


Our proposed FY27 budget will support:



EXPANDED FLEXIBLE
PATHWAYS & STUDENT
OPPORTUNITIES

- Increased focus on work-based learning opportunities & promoting student success across flexible pathways.
- New learning experiences and community connections through increased K-5 field-trip funding.

BUDGET
 **OTE**
Tues March 3, 2026
*Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury,
Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham
& Weybridge*



NEW ELEMENTARY
COMMUNITIES
LEARNING TOGETHER

- Increased principal and staff allocation to support new K-5 learning communities.
- Strategic academic supports through increased academic intervention and K-2 and 3-5 teaming structures.
- Increased after-school opportunities.

ACSD Annual Meeting
February 24, 2026 @ 7pm
Middlebury Union High School
79 Charles Ave, Middlebury



EXPANDED PRESCHOOL
& EARLY CHILDHOOD
INITIATIVE

- Increased access to high-quality preschool to increase kindergarten readiness.
- Dedicated administrative and teaching positions, and a facility to support expanded early childhood services.

Read the full FY27 Budget Book
& explore links in this document



FOCUSED STRUCTURAL
SUPPORTS

- Access to **high-quality curriculum delivery across all K-5 classrooms.**
- Allocated strategic Special Education administrative assistance to **increase staff focus on student progress.**





SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the responsibilities I treasure most as Superintendent is the time I spend with our seniors as they prepare to graduate. Their dedication leads them to be insightful, curious, and passionate human beings with hope and confidence. This is a testament to the families, communities, and educators who nurture their growth during their time within our schools.

As educators, we are committed to providing an education that helps each student follow their own path through school and after graduation. Our current education landscape presents formidable challenges. As Vermont contends with how to preserve our sense of place and tradition in the presence of shrinking populations and rising costs, in ACSD, we are committed to having conversations together about how to meet these challenges. We have prepared a budget for you that puts student learning and the needs of taxpayers at the center.

The FY 27 budget represents a continuation of the investments our communities generously supported as we work to strengthen academic achievement in mathematics and literacy for all students. New FY 27 investments are dedicated to supporting new learning communities forming as Shoreham and Bridport students learn together next year, and Ripton and Salisbury students embark on their second year as a combined learning community.

Within each of our schools, our leaders and staff report a strong and sustained focus on student learning. As a district, we have a renewed focus on collecting and sharing evidence of student learning with families and with each other. This priority emerged from our successful K-12 accreditation visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and the International Baccalaureate. We look forward to deliberately sharing more evidence of diverse types of student learning in the months ahead.

Our students are the pride of their communities, and they thrive when we work together. I look forward to deepening our partnership as we continue to advocate for the future of Vermont's children.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy K Baker, EdD, Superintendent of Schools



2025 District Highlights

- 2025 UVM Outstanding Teachers: *Jenn Larocque* (Elementary) & *Ben Krahn* (Secondary)
- 2025 Barbara Whittemore Staff Awards: *Sarah Johnstone*, MUHS Admin Assistant & *Breaya Walker*, Paraprofessional
- National Board Certification: 8 teachers (+3 pursuing certification), 2 nurses
- 75% of licensed staff hold *Master's Degrees*
- Enhanced summer learning institutes for ACSD Educators
- First US public school district to complete International Baccalaureate & NEASC [joint accreditation process](#)
- Newly implemented [Shared Understanding of High Quality Learning](#) for all



Flynn Center's Les Giraffe's 2025-2026 Districtwide Welcome Event

- Class of 2025 achievements and post-secondary plans: 36% earning IB credentials (25 full IB Diploma candidates); 68% 4 year colleges, 3% 2 year colleges, 3% career education or apprenticeship programs. 19% employment, 7% Gap year
- *New K-5 instructional specialist model* to strengthen math and literacy instruction
- Coordinated K-12 alternative programming
- *2025 State Championships: MUHS - Unified Basketball, D1 Football, D2 Girls Volleyball & MUMS - Girls Cross Country*
- New MUMS Peer Leaders "PALS" to support 6th grade transition



OPERATIONS & FINANCE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In the tenth budget of the unified Addison Central School District marks a pivot point. We are no longer simply reacting to the "recovery era" but are proactively designing a district that can thrive within a transformed Vermont educational landscape.

Guided by the FY24 ACSD Strategic Plan and the continuous leadership of Dr. Baker, this budget reflects a sustained commitment to addressing historical inequities by continuing to develop our Block Budgeting framework. As a companion model to our traditional cost centers, the blocks provide a clear model for both the magnitude and the intent of our investment areas.

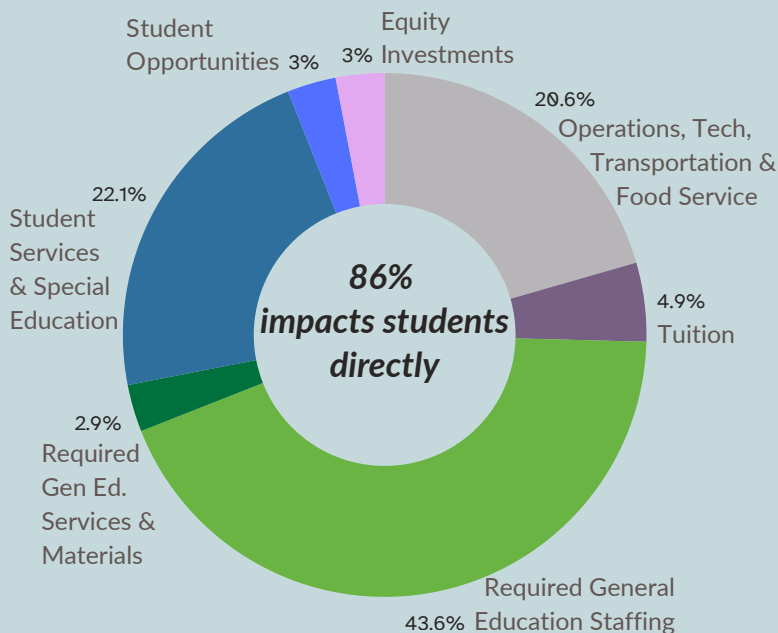
The Vermont public education sector is currently navigating a complex and dynamic era of fiscal and regulatory shifts. While FY26 was about optimizing our learning environment, FY27 is focused on refining the "zero-based" philosophy and resilience for future fiscal years. Here is how:

1. **Equity-Driven Blocks:** We have further refined our Block Budgeting System to ensure that resources—staffing, specialized programming, and intervention services—are distributed based on the specific needs of each school community, rather than historical precedent.
2. **Fiscal Stewardship:** Recognizing the need to deliver a spending plan that balances affordability and opportunity, we have maintained a "sustainability-first" approach. By reimagining status quo resources, we are funding innovation through internal efficiency rather than new taxpayer dollars.
3. **Transparency:** The FY27 Budget continues the trend towards systematic and data-driven resource allocations. This budget continues the work of refining the methods by which staffing ratios follow enrollment, specialized services follow individual needs, and opportunities are funded equitably across all of our schools.

Despite the headwinds of change created by Act 73, our disciplined approach to budgeting has allowed us to present a plan that protects the core of the ACSD experience. We are not just weathering the storm; we are building a more equitable and sustainable learning community for our students.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Corrente, Director of Finance and Operations

FY2027 Proposed Budget



FY27 Education Spending Projection

(the amount to be raised by local taxes)

Total Expense :	\$ 52,995,189
less offsetting revenue:	\$ <u>10,423,357</u>
Projected FY27 Ed Spending:	\$ 42,576,137

Increase of \$1,203,527 (2.91%) over FY26

FY27 ACSD School District tax rate = \$1.65

Increase of \$0.035 (2.19%) over FY26

FY27 Per Pupil Spending = \$15,638

Increase of 3.58% over FY26 and below the AOE's estimated excess spending threshold of \$16,331 per pupil.

BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

In 2025, the Board continued to work with Superintendent Baker and her team to operationalize our three foundational goals from the 5-year Strategic Plan. Deliberately rooted in equity, they focus on students' **access** to high-quality learning opportunities, sense of **belonging**, and academic **success**. To support the successful implementation of the plan, we have worked to align our board policies, practices, and decision-making, including our Community Engagement and Vision policy, to help us partner well with our communities, and our District's school assignment policy, which will provide caregivers with more flexibility regarding their child's assigned elementary school.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and thoughtful discussions that made this equity-based budget a reality, thanks to the efforts of the District and building leaders, staff, and community members. I also want to acknowledge two particularly challenging decisions:

- Supporting the Superintendent's recommendation to place Ripton students into Salisbury Community School for the 2025-26 school year to ensure the integrity of their educational program. After additional input from district administration and the Ripton community, the Board decided to invoke Article 14 of the District Charter to place the decision of whether or not to close the Ripton Elementary School building before the ACSD voters. This vote is now presented to ACSD voters on Town Meeting on March 3rd.
- Voting to move Shoreham students to Bridport Central School, beginning in the 2026-27 school year. This decision was informed by student outcome data across our elementary schools and input from District administrators, building principals, and staff on the strongest approaches for improving student outcomes. A joint Bridport and Shoreham community working group formed in the spring to explore a K-5 single-grade configuration model; feedback from this group and members of both the Bridport and Shoreham communities helped guide the Board's decision.

The FY27 budget presented to the Board was developed with transparency and equity-based budgeting principles at the forefront, while continuing to support the Board's strategic priorities. Knowing that healthcare and wage increases would again drive costs up, the Board directed the Superintendent to cap education spending increases at 3%. The Board agrees that the proposed budget provides an equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs and goals of every ACSD student.

It is with confidence and genuine commitment to our ACSD community that we present this budget to you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Wilson, ACSD Board Chair



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