

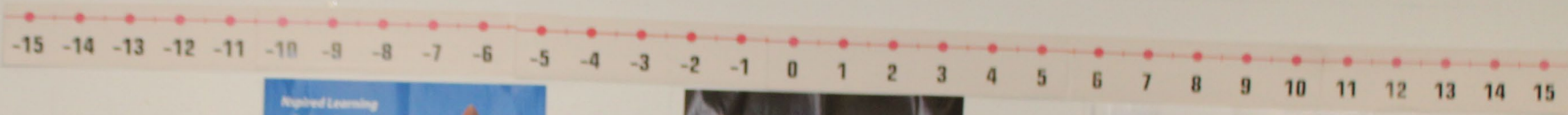
Amity Regional School District 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

- Superintendent's Budget Proposal
- Amity Board of Education
- Jennifer P. Byars, Ed.D.
- February 2026



Amity BOE Bylaw 9132.6

- AFC shall review and discuss Superintendent's proposed budget
- *Presentation shall include review of accomplishments and objectives for subsequent year*
 - Annual State of the District Report which details anticipated financial needs of the District regarding academic, facility, and athletic programs and other duties under Connecticut law
- Shall include 3-year plan for equipment and textbooks
- AFC must forward budget recommendation to the BOE by March 1
- BOE must deliberate and vote by March 15



ACADEMICS





CURRENT ACADEMICS

- 28 Advanced Placement(AP) Courses
- 56 Advanced Placement(AP) Sections
- 483 students enrolled in AP classes; 1031 course enrollments
- 47 Honors courses offered

CURRENT ACADEMICS

- 21 Dual Enrollment Classes
- 422 students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes
- 73 students enrolled in Science Research Project
- 75 Student Organizations & Clubs – ARHS
- 36 Student Organizations & Clubs – AMSB & AMSO

Student Achievement & Readiness

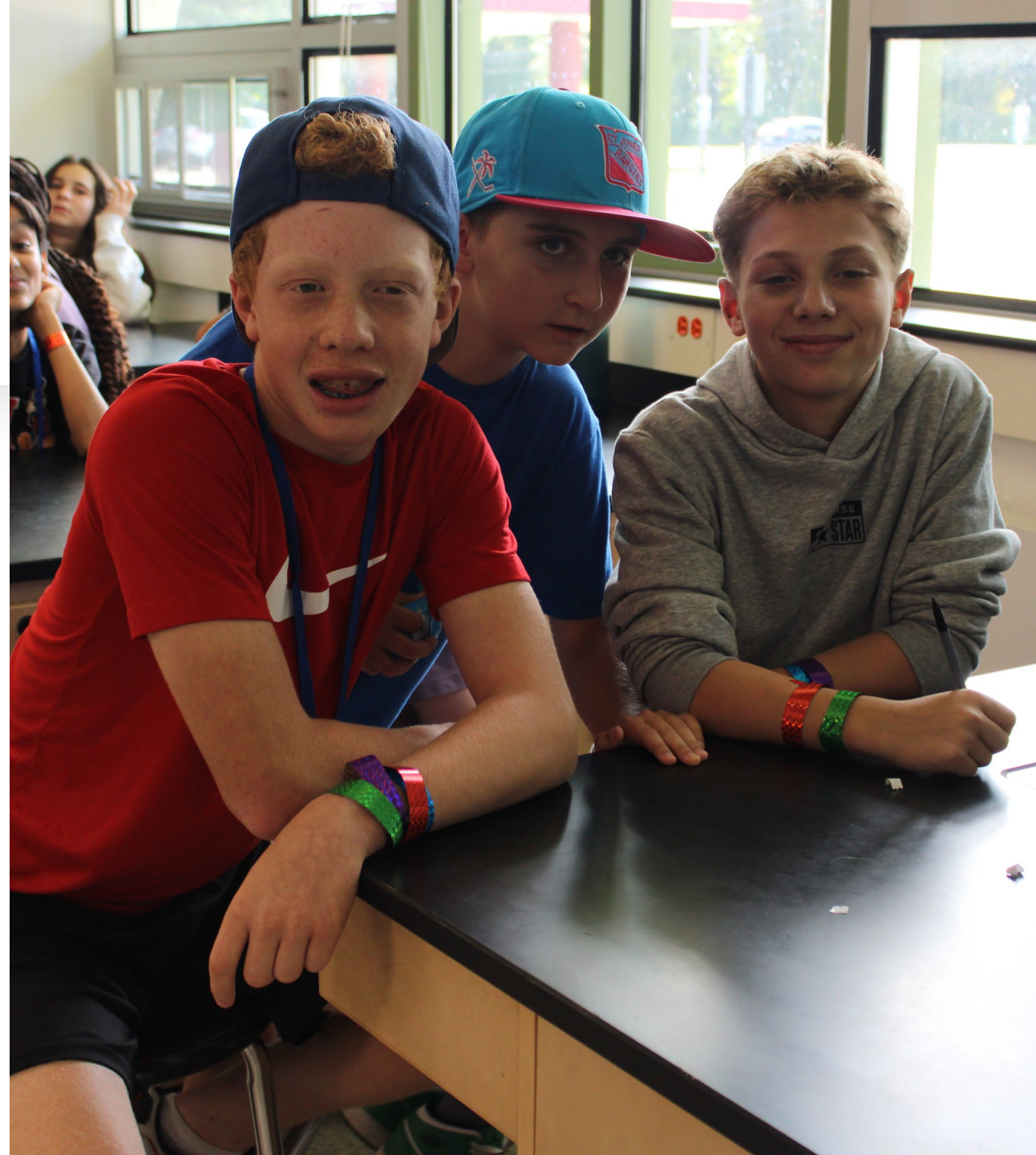
- **National Merit Recognition:**
 - 16 National Merit Commended Scholars
 - 8 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists
- **Advanced Placement Performance (2025):**
 - 790 AP exams administered to 376 students
 - 92% earned a score of 3 or higher
 - 74% earned a score of 4 or 5
- **Career & Experiential Learning:**
 - 308 seniors completed UELP internships
 - 9 seniors completed Senior Interest Projects / Senior Summit prior to graduation
 - 9 students expected to achieve the requirements for the Pre-Apprenticeship Program (2025–2026)

Academic Excellence

- **National Language Exams:** Amity students earned 91 national awards in French, Latin, and Spanish in 2025, continuing a strong upward trend (65 in 2022 → 91 in 2025)
- **State & National Academic Competitions:** Students earned multiple top-three placements at the HOSA State Leadership Conference and won a national junior geography competition
- **Portrait of the Graduate (POG) Day:** First districtwide POG Day showcased junior portfolio presentations of Amity's five graduate characteristics, appraised by Amity staff and BOW district partners
- **Underclassmen Awards:** 160 students in Grades 9-11 were honored with a total of 235 different awards distributed during the 2025 Underclass Awards Night.

Innovation, STEAM & Career Pathways

- **CTE Achievement:** In just its second year, ARHS CTE placed 1st and 3rd statewide in the Alternative Energy Vehicle Race against experienced programs
- **STEAM Day:**
 - 375 fifth-grade students participated from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge
 - Led by 100+ high school students and 30 staff, highlighting future STEAM opportunities
- **Amity student won the 2024 Congressional App Challenge for Connecticut's Third Congressional District**
- **Science Research Program (2024–2025):** ARHS students competed in local, state, and national science fairs and competitions, researching various topics, including health and engineering. Earned over 37 awards and accolades, including CT ASA Poster Competition – 1st Place, UB RISE – 1st Place, Pfizer Computational Biology & Bioinformatics Award, and Stanley Black & Decker Applied Technology Award.



Leadership & Staff Excellence

- **Teacher of the Year & Excellence Awards:**
 - **Jeremy Iverson** named *Amity* Teacher of the Year
 - **Kelly Stoner** received the *Amity* Award of Excellence
- **PTSO Teacher of the Year: Xia Feng**, Mandarin Teacher and World Language Department Chair, honored at Senior Awards Night
- **Gold Pen Awards:** Peer-selected staff recognized for significant contributions:
 - **Tom Ward (AMSB), John Simone (AMSO), LeeAnn Browett (ARHS)**

ACADEMICS: Amity Graduates

CLASS OF 2025

96% - 4 Year Graduation Rate

86 % - 4 Year Schools

4% - 2 Year Schools

5% - Military/Work/Gap Year

4% - Trade Apprenticeship

<1% - Undecided

177 awards and 176 scholarships totaling over \$232,000 to members of the Class of 2025



ACADEMICS: Amity Graduates

CLASS OF 2026 (2/5/2026)



- Early Decision applications submitted – 70
- Early Action applications submitted – 1307
- Restrictive Early Action applications submitted – 14
- Regular/Rolling Decision applications submitted – 1741
- 489 students report admission



ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

SEASON	ATHLETES
FALL 2024	416 HS
WINTER 2024	335 HS
SPRING 2024	467 HS
FALL 2025	398 HS, 229 MS
WINTER 2025	367 HS, 94 MS

- 31 High School Varsity Sports
- 13 Middle School Sports (per school)
- MS, HS, ATA Unified Sports Program

- Amity Regional High School – 2024-2025 CIAC Michael's Achievement Cup "Class Act School" recipient



The Teams

- **2024-2025**
 - 5 SCC Champions
 - 5 SCC Champion Runners-Up
 - 7 SCC Divisional Champions
- **Fall 2025**
 - 1 Class L CIAC Champion
 - 2 SCC Champions
 - 1 Class LL CIAC Runner-Up
 - 2 SCC Divisional Champion

The Athletes & Coaches

- **2024-2025**
 - 73 SCC All-League Athletes
 - 30 All-State Student Athletes
 - 5 SCC Players of the Year
 - 5 SCC Coaches of the Year
- **Fall 2025**
 - 28 SCC All-League Student-Athletes
 - 7 All-State Student-Athletes
 - 1 SCC Player of the Year
 - 1 SCC Coach of the Year



ARTS



Musical Arts

- **State-Level Achievement:**
Amity students earned All-State Music Festival selection and CAS High School Arts Awards
- **Districtwide Performances:**
Spring concerts held across AMSB, AMSO, and ARHS, including orchestra, band, choir, Tri-M, and MusicFest
- **Quality & Engagement:**
Adjudicated performances and community events reflect strong instruction and student leadership





Visual Arts

- **State & Juried Recognition:** Students earned CAS Outstanding Arts Awards and were selected for the ASAP Celebration of Young Photographers, with work exhibited at the Mattatuck Museum
- **Community Exhibition:** Student artwork displayed in local gallery shows at town libraries, increasing visibility and community connection
- **Program Impact:** Visual arts programming supports creativity, technical skill development, and authentic public presentation

Performing Arts

District Productions

- *Shrek, The Musical Jr.*
- *Willy Wonka Jr.*
- *A Prelude to a Kiss*
- *Coming Spring 2026 – My Fair Lady*

Statewide Recognition: Amity's 2025 production of *The Little Mermaid* received 9 Stephen Sondheim Award nominations, including a 16th consecutive Best Musical nomination

- Nominations recognized direction, choreography, technical design, orchestra, ensemble, and stage management



2026-2027 Budget Overview



C.G.S. Chapter 164, Section 10-51

The Regional School board shall present a budget which includes a statement of

1. *estimated* receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year,
2. *estimated* receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year,
3. *estimated* surplus or deficit in operating funds at the end of the current fiscal year,
4. bonded or other debt,
5. *estimated* per pupil expenditure for the current and for the next fiscal year, and
6. such other information as is necessary in the opinion of the board.

Board of Education

MISSION

To enable every Amity student to become a lifelong learner and a literate, caring, creative, and effective world citizen.

GOALS

1. Continuously improve instruction, cultivate creativity, and enhance student engagement and performance.
2. Enhance the efficient and effective use of resources.
3. Foster a supportive climate for students and adults.

COLLABORATOR

A collaborator is a learner who is an active contributor and works inclusively with others toward a goal while being aware of their unique impact on the world and the world's impact on them.



COMMUNICATOR

A communicator is a learner who is able to clearly, confidently and effectively read, write, speak and listen across various formats and contexts.



EMPATHIZER

An empathizer is a learner who continuously grows their capacity to understand multiple perspectives.



PLANNER

A planner is a learner who is able to independently balance demands, responsibilities, and priorities to fulfill their goals, obligations, and aspirations.



PROBLEM SOLVER

A problem solver is a learner who accepts challenges with curiosity, passion, and creativity while thinking critically to arrive at a variety of possible solutions.



B

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A



Budget Process

Contractual Obligations

Federal & State Mandates

School & Department
Requests

Collaborative process to: 1) find efficiencies & savings; 2) prioritize/eliminate new requests; 3) reduce/combine redundancies

Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Budget Review and Feedback from AFC/BOF

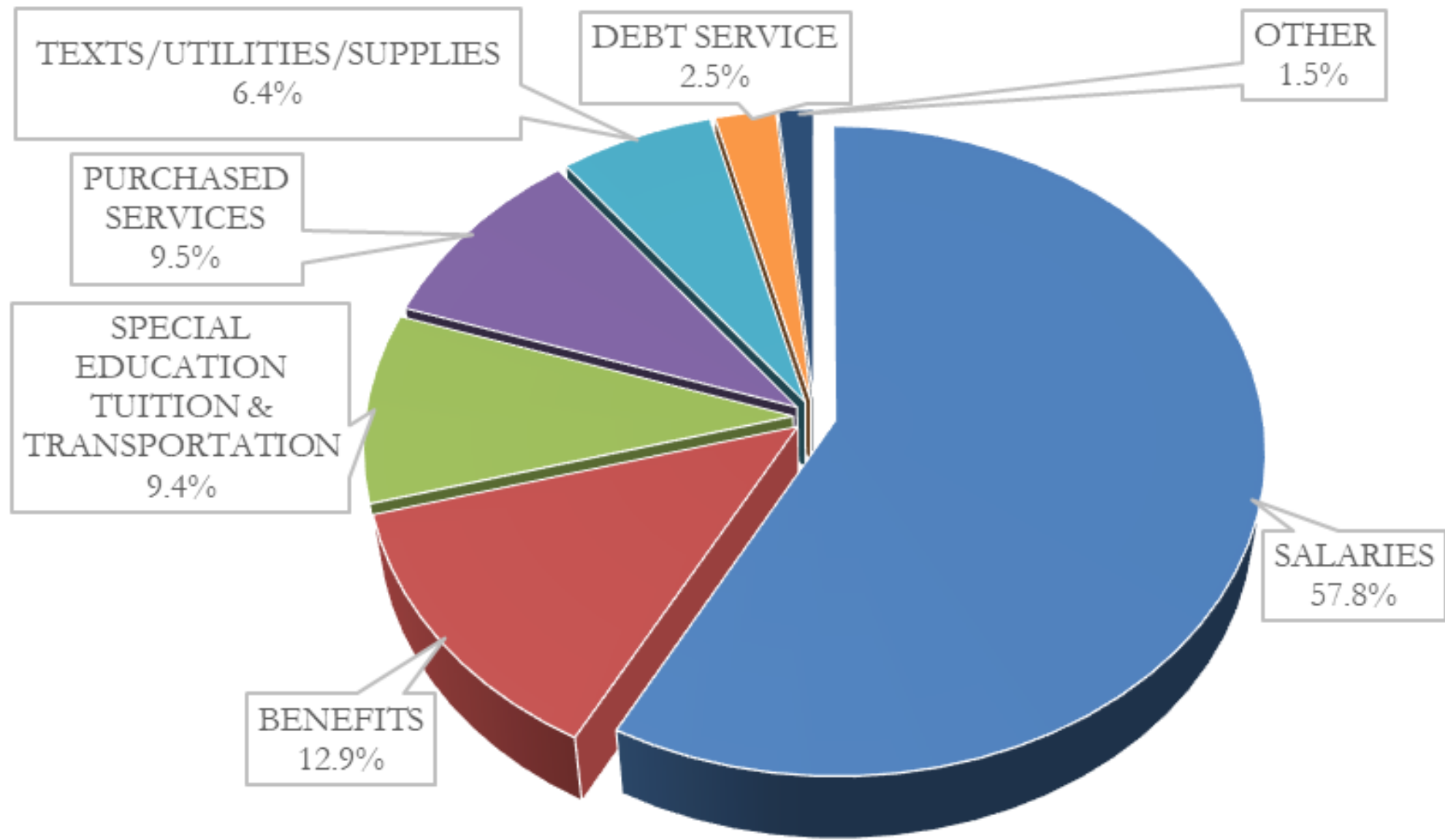
Review and Adoption by Board of Education

2026-2027 Town Allocations

February 2, 2026

	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>	<u>\$ Variance</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
Bethany	\$9,160,226	\$9,445,724	\$285,498	3.12%
Orange	\$27,533,537	\$27,427,439	(\$106,098)	(0.39%)
Woodbridge	\$20,142,040	\$20,662,793	\$381,188	1.89%
Other Revenue	\$1,273,196	\$20,523,228	\$334,587	22.6%
Total	\$58,108,999	\$59,004,174	\$895,175	1.54%

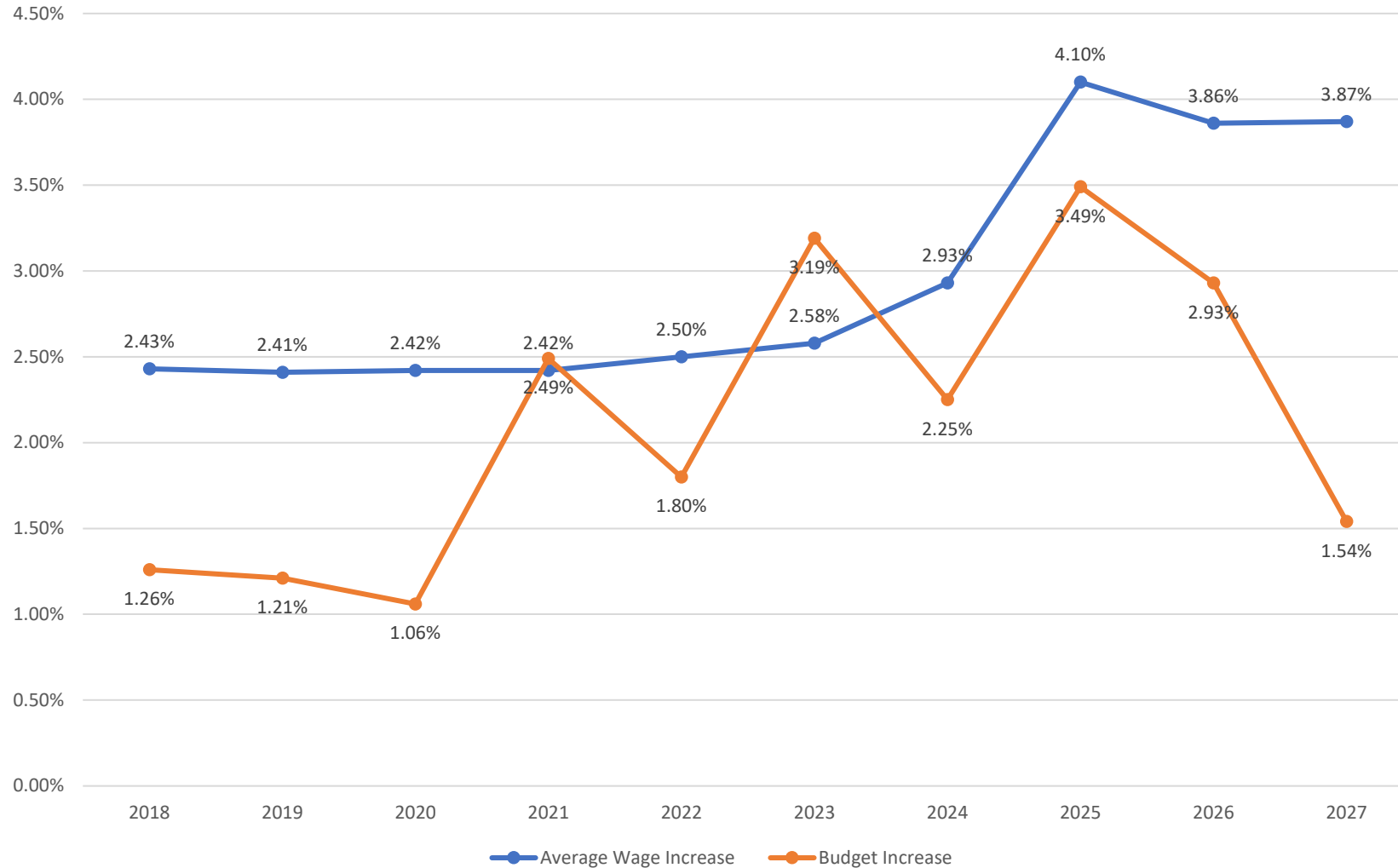
PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET



Budget Drivers

- Contractual Salary Increases
- Medical Benefits
- Strategic Plan
 - Revised Middle School Schedule
 - Career Pathways
 - Curriculum Implementation
- Decline in Debt Service
- Transportation
- Technology
- Pupil Services
- Personnel Requests
- Stable Enrollment (↑66)
- Unfunded State Mandates
- Uncertain State/Federal Revenue

Contractual Increases vs. Budget Increases




Health Insurance Data

- The District maintains a reserve of 18% of costs
 - Our insurance consultants categorize reserves as Strong, Moderate and Low
 - Strong – 22.56%
 - Moderate – 19.03%
 - Low – 15.51%
 - Small size groups, like the District, experienced more volatility in claims
 - Low reserves are higher risks for small size groups; the District maintains a reserve in the moderate range to avoid a larger budget increase
- **Recent advisement is trending "several points higher" than the current 14% estimate**

Amity Regional School District Strategic Priorities

- Continue support for all comprehensive academic programming
 - Humanities and STEM classes
 - AP & Dual Enrollment classes, Intervention supports
 - VPA, CTE, World Language, Health/PE
 - Portrait of the Graduate Mastery Portfolio/UELP
 - District-wide capacity for High Quality Instruction (HQI)
- Revise middle school schedules to support increased number of student choice, electives, and life arts
- Increase opportunities for dual enrollment and development of career pathways for high school students
- Curriculum Implementation Support

Debt Service – 41.6% Decrease

Fiscal Year	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Total Debt Service
2025-26	2,325,000	235,850	2,560,850
2026-27	1,345,000	146,250	1,491,250
 2027-28	550,000	95,650	645,650
2028-29	550,000	68,150	618,150
2029-30	550,000	43,400	593,400
2030-31	550,000	26,900	576,900
2031-32	215,000	19,250	234,250
2032-33	215,000	14,950	229,950
2033-34	215,000	10,650	225,650
2034-35	215,000	6,350	221,350
2035-36	210,000	2,100	212,100
	\$6,940,000	\$669,500	\$7,609,500



Transportation Fiscal Impact

- 26 Daily Runs @ \$2,001,190
 - 22 Runs in BOW Budgets
- ~126 Special Education Runs @ \$1,085,886
- 9 Late Bus Runs @ \$109,640
- 667 Activity Runs @ \$282,050

- 8.36% (\$349,857) Increase from 2025-2026

Technology Fiscal Impact

Digital Learning Environment

- Student Devices (Lease payments)
- Endpoint Protection and Classroom Management
 - Aristotle
 - Arctic Wolf
 - Microsoft Defender
- Peripherals
 - Classroom audio upgrades
- Infrastructure End of Life
 - Switches
 - Battery Backups
 - Servers





Staff requests

- Specialized Lab Replacements
 - Music and Video Production
- Software for Teaching in the 1:1 Environment
 - NoRedInk
 - Magic School AI
 - Adobe Creative Cloud
 - BodyViz Software
- Promethean Boards/Large Displays
- Security Cameras

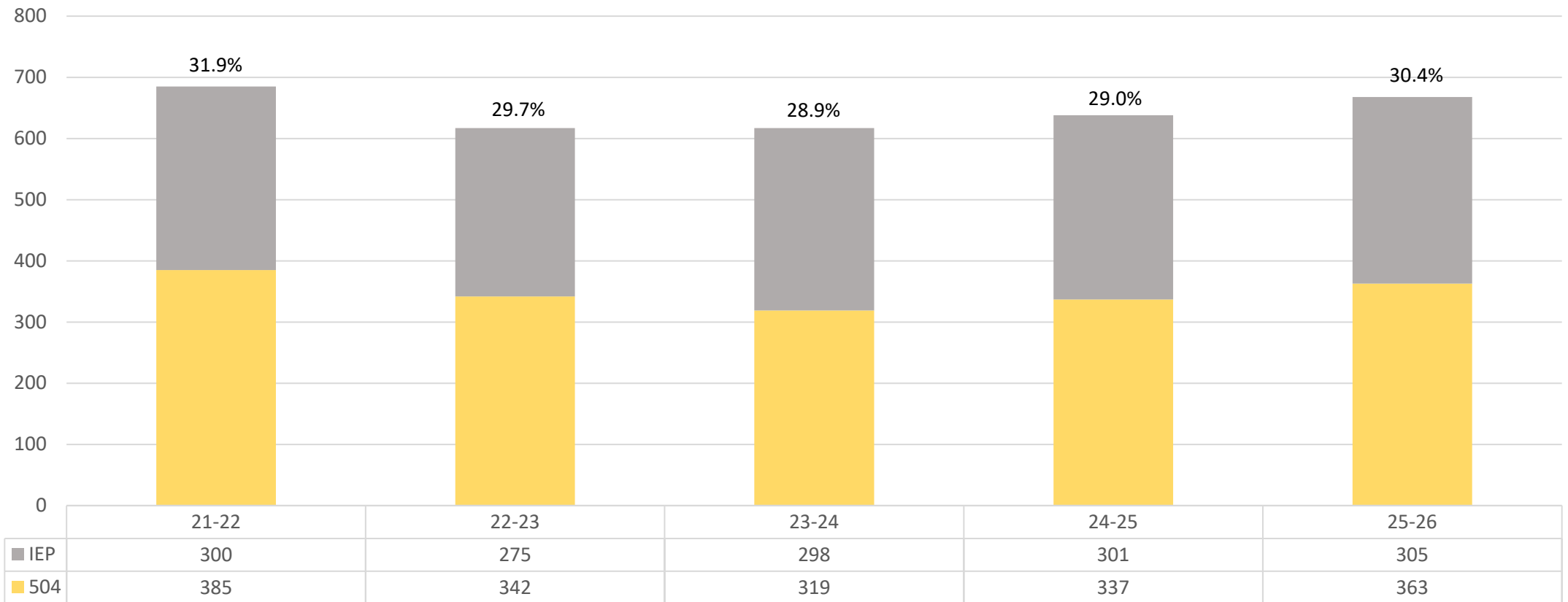
Technology Fiscal Impact

Pupil Services Department Responsibilities

Assistive Technology/Ipads/SPED AI	Amity Transition Academy (UNH/Alberts Magnus)
Board Certified Behavioral Analyst Services	Influenza Liaison
DCF-603 & Nexus Considerations	District Medical Advisor
Physical & Psychological Management Training	Hearing Impaired Services/Technology
Homebound Instruction	Hospital Instruction
McKinney-Vento (Homeless Students)	IDEA Mandated Services/IDEA Grant
Medicaid Compliance/Reimbursement	Occupational/Physical Therapy Services
Paraprofessionals (PL too) and RBTs	School Nursing Services
School Psychological/Social Work Services	Section 504 Mandated Services
Spartan Academy/Spartan Prep/School Engagement	Speech and Language Services
Title II, III, IV & IX Compliance/Coordination	Transportation (ECA, Magnet, OOD, VoAg, etc...)

Pupil Services Student Enrollment

Students Receiving Services



Pupil Services Department Budget Overview

Fixed Budget Costs

Budget Consideration	% Increase
Transportation	7.50 – 15.50%
Tuition	3.89 – 14.10%
Salaries (Certified and Non-Certified)	2.25 – 3.75%

Pupil Services Department Budget Overview



2.95%

Pupil Services Department Budget Overview

FISCAL UNCERTAINTIES

- Final Excess Cost Reimbursement Rate
- New Connecticut Legislation
- Further Reductions to IDEA Grant Funding
- Variability among the 27 anticipated outplaced students
- Unanticipated student mobility
- Unanticipated outplacements at Elementary Level
- McKinney-Vento Considerations

Personnel Fiscal Impact

- 1.0 Health & PE Teacher (reassign 1.0 from ARHS)
 - Requires scheduling changes at high school
- 1.0 World Language Teacher (shared between middle schools)
- Contracted CNA Program Services
- 1.0 STEM Instructional Coach (district-wide, support curriculum implementation)
- 1.0 Sped Teacher (ARHS SAILS Program & traditional Sped support)
- 2.0 Assistant Coaches (ARHS – Girls' Wrestling, Tennis)

A photograph of two students in a computer lab. A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a white hoodie, is seated at a desk in the background, looking at a large monitor. In the foreground, a young man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue puffer jacket, is also seated at a desk, looking at his monitor. Both desks are equipped with Apple iMac computers, white keyboards, and mice. A red smartphone and a pair of headphones are on the desk in the foreground. The background shows a white brick wall and various cables and equipment.

Technology 5-Year Plan

- Instructional Displays
- Specialty Labs
 - Music/Video (HS)
 - Technology Education (MSs)
- Security Cameras
- Desktop computer stations
- Technology Infrastructure Replacement
 - Servers, switches, access points

Textbook 5-Year Plan

- High School
 - Social Studies*
 - Science*
 - World Language
 - English
- Middle School
 - Social Studies
 - World Language
- Ongoing Costs
 - Middle & High School Math
 - Middle School Reader's Workshop

*Digital Subscription renewals are very few in 26-27, large number due for renewal in 2027-28



Capital Improvement Plan (5-Year Projects)

OPERATING BUDGET

- Annual Furniture Replacement
- Exterior Building Repair & Washing (ARHS)
- Art Classroom Modernization (ARHS)
- Replace Pipe Insulation
- Sidewalk and asphalt repairs
- Science Lab gas line replacements
- Statutory HVAC Inspections

RESERVE FUND (2%)

- Middle Schools Media Center Modernization
- Offset of other items identified for the 2027 Bond

Bond Referendum 2027

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- HVAC Replacement
- Roof Replacements
- Library Media Center Renovation
- Middle School Gymnasium/Stage Lighting
- Middle School Athletic Field Upgrades

HIGH SCHOOL

- PA/Lockdown System Replacement
- Brady Center Lighting Update
- Athletic Field Improvements (Baseball & Softball)
- Locker replacement in locker rooms
- Corridor and classroom floor repairs

Bond Process

1. Identify potential bond projects for development of 3-year budget forecasts
2. Facilities Committee reviews potential bond projects and identifies projects to move forward
 1. Can also identify projects for operational budget or educational reserve fund
3. Facilities Committee recommends projects to the Board of Education for approval
4. Amity Finance Committee also approves the financial cost of the projects
5. Board of Education establishes Building Committee to oversee design, funding, and construction
6. Board of Education must approve all Building Committee recommendations
7. Approval by referendum

2% to Reserve Fund for Educational Expenses

- The SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDATION below MAY BE CONSIDERED by the Amity Finance Committee and Amity Board of Education, at the latest, at the SEPTEMBER 2026 meeting.
- CONSIDER appropriating up to 2% or \$1,162,179 of the 2025-2026 operating budget to the Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures for future capital items.

Initial Budget Requests

- Initial Budget with all requests totaled \$59,834,588
 - Percent increase of 2.97%
 - Dollar increase of \$1,725,588
- Administrators' Discussion reduced requests
 - Reduced requests by \$386,725 to bring budget request to 2.30% increase
- Superintendent, Administrators, and Finance staff further reduced requests
 - Reduced request by \$54,274 to bring budget request to 2.21% increase
- January bid price information, enrollment adjustments, new staff requests reduced
 - Further reduced request by \$390,316 to bring budget to 1.54% increase
- \$830,415 cut from initial budget requests

Average Daily Membership

	<u>October 2024</u>		<u>October 2025</u>		<u>Change</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Bethany	347	16.117%	353	16.457%	0.340%
Orange	1043	48.444%	1025	47.786%	(0.658%)
Woodbridge	763	35.493%	767	35.757%	0.264%
Total	<i>2153</i>		<i>2145</i>		

2026-2027 Town Allocations (as of February 2, 2026)

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CASBO (Connecticut Association of School Business Officers) Survey as of January 21, 2025
 CT Superintendents' Proposed Budget Increases Average – 5.34%; Range of 1.54% to 10.95%
 DRG-B Average – 5.49%; Range of 1.54% to 8.83%

Impact of Prior Year Credit

	<u>2026-2027 Variance</u>	<u>March 2026 Prior Year Credit</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Bethany	\$285,498	\$147,479	\$138,019
Orange	(\$106,098)	\$446,061	(\$552,159)
Woodbridge	\$381,188	\$305,064	\$76,124

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, February 9, 2026 – Board of Education Budget Presentation – 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, February 23, 2026** - Special Joint Meeting Amity Board of Education and Amity Finance Committee* – 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, March 9, 2026** – Regular BOE Meeting*
- Monday, April 6, 2026 – Public Hearing on Amity Budget – 6:00 p.m.
- Monday May 4, 2026 – Annual Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 5, 2026** – Referendum*



**Thank you for supporting your
Amity Students**