

BALLOT

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$59,449,143, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Barre Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget if approved, will result in per-pupil education spending of \$11,476, which is 3.99% higher than per-pupil education spending for the current year.

Proposed FY26 Budget - Education Taxes

Assessed Home Value	Barre City	Barre Town
100K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$1,414 -\$3 less than FY25	\$1,218 -\$31 less than FY25
200K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$2,828 -\$6 less than FY25	\$2,436 -\$62 less than FY25
300K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$4,242 -\$9 less than FY25	\$3,654 -\$93 less than FY25
400K Assessed Home, Education Taxes	\$5,656 -\$12 less than FY25	\$4,872 -\$124 less than FY25

These are estimates and do not include the municipal portion of property taxes

Vermont Education Funding System Explained

Written and shared by the Vermont Agency of Education



How Does Vermont Pay for Schools?

Breakdown of terms & video explaining education funding



For details and questions about the proposed FY26 budget:

buusd.org/budget

The BUUSD partnered with USPS to deliver these reports for only \$0.15 per household.

Barre Town Voting Location: BT Middle & Elementary School, 70 Westerville Rd.
Barre City Voting Location: Barre Municipal Auditorium, 16 Auditorium Hill

Voting Day is Tuesday, March 4 (7am-7pm)

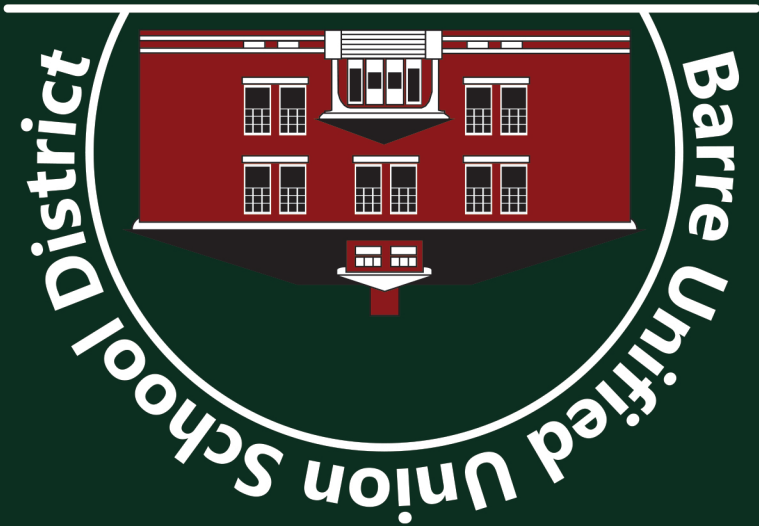
In-Person Option: Spaulding High School Library, 155 Ayers St.
Meeting ID: meet.google.com/vxi-arvi-mgb
Phone: 1-929-777-4801 PIN: 769 689 006#

Remote Option:

Budget Information Meeting - February 12 (6pm)

FY26 Budget Information

A Rock Solid Education
for a Lifetime of Discovery



Dear Members of the BUUSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my gratitude for your continued support of the BUUSD schools and to share important information about the upcoming FY26 school budget vote. Together, we can make continuous strides in providing high-quality education for our students, and your partnership is and has been instrumental in these efforts.

This year's proposed budget reflects our commitment to maintaining appropriate class size to serve our students, experiences beyond the classroom, and extra-curricular activities while being mindful of our fiscal responsibility to the community. The budget also continues to support the arts, extra support for struggling learners, mental health resources, and maintaining our well managed school facilities. These investments are designed to ensure that every child in our district has access to the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Could we do better? Yes, we can, and please know we are building a culture of continuous improvement.

We understand that budgets can present challenges, and we have worked diligently to develop a plan that balances the needs of our students with the economic realities facing our community. The proposed budget represents a 4.95% increase in spending, which will result in a decrease in taxes for residents of both the city and the town. We believe this is a modest and necessary step to support the future of our schools and our children.

Your voice and your vote are critical in shaping the future of our schools. Thank you for your dedication to the children of the BUUSD. Together, we can ensure that our schools remain a source of pride and a foundation for success in our community.

Gratefully,
JoAn F. Canning, BUUSD Superintendent of Schools





From Our Elementary and Middle Schools

Barre City Elementary and Middle School provides educational opportunities to students well beyond the typical classroom, including field trips to hike Elmore Mountain, watching live performances at the Barre Opera House, as well as school-wide events like field day, assemblies, and outdoor education. Elementary students experience ECO (Educating Children Outdoors) with partner North Branch Nature Center, while middle grades access ECO through environmental science and coordination with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

Our teachers work hard to expand our students’ knowledge and interests through creative, thought-provoking approaches. For example, students are able to participate in monitoring the development of caterpillars into butterflies (including a release into the wild), as well as explore the life cycle of chickens, from egg incubation to hatching chicks. Through collaboration with VINS Nature Center staff, our students are also able to view and learn about different wild animals, and for some classes, even visit the VINS Nature Center themselves.

Our students and staff are active in the community and enjoy participating in parades and music performances. We look forward to working towards continued alignment of standards and curriculum. We will also be working on a report card redesign, to make progress tracking and other information easier to understand.

We are seeing positive trends in academic progress at **Barre Town Middle and Elementary School**. Our elementary teachers are eagerly learning and implementing literacy practices based on the Science of Reading, while our middle school teachers continue to provide innovative, engaging ways for students to access higher levels of learning. As an example, our 8th graders put on a Science Fair that was open for all grades to explore. Additionally, middle school students are actively engaged in the following afterschool clubs, which are filled to capacity: modern band, jazz band, student council, yearbook, drama, and creative writing.

Our ECO program, where students approach science and social studies content through work outdoors, with assistance from our partner North Branch Nature Center, is accessible to both elementary and middle grades. Deepening connections with our community has been a priority for us this year and we have enjoyed collaborating with Norwich University, King Arthur Flour, and local science educator “Dinoman!” to bring exciting programs and content to our elementary students. In addition, we look forward to all grade levels participating in field trips this spring!

Elementary teachers and administrators have been collaborating to create full-year plans for each grade level, ensuring that all students, in every classroom, receive the same level of educational instruction and opportunities. Staff are also working to define how to assist students who need additional support so they can receive services without missing important grade-level content. The middle school team continues to make progress ensuring all students have access to quality universal teaching with the goal of providing solid literacy and mathematics foundations to expand their knowledge, preparing them for high school and anywhere their journeys may take them. We have a tremendous group of talented, dedicated teachers who have been excited to lead and participate in this important work, and we look forward to implementing these plans soon.

From Our High Schools

Spaulding High School teachers work diligently to provide unique learning opportunities for our students both within and outside of our community. Some examples include on-site visits from Attorney General Clark, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, a Zoom meeting with George Salamon - from the US Holocaust Museum, and a Model Senate opportunity, which included a trip to the Edward Kennedy Institute, in Boston.

We are excited to share that Ms. Chap, Health and Wellness teacher, is collaborating with PhD student Janet Gamble, at UVM, to pilot a new nutrition education curriculum focusing on advocacy skills through the context of a weight-inclusive nutrition approach. The aim of this curriculum is to help our students develop healthy relationships with food.

We will be working on updating our method of reporting student proficiency progress by aligning more closely with our K-8 schools and in a manner that is more familiar to colleges. We also look forward to the development of a Freshman Academy to better support our incoming ninth grade students. While planning is still early, we aim to create a system that is focused on the needs of new high school students, as research shows that a successful freshman year helps to determine a successful high school career and graduation.

At **Spaulding Educational Alternatives**, our students are actively enaged in hands-on projects like rocket-building, deep-thinking math exercises, and essential oils extraction. Through flexible electives, such as bushcraft, computer programming, financial literacy, and photography, they are able to expand their interests and skills. Strong staff-student relationships boost both academic engagement and social skill development, and weekly check-ins track progress on graduation and IEP goals, offering personalized support.

Real-world electives including woodshop, autoshop, and kitchen sharpen practical, hands-on skills. In addition, our partnership with HireAbility helps connect students to meaningful work and credit-earning opportunities. Our work with Vermont Adaptive’s skiing/snowboarding program and weekly activities (like Dungeons & Dragons) help foster community and personal growth.

Looking ahead, we aim to work towards a revamped “Daily Dashboard” to track academic engagement, informing targeted support, including collaboration with mental health services to address broader student and family needs. We will also be implementing ongoing school-wide assessments to ensure strategic planning and continuous improvement at SEA.