

# D25 Interagency Commission on School Construction

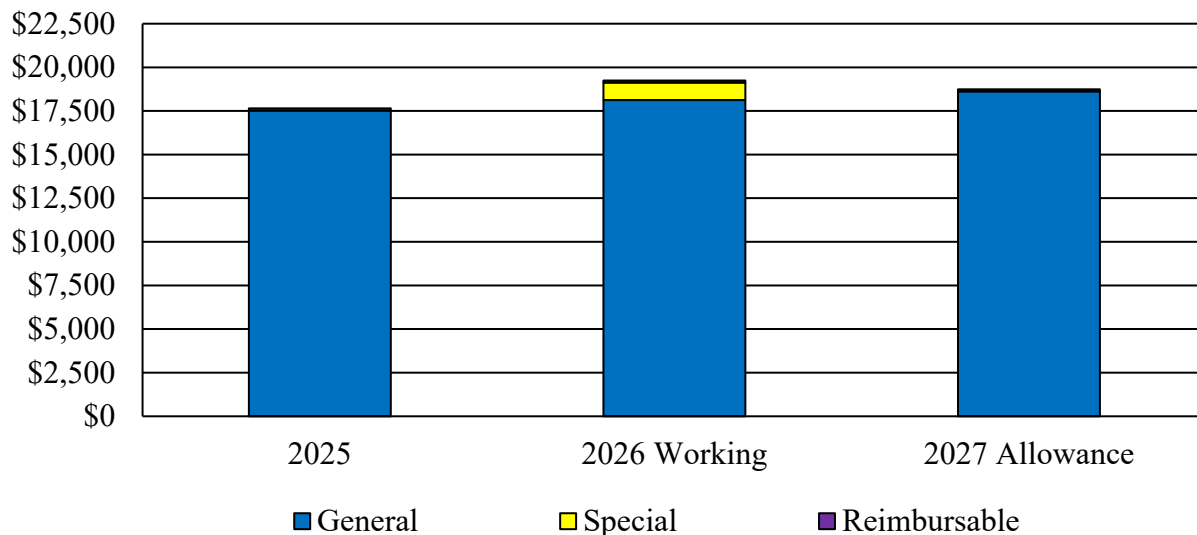
## Program Description

The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) is an independent commission created by the 21st Century School Facilities Act (Chapter 14 of 2018). Members of the commission include the State Superintendent of Schools, the Secretary of Planning, the Secretary of General Services, two members of the public appointed by the Governor, two members of the public appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. As part of the passage of Chapter 679 of 2023, IAC was authorized as an independent State agency. The role of IAC is to review, analyze, and approve requests for State school construction funds distributed to local education agencies (LEA). IAC’s goals are to promote (1) equity in the quality of school facilities throughout the State and (2) well-maintained, safe physical environments for teaching and learning. IAC staff assist the commission in administering the programs. IAC’s operating budget includes funding for public school safety programs and their administration. More information on the State’s public school construction program and supplemental grants can be found in the capital budget analysis for D25\* – Public School Construction.

## Operating Budget Summary

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### Fiscal 2027 Budget Decreases \$502,702, or 2.6%, to \$18.7 Million (\$ in Thousands)



Note: The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

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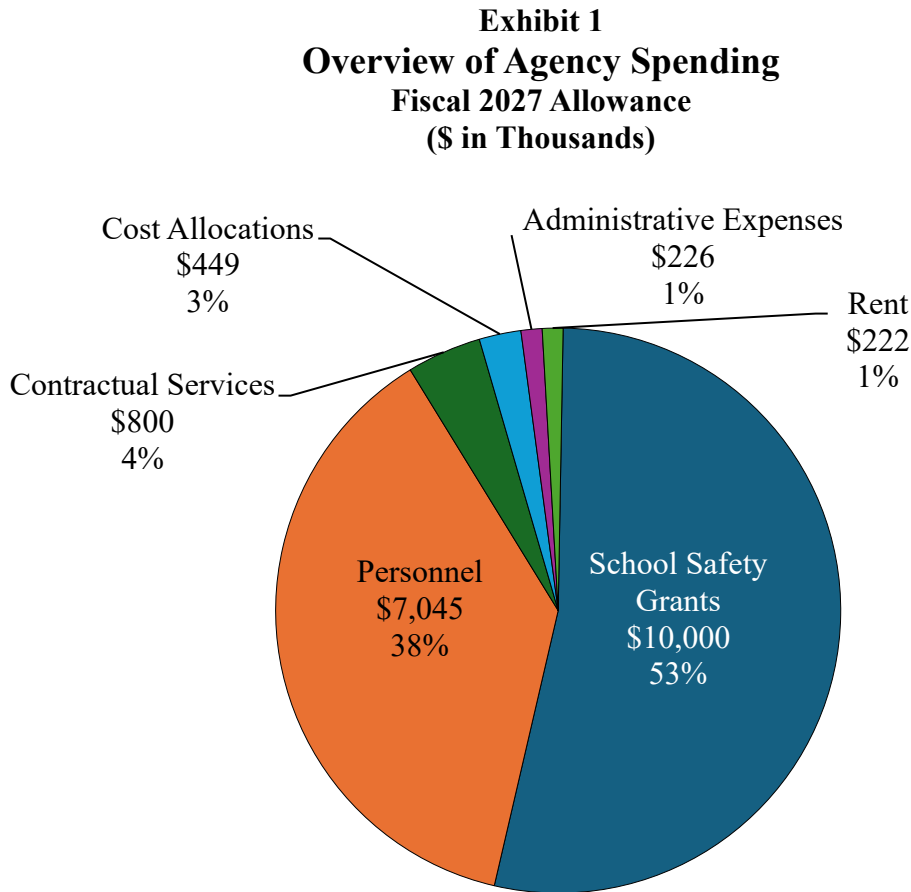
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## Fiscal 2026 Proposed Deficiency

IAC has a personnel deficiency appropriation totaling \$290,866 in general funds, which includes shortfalls related to lower-than-expected vacancy savings.

## Fiscal 2027 Overview of Agency Spending

Of the fiscal 2027 proposed budget, \$10.0 million (53%) supports school safety grants, which fund security improvements like surveillance systems, access control systems, emergency generators, door hardware, and other security modifications in public schools. The remaining \$8.7 million (47%) supports administrative expenses of which 80.6% is personnel (\$7.0 million). **Exhibit 1** categorizes IAC’s fiscal 2027 proposed budget.



Note: The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

**Proposed Budget Change**

As shown in **Exhibit 2**, IAC’s fiscal 2027 allowance decreases by \$503,000 compared to the fiscal 2026 working appropriation after accounting for a proposed deficiency appropriation. Personnel costs increase by a total of \$329,000. This is offset by a \$1.0 million decrease resulting from a one-time special fund appropriation supported by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund in fiscal 2026 for ongoing public school decarbonization efforts.

**Exhibit 2  
Proposed Budget  
Interagency Commission on School Construction  
(\$ in Thousands)**

<b>How Much It Grows:</b>	<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Special Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Reimb. Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Fiscal 2025 Actual	\$17,523	\$0	\$126	\$17,648
Fiscal 2026 Working	18,123	1,000	121	19,244
Fiscal 2027 Allowance	18,616	0	125	18,741
Fiscal 2026-2027 \$ Change	\$494	-\$1,000	\$4	-\$503
Fiscal 2026-2027 % Change	2.72%	-100.00%	3.04%	-2.61%

<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>	
Employee and retiree health insurance .....	\$231
Salary and associated fringe benefits adjustments.....	194
Deferred compensation match due to a statewide change in budgeting .....	11
Turnover increases from 2.25% to 3.94% .....	-107
<b>Other Changes</b>	
Cost allocations.....	159
Data processing equipment.....	47
Rent.....	10
Software maintenance and licensing .....	-65
One-time special fund transfer from Maryland Energy Administration in fiscal 2026 for ongoing public school decarbonization efforts.....	-1,000
Other	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$503</b>

Note: The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

## *Personnel Data*

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	<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>FY 26-27</b>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Working</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Change</u>
Regular Positions	44.00	44.00	44.00	0.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### *Vacancy Data: Regular Positions*

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	1.73	3.94%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/2025	3.00	6.81%
 Vacancies Above Turnover	 1.27	

- Budgeted turnover increases from 2.25% to 3.94%. As of December 31, 2025, IAC reported a vacancy rate of 6.81%.
- There has been no change to IAC’s total number of authorized positions (44.00) since fiscal 2025.
- As of December 31, 2025, IAC had 3 vacancies, which is 1.27 vacancies above budgeted turnover in fiscal 2027. The vacancies include 2 administrative specialists and a capital construction engineer. Out of these vacancies, 1 administrative specialist position and the capital construction engineer position have been vacant for over a year. **Because IAC has plans to recruit for the engineer role, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends abolishing the administrative specialist position that has been vacant since February 2025.**

## *Key Observations*

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### **1. Facility Mapping Standards Finalized**

Language in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill restricted funds in IAC pending a report on the agency’s efforts to develop standards for the uniform mapping of the State’s public schools, as set forth by Chapters 166 and 167 of 2024. IAC submitted the report in June 2025, and \$50,000 in withheld general funds were authorized to be released in July 2025.

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IAC was required to create standards that ensure that school maps are consistent and accessible, primarily for first responders during emergencies. Following collaboration with the Maryland Center for School Safety, the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), and emergency services, IAC honed the definitions for several facility-related terms and finalized the following standards in June 2025:

- mapping data must cover the floorplans and footprints of the full facility and grounds and must be available in a printable and digital file format;
- all information must be able to be integrated into interactive mobile platforms and must be compatible with software platforms used by the school, LEA, State, and emergency services without requiring the purchase of additional software or charging a fee to view or access the data;
- floorplans and other data must be periodically verified through walk-throughs of school facilities;
- data must be case sensitive and use site-specific labeling that matches the physical labels throughout the school buildings;
- schools must identify access points and points of interest, including potential hazards and emergency resources like trauma kits and defibrillators; and
- schools must provide building coordinates for spatial accuracy.

All data produced through the School Mapping Data Program must reflect the current physical state of the facilities and be verified against actual conditions rather than relying solely on historical plans. LEAs are responsible for keeping the school mapping data updated but are not required to review data at specific intervals.

## **2. Statewide Facility Assessment Highlights Ongoing Safety Issues**

Language in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill also restricted funds pending a report on the condition of school buildings, as mandated as part of Chapter 32 of 2022. IAC submitted the report in November 2025, and \$100,000 in withheld general funds was authorized to be released in December 2025. The report assessed five areas of school facilities:

- critical systems, including HVAC, roofs, and life-safety systems like fire alarms and sprinklers;
- environmental quality, including issues with humidity, temperature, carbon dioxide;

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- lighting and acoustics;
- hazardous materials, such as asbestos and lead paint; and
- specialized equipment, including health room resources, lab safety equipment, and kitchen sanitary equipment.

IAC measures the condition of critical systems using the Facility Condition Index (FCI). FCI is calculated as a percentage of the expected useful lifespan that has been depleted. The index reflects overall building health, with higher percentages indicating poorer conditions. An FCI under 45% generally signifies satisfactory condition, while scores over 60% indicate critical issues. The statewide average FCIs for the aforementioned facility features are as follows:

- ***HVAC:*** 56.88%;
- ***Roofs:*** 56.57%; and
- ***Life Safety Systems:*** 51.77%.

The average FCIs convey serious issues with critical systems across the State and highlight ongoing safety concerns for students and staff. A count of facilities facing other persistent issues are as follows, with schools frequently reporting multiple ongoing issues:

- ***Temperature:*** 129;
- ***Humidity:*** 151;
- ***Carbon Dioxide Levels:*** 14;
- ***Acoustics:*** 11;
- ***Lighting:*** 12;
- ***Asbestos:*** 23; and
- ***Lead Paint:*** 13.

Notably, none of the instances of lead or asbestos necessitated a building or space closure. LEAs also reported that 316 schools lack key safety and sanitary equipment in their health rooms, labs, and kitchens as required by local statute. Altogether, the reports describe significant issues with school conditions and building safety across the State. Further discussion of school conditions

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will appear in the capital budget analysis for school construction D25\* – Public School Construction.

**Exhibit 3** shows overall facility rating results from fiscal 2021 to 2025. More than a quarter (26.6%) of Maryland’s public schools are not in satisfactory condition as of fiscal 2025.

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**Exhibit 3**  
**Maintenance-effectiveness Assessment Results**  
**Fiscal 2021-2025**

	<u>Superior/Good</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Inadequate</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Total</u>
2021	63	131	72	2	268
2022	22	189	52	2	265
2023	4	106	57	5	172
2024	9	97	37	2	145
2025	2	128	42	1	173
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1023</b>
Share	9.8%	63.6%	25.4%	1.2%	100.0%

Source: Interagency Commission on School Construction

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***Operating Budget Recommended Actions***

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	<b><u>Amount Change</u></b>		<b><u>Position Change</u></b>
1. Abolish PIN 002433 for an administrative specialist III that has been vacant since February 2025.	-\$95,504	GF	-1.0
<b>Total Net Change to Fiscal 2027 Allowance</b>	<b>-\$95,504</b>		<b>-1.0</b>

## ***Updates***

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### **1. Asset Library to Be Fully Operational by Fiscal 2027**

Chapter 14 of 2018 required IAC to build a cloud-based, asset library that would integrate preventive maintenance and facilities assessment data in a manner accessible to LEAs. Known as the Integrated Master Facilities Asset Library, the system has two main components – the Business Management System (BMS) and the Facilities Data System (FDS). FDS is not yet finalized.

BMS – which manages the routing and processing of financial documents – is operational as of fiscal 2026, with \$753,000 in licensing costs. IAC expects fiscal 2027 and 2028 licensing costs to total \$723,000 and \$759,000, respectively.

FDS will provide a portal for LEAs to review and report changes to school facility assessment data and upload reports. IAC’s vendor completed development in July 2025, costing \$879,000 and an additional \$5,200 in licensing and equipment fees. Since the contract’s completion, IAC has been conducting production tests and maintenance alongside DoIT. The full asset library system is scheduled to go live on July 1, 2026, but will run concurrently with IAC’s legacy systems for its first year for data quality control purposes. The cost to operate FDS in fiscal 2027 is expected to total approximately \$6,300 but will increase to \$24,000 in fiscal 2028 due to IAC’s anticipated need for additional Geographic Information System licensing.

**Appendix 1**  
**2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report Responses from Agency**

The 2025 *Joint Chairmen’s Report* (JCR) requested that IAC prepare three reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Report on the Development of Facility Mapping Standards:*** Chapters 166 and 167 of 2024 require IAC to adopt facility mapping standards as specified in § 5-310.1 of the Education Article. The standards are designed to ensure that first responders have access to clear and consistent school maps in case of emergency. This report is discussed in Issue 1 of the analysis.
- ***Report on Measures of School Facilities Required in Chapter 32:*** Chapter 32 required IAC to incorporate additional measures on the condition of school facilities into the State’s annual maintenance assessment. The report provides a count of LEAs with issues related to HVAC, roof, life-safety systems, environmental quality, lighting, acoustics, hazardous materials, and specialized safety equipment. This report is discussed in Issue 2 of the analysis.
- ***Letter Confirming the Submission of Mandated Reports:*** In calendar 2023, 2024, and 2025, IAC did not submit multiple reports. As of February 15, 2025, the agency had five outstanding reports. The fiscal 2026 Budget Bill restricted funds until IAC submits a letter confirming the submission of all mandated reports. IAC has yet to submit a letter.

**Appendix 2**  
**Object/Fund Difference Report**  
**Interagency Commission on School Construction**

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Working Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Positions</b>					
01 Regular	44.00	44.00	44.00	0.00	0.0%
02 Contractual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Objects</b>					
01 Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$6,587,833	\$6,716,383	\$7,045,263	\$328,880	4.9%
02 Technical and Special Fees	1,347	0	0	0	N/A
03 Communications	23,042	20,255	23,920	3,665	18.1%
04 Travel	65,040	59,277	69,777	10,500	17.7%
07 Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	1,735	4,800	4,800	0	0.0%
08 Contractual Services	932,189	2,147,289	1,248,672	-898,617	-41.8%
09 Supplies and Materials	2,127	10,000	2,500	-7,500	-75.0%
11 Equipment – Additional	60,981	69,553	119,553	50,000	71.9%
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	9,739,183	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	0.0%
13 Fixed Charges	234,967	216,275	226,645	10,370	4.8%
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>\$17,648,444</b>	<b>\$19,243,832</b>	<b>\$18,741,130</b>	<b>-\$502,702</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
01 General Funds	\$17,522,793	\$18,122,707	\$18,616,318	\$493,611	2.7%
03 Special Funds	0	1,000,000	0	-1,000,000	-100.0%
09 Reimbursable Funds	125,651	121,125	124,812	3,687	3.0%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$17,648,444</b>	<b>\$19,243,832</b>	<b>\$18,741,130</b>	<b>-\$502,702</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.