

Dear Norwalk Community,

The Board of Estimate and Taxation for the City of Norwalk will hold a public hearing to address the FY 2024-25 Operating Budget on Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will be held in a hybrid fashion - the public can attend in person in Common Council Chambers at City Hall or [virtually via Zoom](#).

Find details on how to participate at the end of this message.

This is one of the last opportunities for our families, staff and community supporters to advocate for funding of Norwalk Public Schools under the City of Norwalk's FY 2024-25 Operating Budget.

During the budget process, the Norwalk Common Council set a tentative budget cap that aligned with a budget proposal that only provides a 4% increase for the Norwalk Board of Education. This is less than half what was requested by the BOE earlier this year. Only the Board of Estimate (BET) has the authority to make line item appropriations, including additional funding earmarked for the Norwalk BOE.

The BOE's requested increase of 8.2% looked to address increased student enrollment, especially among specialized learning and multilingual learner students; teacher release time for planning, particularly at the elementary school level; reinstating funding for magnet school programs; the contribution to the school lunch fund; and contractual wage increases.

For more details on each, [please click here](#).

The Norwalk BOE's FY 2024-25 Tentative Approved Operating Budget was intended to maintain the same level of quality service and excellence currently expected by our students, staff and families. The continuation of necessary programs and retention of staff are of the utmost importance.

Throughout this budget process, Superintendent Dr. Alexandra Estrella and her team have shared great conversations with city officials regarding this year's budget and hope to continue those to find creative solutions to fund the significant needs of the district that will perpetuate if not addressed promptly and fully.

Your voice matters, and we encourage everyone to participate in the budget process to ensure Norwalk Public Schools receive appropriate levels of funding that best support our scholars. Please consider advocating for the Norwalk BOE budget request at the upcoming public hearing.

To learn how to participate in the public hearing, please see the steps below:

Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. - Board of Estimate and Taxation public hearing

The below information is the most up-to-date provided by the City of Norwalk as of 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, March 20.

Agenda: <https://www.norwalkct.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/22228>

Location: Norwalk City Hall, Common Council Chambers, 125 East Ave. 3rd Floor

How to participate in person: Sign up on the paper sheet before 6:30 p.m. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes.

How to participate via Zoom: Click the “raise your hand” icon in the Zoom meeting to address the council. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting.

Click this link to log into the Zoom meeting: <https://norwalkct-org.zoom.us/j/86823176231>

Webinar ID: 860 3094 5988

Password: 144344

Dial In: 646-558-8656

Email public comments to Tom Ellis at tellis@norwalkct.gov with the subject line “Public Comment” by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20 to ensure they are included into the record.

Watch the livestream (no public participation): There has not been a YouTube link posted as of 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20.