

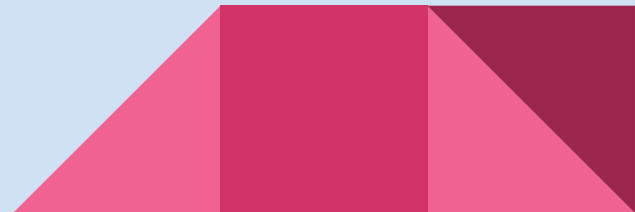
Gateway Regional School District

Financial State of the District
December 2021



Quick View of District

FY '22 District Budget	\$16,666,733
Students Enrolled	736
Low Income	45.8%
First Language Not English	3.5%
English Language Learner	1.5%
Students with Disabilities	23.6%
High Needs	57.4%
District Owned Buildings	3
92.9%	2020 Graduation Rate
15	Athletic Teams
20	Extracurricular Offerings
6	Languages Spoken



Staffing

Administration	8	Regular Education Teachers	57.8
Custodial/Maintenance	8.75	Special Education Teachers	16.2
Food Service	10	Therapeutic Staff	5.6
Non-Union	3.6	Guidance/Adjustment Counselors	7
Paraprofessionals	37.5	Nursing Staff	6
Secretaries	5	English Language Learner Teachers	2
Security	2	Ch. 74 (Vocational) Teachers	2
Technology	3	Psychologist	1
		Media Specialist	1
		Behavior Teacher	2
		Interventionist	1

Total staff - 179.45



Enrollment (10/1/2021)

	Chester	Littleville	Total	Middle School	High School	Totals	
PreK	15	32	47	Gr. 7 74	Gr. 9 41	Elementary	424
K	12	37	49	Gr. 8 64	Gr. 10 51	Middle School	138
1	10	32	42	Total 138	Gr. 11 40	High School	174
2	16	36	52		Gr. 12 42	Total	736
3	19	34	53		Total 174		
4	14	57	71				
5	11	43	54				
6	19	37	56				
Total	116	308	424				

Enrollment 3/1/2021

PK-6 = 436
7-8 = 126
9-12 = 196
Total = 758



Home School Students (10/1/2021)

Town	Previous (20-21)	Current (21-22)
Blandford	17	14
Chester	5	4
Huntington	21	11
Middlefield	2	4
Montgomery	9	12
Russell	22	17
Total	76	62

Enrollment Swing (3/1/2021 - 10/1/2021)

	3/1/21 Census	10/1/21 Census	# Change	% Change
Blandford	96	88.5	-7.5	-7.81%
Chester	143	133	-10	-6.99%
Huntington	261	266	+5	+1.92%
Middlefield	22	23	+1	+4.6%
Montgomery	72	66	-6	-8.33%
Russell	201	199.5	-1.5	-.75%
Totals	795	776	-19	-2.39%

Transportation

- 13** Contracted buses providing daily transportation to approximately 670 students.
- 5** Contracted vans providing special education transportation to 12 students
 - 9 are transported within the district and 3 are transported to out-of-district placements
- 3** District owned vans/activity bus used for special trips, special education transition program, and some athletics



A Responsible and Realistic Budget

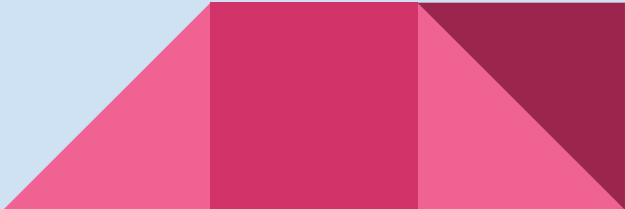
The goal of the Gateway's budget process is to produce a result that is both responsible and realistic. A responsible budget addresses the various needs of our students based on data and individual school and district goals.

In order to work with the towns on affordability, a realistic budget would meet student needs through the most efficient use of existing and, as necessary, additional resources.

We strive to achieve both of these goals with the budget proposal.



FUTURE BUDGET PLANNING

- Central office support/transportation support position/7D (van) drivers
 - Continued support for literacy, math and curriculum initiatives
 - Building on the existing Chapter 74 programs and increasing experiential learning for students such as the possibility of criminal justice, horticulture/landscaping, coding/gaming/robotics, etc.
 - Continued support & expansion of the preschool program
 - Continued support of Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Systems (PBIS)
 - Continued support of the after school program
 - Funding of OPEB, stabilization accounts
 - Funding student work opportunities
 - Succession planning for central office staff retiring
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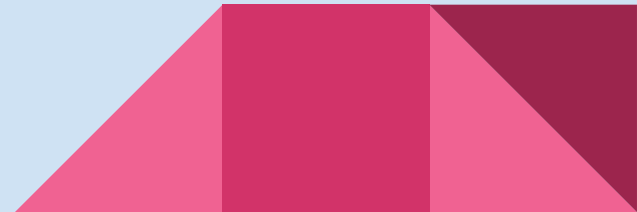
FUTURE PLANNING FOR LIABILITIES

Funding OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) - Health Insurance & Retirement

Balance in OPEB account through PARS (Public Agency Retirement Services) - \$338,175.84
(10/31/21)

Recommendation to budget annual amount to fund OPEB/Pension Liability. Currently budgeting \$50,000 per year.

OPEB/Pension liability amount from FY '20 audit - \$22,140,000



FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Funding Capital Stabilization Account

Current balance - \$0

District needs to prepare for capital expenditures

[Working Capital Plan can be found here.](#)

Recommendation to include an annual amount in budget

Work with towns on Green Community Grants (specifically boilers)



FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANNING

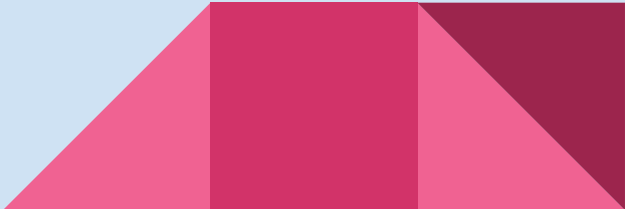
Funding Compensated Absences Account

Current balance - \$483,776

Audit recommends fully funding compensated absence liability

Recommendation to transfer any residual balances from employee separation costs account to compensated absences reserve account at the conclusion of each year. Recommendation to use this to fund all upcoming severance pay.

This account will cover severance payouts to retiring staff without the need to include in the general fund budget.



DEBT REMAINING- MSBA PAYBACK

(Massachusetts School Building Authority)

Obligation ends November 2023 (FY '24 budget)

14 annual payments due to MSBA

FY '11 - \$327,655 - Year 1

FY '12 - \$327,655 - Year 2

FY '13 - \$327,655 - Year 3

FY '14 - \$327,655 - Year 4

FY '15 - \$327,655 - Year 5

FY '16 - \$85,100 - Year 6

FY '17 - \$85,100 - Year 7

FY '18 - \$85,100 - Year 8

FY '19 - \$222,995 - Year 9 BLD - \$85,100 RUS - \$137,895

FY '20 - \$222,995 - Year 10 BLD - \$85,100 RUS - \$137,895

FY '21 - \$222,995 - Year 11 BLD - \$85,100 RUS - \$137,895

FY '22 - \$222,995 - Year 12 BLD - \$85,100 RUS - \$137,895

FY '23 - \$222,995 - Year 13 BLD - \$85,100 RUS - \$137,895

FY '24 - \$222,995 - Year 14 BLD - \$85,100 RUS - \$137,895

Total - FY '23 - FY '24 - \$445,990



DEBT REMAINING - BUILDING PROJECT

	Principal	Interest	Total
FY '22 -	\$510,000	\$75,400	\$585,400
FY '23 -	\$525,000	\$54,700	\$579,700
FY '24 -	\$545,000	\$33,300	\$578,300
FY '25 -	\$560,000	\$11,200	\$571,200
Total -	\$2,140,000	\$174,600	\$2,314,600

ATHLETIC REVOLVING

Annual revenue of approximately \$6,300 in gate receipts. Athletic user fees were eliminated in FY '21, and the athletic schedules were played at the mandatory level. The revolving account could possibly fund the difference between mandatory league and extended schedule.

In the past athletic revolving account offsets approximately 18% of all athletic program costs

In the past athletic fees and gate receipts have covered athletic costs of:

Transportation
Uniforms
Supplies

Athletic Dues
Game Officials
Ticket Takers

Clock Operators
Police Coverage
Conference Transportation

*Gate receipts were not collected in FY '21 due to COVID restrictions



BUILDING USE REVOLVING

Building use fees fund the following:

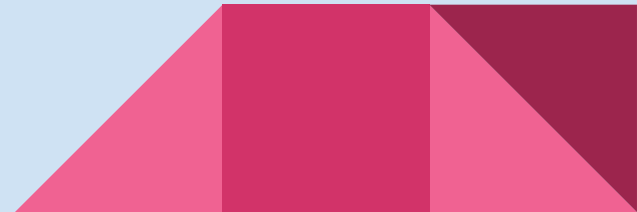
- Staff (as necessary) for event
 - Custodial
 - Food Service
 - Technical
- Upkeep of facilities and grounds
- Supplies and equipment for auditorium and maintenance



*Building use was on hold for FY '21 due to COVID restrictions

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND

The balance from this fund is allowed to be carried for one year. This reimbursement fund allows the district to level transportation reimbursement from year to year to alleviate transportation funding issues that may arise during the fiscal year.



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT

Based upon expenditures from previous year/end-of-the-year financial report

Riders that live less than 1.5 miles from school are not reimbursable

Currently Gateway has approximately 91% reimbursable ridership

\$713,449 total regional transportation in FY '21 @ 91% = \$649,239

Projected State Reimbursement for FY '22 is 85% or \$551,853

Budgeted for reimbursement in FY '22 - \$549,856

Cherry Sheet figure for FY '22 reimbursement = \$613,133

*District buses must be filled to at least 75% capacity in order to qualify for reimbursement

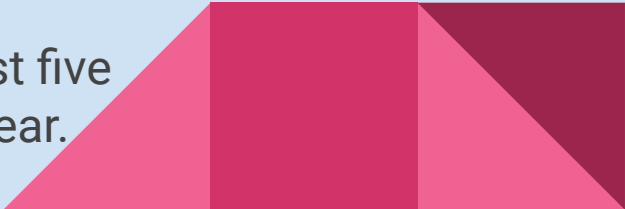
SCHOOL CHOICE REVOLVING

School Choice Revenue in FY '21 was \$493,394. Most years prior averaged approximately revenue of \$250,000.

The school choice account has been used to fund technology expenditures for:

- Technology staff
- MacBooks, Chromebooks, iPads, etc.
- Technology software
- Curriculum improvement software
- Covers gaps in requested budget to level funded budget to maintain average 2% increase to the towns

Expenditures from the School Choice Account in the last five years have been between \$207,000 and \$263,000 per year.



CIRCUIT BREAKER REVOLVING

(Reimbursement for special education costs)

Circuit Breaker Balance FY '21 is \$285,468 (This amount is required to be expended in FY '22) and will partially cover special education tuitions. Total special education tuition will be approximately \$669,000 for FY '22.

Circuit Breaker receipts for FY '22 anticipated amount = \$316,224

Circuit Breaker base amount is set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Base amount = 4X foundation amount (\$11,448) = \$45,792

Reimbursement is calculated on expenditures above the base amount. Reimbursement percentage should be 75% (subject to appropriation)

Reimbursement Example:

Special education services for a student = \$50,000

$\$50,000 - \$45,792 = \$4,208 \times 75\% \text{ reimbursement} = \$3,156$

WRAP AROUND REVOLVING

Wrap around revolving receipts in FY '20 were \$99,230 and expenditures were \$83,958 (program ended in March 2020 due to COVID)

Wrap around revolving funds the following related to the program:

Wrap-Around Staff
Summer Field Trips
Custodial Time
Secretarial Time

Stipends for Mini-Course Staff
Supplies
Nursing Time (if required)

*Wrap around was on hold for FY '21 due to COVID restrictions



FY '22 GRANTS

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

IDEA	\$293,873	Safe Schools	\$8,650
Title I	\$160,010	MyCAP	\$2,500
Title II	\$ 26,068	ESSER II	\$551,928
Special Ed. Preschool	\$ 13,034	ESSER III	\$1,264,891
Title IV	\$ 11,649		
SEL & Service Learning	\$ 10,000		
Targeted Assistance	\$ 15,000		
American Recovery Plan IDEA -	\$ 48,745		
DPH Workforce Investment Grant -	\$ 79,000		

EXCESS & DEFICIENCY

Excess & Deficiency 6/30/20 = \$714,541 (4.34%)

Excess & Deficiency 6/30/21 = \$833,337 (5%)

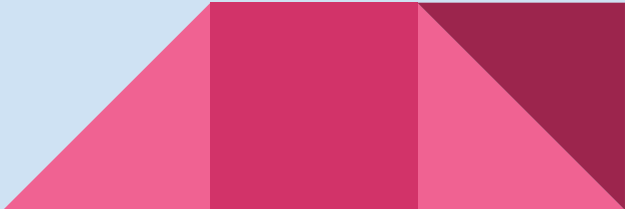
Excess & Deficiency limit of 5% of current budget = \$833,337

E & D used to offset FY '22 budget = \$556,960

Projected budget amount of E & D to offset FY '23 budget = \$420,000



FY' 23 BUDGET CONCERNS

- Sense of urgency to ensure that our students have curriculum materials, resources, and staffing to make sufficient progress from year to year
 - Uncertainty COVID pandemic lasting through next fiscal year or portion of fiscal year
 - Need to budget for OPEB, capital stabilization, special education stabilization
 - Uncertainty of continuation of COVID relief funding
 - Uncertainty of Rural School Aid continuing
 - Uncertainty of state revenue
 - Uncertainty of hold harmless funding continuing
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Gateway “The Great Way”

Offering the ONLY Chapter 74 Welding Program in the immediate area

Offering a Chapter 74 Early Childhood Program

1:1 Chromebook distribution in grades 3 through 12

Full inclusion kindergarten through grade 8

Free high-quality early education learning opportunities offered for 3-4 year olds.

After school activities with wrap-around before and after school daycare program offered (K - 5) as well as 7-12 after-school program which began this fall. Additionally Littleville offers summer program (field trips included free of charge to all participants)

Small class sizes

15 athletic teams servicing grades 7-12, many of which have had successful tournament qualifications in previous years

Offering 20 extracurricular offerings

Implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at all schools

Free universal breakfast and lunch is offered to all students at Chester Elementary School and all schools in FY '22

Best Buddies program at the high school level

Piloting program to hire high school students for various work opportunities within the district

School-based health center on site offering medical, dental, behavioral health, and optometry services

FY '23 Budget Timeline

January 12, 2022 - Joint budget meeting/information shared as part of school committee agenda

January 26, 2022 - Joint budget meeting/information shared as part of school committee agenda - Initial state budget released

February 9, 2022 - Joint budget meeting/information shared as part of school committee agenda

March 2, 2022 - Public Hearing on FY '23 budget

March 9, 2022 - FY '23 budget adoption

May & June 2022 - FY '23 budget votes as annual town meetings

June 30, 2022 - State budget scheduled to be finalized