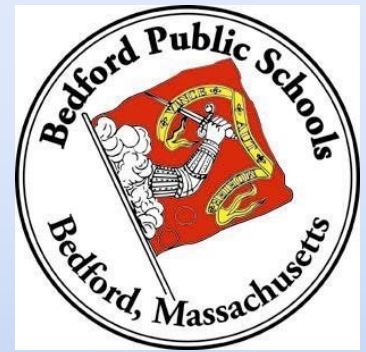


Bedford Public Schools

Preliminary FY25 Budget Preview



School Committee - November 28, 2023

Finance Committee - November 30, 2023

FY25 Budget Objectives

- Allocate resources in a manner that is responsive to student needs and targeted to ongoing district priorities
- Create a fiscally responsible budget plan
- Stabilize funding for certain costs rising at high rates
- Allow for flexibility for initial implementation of priorities identified in the new district improvement plan following the collaborative planning process in spring/summer 2024

FY25 Budget Development Starting Assumptions

- A budget increase of 3.5% is available, as communicated by the Finance Committee, in the amount of \$1,635,816
- Significant resources will be required to meet the rising costs of essential services and contract obligations
- We commit to adhering class size guidelines and maintaining fully inclusive participation in all educational opportunities in alignment with strongly held community values

FY25 Budget Development To-Date

- Engaged all instructional leaders in the development process to provide input on both efficiencies and additional needs.
- Carefully assessed the impact of enrollment changes and reviewed educator caseloads.
- Full projection of MOE/Level Services costs
- Full budget proposal will be completed in the next three weeks and be presented to the School Committee on December 19, 2023

School Budget Building Blocks

Maintenance of Effort

+

Additional Needs

=

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST

School Budget Funding Sources

(in order of magnitude)

1. **Operating Budget:** Appropriated by Town Meeting
2. **State Special Ed Circuit Breaker:** Special education tuition, transportation, and staffing
3. **Special Revenue:** State Military Mitigation for high school instruction; *Federal Impact Aid
4. **Grants:** IDEA and ESSA Entitlement Grants offset the costs of K-5 Math Intervention and supports for special education and ELs; METCO grant expected to be level-funded
5. **Special Revenue/Reimbursement:** *McKinney Vento Homeless Transportation; *Medicaid, [Migrant Emergency Assistance](#) (expected to be maintained by the state as long as the declared state of emergency continues/developing situation)
6. **Revolving Accounts:** Athletics; Preschool & Building Rental (expected to return closer to pre-pandemic levels); School Nutrition (benefits from universal meals)
7. **Trusts:** Mudge

**Funds to the Town*

FY25 Proposed Special Ed Stabilization Fund

- Section 24 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 - *“for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education”*
- Majority vote of School Committee and Town Meeting to establish the fund
- Once established, School Committee may include a separate line item in the annual budget request to appropriate monies into the stabilization fund.
- Funds in reserve can only be expended or transferred out after a majority vote of both School Committee and Select Board
- Upper Limit of the fund cannot exceed 2% of annual net school spending of the district (NSS in FY23 was \$48,954,421; 2% is \$979,088)
- Local policies can (and should) be set prior to expenditures in June 2025

[Advisory on Special Education Stabilization Fund - Circuit Breaker - School Finance \(mass.edu\)](#)

FY25 Projected Enrollment Changes (Net change ~-7 students)

- ~18 fewer elementary students expected with ~11 more students at JGMS and BHS
 - 1.0 FTE elem teacher may shift from Lane to Davis if necessary (decision to be made in the spring)
- Projections incorporate the increase in enrollment due to the emergency shelter but impact is mitigated due to the standard enrollment projection practice of using 5-year rolling averages

Bedford Public Schools - Enrollment by Grade
FY23 Actual, FY24 Actual and Projected, FY25 Projected

Grade	Actual	Projected	Oct 1 (Uncertified)	Projection Variance	Projected	Year-over- Year Difference
	FY23 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY24 (2023-24)	FY25 (2024-25)	FY25 (2024- 25)
PK	44	44	41	0	41	0
K	141	149	158	9	154	-4
1	145	151	159	8	168	9
2	184	153	152	-1	167	15
3	179	185	192	7	157	-35
4	190	181	182	1	191	9
5	218	194	197	3	185	-12
6	188	217	221	4	196	-25
7	202	189	189	0	224	35
8	207	203	202	-1	190	-12
9	221	234	230	-4	227	-3
10	226	217	213	-4	222	9
11	194	219	226	7	208	-18
12	200	188	197	9	221	24
TOTAL	2,539	2,525	2,559	34	2,552	-7
% change	-2.40%		1.34%		-0.29%	

FY25 Budget Drivers (Expenses that Increase by 3.5% or more)

- Salaries (steps, lanes, COLAs)
- Special Ed Contracted Services (partially offset by TA vacancies)
- Out-of-district special education transportation and tuition (due to rate increases)
- Facilities contracted services (due to rate increases)
- General expenses (due to overall cost escalation)
- Note: Regular Bus contract (put out to bid November 15 - yellow buses, In-District Special Ed Transportation, Metco)

FY25 Initial Budget Gap based on MOE

School FY25 budget allocation (based on 3.5%)	\$1,635,816
Preliminary Projected FY25 MOE Total	\$2,090,658

FY25 Additional Needs (Preliminary)

CHALLENGE	PROPOSED SOLUTION
Daily logistical issues to cover time for staff collaboration, student support teams and absences	Improved K-5 coverage model
High needs of students in specialized programs	Additional school-based support and coordination
Non-integrated data repositories for instructional data for instruction and teacher parent communication	Additional instructional data analysis capacity
Previously adopted reading Tier 1 curriculum is being discontinued	New reading materials and PD
Supporting initial implementation of new 3-year district improvement plan to be finalized in Summer 2024	Pre-planned support for initial investments in FY25

FY25 Additional Needs and Total Request (preliminary)

- Again, only the highest priority additional needs are included
- Most adjustments are associated with mandated services
- Additional staffing requests are offset by efficiencies
- Current additional needs above MOE (still being evaluated)
 - Approx. \$150K-200K in salary needs
 - Approx. \$450K-550K in non-salary needs

FY25 Total Budget Request (preliminary)

FY24 Budget	FY25 MOE	\$ MOE Chg	\$ Addt'l Needs	Total % Change
\$46,737,588	\$48,828,246	\$2,090,658	\$600K- \$750K	~6%

Can Budget Efficiencies Address the Gap?

- FY25 efficiencies are expected to offset FTE additions but are not expected to close the gap
- District has pursued and successfully implemented efficiencies in the past four years in conjunction with retirements and staff transfers (accomplished on a voluntary basis)
- Since FY21, FTE increases have been offset by reductions including 7.6 FTE paraprofessional and 2.0 FTE administrator positions
 - *Exclusive of reductions in the number of elementary classrooms made due to enrollment (7.0 FTE)*

FY25 Budget - Next Steps

School Committee:

12/19/2023	Superintendent's Budget Presentation
1/9/2024	School Committee Budget Review and Discussion
1/16/2024	School Committee Budget Review and Discussion
1/23/2024	School Committee Budget Hearing and Vote

Finance Committee:

11/30/2023	Preliminary presentation of FY25 School Budget
1/25/2024	School Budget Presentation at Finance Committee
2/1/2024	Addtl. Discussion / Vote at Finance Committee (as needed)

Town Meeting in March 2023

Thank you

Questions, Discussion?