

Bedford Public Schools FY25 Budget - **UPDATE**



You don't have to see the whole staircase,
just take the first step.
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Presented by Superintendent Cliff Chuang to the
Bedford School Committee January 16, 2024

FY25 Budget Objectives

- Uphold the high standard of excellence and inclusive access to educational opportunities that the community continues to highly value;
- Maintain and strategically enhance educational services to meet the needs our diverse student body;
- Position the district to attract and retain a high quality educator workforce; and
- Set the stage for the initial investments steps in our next 3-year district improvement plan for the Bedford Public Schools which will be established through a collaborative strategic planning process in the spring and summer of 2024.

UPDATED

FY25 Budget Top-Line Summary

- The proposed FY25 budget is ~\$49.38M and includes a ~\$2.65M increase, an ~5.66% increase from FY24.
- This exceeds the Finance Committee's 3.5% guideline.
- We will also request:
 - The creation of a Special Education Stabilization Fund of \$950K for multi-year use
 - A one-time reserve fund transfer of ~\$210K for one-time costs related to the new literacy program

UPDATED

FY25 Budget Architecture

- MOE Request of 4.7%
- Additional Request (net) of 0.94%
- Increased use of special revenue offsets of \$473,250
- Use of all grants before expenditure of local funds
- Reserve for one-time and/or extraordinary special education costs
- Proposal to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund (with commitment to collaborative establish governing policies)

Sp Ed Stabilization Fund - Best Practices

- Annual request for funds to be considered in conjunction with the school operating budget request (required)
- Regular reporting on the expenditures from and year-end balance of the fund
- Joint School Committee and Select Board meeting to discuss and vote on proposed use of stabilization funds
- Related Circuit Breaker reserve practices - establish a clear school committee guideline for reserve level

Sp Ed Stabilization Fund - Governing Policies

- The School Committee has established reserves policies for some but not all reserves, and the Town of Bedford has Financial Policies under which the School Committee operates and is a joint signatory.
- Next steps might include:
 - Addressing gaps where policies are not specific or all-inclusive
 - Working collaboratively collaborative with the town and school leaders to develop policies around reserve limits and policies in advance of March Town Meeting

UPDATED

FY25 Budget Request

FY24	FY25 Maintenance of Effort			Additional Needs		FY25 Total Budget Request		
Adjusted Budget	FY25 MOE	\$ Change	% Change	FY25 Additional	% Change	FY25 Total	\$ Change	% Change
\$ 46,737,588	\$ 48,943,434	\$ 2,205,846	4.72%	\$ 577,062 \$ 440,365	1.23% 0.94%	\$ 49,520,495 \$ 49,383,798	\$ 2,782,908 \$ 2,646,211	5.95% 5.66%

- “Additional Needs” reduced from \$577,062 to \$440,365 (-\$136,697)
- Total request is reduced from 5.95% to 5.66%

UPDATED

FY25 Projected K-5 Classes

PROJECTED 2024-25	Davis Target Class Size			Lane Target Class Size			TOTAL
	Kindergarten Range 18 - 20	Grade 1 Range 20 - 22	Grade 2 Range 20 - 22	Grade 3 Range 22 - 24	Grade 4 Range 22 - 24	Grade 5 Range 22 - 24	
Enrollment	154	168	167	157	191	185	1,022
# Classrooms	8	8	8	7	8 9	8	47
Avg Class size	19.3	21.0	20.9	22.4	23.9 21.2	23.1	21.7

- Maintain 9 classrooms at the 4th grade teaching position at the Lane School, bringing the projected average class size to 21.2 students, just under the 22 - 24 student range established by school committee guidelines (compared to 23.9, just under the top of the range).

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FY25 FTE Request

FY25 CHANGES DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	FY25 CHANGES FTE
Instructional Data Specialist	Salaries	SYSTEM WIDE	1.0
K-5 Coverage Model Improvement	Regular Education EA/Teaching Assistant	DAVIS SCHOOL	3.0
	Regular Education EA/Teaching Assistant	LANE SCHOOL	3.0
	Substitute	DAVIS SCHOOL	-2.0
	Substitute	LANE SCHOOL	-2.0
Intensive Programming and Student Support	Districtwide Leadership Salaries	SYSTEM WIDE	-0.6
	Program Director (Districtwide) for Intensive Programming	SYSTEM WIDE	1.0
Enrollment/Caseload	Professional Teacher	LANE SCHOOL	1.0
	Professional Teacher	HIGH SCHOOL	-1.0
Grand Total			1.4

2.0

0.4

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FY25 Net Add'l Funding to Address Challenges

Challenge / Solution	FY25 Proposed Investment
Elementary Literacy Curriculum	\$170,000 (+\$210K 1-time reserve)
Data Specialist & Data Dashboard	\$105,000 \$0
K-5 Coverage Model	\$102,604 \$70,906
Intensive Programming & Student Support	\$196,286
District Improvement Plan Initial Investment	\$130,000 \$75,000
Cafeteria Waste Sort Expansion	\$12,000
<i>Additional Net Reductions (1 FTE)</i>	(-\$138,828) (-\$83,828)
TOTAL	\$577,062 \$440,365

UPDATED - Total Reduction: \$136,697

UPDATED

FY25 Proposed Additions & Reductions

FY25 CHANGES DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	FY25 CHANGES FTE	FY25 CHANGES \$
Elementary Literacy Curriculum	Teacher Curriculum Stipends (Summer work)	SYSTEM WIDE		\$30,000
	Outside Professional Development Contractual Services	SYSTEM WIDE		\$50,000
	Textbooks and work books	DAVIS SCHOOL		\$150,000
	Textbooks and work books	LANE SCHOOL		\$150,000
	Town Reserve Fund Transfer - Textbooks	SYSTEM WIDE		-\$210,000
<i>Subtotal Literacy Curriculum</i>				\$170,000
K-5 Coverage Model Improvement	Regular Education EA/Teaching Assistant	DAVIS SCHOOL	2.0	\$84,362
	Regular Education EA/Teaching Assistant	LANE SCHOOL	3.0	\$96,544
	Substitute	DAVIS SCHOOL	-2.0	-\$45,000
	Substitute	LANE SCHOOL	-2.0	-\$45,000
<i>Subtotal K-5 Coverage Model</i>			1.0	\$70,906
Intensive Programming and Student Support	Districtwide Leadership Salaries	SYSTEM WIDE	-0.6	-\$75,340
	Program Administrator - Other Salaries (PreK)	DAVIS SCHOOL		\$626
	Program Director (Districtwide) for Intensive Programming Other Instructional Services - Contractual Services	SYSTEM WIDE DAVIS SCHOOL	1.0	\$121,000 \$150,000
<i>Subtotal K-5 Coverage Model</i>			0.4	\$196,286
District Improvement Plan	School Committee Reserve	SYSTEM WIDE		\$75,000
<i>Subtotal District Improvement Plan</i>				\$75,000
Waste Sort Program	Part-time salaries	SYSTEM WIDE		\$12,000
<i>Subtotal Waste Sort Program</i>				\$12,000
Caseload	Professional Teacher	HIGH SCHOOL	-1.0	-\$83,828
Grand Total			0.4	\$440,365

UPDATED

Instructional Data Specialist + Data Dashboard

- This additional budget request of \$105,000 has been withdrawn.
- The district will continue to explore how to support our data infrastructure needs as we vet the partnership with a data visualization vendor and further evaluate our current systems.
- Improvement in this arena remains an important need

UPDATED

K-5 Coverage Improvement Model

- This request is reduced by 1.0 FTE after re-assessing the structure proposed for Davis School
- Total cost of the proposal is reduced from \$102,604 to \$70,906.

UPDATED

K-5 Coverage Improvement Model

FY25 CHANGES DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	FY24 CHANGES FTE	FY24 CHANGES \$
K-5 Coverage Model Improvement	Regular Education EA/Teaching Assistant	DAVIS SCHOOL	2.0	\$64,362
	Regular Education EA/Teaching Assistant	LANE SCHOOL	3.0	\$96,544
	Substitute	DAVIS SCHOOL	-2.0	-\$45,000
	Substitute	LANE SCHOOL	-2.0	-\$45,000
<i>Subtotal K-5 Coverage Model</i>			<i>1.0</i>	<i>\$70,906</i>

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District Improvement Plan Initial Investment

- This request has been reduced from \$130,000 to \$75,000
- A formal request to the School Committee to expend dollars can be expected as soon as is feasible after the completion of the district improvement planning process.

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District Improvement Plan Initial Investment

FY25 CHANGES DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	FY24 CHANGES FTE	FY24 CHANGES \$
District Improvement Plan	School Committee Reserve	SYSTEM WIDE		\$75,000
<i>Subtotal District Improvement Plan</i>				<i>\$75,000</i>

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FY25 Budget - Next Steps

- 1/23/2024 - School Committee Budget Hearing and Vote
- 1/25/2024 - School Budget Presentation to Finance Committee
- 2/1/2024 - Addtl. Discussion / Vote at Finance Committee (as needed)
- March 2024 - Town Meeting Vote

Thank you! Questions?

