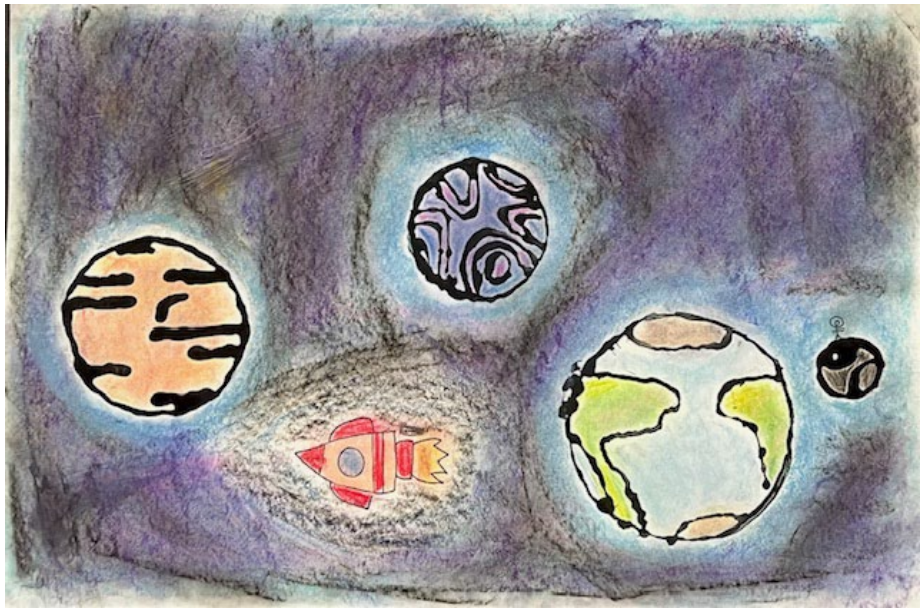
Highlights

Northeast
Elemantary



Joseph Garcia, Grade 12, Anchor





Maya Kuzmych, Grade 4 Hart

STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Budget - May 2025

Budget Process

The budget process for the district began in October 2024, with the Superintendent providing general guidelines to all administrative staff to begin developing a budget for fiscal year 2025-26 that addresses program needs in a fiscally responsible manner. The budget would need to provide adequate resources to fund high growth budget areas such as Special Education, Health Insurance, Facility Maintenance, and Utilities. Starting in December 2024, with input from Central Staff and Administrators (including principals and assistant principals), the Superintendent's Operating Budget Request was assembled. At the same time, meetings were held with cabinet members to review all areas of the budget, to link budget requests to district goals, and determine priorities for 2025-26. Each program and building was thoroughly reviewed for staffing needs, trends, and alignment with district goals.

The Board of Education Operating Budget Request for 2025-26 is $347,026,866, an increase of 4.93% over 2024-25.

Board of Education Goals

Each year, the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools work to develop Board and Superintendent Goals that support the district's mission. The operating budget and all grant budgets are aligned to these goals:

MISSION OF Stamford Public Schools:
The mission of the Stamford Public Schools is to provide an education that cultivates productive habits of mind, body and heart in every student.

VISION OF Stamford Public Schools:
The Stamford Public Schools will be a learning organization that continuously improves its effective, innovative and transformational teaching and learning. We will challenge, inspire and prepare all students to be productive contributing members of society.

District Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Learning Organization (Community) – All members of SPS will acquire and apply practices of a Learning Organization to promote a culture of continuous improvement and excellence.

Strategic Goal 2: Habits of Mind – All learners will acquire and effectively apply critical thinking, creative thinking, and self-reflective thinking to be academically prepared for lifelong learning and the world of work.

Strategic Goal 3: Habits of Body – All students will be prepared to lead an active lifestyle and to make healthy choices**.**

Strategic Goal 4: Habits of Heart – All learners will acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Budget Development Assumptions

Enrollment

The district's projection for student enrollment is shown in Section 4 of this document. A bar chart with actual enrollment from 2004-05 to 2024-25 along with an enrollment projection for 2025-26 shows the overall trend in enrollment.

For 2025-26, the total number of students (including in-district, out-of-district, and home instruction) is expected to decrease by -132 to 16,107 students, a decrease of -0.81%.

Elementary	-	(53)	
Middle Schools	+	53	
High Schools	-	(132)	
All Other	-	0	(Includes Pre-Kindergarten, Out of District, Anchor, IAI)
Total		**(132)**	

Revenue

Included in Section 6 of this document is an estimate of Education Revenues to the Stamford Public Schools and the City of Stamford. The operating budget for the school district in the amount of $347,026,866 is partially offset by state entitlements (such as ECS) and other revenues that are paid directly to the City. The state entitlements and other revenues are estimated to be $8,966,732. When these funds are subtracted from the operating budget request, the estimated cost to local taxpayers is $338,060,134.

Additional funds are obtained directly by the district from Federal entitlement grants, state grants, corporate grants, and private grants. Most grants are projected at the same level as 2024-25, unless specific information suggesting otherwise is available. Our projections for all grants are shown in section 9 of this document.

Grants are usually earmarked for specific purposes and are generally intended to “supplement and not supplant” local operating budget funds.

Salaries and Wages (100)

The salaries and wages included in this budget are based on settled collective bargaining agreements and “best estimates” for unsettled contracts.

Based on the current trend, new teacher positions have been budgeted at $73,680 plus benefits of $20,000 and paraeducators have been budgeted at $30,000-$40,000 (depending on Program) plus benefits.

Additionally, the salary accounts have been reduced by $3.4m for estimated “vacancy savings” due to staff turnover from retirements and resignations, unfilled positions, and degree level changes.

Employee Benefits (200)

This portion of the budget includes the cost for employees' medical and dental insurance as well as the employer's share of Social Security costs. For 2025-26, all of the districts bargaining units have health insurance through the State of Connecticut Partnership Plan.

The increase in projected insurance cost is shown in the 202 Health Insurance account. Our Medical Insurance cost is expected to increase by 11% and Dental Insurance by 5%. Further details are available in Section 10.

Revenue credits are included in the Board of Education budget for two items: premium cost sharing for active employees and grant offsets to the insurance account for grant funded employees.

The cost of the 230 Pension account is predicted to increase by $533,732 (22.8%), and the cost of the 231 Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") account is predicted to decrease by -$301,000 (-18.7%), based on estimates from the Milliman actuaries.

Educational, Rehabilitative, and Legal Services (300)

This grouping includes outside services, which are primarily rehabilitative and legal in nature. For 2025-26, this group will decrease by $72,846.

The 323 Pupil Services account is meant to cover additional student services that are required by Special Education student's Individual Education Plan ("IEP"). The funding pays for physical and occupational therapy services and other services mandated by IEPs. Costs for students which exceed 4.5 times the average per pupil cost are reimbursed, in part, by the State Excess Cost Grant.

Building Upkeep and Repairs (400)

Items in these accounts are slated to increase by 5.% to cover utilities and deferred maintenance. This figure is driven by increases in the cost of electricity and maintenance labor and materials.

Transportation, Out-of-District Tuition, and Other Services (500)

This group is primarily composed of the student transportation, insurance, and out-of-district tuition accounts.

The transportation budget was built on the services provided by First Student and ECS Transportation. The contractual rates will increase by 5.5% for Home-to-School service and up to 5% for Out-of-District Special Education transportation.

A portion of the district's transportation cost is funded through the Magnet School Transportation grant which helps out of town students to attend Rogers International School, Strawberry Hill and AITE.

Property, casualty, and general liability insurance costs are estimated to increase by 2.7% due to increased premiums as per the city risk manager.

The Out-of-District Tuition Account provides funding to other institutions for Special Education students who are required to attend based on their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The law guarantees each Special Education student a "free, appropriate, public education" and because of this, sometimes a school or institute outside the Stamford School District better meets his or her needs.

The gross tuition cost is offset by Agency Placement and Excess Cost Grant revenue in the amount of $9,168,622. The final budget of $19,839,732 is an increase of $683,757 (3.57%).

$1.25m is included in order to allow all students to receive free breakfast and lunch in FY26, as they have been for the last several years. This amount represents the deficit in the lunch fund while operating under CEP (Community Eligibility Provision), a federal program that allows all students access to free meals without any family having to fill out an application to prove that they meet income thresholds.

Supplies, Materials, and Heating Fuels (600)

The supply budget for the school system includes both classroom-based consumable supplies and also heating fuels such as oil and natural gas. Each of the schools is given a per-pupil allotment based on their estimated pupils for 2025-26 to cover items such as paper, pencils, copy paper, and textbook replacements.

Items such as textbook adoptions, heating oil, and natural gas are managed and budgeted centrally and not included in the "per student" allocation formula.

The "per-pupil" allotment is discretionary funding allocated to each school and managed by the principal based on site needs. The building principals will be able to re-allocate site money via budget transfer. The formula stated above follows a practice adopted in prior years. The allocation of funds based on students allows the schools to fund all basic supplies for regular, Special Education and English Learner students as well as "supply-intensive" subjects such as Art. The district adheres to the practice of "dollars following students" and more or less students may necessitate an adjustment to the budget. We will maintain a margin of +/- 25 students at each building for budget purposes.

Equipment (700)

The equipment account is used to fund purchase of items with a unit cost of over $1,000 and a useful life of more than one year.

Dues and Fees (800)

This account covers expenditures for professional organizations or associations for individuals, schools, or district-wide programs.

Stamford Public Schools

Site Budget Allocations

	Per Pupil Allocation - Last 3 Years			2025-26 BOE Operating Budget						
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26
	Totl Alloc	Totl Alloc	Totl Alloc	Enrollment*	Per-Pupil	Reg Alloc	MS/HS Intramurals	CTE (Program 19)	VoAg	Total
9101-APPLES PreK			$135,500							$135,500
9201-Davenport Ridge Elementary	$42,005	$46,440	$43,136	673	$65.00	$43,745	$0	$0	$0	$43,745
9205-Hart Magnet Elementary	$36,705	$39,240	$36,736	567	$65.00	$36,855	$0	$0	$0	$36,855
9255-Toquam Magnet Elementary	$41,197	$37,386	$32,192	532	$65.00	$34,580	$0	$0	$0	$34,580
9215-K. T. Murphy Elementary	$30,254	$26,998	$24,384	390	$65.00	$25,350	$0	$0	$0	$25,350
9220-Newfield Elementary	$35,687	$38,288	$33,344	575	$65.00	$37,375	$0	$0	$0	$37,375
9225-Northeast Elementary	$40,330	$33,964	$28,736	436	$65.00	$28,340	$0	$0	$0	$28,340
9250-Strawberry Hill	$52,987	$71,203	$71,621	799	$65.67	$52,470	$19,500	$0	$0	$71,970
9230-Rogers International	$53,242	$66,218	$69,293	780	$65.67	$51,223	$19,500	$0	$0	$70,723
9235-Roxbury Elementary	$40,204	$38,818	$33,408	509	$65.00	$33,085	$0	$0	$0	$33,085
9240-Springdale Elementary	$39,300	$41,564	$35,328	565	$65.00	$36,725	$0	$0	$0	$36,725
9210-Julia A. Stark Elementary	$39,578	$43,030	$36,672	562	$65.00	$36,530	$0	$0	$0	$36,530
9245-Stillmeadow Elementary	$43,179	$43,684	$36,288	587	$65.00	$38,155	$0	$0	$0	$38,155
9260-Westover Magnet	$35,223	$35,206	$46,993	714	$65.50	$46,767	$13,500	$0	$0	$60,267
9401-Cloonan Middle	$50,670	$57,678	$47,616	360	$67.00	$24,120	$19,500	$0	$0	$43,620
9405-Dolan Middle	$50,682	$58,782	$58,506	577	$67.00	$38,659	$19,500	$0	$0	$58,159
9420-Turn of River Middle	$54,738	$63,978	$61,740	560	$67.00	$37,520	$19,500	$0	$0	$57,020
9415-Scofield Magnet Middle	$47,409	$54,922	$60,354	622	$67.00	$41,674	$19,500	$0	$0	$61,174
9410-Rippowam Middle	$61,241	$67,734	$62,598	705	$67.00	$47,235	$19,500	$0	$0	$66,735
9505-Stamford High	$197,990	$315,877	$342,907	2,117	$80.00	$169,360	$22,000	$152,400	$0	$343,760
9510-Westhill High	$226,754	$228,761	$248,723	2,228	$80.00	$178,240	$22,000	$20,000	$30,000	$250,240
9501-AITE	$57,785	$60,552	$71,454	673	$80.00	$53,840	$22,000	$0	$0	$75,840
Total	**$1,277,160**	**$1,470,323**	**$1,617,529**			**$1,091,848**	**$216,000**	**$172,400**	**$30,000**	**$1,645,748**

***10/1/2024 Enrollment with adjustments for grade changes at Westover and Cloonan**

Note: Special Education and ELL supply funds have been allocated to program lines, but will be distributed to school lines based on actual enrollment in the Fall

2025-26 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2024-25 Orig. Budget	2025-26 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
510101	Teacher Salary	$114,083,708	$115,319,648	$1,235,940	1.1%	Contractual increase; reduction of 26.3 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510102	Administrative Certified	$14,241,831	$16,316,925	$2,075,094	14.6%	Contractual increase; +9.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510103	Teacher Support Salary	$11,039,197	$12,272,254	$1,233,057	11.2%	Contractual increase; +3.5 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510104	Teacher Extra Service	$1,374,297	$1,239,432	($134,865)	-9.8%	Based on analysis of recent trend
510105	Class Coverage	$1,316,894	$1,251,804	($65,090)	-4.9%	Based on analysis of recent trend and incorporating updated contractual rate
510106	Maternity Leave	$1,300,142	$1,150,000	($150,142)	-11.5%	Note: this is not an additional cost to the budget. While teachers are on leave, their wages are charged to this line **instead of** line 101 or 103.
510107	Vacancy Savings	$0	$0	$0		$3.4m estimated savings from resignations, retirements, and leaves of absence. The offset is spread throughout wage lines, which is why it shows as a $0 in this line.
510109	Substitutes	$2,668,495	$3,416,475	$747,980	28.0%	Increase in number and rate of building subs
510110	Retirement	$730,600	$800,000	$69,400	9.5%	Anticipated retirement payments per contract
510111	Long-Term Sick Leave	$1,950,000	$1,750,000	($200,000)	-10.3%	Note: this is not an additional cost to the budget. While teachers are on leave, their wages are charged to this line **instead of** line 101 or 103.
	Total Certified Salaries and Wages	**$148,705,164**	**$153,516,538**	**$4,811,374**	**3.2%**	
510112	Administration - Non Certified Discretionary	$2,229,980	$2,617,288	$387,308	17.4%	Contractual increase; +1.0 FTE; (See Section 5 for details); Certain city chargebacks moved here from 510113
510113	Administration - Non Certified	$1,464,764	$1,471,781	$7,017	0.5%	Contractual increase; Certain city chargebacks moved from here to 510112
510114	Clerical/Technical Salary	$7,512,882	$7,717,025	$204,143	2.7%	Contractual increase; Reduction of 2.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510115	Paraeducators	$14,000,900	$14,911,227	$910,327	6.5%	Contractual increase; +5.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510116	Custodial/Mechanical Salary	$11,688,782	$12,245,720	$556,938	4.8%	Contractual increase
510117	Security Workers	$2,595,799	$2,742,701	$146,902	5.7%	Contractual increase
510118	Parent Facilitators	$810,051	$852,182	$42,131	5.2%	Contractual increase
510119	Para Sub Coverage	$218,000	$125,000	($93,000)	-42.7%	Per department estimates
510120	Temporary Part-Time Salary	$2,275,170	$2,173,304	($101,866)	-4.5%	Per department/site estimates
510121	Custodial/Mechanical Overtime	$2,412,827	$2,492,147	$79,320	3.3%	Includes trades, standby, landscaping, snow removal, summer cleaning, schedule coverage. Incorporates contractual increase plus adjustment for anticipated savings due to changes in contract language. Increase reflects departmental analysis of likely cost based on FY24 actuals and FY25 projection.
510122	Clerical Overtime	$251,864	$167,426	($84,438)	-33.5%	Reduced to reflect process changes
510123	Police and Fire Overtime	$89,800	$89,800	$0	0.0%	Per department/site estimates
510124	Security Worker Overtime	$260,615	$350,000	$89,385	34.3%	Based on FY24 trend and additional FTE
510125	Parent Facilitator Overtime	$0	$20,000	$20,000		Based on FY24 trend
	Total Non-Certified Salaries and Wages	**$45,811,434**	**$47,975,601**	**$2,164,167**	**4.7%**	

2025-26 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2024-25 Orig. Budget	2025-26 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
520201	Clothing/Tool Allowance	$160,000	$160,000	$0	0.0%	Per contract
520202	Health/Hospital Insurance	$39,499,427	$43,729,828	$4,230,401	10.7%	11% increase premium increase, use of $500k of claims reserve; see Section 10 for details
520207	Social Security	$4,309,853	$4,618,605	$308,752	7.2%	Based on trend
520208	Unemployment Insurance	$100,000	$130,000	$30,000	30.0%	Based on trend
520215	Tuition Reimbursement	$171,000	$171,000	$0	0.0%	Contractual item for teachers and administrators
520216	Childcare Reimbursement	$50,000	$50,000	$0	0.0%	Contractual item for teachers
520230	Pension	$2,345,987	$2,879,719	$533,732	22.8%	Estimate from actuary/city OPM
520231	Other Post Retirement Benefits-OPEB**	$1,608,000	$1,307,000	($301,000)	-18.7%	Estimate from actuary/city OPM
520260	Worker's Compensation	$2,506,356	$2,606,610	$100,254	4.0%	Per city risk
	Total Employee Benefits	**$50,750,623**	**$55,652,762**	**$4,902,139**	**9.7%**	
530321	Contracted Services	$1,920,156	$1,700,051	($220,105)	-11.5%	Programs at Apples; Teaching and Learning Programs (PLTW, Soundwaters, Mill River, Bartlett); HR and IT tech; Translation and Live Interpretation services
530322	Instructional Program Improvement	$264,500	$187,500	($77,000)	-29.1%	Based on department requests (certain costs budgeted in 550580 Professional Development for FY26)
530323	Pupil Services	$7,906,509	$7,781,212	($125,297)	-1.6%	Based on analysis of student needs by Special Education team
530324	Legal Services	$855,788	$887,745	$31,957	3.7%	In-house and external legal services
530326	Contracted Svcs - Buildings/Grounds	$2,331,750	$2,512,500	$180,750	7.8%	8% increase based on increased cost of services
530330	Other Professional and Technical Svcs	$271,450	$553,991	$282,541	104.1%	$280,000 for Domus MS Family Advocates
	Total Educational, Rehabilitative, and Legal Services	**$13,550,153**	**$13,622,999**	**$72,846**	**0.5%**	
540411	Electricity	$4,723,551	$5,285,860	$562,309	11.9%	Based on projection from CES
540412	Gas - Non heat	$0	$0	$0		Propane for kitchens; charge to Food Service Fund
540413	Water	$432,753	$458,719	$25,966	6.0%	Facilities department estimate
540420	Repair, Maintenance, and Cleaning	$2,881,666	$2,674,173	($207,493)	-7.2%	Includes outside vendors for HVAC, fire sprinklers, elevators, generators, water, drains; supplies for in-house carpentry, electrical, plumbing; $300k of additional needs are budgeted in Building Use Fund
540440	Rentals	$400,755	$391,329	($9,426)	-2.4%	Includes facilities rentals including containers, construction equipment, custodial equipment
540450	Construction Service	$1,257,085	$1,275,918	$18,833	1.5%	Architectural, Engineering, Environmental, Carpentry, HVAC, Plumbing; Debt payments as per OPM
540452	Grounds Maintenance	$411,156	$525,300	$114,144	27.8%	Includes maintenance of vehicles, fences, trees, playgrounds, misc. repairs
	Total Building Upkeep and Repair	**$10,106,966**	**$10,611,299**	**$504,333**	**5.0%**	

2025-26 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2024-25 Orig. Budget	2025-26 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
550510	Student Transportation Services	$26,231,518	$28,624,918	$2,393,400	9.1%	5.5% contracted increase in-district, 5% out of district. The overall increase is driven by Special Education transportation costs.
550511	Field Trips	$299,650	$302,004	$2,354	0.8%	School field trips and sports buses
550520	Insurance Allocation	$3,206,972	$3,293,390	$86,418	2.7%	Estimate from city risk
550530	Telephone	$350,000	$357,550	$7,550	2.2%	Based on trend
550531	Postage	$90,600	$66,009	($24,591)	-27.1%	Based on usage
550540	Advertising	$58,500	$43,500	($15,000)	-25.6%	Includes Facebook, Downtown Directory
550541	Recruitment and Retention	$60,000	$70,000	$10,000	16.7%	Increase to address departmental goals
550550	Printing	$693,387	$701,541	$8,154	1.2%	Based on contract
550560	Tuitions	$19,155,975	$19,839,732	$683,757	3.6%	Significant increase in number and cost of placements; Assumes additional $1m in Excess Cost Funds FY25 to be carried over; $1.25m in additional Excess Cost Funds FY26
550580	Professional Development	$208,114	$355,188	$147,074	70.7%	Per department/site requests (Certain costs budgeted in this line rather than 530322 Instructional Program Improvement for FY26)
550581	In-District Travel	$13,750	$13,000	($750)	-5.5%	Per department/site requests
550590	Other Purchased Services	$582,125	$1,835,045	$1,252,920	215.2%	Network Fiber WAN-LAN/Internet; maintenance for energy efficiency computer software; State of CT internet; BOE website; School HFC funds; $1.25m for free breakfast/lunches for all students
	Total Transportation, Out-District Tuition, & Other Svcs	**$50,950,591**	**$55,501,877**	**$4,551,286**	**8.9%**	
560611	Instructional Supplies	$2,821,728	$2,827,375	$5,647	0.2%	Per department/site requests; World Language and Social Studies curriculum supplies bugeted in Alliance Grant
560613	Maintenance Supplies	$481,222	$500,472	$19,250	4.0%	Increase due to higher supply costs
560621	Gas Heat	$2,052,377	$1,882,183	($170,194)	-8.3%	Based on projection from CES
560624	Oil Heat	$15,000	$10,000	($5,000)	-33.3%	Minimal usage
560626	Gasoline	$40,750	$40,750	$0	0.0%	City charge-back for BOE vehicle fuel; based on trend, pricing
560629	Bus Fuel	$1,162,500	$934,900	($227,600)	-19.6%	310,000 gallons at $3.00
560641	Texts/Workbooks	$667,193	$556,370	($110,823)	-16.6%	Per department/site requests
560642	Library Books/Periodicals	$40,726	$38,361	($2,365)	-5.8%	Per department/site requests
560643	Computer and AV Materials	$2,002,591	$1,831,453	($171,138)	-8.5%	$242k Oracle ERP licenses; Powerschool; Curriculum technology; certain software to be funded by Alliance Grant
560690	Office Supplies	$147,638	$175,585	$27,947	18.9%	Per department/site requests
560691	Other Supplies	$221,000	$232,500	$11,500	5.2%	Athletics supplies, BOE expenses
	Total Supplies, Materials, and Heating Fuels	**$9,652,725**	**$9,029,949**	**($622,776)**	**-6.5%**	

2025-26 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2024-25 Orig. Budget	2025-26 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
570730	Instructional Equipment	$366,534	$400,818	$34,284	9.4%	Includes classroom furniture budget
570739	Non-Instructional Equipment	$666,500	$528,000	($138,500)	-20.8%	Includes $100,000 for building security projects (cut from $300,000)
	Total Equipment	**$1,033,034**	**$928,818**	**($104,216)**	**-10.1%**	
580890	Dues and Fees	$177,066	$187,023	$9,957	5.6%	Includes CABE, CES, CAPSS, CAUS, CASBO, CASPA, FCIAC
	Total Dues and Fees	**$177,066**	**$187,023**	**$9,957**	**5.6%**	
	Total Operating Budget	**$330,737,756**	**$347,026,866**	**$16,289,110**	**4.93%**	