

**Addendum**  
**BUUSD Board Meeting**  
**January 10, 2024**



**Spaulding High School  
Central Vermont Career Center  
Barre City Elementary and Middle School  
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School**

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***Chris Hennessey, M.Ed.***  
Superintendent of Schools

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*A rock solid education for a lifetime of discovery*

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January 8, 2024

Dear BUUSD School Board,

The BUUSD administration has always worked hard to bring forward a fiscally responsible "needs based" budget that supports our school community to the best of our ability, doing our best to meet the needs of our students and our tax payers. For the FY25 budget, we have the added factor of Act 127 guiding our work, and we understand how confusing the impact of this law has been on everyone.

Basically, the intent of Act 127 is to provide a new and more accurate way to "weigh" the cost of educating Vermont's students and then prioritize putting resources into each district's budget based on their needs. In the case of the BUUSD, we have a large number of economically disadvantaged students in our community, and the idea behind the new weighting is that these students cost more to educate. The significant increase in counted students this year makes our district a beneficiary of the law, and allows us to provide resources to our students while capping the tax rate in the process. Our proposed budget intentionally works within the intent and spirit of Act 127. We believe it will meet the needs of our students, families, and community while having minimal impact on our taxpayers.

I'd like to share below two charts that we hope break down this very complex law into some basic information on how our proposed FY25 budget will impact Barre taxpayers. The first chart simply shows the impact Act 127 will have on our spending and tax rate from last year to this one. The second chart goes one step further and shows the specific impact our proposed FY25 budget (and potential cuts from 11.6% down to 6.5%) will have on the tax rate and property tax bills. We hope this information is helpful and simple to understand.

## ACT 127 IMPACT ON BUUSD

Example	FY24 Using Equalized Pupils	FY24 Calculated by AOE Using LTWADM for Comparison Purposes	FY(25) ACT 127
Educational Spending	\$39,645,396	\$39,645,396	\$43,680,046
Divide Pupils	2205.25	3097.47	3687.16
=Per EqPup Ed Spend	\$17,978	\$12,799	\$11,847
Divide Yield	\$15,443	\$9,452	\$9,452
=District Tax Rate	1.164	1.35	1.25 1.22 (5% max)

Early indications in conferring with neighboring superintendents and business managers make it clear that the BUUSD's per pupil spending of \$11,847 will be \$2,000-\$5,000 lower than surrounding districts for FY25 as currently proposed. We aim to have these regional figures to share within the next few weeks. The Tax Commissioner's December 1 letter showed an average tax rate of \$1.80 after CLA has been applied. Barre's estimated tax rates with the proposed budget are BC, \$1.59 and BT, \$1.40, figures that would put the BUUSD among the lowest in Vermont.

It's also important to note that the latest CLAs are having an impact across Vermont, and, with a few exceptions, they are generally very low across the region.

The chart below will show the impact on the tax rate and homeowner's property tax bills (for the education taxes) if we were to reduce the General Fund Budget expenses further from the proposed 11.6% down to 6.5%. You will see that the cuts needed to get us to that figure will total over \$2.5 million. You will also see the dollar figure increase (if any) on the education tax portion for homeowners in Barre City and Barre Town (not accounting for income sensitivity adjustments) that would occur with these cuts.

## IMPACT ON BUUSD TAX RATE AND PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Education Tax Rate		FY25 Proposed 11.62%	FY25 10%	FY25 8%	FY25 6.5%
100K Assessed Home	BC CLA 76.62%	\$1,595	\$1,595	\$1,569	\$1,541
	BT CLA 86.93%	\$1,406	\$1,406	\$1,383	\$1,358
200K Assessed Home	BC CLA 76.62%	\$3,190	\$3,190	\$3,137	\$3,081
	BT CLA 86.93%	\$2,811	\$2,811	\$2,765	\$2,716
300K Assessed Home	BC CLA 76.62%	\$4,785	\$4,785	\$4,706	\$4,622
	BT CLA 86.93%	\$4,217	\$4,217	\$4,148	\$4,074

Taking this chart one step further, it would take \$844,234 in cuts to our general fund to get us to a 10% increase (with no tax rate impact), \$1,836,546 for 8%, and \$2,580,780 for 6.5%. Such cuts would definitely have a significant impact on staffing and programming in the BUUSD as we plan for the next school year, but minimal impact on the tax rate.

Again, we want to be clear that we are proud and have worked hard to present a fiscally responsible "needs based" budget that supports our students, families, and school community. We have worked within the intent and spirit of Act 127 in doing so.

We look forward to the BUUSD School Board supporting and getting behind our budget. Our aim is to move forward with our FY25 budget communication plan and get to work planning and preparing for the 2024-25 school year as soon as possible.

Chris

**Budget Modeling-Updated 1/8/24**

		<b>DRAFT 1</b>	<b>DRAFT 2</b>	<b>FY25-11% (348,077)</b>	<b>FY25-10% (844,234)</b>	<b>FY25-9% (1,340,390)</b>	<b>FY25-8% (1,836,546)</b>	<b>FY25-7% (2,332,702)</b>	<b>FY25-6.5% (2,580,780)</b>
	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25-11.7%</b>	<b>FY25-11.62 (40,898)</b>						
GENERAL FUND	49,615,633	55,421,430	55,380,532	55,073,353	54,577,196	54,081,040	53,584,884	53,088,728	52,840,650
increase \$		5,805,797	5,764,899	5,457,720	4,961,563	4,465,407	3,969,251	3,473,095	3,225,017
increase %		11.7%	11.6%	11.0%	10.0%	9.0%	8.0%	7.0%	6.5%
GRANTS	6,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
TOTAL	55,615,633	58,921,430	58,880,532	58,573,353	58,077,196	57,581,040	57,084,884	56,588,728	56,340,650
Equals EDUCATION SPENDING	39,645,396	43,720,944	43,680,046	43,372,867	42,876,710	42,380,554	41,884,398	41,388,242	41,140,164
Divide by LTWADM	2205.25	3687.16	3,687.16	3687.16	3687.16	3687.16	3687.16	3687.16	3687.16
Equals PER PUPIL SPENDING	17,978	11,858	11,847	11,763	11,629	11,494	11,360	11,225	11,158
Divide by YIELD	15,443	9,452	9,452	9,452	9,452	9,452	9,452	9,452	9,452
Equals TAX RATE	1.16	1.255	1.253	1.245	1.230	1.216	1.202	1.188	1.180
TAX RATE CAP		1.222	1.222	1.222	1.222	1.222	1.222	1.222	1.222
Divide by BC CLA	82.76%	76.62%	76.62%	76.62%	76.62%	76.62%	76.62%	76.62%	76.62%
Equals BC HOMESTEAD TAX RATE	1.407	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.587	1.569	1.550	1.541
Divide by BT CLA	95.87%	86.93%	86.93%	86.93%	86.93%	86.93%	86.93%	86.93%	86.93%
Equals BT HOMESTEAD TAX RATE	1.214	1.406	1.406	1.406	1.406	1.399	1.383	1.366	1.358

**100k Assessed Home, Education Taxes**

BC CLA 76.62%		1,595	1,595	1,595	1,595	1,587	1,569	1,550	1,541
BT CLA 86.93%		1,406	1,406	1,406	1,406	1,399	1,383	1,366	1,358

**200k Assessed Home, Education Taxes**

BC CLA 76.62%		3,191	3,190	3,191	3,191	3,174	3,137	3,100	3,081
BT CLA 86.93%		2,812	2,811	2,812	2,812	2,798	2,765	2,732	2,716

**300k Assessed Home, Education Taxes**

BC CLA 76.62%		4,786	4,785	4,786	4,786	4,761	4,706	4,650	4,622
BT CLA 86.93%		4,218	4,217	4,218	4,218	4,197	4,148	4,098	4,074

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WARNING  
FOR  
March 5, 2024  
  
VOTE

The legal voters of the Barre Unified Union School District who are residents of the City of Barre and the Town of Barre, are hereby notified and warned to meet at their respective polling places: Barre City residents meet at the Barre City Municipal Auditorium and Barre Town residents meet at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School gymnasium; on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 between the hours of seven (7:00) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7:00) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close; to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

ARTICLE 1

To elect four members to the Barre Unified Union School District Board for the ensuing term commencing March 6, 2024 as follows:  
One Barre City District Director for a term of three (3) years.  
One Barre City District Director for a term of two (2) years.  
One Barre Town District Director for a term of three (3) years.  
One Barre Town District Director for a term of two (2) years.

ARTICLE 2

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District authorize the District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date provided?

ARTICLE 3

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$58,880,532, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$11,847 per Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTWADM) per pupil spending.

ARTICLE 4

Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors of Barre Unified Union School District to transfer \$700,000 of the audited fund balance of June 30, 2023 to the Tax Stabilization Fund?

ARTICLE 5

Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors of Barre Unified Union School District to transfer \$295,741 of the audited fund balance of June 20, 2023 to the Capital Projects Fund?

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The legal voters and residents of Barre Unified Union School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held via Google Meet ([meet.google.com/toh-iubt-unf](https://meet.google.com/toh-iubt-unf) or Phone: 1-336-949-8207 PIN 481 744 668#) and in-person at the Spaulding High School Library, 155 Ayers Street, Barre, Vermont on Monday, March 6, 2024 commencing at six (6:00) in the afternoon (p.m.) for the purpose of explaining the articles to be voted on by Australian ballot.

The legal voters of Barre Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said election shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Barre Unified Union School District held on January 13, 2024. Received for the record and recorded in the records of the Barre Unified Union School District on January 14, 2024.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Lunt, Clerk  
Barre Unified Union School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Giuliano Cecchinelli II, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Parker, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Malone, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Spaulding

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Reil

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Leclerc

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Pregent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Boutin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emily Reynolds

## **Background on Announced Tuition, 1/8/24**

**See link to statute:** <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/16/021>

Soon after January 15th AOE posts tuition rates for all Vermont public schools, representing the anticipated net cost per pupil for the upcoming school year. This tuition amount is to be paid to the district in which the student attends public school by the district in which the student is a resident. Following the completion of the school year, and the collection of school finance data (Statbook), AOE calculates the actual net cost per pupil, also known as the maximum tuition rate, or allowable tuition. If a payment made to a school district is three percent more or less than the net cost per pupil, as determined by the allowable tuition calculation, then the district shall be reimbursed, credited, or refunded pursuant to section 836, Title 16.

# FY25 Announced Tuition

Form used to collect Announced Tuition Data

## Vermont Agency of Education Announced Tuition Data Entry Form

**Due Date: January 16th, 2024 per 16 V.S.A §826 (moved to the first business day since the 15th is a holiday)**

**Choose District:**

SU061: BARRE UUSD(U097)

**SU Number**

SU061

**LEAID**

U097

### Data Entry

**District Name**

BARRE UUSD

**Update the Grade**

**Range (if necessary)**

PK-12

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**The Prior year Announced tuitions will default in to each tuition.  
Update any tuition you wish to change for FY25.**

**Kindergarten: Full-Time**

18,000.00

**Kindergarten: Part-Time**

0.00

**Elementary**

18,000.00

**Secondary**

18,500.00

**Technical Center**

0.00

### Announced Tuition FY 2025 Signature Page

**Failure to satisfactorily complete and file the Annual Announced Tuition Report on or before January 16th, will result in the current year's announced tuition rate being applied to the next fiscal**



year per 16 V.S.A. 826(a).

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In accordance with Title 16, VSA, Section 826, notice is hereby given that the tuition rate for non-resident students attending REGULAR programs in the above named district will be as follows:

REGULAR EDUCATION

**Kindergarten Full-Time**  
18,000.00

**Kindergarten Part-Time**  
0.00

**Elementary**  
18,000.00

**Secondary**  
18,500.00

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**FOR VOCATIONAL ONLY** In accordance with Title 16, VSA, Section 1552(d), notice is hereby given that the

**Technical**  
0.00

\* Technical Center allowable tuition Numbers are for Vermont students only

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Person to contact with questions about these completed worksheets:

**Contact Name**  
LISA PERREAULT

**Phone**  
(802) 476-5011

**Email**  
lperrbsu@buusd.org

**Superintendent's Signature Required**

I attest to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information is accurate and the school district is in compliance with all requirements of state and federal law.

**Signature**

**Date**  
1/2/2024

*Christopher Hennessey*

**Superintendent**  
CHRISTOPHER HENNESSEY

**\*This signature page must be completed for each supervisory union or district.**

Once Signed on the previous page, please click the Submit button below to submit this form to the AOE, this is the only submission needed for notifying AOE of a regular education tuition change. Be sure to also notify all sending districts by the statutory deadline of Jan 16th, 2024.