School Budgeting 101

Presented to Regional School District #18 Board of Education

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SETTING BUDGET GUIDELINES AND GOALS



- Goals for student achievement should drive the budget process.
- Budget decisions should be made in alignment with the district's strategic plan.
- Decisions should be a collaborative effort between the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and school administrators.
- Input should be collected from all stakeholders: faculty/staff, parents, town leaders and taxpayers.



3 Sources of Public School Funding

1. **Local Money – Local Revenues, Property Tax**
2. **Federal Money – Grants**
3. **State Money – State Aid & Grants**

Current Environment:

Local Money – Local Revenues, Property Tax

- Every community is different however, most communities have group(s) that do not want to raise taxes.

Federal Money – Grants

- COVID relief monies have bolstered local spending for education recovery and air quality needs

State Money – State Aid & Grants

- ECS Funding has been at the forefront of state budget discussions

Connecticut is the 7th Most Reliant on Local Property Taxes to Fund Education

	Local	State	Federal		Local	State	Federal
DC	91.8	†	8.2	TN	42.2	46.8	11.0
NH	63.4	31.3	5.3	AZ	40.4	47.1	12.4
NE	60.2	32.4	7.4	OR	40.4	52.8	6.8
MO	59.7	32.3	8.0	IA	39.5	53.2	7.2
MA	56.4	38.7	4.9	AR	37.3	51.9	10.8
NY	56.1	39.6	4.3	WY	36.8	56.8	6.4
CT	55.9	39.8	4.3	UT	36.5	56.0	7.5
NV	55.9	35.6	8.5	MS	35.8	50.4	13.8
PA	54.9	38.1	6.9	CA	35.1	56.5	8.4
ME	54.0	39.4	6.6	ND	34.3	56.2	9.5
VA	53.7	39.9	6.5	WV	33.8	55.3	10.9
IL	53.6	40.2	6.2	AL	33.6	55.3	11.1
NJ	52.6	43.3	4.1	KY	32.9	56.3	10.9
MD	52.4	42.3	5.3	MI	31.3	60.3	8.4
TX	52.1	37.4	10.5	DE	31.3	60.5	8.2
CO	52.0	41.7	6.3	IN	29.9	62.5	7.7
SD	51.7	34.5	13.8	WA	29.6	64.2	6.2
OH	50.7	42.1	7.2	MN	28.0	66.6	5.5
RI	49.9	43.0	7.1	KS	27.5	64.7	7.8
FL	49.4	39.2	11.4	NC	27.0	62.1	10.9
WI	46.2	46.8	7.0	ID	23.7	66.7	9.6
GA	44.4	46.8	8.8	AK	21.7	62.4	15.9
LA	44.2	43.1	12.6	NM	18.2	68.4	13.4
MT	43.9	43.4	12.7	VT	3.7	89.9	6.4
OK	42.3	46.9	10.8	HI	1.9	89.9	8.3
SC	42.3	49.0	8.7				

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

5 States With Lowest % of Federal Funding for Education

	Local	State	Federal
NJ	52.6	43.3	4.1
NY	56.1	39.6	4.3
CT	55.9	39.8	4.3
MA	56.4	38.7	4.9
NH	63.4	31.3	5.3

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Grant Programs

- State Education Grant Programs
  - ECS-in FY ‘16 RSD 18 received $734,314. In FY ‘21 RSD 18 received $298,799
  - Excess Cost-It’s complicated, more on this later

- Federal Grant Programs
  - Title I-in FY ’22 grant is $51,243 (serves the under privileged)
  - Title II-in FY ‘22 grant is $19,735 (teacher training and development)
  - Title III-in FY ‘22 grant is $3,671 (serves English Language Learners (ELL))
  - Title IV-FY ‘22 $10,000 to support ESSA initiatives (Every Student Succeeds Act)
  - IDEA- in FY ‘22 grant is $296,342 (serves special education students)

The Special Education Budget...

Constant:

- Supplies
- Dues
- Professional Development

Variable:

- Public Tuition
- Private Tuition
- Special Education Therapy and Evaluation
- Transportation

What Causes the Variability?

Our obligation to educate all students in their least restrictive environment.

Individuals with Disabilities Act (rev. 1990)

Education of all Handicapped Children Act 1975

- District recommends an out of district placement to meet the student's needs
- Students move to the district and were previously placed by sending district
- DCF involvement
- Unilateral Placements
- Parent requests for Independent Educational Evaluations
- Additional supports/evaluations required for educational programming

Out of District Placement Examples

School Name	Daily Rate	Yearly Tuition	Transportation
Natchaug Hospital	$353	$66,717	$2,472
Waterford Country School	$347	$64, 195	$22,341
Meliora		$138, 420	$32,720
Foundation School		$68, 500	$37, 026
LEARN		$106,514	$26,961
Public School		$22,412	N/A

Special Education Therapy and Evaluation Examples

Professional Services	Cost Per Year
Behavioral Supports	$84,500 per student
Independent Educational Evaluation	$5,000 ea.
District Evaluation Request/Consultation	$5,000 ea. / $1,350 ea.

Sample Budget

Student	School	Tuition	Transportation	SpEd Therapy and Evaluation	Total
Student A	School Z	$106,514	$26,961		$133,475
Student B	School Y	$106,514	$26,961		$133,475
Student C				$84,500	$84,500
Student D				$5,000	$5,000
Projected Budget: $356,450					
Student E	School W	$108,000	N/A		$108,000
Student F				$3,000	$3,000
Student G & H				$169,000	$169,000
Projected Increased Expenditure: $280,000					
Projected Adjusted Expenditures: $356,450 + 280,000 = $636,450					

Excess Cost Grant

- The Department of Education administers the Excess Costs-Student Based grant pursuant to CGS §10-76d, §10-76g and §10-253. Costs in excess of **four and one-half times a town's average cost per pupil** for the prior year are paid for students placed in a special education program by a school district, pursuant to CGS §10-76g(b).

Excess Cost Grant Example

Towns Net Current Expenditure per Pupil (NCEP) (RSD #18's actual from 20-21, source CT SDE)	$22,936
Threshold for Grant to District (4.5 X NCEP)	$103,212
Cost for Hypothetical Outplaced Student (includes tuition and transportation costs)	$155,000
Excess Cost Grant Eligibility	$51,788
Recent state average of reimbursement 70%	$36,252

Understanding the Line Item Details

Certified Salaries: Encompasses all teaching and administrative staff

Non-Certified Salaries: All other positions, IA's, secretarial, facilities, tech. staff, et al.

Employee Benefits: Medical, dental, life, WC, tuition reimbursement etc.

Instructional Programs: All costs associated with educating regular education students

Special Education: Costs for SpEd including transportation and tuition

Support Services: Guidance, Health Services, Library Media

Administrative Services: Board of Education, superintendent's office, business office, school office expenditures, district wide tech purchasing, graduation costs

Pupil Transportation: Delivering regular education students to and from school

Plant Operation & Maintenance: Cleaning and upkeep of all facilities and grounds, including capital expenditures and contingency spending

Debt Service: Long term debt obligation expenditures

UNDERSTANDING OUR BUDGET STRUCTURE

Annual Budget

Which includes:

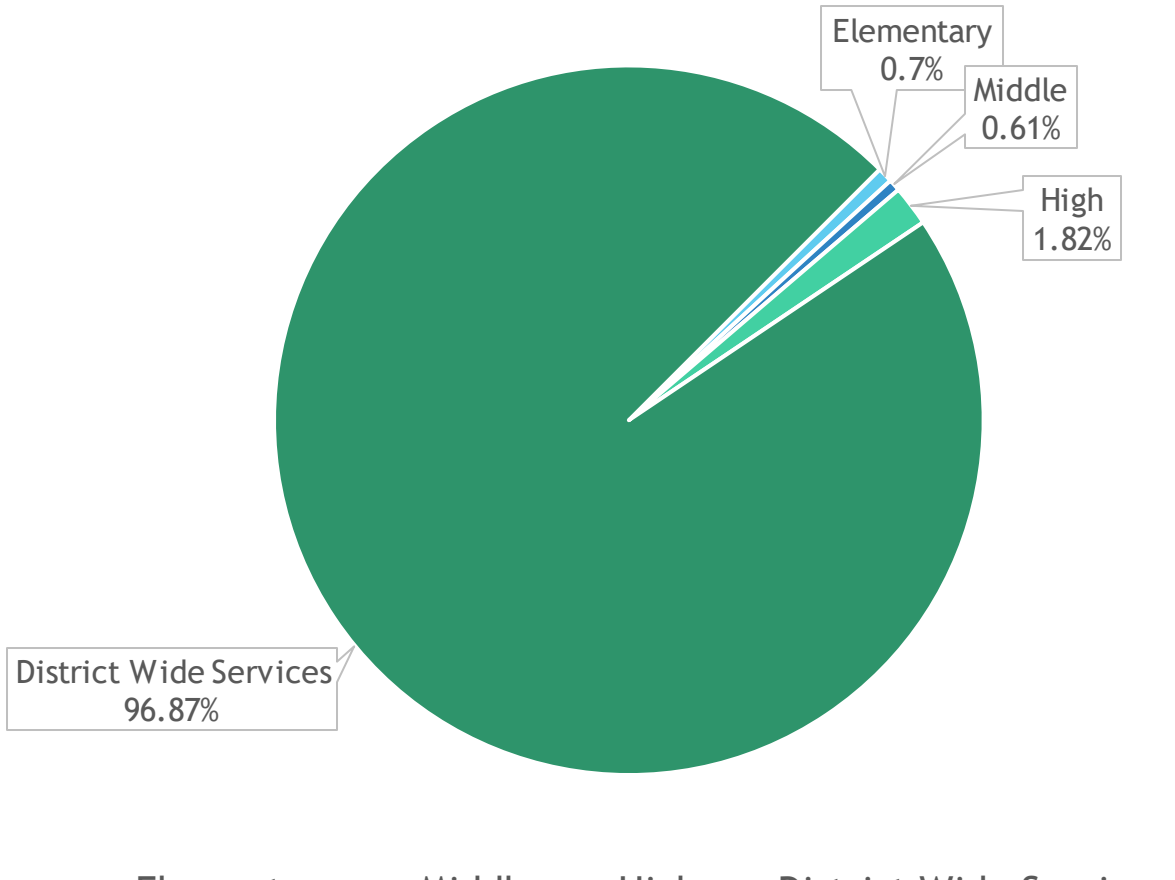
- **Capital Projects budget** (~350K - 500K) This funds all smaller capital projects throughout the district such as new oil tanks, paving projects, lighting installations, security cameras, etc.
- **Contingency Maintenance budget** (200K) This is used to support emergency or unexpected maintenance issues such as boiler leaks, water damage, broken pipes, grinder pump repair, etc.

Remaining fund balance as of June 30th

Reserve fund for specific capital improvements or equipment purchases
Limited by statute to an annual contribution no greater than 2% of total annual budget (~660K) Used for major capital projects to avoid having to borrow money. Past uses include track, roofs, windows, and turf field.

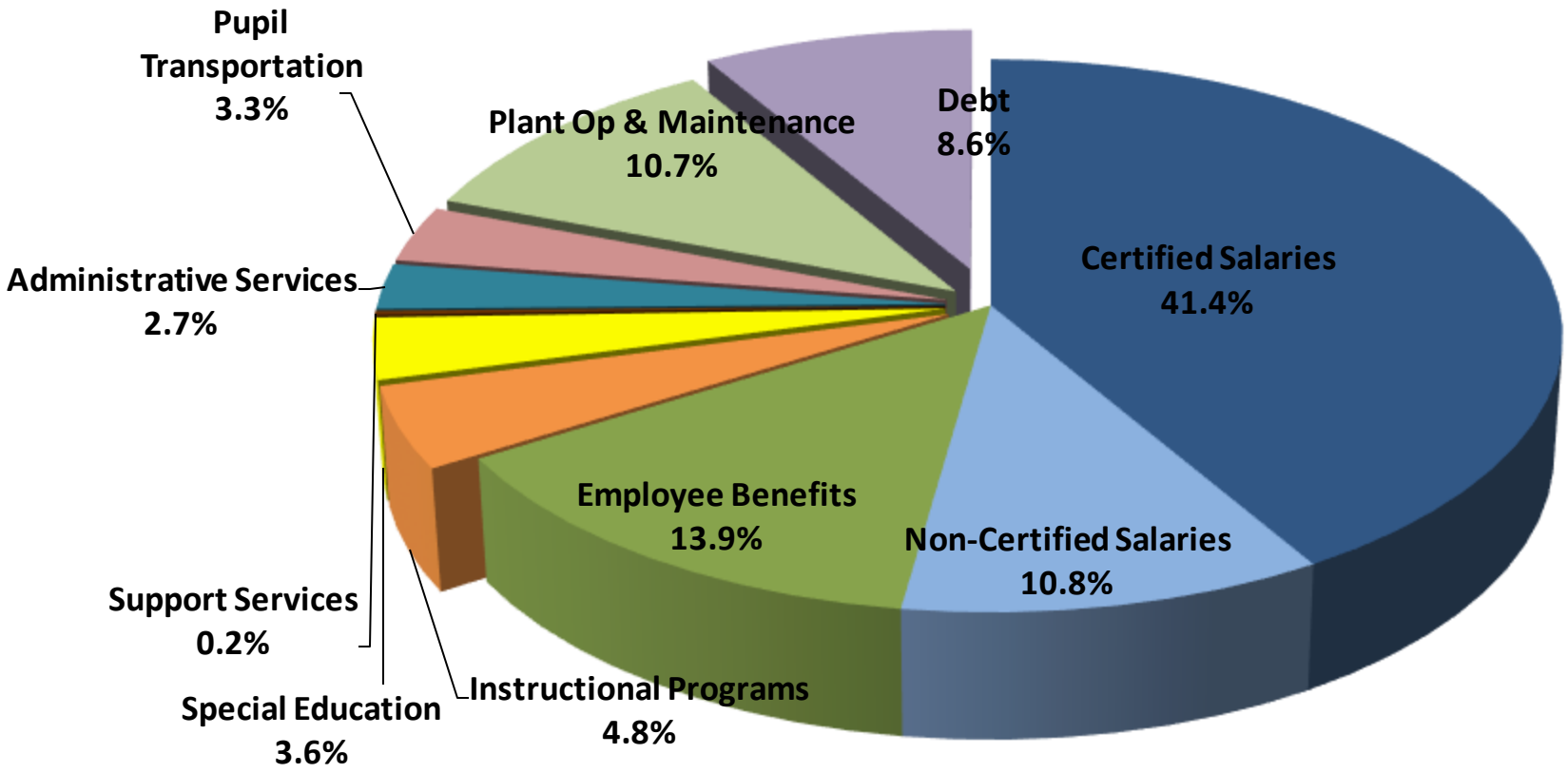
Towns are given a credit on their following year's bill which accounts for the fund balance from the previous year as the current year's audit has not yet taken place. This credit represents the amount of money being returned to them as a part of the fund balance.

Schools vs. Districtwide



2021-2022 Proposed Budget

$35,389,237



When Do You Communicate?

- Year Round! Budget season should yield no surprises for all the great things the schools accomplish.
  - Tell of improvements in student scores
  - Athletic and artistic achievements and wins
  - Special recognitions

Timeline of Budget Events Moving Forward

January

-District and school based budget presentations

February

-Public budget forum and Board of Education adoption

March

-Preparation of budget book and special edition of *Focus on Education*

April

-Meet with respective Boards of Finance and various community groups
-District budget hearing
-Budget voting cards are mailed

May:

-District budget meeting
-Budget referendum

Questions?