

Bedford Public Schools Superintendent's Fiscal 2023 Budget Proposal

Bedford School Committee - Public Hearing
January 25, 2022



Introduction

The FY23 Budget Proposal is a financial plan for the 2022-23 school year that:

- Sustainably prioritizes resources to meet the needs of all learners
- Provides strong support for best practices currently in place, and their continued development
- Proposes minimal new additions / current initiatives are prioritized
- Seeks opportunities for efficiencies
- Aligns with the District Improvement Plan strategic objectives
- Meets the Finance Committee's guideline of a 3.5% increase

FY23 Superintendent's Budget Proposal

- Proposal stays with 3.5% guideline
- Proposal assumes normal operations
- Proposal continues to rely upon a Town reserve for out-of-district tuition, in a lower amount of \$200,000
- Proposal includes new funding for Special Ed Transportation
- FY23 proposed budget does not include potential financial impacts due to Covid-19 (but these are estimated)

FY23 Total Budget Request

FY22	FY23 Maintenance of Effort			Additional Needs		FY23 Total Budget Request		
Adjusted Budget	FY23 MOE	\$ Change	% Change	FY23 Additional	% Change	FY23 Total	\$ Change	% Change
\$ 43,630,038	\$ 45,006,057	\$1,376,019	3.15%	\$ 151,033	0.3%	\$ 45,157,090	\$ 1,527,051	3.5%

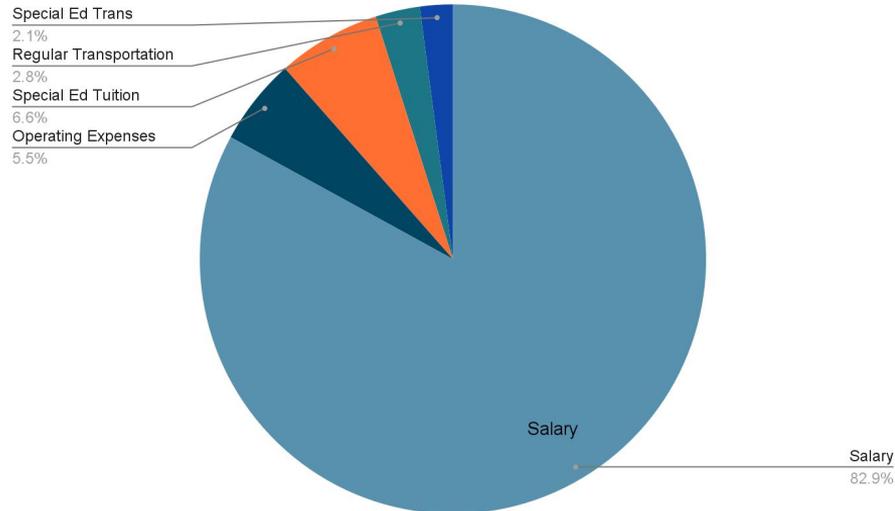
With an additional \$200,000 reserved for extraordinary out-of-district tuition expenses.

FY23 Maintenance of Effort Budget

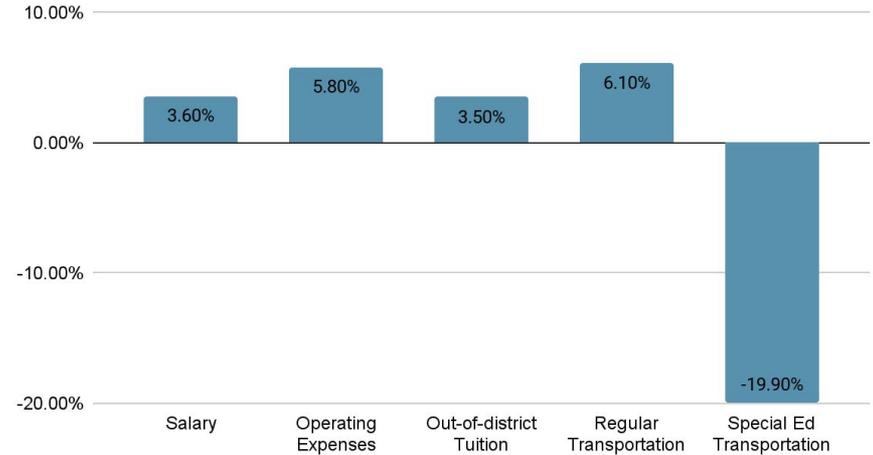
BY MAJOR EXPENSE CATEGORY	FY22	FY23 Maintenance of Effort		
	Adjusted Budget	FY23 MOE	\$ Change	% Change
SALARIES	\$ 36,212,522	\$ 37,521,683	\$1,309,160	3.6%
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 2,424,229	\$ 2,494,091	\$ 69,861	2.9%
SPEC ED - OUT OF DIST TUITION	\$ 2,887,348	\$ 2,988,405	\$ 101,057	3.5%
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,209,920	\$ 1,284,015	\$ 74,095	6.1%
SPEC ED TRANSPORTATION	\$ 896,018	\$ 717,864	\$ (178,154)	-19.9%
TOTAL	\$ 43,630,038	\$ 45,006,057	\$1,376,019	3.2%

FY23 Total MOE Budget Picture

FY23 Total Budget Request



FY23 Total Budget Change versus FY22



FY23 Enrollment Basis

- Lower elementary enrollment projected in FY23
- Davis enrollment has been impacted by smaller incoming classes
- Davis and Lane enrollment requires 3 fewer classes in the MOE budget
- All class sizes district wide are consistent with the guideline
- Smaller grade cohorts move to Lane in 2023-24 (FY24)
- Kindergarten cohort size is an enrollment driver (and will be monitored throughout the spring/summer)
- Enrollment trends are stable at the secondary level

2022-23 (FY23) Enrollment Projection

School	Actual FY20 (2019-20)	Actual FY21 (2020-21)	1-Oct FY22 (2021-22)	Yr-over- Yr Change FY22	Projected FY23 (2022-23)	Projected FY23 Change
Preschool at Davis	52	28	46	18	46	0
Davis	597	544	498	-46	492	-6
Lane	611	603	598	-5	598	0
TOTAL ELEMENTARY	1,208	1,147	1,096	-51	1,090	-6
John Glenn Middle School	594	611	612	1	599	-13
Bedford High School	840	829	849	20	846	-3
TOTAL SECONDARY	1,434	1,440	1,461	21	1,445	-16
TOTAL K-12	2,642	2,587	2,557	-30	2,535	-22
TOTAL PREK-12	2,694	2,615	2,603	-12	2,581	-22

* October 1, 2021 SIMS report to be filed with MA DESE.

FY23 MOE Budget - Salaries

- Salary MOE includes contractual adjustments for steps, lanes and COLAs
- Incorporates contractual changes implemented in both FY22 and scheduled to be implemented in FY23
- Includes known staff changes including retirements and advancement to higher training
- Attrition factor to account for vacancies and unpaid leaves
- **Overall MOE increase in budgeted salary cost is 3.6% over FY22**

FY23 Budget MOE - Operating Expenses

- Departmental budgets are mostly level funded
- Principal's budgets are mostly restored to pre-pandemic levels
- IT contracted services increased - full review of all Instructional and Administrative tools was conducted
- A second Technology lease was added to support 4-year Ipad replacement cycle at BHS
- Facilities contracted services and supplies have above average increases (supply chain and demand-related)
- **Overall MOE increase in operating expense cost is 5.8% over FY22**

FY23 Budget MOE - Out-of-District Tuition

- Gross tuition and ancillary costs remain stable in FY23 - \$4.9M
- Cost changes are attributable to normal cohort changes which are resulting in fewer residential placements, and placements overall
- Use of Circuit Breaker is increased from \$1.5M to \$1.6M
- Circuit Breaker reimbursement is expected to continue 75%
- MOE increase in net tuition (\$3.2M) is 10.4% above FY22
- Budgeted net tuition (\$3M) is 3.5% above FY22
- **As it was in FY22, but at a lower amount, a Town reserve of \$200K for tuition costs is needed**

FY23 Budget MOE - Regular Transportation

- Regular Transportation is based on stable fleet size
- Includes a contracted rate increase for 13 buses for all 4 schools and 3 additional buses for JGMS and BHS
- Contract in year 4 of 5 - 5% rate increase
- **Overall MOE budget increase of \$74K and 6.1% over FY22**

FY23 Budget MOE - Special Ed Transportation

- New revenue available for the first time in FY22 as a result of the enactment of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) in December 2019
- 25% reimbursement of eligible costs in fiscal 2022
- 50% reimbursement in fiscal 2023
- Cost trends in general are increasing
- **Overall MOE budget decrease of \$178K and -19.9% under FY22**

FY23 Budget Additional Needs

- Additional staff requests limited to mandated special education positions and partial FTEs introduced with a targeted grant
- Non-salary additions include:
 - Continuation of the mathematics curriculum adoption at Lane in grade 4
 - Review and piloting of a K-5 SEL curriculum
 - Expenses for the Gymnastics cooperative team
 - Continued access to online curriculum and tools added during the pandemic
 - Aspen online registration module

FY23 Budget Additional Needs

FY23 CHANGES DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	FY23 CHANGES FTE	FY23 CHANGES \$
Salary	1.0 FTE Special Ed Teacher (Caseload)	HIGH SCHOOL	1.0	\$63,893
	Teacher 5th PreK Classroom	SYSTEM WIDE	1.0	\$58,177
	Teaching Assistants for 5th PreK Classroom	SYSTEM WIDE	2.0	\$51,336
	Math Interventionist (was grant funded)	DAVIS SCHOOL	0.2	\$36,180
	Reading Specialist (was grant funded)	DAVIS SCHOOL	0.3	\$31,307
	Skills Center Teacher (Title I now utilized K-5)	MIDDLE SCHOOL	0.2	\$20,077
	Gymnastics Coop Coach	HIGH SCHOOL		\$3,000
	2.0 FTE TA (Caseload)	LANE SCHOOL	-2.0	-\$55,335
	Administrative Consolidation	SYSTEM WIDE	-2.0	-\$129,154
Salary Total			0.8	\$79,481

FY23 Budget Additional Needs

FY23 CHANGES DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	FY23 CHANGES FTE	FY23 CHANGES \$
Non-Salary	Bridges Curriculum Adoption Grade 4	LANE SCHOOL		\$17,034
	Planning/pilot K-5 SEL Curriculum	SYSTEM WIDE		\$15,000
	Gymnastics Coop Transportation and Gym rental	HIGH SCHOOL		\$4,000
	Gymnasitcs Coop Officials	HIGH SCHOOL		\$500
	Mathematics Learning Software (DreamBox)	DAVIS SCHOOL		\$9,000
	Continue to promote access Zoom (50 licenses, 1 Webinar)	SYSTEM WIDE		\$5,900
	Math and Science Learning Software (IXL); Reflex Math	LANE SCHOOL		\$10,966
	Aspen OnLine Registration Module	SYSTEM WIDE		\$9,152
Non-Salary Total				\$71,552

Special Education Staff Additions

- 1.0 FTE addition at BHS due to caseload and required to meet IEPs eligibility determinations
- -2.0 FTE Teaching Assistant reductions at Lane due to caseload
- 1.0 FTE PreK Teacher
- 2.0 FTE PreK TAs
- **Net of 2.0 FTE in additional support is requested in FY23**

Regular Education Staff Additions

- 0.2 FTE Math Interventionist at Davis (was grant funded)
- 0.3 FTE Reading Specialist at Davis (was grant funded)
- 0.2 FTE Skills Center at JGMS (Title I grant now utilized at K-5)
- **Overall increase of 0.7 FTE in additional support in FY23**

Bridges Curriculum Adoption - Grade 4

- Adoption of the Bridges in Mathematics Curriculum Adoption approved by School Committee in FY22 budget process
- Staggered adoption
- Grade 4 Teachers and Students will use Bridges in 2022-23
- **Funding of \$17K is requested to support year two of the curriculum adoption**

SEL Curriculum Exploration and Pilot

- Existing investment in professional development at Davis and Lane in the Responsive Classroom - an overarching teaching philosophy that allows teachers to create a strong classroom community, and to foster the learning of SEL skills
- The district seeks to add an evidence-based curriculum as a companion to the Responsive Classroom model
- **Funding of \$15K is requested to fund the testing and piloting of a curriculum prior to an adoption proposal in FY24.**

Cooperative Gymnastics Team

The district is proposing to add a coop team as a cost-effective way to meet student interest in interscholastic athletics in gymnastics. The cooperative team is with Billerica and shares coaching, venue and official costs. **Funding of \$7,500 is requested to support this proposal.** The proposed changes in FY23 include a Coop Gymnastics Coach, Gym rental, and officials, all shared costs.

Continue Online Curriculum and Access

- Maintain some aspects of virtual learning and remote access because they add value and improve access
- Zoom licenses
- Math learning software at Davis and Lane
- **Funding of \$25K is requested to support this request**

Online Registration

- Aspen Online Registration is a fully integrated online registration component
- Includes the annual updating of forms and contact information as well as required permissions and opt outs
- Promotes access, data integrity and efficiency of administrative processes that better supports the data collection requirements in the district
- Support summer time operations
- **Funding of \$9K is requested to support this request**

Covid-19 Contingency Planning

- Planning is active and ongoing and in cooperation with Town governance and leadership
- No Covid-19 related costs are included in the FY23 Budget Proposal
- ARPA is a potential funding source for eligible costs

FY23 UNBUDGETED COVID COSTS	FTE	\$	MUNI ARPA REQUESTED
Nurse Floater, additional nurse substitute	0.5	\$47,998	\$47,998
Custodial Overtime		\$30,000	\$30,000
PPE / Safety Protocols / Facilities HVAC		\$211,003	\$211,003
TOTAL	0.5	\$ 289,001	\$ 289,001

Conclusion

The FY23 Superintendent's Budget Proposal

- Provides the funding needed to continue our critical work
 - Continued Implementation of our Literacy Plan
 - Expansion of the Bridges Math Program to Grade 4
 - Support for Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health
 - Implementation of our District and School Improvement Plans
- Stabilizes our attention to our core values and beliefs about teaching and learning
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Student Centered Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
 - Social-Emotional Learning
- Current initiatives are prioritized to ensure implementation with fidelity

January 2022 Budget Review and Update

The budget is reviewed, discussed and updated throughout the month of January to incorporate as many known changes and as much feedback as possible, including but not limited to:

- Ongoing notices of retirements
- Search for efficiencies
- Continuing evaluation of special ed caseloads
- Feedback from Leadership Team, School Committee, and stakeholders
- Any other changes

Budget Schedule - Next Steps

- The full budget proposal is posted online on the School Committee web page at <https://www.bedfordps.org/district/school-committee-budget>

January 11, 2022 - School Committee Discussion

January 18, 2022 - School Committee Line Item Review and Discussion

January 25, 2022 - School Committee Public Hearing, Final Discussion, Vote

January 27, 2022 - Finance Committee Budget Presentation