

SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY - YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

School Budget Validation Referendum

Vote at Scarborough High School on June 11, 7 am - 8 pm

Early voting and absentee ballots are available now

For more information visit www.scarboroughmaine.org/departments/town-clerk/elections

FY25 Budget highlights – Investments for effective teaching and learning

This budget allows us to...

School leaders have diligently weighed building and district-wide priorities to craft a budget that puts the needs of our students, staff, and community first, respects the fiscal challenges we continue to face responsibly, and invests in the resources necessary to continuously improve learning for all.

The FY25 budget allows us to:

RESPOND to the needs of incoming students through required individualized programming and services – 11 one-to-one ed tech positions and 1.0 Speech Therapist at K-2 schools. (\$653,000).

ADD 1 classroom teacher to maintain targeted, effective class sizes at Wentworth School (\$92,000, cost offset by reducing 1 teacher position at Middle School).

INCREASE early intervention for both academic and social/emotional needs of incoming K students – 1 teacher specialist at both Eight Corners and Pleasant Hill (\$184,000, cost offset by reducing 1 teacher position at Pleasant Hill).

INCREASE literacy support and targeted instruction to address learning gaps – 1 Special Services teacher (\$92,000).

INCREASE part-time Middle School Student Support position to full-time, to expand focus on positive school culture, reducing absenteeism and behavior interventions (\$24,541, cost offset by reducing 1 core teacher position).

INCREASE access to arts offerings at Middle School – added 0.25 Chorus Teacher position allows expansion of program piloted with 8th grade students (\$23,000, cost offset by reducing 1 core teacher position).

ADD “WIN” (What I Need) Academy Teacher at Wentworth School, to support students in transition (new Mainers, move-ins, extended absences) with curriculum, SEL and executive functioning (\$92,000).

ADD K-5 librarian position. One librarian currently serves 4 different buildings; this budget adds 1.0 new position to increase effective management of resources and curriculum (\$92,000).

SUPPORT coordination of district-wide efforts to increase inclusive classroom practices and curriculum using a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) (K-12 Curriculum Specialist – reallocation of existing position).

Net cost of these new Investments represents 1.4% of the approved general fund operating budget.

See the FY25 Budget Book at www.scarboroughschools.org/board/budget for more details.

Unmet needs...

Each year school leaders work to balance district budget priorities with the capacity of our community to provide additional resources. This year that work was complicated by the continued increasing complexity of student needs weighed against concerns about the impact of property tax revaluation on Scarborough taxpayers. As usual, some valuable proposals were discussed and eventually deferred by school leaders during the budget development process. These items are identified here as areas of unmet need for potential future investment.

Unmet needs:
K-2 World Language – 1 shared teacher position to begin to restore world language and culture curriculum to our youngest learners.
K-2 STEM – 1 shared teacher position to expand foundational STEM curriculum to the primary schools.
Technology Support Staff – increase staff levels in IT to deploy, configure, maintain and support expanding equipment, software and infrastructure district-wide.
Athletics & Activities – increase program offerings to meet the changing needs and interests of students. E-Sports and Film Club deferred.
K-12 Professional Development – limited protected time and funding impacts adult learning opportunities in all schools and departments.

Recent data analysis by the Scarborough Building Advisory Committee compares Scarborough with other towns and school districts in our area (See the Benchmarking & Programming Subcommittee Presentation – April 2024 on our website at www.scarboroughschools.org/building-project/documents). Many school districts are facing large tax rate increases for the coming year due to a combination of economic pressures and loss of COVID-related grant funding; projected increase estimates range from 5% to 9% for several of our closest neighbors. In Scarborough, stepping down from the use of these grant funds has been a strategic, multi-year process. We are grateful for the willingness of our community to avoid a fiscal cliff by investing in this transition over time.

School General Fund (voter approved budget)	Approved Budget % increase		Tax rate increase
	Gross	Net	Actual
FY23 (2022-23)	5.60%	5.04%	2.46%
FY24 (2023-24)	5.53%	4.45%	3.77%
			Projected*
FY25 (2024-25)	6.09%	3.31%	1.47%

*not including impact of revaluation

The school budget tax request (net budget) is included in the full Municipal budget to determine the bottom line impact on tax rates in Scarborough.

The great news is that, thanks to budget reductions made in other areas and increased state subsidy, we have been able to make significant investments in resources to meet the needs of our students, while still reaching the Town Council’s goal of the lowest possible tax rate increase in this revaluation year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!