

It's Feb. 6. Williamsburg, James City County and local school board meet today to review budget ask.

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FEB 06, 2026

Williamsburg-James City County schools were promised nearly \$119 million next year from James City County and the city of Williamsburg. School board members will ask for another \$1.9 million today.

The two localities and the school board will have their joint meeting Friday morning starting at 8:30 in the city council chambers at the Stryker Center.

At the meeting the schools will make their case for a \$201 million operating budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

A budget that size would represent an increase of more than **\$20 million** over the past two years. School enrollment dipped from 11,379 in 2024 to 11,146 in 2025 and is expected to remain at that level this year.

School officials are looking for a \$10.3 million increase in pay and benefits to bring salaries more in line with what other area schools are paying.

They also are asking for \$415,000 for a JROTC program and \$225,000 to establish a lacrosse program.

James City County taxpayers will fund the bulk of the local contribution -- \$104.5 million -- because county children make up the bulk of students in the system. Education is 40% of the county budget, the largest single county expense and more than double the second largest expense, for public safety.

Because of the city's smaller student population, education is the fourth largest share of Williamsburg's annual operating budget. It ranks below public works, public safety and parks and recreation budget expenses.

**Wjcc Schools Joint Meeting Feb 6 Fy27**

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