

NEWS:

New State Operating Budget Clears House, Other "Money Bills" Await Action

JUNE 24, 2019 -- The Delaware House of Representatives unanimously approved a \$4.451 billion state operating budget on Thursday. The [FY 2020 spending plan](#) is \$181.1 million more than the one it will replace -- a 4.24% increase.

The appropriations bill still needs to be approved by the Senate and signed by the governor prior to the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

More than a third (35.3%) of the new budget -- \$1.572 billion -- is dedicated to funding Delaware's public schools. The state pays approximately 70% of public schools' costs. About 15,281 positions in Delaware charter schools and school districts are funded through the General Fund.

The next largest budget expenditure is the \$1.234 billion earmarked for the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), accounting for 27.7% of the total. The agency is responsible for administering Medicaid and other smaller medical assistance programs. Medicaid will receive almost \$764.2 million in the upcoming fiscal year, a modest increase of 1.46% (\$11 million).

Taken together, public education and DHSS account for 63-cents of every General Fund dollar spent by the state.

Lawmakers must also still consider the state's other two major money bills: the capital budget (Bond Bill) and the Grants-in-Aid Bill, which provides state assistance to non-profit organizations performing work benefiting the community, such as senior centers and volunteer fire companies.

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