

FOCUS ON EDUCATION



Quarterly newsletter of Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
A private school experience in a public school setting

SPRING 2025



Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the Lyme and Old Lyme Communities,

The Region 18 Board of Education approved a budget for the 2025-2026 school year at its February 5, 2025 meeting. This \$39,650,803 budget represents a 7.39% increase from the adopted budget for the current year.

Costs associated with the PK-8 building project are the main drivers for this budget; 4.7% of the 7.39% increase is a direct result of these costs. The operating budget is increasing by 2.69%, which includes increases in special education costs, employee benefits and transportation. We have developed a budget that continues to maintain our award winning academic and extracurricular offerings, which are commensurate, and oftentimes superior, to both public and private schools throughout Connecticut.

This budget supports our commitment to continued adherence to class size guidelines, continuance of existing academic and extracurricular activities, adjustments for anticipated changes in the special education population, adequate funding for maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds, scheduled replacement of technology and equipment, and program improvements that are consistent with high academic and operational standards.

As always, we thank the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme for their ongoing support.

Ian Neviaser
Superintendent of Schools

Jason Kemp
Chair, Board of Education

Board of Education Meetings

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings:

May 5 District Budget Meeting, 6:30 PM

May 7 Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

June 4 Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org under the "District Information" tab.

Budget Referendum

May 6, Noon-8:00 PM

Voting Locations:

Old Lyme Residents: Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School Gym

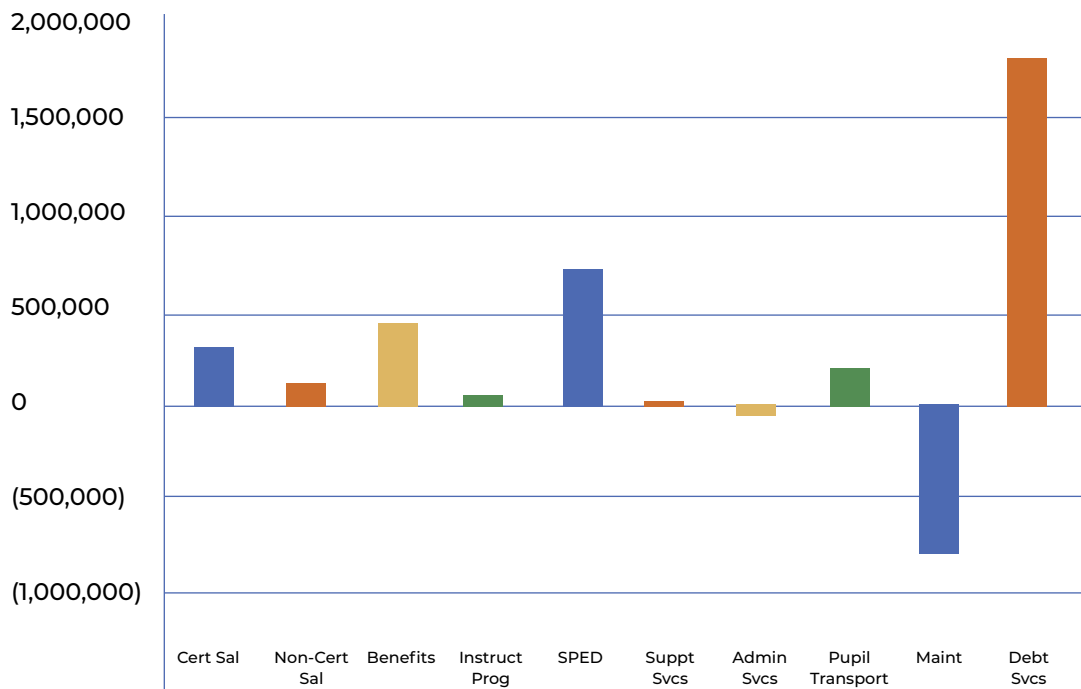
Lyme Residents: Lyme Town Hall

The Regional School District 18 Board of Education prohibits harassment and discrimination in educational programs, services, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, military or veteran status, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, or past or present physical or mental disability in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and appropriate state laws.

Overall Budget Summary

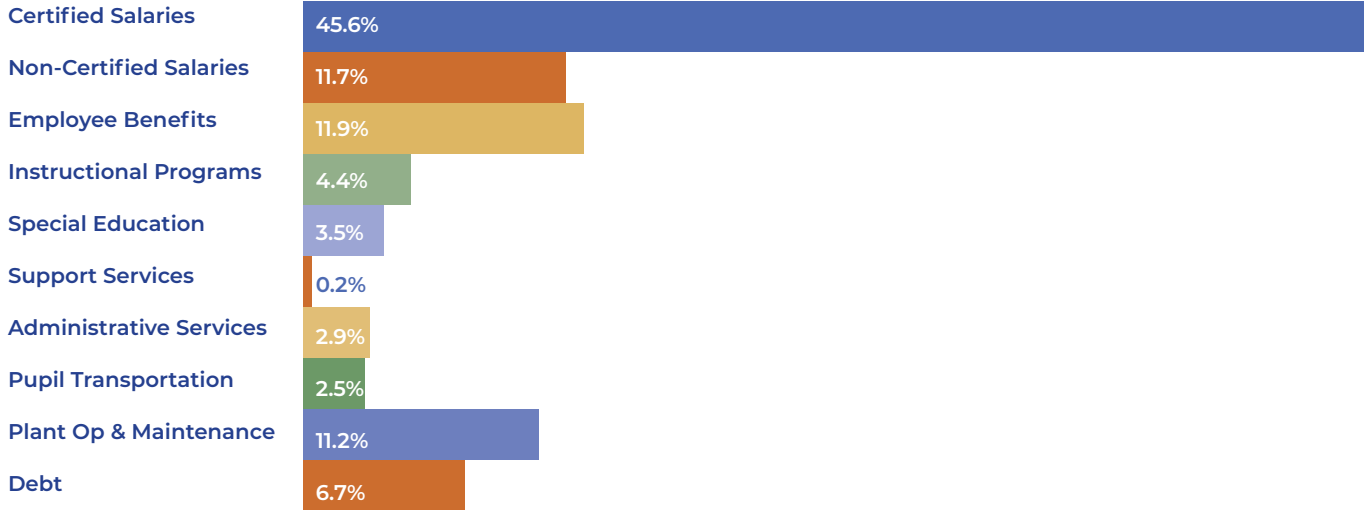
	23-24 Actuals	24-25 Budget	25-26 Budget	\$ Increase or (Decrease)	% Inc or (Dec) by Line Item
Certified Salaries	16,227,328	16,349,160	16,627,814	278,654	1.70%
Non-Certified Salaries	3,869,083	4,188,967	4,263,615	74,648	1.78%
Employee Benefits	3,972,368	4,274,244	4,722,729	448,485	10.49%
Instructional Programs	1,507,946	1,586,694	1,616,322	29,628	1.87%
Special Education	806,398	1,238,752	1,965,473	726,721	58.67%
Support Services	66,929	78,298	78,360	62	0.08%
Administrative Services	1,018,558	1,026,921	979,148	(47,773)	(4.65)%
Pupil Transportation	661,768	883,269	1,047,503	164,234	18.59%
Plant Op & Maintenance	4,110,690	4,883,574	4,136,551	(747,023)	(15.30)%
OPERATING BUDGET	32,241,068	34,509,879	35,437,515	927,636	2.69%
Debt Service	3,229,313	2,411,002	4,213,288	1,802,286	74.75%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$35,470,381	\$36,920,881	\$39,650,803	\$2,729,922	7.39%

Budget Drivers (Increase/Decrease)



2024-2025 Proposed Budget

\$39,650,803 7.39% increase



Historical Perspective

	Budget	% change
2020-2021	\$34,711,631	
2021-2022	\$34,874,548	+0.47
2022-2023	\$34,830,464	-0.13
2023-2024	\$35,844,345	2.91
2024-2025	\$36,920,881	3.00
2025-2026	\$39,650,803	7.39
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2020-2021	\$34,711,631	
2025-2026	\$39,650,803	
	+\$4,939,172	

2025-26 Budget Notes

Facilities Improvements

- Updates to the sound system at the LOLHS auditorium
- Updates to the lighting in the LOLMS auditorium
- Replacement of one broken piece of equipment on the pre-K playground
- Repair pavement to the front sidewalk at LOLMS

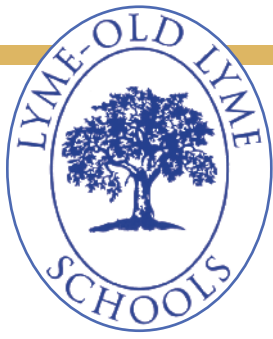
That is an average annual increase over five years of \$987,834 or 2.73% per year. During that same time period, the average annual operating budget increase has been 1.84% per year.

PK-8 Building Project Update

Updating of the HVAC systems at Mile Creek School, Lyme School, Center School and the LOL Middle School are in progress with minimal changes to the original plans. Based on current enrollment numbers, the Mile Creek School expansion will add six new classrooms instead of the previously planned ten. Both projects are currently under budget. The building committee anticipates coming in under budget, pending the outcome of expected state grants.

For more information:

Copies of the budget book, which provides greater detail on this budget, are available on our website at www.region18.org, at the central office at Center School, 49 Lyme St, Old Lyme or by calling (860) 434-7238.



Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
49 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

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2025

**High School
Graduation**

**Thursday,
June 12
6:00 PM**

Frequently Asked Questions

IS ENROLLMENT INCREASING OR DECREASING?

Enrollment varies significantly by level. Our elementary schools have seen enrollment increase by 61 students since the 2021/22 school year. In that same time period, our middle school enrollment has remained consistent, and our high school enrollment decreased by 81 students.

While 2025 will see a graduating class of about 100 students, that number declines for the next several years ranging from 85 to 93 students per class. Enrollment has increased in our elementary schools with 100 or more students currently enrolled in kindergarten, third and fifth grades. Next year should see middle school enrollment begin to rise as the larger fifth grade class moves to the middle school.

We anticipate a decrease in kindergarten enrollments next year due to a state law passed in 2023 establishing that children need to be five years old before September 1 to be eligible for kindergarten. We expect the impact on enrollments by this law to normalize by the following school year.

WHAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN TEACHING STAFF DUE TO ENROLLMENT NUMBERS?

As student populations ebb and flow, alignment of staff resources to student enrollment is a process undertaken each year as a part of the budget development. Over time we have added, reduced, or reallocated staff at all of our schools to account for student interest, need, and population changes. Across the district we have made careful adjustments to staffing over the last several years in English, math, science, world language, music, art, physical education, administration, counseling, special education, and library media centers among others.

