

M.G.L. 603 CMR 41.05: Regional School District Budgets

This document outlines the process under Mass General Law for the adoption of regional school district budgets. The four sections listed are summaries – each title is a hyperlink to the full text.

1. [Initial Adoption by the School Committee](#) - The regional school committee shall propose, by a majority vote, a budget containing all proposed operating expenditures, capital expenditures, and debt service payments to be paid from general revenues of the regional school district.
2. [Initial Action by the Local Appropriating Authorities](#) - The budget as adopted by the regional school committee and the member's assessment as certified by the treasurer of the regional school district, shall be placed before each local appropriating authority for its consideration.
 - Option A – A vote by the local appropriating authority to appropriate the member's assessment shall constitute **approval** of the regional school district's budget.
 - Option B – The local appropriating authority votes to appropriate **a lower amount** than the assessment as certified by the treasurer of the regional school district. Such vote ***shall not*** constitute approval of the budget as submitted by the regional school committee.
3. [Reconsideration of Rejected Budgets](#) - If the budget is not approved by two-thirds of the members, the regional school committee shall have 30 days from the date of disapproval by more than one-third of the members to reconsider, amend, and adopt a revised budget.
 - The revised budget adopted by the regional school committee and the assessments corresponding to such budget may be less than, equal to, or greater than the amounts in the previously adopted budget.
 - Within **seven days** following the regional school committee's adoption of a revised budget, the treasurer of the regional school district shall calculate and certify the assessment of each member and shall transmit the assessments and a copy of the revised budget to the members.
 - Each member's local appropriating authority shall have **45 days** from the date of the regional school committee's vote to meet and consider the revised budget.
 - The approval of a revised budget shall be as set forth in 603 CMR 41.05(2)(a). If a local appropriating authority does not vote on the revised budget within the 45-day period, that member shall be deemed to have approved the revised budget.
 - If the revised budget is not approved by both members, the regional school committee shall again reconsider, amend, and adopt a revised budget and shall convene a **district-wide meeting**, at which the revised budget shall be placed before all voters eligible to vote at said meeting. If a majority of voters at this district-wide meeting votes to approve the revised budget, such vote shall constitute approval.
4. [Establishment of Budgets by the Commissioner](#) - If the operating budget for a regional school district has not been approved by July 1, the superintendent of schools shall notify the Commissioner, and the Commissioner shall establish an interim monthly budget for the regional school district

- If a regional school district's budget has not been approved by **December 1** of the fiscal year, the Commissioner shall assume fiscal control of the regional school district pursuant to M.G.L. c.71, §16B, and 603 CMR 41.07, and shall establish the final budget for the fiscal year.
- Whenever the Commissioner establishes an interim or final budget for a regional school district under the provisions of 603 CMR 41.05(4), the treasurer of the regional school district shall calculate and certify to the members their respective assessments. Every member shall pay its respective assessment in accordance with the payment schedule in the regional agreement.