

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 BUDGET

*Upholding Tradition &
Innovating for the Future*



Sharing Our Budget Insights

We are pleased to share some of the key factors in our budget request for the 2025-2026 school year. Stay tuned for more information in the new year. - Dr. Martin J. Semmel, Superintendent

Budget Facts - What Do We Need to Maintain Success?

\$131,079,390 TOTAL BUDGET



5.26%



Recommended
Increase



RECOGNITIONS

- 6th out of 196 towns in Connecticut on the [Next Generation Accountability Report](#)
- 6 out of 9 Trumbull Schools earn [School of Distinction](#) recognition from the State Department of Education
- Trumbull High and Hillcrest Middle School rate in the Top 20 Best High Schools according to [US News](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET



Salaries 62.5%



Benefits 18.6%



Supplies & Equipment 10.0%



Transportation 6.6%



Utilities & Energy 1.5%



Future Ready Initiatives 0.8%

Goals & Hurdles in Preparing Future Ready Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS



To ensure **physical, social, and emotional well-being** at every school, Trumbull Public Schools will use resources and implement practices that maintain and/or further develop **safe, inclusive, nurturing, and positive learning environments**.



To provide **high quality teaching** that emphasizes the use of **high-leverage instructional strategies** in which educators deliver our **TPS Curriculum with fidelity**.



To implement **coherent systems** that generate leading and lagging data points to **inform continuous improvement**.

MADE STRONGER THROUGH



Instructional Leadership & Coaching- Skilled teachers, literacy consultants, math specialists, and key administrative positions.



Effective Teaching & Learning- High quality curriculum created and delivered by TPS educators with supported materials, professional learning, and time.



Access to Future-Ready Experiences- Provided by TPS educators through technology, effective scheduling and within a Vision of the Graduate lens.



Home to School Collaboration- Supported by strong communication, PTSA, and partnering around the goals and visions we have for students.



CONCERNS IF NOT ADOPTED

If the budget is not adopted, we will need to look for areas to reduce.

LAST YEAR'S REDUCTIONS:

- THS Attendance Paraprofessional
- AgSci Director from 0.4 to 0.2
- Professional Development/Teacher Training
- Technology Allocation
- Insurance Broker Costs
- Budgeted Legal Expenses

LIKELY REDUCTIONS IF ONLY GRANTED A 4.0% BUDGET (as we received last year):

- Eliminate up to 7 Staff Members (Final Health Care Increase Will Impact)
- Strings/Band Fee remains for parents
- Increase Pay to Play for Athletics
- Only Required Staffing Increased (1.0 Sped Teacher)
- No new programming (Middle School Literacy, Elementary World Language, Rugby)
- Delayed Technology Plan Implementation
- Continued Crowding on Secondary School Buses



HURDLES



INCREASED OPERATING COSTS & INFLATION

Inflation has impacted the total budget with rises in outplacement tuition of 7%, as well as electricity and insurance increases. *A 4.5% minimum increase would be needed to maintain the same level of service.*

LEGAL CHANGES IMPACTING SCHOOLS

Changes to Title IX (Civil Rights Procedures) and Bullying Legislation will require paying to update policies, train staff, and implement new procedures. In addition, changes to the law regarding Paid Sick Leave in CT, all require actions that also impact our budget. *Changes in legislation will impact our budget.*

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS- 401A expenses

The percentage of eligible employees has risen steadily and is impacting our budget. *401A costs from 23-24 to 24-25, increased by \$64,000 and \$400k over 10 years!*

DRAMATIC DECLINE AND VARIABILITY OF STATE REIMBURSEMENTS & ANNUAL STATE FUNDING

While outplacement costs are rising, the State Excess Cost Reimbursement (ECR), Education Cost Sharing (ECS), and Title Grants have all decreased or are variable. *The sum of these decreases cannot be absorbed, the variability cannot be budgeted for, and has impacts the budget significantly.*

Important Dates & Information for Family Voice

- ★ Attend January 7th & January 9th Board of Education Budget Meetings
- ★ Attend the Board of Finance Meetings in March and express your views
- ★ Attend the Town Council Meeting in April and express your views
- ★ Write to the [BOE](#), the [1st Selectman](#), or [Board of Finance](#), [Town Council](#) with your views