



For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Norwalk Board of Education Approves Superintendent's Recommended Budget for FY 2024-25

Norwalk, Conn. (Dec. 19, 2023) -- The Norwalk Board of Education voted on Tuesday to approve the superintendent's recommended operating budget for FY 2024-25. The proposed budget for the General Fund is \$245.09 million, an 8.2% increase from the previous year. This accounts for 85% of all BOE operating expenses and is funded through the City of Norwalk's General Fund.

The total approved operating budget also includes \$36.85 million for the Grant Fund and \$7.16 million for the School Lunch Fund for a total of \$289.1 million. Grant funds allow the district to fund student programs that would otherwise have to be funded by local tax dollars or not funded at all. The School Lunch Fund accounts for all activities conducted by the Food Services Department, which provides meals to students and is largely funded by federal grants.

The board-approved budget intends to maintain the same level of quality service and excellence currently expected by the students, staff and families of Norwalk Public Schools. It's also intended to bring the district closer to achieving the goals set out in the Future Ready For All: 2021-26 Strategic Plan and taking the necessary actions to execute the strategic priorities of that plan.

The base budget request was for a 5.0% increase, allowing the district to meet its contractual obligations. Nearly 85% of the budget goes toward employee salaries and benefits, and the FY 2024-25 budget includes \$3.5 million in contractual wage increases. It also includes nearly 26 paraeducators needed to support teachers and students, and five education administrators that are part of the recently awarded Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

The BOE's budget proposal will also address giving teachers more planning time, reimplementing funding for the district's magnet programs, the increasing costs of out-of-district placements, and reducing a deficit in the school lunch fund. Each accounts for less than 1% of the proposed budget increase.

Superintendent Dr. Alexandra Estrella and the Norwalk Board of Education hope to see the community engage in the process over the next few months, and encourage the public to provide comments at upcoming city government and BOE meetings.

"Your feedback is invaluable, and we are grateful for the support of our teachers, staff, families, students, community partners and elected officials," Estrella said. "Our students are this community's future and the health of the Norwalk community relies on the health of our school system. We need to invest wisely."

Read the [full message from Dr. Estrella](#) that speaks to the board's approved tentative operating budget on the Norwalk Public Schools website. The district has also launched the [NPS Budget website](#), which will be updated throughout the budget season to address questions from the public and deliver the most recent information presented to the community.

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