



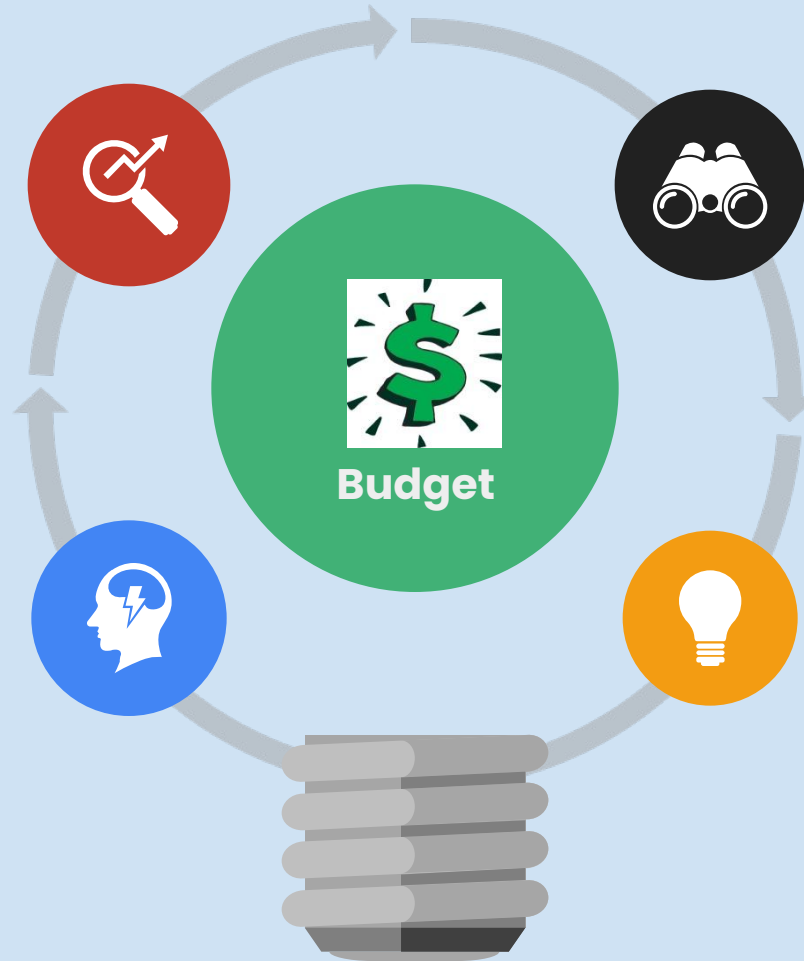
# Gateway Regional School District

**FY '26 Budget Overview - 2.12.25**

# How We Create Our Budget

**Research**  
Each department looks into its budget and determines its needs by using expense trends and current student data.

**Manage**  
Budget is presented to School Committee for approval and then moved to the towns for approval at annual town meeting.



**Analysis**  
We use data provided by the state and historical data to make data informed decisions when thinking about our future needs.

**Action**  
The Leadership Team reviews budget requests and determines actual needs as well as potential cuts.

# Expense Drivers

## Student Learning Programs

Expenses that are related to providing an exemplary education that challenges students in an instructional setting appropriate to their needs.

## Inflation

Expenses that the district incur continue to rise annually even though inflation has been relatively low in recent years. The trend still is that the increases in expenses outpace increases in revenue.

## Technology and Information

The rapid increase in technology has accelerated the need to more frequently replace educational materials and equipment.

Student Learning Options

Economically Disadvantaged Students

## Economically Disadvantaged Students

Approximately 42% of Massachusetts school aged children live in families that are low income. These students often require added services from public education.

## Special Education

Student needs for special services has increased. Special education programs have been developed within the district in order to keep students with their peers and to reduce the need for out of district placements. The district is currently at 25% special education.

## Maintenance and Safety

Upkeep, maintenance, and utilities for all buildings

Inflation

Technology And Information

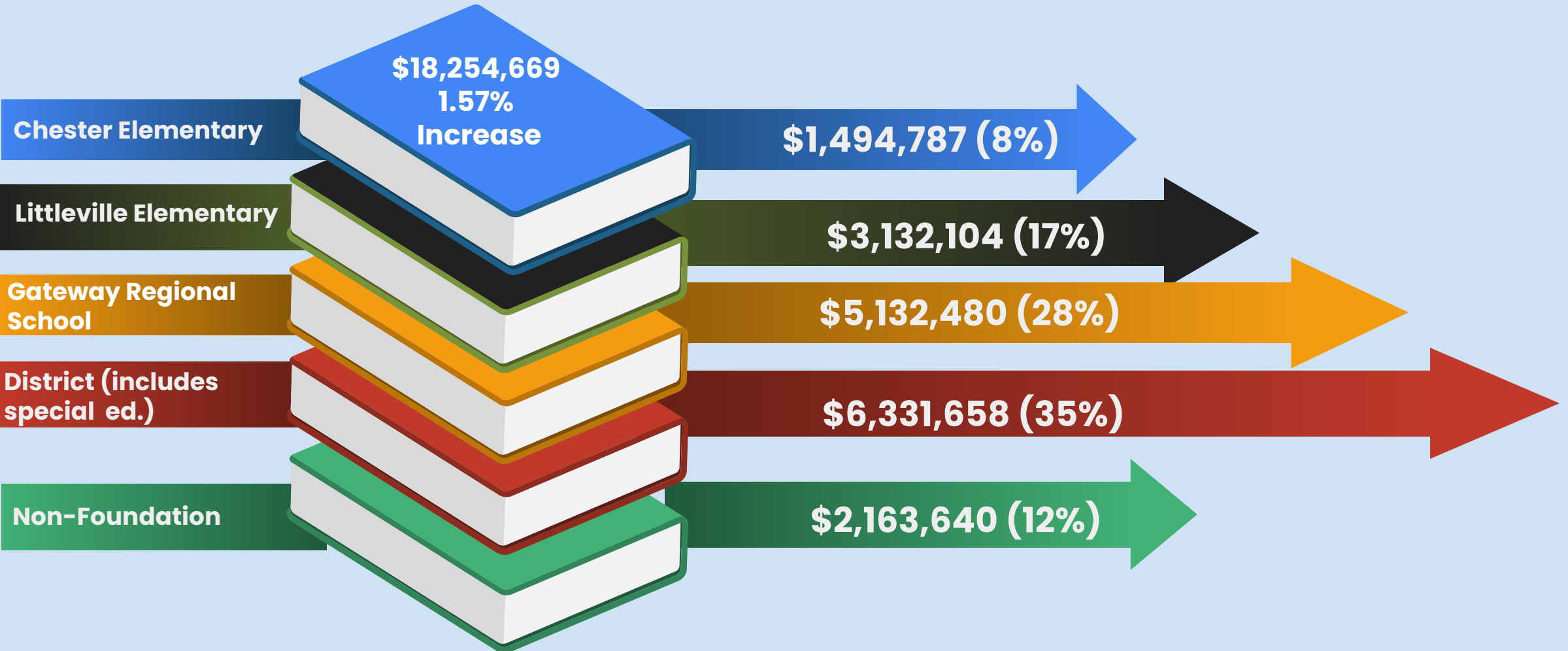


Special Education

Facilities

# FY '26 Budget Request - 2.12.25

(Working budget will be posted on [ClearGov](#))



# FY '26 Assumptions

Chapter 70 will be \$104 minimum aid per student instead of \$75 per student (\$21.6K)

Interest rates will remain somewhat stable (\$170K)

Rural School Aid will be at least level funded at \$16 million (\$971K)

Medicaid will continue to be funded (Estimated at \$77K)

District will continue to receive federal and state grants at or close to current levels (\$1.56M)

Special education transportation will be level funded until such time as out placements are known (\$448K)

One bus run will be reduced based upon lower ridership (\$77K)

U.S. Department of Education will continue to operate

There will be staffing shifts and reductions based upon enrollment loss/trends/class size

The waiver for capital stabilization will be approved

# Summary of Proposed FY '26 Budget

<b>FUND - DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL FY '22</b>	<b>ACTUAL FY '23</b>	<b>ACTUAL FY '24</b>	<b>BUDGET FY '25</b>	<b>BUDGET FY '26</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE FROM '25</b>	<b>% CHANGE FROM '25</b>
Chester Elementary School	\$1,410,718	\$1,406,696	\$1,258,374	\$1,434,846	\$1,494,787	\$59,941	4.2%
Littleville Elementary School	\$2,864,645	\$2,620,700	\$2,724,180	\$3,015,174	\$3,132,104	\$116,930	3.9%
Gateway Regional School	\$4,629,177	\$5,075,064	\$4,904,121	\$5,088,013	\$5,132,480	\$44,467	.9%
District Special Education	\$482,566	\$462,769	\$638,043	\$598,979	\$552,903	(\$46,076)	(7.7%)
District	\$5,106,165	\$5,019,345	\$5,428,018	\$5,670,791	\$5,778,755	\$107,964	1.9%
Non-Foundation	\$1,879,121	\$2,006,912	\$2,116,765	\$2,163,957	\$2,163,640	(\$317)	(.01)%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$16,372,392</b>	<b>\$16,591,486</b>	<b>\$17,069,501</b>	<b>\$17,971,760</b>	<b>\$18,254,669</b>	<b>\$282,909</b>	<b>1.57%</b>

# Major Budget Increases

Insurance/Benefits - \$188K

Outgoing School Choice - \$70K

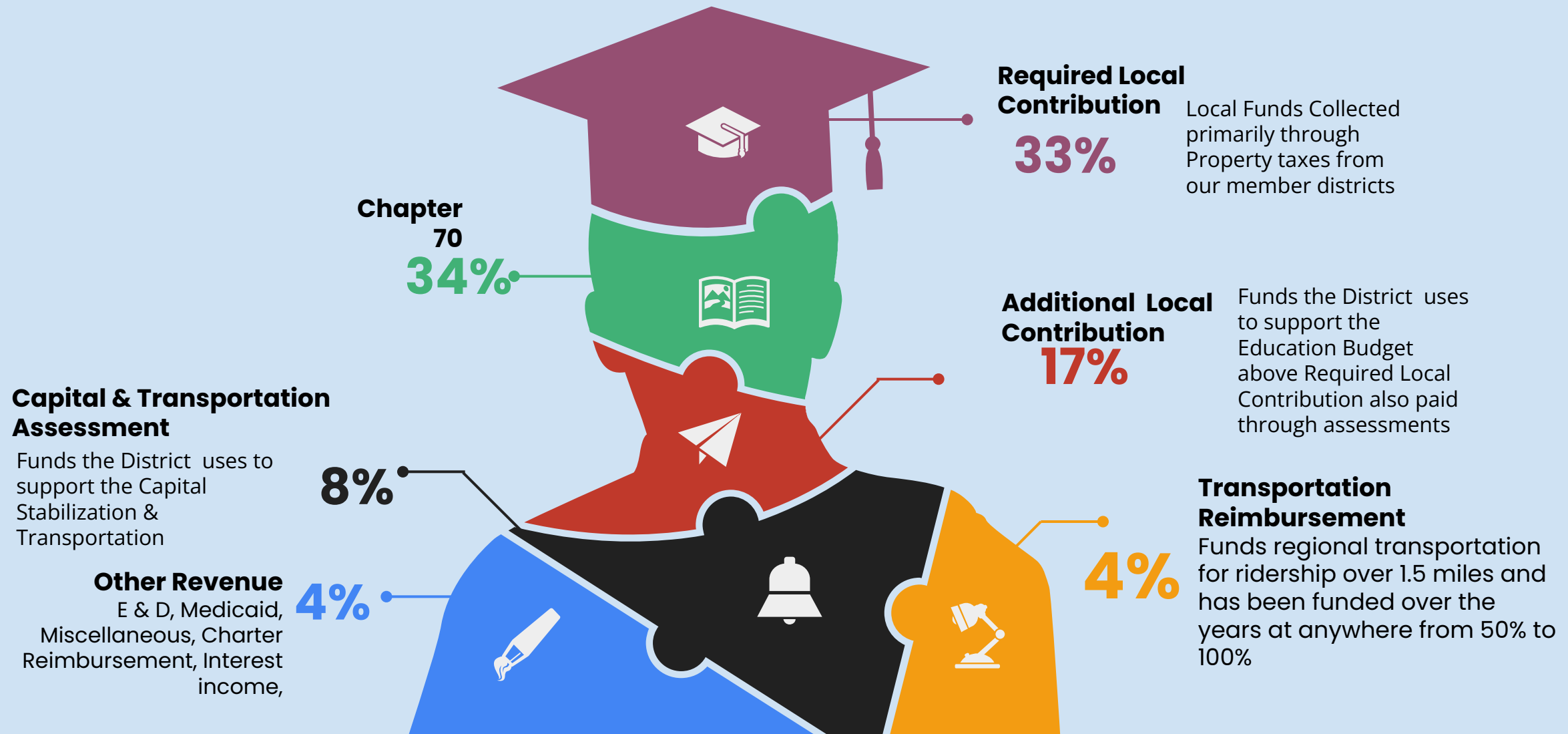
Contractual Obligations/Staffing Needs - \$340K



# Revenue Projections

	<b>FY '25</b>	<b>FY '26</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
Chapter 70	\$6,228,930	\$6,306,514	\$77,584
Worthington Obligation	\$54,528	\$0	(\$54,528)
Bank Interest	\$80,000	\$170,000	\$90,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$73,000	\$77,553	\$4,553
Charter School Reimb.	\$67,668	\$13,521	(\$54,147)
Excess & Deficiency	\$421,000	\$428,000	\$7,000
Regional Transp. Reimb.	\$711,865	\$736,080	\$24,215
Homeless Transp. Reimb.	\$25,000	\$3,444	(\$21,556)
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$5,000	\$5,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,666,991</b>	<b>\$7,740,112</b>	<b>\$73,121</b>

# Where Does Our Funding Come From?



# Chapter 70 Foundation Formula

The goal of **Chapter 70 Formula Aid** is to ensure that every district has sufficient resources to meet its foundation budget spending level through an equitable contribution of local property taxes and state aid.

There are cost rates associated with **11** different spending categories (e.g., teacher compensation, professional development, building maintenance, etc.)

**Local Income Effort** is based on residents' income. The Income percentage is 1.5699%  
**= 1.5699% X Residential Income**



There are **13** enrollment categories and demographic groups that make up a district's enrollment numbers. The state totals the different categories (e.g., economically disadvantaged or students from low income families, special education, and limited English proficiency students).

**Local Property Effort** is based on property values. The property percentage is .3243% of the equalized property valuation of the community.  
**= .3243% X Equalized Property Values**

**Required Local Contribution** is a measurement of how much local tax revenue a city or town can reasonably raise and dedicate to the operation of its K-12 Schools.

# Student Number Comparisons

## March 2024 to February 2025

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>3/1/24 Census</b>	<b>2/1/25 Census</b>	<b>Change in Census</b>
Blandford	101	95	-6
Chester	126	128	+2
Huntington	265	263	-2
Middlefield	27	21	-6
Montgomery	68	69	+1
Russell	207	206	-1
Totals	794	782	-12

# Census Percentage Comparisons

## March 2024 to February 2025

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>3/1/24 Census %</b>	<b>2/1/25 Census %</b>	<b>Change in Census %</b>
Blandford	12.720	12.148	(.572)
Chester	15.869	16.368	.499
Huntington	33.375	33.632	.257
Middlefield	3.401	2.685	(.716)
Montgomery	8.564	8.824	.260
Russell	26.071	26.343	.272
Totals	100.00	100.00	—

# Minimum Contribution Comparison

Town	FY '25	FY '26	\$ Change	% Change
Blandford	\$1,008,285	\$1,085,880	\$77,595	7.70%
Chester	\$944,747	\$974,162	\$29,415	3.11%
Huntington	\$1,606,237	\$1,657,914	\$51,677	3.22%
Middlefield	\$266,219	\$259,565	(\$6,654)	(2.50)%
Montgomery	\$782,099	\$808,899	\$26,800	3.43%
Russell	\$1,285,387	\$1,273,649	(\$11,738)	(.91)%
Totals	\$5,892,974	\$6,060,069	\$167,095	2.84%

# Total Assessment Comparisons

	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY
TOWN	FY '25	FY '26	\$ INC./(DEC.)	% INC./(DEC.)
Blandford	\$1,569,382	\$1,627,011	\$57,629	3.67%
Chester	\$1,644,903	\$1,703,272	\$58,369	3.55%
Huntington	\$3,078,646	\$3,156,047	\$77,401	2.51%
Middlefield	\$416,264	\$379,169	(\$37,095)	(8.91%)
Montgomery	\$1,159,915	\$1,201,962	\$42,047	3.63%
Russell	\$2,435,659	\$2,447,096	\$11,437	.47%
Totals	\$10,304,769	\$10,514,557	\$209,788	2.04%

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 1, 2025 CENSUS

TOWN	Pre Sch.	Kdg.	1	2	3	4	5	Total Pre-5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	Out of District Spec. Needs	TOTAL PRE-12	School Choice	Charter School	TOTAL	PERCENT
BLANDFORD	10	8	8	5	4	4	3	42	10	7	4	6	7	2	3	39	0	81	14	0	95	12.148%
CHESTER	12	10	8	10	7	5	13	65	9	4	10	6	10	9	7	55	0	120	7	1	128	16.368%
HUNTINGTON	21	16	16	18	24	16	14	125	21	18	18	11	10	16	7	101	4	230	29	4	263	33.632%
MIDDLEFIELD	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	6	2	3	4	0	0	0	1	10	0	16	5	0	21	2.685%
MONTGOMERY	8	7	10	7	4	5	3	44	3	5	1	0	3	2	0	14	0	58	10	1	69	8.824%
RUSSELL	9	14	11	17	6	9	16	82	12	16	20	13	15	6	10	92	1	175	30	1	206	26.343%
TOTAL	62	55	55	58	45	40	49	364	57	53	57	36	45	35	28	311	5	680	95	7	782	100.000%

TOWN	Pre Sch.	Kdg.	1	2	3	4	5	Total Pre-6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	Total Pre-12
EXCHANGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUITION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	3
SCHOOL CHOICE	0	0	2	2	5	5	1	15	0	8	3	2	4	1	5	12	27
TOTAL	0	0	2	2	5	5	1	15	1	9	3	2	4	2	5	15	30
GRAND TOTALS	62	55	57	60	50	45	50	379	58	62	60	38	49	37	33	326	710

VOCATIONAL	West. Voke	Smith Voke	Total Voke
TOWN			
BLANDFORD	4	6	10
CHESTER	4	4	8
HUNTINGTON	8	31	39
MIDDLEFIELD	0	0	0
MONTGOMERY	4	3	7
RUSSELL	9	9	18
TOTAL	29	53	82

\*Preschool role models and at-risk children

# Vocational student interest for FY '26

Current students expressing interest in vocational schools for FY '26  
(Student count as of 2/1/25)

Deadline for applications - April 1

Town	Potential New Enrollees for FY '26
Blandford	2
Chester	5
Huntington	14
Middlefield	0
Montgomery	2
Russell	9
Total	32

# FY '26 Vocational Information for Gateway Towns

	<b>Required Baseline Contribution</b>	<b>Adjusted Required Contribution</b>	<b>Reduction in Minimum Contribution to GRSD due to vocational</b>	<b>Ch. 70 Paid Directly to Towns for Vocational Offset</b>	<b>Total Net School Spending For Vocational</b>	<b>Vocational Foundation Enrollment</b>	<b>Ch. 70/GRSD Minimum Local Contribution Relief Per Vocational Student</b>
Blandford	\$1,248,664	\$1,085,880	\$162,784	\$77,586	\$240,370	11	\$21,852
Chester	\$1,051,069	\$974,162	\$76,907	\$79,282	\$156,189	9	\$17,354
Huntington	\$1,962,512	\$1,657,914	\$304,598	\$436,448	\$741,046	39	\$19,001
Middlefield	\$301,524	\$259,565	\$41,959	\$13,290	\$55,249	3	\$18,416
Montgomery	\$899,143	\$808,899	\$90,244	\$31,236	\$121,480	7	\$17,354
Russell	\$1,466,687	\$1,273,649	\$193,038	\$255,579	\$448,617	24	\$18,692
Total	\$6,929,599	\$6,060,069	\$869,530	\$893,421	\$1,762,951	93	

# Closing the gap to reach goal of 2% assessment increase needs offset with other funding sources

- ❖ School Choice - Funding all technology staff and related expenses, paraprofessionals, and paraprofessional/nurse, transportation - \$720K
- ❖ Rural School Aid - Funding \$971K
- ❖ State and federal grants funding used to supplement budget and programming - Currently funding - \$1.5M
- ❖ Tuition from incoming students for vision program funding vision supplies partial salaries of assistant special education director and vision staff - \$217K



# How We Will Continue The Discussion?

## Research

Continue to research options to fund Gateway as well as stay on top of future recommendations from the state about best practices.



## Manage

Manage budgets as well as work on plans for the future based on student needs



## Improvement

Continue to invest in the education of Gateway students. Also, make data informed decisions when it comes to students' education.



## Analysis

Continue to use DESE provided data as well as historical data to analyze our own spending trends, using this data for district to district comparisons.



## Action

Work closely with school committee and town officials to determine not only the needs of the school district but also the needs of the member towns.

# What's next?

The district administrative team continues to look at enrollment, staffing needs and programming as part of the final budget

March 1 census will be completed for calculation of final assessments

Finalizing revenue projections

Updating line items with as current information as possible (i.e. staffing, benefits, special education associated costs, etc.)

ClearGov will be updated with proposed final version for adoption

# Links & Questions

## LINKS

[FY '26 Working Budget on ClearGov](#)

[FY '26 Preliminary Cherry Sheets - Municipal & Regional](#)

[FY '26 Preliminary Chapter 70 Aid](#)

## QUESTIONS

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Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent - [sfisk@grsd.org](mailto:sfisk@grsd.org)