



SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED FISCAL 2022 BUDGET

Bedford Public Schools
December 22, 2020 (Full Proposal)
January 19, 2021 (Revisions)

SUPERINTENDENT'S FISCAL 2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL

JANUARY 19, 2021 REVISIONS

There are several recommended revisions to the FY22 Budget Proposal that have emerged from the School Committee budget review and in response to the most current financial and public health information available. These changes impact all three budget scenarios and are summarized below.

The overarching goal of the three scenario budgets, again, is to understand the cost impacts of having school in: 1) normal conditions, 2) improving conditions where some but not all of the current safety protocols are in place, and 3) severe conditions where relief from the pandemic has not yet arrived. And to understand the costs in the context of having all students who can, able to come to school for in-person instruction for five days per week. The district has been striving throughout the pandemic, to bring students back as soon as can be done so safely for both students and staff members, and in a stable and sustainable manner.

The vast majority of students and families will be most successful upon their return to in-person learning where they can begin the process of educational recovery from any learning losses they may have experienced, as well as social and emotional challenges. Having the majority of students return to in-person learning will require lower density learning environments, or smaller class sizes, which are proposed first and foremost in order to be able to offer in-person school with some amount of social distancing while the pandemic is ongoing to whatever degree it is by next fall. To avoid continuing in the hybrid model and to be in-person simply requires lower density classes.

Taking these proactive steps to return students to full-time in-person learning, as the middle scenario budget does, is why the budget is called the recovery budget. The district will use these resources to resume in-person learning safely and to support high quality instruction after an extremely difficult year.

Baseline Budget (3.8%)

Several changes were necessary to the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and additions that comprise the baseline budget. A 0.5 FTE BCBA Teacher that had been omitted was added, as well as support for JV Hockey. This results in an increase of \$43,108 in the FY22 requested additions and a change in the request from \$317,554 to \$360,662. To partially accommodate this increase, savings of \$20,000 were found in the MOE budget.

Instead of a 3.75% base budget increase, the revised request is for a 3.8% increase above the FY21 approved budget. The district has made every effort to propose a base budget within the established 3.5% Finance Committee guideline, and came within \$127,478 of meeting this goal. There is also planned restructuring built into the proposed budget with a savings of \$136,236. The challenges in meeting this guideline are related to school special revenue losses (estimated at \$127,000) and the corresponding budgetary offsets, as well as the restoration of the technology lease.

The revised baseline budget request of \$43,630,038 and an increase of \$1,598,579, or 3.8%, is summarized below:

FY21	FY22 Maintenance of Effort			Additional Needs		FY22 Total Budget Request		
Adjusted Budget	FY22 MOE	\$ Change	% Change	FY22 Additional	% Change	FY22 Total	\$ Change	% Change
\$42,031,459	\$43,269,377	\$ 1,237,918	2.9%	\$ 360,662	0.9%	\$43,630,038	\$1,598,579	3.8%

The baseline budget relies upon a **Town of Bedford reserve of \$450,000** for extraordinary special education costs.

The detail on the revised recommended additions include a net change of 6.1 FTE and \$360,662 in the FY22 Budget, and is provided below:

FY22 ADDITIONAL NEEDS	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	FY22 ADDITIONAL NEEDS FTE	FY22 ADDITIONAL NEEDS \$
Spec Ed Teacher	.5 BCBA, 1.0 SAIL	MIDDLE SCHOOL	1.5	\$98,064
	.5 BCBA, 1.2 SLP	DAVIS SCHOOL	1.7	\$111,139
Spec Ed Para Professional	1.0 COTA	LANE SCHOOL	1	\$35,000
	1.0 SLPA, 2.0 SAIL TA-BT	MIDDLE SCHOOL	3	\$91,634
Subtotal Spec Ed			7.2	\$335,837
Counseling	.5 Adjustment Counselor	MIDDLE SCHOOL	0.5	\$32,688
Instruction	.4 EL Teacher (HS)	SYSTEM WIDE	0.4	\$26,150
	New Testing and Assessment	SYSTEM WIDE		\$28,000
Textbooks	Bridges in Mathematics (Lane - Year 1 of 3)			\$15,802
Athletics	JV Hockey	HIGH SCHOOL		\$10,420
Administration	Exec Assist/ Human Resources		1.0	\$48,000
	Restructuring Opportunities	SYSTEM WIDE	-3	-\$136,236
TOTAL			6.1	\$360,662
Estimated Benefits Cost to Town				\$70,150

Recovery Budget (7.2%)

Following the School Committee review of the recovery budget, and in response to the most current information available, several adjustments have been made. These changes included several additions and reductions, including:

- Additional support (+\$100,000) for substitutes for Covid-19 related absences and accommodations
- Elimination of 8.0 FTE reductions (+\$210,536) in paraprofessional support
- Decreased support (-\$51,800) for furniture and equipment (some items are anticipated to be purchased in the current year)

- Anticipated federal relief funding will allow a budget decrease of (-\$242,321) for PPE, sanitation, advanced filtration and other safety protocols – these expenses were 100% covered by relief funding in FY21 and information about pending federal action suggests a similar expectation is reasonable for FY22.

The revised recovery budget request of \$45,074,995 and an increase of \$3,043,536, or 7.2%, is higher than the original proposal by about \$40,000 and 0.1%, and is summarized below:

FY21	FY22 Maintenance of Effort			Additional Needs		FY22 Total Budget Request		
Adjusted Budget	FY22 MOE	\$ Change	% Change	FY22 Additional	% Change	FY22 Total	\$ Change	% Change
\$42,031,459	\$43,269,377	\$ 1,237,918	2.9%	\$1,805,618	4.3%	\$45,074,995	\$3,043,536	7.2%

The additions to the baseline budget are detailed in the following chart:

FY22 RECOVERY NEEDS ALL IN WITH SOME SAFETY PROTOCOLS	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	FY22 NEEDS FTE	FY22 NEEDS \$
Instruction - Salary	Class Size Avg 16 students	DAVIS SCHOOL	5.0	\$326,880
	Class Size Avg 18 students	LANE SCHOOL	6.0	\$392,256
	English Teacher	HIGH SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
	English Teacher	MIDDLE SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
	Math Teacher	HIGH SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
	Math Teacher	MIDDLE SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
	Special Ed - Salary			
	Special Ed Teacher - K-5	LANE SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
	Special Ed Teacher - 6-12	HIGH SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
Subtotal Instruction				\$1,111,393
Instruction - Non-Salary	Professional Development	SYSTEM WIDE		\$20,000
	Furniture, Equipment (K-5)	SYSTEM WIDE		\$89,000
IT - Non Salary	Covid Impact - continue 1:1	HIGH SCHOOL		\$22,500
	Covid Impact - Online Curriculum	SYSTEM WIDE		\$102,064
Substitutes	Covid Coverage needs	SYSTEM WIDE		\$100,000
TOTAL			17.0	\$1,444,957
Estimated Benefits Cost to Town				\$195,500

The recovery budget relies upon several additional sources of funding, including:

- Town of Bedford reserve of \$450,000 for extraordinary special education costs
- Anticipated federal funding for Covid-19 direct expenses for PPE, sanitation and cleaning, advance air filtration and other safety protocols (\$242,321)

Continuing Covid-19 Impact Budget (12.3%)

The changes in the recovery budget described above were carried forward to the continuing Covid-19 budget. The revised third scenario/worst scenario budget request of \$47,221,528 and

an increase of \$5,180,069, or 12.3%, is higher than the original proposal by about \$234,000 and 0.5%, and is summarized below:

FY21	FY22 Maintenance of Effort			Additional Needs		FY22 Total Budget Request		
Adjusted Budget	FY22 MOE	\$ Change	% Change	FY22 Additional	% Change	FY22 Total	\$ Change	% Change
\$42,031,459	\$43,269,377	\$ 1,237,918	2.9%	\$3,942,151	9.4%	\$47,211,528	\$5,180,069	12.3%

The continuing Covid budget is preliminary and the cost impact could likely exceed the estimates provided. This scenario describes the fiscal impact of continuing severe Covid-19 fiscal impacts with all Bedford students with the opportunity to attend school in-person, with a remote option still available. This third scenario budget also relies upon several additional sources of funding, including:

- Town of Bedford reserve of \$450,000 for extraordinary special education costs
- Anticipated federal funding for Covid-19 direct expenses for PPE, sanitation and cleaning, advance air filtration and other safety protocols (\$242,321)

The differences in the continuing Covid-19 budget from the baseline budget are detailed in the following chart:

FY22 RECOVERY NEEDS ALL IN WITH ALL CURRENT SAFETY PROTOCOLS	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	FY22 NEEDS FTE	FY22 NEEDS \$
Instruction - Salary	Class Size Avg 16 students	DAVIS SCHOOL	5.0	\$326,880
	Class Size Avg 16 students	LANE SCHOOL	10.0	\$653,760
	Additional Teachers	HIGH SCHOOL	18.0	\$1,176,769
	Additional Teachers	MIDDLE SCHOOL	14.0	\$915,264
Special Ed - Salary	Special Ed Teacher - K-5	LANE SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
	Special Ed Teacher - 6-12	HIGH SCHOOL	1.0	\$65,376
Substitutes	Covid Coverage	SYSTEM WIDE		\$100,000
Subtotal Instruction				\$3,303,425
Instruction - Non-Salary	Professional Development	SYSTEM WIDE		\$20,000
	Furniture, Equipment (K-5)	SYSTEM WIDE		\$133,500
IT - Non-Salary	Covid Impact - continue 1:1	HIGH SCHOOL		\$22,500
	Covid Impact - Online Curriculum	SYSTEM WIDE		\$102,064
TOTAL			49.0	\$3,581,489
Estimated Benefits Cost to Town				\$563,500

Remote Option

Costs associated with the continuation of the remote option integrated operationally as it is in the current year are included in the second and third budget scenarios. The recommended staffing levels include remote teachers at Davis and Lane and additional paraprofessionals to support the one-school model at JGMS and the high school. The large investment in technology, online curriculum, devices and live streaming technology have already been made

to support the continuation of a remote option next year. The district is not recommending the state contracted Learning Management systems at this time for Bedford due to cost/value, logistical and quality concerns.

Three Budget Scenarios in Context

A final summary of the staffing and total fiscal impact of the three scenario budgets is provided below, with the current year approved budget and the current year above budget approved expenditures.

FY22 BUDGET CONTEXT	FY21 Approved Budget	FY21 Approved Budget plus Expenses from Reserves	FY22 Proposed Baseline Budget	FY22 Proposed Recovery Budget	FY22 Proposed Continuing Covid Budget
TEACHER FTE	303.4	310.4	306	323	338
PARA PROF INSTRUCTIONAL FTE	68.2	93.2	70.7	70.7	70.7
OTHER FTE	74.6	75.6	75.6	75.6	75.6
TOTAL FTE	446.2	479.2	452.3	469.3	484.3
<i>Difference</i>		33	6.1	17	32
TOTAL BUDGET	\$42,031,459	\$43,178,382	\$43,630,038	\$45,074,995	\$47,211,528
<i>Difference</i>	\$187,094	\$1,146,923	\$1,598,579	\$3,043,536	\$5,180,069
<i>% Change</i>	0.4%	2.7%	3.8%	7.2%	12.3%

New Federal Relief Funding Update

The district received notice yesterday approximately \$170,000 in relief funding will become available to the district. The district is still evaluating the best use of these funds including pooled testing. Pooled testing is being explored as a potential 7th health and safety pillar that could help Bedford increase in-person instruction. Thus, this funding is not relied upon in the FY22 budget proposal.