



# **Northwestern Regional School District No. 7 Superintendent's Proposed 2025-2026 Budget**

**Presented: February 26, 2025**

***The Pride of the Northwest Corner***



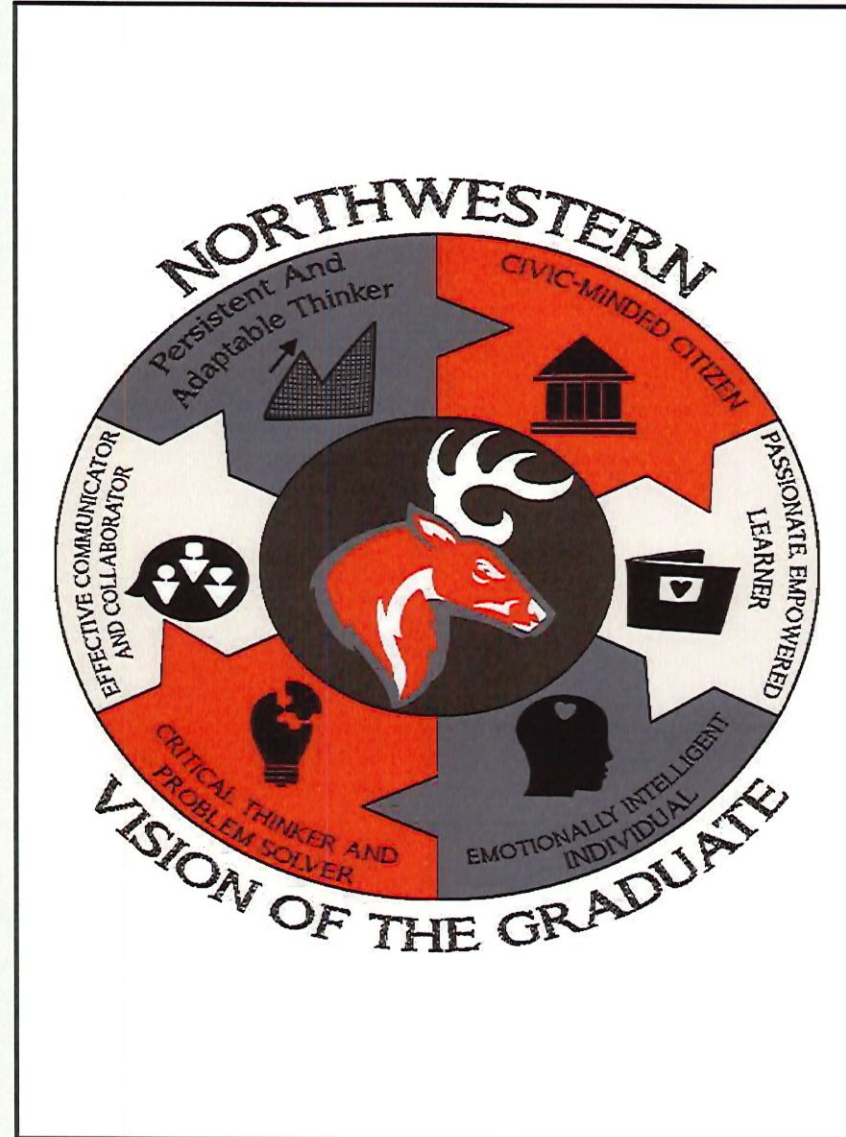
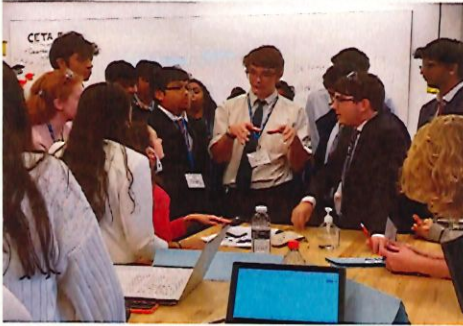
# *Budgeting Commitments:*

*We will:*

- *remain transparent and conscientious in our approach to budget development*
- *request the resources we believe essential to providing high quality educational programs and services*
- *model our Vision of the Graduate attributes in all budget development practices, and through my leadership practices*
- *ensure that Northwestern Regional School District No. 7 remains a model of excellence*



# *Northwestern Vision of the Graduate*



*The Pride of the Northwest Corner*



# Proposed Budget: Historical Overview

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
• 2019-2020	1.77%	1.54%
• 2020-2021	2.53%	2.49%
• 2021-2022	1.33%	0.38%
• 2022-2023	2.45%	1.97%
• 2023-2024	2.42%	2.79%
• 2024-2025	3.47%	3.78%
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• 2025-2026	2.97%	4.12%

*Prior 5-Year Average Budget Increase: **2.44%***

*Prior 5-Year Average Assessment: **2.28%***

***7-Year Average Budget Increase: 2.42%***

***7-Year Average Assessment: 2.44%***





# Budgeting For Efficiency and Excellence Through Challenging Times

Prior to 1975, Social Security benefit increases were set by legislation.

**Social Security COLA increases from 2020-2024 have averaged 4.32%, compared to NWR7's average budget increase of 2.44%, and assessment increase of 2.28% during the same time period.**

**Social Security Cost-Of-Living Adjustments**

Year	COLA	Year	COLA	Year	COLA
1975	8.0	1995	2.6	2015	0.0
1976	6.4	1996	2.9	2016	0.3
1977	5.9	1997	2.1	2017	2.0
1978	6.5	1998	1.3	2018	2.8
1979	9.9	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2.5	2019	1.6
1980	14.3	2000	3.5	2020	1.3
1981	11.2	2001	2.6	2021	5.9
1982	7.4	2002	1.4	2022	8.7
1983	3.5	2003	2.1	2023	3.2
1984	3.5	2004	2.7	2024	2.5
1985	3.1	2005	4.1		
1986	1.3	2006	3.3		
1987	4.2	2007	2.3		
1988	4.0	2008	5.8		
1989	4.7	2009	0.0		
1990	5.4	2010	0.0		
1991	3.7	2011	3.6		
1992	3.0	2012	1.7		
1993	2.6	2013	1.5		
1994	2.8	2014	1.7		

<sup>a</sup> The COLA for December 1999 was originally determined as 2.4 percent based on CPIs published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, however, this COLA is effectively now 2.5 percent.



# **Budget Drivers: Seeking the Right Balance**

## ***Significant Needs/Finite Resources***



### **Special Education Programming:**

- Special Education Outplacements (Decreased impact from current budget, but still a major driver)
- Underfunded State Excess Cost Grant
- Specialized Middle and High School Support Programs

### **Regular Education Programming:**

- Significant increases in Medical Benefits renewal at 12%, a 2-year trend of large increases
- Contractual salary and benefits costs account for 98.4% of the requested budget increase
- Need for tiered academic and behavioral intervention and support systems

### **Budget Mitigation Staffing Reductions:**

- Principal/Department Leader collaboration to foster transparency and efficiency
- Hiring practices to ensure quality educators are serving our students while being fiscally responsible
- Reduced Capital Projects budget account by \$50,000
- Deferred spending on numerous capital needs projects



# Addressing Middle School Needs

## **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

- There is a growing need to support students who are not on grade level in the areas of math and reading.
  - Over 40% of our students are in need support in the areas of math and reading.
- Northwestern Middle School has a limited scale intervention program in the areas of math and reading.
  - Our schedule, as well as staffing, create barriers to these supports being universally available.
- With modifications to our schedule and a reallocation of existing staff members, we will be able to provide improved math and reading support to every student in need throughout the year.



## State Report Card Results Across DRG C High Schools

School:	Student #	Grades	F.T.E.	F.T.E./Student Ratio	Accountability Index Score:
<b>Northwestern HS</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>9-12</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>78.1</b>
Reg. 4 Valley HS	429	9-12	56.9	8.4	73.0
Reg. 8 RHAM HS	714	9-12	91.8	7.8	78.0
Reg. 10 Lewis Mills HS	614	9-12	69.8	8.8	77.1
Reg. 13 Coginchaug HS	356	9-12	46.9	7.6	77.8
Reg. 12 Shepaug HS	486	9-12	63.6	7.6	74.1
<i>The Gilbert School</i>	452	9-12	51.5	8.8	65.7
<i>Reg 1 Housatonic Reg. HS</i>	352	9-12	48.6	7.2	67.9
Canton HS	443	9-12	55.8	7.9	82.7
Ellington HS	701	9-12	76.9	9.1	83.1
Oxford HS	476	9-12	54.5	8.7	76.0
Somers HS	359	9-12	56.5	6.4	83.1



## State Report Card Results Across DRG C Middle Schools

School:	Student #	Grades	F.T.E.	F.T.E./Student Ratio	Accountability Index Score:
<b>Northwestern MS</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>7-8</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>68.3</b>
Suffield MS	443	6-8	50.5	8.8	69.0
Tolland MS	468	7-8	52.5	8.9	72.1
Reg. 4 MS	197	7-8	29.3	6.7	54.3
Reg. 8 RHAM MS	352	7-8	48.9	7.2	68.0
Reg. 10 Har-Bur MS	669	5-8	65.6	10.2	73.8
Canton MS	214	7-8	23.1	9.3	74.1
Ellington MS	393	7-8	42.3	9.3	65.1
Oxford MS	371	7-8	42.5	8.7	67.3
Somers MS	335	6-8	35.6	9.4	62.0



# Feeder School District Information

School:	Student #s	Grades	F.T.E.	F.T.E./Student Ratio	Accountability Index Score:
Barkhamsted	205	PK-6	22.5	9.1	81.9
Colebrook	61	K-6	10.7	5.7	67.2
New Hartford Ann Antolini	241	3-6	21.6	11.2	73.6
Bakersville	104	K-2	9.2	11.3	100
New Hartford Elementary	84	PK-2	11.2	7.5	96.7
Norfolk Botelle	61	PK-6	9.6	6.4	72.9
Northwestern MS	218	7-8	29.9	7.3	68.3
Northwestern HS	536	9-12	68.4	7.8	78.1





# Northwestern Middle School





# Middle School Points of Pride



## Highlanders of the Month





# Northwestern Middle School

## Smarter Balanced Achievement Results

	21-22	22-23	23-24
ELA	63%	70%	57%
Math	49%	65%	56%
NGSS	59%	74%	61%

Percentage of students that met/exceeded goal

Math Cohort Data	21-22	22-23	23-24	
6th	44	50	62	
7th	65	62	52	
8th	37	59	59	2
			-6	15

ELA Cohort Data	21-22	22-23	23-24	
6th	54	57	66	
7th	70	67	53	
8th	57	75	60	
				5





# Go Highlanders!





## PSAT COMPARATIVE 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

	Total Students	Mean Score	Mean ERW Score	Mean Math Score
Class of 2026	109	1001	506	495
Class of 2025	153	971	494	477
Class of 2024	125	1016	517	499



# SAT DATA COMPARATIVE

	Ave. Test Score	ERW Score	Math Score
Class of 2025	1020	521	499
Class of 2024	1060	532	528
Class of 2023	1023	523	500

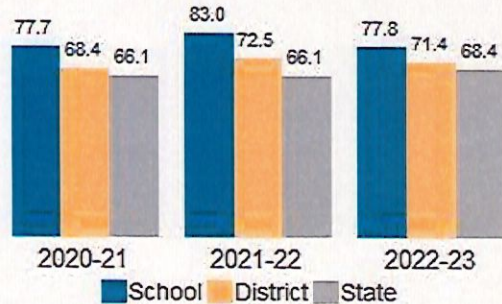
## SAT DATA – CLASS OF 2025 STATE COMPARATIVE

Group	Avg. Test Score	ERW Score	Math Score
NWR7 Class of 2025	1020	521	499
State of CT	962	491	471

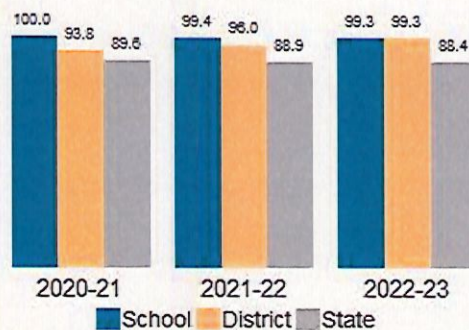


# Accountability Indicators

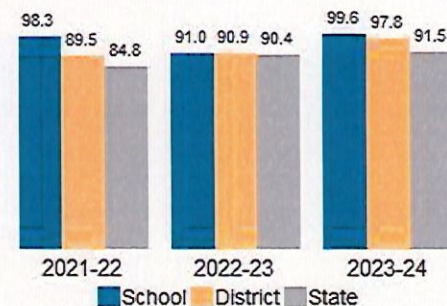
**College Entrance** ① ②  
Target: 75



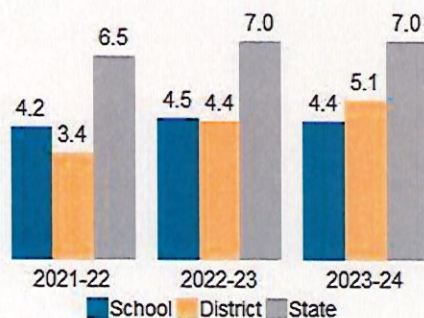
**Four-Year Graduation Rate** ① ②  
Target: 94



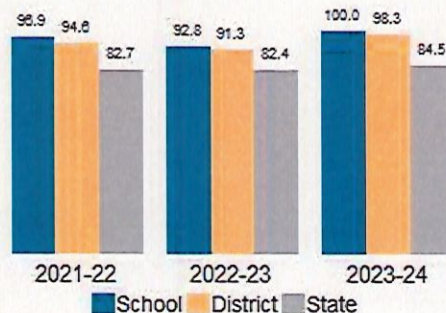
**College-and-Career-Readiness Course-Taking** ①  
Target: 75



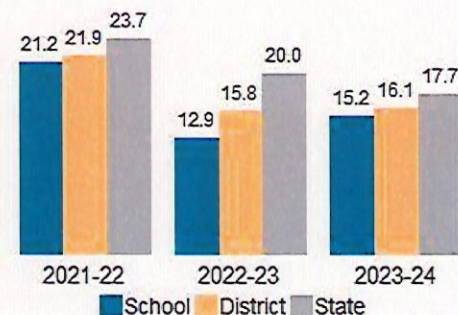
**Suspension/Expulsion Rate** ①



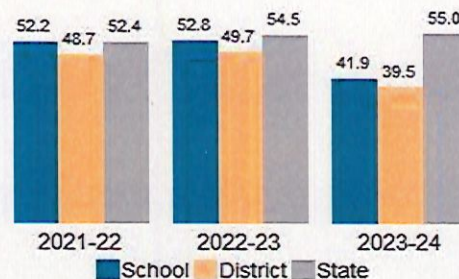
**On-Track to High School Graduation** ① ②  
Target: 94



**Percentage of Students Chronically Absent** ①  
Target: <=5



**Arts Access** ① ②  
Target: 60





# Northwestern High School

*Rigorous and Expanded Opportunities*



## A Wide Variety of Course Offerings

- **Agricultural Education**
  - Aquaculture
  - Greenhouse & Nursery Production
  - Exotic and Endangered Animal Science
- **Art**
  - Digital Design Studio
  - Art Classroom Mentorship
- **Business**
  - Advanced Personal Finance
  - Business Classroom Mentorship
- **Education**
  - UConn ECE: If You Love It, Teach It
- **English**
  - Journalism II
- **PE/Wellness**
  - UConn ECE: Exercise and Wellness for Everyone
- **Science**
  - Zoology
  - UConn EMT Training
  - Astronomy
- **Social Studies**
  - History of Rock and Roll



## Summary of Northwestern's Advanced Placement Test Performance from 2018-2024

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of AP Classes Offered	12	11	11	11	13	13	14
Total AP Students	102	115	108	99	106	83	93
Number of Exams	164	183	175	161	168	137	166
% of Total AP Tests with Score of 3+	88%	90%	90%	83%	86%	84%	84%

- *12 UConn ECE Courses will also be offered next year*
- *76 Students Currently enrolled in UConn Courses*



***Celebrating the successful end of a memorable Northwestern  
Regional journey. Let the next adventure begin!***





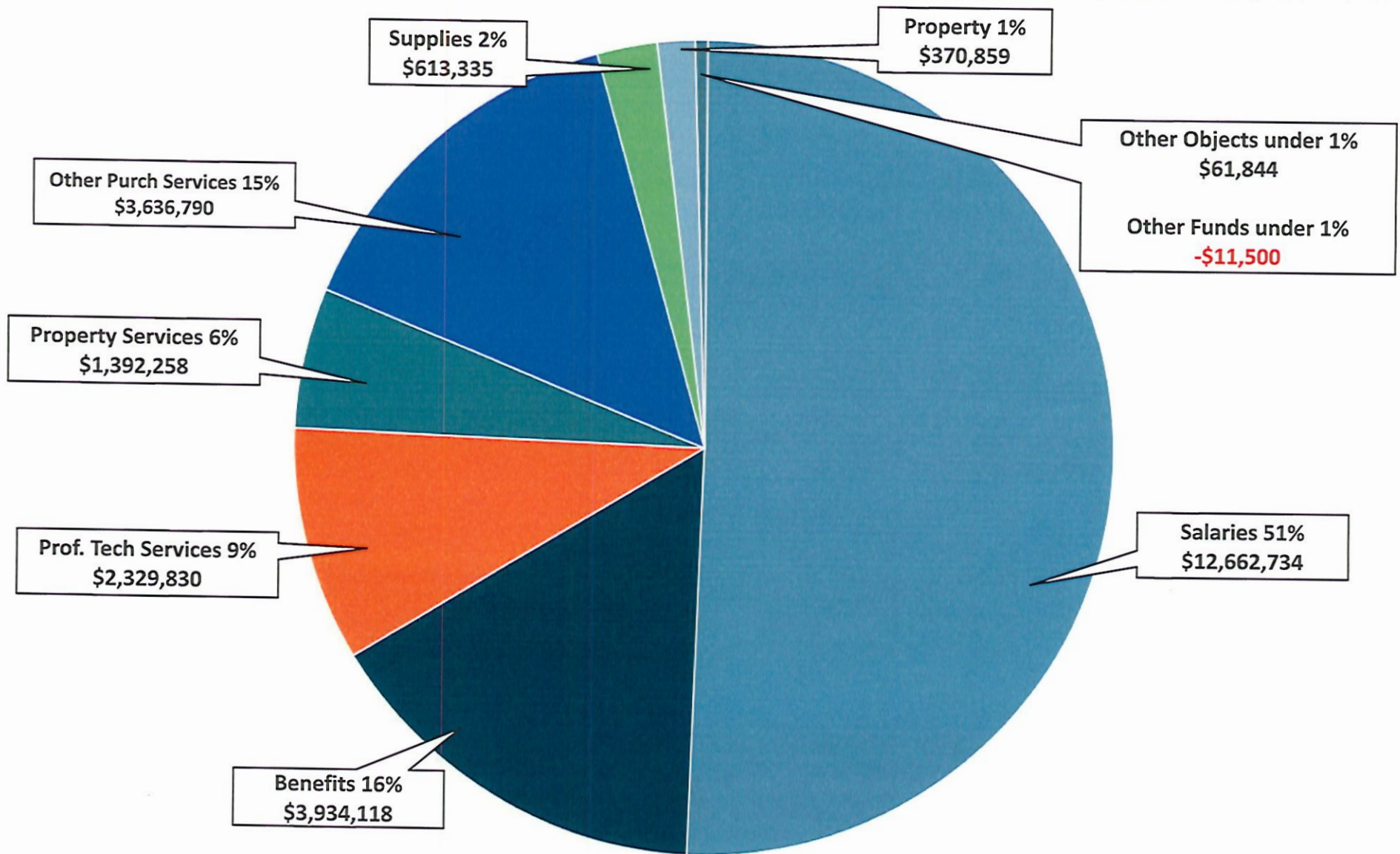
# Budget Overview

Looking at the Big Picture...





# 2025-2026 Budget by Object



**Budget Total \$24,990,268**

\* Values above are rounded to the nearest whole.



**100**

## **Salaries**

**Increase of \$352,438 or 2.86%**

### **Increases:**

- Contractual Salary Increases

### **Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:**

- Replace retiring Art teacher with a more novice (lower salary) teacher
- School based mental health grant - Used to fund SEL/Academic Support in middle and high school

**200**

## **Benefits**

**Increase of \$356,286 or 9.96%**

### **Increases:**

- Medical Health Insurance Renewal: 12.0% increase for 25/26 (Increased 10.95% in 24/25)

### **Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:**

- Life Insurance Renewal at 3%
- Unemployment Renewal at 0%
- Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal at 0%



# 300

## Professional/Technical Services

### Increase of \$275,763 or 13.43%

#### Increases:

- Realignment and consolidation of technology/software accounts into this object from other budget objects
- Excess Cost offsets significantly underfunded by the state
- Shared Services Assessment increase **4.5%**
- Inability to use Excess Cost Grant to offset Shared Services expenditures - due to state underfunding
- Created Special Programs account to allocate funding for STEP, LINKS, AIM, HTA. (Formerly funded from revenue to fund some of these programs, but that is no longer an option. No new programs created, just funding existing programs)

#### Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:

- Many accounts held to current funding levels
- Use of \$25,000 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Special Education Professional and Technical Services

# 400

## Property Services

### Increase of \$82,184 or 6.27%

#### Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:

- Most accounts held to 0%
- Energy, Fuel, and Utilities Increases (Electric up 15%, Refuse Collection up 35%)
- Snow Removal/Ice Management Increase (Increase of 11%)



**500**

## **Other Purchased Services**

**Decrease of -\$330,125 or -8.32%**

### **Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:**

- Reduced high cost Special Education Outplacements
- Most accounts held to 0% increase
- Excess Cost Offset for Special Education Transportation \$25,000
- Excess Cost Offset for Special Education Outplacements \$238,508
- Instructional Technology moved to 300 Object

**600**

## **Supplies**

**Increase of \$17,581 or 2.95%**

### **Increases:**

- Natural Gas (Projected increase of 20%)
- Athletic Equipment (Volleyball)

### **Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:**

- Departments held to 0% increase or reallocated within the department budget
- Audiovisual supplies reduced
- English textbooks reduced



**700**

## **Property**

**Decrease of -\$39,167 or -9.55%**

### **Increases:**

- Timpani Drum Set \$11,000 (current timpani drums are between 24-33 years old and failing to tune)

### **Decreases:**

- Reduced Capital Outlay by \$50,000

**800**

## **Other Objects**

**Increase of \$4,216 or 7.32%**

- No new borrowing since 2012
- Adjustments to dues/fees accounts



**900**

**Other Funds**

**Increase (decreased offset) of \$1,000 or 8%**

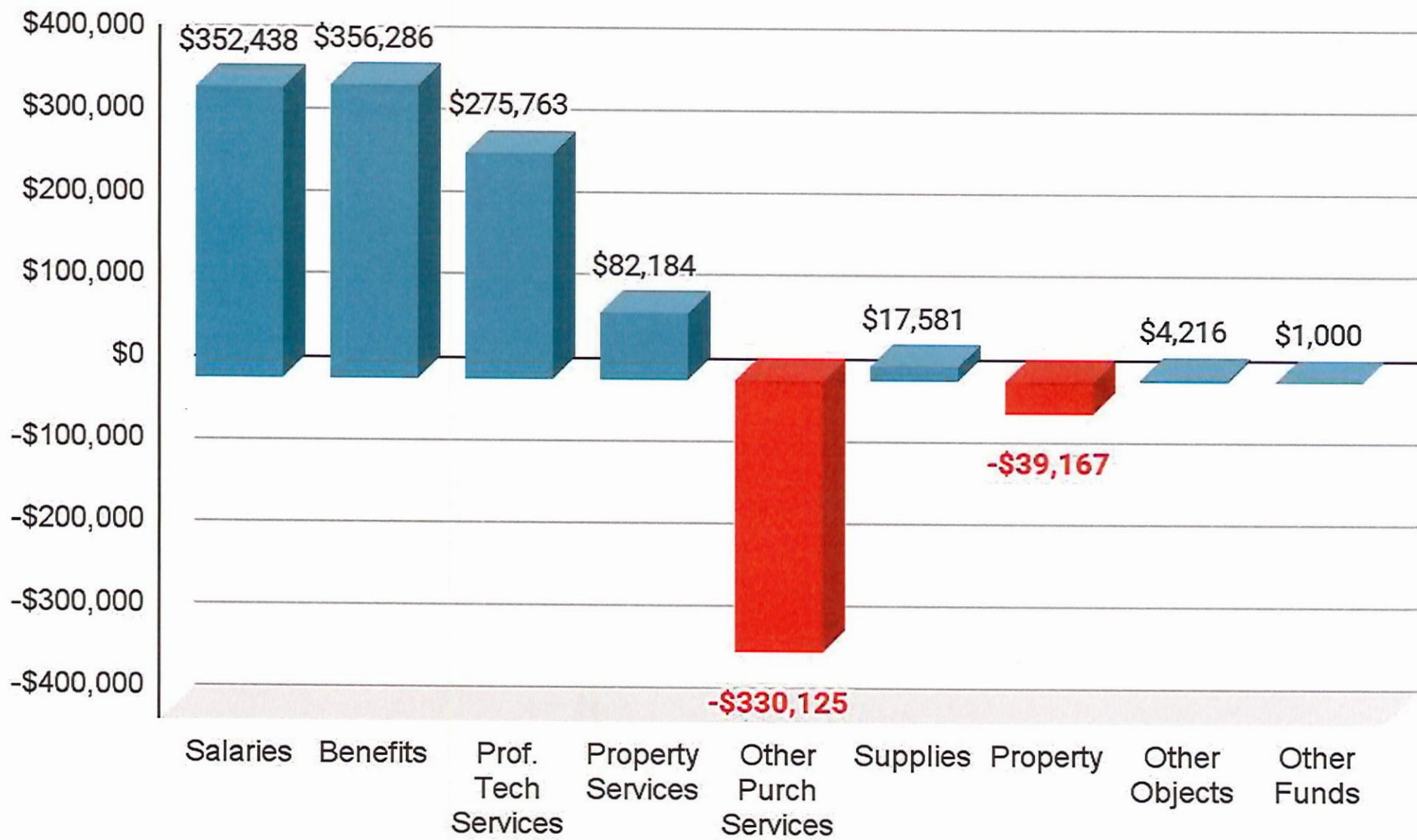
**No New Borrowing**

- Reduction of anticipated gate receipts of \$1,000 (Reduction in anticipated funds from 12,500 to 11,500)



# 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

## Increase of \$720,176





# Excess Cost Expenditure Offset

Code	Description	2024-2025	2025-2026
325	Shared Services	\$30,000	\$0
326	Professional/Tech Services	\$50,000	\$25,000
511	Transportation-Special Education	\$53,800	\$25,000
562	Tuitions – Special Education (H.S. & M.S.)	\$420,000	\$238,508
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$553,800</b>	<b>\$288,508</b>

- Districts are reimbursed by the state for the expenses associated with educating special education students with a cost above 4.5x the per pupil expenditure, which will be \$29,207\* next year. For us, the excess cost isn't a consideration until we surpass \$131,432\*. If a student's educational costs **do not** reach that threshold, the district pays the full amount.
- **Despite the fact that Northwestern should be receiving 88% of our excess costs back, the Appropriations Committee habitually underfunds this critical grant.**
- ***In the current budget, we had budgeted 71% expecting at least that amount, but received only 62%!***
- Given the state's consistent pattern of underfunding the excess cost reimbursement, we have only budgeted 64% in the proposed 2025-2026 budget.

\* Most current information available (2/26/25)

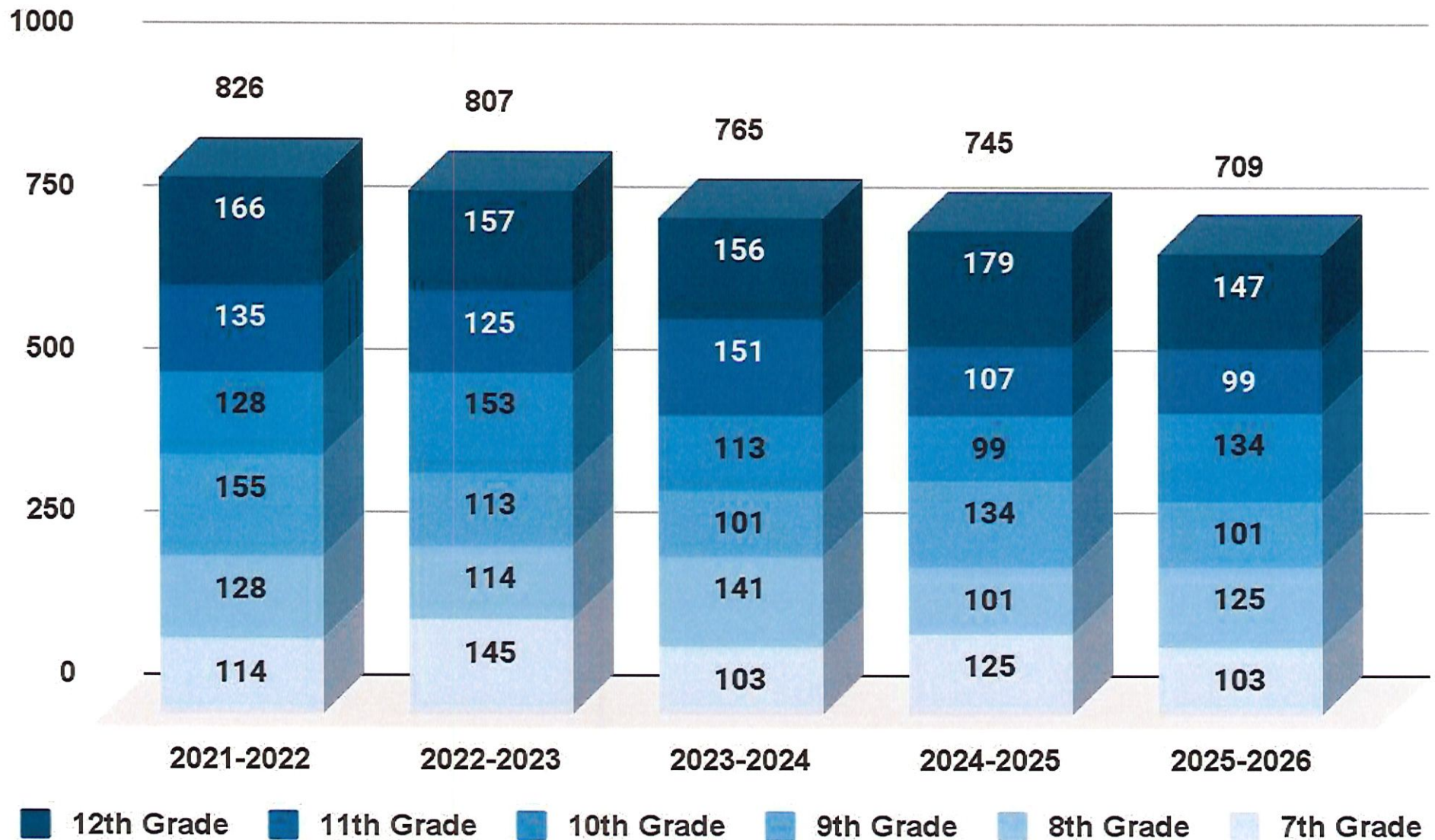


# Revenues & Assessments

Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Estimated	Difference
Tuition-Regular	\$540,480	\$438,105	(\$102,375)
Tuition-Special Ed	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tuition – Ag Ed	\$185,979	\$237,420	\$51,441
Rental Income	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$0
Interest Income	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Ag Ed Grant	<u>\$793,500</u>	<u>\$737,706</u>	<u>(\$55,794)</u>
<u>Subtotal Revenues</u>	<u>\$1,545,459</u>	<u>\$1,438,731</u>	<u>(\$106,728)</u>
Budget Variance	\$819,700	\$743,654	(\$76,046)
<u>Subtotal with Offset</u>	<u>\$2,365,159</u>	<u>\$2,182,385</u>	<u>(\$182,774)</u>
Budget	\$24,270,092	\$24,990,268	\$720,176
<u>Assessments</u> (Budget minus Subtotal with offset)	\$21,904,933	\$22,807,883	\$902,950



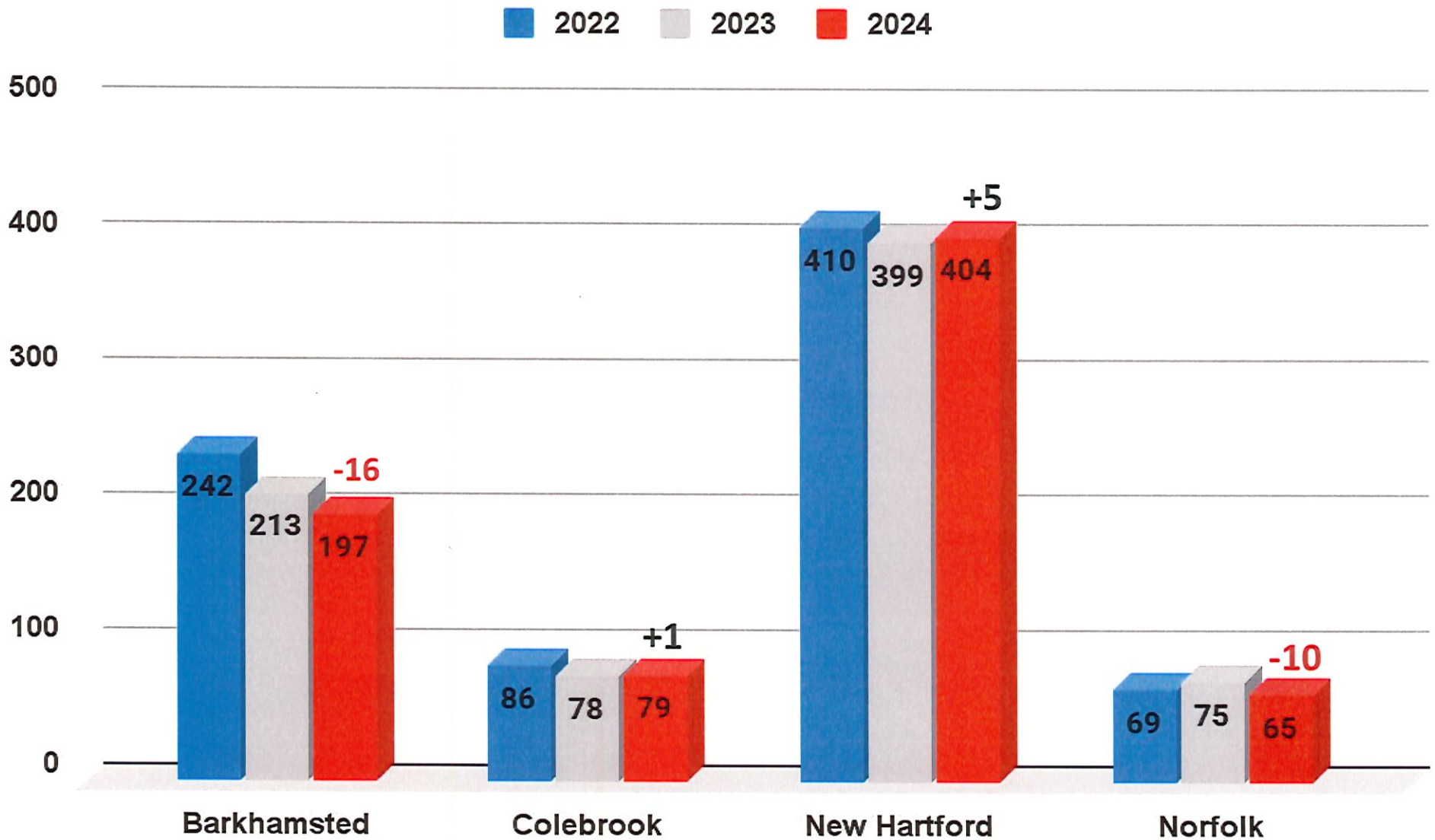
# Straight Line ADM - Member Towns



\* Based on October 1, 2024



# Change in Average Daily Membership by Town



\* Based on October 1, 2024 CSDE



# A Look at Total District Enrollment

October 1, 2024

Grade 7:	126
Grade 8:	106
Grade 9:	150
Grade 10:	116
Grade 11:	126
Grade 12:	184
<u>HTA:</u>	<u>17</u>

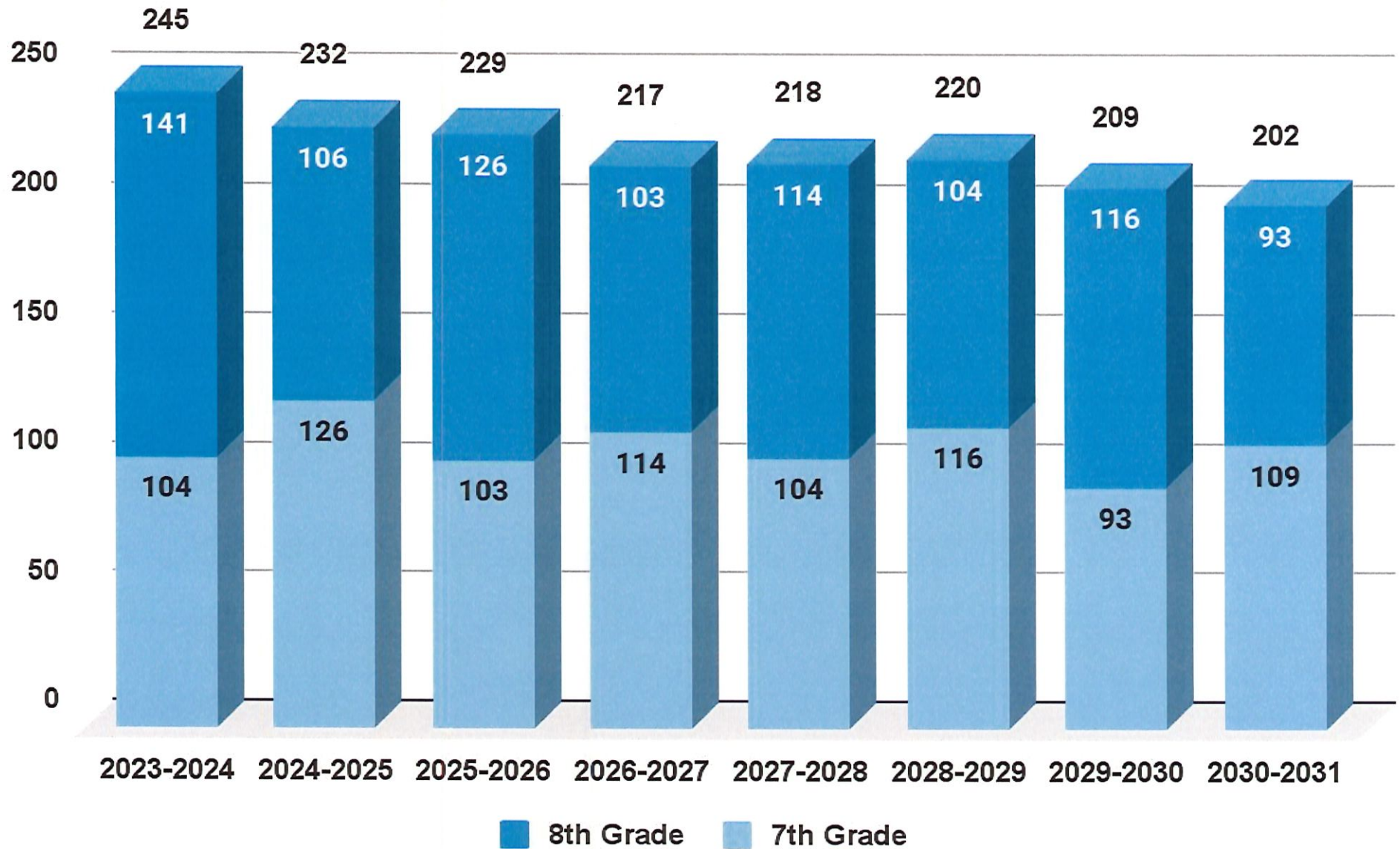
Total:	825
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Our member town students are joined by Agricultural Education and tuition paying students from: Canton, Granby, Hartland, Plymouth, Torrington, and Winsted.

Total includes out of district magnet schools (7) and outplacements (8).

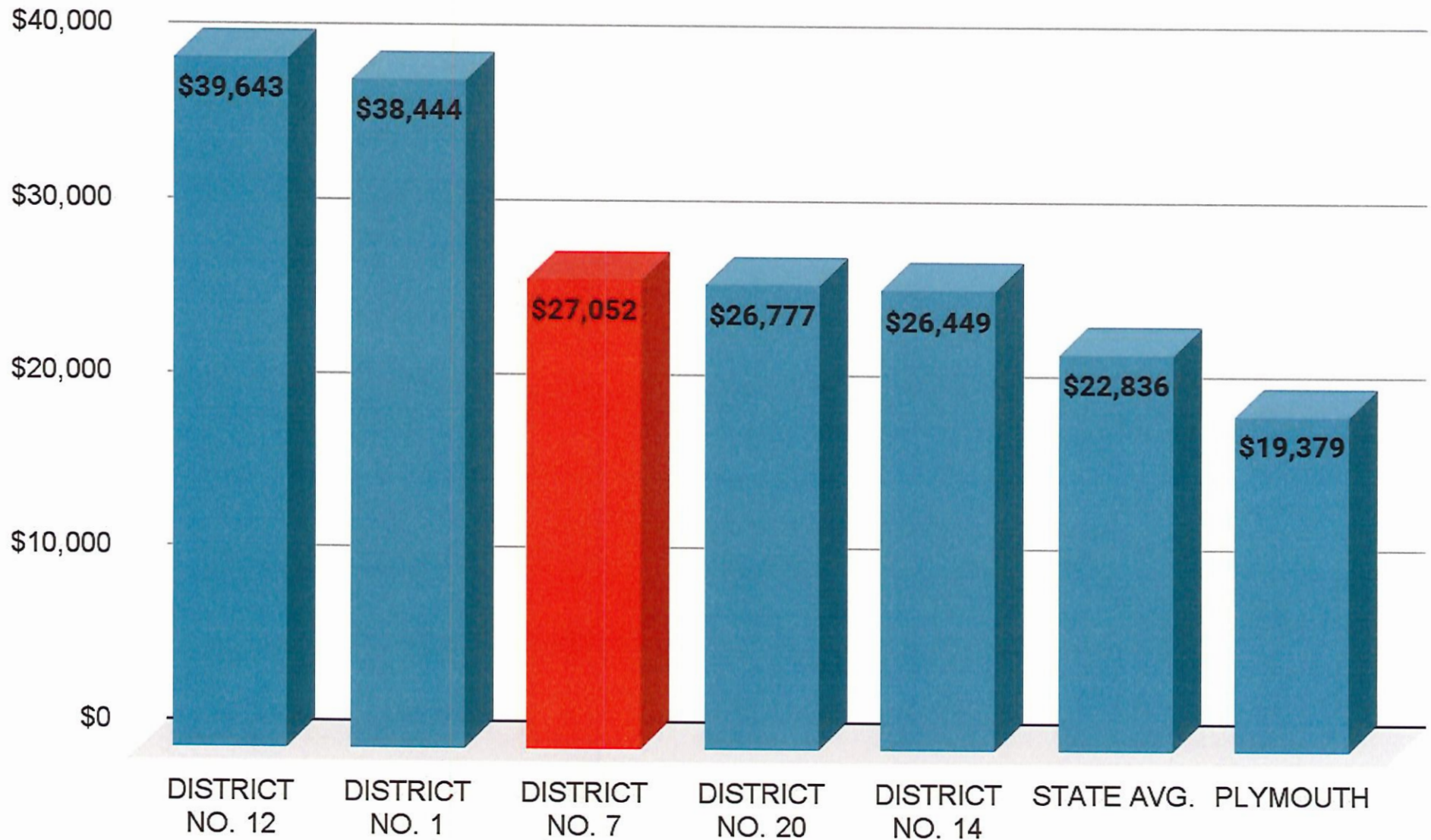


# Middle School Enrollment Outlook





# Range of Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil Berkshire League \*



\* Data for Gilbert unavailable  
Source: CSDE 03/19/2024





# Budget Highlights Summary



**2024-2025 Budget: \$24,270,092**

**2025-2026 Budget: \$24,990,268**

**Total Budget Increase: \$720,176**

**Budget Increase Percentage: 2.97%**

**Salary & Benefits Increases:**

**\$708,724 (98.4% of the Total Budget Increase)**

**Other Object Increases:**

**\$11,452 (1.6% of the Total Budget Increase)**

*We continue to assess staffing levels, and will reduce through attrition to the extent that is possible and aligned to district goals.*



# 2025-2026 Assessment Explanation

Budget 25/26	\$24,990,268	2.97%
Revenue	\$1,438,731	(6.91%)
Assessment Offset	\$743,654	(9.28%)
<b>NET ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>\$22,807,883</b>	<b>4.12%</b>





# Historical Perspective on Assessments

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	5 Year Average
Barkhamsted	5.24%	0.01%	0.65%	-3.66%	-1.11%	0.23%
Colebrook	4.01%	8.37%	2.79%	-0.70%	8.21%	4.54%
New Hartford	-2.12%	1.20%	3.69%	6.55%	8.25%	3.51%
Norfolk	-5.41%	6.43%	5.26%	18.95%	-7.25%	3.60%
Total Assessment Increase:	0.38%	1.97%	2.79%	3.78%	4.12%	2.61%
<b>5-Year Average of Total Assessment Increase ~ 2.61%</b>						
Total Expenditure Increase:	1.33%	2.45%	2.42%	3.47%	2.97%	2.53%
<b>5-Year Average of Total Expenditure Increases ~ 2.53%</b>						





***Regional School District No. 7 is a carefully and caring led school district. We strive to make a positive impact in our students' lives by ensuring a high quality, well-rounded educational and extracurricular experience for every student.***

***Supportive and caring relationships are at the core of our positive Northwestern culture. Our programs allow every student to learn, grow, and develop into the young adults they aspire to become. Northwestern graduates are well prepared for whatever opportunity they wish to pursue on their life journey after NWR7.***

***Regional School District No. 7***

***The Pride of the Northwest Corner***







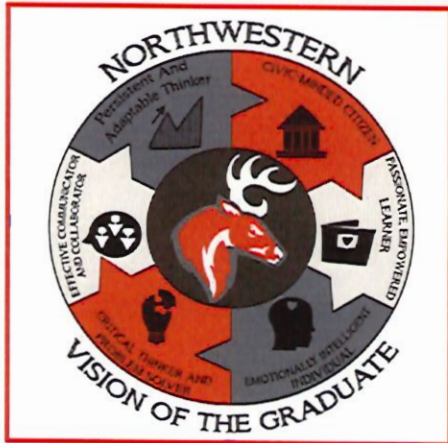
# District Budget Meeting

MAY 5, 2025

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL

Dr. Roberta Ohotnicky Little Theater

7:00 PM



## BUDGET REFERENDUM

MAY 6, 2025

Town Polling Locations  
Hours may vary by town

For budget details, visit:

[www.nwr7.com](http://www.nwr7.com)

(Select: Board of Education-Budget)

## Thank You for Your Support!

