



FY 2026 School District Budget and Ballot Language

Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen

January 21, 2025

Messages for FY 2026



- Key educational programs are retained.
- Staffing remains near FY 2025 levels.
- Homestead property tax rate is estimated to drop by 6 cents:
To \$1.61 for FY 2026 from \$1.67 this year (based on preliminary December 2 “Yield”).
About 80% of RCPS homestead owners are eligible for tax credits to reduce the rate.
- Per pupil education spending declines to \$12,197 in FY 2026 (-1.7%):
Pupil metrics provided by the AOE for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are beneficial for RCPS.
- For each dollar of educational spending on average:
 - 75 cents flow into Rutland City from outside federal and state sources.
 - 25 cents are funded by local taxpayers.
- RCPS used \$17 million of federal ESSER grants for:
Tutoring, air handling equipment, new flooring, computers, and student transportation.
These grant-funded expenditures will reduce funding needed in the future from local taxes.

Ballot Language

Per H.887 for FY 2026

Article #1 (School Budget):

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend **\$67,187,000**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

The Rutland City School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of **\$12,197**, which is **1.7%** lower than per pupil education spending for the current year.”

Spending per pupil?

- Legislature mandates budget ballot language (H.887).

- AOE coordinates reporting of the metrics:
 - “Education Spending” – Amount to be funded by Vermont taxpayers. ➡ Drives homestead property tax rate.
 - “Long term Weighted Average Daily Membership” (LTW ADM).
 - Reflects costs to educate students in different grades, with different backgrounds, in different locations.
 - New pupil weighting factors established by Act 127 are beneficial for RCPS.

- Homestead property tax rate is based on education spending per pupil (using LTW ADM).

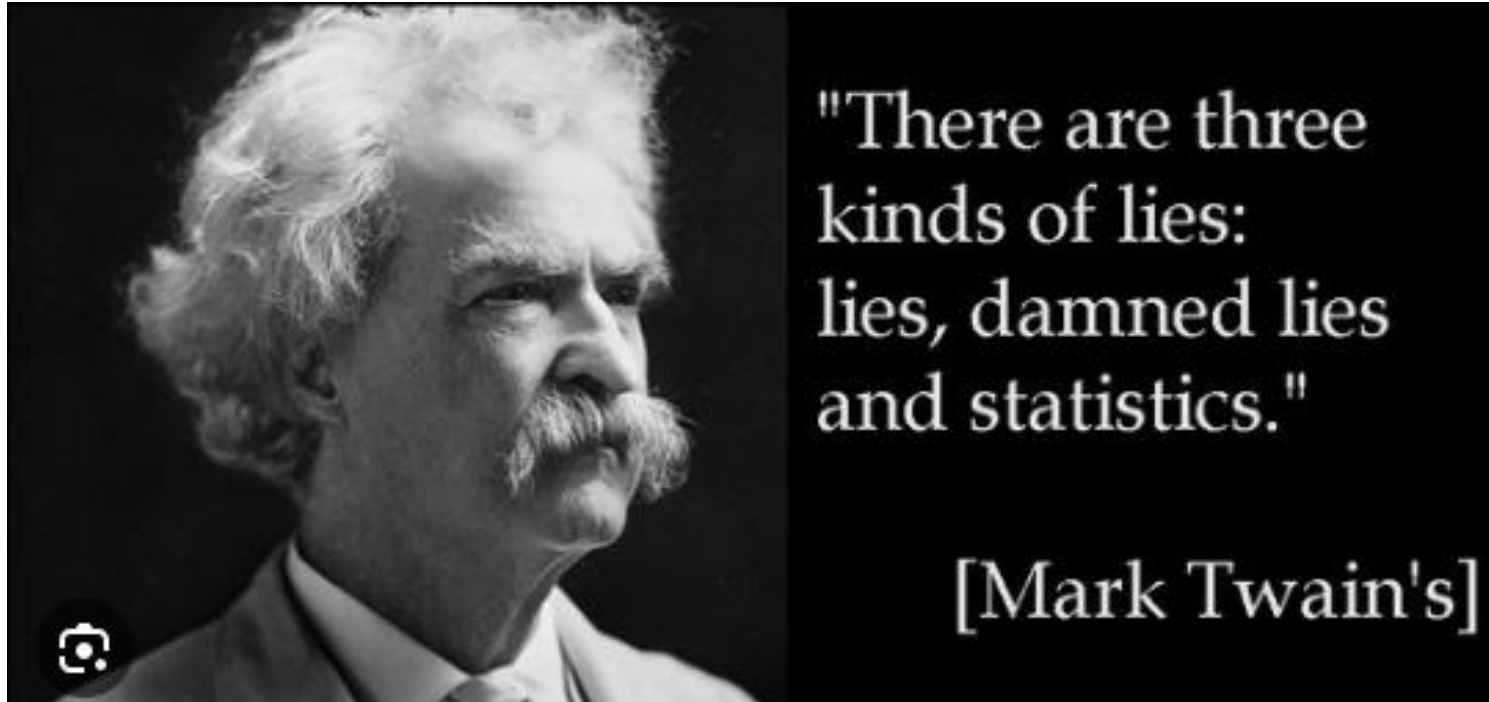
Expenses and Pupil Metrics

FY 2026 vs. FY 2025

	<u>FY25 Budget</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>		<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Expenses (\$ thousands)	\$ 63,835	\$ 67,187 ✓		\$3,352	5%
Revenues, Federal & Local	\$ 21,926	\$ 23,831		\$1,905	9%
State Funded	\$ 41,909	\$ 43,356		\$1,447	3%
LTW ADM (New Weights per Act 127)*	3,377.57	3,554.77		177.20	5.2%
Per Pupil Education Spending (\$)*	\$ 12,408	\$ 12,197 ✓		-\$211	-1.7% ✓

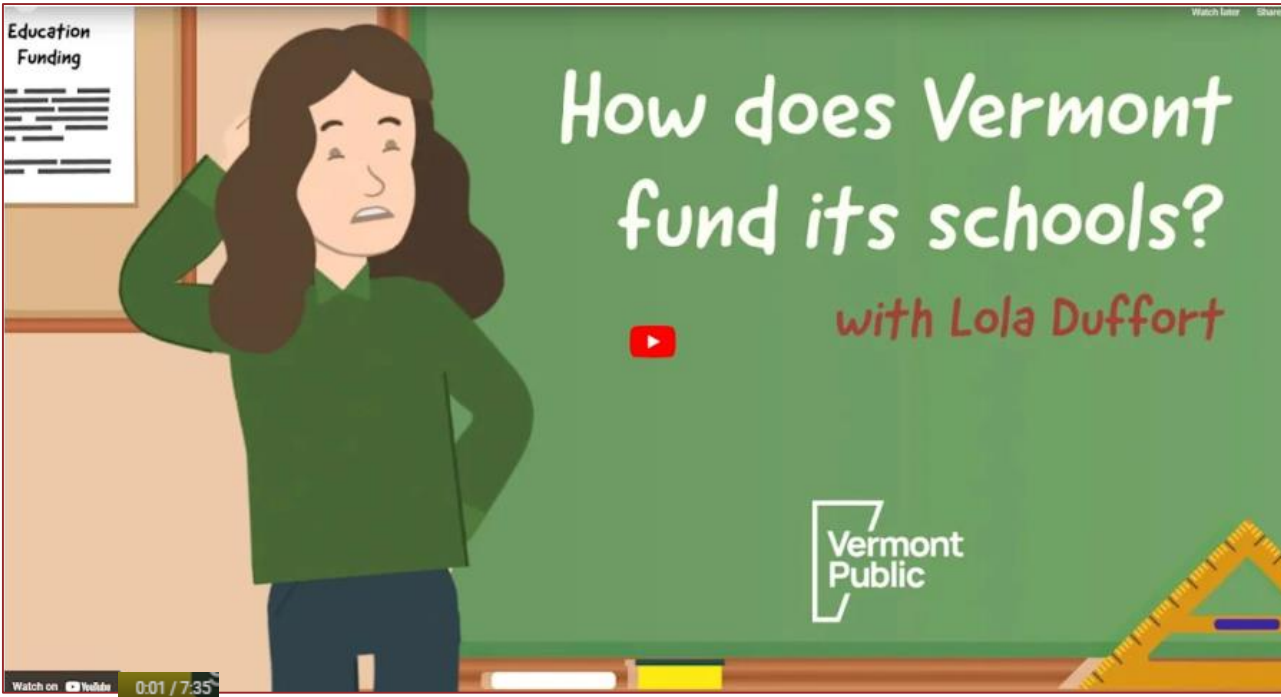
* Preliminary FY26 data as of January 13..

As Mark Twain said ...



<u>Memo</u> : FY 2026 Pupil Metrics	
2-Year Average ADM	1,738
+ <u>Act 127 Weights</u>	<u>1,817</u>
= LTW ADM	3.555

School Finance Landing Page Information Resources



FY 2026 School Budget Information

- Have questions about the Rutland City Public Schools FY26 Budget? We invite you to join us for live events (See a list of dates, times and locations [HERE](#)) or feel free to give us a [call at \(802\) 773-1900](tel:8027731900).
- Recommended FY 2026 Budget and Ballot Language as Presented to the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners - January 14, 2025 - [HERE](#)

Here's a glossary of terms you might hear in Vermont related to school budgets and education finance:

Learn all about the budget process and how it works on Episode 4 of Learning Lounge: [HERE](#)
(A new episode for FY 2026 will be available in January.)

<https://www.rutlandcitypublicschools.org/central-office/school-finance>



Wrap up

Questions?

Comments?

Thank you!