



FY26 Operating Budget Update

School Committee Meeting March 05, 2025



Budget Timeline

Date	Action Step
02/14/2025	School Committee Budget Roundtable
03/05/2025	School Committee Budget Update
03/19/2025	FY26 Budget Public Hearing
04/02/2025	Budget Adoption
04/07/2025	Proposed Budget Submitted to Town Manager

FY26 Operating Budget Projection

	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026 Projected	FY25-26 Change(\$)	FY25-26 Change(%)
<u>Expense</u>				
Salary & Wages	72,694,873	74,932,986	2,238,113	3.08%
Supplies	1,589,610	2,181,610	592,000	37.24%
Operating / Contracted Services	15,091,297	16,508,104	1,416,807	9.39%
Total Expense	89,375,780	93,622,700	4,246,920	4.75%
<u>Funding</u>				
General Fund	89,375,780	93,622,700	4,246,920	4.75%
Appropriation	86,954,260	89,896,868	2,942,608	3.38%
Savings Account	2,421,520	3,725,832	1,304,312	53.86%
Surplus (Deficit)	0	0		

Context

- Our fiscal situation reflects a statewide trend. Some districts are even facing FY 25 shortfalls (current year).
- A “Perfect Storm” of budgeting challenges (from MASS/MASC position paper)
 - Expiration of ESSER funding
 - Escalating expenses – inflationary pressures
 - Chapter 70 (state aid to schools) is not keeping up with inflation
 - Enrollment decrease
 - Barnstable went from \$5M in SOA funding to a minimum aid community in one year (FY 25), which continues this year (~\$163,000 in state aid)
 - Circuit breaker (reimbursement for high-cost special education is not fully funded)
 - Local revenue not increasing enough to make up the difference

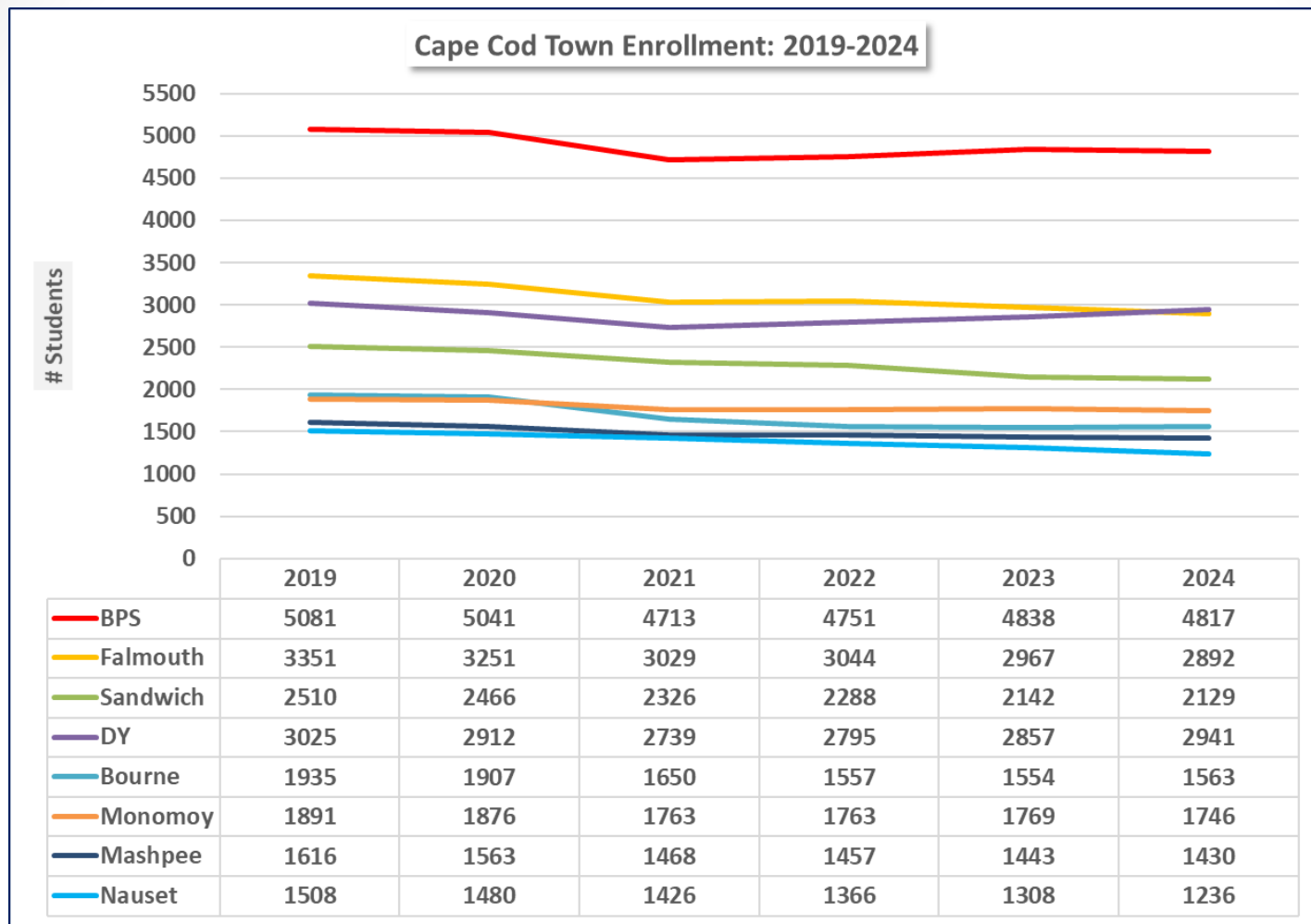
Context Continued

This is not a one-year problem.

A new coalition “United for our Future” (MASS, MASC, MASBO, MTA, AFT) is calling on state officials to provide adequate funding to remedy the structural deficits in District budgets.

RELEVANT MEDIA COVERAGE

- [“A new coalition says Massachusetts school districts don’t have enough money. Here’s why.”](#) Boston Globe, 2/13/25
- [“New coalition urges education funding fix”](#) Politico, 2/11/25
- [“‘We are on a downward spiral.’ Mass. school districts face another year of dire cuts”](#) Boston Globe, 2/9/25
- [“Why Massachusetts schools are having an ‘extremely difficult’ financial year”](#) WBUR, 9/4/24
- [“Here’s why Mass. is having the worst school budget crisis in decades”](#) Mass Live, 6/26/24
- [“Massachusetts schools need more funds, some point to flaw in education finance law”](#) New England Public Media, 4/25/24



From 2019 to 2024, these towns collectively had a decrease of 2,163 students. School choice is even more competitive.

Superintendent Priorities

- Present a balanced budget
- Support Goals of District Improvement Plan
 - Curriculum and Instruction as a priority
- Facilities: Maintenance and Operating Costs*
- Attend to a Diverse Set of Student Needs
- Continued Focus on Equitable Allocation of Resources
- Efficient and Effective Systems
 - Appropriate class sizes, caseloads
- Sustainability
 - Fiscal responsibility
 - Preserving programs; very concerned about regional competitiveness (school choice)
 - Current situation is not sustainable – need 5% for level service

Site / Dept. Priorities

- 64 Submissions from 18 sites.
- Net cost of requests \$5.2 million.
- Position requests 20 FTE.
- Major submission themes:
 - Contracted Services, Supplies & One-Time Efforts
 - Maintenance, Technology, Curriculum
 - English Language Learner Support
 - Teachers, Liaisons
 - Special Education
 - Teachers

Approach

1. What do we need to include in the FY 26 Budget? Mandated services
 2. What provides a good Return on Investment (ROI)? What might yield cost savings?
 3. Carefully consider our one-time costs
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1. Leveraging resources – savings; Capital; MSBA reimbursement for high-cost facilities projects; charge expenses as appropriate to revolving accounts; carryover unexpended grant funding into future years
2. Review vacancies and position control carefully
3. Examine appropriate class sizes and caseloads
 - a. Enrollment driven-decreases
 - b. Attrition - retirement/resignation vacancies
4. Increase user fees – rental, athletics, transportation
5. Reduce services
- (6. Reduce programs as a last resort - not proposed here)

Changes Since Initial Budget Projection

- \$2,001,869 in required additions
- \$3,116,773 in offsets & reallocations
- \$908,000 in additional savings for one-time projects

Budget Assumptions

Category	Change
<u>Preliminary</u> Revenue Share Allocation	\$89,896,868 3.38% ↑
Revolving Fund Offset (<i>Prior Year Revenue</i>)	(\$-146,098) ↓
Salary / Wages	\$2,238,113 ↑
Special Education <u>Increase</u> (tuition & transp.)	\$480,202 ↓
Inflationary Adjustments, Software, Utilities	\$186,063 ↑
Savings Account Support – ESSER (Year 2 of 4)	\$1,917,832 ↓
Savings Account Support – Recurring Savings Support	\$900,000 ↑
Savings Account Support – One-time Purchases	\$908,000

FY26 Recommended Investments

Site	Request	Comments	Rec FTE	Recommended Amount
2510-SPED	OOD Tuition	Increase expected to OOD tuition		\$345,670
2510 – SPED	Contracted Services	Crossroads consultant; Q-interactive assessment; Docusign		\$46,000
2170 – West Villages	Special Education Teacher	Mandated services; very high caseloads currently	1	\$85,788
2220 – BUE	Classroom Teachers	Maintain required class sizes; larger incoming grade 4 cohort	2	\$171,576
2410 – BHS	ELL Teacher	Teacher for ACE program	0.5	\$42,984
2510 – SPED	Instructional Assistants	NECC Services	3	\$157,513
2720 - Tech	Voice Over IP phone system upgrade	Required to maintain current services		\$82,005
2720 - Tech	Laptop Lease/Nurse's Laptops	Required to maintain current services		\$90,000
2720 – Tech	Equipment	Cybersecurity Keys (reduced from requested); Required by cybersecurity insurance carrier Staff Chromebooks; Needed to maintain current services		\$82,000
				\$1,103,536

FY 26 Budget Neutral Offsets

Site	Request	Comments	Rec FTE	Amount	Recommended Amount
2200 – BCIS	Special Education Teacher (ILC)	Reallocate from staffing across the District	1		Budget Neutral
2220 – BUE	Special Education Teacher	Reallocate from staffing across the District	1		Budget Neutral
2310 – BIS	Special Education Teacher (ILC)	Reallocate from staffing across the District	1		Budget Neutral
2410 – BHS	Community Mentor Program	Reallocate from Superintendent’s PD budget line		\$30,000	Budget Neutral
2410 – BHS	Full Time Community Mentor	Reallocate from Campus Monitor position	1		Budget Neutral
2410 – BHS	CTE Hub Administrator	Reallocate from Associate Principal position	1		Budget Neutral

FY26 Reallocations and Reductions: Mitigation Strategy; Class Size/Caseload

Site	Position	Comments	Budgeting Rationale/Impact
District-wide	Various totaling \$279, 438	Adjust accounting for costs that can be attributed to revolving accounts	Mitigation Strategy
2310 – BIS	Bilingual Paraprofessional	Reduce absent available Federal Funds. Shift to Title III funding.	Mitigation Strategy
2410 – BHS	Bilingual Paraprofessional	Reduce absent available Federal Funds. Shift to Title III funding.	Mitigation Strategy
2200 – BCIS	Special Education	Reduce from 1.0 to 0.5 FTE	Class size/caseload
2410 – BHS	Social Studies Teachers	2.0 FTE	Class size/caseload
2410 – BHS	Science Teacher	1.0 FTE	Class size/caseload
2410 – BHS	English Teacher	1.0 FTE	Class size/caseload
2410 – BHS	World Language Teacher	1.0 FTE	Class size/caseload
2410 – BHS	Math Teacher	1.0 FTE	Class size/caseload
2160 – Hy West	Classroom Teacher	1.0 FTE	Class size/caseload
2001 – ECELC	LPN	0.5 FTE No longer needed; vacant	Class size/caseload

FY26 Reallocations and Reductions: ESSER Review and Reduced Services

Site	Position	Comments	Budgeting Rationale/Impact
2930 – Asst. Super	Admin. Asst. Grants	Reduce from 1.0 FTE, 12 months to 0.5 FTE, 10 months	ESSER Review
2940 – Student Services	FCEC AA	1.0 FTE	ESSER Review; Reduced Services
2410 – BHS	Peer Mediator	Eliminate and shift program toward community mentoring 1.0 FTE	ESSER Review
2220 - BUE	Math Interventionist	1.0 FTE	ESSER Review; Reduced Services
2220 – BUE	Reading Interventionist	Reduced Title I funding; 1.0 FTE	Reduced services
2110 – BWB	Math Coach	Less support for mathematics review; 1.0 FTE	Reduced services
2310 – BIS	Reading Interventionist	1.0 FTE	Reduced services
2310 – BIS	Math Interventionist	1.0 FTE	Reduced services
2160 – HyWest	PCTA	Vacant; 1.0 FTE	Reduced services
2160 – HyWest	PCTA	Will be vacated; do not back fill; 1.0 FTE	Reduced services
2810 – Maint	Custodial Supervisor	1.0 FTE	Reduced services

FY26 Reallocations and Reductions: Deeper Cuts - Reduced Services/Equity

Site	Position	Comments	Budgeting Rationale/Impact
2120 - Centerville	Social Worker/Counselor	Concerns about equity across K-3 (1.0 FTE) Share 1.0 FTE between Centerville and BWB Each school with 1.5 FTE counselors	Reduced Services
2200 – BCIS	Assistant Principal	Concerns about equity across K-3; 1.0 FTE	Reduced Services
2310 – BIS	Bilingual Paraprofessional	Not mandated for SEI; 1.0 FTE	Reduced Services
2410 – BHS	Bilingual Paraprofessional	Not mandated for SEI; 1.0 FTE	Reduced Services

FY26 One-Time Expenses

Site	Request	Requested Amount	Comments	Recommended Amount
2810 - Maintenance	Mold Prevention Specialist	\$380,000	Maintain indoor air quality District-wide	\$380,000
2510 – SPED	“Teach Town” Curriculum	\$100,000	High-quality curriculum to meet students’ needs in ILC classrooms; implement recommendation from Program Review	\$100,000
2930 – Asst Super	Math Curriculum Review	\$498,000	Review and begin to implement high-quality mathematics curriculum K-5	\$428,000
				\$908,000

Next Steps

Date	Action Step
03/19/2025	FY26 School Budget Public Hearing
04/02/2025	Budget Adoption
04/07/2025	Proposed Budget Submitted to Town Manager

Looking Ahead

	Fiscal Year 2025 Budget	Fiscal Year 2026 Projected	Fiscal Year 2027 Projected	Fiscal Year 2028 Projected
Expense				
Salary & Wages	72,694,873	74,932,986	78,267,602	81,318,351
Supplies	1,589,610	2,181,610	1,753,610	1,753,610
Operating / Contracted Services	15,091,297	16,508,104	16,381,354	16,669,787
ESSER	-	-	-	
Total Expense	89,375,780	93,622,700	96,402,566	99,741,749
Funding				
General Fund	89,375,780	93,622,700	95,292,641	97,805,152
Appropriation	86,954,260	89,896,868	93,043,258	96,299,772
Savings Account (ESSER)	2,421,520	1,917,832	1,349,383	605,380
Savings Account (Other)		1,808,000	900,000	900,000
Surplus (Deficit)	0	0	(1,109,924)	(1,936,596)

Questions?

User Fees – Facilities

- Increase BHS, BUE, and BIS locations by 20%. These locations have larger spaces and additional amenities available to renters.
- Maintain existing fees for elementary schools
- Barnstable School & Town events continue to have no charge
- The last fee increase occurred in FY21
- See handout for proposed fee schedule

User Fees - Transportation

	Current	Proposed	Chng.
Full	\$ 225	\$ 275	\$ 50
Early Purchase Discount	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 50
Reduced	\$ 100	\$ 125	\$ 25
Max Students per Family	2	2	0

- \$50 increase in FY25 for full and early purchase fees.
- State average is \$325; many communities increase fees by \$75 on average.
- Of 3,494 riders, 1,270 are full pay (mostly discounted rate). This equates to an approximate increase of \$63,500.
- \$55,675 increase from reduced rate increase.
- Currently using \$200,000 annually to supplement Transportation operating budget.
- Additional revenue sources could fund bus replacements, fuel costs, salaries of existing staff.

User Fees – Middle School Athletics

- Proposing to increase participant fees by \$50, from \$100 to \$150. Maintain \$300 family cap.
- BIS does not have a dedicated athletic budget – costs are funded directly from their operating budget.
- Current athletic program is running a deficit of \$32,516.

User Fees – High School Athletics

	Current	Proposed	Chng.
Full	\$ 175 -200	\$ 200-225*	\$ 25

- Fee structure was increased by \$25 last year. Operating costs continue to exceed available revenue.
- Proposed increase for FY26 is \$25 per sport (except for hockey which would be \$50).
- Additionally, proposing to raise unified sports by \$25, the family cap by \$75, and adult admission to games by \$1.
- Athletic Department is supported largely by operating budget.