AGENDA-Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Informal Town Budget Presentation – New Hartford

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

BOARD OF EDUCATION

7:00 p.m.

New Hartford Town Hall, Senior Center

Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education Mission Statement:

We believe the public education is an essential component of a free and democratic society. In a partnership of family, school, community, and local and state government, our mission is to enable all students to meet high standards, make productive choices in their personal lives, contribute to a diverse global society and act as responsible citizens.

THIRD INFORMAL TOWN PRESENTATION- NEW HARTFORD

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

3.0 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:	April 4, 2024	Fourth Informal Town Presentation: Barkhamsted, Barkhamsted Elementary- Cafeteria 7:00 p.m. Special BOE Meeting to follow for Adoption of Budget to take to Budget Hearing. Regular BOE Meeting to follow (April 10th meeting moved to this meeting)
	April 10, 2024	Regular BOE Meeting moved to April 4, 2024
	April 22, 2024	Regional Budget Hearing to Adopt Budget to go to District Budget Meeting, NWR7 Little Theater 7:00 p.m. Regular BOE Meeting to follow (April 24th meeting moved to this meeting)
	April 24, 2024	Regular BOE Meeting Library moved to April 22, 2024
	May 6, 2024	District Budget Meeting NWR7 Little Theater 7:00 p.m.
	May 7, 2024	Referendum

We welcome the public to share their comments via publicinput@nwr7.org. Your emails will be considered during the Public Comment session of the meeting. Thank you for your participation.

Northwestern Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education's Proposed 2024-2025 Budget
Presented: April 3, 2024

The Pride of the Northwest Corner

Superintendent's Budgeting Commitments:

We will:

- ***remain transparent and conscientious in our approach to budget development***
- ***request and secure the resources we believe essential to educate and support our students and staff***
- ***model our Vision of the Graduate attributes in all budget development practices, and through my leadership practices***
- ***do our very best to ensure that Northwestern Regional School District No. 7 remains a model of excellence in the state and on the national level***

Northwestern Vision of the Graduate















The Pride of the Northwest Corner

Proposed Budget: Historical Overview

Year	Budget	Assessment
• *2019-2020*	*1.77%*	*1.54%*
• *2020-2021*	*2.53%*	*2.49%*
• *2021-2022*	*1.33%*	*0.38%*
• *2022-2023*	*2.45%*	*1.97%*
• *2023-2024*	*2.42%*	*2.79%*
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• *2024-2025*	*3.47%*	*3.78%*

Prior 5-Year Average Budget Increase: ***2.10%***

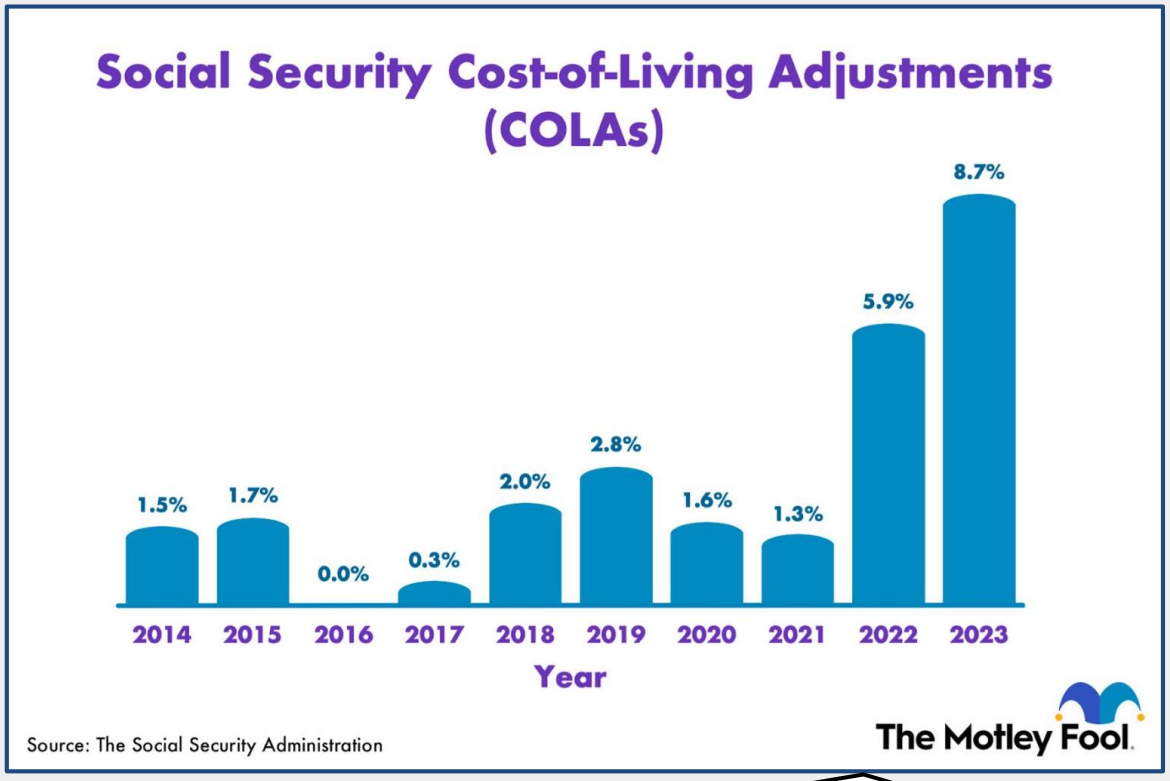
Prior 5-Year Average Assessment: ***1.83%***

6-Year Average Budget Increase: 2.33%

6-Year Average Assessment: 2.16%



Budgeting For Efficiency and Excellence Through Challenging Times



Social Security Cost-Of-Living Adjustments

Year	COLA	Year	COLA	Year	COLA
1975	8.0	1995	2.6	2015	0.0
1976	6.4	1996	2.9	2016	0.3
1977	5.9	1997	2.1	2017	2.0
1978	6.5	1998	1.3	2018	2.8
1979	9.9	1999	2.5	2019	1.6
1980	14.3	2000	3.5	2020	1.3
1981	11.2	2001	2.6	2021	5.9
1982	7.4	2002	1.4	2022	8.7
1983	3.5	2003	2.1	2023	3.2
1984	3.5	2004	2.7		
1985	3.1	2005	4.1		
1986	1.3	2006	3.3		
1987	4.2	2007	2.3		
1988	4.0	2008	5.8		
1989	4.7	2009	0.0		
1990	5.4	2010	0.0		
1991	3.7	2011	3.6		
1992	3.0	2012	1.7		
1993	2.6	2013	1.5		
1994	2.8	2014	1.7		

Social Security COLA increases from 2019-2023 have averaged 4.14%, compared to NWR7's average budget increase of 2.10%, and assessment increase of 1.83% during the same time period.

Budget Drivers: Seeking the Right Balance
Students Needs/Limited Resources



Special Education Programming:

- **Significant Increase in Special Education Outplacements**
- **Continue Specialized Middle and High School Program Support**

Regular Education Programming:

- **Significant Increase in Medical Benefits Renewal**
- **Athletic Trainer**

Budget Mitigation Staffing Reductions:

- **Department Level funding increase held at 0%**
- **Deferred spending on school capital needs**
- **1 new Ag-Ed Teacher request removed from the budget**
- **3.5 Teaching Position Reductions:**
  - ➢ **2.6 High School (English and World Language)**
  - ➢ **0.4 Middle School (World Language)**
  - ➢ **0.5 Library Media Specialist replaced with 1.0 Current NWR7 Social Studies Teacher (Net result is a .5 reduction of a Certified Teacher)**

TOTAL CERTIFIED STAFF REDUCTIONS = 3.5 FTE (Most near or at the top pay step)

How do our *State Report Card* Results compare to DRG C *High Schools*?

School:	Student #	Grades	F.T.E.	F.T.E./Student Ratio	Accountability Index Score:
Northwestern HS	**564**	**9-12**	**67.6**	**8.3**	**81.3**
Canton HS	464	9-12	50.0	9.3	**81.6**
Ellington HS	737	9-12	77.4	9.5	**77.4**
Oxford HS	527	9-12	51.9	10.2	**75.0**
Somers HS	384	9-12	57.9	6.6	**75.8**
Reg. 4 Valley HS	489	9-12	58.0	8.4	**75.1**
Reg. 8 RHAM HS	819	9-12	92.0	10.6	**77.0**
Reg. 10 Lewis Mills HS	648	9-12	71.7	9.0	**77.0**
Reg. 13 Coginchaug HS	359	9-12	49.2	7.3	**77.6**
Reg. 12 Shepaug HS	494	9-12	59.8	8.3	**75.1**
The Gilbert School	*410*	*9-12*	*49.8*	*8.2*	***61.3***
Reg 1 Housatonic Reg. HS	*319*	*9-12*	*49*	*6.5*	***68.5***

How do our *State Report Card* Results compare to DRG C *Middle Schools*?

School:	Student #	Grades	F.T.E.	F.T.E./Student Ratio	Accountability Index Score:
Northwestern MS	**243**	**7-8**	**32.3**	**7.5**	**78.2**
Canton MS	247	7-8	25.2	9.8	**62.3**
Ellington MS	398	7-8	41.4	9.6	**67.4**
Oxford MS	410	7-8	41.6	9.9	**58.8**
Somers MS	304	6-8	33.3	9.1	**72.3**
Suffield MS	445	6-8	56.5	7.9	**66.5**
Tolland MS	519	7-8	53.3	9.7	**74.4**
Reg. 4 MS	238	7-8	26.3	9.0	**57.7**
Reg. 8 RHAM MS	369	7-8	39.8	9.3	**62.3**
Reg. 10 Har-Bur MS	653	5-8	72	9.1	**75.9**

Northwestern Middle School









Middle School Points of Pride









Northwestern Middle School
Smarter Balanced Achievement Results

	2021	2022	2023
ELA	58%	62%	**68%**
Math	34%	50%	**61%**
NGSS	58%	64%	**71%**

Percentage of students that met/exceeded goal

Our Northwestern MS Students' Satisfaction With Their School

9 PASS Factors

1. Feelings about school
2. Perceived learning capability
3. Self-regard as a learner
4. Preparedness for learning
5. Attitudes to teachers
6. General work ethic
7. Confidence in learning
8. Attitudes to attendance
9. Response to curriculum

High satisfaction with their school experience	Students/Cohorts in the 31st - 100th percentile
Moderate satisfaction with their school experience	Students/Cohorts in the 21st - 30th percentile
Low moderate satisfaction with their school experience	Students/Cohorts in the 6th - 20th percentile
Low satisfaction with their school experience	Students/Cohorts in the lowest 5% of responses

Fall 2023 Overall:

Factor	Feelings about school	Perceived learning capability	Self-regard as a learner	Preparedness for learning	Attitudes to teachers	General work ethic	Confidence in learning	Attitudes to attendance	Response to curriculum demands
Percentile score	62.1	56.3	60.0	46.3	57.9	64.6	55.3	49.6	51.9

Go Highlanders!



























PSAT COMPARATIVE 11TH GRADE

	Total Students	Mean Score	Mean ERW Score	Mean Math Score
Class of 2025	153	971	494	477
Class of 2024	**125**	**1016**	**517**	**499**
Class of 2023	144	983	503	480

SAT DATA COMPARATIVE

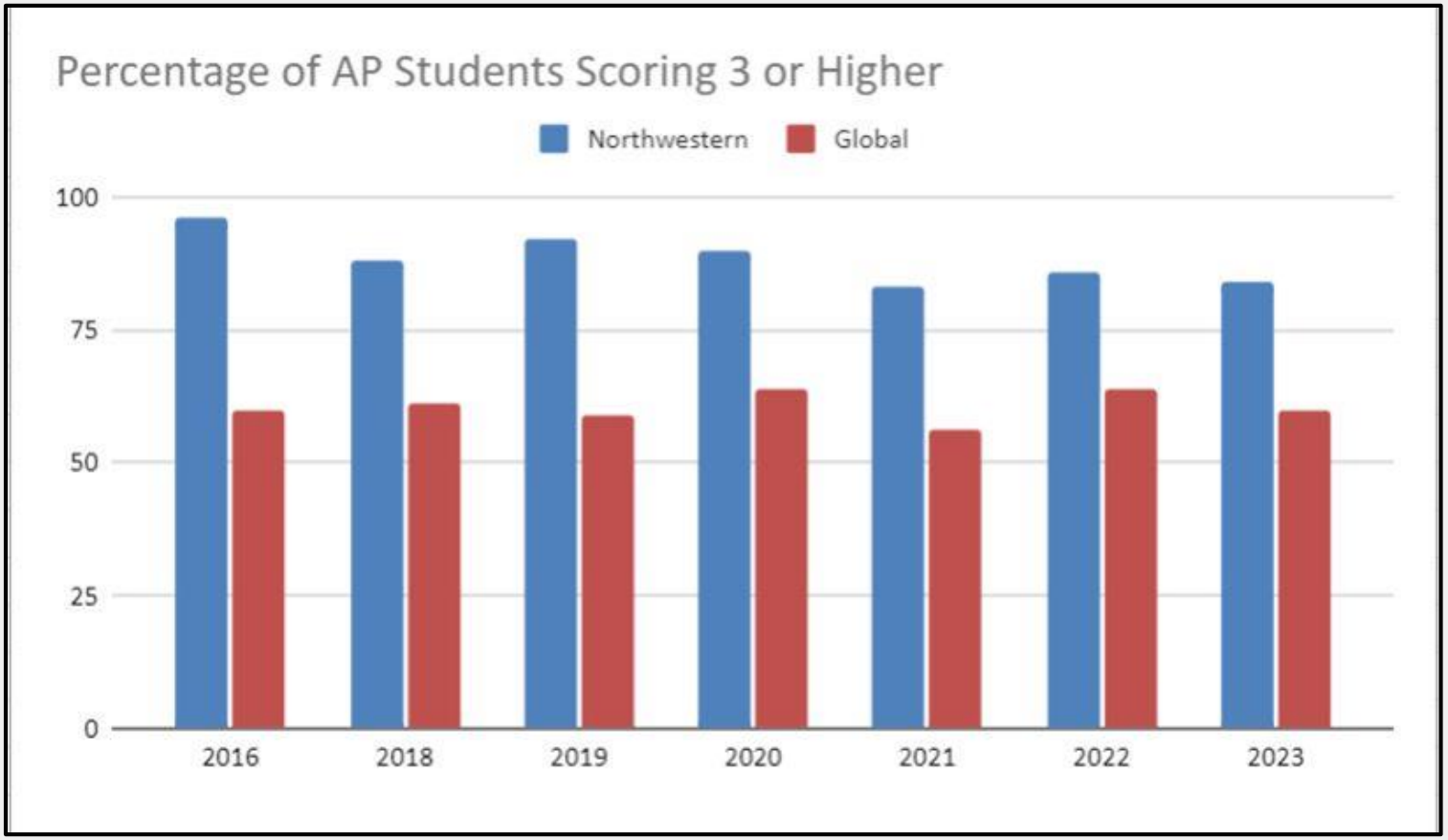
	Ave. Test Score	ERW Score	Math Score
Class of 2024	**1060**	**532**	**528**
Class of 2023	1023	523	500
Class of 2022	1081	546	535

SAT DATA – CLASS OF 2024 STATE COMPARATIVE

Group	Avg. Test Score	ERW Score	Math Score
NWR7 Class of 2024	**1060**	**532**	**528**
NWR7 Class of 2023	1023	523	500
State of CT	975	493	482

Percentage of AP Students Scoring 3 or Higher

83 Northwestern students took 137 AP exams



- ***12 UConn ECE Courses will also be offered next year!***
- ***58 Students Currently enrolled in UConn Courses***

Northwestern High School



Exemplary High Performance

Northwestern High School

focused on expanded opportunities and excellence



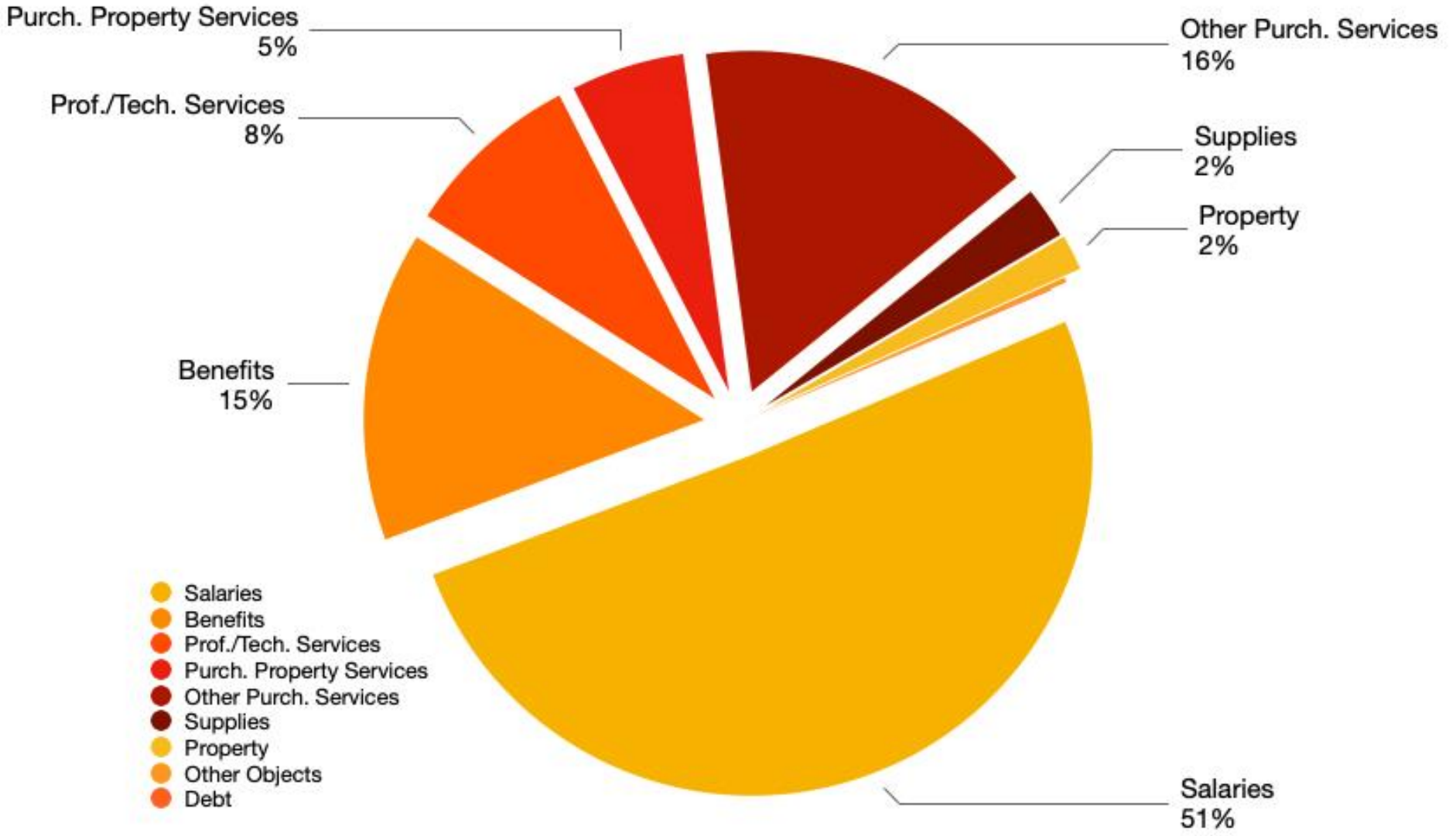


Additional Course Offerings

- **Agricultural Education**
  - Ag Business Management
  - Fisheries Management
- **Art**
  - Digital Design Studio
  - Art Classroom Mentorship
- **Business**
  - Advanced Personal Finance
  - Business Classroom Mentorship
- **Education**
  - UConn ECE: If You Love It, Teach It
- **English**
  - Journalism II
- **PE/Wellness**
  - UConn ECE: Exercise and Wellness for Everyone
- **Science**
  - Zoology
  - UConn EMT Training (pending approval)
- **Social Studies**
  - History of Rock and Roll
- **World Language**
  - Adv. Topics in Italian: Honors Film
  - Adv. Topics in Italian: Honors Novel

Budget Overview

Object Breakdown
$24,270,092



*Values above are rounded to the nearest

100 Salaries

Increase of $223,156 or 1.85%

Increases:

- Contractual Salary Increases
- New Athletic Trainer +1.0 FTE (Offset by reduction in Contracted Services)
- Increase .50 FTE Library Media Specialist

Budget Mitigation Actions:

- Reduce 2 Teachers from H.S. English
- Reduce 1 Teacher from H.S./M.S. World Language
- Reduce 1 Teacher from H.S. Social Studies
- Reduce .05 Bookkeeping Asst. (reduced hours)
- School Based Mental Health Grant used to fund SEL/Academic Support in MS and HS
- Any new personnel requests were denied (including 1.0 Agriscience teacher)

200 Benefits

Increase of $209,028 or 6.20%

Increases:

- Medical Health Insurance Renewal: 10.95%

Budget Mitigation Actions:

- Reduced benefits for 3 staff members
- Life Insurance Renewal at 0%
- Unemployment Renewal at 0%
- Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal at 0%

300 Professional/Technical Services
Increase of $7,311 or .36%

Increases:

- Medical Advisor Increase
- Shared Services Assessment up 3%

Budget Mitigation Actions:

- Many accounts held to current funding levels
- Reduction in Contracted Services (Athletic Trainer)
- Use of $30,000 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Special Education expenditures through Shared Services
- Use of $50,000 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Special Education Professional and Technical Services

400 Property Services
Increase of $1,230 or 0.09%

Account Factors:

- Most accounts held to 0%
- Energy, Fuel, and Utilities Adjustments
- Snow Removal/Ice Management Increase

500 Other Purchased Services
Increase of $383,574 or 10.70%

Increases:
- Additional Special Education Outplacements Increase the Tuition and Transportation Costs
- Rising Special Education Costs

Budget Mitigation Actions:
- Most accounts held to 0% increase
- Excess Cost Offset for Special Education Transportation $53,800
- Excess Cost Offset for Special Education Outplacements $420,000

600 Supplies
Decrease of -$1,970 or -0.33%

Increases:
- Library Supplies, Building Maintenance Supplies

Budget Mitigation Actions:
- Departments held to 0% increase (reallocations within Department)
- Textbooks Reduced

700 Property

Decrease of -$6,921 or -1.66%

Decreases:

- Reduced Instructional Equipment Replacements
- Reduced Special Education Capital Outlay

800 Other Objects

Decrease of -$844 or -1.44%

- No new borrowing since 2012
- Adjustments to Dues/Fees

900 Other Funds
$0 or 0%
No New Borrowing

- No changes

2024-2025 Proposed Budget Increase of $814,564



Excess Cost Expenditure Offset

Code	Description	2023-2024	2024-2025
325	Shared Services	$30,000	$30,000
326	Professional/Tech Services	$55,000	$50,000
511	Transportation-Special Education	$55,000	$53,800
562	Tuitions – Special Education (H.S. & M.S.)	$257,000	$420,000
	TOTAL	$397,000	$553,800

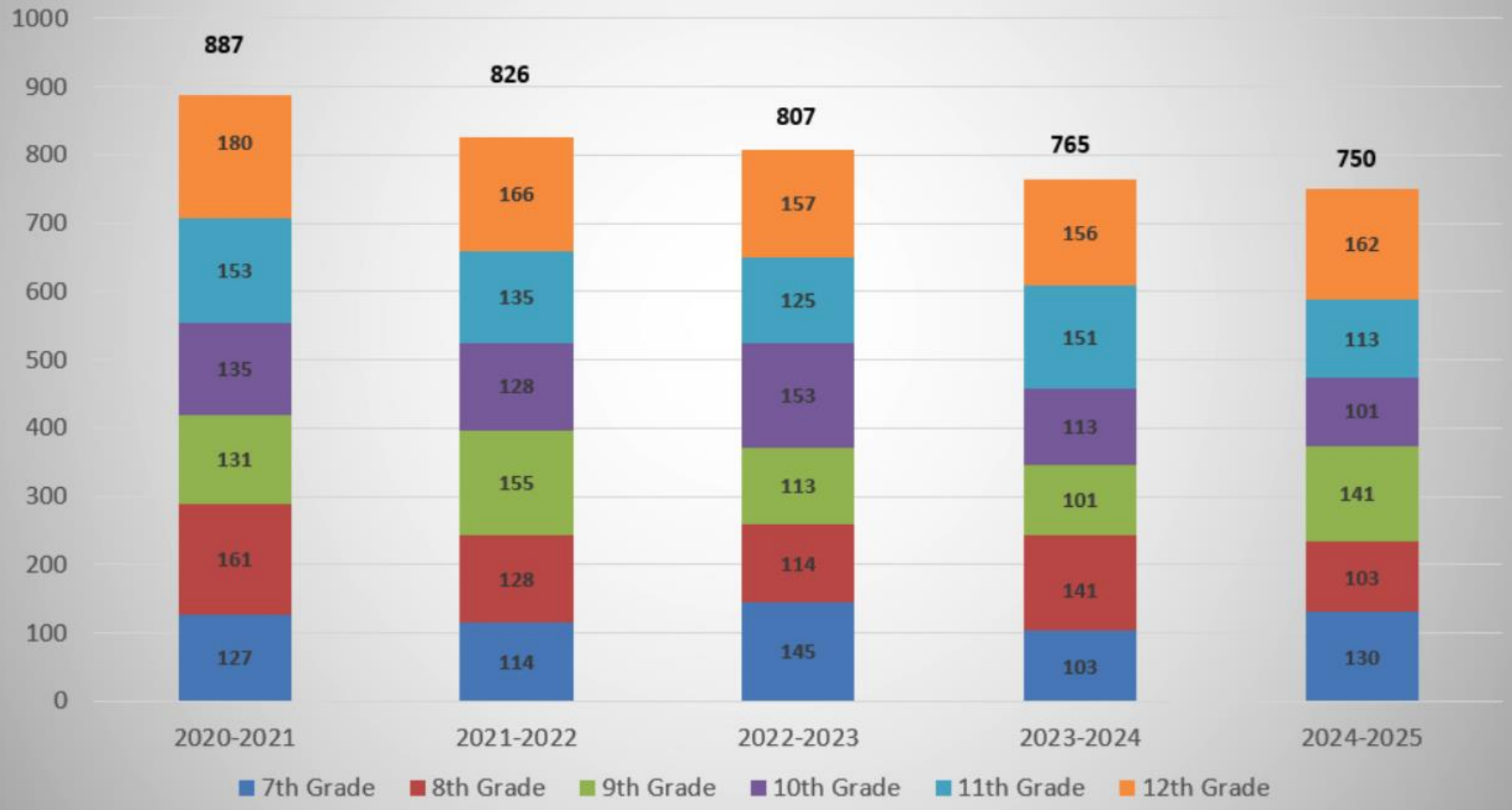
- Districts are reimbursed by the state for the expenses associated with educating special education students with a cost above 4.5x the per pupil expenditure ($25,453)*. For us, that cost is $114,539*. If a student's educational costs **do not** reach that threshold, the district pays the full amount.
- The state covers ***a percentage*** **of the amount in excess of $114,539**. New legislation decreased the reimbursement percentage for our district to 88% of excess cost; ***however, the Appropriations Committee habitually underfunds this critical grant.***
- ***The Board adjusted the originally budgeted 82% in excess cost grant offsets to 71% based on newly released state information regarding this year's reimbursement rate of 71%, and the full expectation of ongoing underfunding of this account.***

* Most current information available (1/25/24)

Revenues & Assessments

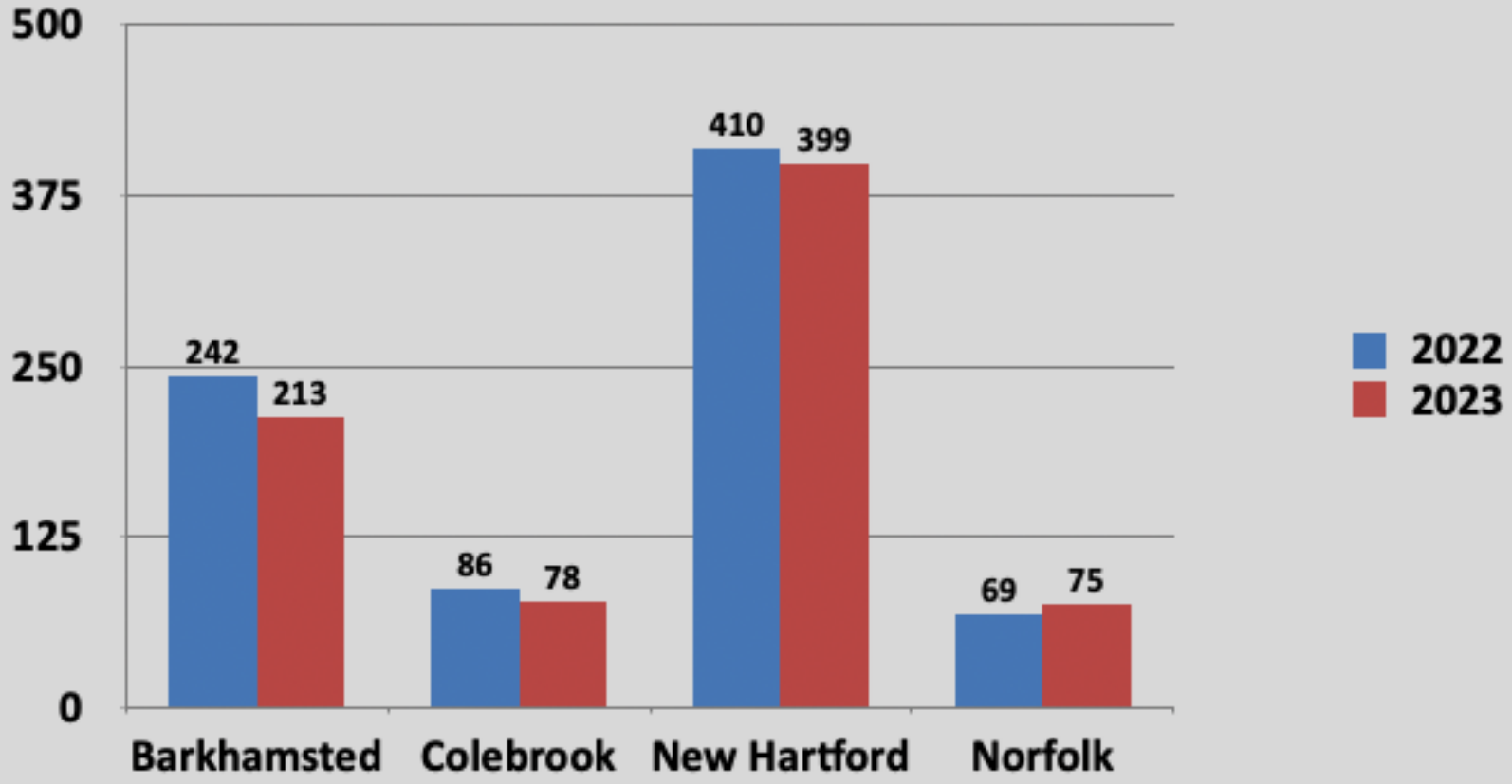
Description	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Estimated	Difference
Tuition-Regular	$657,150	$540,480	($116,670)
Tuition-Special Ed	$0	$0	$0
Tuition – Ag Ed	$354,796	$185,979	($168,817)
Rental Income	$7,500	$10,500	$3,000
Interest Income	$15,000	$15,000	$0
Sprint Contract	$0	$0	$0
Ag Ed Grant	$624,480	$793,500	$169,020
Subtotal Revenues	*$1,658,926*	*$1,545,459*	*($113,467)*
Budget Variance	$688,578	$819,700	$131,122
Subtotal with Offset	$2,347,504	$2,365,159	$17,655
Budget	$23,455,528	$24,270,092	$814,564
Assessments (Budget minus Subtotal with offset)	$21,108,024	$21,904,933	$796,909

Straight Line ADM – Member Towns
Current and Projected



*Based on Oct. 1, 2023

Change in Average Daily Membership By Town



* Based on October 1, 2023 CSDE

A Look at Total District Enrollment

October 1, 2023

Grade 7:	108
Grade 8:	145
Grade 9:	116
Grade 10:	132
Grade 11:	176
Grade 12:	146
HTA:	19
Total:	842

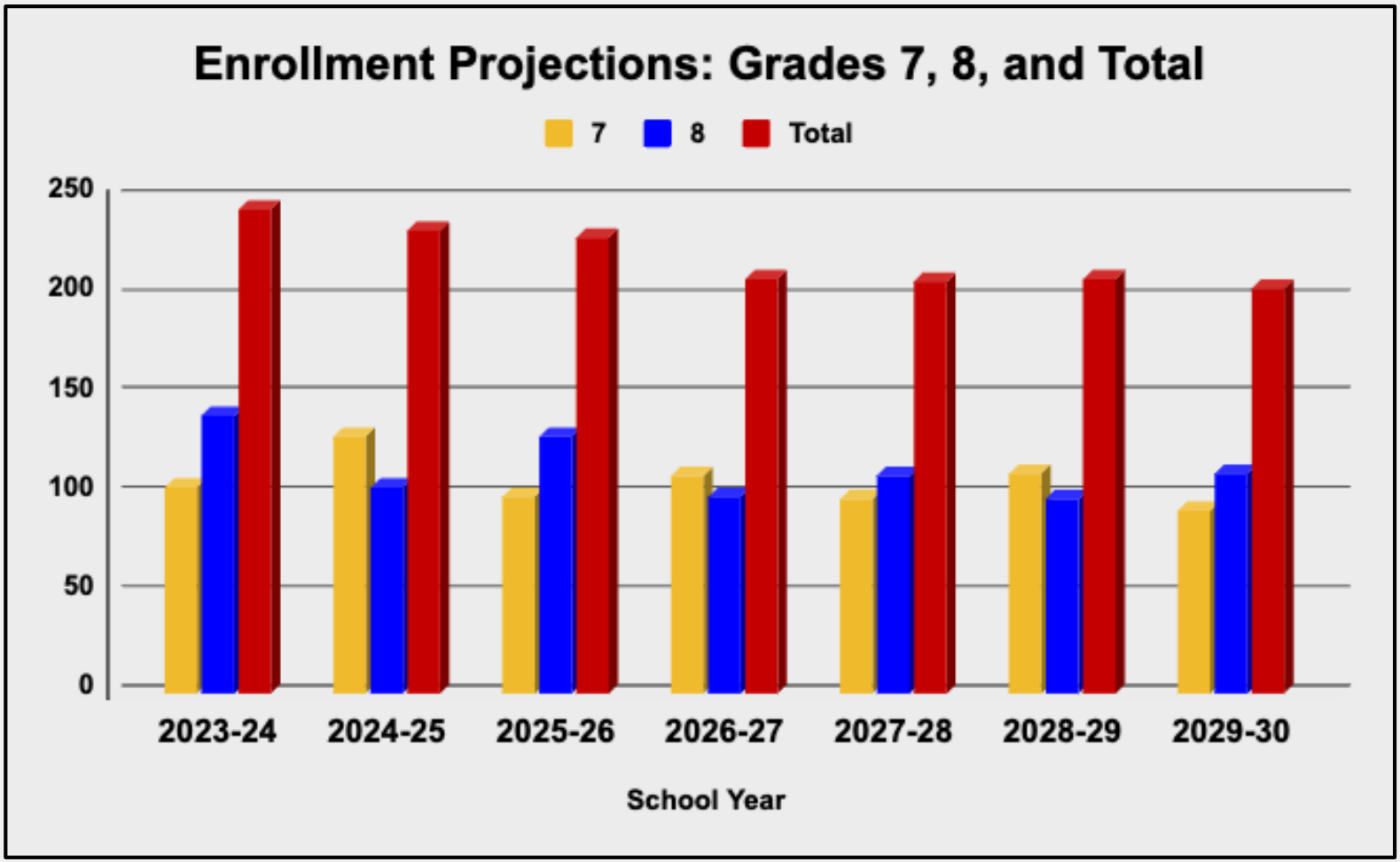
Our member town students are joined by Agricultural Education and tuition paying students from: Winsted, Hartland, Torrington, Canton, and Granby.

Total includes magnet schools and outplacements.

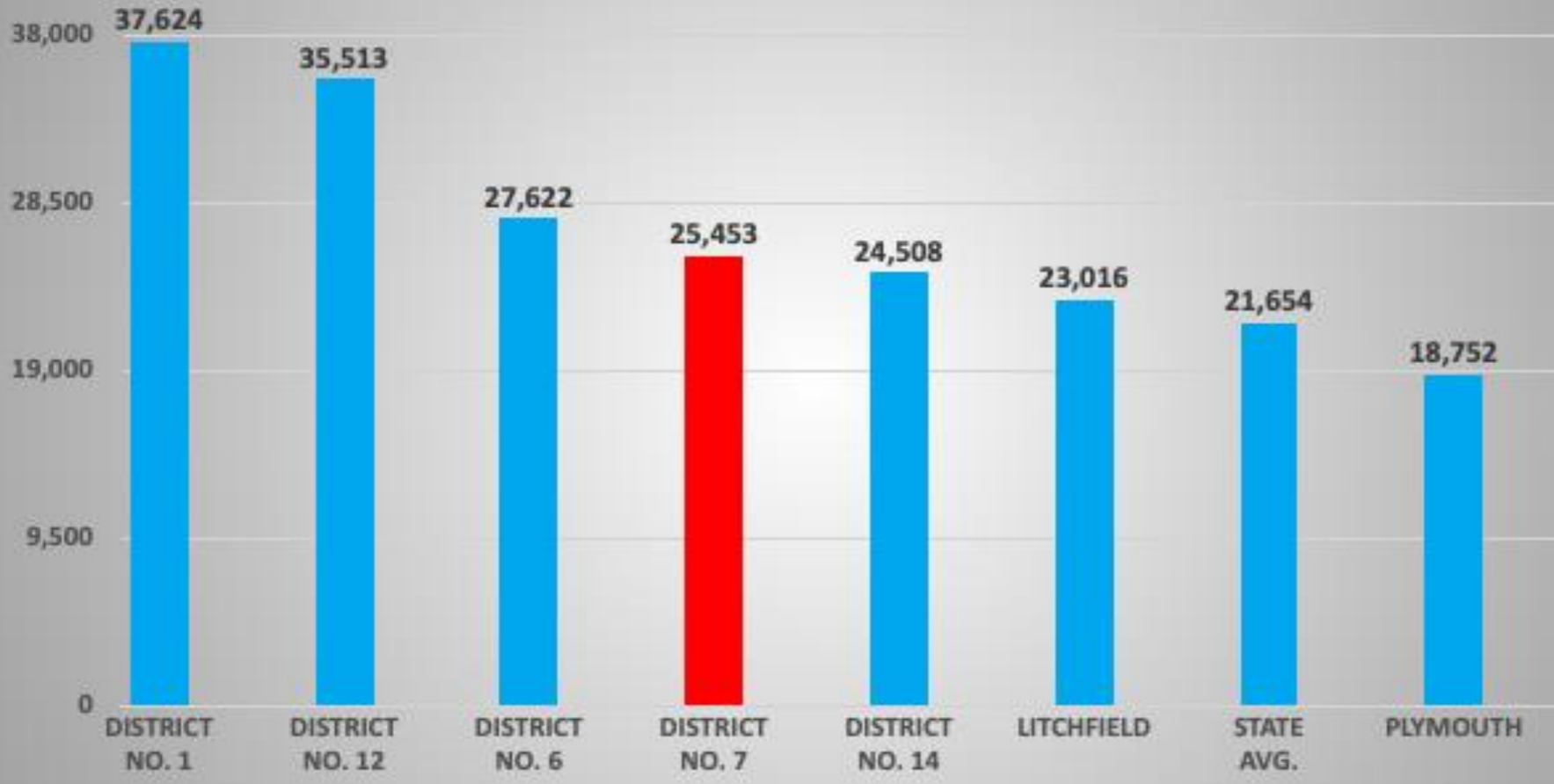
Middle School Enrollment Outlook

Grade	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
7	104	130	100	110	98	112	93
8	141	104	130	100	110	98	112
Total:	245	234	230	210	208	210	205

*Oct. 2023



Range of Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil
Berkshire League*



*Data for Gilbert Unavailable
Source: CSDE 3/19/2024

2024-25 Assessment Explanation

Budget 24/25	**$24,270,092**	**3.47%**
Revenue	**$1,545,459**	(6.84%)
Assessment Offset	**$819,700**	19.04%
NET ASSESSMENT	**$21,904,933**	**3.78%**

Historical Perspective on Assessments

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	5 Year Average
Barkhamsted	-0.84%	**5.24%**	0.01%	0.65%	-3.66%	0.28%
Colebrook	2.49%	4.01%	**8.37%**	2.79%	-0.70%	**3.39%**
New Hartford	**7.44%**	-2.12%	1.20%	3.69%	6.55%	3.35%
Norfolk	-12.02%	-5.41%	6.43%	**5.26%**	**18.95%**	2.64%
Total Assessment Increase:	2.49%	0.38%	1.97%	2.79%	**3.78%**	**2.28%**
Average of Total Assessment Increase ~ 2.28%						
Total Expenditure Increase:	2.53%	1.33%	2.45%	2.42%	**3.47%**	**2.44%**
5-Year Average of Total Expenditure Increases ~ 2.44%						

In Summary…

- Regional School District No. 7 provides a rigorous and comprehensive educational program for all learners.
- We know and care about all of our students, and helping to prepare them for a successful and rewarding life is our top priority.
- We develop strong and meaningful relationships between faculty, staff, and the student body.
- We hire and retain extraordinary teachers and support staff who work alongside strong, experienced administrators.
- Northwestern High School seniors graduate with exceptional experiences and are well prepared for their future.
- Our students demonstrate excellence across all disciplines, including our Agriscience program, and in the fine and performing arts.
- RSD7 develops and supports high performing student athletic programs and athletes across all sports.
- Our school community values kindness and is focused on the emotional well-being of all.
- We provide a high-value, high-quality education and enjoy overwhelming community support.
- RSD7's per pupil expenditures are in the midrange of the Berkshire League with exceptional academic results.
- We would like to thank our facilities team for taking such good care of our buildings and grounds.

Regional School District No. 7

The Pride of the Northwest Corner

Budget Highlights Summary

2023-2024 Budget: **$23,455,528**

2024-2025 Budget: **$24,270,092**

Total Budget Increase: **$814,564**

Percentage Increase: **3.47%**

- *Medical Insurance Cost Increase* ***= 0.84% of our total budget increase***
- Special Education & Outplacement Increases **= 2.0%** ***of our total budget increase***
- ***Outside of medical insurance and special education outplacement cost increases, our total budget increase amounts to only 0.63%***

  (The average contractual increase for all collective bargaining groups is ***3.27%)***

Our 0.63% increase over non-negotiable expenses is the result of careful planning, flat-funded or reduced spending in almost all budget accounts, and the reduction of several certified staff members in this budget.

District Budget Meeting

MAY 6, 2024
NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL
Dr. Roberta Ohotnicky Little Theater
7:00 PM

BUDGET REFERENDUM

MAY 7, 2024
Town Polling Locations
Hours may vary by town



For budget details, visit:
www.nwr7.com

Thank You for Your Support!

