

**BET Budget Q&A**  
**BET Budget Committee Meeting**  
**February 5, 2026**

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**1. Special Education enrollment through the years**

GPS is building programs in-house. We now have appropriate placements located within our schools resulting in fewer students requiring outplacement to obtain their services. The programs are beneficial for students and families, while also being cost effective for the district and avoiding significantly higher outplacement tuition expenses.

**Special Education Population Percentage Outplaced in September**

- 2021-2022: **7.0%** of GPS Special Education population was outplaced
- 2024-2025: **2.5%** of GPS Special Education population was outplaced
- 2025-2026: **2.5%** of GPS Special Education population was outplaced

Note the lower percentage of GPS students who have been placed in a tuition-based school outside the district. If the district was still at 7%, we could have an additional 59 students outplaced.

*\$168,000 average cost of an OP x 59 additional students = \$9,912,000 (cost avoidance)*

**2. PreSchool Models**

- **Fairfield**: Early Childhood Center (five classrooms), with PreK also at two elementary school sites due to space issues.
- **Norwalk**: Childcare Center (six classrooms), opened in 2016 and the district wants to close the center due to space issues, lack of least restrictive environment, and program restrictions due to space. Wants to move towards having PreK at all of the elementary school sites.
- **Westport**: Stepping Stones PreK housed at an elementary school (four classrooms).
- **Stamford**: Four preschool classrooms at elementary schools, and one large centralized PreK program. The large program operates like an elementary school in regards to staff needs, leadership, custodial, and other building impacts.
- **New Canaan**: Program located at an elementary school. The three-year-old program is only four days per week, for five hours. The four-year-old program meets three hours on Monday and five hours, Tuesday-Friday.
- **Darien**: Program located at an elementary school.

**3. What do other districts charge for breakfast and lunch**

See page 224 of the [Board of Education Proposed Budget 2026-2027](#) book for comparison information.

**4. Old Greenwich School: What is the cost of building new versus renovation?**

This has been studied several times. See page 2 of the Old Greenwich Building Committee [project update in October 2023](#).

## 5. What capital work has been performed at GHS Pool the last several years?

- 2023: Replace old wooden bleacher system with plastic telescoping poolside system
- 2024: Tile at pool deck removed and replaced with epoxy floor system. Included elevated areas at pool curb and judges perch; floor drains at pool deck and buried pipes replaced; bonding & ground of pool deck reinforcing steel
- Fall of 2024: Water appeared to be seeping out of the pool at the South East corner. The water was puddling on the new epoxy flooring and was considered a possible slip hazard as there is no drain in that location.
  - Upon further review it appeared that the water was coming through the “curb” around the pool, possibly through a crack or a cold joint from the addition of the curb installed.
  - Connecticut Aquatics (CA), GPS’ pool maintenance vendor, along with TLBA Architecture LLC was brought in to consult on the issue.
  - Further investigation showed that ceramic tiles on the inside of the pool were loose and falling off at the general vicinity of the cold joint between the pool and the added curb.
  - The pool was drained in order to complete further visual investigation as well as to make any minor repairs.
  - During visual review, the professionals noted that the four drains in the bottom of the pool that were augmented to meet the VGB Act were NOT in compliance and needed immediate attention in order to continue operations in the pool.
  - GPS staff immediately installed an emergency stop button located on the wall outside of the locker room. GPS’ athletic department staff were informed and trained on the operation of the button.
  - On January 30, 2025, TLBA submits full review of the natatorium and outlines issues and non-conformity; including, but not limited to the following areas of concern:
    - Pool depth and overhead clearance for diving board
    - Current depth has slight intrusion into diving hopper under the dive board
    - An existing steel girder and other infrastructure items encroach on the regulated overhead dive area
    - The four main drains that were augmented in 2009 to meet the requirements of the VGB Act are NOT compliant. (*There is an issue with the sumps associated with the drains that are currently in review. The 2009 vendor Drakeley Pools disagrees with TBLA findings*)
    - The pool filtration system is dated and in need of replacement. The filtration system, including pumps and filters, is in very close proximity to electrical panels and should be moved
    - The back wash system discharges to a storm drain that does not go thru the sewage ejector system
    - The perimeter of the deck does not meet current Department of Public Health codes of 5-foot minimum. This hampers emergency responders as well as access for mobility challenges.

- No separate entrance or seating area for spectators. Visitors should not be allowed on the pool deck

**6. What are the tuition rates for FY27?**

The Board of Education's Budget Committee will be addressing this soon and then will bring it to the full Board at a future business meeting this school year.

**7. What are the student parking fees at Greenwich High School?**

\$55 per semester for seniors.

\$20 for juniors: They can park the last month of their junior year once the seniors leave for internship.

Parking procedures and rules are found on [the school's website](#).