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

Presented: March 5, 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***

Budget Overview

Looking at the Big Picture…



Proposed Budget: Historical Overview (from 2/26/25)

Year	Budget	Assessment
• *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%*

• *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%



Proposed Budget: Historical Overview

Year	Budget	Assessment
• *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%*

• *2025-2026*	*2.78%*	*3.85%*

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

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

7-Year Average Budget Increase: 2.39%

7-Year Average Assessment: 2.40%



Summary of Changes to the Budget Presented on February 26

Following the presentation of the Proposed Superintendent's Budget on 2/26, the Board asked the superintendent to consider potential reductions that would lower the budget increase and assessment increase to our regional towns. Based on state changes to the Excess Cost grant, assurances of more ASTE funds than were budgeted, and an assessment of potential electrical increases, the following changes are being proposed to the Board of Education:

2025-2026 Working Budget:

Budget: $24,944,729 or 2.78%
Decreased from $24,990,268 or 2.97% to $24,944,729 or 2.78%

- 100.1200.3.325.1.15.5 – SHARED SERV-MS
  Reduce $314,949 to $292,410 (Use of $22,539 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Shared Services Expenditures

- 100.2600.4.402.2.30.5 – ELECTRICITY
  Reduce $546,250 to $523,250 (Cut $23,000, reduced increase from 15% to 10%)

Revenues: $1,452,816
Increased from $1,438,731 to $1,452,816

- Vo-Ag Operating Grant (ASTI) increased $15,000
- Regular Education Tuition decreased by $915

Assessments: $22,748,259 or 3.85%
Decreased from $22,807,883 or 4.12% to $22,748,259 or 3.85%

Budgeting For Efficiency and Excellence Through Challenging Times

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.

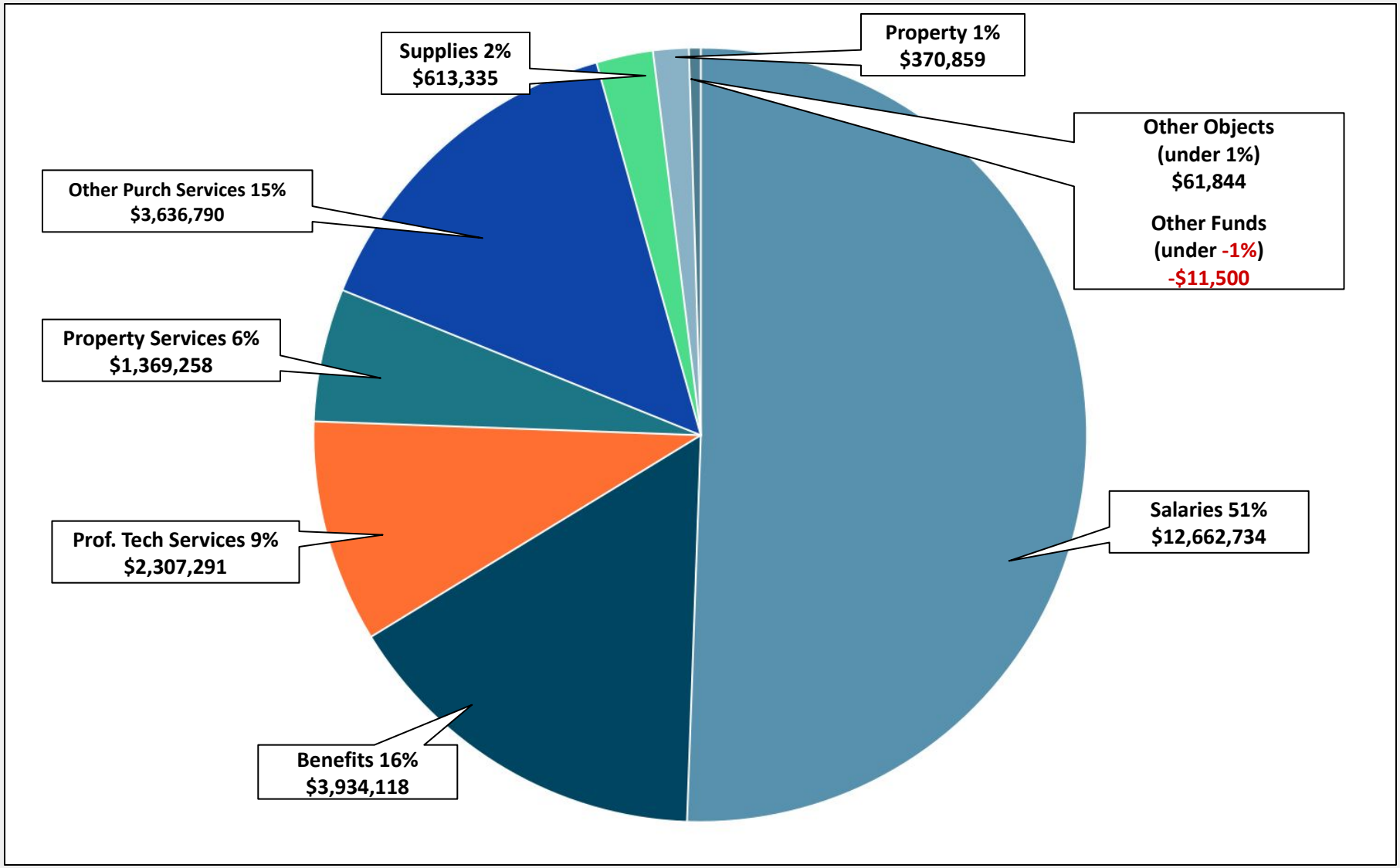
Prior to 1975, Social Security benefit increases were set by legislation.

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 [a]	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		

[a] 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.

2025-2026 Budget by Object



Budget Total $24,944,729

* 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

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 $253,224 or 12.33%

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%**
- 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 $22,539 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Shared Services Expenditures**
- Use of $25,000 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Special Education Professional and Technical Services

400 Property Services
Increase of $59,184 or 4.52%

Budget Mitigation Factors/Actions:

- Most accounts held to 0%
- **Energy, Fuel, and Utilities Increases (Electric up ~10%**, 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
- Use of $25,000 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Special Education Transportation
- Use of $238,508 in Excess Cost Grant to offset Special Education Outplacements
- 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

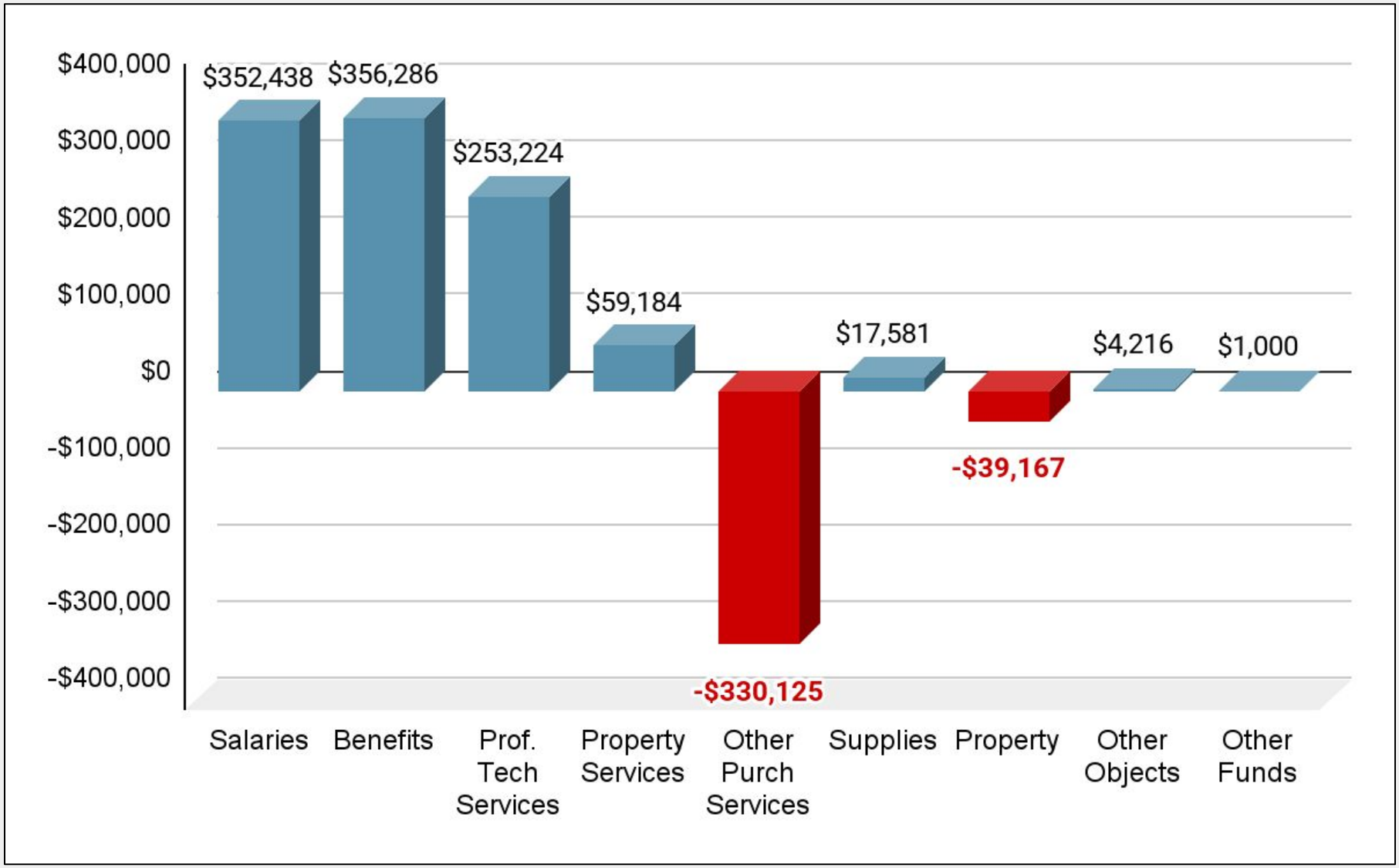
900 Other Funds

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 $674,637



Excess Cost Expenditure Offset

Code	Description	2024-2025	2025-2026
325	Shared Services	$30,000	$22,539
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
	TOTAL	$553,800	$311,047

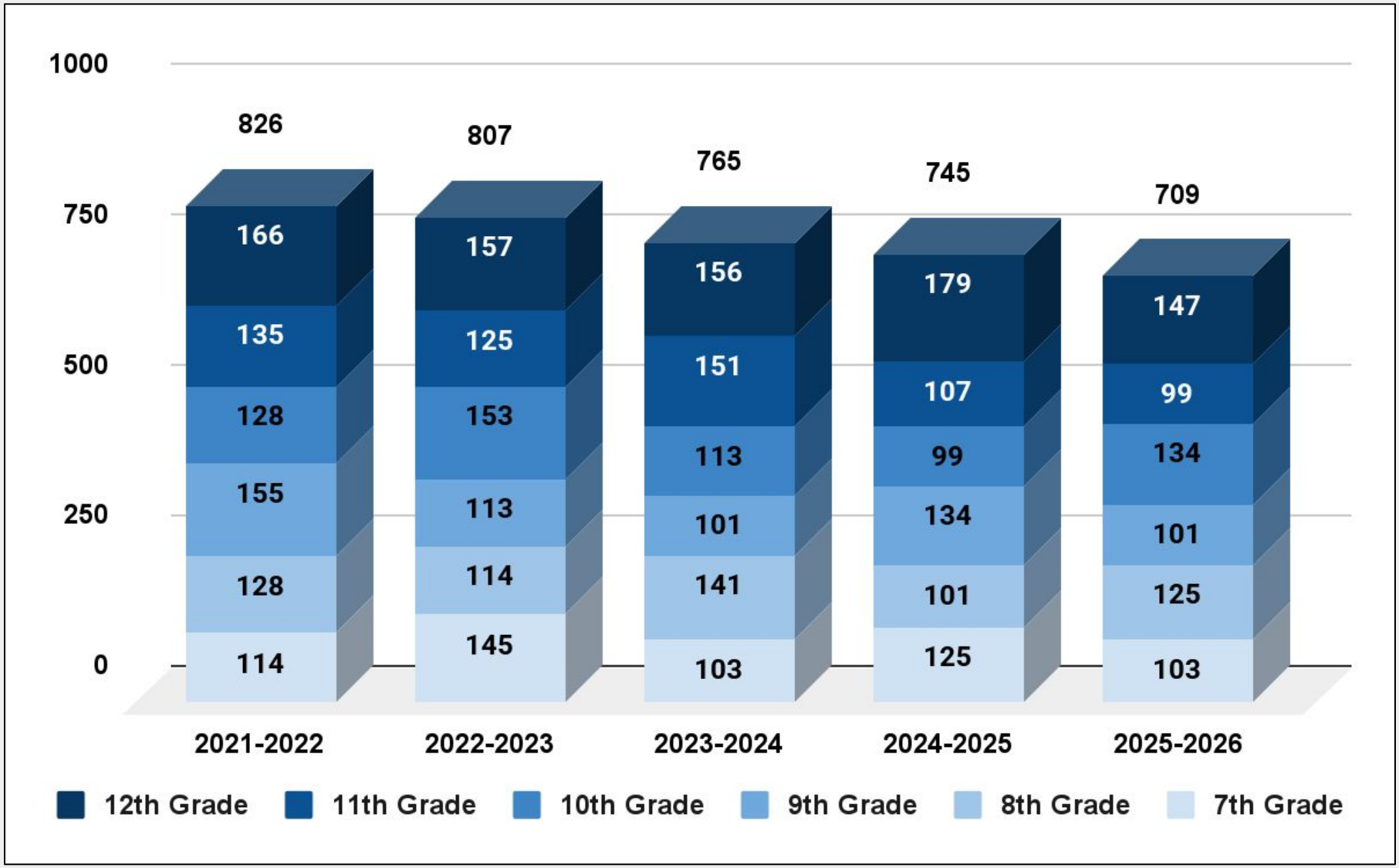
- Districts are reimbursed by the state for the expenses associated with educating special education students with a cost above 4.5x the per pupil expenditure, which will be $29,146* next year. For us, the excess cost isn't a consideration until we surpass $131,157*. If a student's educational costs **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, t*he Appropriations Committee habitually underfunds this critical grant.***
- ***In the current budget, we had budgeted 71% expecting at least that amount. If legislation is approved, we will meet budget expectations, but it is currently funded at a level for us to receive only 62%!***
- Given the state's consistent pattern of underfunding the excess cost reimbursement, we have only budgeted **69%** in the proposed 2025-2026 budget.

* Most current information available (3/4/2025)

Revenues & Assessments

Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Estimated	Difference
Tuition-Regular	$540,480	**$437,190**	**($103,290)**
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	$793,500	**$752,706**	**($40,794)**
Subtotal Revenues	*$1,545,459*	***$1,452,816***	***($92,643)***
Budget Variance	$819,700	**$743,654**	**($76,046)**
Subtotal with Offset	$2,365,159	**$2,196,470**	**($168,689)**
Budget	$24,270,092	**$24,944,729**	**$674,637**
Assessments (Budget minus Subtotal with offset)	$21,904,933	**$22,748,259**	**$843,326**

Straight Line ADM - Member Towns



* Based on October 1, 2024

Budget Highlights Summary

2024-2025 Budget: $24,270,092

2025-2026 Budget: $24,944,729

Total Budget Increase: $674,637

Budget Increase Percentage: 2.78%

Salary & Benefits Increases:

$708,724 (105.1% of the Total Budget Increase)

Net Reduction of <u>All Other Accounts</u>:

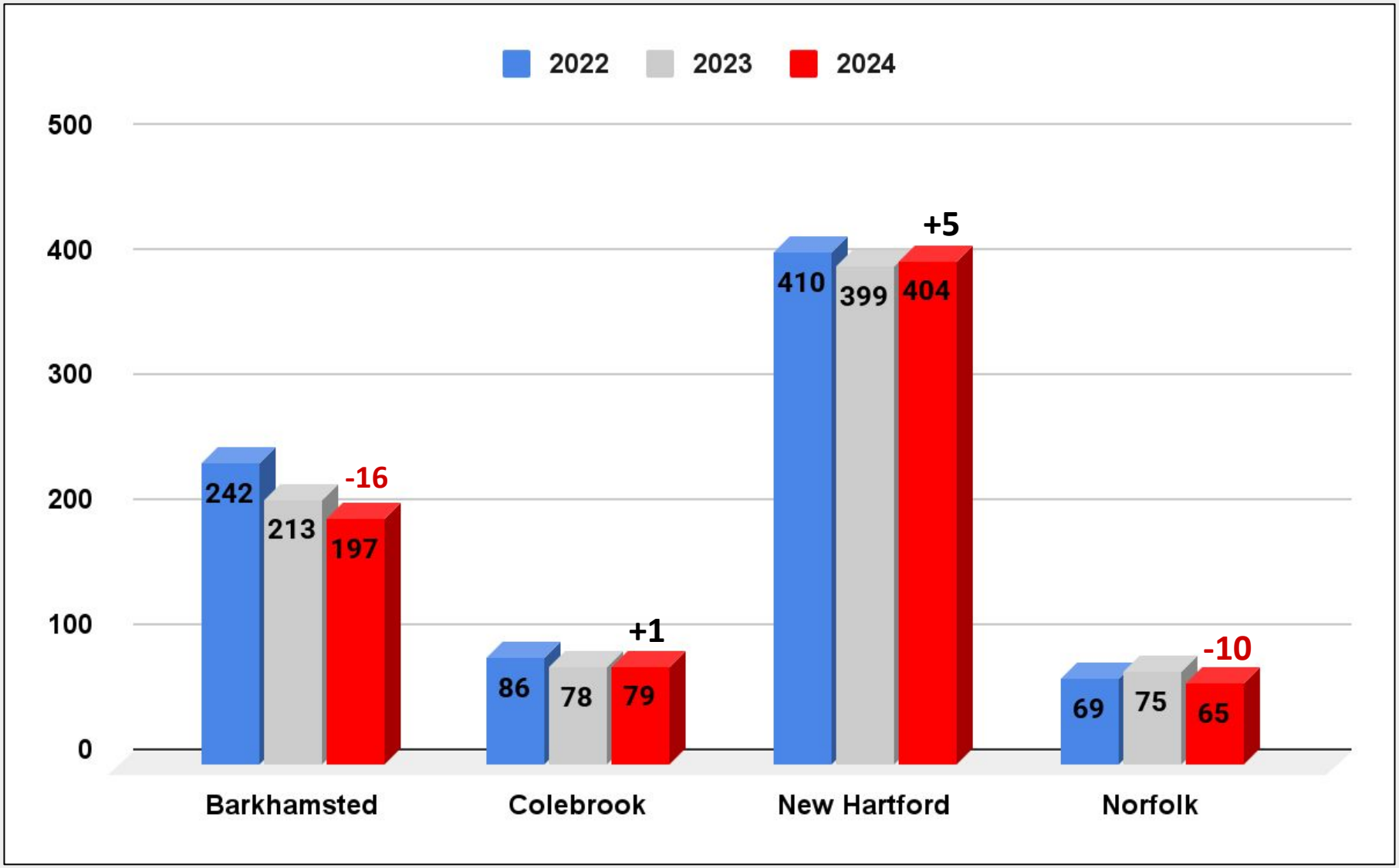
-$34,087 (-5.1% of the Total Budget Decrease)

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	**$24,944,729**	**2.78%**
Revenue	**$1,452,816**	(5.99%)
Assessment Offset	**$743,654**	(9.28%)
NET ASSESSMENT	**$22,748,259**	**3.85%**

Change in Average Daily Membership by Town



** Based on October 1, 2024 CSDE*

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%	-1.37%	**0.18%**
Colebrook	4.01%	**8.37%**	2.79%	-0.70%	7.92%	**4.48%**
New Hartford	-2.12%	1.20%	3.69%	6.55%	**7.97%**	**3.46%**
Norfolk	-5.41%	6.43%	5.26%	**18.95%**	-7.49%	**3.55%**
Total Assessment Increase:	0.38%	1.97%	2.79%	3.78%	3.85%	**2.55%**
5-Year Average of Total Assessment Increase ~ 2.55%						
Total Expenditure Increase:	1.33%	2.45%	2.42%	3.47%	2.78%	**2.49%**
5-Year Average of Total Expenditure Increases ~ 2.49%						

District:	DRG	SUPT. Prop.	BOE Appr.
Amity Regional School District #5	B	3.16	
Andover Public Schools	C	8.70	
Ansonia Public Schools	H	6.40	
Ashford School	E	5.46	5.46
Avon Public Schools	B	4.51	4.51
Barkhamsted	C	3.47	
Berlin Public Schools	D	7.40	6.89
Branford Public Schools	D	6.81	5.80
Bristol Public Schools	G	12.58	
Brookfield Public Schools	B	3.64	3.64
Cheshire Public Schools	B	7.09	6.93
Clinton Public Schools	D	6.72	6.10
Colebrook School District	E	5.67	5.67
Columbia Public Schools	C	3.48	
Coventry Public Schools	E	5.27	
Cromwell Public Schools	D	5.81	5.81
Darien Public Schools	A	4.39	4.92
East Haddam Public Schools	E	8.14	
East Hampton Public Schools	D	7.30	
East Hartford Public Schools	H	2.8	
East Lyme Public Schools	D	6.99	6.72
East Lyme Public Schools	D	6.99	
Easton Public Schools	A	7.59	
Ellington Public Schools	C	3.18	2.89
Enfield Public Schools	F	5.86	5.57
Fairfield Public Schools	B	6.45	
Glastonbury Public Schools	B	4.88	4.49
Granby Public Schools	C	5.67	
Greenwich Public Schools	B	5.4	5.1
Griswold Public Schools	F	4.80	
Guilford Public Schools	B	6.53	5.5
Hebron Public Schools	C	5.75	5.75
Killingly Public Schools	G	4.97	
Marlborough Public Schools	C	3.90	3.90
Milford Public Schools	D	4.87	4.87

Monroe Public Schools	B	6.02	6.02
New Britain Public Schools	I	12.19	11.49
New Canaan Public Schools	A	4.61	4.67
New Fairfield Public Schools	B	3.81	3.75
New Hartford Public Schools	C	8.86	
New Milford Public Schools	D	3.93	3.93
Newington Public Schools	D	6.86	5.94
Newtown Public Schools	B	5.96	5.99
Oxford Public Schools	C	4.70	
Plainfield Public Schools	G	5.27	
Plainville Community Schools	F	4.75	5.53
Plymouth Public Schools	F	3.24	4.33
Pomfret Community School	C	6.90	4.90
Portland Public Schools	E	4.98	4.97

Regional School District #07	C	2.78	
Regional School District #08	C	4.36	
Regional School District #10	C	3.95	
Regional School District #12	C	2.44	
Regional School District #13	C	5.17	
Regional School District #15	B	4.49	
Regional School District #16	E	2.50	
Regional School District #17	C	3.70	
Regional School District #18	C	7.99	
Regional School District #19	C	4.98	
Ridgefield Public Schools	A	4.44	
Salem Board of Education	C	7.17	
Simsbury Public Schools	B	4.37	
Somers Public Schools	C	5.72	
South Windsor Public Schools	B	5.97	
Sterling Public School	F	2.70	

Stonington Public Schools	D	6.66	6.66
Stratford Public Schools	G	2.66	
Suffield Public Schools	C	8.34	
Thomaston Public Schools	E	3.83	
Thompson Public Schools	F	4.50	
Trumbull Public Schools	B	5.26	
Union Public Schools	E	7.80	
Vernon Public Schools	G	2.87	2.79
Wallingford Public Schools	D	3.86	
Waterford Public Schools	D	6.68	6.51
West Haven Public Schools	H	3.82	
Westbrook Public Schools	E	4.61	
Weston Public Schools	A	3.05	3.05
Westport Public Schools	A	4.69	4.70
Wethersfield Public Schools	D	4.95	
Willington Board of Education	E	6.84	
Wilton Public Schools	A	4.00	4.00
Winchester Board of Education	G	7.99	
Windham Public Schools	I	6.41	
Woodbridge School District	B	6.11	6.11
Woodstock Public Schools	E	8.61	
AVERAGE AS OF 3/24/2025		**5.35**	**5.17**

District Budget Meeting

MAY 5, 2025
NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL
Dr. Roberta Ohotnicky Little Theater
7:00 PM

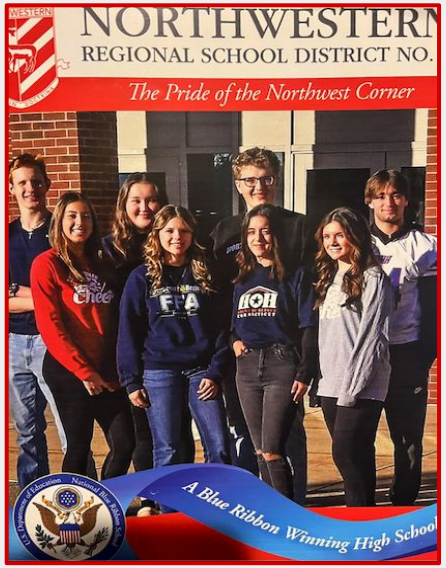
BUDGET REFERENDUM

MAY 6, 2025
Town Polling Locations
Hours may vary by town

For budget details, visit:
www.nwr7.com
(Select: Board of Education-Budget)

Thank You for Your Support!















Go Highlanders!



















