

**Questions from DLGF Public Hearing on October 8, 2021:**

- 1.) What are the changes in expenditures and receipts from last year’s budget to this year’s budget?

Last year the DLGF approved budget expenditures for our levied funds of the following amounts:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022 (Proposed)</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Referendum Fund	8,900,000	12,500,000	3,600,000
Debt Service Fund	13,805,684	16,473,924	2,668,240
Education Fund	35,141,349	44,157,000	9,015,651
Operations Fund	5,274,415	18,785,000	13,510,585

Source: DLGF Lake County 2021 Budget Order (<https://www.in.gov/dlqf/files/Lake-210212-2021-Budget-Order-Amended.pdf>)

Receipts or Miscellaneous Revenues are estimated in the DLGF on Budget Form 2. Some major changes in these revenues from 2021 to 2022’s budget request are the increase in tuition support dollars of approximately 6% to the Education fund to be received in FY22.

Source: Indiana Gateway Budget Forms ([https://gateway.ifionline.org/report\\_builder/](https://gateway.ifionline.org/report_builder/))

- 2.) The Capital Project plan listed with the budget documents is different than other capital project plans found online, items are missing from this plan.

The DLGF requires units to submit a Capital Project Plan for the proposed expenditures included in their 2022 budget appropriations. This plan is to only include capital projects set to be completed in 2022 that exceed a \$10,000 threshold. Gary Community School Corporation submitted a Capital Projects Plan as a formality to the budget process although there are no capital project appropriations being requested in our 2022 budget. All capital projects and improvements will be paid from other revenue sources such as the 1065 School Improvement Fund or ESSER funds in 2022.

**Other Public Comments:**

- 1.) Gary Community Schools has received millions of dollars in COVID funds, we should no longer have financial issues.

The COVID relief funds, such as ESSER, are restricted funds that cannot be used to pay off debts or correct fund deficits. These funds are reimbursable through pre-approved federal expenditures once improvements or fixtures have been purchased. ESSER budgets have to be submitted for approval prior to expenditures being paid so that the purpose of those funds are reviewed for allowable costs. Such allowable costs must meet certain criteria. While Gary Community Schools Corporation has received a substantial allocation of federal funds to be encumbered over the next few years and these funds will assist in relieving current appropriations, it is not a complete financial solution for any unit of government.

Source: U.S Department of Education ([https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final\\_ESSERII\\_Factsheet\\_1.5.21.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Factsheet_1.5.21.pdf))