

FEBRUARY 1, 2026



BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADVOCACY & BUDGET MANUAL 2026-2027



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 45 LYON TERRACE

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Royce Avery

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SUPERINTENDENT LETTER

Dear Bridgeport Public Schools Community,

This moment calls on all of us. Parents, educators, neighbors, and partners across Connecticut must stand together for one simple truth: every child in our state deserves a high-quality education.

When we invest in children, the benefits reach far beyond the classroom. Strong schools build a stronger economy, reduce long term public costs, and create safer, more engaged communities. Education is the foundation of a thriving Connecticut.

Bridgeport serves more than 19,700 students, many of whom require multilingual or special education supports. Our staff works tirelessly to meet these needs, yet we continue to operate in a funding system that does not reflect the real cost of educating our students. For too long, Bridgeport has been expected to do more with less.

This is why we created the Bridgeport Public Schools Advocacy Manual. It is a clear, factual guide that explains the challenges we face and gives our community the tools to advocate for fair, equitable, and sustainable funding.

This work is not about politics. It is about children. It is about fairness. It is about ensuring opportunity is not determined by a zip code.

We cannot do this alone. I am asking our community and our partners across the state to use this manual, raise your voices, and help advocate for long term change. When we speak together with unity and purpose, we are impossible to ignore. Fair funding is not optional. It is a responsibility. And our students cannot wait.

Let us stand together for Bridgeport.

Let us stand together for the future of Connecticut.

With appreciation and resolve,

Royce Avery, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent
Bridgeport Public Schools



JOINT STATEMENT

from Interim Superintendent Dr. Royce Avery, Mayor Joseph P. Ganim, the Bridgeport City Council, the Bridgeport Board of Education, and the Bridgeport Legislative Delegation

As we approach budget season, we stand united in a shared commitment to advocate for the resources necessary to support Bridgeport Public Schools. Our children and our students remain a top priority, and this moment reflects a collective responsibility to do what is right for them.

These challenges were not created overnight. Decades of flat or limited school funding, combined with rising costs and increasing student needs, have brought Bridgeport Public Schools to a critical point. This is a long-standing situation that requires honest acknowledgment and coordinated action.

Despite serving students with some of the highest needs in Connecticut, Bridgeport Public Schools has not received funding that fully reflects those needs. Together, we are standing for our students, our families, our city, and our future.

Today, the City of Bridgeport, including the Mayor's Office, the Bridgeport City Council, the Bridgeport Board of Education, and the Bridgeport Legislative Delegation, is working closer than ever in a unified effort to address these challenges.

At the same time, Bridgeport Public Schools continues to work closely with the State of Connecticut to strengthen and streamline financial systems, including implementing the 34 recommendations from the forensic audit. This work is focused on accountability, transparency, and long-term stability.

By standing together as city leaders, educators, legislators, and community members, we reaffirm our shared responsibility to students and our belief that educational opportunity should not be determined by zip code.

DR. ROYCE AVERY TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED FY 26-27 BIENNIUM BUDGET

BOARD OF EDUCATION

City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604



BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Changing Futures and Achieving Excellence Together"

ROYCE AVERY, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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February 20, 2025

Dr. Royce Avery Testimony on Governor's Proposed FY 26-27 Biennium Budget

Representative Walker, Senator Osten, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for holding this public hearing on the Governor's proposed budget for elementary and secondary education. I am proud to submit testimony in my capacity as Acting Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools.

I am pleased to see that the phase-in for fully funding ECS has been accelerated to the FY26-27 biennium budget. However, even with this increase, Bridgeport Public Schools remains in a very dire financial strain. Over the last decade, the Bridgeport Board of Education has had to make extremely difficult decisions to cut essential services and support, totaling millions and millions of dollars of cuts. This has resulted in a structural deficit in the operating budget and is compounded with the exhaustion of The Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. We were already in a crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, our children require and deserve even more support and resources.

Specialized resources have become the largest growing cost in our budget, including over \$115 million in costs for out of district placement in special education programs. The average cost per student of out of district placement is \$107,500, with more intricate placements costing upwards of \$ 32,400,000.

Additionally, our need for specialized resources for high needs students including multilingual learners and students experiencing homelessness continues to grow. Every child, regardless of their needs, deserves to receive a quality education.

I also want to address the lack of increase in FY27. Every single school district will see an increase in operating costs, including areas such as staffing, utilities, and maintenance. The annual increase in these operating costs without any additional funding is one of the driving factors resulting in massive cuts in essential services throughout our district. Additionally, the lack of an increase in funding for FY27 exacerbates the financial strain, making it even more challenging to maintain the quality of education and services our students deserve.

In our latest round of personnel cuts to address our current budget deficit, the Bridgeport Board of Education has made the difficult decision to eliminate approximately 90 positions, with the potential for an additional 50 layoffs if no further funds are received. All of these positions are essential to give our students a well-rounded education, as they deserve.

The disparity between Bridgeport Public Schools and our surrounding suburban districts could not be more stark. The same can be said of our fellow urban centers including Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and Stamford. Last month, I stood with the mayors and superintendents from these five cities to advocate for \$545 million of additional funding for education. Collectively, these five cities serve populations with an average of 83% of high needs students, compared to the state average of 49%. We disproportionately serve many more high needs students, yet our per pupil spending lags well behind our suburban counterparts. Our children deserve the same quality education that other children only a few miles away receive, but unless our urban public schools receive proportional funding for our needs, we will never be able to reach parity.

STATE RELEASES BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FORENSIC AUDIT

FINDINGS IDENTIFY NO MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM FISCAL STABILITY

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) today released the results of an independent forensic audit of the Bridgeport Public School District. It states, the forensic audit did not reveal any evidence of fraud or misappropriation of District assets. However, the audit identified several deficiencies related to board oversight, management communication, and financial transparency, which led to certain procedures not being followed and the misrepresentation of financial information.

Conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA), the audit examined the district’s FY 2024 and FY 2025 operational budgets, with a focus on the alignment between expenditures and budgeted allocations, as well as the effectiveness of internal fiscal controls. The audit was initiated in response to concerns over Bridgeport’s financial instability—including a projected \$39 million deficit—and followed the State Board of Education’s vote to authorize the Commissioner to take the necessary action to support the district in March 2025.

“We extend our thanks to the independent auditors for helping to bring clarity and focus to this critical moment for Bridgeport,” said Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker. “The audit provides a clear and necessary roadmap to strengthen Bridgeport’s financial systems, including greater local board of education oversight, and restore confidence in its budgeting practices. This moment presents an opportunity to reset expectations and refocus our shared efforts on building a system rooted in stability, transparency, and trust—one that fully supports the 20,022 students in Bridgeport.”

Key results as indicated in the audit:

- Identification of lack of board oversight, inefficiencies, unusual budget transfers, misclassification of expenditures, and opportunities for improvements in several processes and internal controls procedures.
- Budget transfers were often made to cover budget shortfalls artificially, resulting in information regarding budget accuracy being obscured in routine review of the budget-to-actual financial results. Most notably, these practices were either not disclosed to the board of education or, when identified, were not acted upon.
- Misclassifications of certain expenditures were noted, resulting in actual expenditures that did not align with the budgeted allocations.
- Inefficiencies and lack of training as the primary fraud risks and part of the reason for the misalignment of expenditures to budgets.
- Departments were frequently excluded from the budget development process and lacked access to timely data, weakening strategic decision-making.
- This audit strictly examined the district’s financial practices and internal controls rather than the substance of the district’s funding priorities or decisions regarding how resources are allocated.

Next Steps

The audit makes 34 recommendations aimed at improving fiscal oversight, enhancing transparency, and reinforcing internal accountability within the district.

CSDE will ensure that the recommendations are acted upon through a coordinated response that will include the embedded Technical Assistance Team and may also include external partners with financial expertise. The audit has been shared with the Office of the Governor, Office of Policy and Management, and will be presented at upcoming meetings of both the Bridgeport Board of Education and the Connecticut State Board of Education. Briefings will be provided to the Bridgeport legislative delegation, municipal leaders, and other policy makers as appropriate.

The full report is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/press-room/files/cla-final-report.pdf>

THE ECS FORMULA

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

What Is the ECS Formula?

The ECS Formula stands for Education Cost Sharing.

It is how the State of Connecticut decides how much money each public school district receives to help pay for education.

Think of it as a way the state shares school funding so every child has a fair chance to succeed.

How Does the ECS Formula Work?

The ECS formula looks at:

- How many students a district serves
- How many students need extra support, such as students from low-income families or students learning English
- How much money a city or town can raise locally

Districts with greater student needs and fewer local resources are supposed to receive more state funding.

Why Does the ECS Formula Need to Be Updated?

The ECS formula is based on outdated information.

- The basic cost used to calculate funding per student has not been updated in 13 years
- School costs have increased, including staffing, transportation, utilities, and instructional materials
- Student needs have grown, especially in special education, language services, and mental health support

Using an outdated formula means the funding does not match today's real costs.

What Happens When the Formula Is Outdated?

When the ECS formula is not updated:

- Bridgeport does not receive its full, fair share of state funding
- The city must cover more school costs locally
- Schools must stretch limited resources further

This makes it harder to provide everything students need to succeed.

What Would Bridgeport Gain if the ECS Formula Were Updated?

If the ECS formula were fully updated and properly funded, Bridgeport Public Schools could receive tens of millions of additional dollars each year.

Some estimates show that aligning the formula with today's costs and student needs could result in over \$100 million more in state support over time.

This funding would help support:

- More teachers and classroom staff
- Stronger special education and language services
- Student mental health and academic supports
- Updated classroom resources and technology

This is not about extra spending.

It is about funding the true cost of educating Bridgeport students today.

ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS

The Issue

Bridgeport Public Schools is underfunded because Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula is outdated and does not reflect the real cost of educating today's students—especially those requiring special education and multilingual learner services.

Why This Is Statewide

- ECS has not been meaningfully updated in over a decade.
- Rising costs affect districts across Connecticut, not just Bridgeport.
- Students statewide have called for fair and equitable education funding.

Who Bridgeport Serves

- More than 19,700 students, the largest district in Connecticut.
- Over 50% require special education or multilingual learner services.
- In just three years, special education and ELL/ML enrollment increased by 2,000+ students.

Funding Inequity

- Bridgeport ranks 162nd out of 166 districts in per-pupil spending.
- Bridgeport educates students with the greatest needs using some of the fewest resources.

Not Overspending

- Bridgeport has more students per administrator and per teacher than peer districts.
- This shows efficiency, not excess.

Multilingual Learners

- 31.1% of Bridgeport students (6,222) are multilingual learners.
- ELL/ML enrollment grew 66% in five years.
- Bridgeport educates three times more multilingual learners than nearby districts combined.
- ECS does not adequately fund bilingual teachers, ESL staff, translators, or curriculum.

Special Education Costs

- Out-of-district placements average \$107,000 per student.
- Total special education costs exceed \$115 million annually, nearly one-third of the district's budget.
- These services are mandated and cannot be reduced.

TESTIMONY REGISTRATION AND WRITTEN SUBMISSION GUIDE

On **Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM**, the Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2C, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

This hearing is an important opportunity for our community to speak directly to state lawmakers about education funding and the state budget.

The Appropriations Committee's Public Hearing on k-12 Education will occur on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00pm in Room 2C of the LOB and via Zoom.

✓ Submit Written Testimony - General Comments on Governor's Budget - HB 5032

✓ Register for live testimony - *In person or zoom*

You must register by 3pm on Monday 2/16 for LIVE testimony

 Watch LIVE on YouTube

You have 3 minutes to speak, but your written testimony can be longer.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TEMPLATES (ENGLISH 1)

[HEADING]

February 17, 2026

Appropriations Committee

[Date]

[Your name]

[Your address]

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Somers, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee:

[WHO YOU ARE]

- I am a [YOUR ROLE: parent, worker, student] at [SCHOOL] in [your town].
- I am also a member of [your organization]. We belong to CT For All – a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for everyone in Connecticut.

[WHAT YOU ARE ASKING]

I am testifying on the Governor's Proposed Adjusted Budget for FY 2027 to increase the base ECS foundation amount that hasn't been changed since 2013 to keep up with cost of living adjustments and then modify the ECS formula to annually adjust the base of the formula to account for inflationary increase. Modifying the foundation for inflation would result in the state contributing more every year to support all students across the state.

Explain why the General Assembly should increase the ECS foundation amount.

[YOUR PERSONAL STORY] [parent/student/worker]

Make sure you answer some of these key questions and make your arguments as personal and compelling as possible:

- What impact will it have? On whom and/or where?
- What does this mean to individuals like you or those you represent?
- Tell a personal story if possible that is related to the bill or how the bill would have made a difference in your story
- Is there a fiscal impact? Positive or negative?
- What happens if this bill does pass/doesn't pass?
- What do you, students, and school workers need?
- How have your experiences changed in the last [# of years]?
- What is currently going well in your school?
- What issue is most pressing to you and your neighbors/classmates/colleagues?
- What solutions should lawmakers consider to address this issue?

[CONCLUSION - edit as needed]

Without increased investments and support, needs will continue to go unmet, educators will continue to burnout, and young people's potential will be limited. Now is the time for us to take real action by increasing funding and improving services for all children in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TEMPLATES (SPANISH)

[TÍTULO]

17 de febrero de 2026

Comité de Asignaciones

[Fecha]

[Su nombre]

[Su dirección]

El Senador Osten, el Representante Walker, el Senador Somers, el Representante Nuccio y miembros del Comité de Asignaciones:

[QUIÉN ERES]

- Soy [TU ROL: padre, trabajador, estudiante] en [ESCUELA] en [tu ciudad].
- También soy miembro de [su organización]. Pertenece a CT For All, una coalición estatal que lucha por un futuro mejor para todos en Connecticut.

[LO QUE ESTÁS PREGUNTANDO]

Testifico sobre el Presupuesto Ajustado Propuesto por el Gobernador para el año fiscal 2027, que busca aumentar el monto base del ECS, que no se ha modificado desde 2013, para adaptarse a los ajustes por costo de vida, y luego modificar la fórmula del ECS para ajustar anualmente la base de la fórmula y así tener en cuenta el aumento inflacionario. Modificar la base para reflejar la inflación resultaría en que el estado contribuya más cada año para apoyar a todos los estudiantes del estado.

Explique por qué la Asamblea General debería aumentar el monto fundacional de la ECS.

[TU HISTORIA PERSONAL] [padre/alumno/trabajador]

Asegúrate de responder algunas de estas preguntas clave y hacer que tus argumentos sean lo más personales y convincentes posible:

- ¿Qué impacto tendrá? ¿En quién y dónde?
- ¿Qué significa esto para personas como usted o aquellos a quienes representa?
- Cuente una historia personal, si es posible, que esté relacionada con el proyecto de ley o cómo el proyecto de ley habría marcado una diferencia en su historia.
- ¿Hay un impacto fiscal? ¿Positivo o negativo?
- ¿Qué pasa si este proyecto de ley se aprueba o no?
- ¿Qué necesitan ustedes, estudiantes y trabajadores escolares?
- ¿Cómo han cambiado tus experiencias en los últimos [# de años]?
- ¿Qué está funcionando bien actualmente en tu escuela?
- ¿Qué problema es el más urgente para usted y sus vecinos/compañeros de clase/colegas?
- ¿Qué soluciones deberían considerar los legisladores para abordar esta cuestión?

[CONCLUSIÓN - editar según sea necesario]

Sin mayores inversiones y apoyo, las necesidades seguirán sin satisfacerse, los educadores seguirán sufriendo agotamiento y el potencial de los jóvenes se verá limitado. Ahora es el momento de tomar medidas concretas, aumentando la financiación y mejorando los servicios para todos los niños de nuestro estado.

Gracias por la oportunidad de testificar. Con gusto responderé cualquier pregunta que tenga.

WRITTEN LOBBY TEMPLATES (ENGLISH 1)

Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is [Name], and I am a resident of Connecticut and a member of the Bridgeport community. I am writing to urge you to increase and equalize state funding for Bridgeport Public Schools, not only for the benefit of our students, but for the long term strength and stability of the entire state.

Bridgeport Public Schools serves more than 19,700 students, making it the largest district in Connecticut. More than half of our students require special education or multilingual learner services, and enrollment in these high need areas has grown by more than 2,000 students in the last three years. These needs require specialized staff, individualized supports, transportation, and services that come at significant cost.

Despite educating more students with substantially higher needs, Bridgeport ranks 160th out of 166 districts in Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil. Other large districts receive thousands more per student even though they serve fewer students overall. This inequity forces Bridgeport to do more with far fewer resources each year.

This is not only a Bridgeport problem. Underfunding the state's largest district has statewide consequences. Bridgeport educates the future workforce, taxpayers, and community members who will shape the economic and social health of Connecticut. When the largest district lacks adequate resources, the entire state feels the impact through increased social service costs, workforce shortages, and reduced economic competitiveness. Connecticut cannot afford for any major district, especially one of Bridgeport's size, to fall behind.

The rising cost of education makes this challenge even more urgent. Inflation has increased expenses for transportation, utilities, materials, contracted services, and staffing across the state. Yet state funding for Bridgeport has not kept pace, widening the gap between what it costs to educate students and what the district receives.

Special education is one of the most significant pressures, now costing more than 115 million dollars annually, nearly one third of the entire district budget. Out of district placements can exceed 107,000 dollars per student, and these expenses are mandated. Multilingual learner services also require sustained investment in trained bilingual staff, ESL teachers, paraprofessionals, translation services, and family communication supports.

Bridgeport's students deserve the same opportunities as students in every other Connecticut community. But just as importantly, Connecticut deserves a strong, educated future workforce, and that cannot happen if its largest district remains underfunded. Investing in Bridgeport is an investment in the economic, social, and civic health of our entire state.

I respectfully ask you to make equitable state funding for Bridgeport Public Schools a priority. The strength of Connecticut depends on the success of all its children, not only the ones who live within a specific district's boundaries.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the future of our state.

Sincerely,
[Name]

WRITTEN LOBBY TEMPLATES (SPANISH)

Estimados miembros de la Asamblea General de Connecticut:

Mi nombre es [Nombre], soy residente de Connecticut y miembro de la comunidad de Bridgeport. Le escribo para instarle a aumentar y equilibrar la financiación estatal para las Escuelas Públicas de Bridgeport, no solo para el beneficio de nuestros estudiantes, sino también para la fortaleza y estabilidad a largo plazo de todo el estado.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Bridgeport atienden a más de 19,700 estudiantes, lo que las convierte en el distrito más grande de Connecticut. Más de la mitad de nuestros estudiantes requieren educación especial o servicios de aprendizaje multilingüe, y la matrícula en estas áreas de alta necesidad ha aumentado en más de 2,000 estudiantes en los últimos tres años. Estas necesidades requieren personal especializado, apoyo individualizado, transporte y servicios con un costo considerable.

A pesar de educar a más estudiantes con necesidades considerablemente mayores, Bridgeport ocupa el puesto 160 entre 166 distritos en Gasto Corriente Neto por Alumno. Otros distritos grandes reciben miles de dólares más por estudiante, aunque atienden a menos estudiantes en general. Esta desigualdad obliga a Bridgeport a hacer más con muchos menos recursos cada año.

Este no es solo un problema de Bridgeport. La falta de financiación del distrito más grande del estado tiene consecuencias para todo el estado. Bridgeport educa a la futura fuerza laboral, a los contribuyentes y a los miembros de la comunidad que definirán la salud económica y social de Connecticut. Cuando el distrito más grande carece de los recursos adecuados, todo el estado sufre el impacto a través del aumento de los costos de los servicios sociales, la escasez de personal y la reducción de la competitividad económica. Connecticut no puede permitirse que ningún distrito importante, especialmente uno del tamaño de Bridgeport, se quede atrás.

El aumento del costo de la educación hace que este desafío sea aún más urgente. La inflación ha incrementado los gastos de transporte, servicios públicos, materiales, servicios contratados y personal en todo el estado. Sin embargo, la financiación estatal para Bridgeport no ha seguido el ritmo, lo que amplía la brecha entre lo que cuesta educar a los estudiantes y lo que recibe el distrito.

La educación especial es una de las presiones más importantes, con un costo anual de más de 115 millones de dólares, casi un tercio del presupuesto total del distrito. Las colocaciones fuera del distrito pueden superar los 107,000 dólares por estudiante, y estos gastos son obligatorios. Los servicios para estudiantes multilingües también requieren una inversión sostenida en personal bilingüe capacitado, profesores de inglés como segundo idioma (ESL), paraprofesionales, servicios de traducción y apoyo a la comunicación familiar.

Los estudiantes de Bridgeport merecen las mismas oportunidades que los estudiantes de cualquier otra comunidad de Connecticut. Pero, igual de importante, Connecticut merece una futura fuerza laboral sólida y capacitada, y eso no puede suceder si su distrito más grande sigue sin financiación suficiente. Invertir en Bridgeport es invertir en la salud económica, social y cívica de todo nuestro estado.

Les pido respetuosamente que prioricen la financiación estatal equitativa para las Escuelas Públicas de Bridgeport. La fortaleza de Connecticut depende del éxito de todos sus niños, no solo de los que viven dentro de los límites de un distrito específico.

Gracias por su tiempo y su compromiso con el futuro de nuestro estado.

Atentamente,
[Nombre]

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

In the Governor's proposed FY 2027 budget adjustments released in February 2026, Governor Ned Lamont has notably declined to change the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. Instead of revising the formula's base structure, the proposal maintains the existing statutory funding levels and phase-in schedule established in previous years.

Key ECS Provisions in the FY27 Proposal

- **Flat Funding:** The budget effectively "flat funds" the ECS grant for approximately 95% of school districts. While the total ECS program maintains a \$95 million increase over previous biennial levels, this reflects the continuation of previously approved funding rather than new formulaic changes.
- **No "Foundation" Increase:** Lamont's proposal does not increase the "foundation" amount—the base cost to educate one student—which has remained stagnant at \$11,525 since 2013.
- **Hold-Harmless Protection:** The budget includes a \$17.4 million hold-harmless provision for FY 2027 to ensure that no municipality receives less ECS funding than they did in FY 2026, despite what the formula's wealth and demographic adjustments might otherwise dictate.
- **Minor Adjustments:** Only 16 towns are projected to see minor funding increases, which are attributed strictly to annual data updates (enrollment and community wealth) rather than a shift in policy.

Future Outlook: The Blue-Ribbon Panel

Rather than implementing immediate formula changes, Governor Lamont announced he would sign an executive order to establish a Blue-Ribbon Panel on K-12 Education.

- **Mandate:** The panel is tasked with evaluating the ECS formula and other state education funding mechanisms to ensure they are data-driven and outcome-oriented.
- **Stakeholder Response:** This move has been criticized by some legislative leaders and education advocates who preferred an immediate adjustment to the formula to account for inflation and rising district costs.

Key education takeaways include:

- **Universal Free School Breakfast & Reduced-Price Lunch:** A major focus is a \$12.5 million investment to provide free breakfast for all K-12 students and eliminate reduced-price lunch copayments (making lunch free for qualifying students).
- **Statewide Literacy Coaching Network:** The proposal allocates \$4.5 million for a new, Mississippi-style network of literacy coaches to support kindergarten through third-grade teachers in 50 schools, specifically targeting a decline in reading scores.
- **Shift in Magnet School Funding:** The proposal eliminates \$12 million in supplemental funding for Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) that operate magnet schools, likely shifting these costs to local districts through increased tuition.
- **Increased Charter School Funding:** Funding for state charter schools is set to increase by \$5.3 million to cover enrollment growth and new, already-approved schools in New Haven and Stamford.
- **Special Education Funding Changes:** While special education funding remains largely flat, the proposal removes \$7 million in previously adopted, but "unspecified," special education funding.
- **Cell Phone Ban Support:** The Governor expressed support for a "bell-to-bell" cellphone ban in schools, aligning with legislative priorities.

K-12 Funding Talking points

High-needs students (low-income students, students with disabilities, and multilingual learners) are disproportionately served by Connecticut's largest cities, but we don't receive adequate funding to support their unique learning needs.

BPT DELEGATION 2025-2027

CONTACT INFO

| | BPT Delegation 2025-2027 | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
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| Rep. Steve Stafstrom, 129 th | Steven.stafstrom@cga.ct.gov | 860-240-8585, 800-842-8267 |
| Sen. Herron Gaston, 23 rd | Herron.gaston@cga.ct.gov | 860-240-0591 |
| Sen. Sujata Gadkar Wilcox, 22 nd | sujata.gadkarwilcox@cga.ct.gov | 860-240-0425 |

SUPERINTENDENT'S

PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION 2026-2027



ROOTED IN PURPOSE, DRIVEN BY PASSION

DISTRICT GOALS

Academic Achievement and Equity

Improve academic outcomes in literacy and mathematics through evidence-based instruction and targeted support, with measurable progress in closing access and achievement gaps for all students.

Begin the District-Wide Strategic Planning Process

To maintain a structurally balanced budget built on a comprehensive financial plan comprised of all fund sources that ensures real cost management and the most effective educational program possible.

Family and Community Engagement

Increase family engagement and outreach through improved communication, collaboration, and access to information.

Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability

Develop a long-term fiscal plan that aligns resources with strategic priorities and ensure transparent and equitable distribution of resources across schools and programs.

Talent Recruitment and Retention

Strengthen recruitment and retention of a diverse, highly qualified workforce that reflects the student community and supports high-quality instruction.

2026–27 FISCAL PRIORITIES

Structurally Balanced Budget

To maintain a structurally balanced budget, built on a comprehensive financial plan comprised of all fund sources, that ensures real cost management and the most effective educational program possible.

School-Based Budgeting Model

To maintain and enhance the School-Based Budgeting Model, grounded in empowerment and accountability at the school level.

Fiscal Accountability

To ensure fiscal accountability through continued integrity, transparency, reporting and systems management.

Comprehensive Fiscal Management

To engage in comprehensive fiscal management, encompassing analysis, internal control and innovation, in order to secure resources, optimize resource utilization and attain fiscal stability.

FY27 BUDGET DRIVERS



EDUCATION SERVICES
+ \$ 779K



WAGES & BENEFITS
+ \$ 18.4M



EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE
+ \$ 547K



BUILDING & MAINTENANCE
+ \$ 1.4M



UTILITY COSTS
+ \$ 776K



PUPIL TRANSPORTATION
+ \$ 3.8M



SPECIAL EDUCATION
+ \$651K

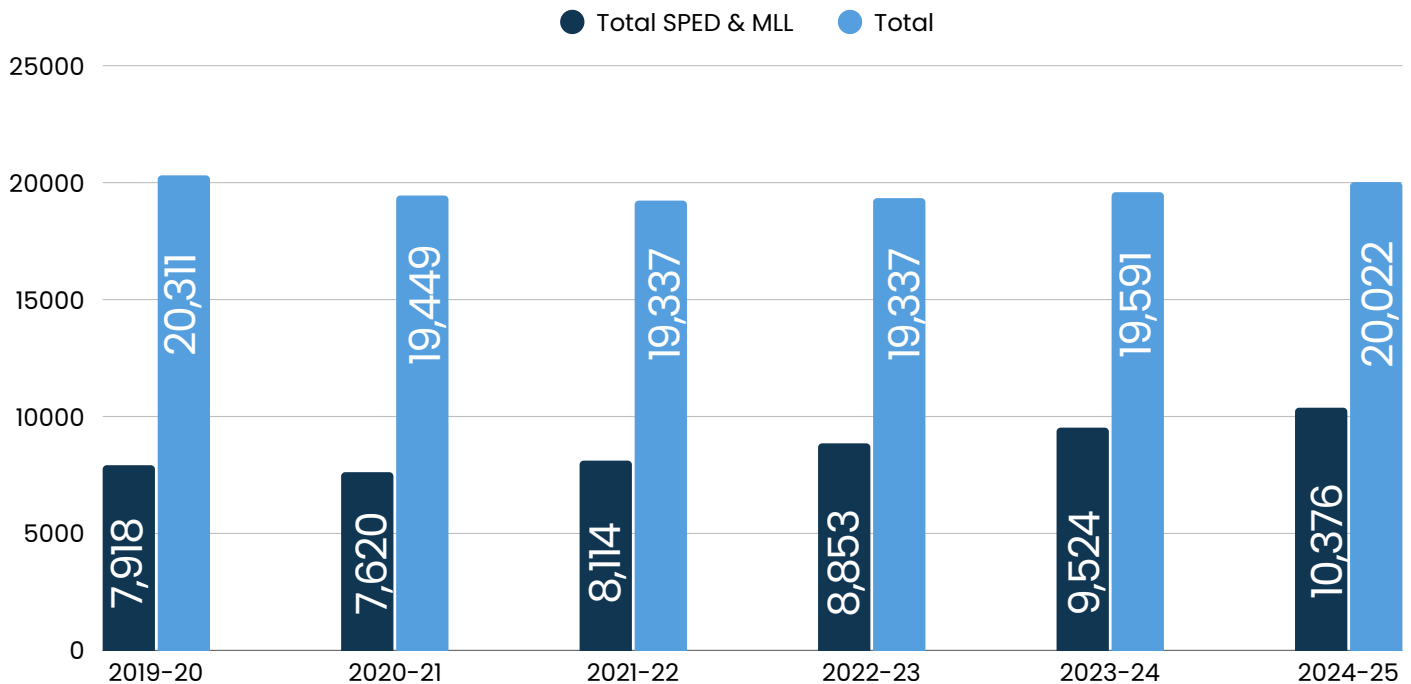


BUDGET DRIVERS: STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS



STUDENT ENROLLMENT: TRENDS

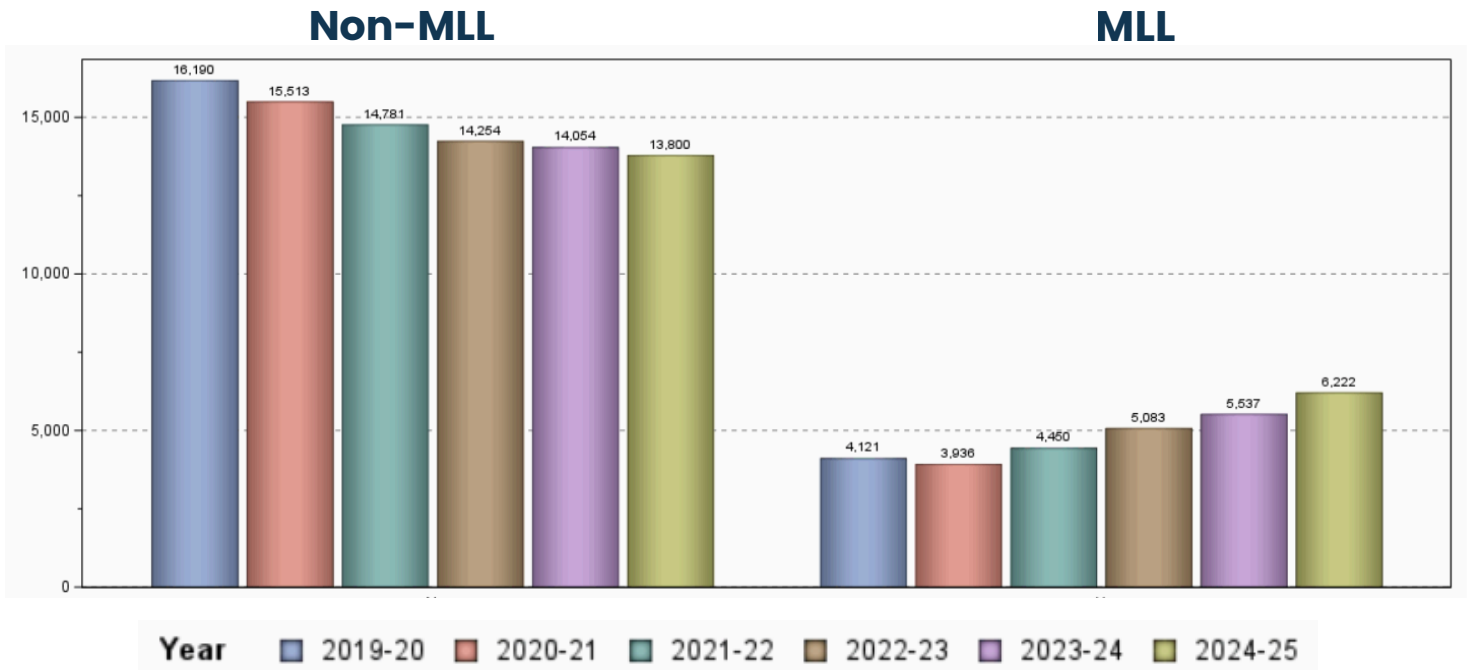
District-wide enrollment has been relatively stable in recent years, but **increases in Special Education (SPED) and Multilingual Learners (MLL)** is showing a steady increase yearly.



Source: EdSight Enrollment Report (Legacy), 1/21/2026

ENROLLMENT: MLL TRENDS

Multilingual Learner enrollment has **increased each year**. This continued growth increases instructional, staffing, and language support costs and is a key driver in the district's budget planning.



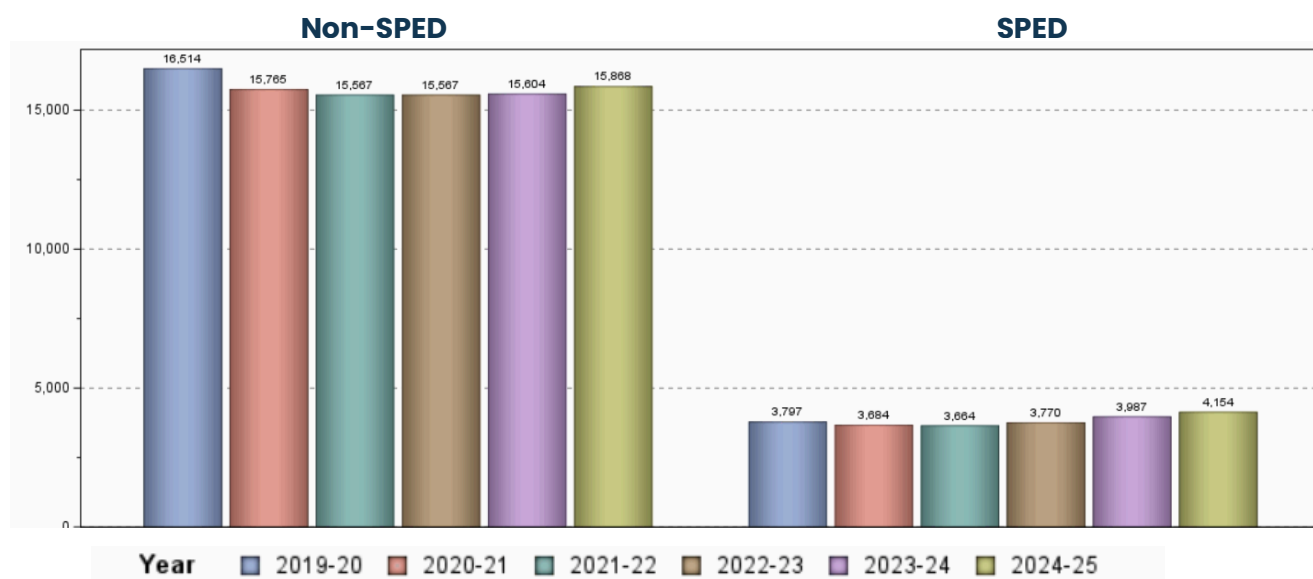
Source: Edsight Enrollment Report (Legacy) 1/21/2026

BUDGET DRIVERS: SPECIAL EDUCATION TRENDS



ENROLLMENT: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education enrollment has **steadily increased** in recent years. This growth continues to place upward pressure on staffing, specialized services, and mandated supports and remains a significant cost driver in the district's budget.



Source: EdSight Enrollment Report (Legacy), 1/21/2026

SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES

| Description | FY21 Actual | FY22 Actual | FY23 Actual | FY24 Actual | FY25 Actual | 4 yr Category INC/(DEC) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Teacher salaries | \$ 22,064,354 | \$ 23,109,990 | \$ 20,480,934 | \$ 24,443,779 | \$ 24,762,618 | \$ 2,698,264 |
| Instructional aide salaries | 10,411,219 | 10,015,478 | 10,521,628 | 10,357,357 | 10,114,511 | (296,708) |
| Other salaries | 3,152,044 | 5,314,653 | 5,452,843 | 5,339,411 | 6,156,303 | 3,004,259 |
| Employee benefits | 11,075,338 | 11,975,401 | 12,863,313 | 12,180,428 | 12,407,213 | 1,331,875 |
| Purchased services | 16,028,034 | 18,326,741 | 19,353,200 | 30,725,266 | 31,954,231 | 15,926,197 |
| Special education tuition | 27,066,202 | 26,399,309 | 27,278,681 | 31,343,209 | 34,293,253 | 7,227,051 |
| Supplies | 90,772 | 359,789 | 295,950 | 196,557 | 271,414 | 180,642 |
| Property services | 219,417 | 306,648 | 217,765 | 195,559 | 225,470 | 6,053 |
| Equipment | <u>5,176</u> | <u>2,973</u> | <u>234,031</u> | <u>5,842</u> | <u>146,212</u> | <u>141,036</u> |
| Grand Total | \$ 90,112,557 | \$ 95,810,983 | \$ 96,698,345 | \$ 114,787,407 | \$ 120,331,225 | \$ 30,218,669 |
| Yr. Over Yr. INC/(DEC) | (1,610,666) | 5,698,426 | 887,363 | 18,089,062 | 5,543,818 | |
| Yr. Over Yr. INC/(DEC) % | (2%) | 6% | 1% | 19% | 5% | |

Source: : EdSight Report (Legacy), 1/21/202

SPED PURCHASED SERVICES

| Account Description | FY 21 | FY 22 | FY 23 | FY 24 | FY 25 | 4 yr Category INC/(DEC) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| BUILDING MAINTENANCE SERVICE | \$ 4,400 | \$ 5,154 | \$ 4,421 | \$ 4,421 | \$ 397,617 | \$ 393,217 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | | 14,248 | 1,336 | 6,307 | 86,028 | 86,028 |
| HEALTH INSURANCE CITY SHARE | | | - | 30,828 | - | - |
| HUMAN SERVICES* | 406,635 | 731,087 | 818,591 | 1,866,658 | 4,623,059 | 4,216,424 |
| LANDSCAPING SERVICES | | 5,059 | 5,120 | 1,550 | - | - |
| LEGAL SERVICES | 82,696 | 40,951 | 42,178 | 137,088 | 123,325 | 40,629 |
| MEDICAL SERVICES | 1,937,785 | 2,874,817 | 2,697,259 | 2,383,884 | 5,489,803 | 3,552,018 |
| OTHER MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 10,270 | 1,551 | 1,861 | 1,280 | 1,649 | (8,621) |
| OTHER SERVICES* | 1,446,072 | 76,512 | 422,200 | 7,513,663 | 2,051,689 | 605,617 |
| POSTAGE | 1,494 | 869 | 964 | 1,390 | 829 | (665) |
| TELEPHONE SERVICES | 16,297 | 14,505 | 16,073 | 21,683 | 17,911 | 1,614 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | 12,084,682 | 14,508,591 | 15,307,679 | 18,753,490 | 19,127,242 | 7,045,560 |
| EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | <u>37,703</u> | <u>53,398</u> | <u>35,518</u> | <u>3,023</u> | <u>35,077</u> | <u>(2626)</u> |
| Grand Total | \$ 16,028,034 | \$ 18,326,741 | \$ 19,353,200 | \$ 30,725,266 | \$ 31,954,231 | \$ 15,926,197 |
| Yr. Over Yr. INC/(DEC) | \$ (785,943) | \$ 2,298,707 | \$ 1,026,458 | \$ 11,372,066 | \$ 1,228,965 | |
| Yr. Over Yr. INC/(DEC) % | (5%) | 14% | 6% | 59% | 4% | |
| * KELLY, DELTA, EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | | | | | | |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

BUDGET DRIVERS: WAGE-RELATED INCREASES



STAFFING TRENDS

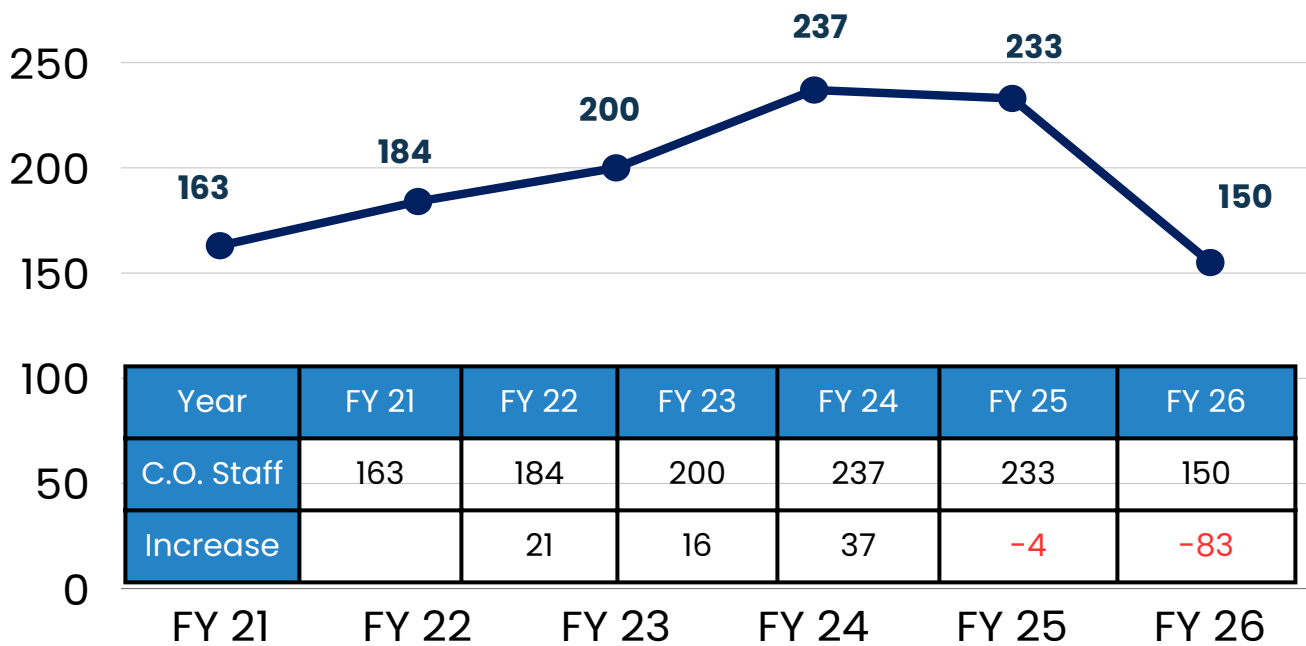
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

| Assignment Category | Educator Type | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY24 - FY25 Change |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Administrators Coordinators and Department Chairs - District Central Office | Certified | 14 | 20 | 20 | 17 | 27 | 10 |
| Administrators Coordinators and Department Chairs - School Level | Certified | 73 | 74 | 79 | 81 | 91.5 | 10.5 |
| Counselors Social Workers and School Psychologists | Certified | 102.4 | 124 | 123.1 | 120.8 | 114.8 | -6 |
| General Education - Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants | Non-Certified | 51 | 47 | 47.5 | 54.6 | 54 | -0.6 |
| General Education - Teachers and Instructors | Certified | 1,142.7 | 1,175.7 | 1,169.8 | 1,156.3 | 1,126.5 | -29.8 |
| Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers | Certified | 31.9 | 30.9 | 27.6 | 28.6 | 29.6 | 1 |
| Library/Media - Specialists (Certified) | Certified | 14 | 16 | 13.5 | 16 | 13.5 | -2.5 |
| Library/Media - Support Staff | Non-Certified | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services/Support | Certified/Non-Certified | 854.6 | 813.5 | 856.5 | 868.6 | 837 | -31.6 |
| School Nurses | Non-Certified | 39 | 39 | 38 | 38 | 38.5 | 0.5 |
| Special Education - Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants | Non-Certified | 231 | 231 | 254 | 250 | 231 | -19 |
| Special Education - Teachers and Instructors | Certified | 223 | 223.5 | 235.5 | 229 | 214.5 | -14.5 |
| | TOTAL: | 2,776.6 | 2,794.6 | 2,864.5 | 2,859.9 | 2,777.9 | -82 |

Source: EdSight Staffing Levels Report, 1/21/2026

CENTRAL OFFICE CERTIFIED, NON-CERTIFIED STAFF (ALL FTE)

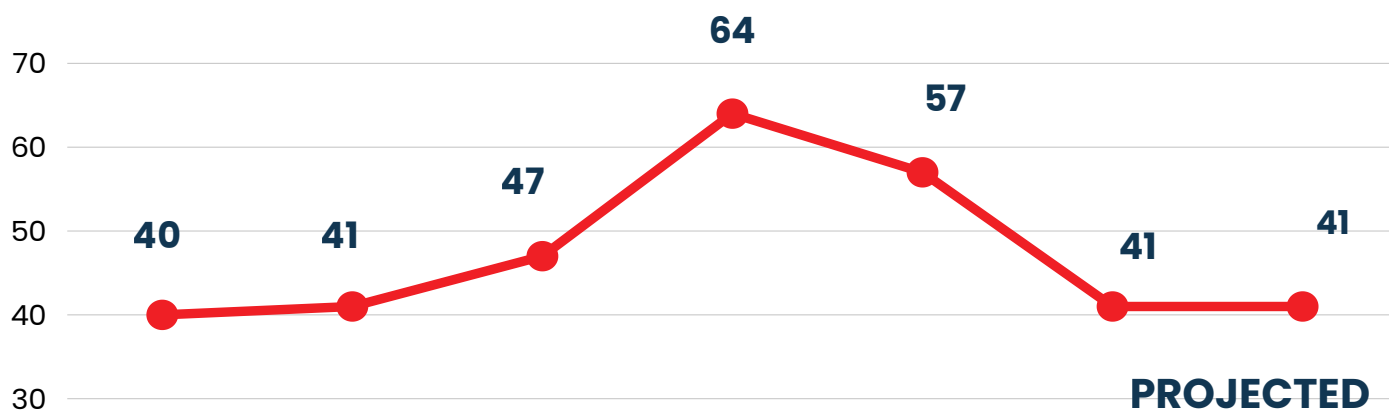
Central Office staffing is now at its lowest level in several years. This reduction has occurred even as the district continues to expand programs, services, and resources provided directly to schools and students.



Approximate figures provided by the Payroll Department

CENTRAL OFFICE CERTIFIED, NON-CERTIFIED ADMIN (ALL FTE)

Central Office Admin is now at its lowest level in several years. This reduction has occurred even as the district continues to expand programs, services, and resources provided directly to schools and students.



Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Payroll Department January 2026

| Year | FY 21 | FY 22 | FY 23 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 26 | FY 27 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Admin | 40 | 41 | 47 | 64 | 57 | 41 | 41 |
| Increase | - | 1 | 6 | 17 | -7 | -16 | 0 |

Approximate figures provided by the Payroll Department

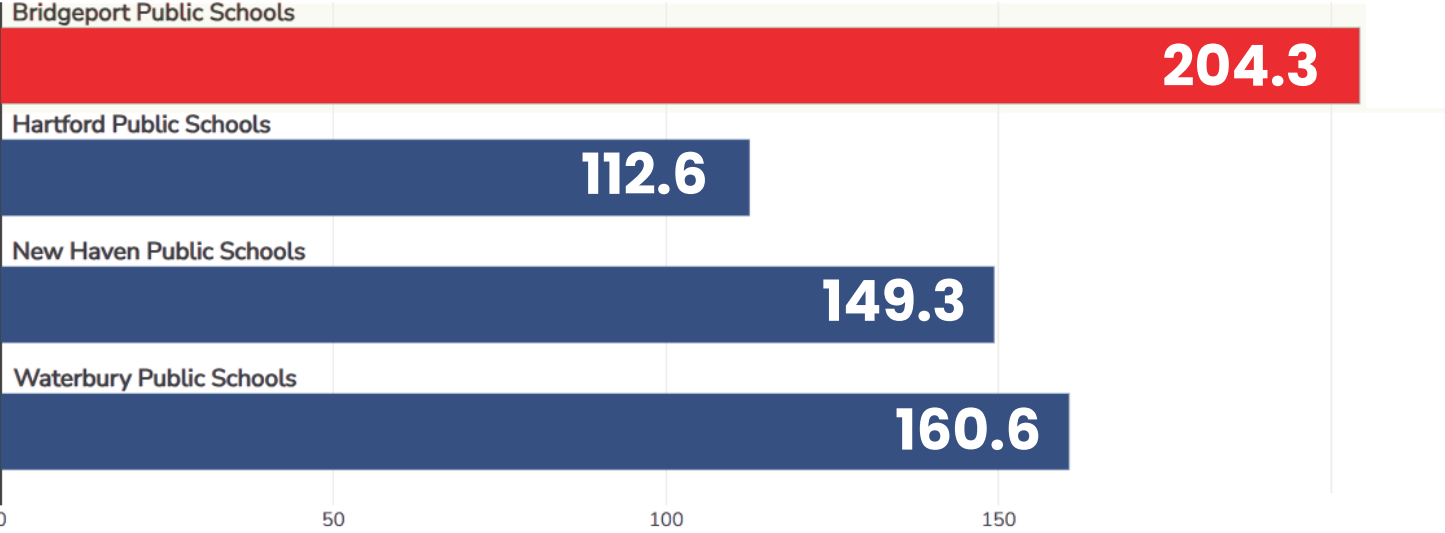
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS CERTIFIED, NON-CERTIFIED (ALL FTE)

| CERT/N ON-CERT | Job Class Description | # OF EMPLOYEES |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| C | ASSISTANT CHIEF OF SPEC ED | 1 |
| N | ASSISTANT DIR DATA MANAGMENT | 1 |
| N | ASSISTANT DIR GRANTS DEVELOPM | 1 |
| N | ASSISTANT MANAGER DATA MGMT | 1 |
| N | ASST. DIR INFO TECH | 1 |
| C | ASST. SUPERINTENDENT | 2 |
| N | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | 1 |
| N | CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER | 1 |
| C | CHIEF OFFICER SPEC EDUCATION | 1 |
| N | DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYROLL/BENEF | 1 |
| N | DEPUTY OFFICER OF HR | 1 |
| N | DIR BLDG & FAC MAINTENANCE | 1 |
| C | DIR MULTILINGUAL ED&WORLD LANG | 1 |
| C | DIR. EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM | 1 |
| C | DIR. MATH | 1 |
| C | DIR. OF ATHLETICS | 1 |
| C | DIR. OF LITERACY | 1 |

| CERT/NON- | Job Class | # OF |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| C | DIR. OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERV/DUE | 1 |
| C | DIR. OF SCIENCE/LIFE SKILLS K-12 | 1 |
| C | DIR. OF SOCIAL SERVICES | 1 |
| N | DIRECTOR ENROLLMENT SERVICES | 1 |
| C | DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL COUNSEL& PP | 1 |
| N | DIRECTOR TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | 1 |
| C | DISTRICT SUPERVISOR-SPECIALIZE | 5 |
| C | ECAT SUPERVISOR | 1 |
| C | DIR. OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERV/DUE | 2,57142857142857 |
| C | DIR. OF SCIENCE/LIFE SKILLS K-12 | 2,80952380952381 |
| C | DIR. OF SOCIAL SERVICES | 3,04761904761905 |
| N | DIRECTOR ENROLLMENT SERVICES | 3,28571428571429 |
| C | DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL COUNSEL& PP | 3,52380952380952 |
| N | DIRECTOR TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | 3,76190476190476 |
| C | DISTRICT SUPERVISOR-SPECIALIZE | 4 |
| C | ECAT SUPERVISOR | 4,23809523809524 |
| C | DIR. OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERV/DUE | 4,47619047619048 |
| C | DIR. OF SCIENCE/LIFE SKILLS K-12 | 4,71428571428571 |
| C | DIR. OF SOCIAL SERVICES | 4,95238095238095 |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Payroll Department January 2026

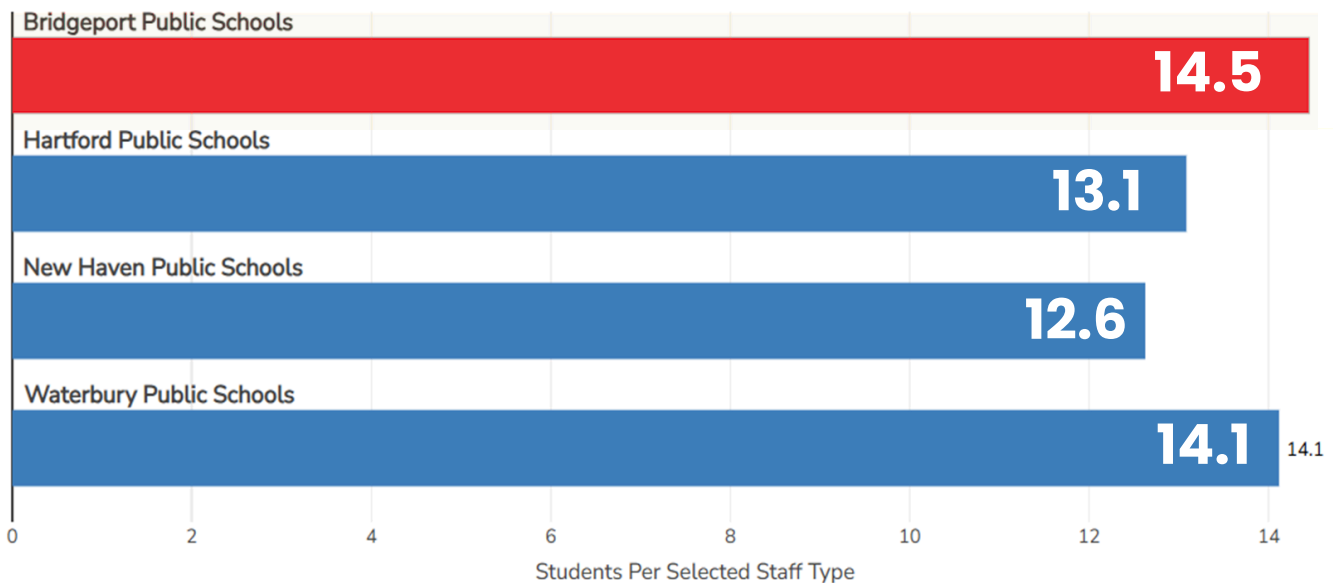
FY 25 STUDENTS PER ADMINISTRATOR



FOR EVERY 204.3 STUDENTS, THERE IS 1 ADMINISTRATOR

Source: schoolstatefinance.org

FY 25 STUDENTS PER TEACHER



FOR EVERY 14.5 STUDENTS, THERE IS 1 TEACHER

Source: schoolstatefinance.org

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING INCREASES

Collective bargaining increases reflect the cost of maintaining the **same level of services at the same staffing levels**, while **expenses continue to rise**.

| FY 27 Wage-Related Increases | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Area | Explanation | Projected Amount |
| Collective Bargaining Agreements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified: BEA (Step/Salary lane movement) + BCAS | \$8,667,000 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFSCME_J; Nurses; BSCA_Z_; LIUNA; NAGE | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes: Medicare, MERF, Social Security (as applicable) | |

| Collective Bargaining Groups | Projected Increase |
|--|--------------------|
| BEA - Teachers | \$4,994,000 |
| BCAS – Administrators and Supervisors | \$494,000 |
| AFSCME & “J” Unaffiliated (Contract Expired in FY24) | \$2,269,000 |
| Nurses & Liuna | \$141,000 |
| NAGE | \$452,000 |
| Trades | \$95,000 |
| City Supervisors & “Z” Unaffiliated | \$222,000 |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

BUDGET DRIVERS: OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES



TRANSPORTATION

Expenditures: FY26 – FY27

| Category | FY25 Actual | FY26 Forecast | FY27 Budget Request |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Specific Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture • Agriscience • CES Six to Six • RCA • Athletics | \$823,155 | \$721,374 | \$929,882 |
| Regular [Busses + BPS drivers + Transportation Specialist] | 6,207,702 | 6,856,696 | 7,342,050 |
| Charter | 1,787,029 | 1,919,398 | 2,034,014 |
| Special Education | 18,808,720 | 20,362,456 | 21,343,778 |
| Parochial/Non-public | 705,756 | 738,691 | 783,526 |
| SPED Charter Schools | 318,522 | 328,750 | 348,475 |
| TOTAL | \$28,650,884 | \$30,927,366 | \$32,781,725 |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

OTHER BUDGET DRIVERS

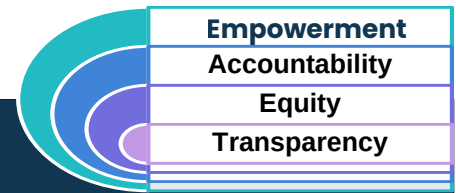
| AREA | Details | FY26 Forecast | FY27 Budget Request | Built-in Savings |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Substitute & Paraprofessional Services | Kelly & Delta Educational Staffing | \$18.3M [including vacancies] | \$19.5M [including vacancies] | 5-year contract 2021-2026 substitute teachers + paras |
| Utilities | Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer, Telephone | \$9.5M | \$9.9M | |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

SCHOOL-BASED BUDGETING AND DEPARTMENTAL ADDITIONAL REQUESTS



SCHOOL-BASED ALLOCATION MODEL



Core Components

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p>Position Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable and uniform staffing formulas, with consideration for school-specific needs |
| 2 | <p>Operating Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30/student (Elementary), \$35/student (High Schools) • Continued Option: deployment of discretionary funds for part-time personnel (hourly, per diem); e.g., interventionists, tutors etc. |
| 3 | <p>Teacher’s Choice Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30/classroom teacher, based on the first payroll in October • School Specialty E-Card (distributed via email) |
| 4 | <p>Parent Engagement Budget [grant-funded]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.54/student in FY26 [Formula: 1% of Title I allocation] • Elementary Schools = Title I; High Schools = State Priority Grant • Requires submission of a Budget Plan approved by the school’s Principal & PAC/PTSO President |

ANNUAL BUDGET PLANNING GUIDE



ANNUAL BUDGET PLANNING GUIDE & CALENDAR

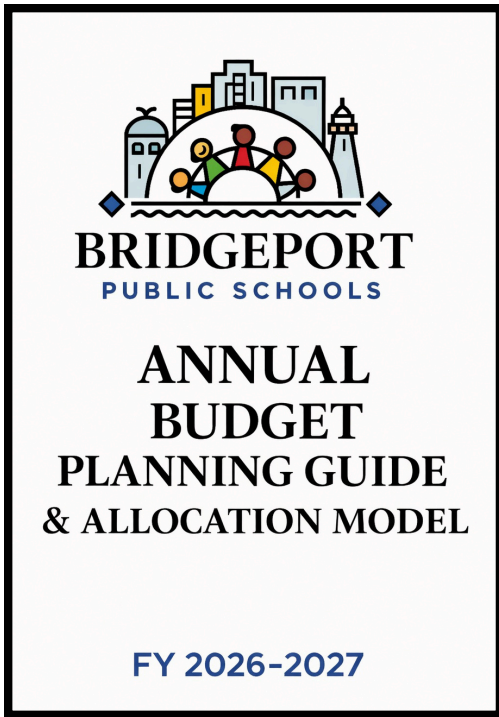
FY 2026-2027

The purpose of this Budget Planning Guide is to produce a budget for FY 2026–2027 that advances the overall goals of the Bridgeport Public Schools in compliance with Federal and State Statutes, City Ordinances, and Bridgeport School Board Policies.

- [Appendix: Detailed Budget Line Items](#)

ALLOCATION MODEL

SAMPLE



| School-based Budgeting | | STAFFING MODEL | | 2026-27 |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Category | Position | Grades | Descriptor | Allocation Standard (Formula) |
| • Administration | | | | |
| | Principal, Program Support: Director (Aqua), Supervisor (Skane, BLC), AP (JDC) | | | One (1) |
| | Assistant Principal | | | None (No Assistant Principal allocated) |
| | Elem | PK-6* | All schools | |
| | | PK-8 * | If register 0 - 400 If register 401 - 800 If register >= 801 | Half (0.5) One (1) Two (2) |
| | HS | * | | *Superintendent discretion for additional support based on student needs |
| | | Gr. 9-12 | Bassick, Central, Harding Magnet HS: 500-600 students FCW Magnet HS Campus BMA | Three (3) One (1) Magnet School Supervisor One (1) (.33 For Each Campus) One (1) |
| | Clerical Assistant, Clerical Specialist or Typist | | | District has launched Centralized Enrollment Center |
| | Elem | PK-6 | Base Allocation If register >= 450 | One (1) per elementary school Two (2) |
| | | PK-8 | Base Allocation If register >= 510 If register >= 800 | One (1) per school Two (2) Three (3) |
| | HS | | BMA | One (1) |
| | | | FCW Magnet Campus Comprehensive High School | Four (4) : 1 Main Office and 3 Bldgs Harding (4), Bassick (4), Central (5) |
| • Class Teachers | | | | |
| | Elem | Grades PK | Class Size = 18, (Discovery 15) | Student register divided by class size |
| | | Grades K-1 | Class Size = 24, (Discovery 15) | Student register divided by class size |
| | | Grades 2-8 | Class Size = 29, (Discovery 22), (Magnet 25) ELA Coach: Barnum, Columbus, Roosevelt Math Coach: Barnum, Columbus | Student register divided by class size As allocated by grant |
| | | Grades K-1 | Bilingual Classes = 24 | As allocated by grant |
| | | Grades 2-8 | Bilingual Classes = 29 | Student register divided by class size |
| | | Grades K-6 Grades 7-8 | Preparation Coverage Prep/Subj Area Coverage | Prep: 6 preps/week 6 pds/wk .24 x total # classroom teachers .24 x total # classroom teachers |
| | ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS | At the elementary level, grades K-8, principals are required to program, for each grade, a double common planning period for the teachers on the grade once per week. | | |
| | Specialist Allocation | The specialist teacher allocations are designed to enable the provision of art, music, and physical education, in accordance with State regulations, during scheduled preparation and planning periods. Any balance may be utilized, at the principal's discretion, to provide targeted enhancement and/or intervention services, based on the specific assessed needs of the students. | | |

SCHOOL-BASED, DEPARTMENTAL ADDITIONAL REQUESTS (FTE)

| PK-12 Allocation Comparison | FY 25 | FY 26 | Requested FY 27 | Change |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| SPED PARAS | 285.0 | 289.0 | 326.0 | 37.0 |
| INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES | 0.0 | 0.0 | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| TEACHERS (SPED) | 244.0 | 243.5 | 255.0 | 11.5 |
| OTHER POSITIONS | 311.0 | 276.2 | 295.0 | 18.8 |
| ESL/BILINGUAL TEACHERS | 100.0 | 93.0 | 103.0 | 10.0 |
| ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS/DIRECTORS | 41.0 | 36.0 | 48.5 | 12.5 |
| CLERICALS | 67.0 | 68.0 | 70.0 | 2.0 |
| PRINCIPALS | 35.0 | 35.0 | 35.0 | 0.0 |
| CLASSROOM TEACHERS (GE) | 892.4 | 868.9 | 862.9 | -6.0 |
| SPECIALISTS | 176.2 | 183.0 | 178.4 | -4.6 |
| TOTALS | 2,151.6 | 2,092.6 | 2,192.8 | 100.2 |

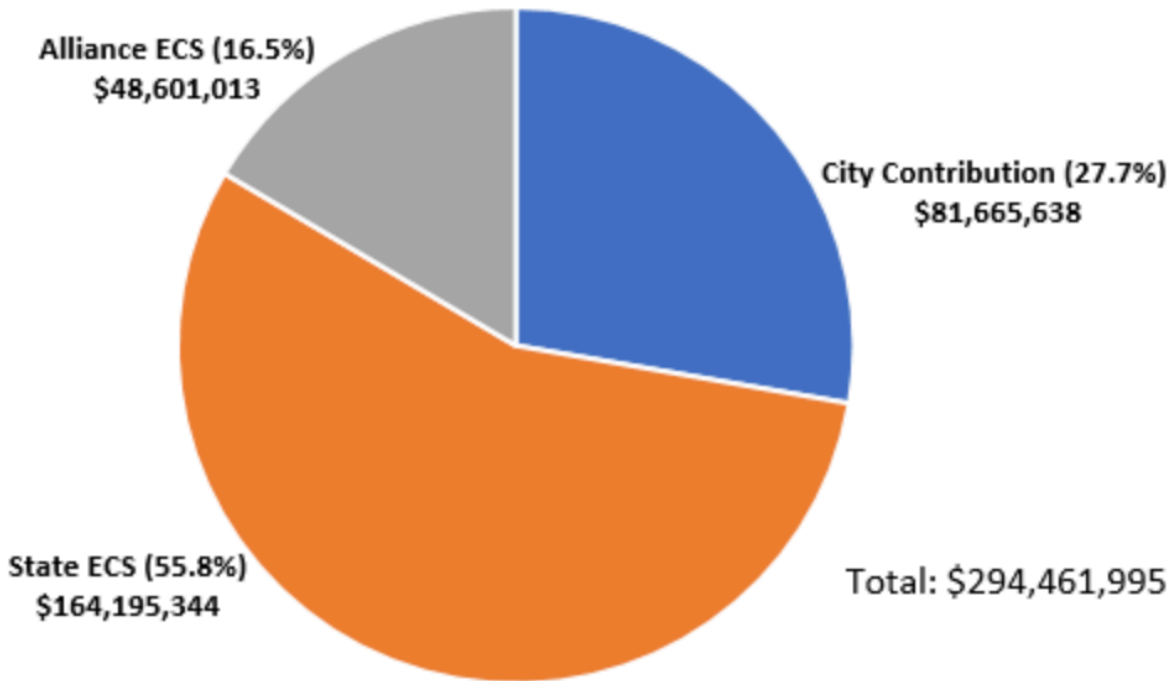
Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

DISTRICT FUNDING SOURCES



FY 26 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNDING SOURCE

**FY26 Bridgeport BOE Operating Budget Appropriation
by Funding Source**



Major Grants include Alliance and Priority District funding, Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV-A, IDEA 611, IDEA 619, Interdistrict Magnet Grant, and State Bilingual.

OPERATING REVENUE

| Budget Years | FY 21 | FY 22 | FY 23 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 26 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State Revenue - ECS Allocation | \$164,195,344 | \$164,195,344 | \$164,195,344 | \$164,195,344 | \$164,195,344 | \$164,195,344 |
| City Share | \$69,040,633 | \$71,040,633 | \$73,040,633 | \$75,540,638 | \$78,540,638 | \$81,665,638 |
| State Revenue - Alliance ECS grant | \$23,219,034 | \$24,749,097 | \$24,764,531 | \$28,029,094 | \$37,515,152 | \$48,601,013 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | \$256,455,011 | \$259,985,074 | \$262,000,508 | \$267,765,076 | \$280,251,134 | \$294,461,995 |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

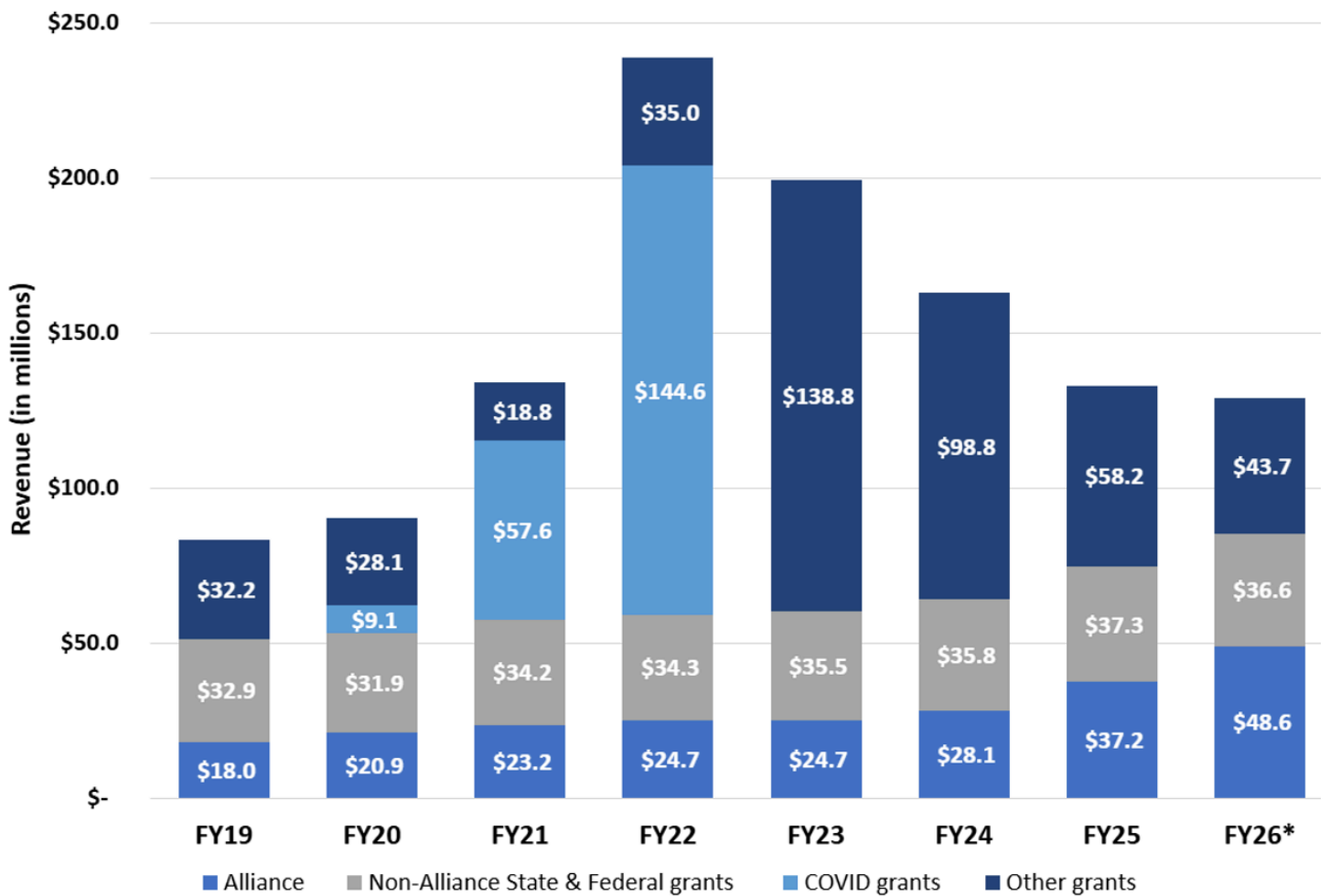
HISTORICAL OPERATING REVENUE GROWTH

CITY & STATE REVENUE TREND

| | TOTAL | CITY | STATE |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | % Growth | % Growth | % Growth |
| | w. Alliance | w. Alliance | w. Alliance |
| Year | Total Budget | Total Budget | Total Budget |
| 2016-17 | -0.45% | 0.02% | -0.47% |
| 2017-18 | 0.06% | 0.16% | -0.10% |
| 2018-19 | 1.36% | 0.70% | 0.65% |
| 2019-20 | 1.59% | 0.52% | 1.06% |
| 2020-21 | 1.82% | 0.89% | 0.92% |
| 2021-22 | 1.38% | 0.78% | 0.60% |
| 2022-23 | 0.78% | 0.77% | 0.01% |
| 2023-24 | 2.20% | 0.95% | 1.25% |
| 2024-25 | 4.66% | 1.12% | 3.54% |
| 2025-26 | 5.07% | 1.12% | 3.96% |
| Avg %/year | 1.85% | 0.70% | 1.14% |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

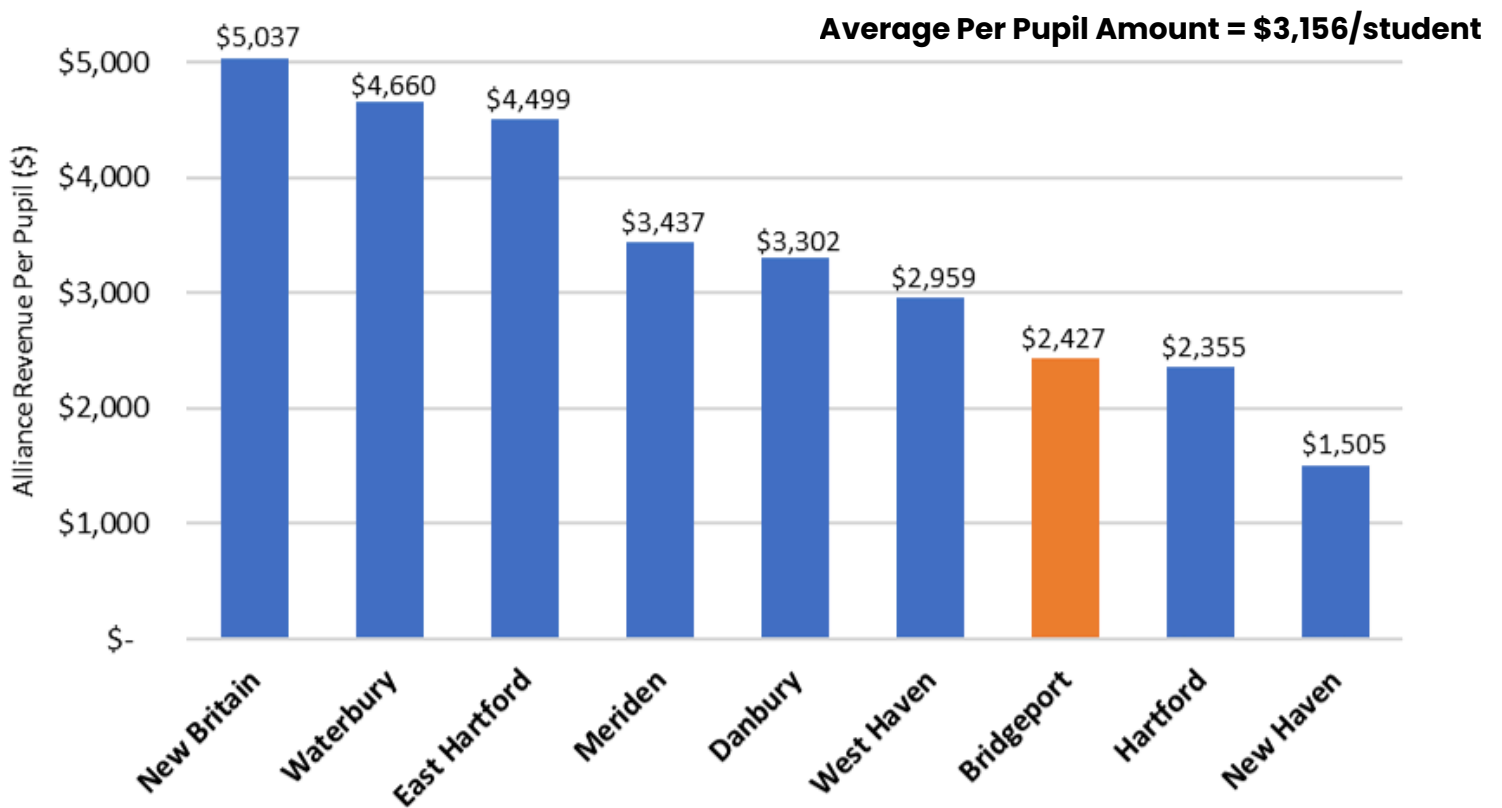
GRANTS REVENUE



*FY26 grant applications are currently in progress; totals reflect awarded and anticipated entitlement grant revenue as of 1/16/26

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Department of Grants Development and Management

FY 26 ALLIANCE REVENUE PER PUPIL



Source: EdSight & CSDE eGrants Management System

FY26 GRANTS REVENUE & FTE

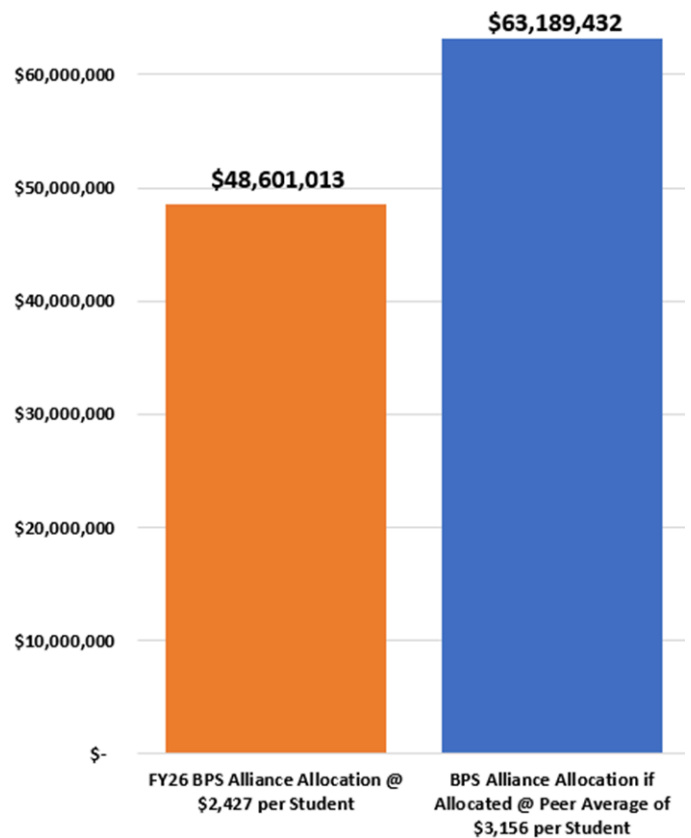
| Name of Grant | Revenue | FTEs |
|--|----------------------|------------|
| Alliance | \$48,601,013 | 352 |
| Priority | \$4,863,851 | 23 |
| Extended School Hours | \$343,737 | - |
| Summer School | \$411,664 | - |
| Title I - funds services for low-income and academically at-risk students | \$13,337,707 | 87 |
| Title II - supports teacher quality, training, and professional development | \$955,264 | 5 |
| Title III - supports English learners and language instruction | \$775,983 | - |
| Title IV-A - supports student well-being, academic enrichment, and safe schools | \$900,969 | 5 |
| IDEA 611 - special education for school-age students | \$6,401,041 | 84 |
| IDEA 619 (PreK SPED) - special education for preschool students | \$174,662 | 2 |
| Interdistrict Magnet Operating Grant | \$7,945,328 | 75 |
| State Bilingual - bilingual & English learner support | \$529,470 | -* |
| SPED SEED - Special Education Expansion and Development | \$2,624,295 | TBD** |
| Other grants | \$41,118,153 | 96 |
| Total | \$128,983,137 | 729 |

Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Department of Grants Development and Management

*19 hourly MLL tutors district-wide
**pending BOE approval

BRIDGEPORT ALLIANCE FUNDING COMPARED TO PEER DISTRICT AVERAGE

If BPS were funded at the average per-pupil rate of comparable Alliance districts, **the district would receive \$14.6 million in Alliance funding** as a proportional share of its total ECS, bringing its total FY27 Alliance allocation to \$63.2 million.



Source: EdSight & CSDE eGrants Management System

OPERATIONAL BUDGET



FISCAL YR 22-26

GENERAL FUND

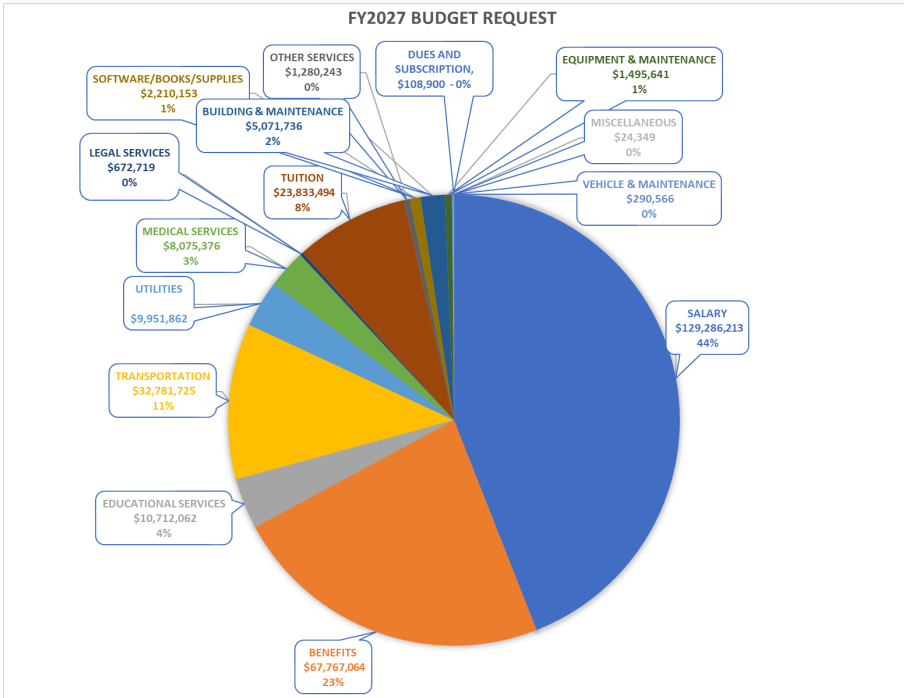
EXPENDITURES

| CATEGORY | FY 2022 ACTUAL | FY 2023 ACTUAL | FY 2024 ACTUAL | FY 2025 ACTUAL | FY 2026 REVISED BUDGET |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| BENEFITS | \$56,330,362 | \$53,981,662 | \$53,666,770 | \$55,349,286 | \$57,182,860 |
| BUILDING & MAINTENANCE | 3,269,590 | 2,861,386 | 3,402,865 | 3,633,390 | 4,295,670 |
| DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION | 108,141 | 102,691 | 147,065 | 87,270 | 113,472 |
| EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 2,001,195 | 1,886,811 | 3,903,242 | 8,003,978 | 9,932,726 |
| EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE | 669,565 | 877,156 | 886,620 | 945,694 | 947,898 |
| LEGAL SERVICES | 546,898 | 230,216 | 395,579 | 505,688 | 653,125 |
| MEDICAL SERVICES | 2,874,817 | 2,697,259 | 2,383,884 | 5,489,803 | 7,840,170 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 1,399 | 10,808 | 18,280 | 9,909 | 23,640 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 922,637 | 884,335 | 1,064,899 | 1,493,074 | 1,249,132 |
| REQUIRED RESERVE | 0 | 0 | 0 | (21,643,458) | (10,376,482) |
| SALARIES | 121,010,636 | 123,850,542 | 122,634,026 | 128,782,245 | 110,942,947 |
| SOFTWARE/BOOKS/SUPPLIES | 1,214,637 | 1,150,480 | 912,011 | 1,382,185 | 1,806,988 |
| TRANSPORTATION | 22,268,457 | 23,608,035 | 24,924,167 | 28,650,885 | 28,995,000 |
| TUITION | 19,060,398 | 20,689,417 | 20,798,527 | 20,687,548 | 23,417,236 |
| UTILITIES | 4,835,329 | 4,167,259 | 4,396,922 | 9,251,456 | 8,554,495 |
| VEHICLE & MAINTENANCE | 109,326 | 237,921 | 201,124 | 107,029 | 282,103 |
| Grand Total | \$235,235,977 | \$237,235,977 | \$239,735,982 | \$242,735,982 | \$245,860,982 |

GENERAL FUND FY 27 BUDGET (STATUS QUO)

| Account Category | FY27 Budget Request | FY27 % of Budget |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| SALARIES | \$129,286,213 | 44.04% |
| BENEFITS | 67,767,064 | 23.08% |
| EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 10,712,062 | 3.65% |
| TRANSPORTATION | 32,781,725 | 11.17% |
| UTILITIES | 9,951,862 | 3.39% |
| MEDICAL SERVICES | 8,075,376 | 2.75% |
| LEGAL SERVICES | 672,719 | 0.23% |
| TUITION | 23,833,494 | 8.12% |
| OTHER SERVICES | 1,280,243 | 0.44% |
| SOFTWARE/BOOKS/SUPPLIES | 2,210,153 | 0.75% |
| BUILDING & MAINTENANCE | 5,071,736 | 1.73% |
| EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE | 1,495,641 | 0.51% |
| VEHICLE & MAINTENANCE | 290,566 | 0.10% |
| DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION | 108,900 | 0.04% |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 24,349 | 0.01% |
| TOTAL | \$293,562,103 | 100.00% |

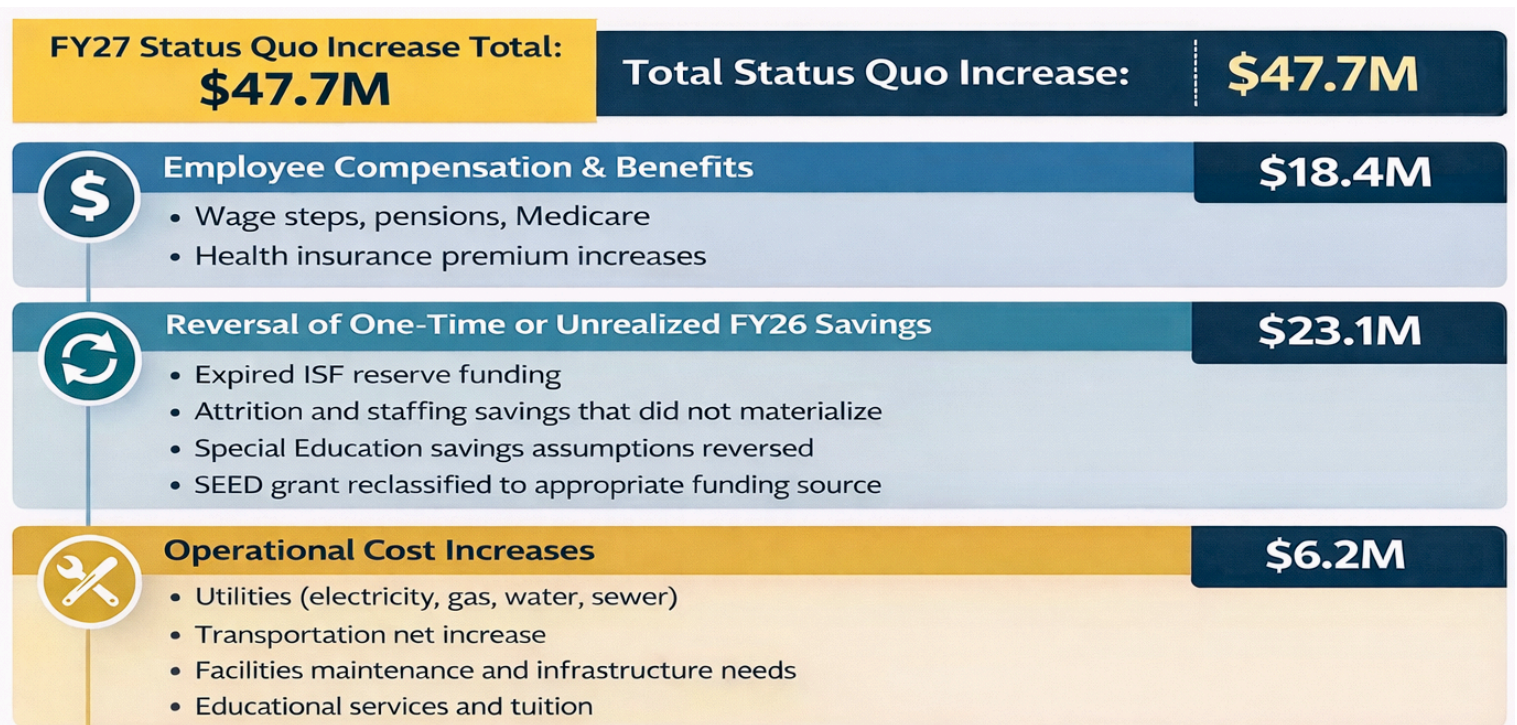
Does Not Include Alliance



Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

ITEMS THAT MAKE UP FY 2026-27 STATUS QUO INCREASES

Cost required to maintain current services, staffing levels, and operations



Source: Bridgeport Public Schools Finance Department

These increases reflect costs to maintain existing operations, not program expansions or staffing.

NET CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL (NCEP)

FIVE (5) DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST ENROLLMENT

| | Net Cost Expenditures | Average Daily Students | Net Cost Expense Per |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| District | 2024-2025 | 2024-2025 | 2024-25 |
| STAMFORD | \$372,126,030 | 15,741 | \$23,641 |
| NEW HAVEN | 371,385,643 | 16,938 | 21,926 |
| HARTFORD | 438,220,699 | 18,418 | 23,794 |
| WATERBURY | 341,997,700 | 18,523 | 18,464 |
| BRIDGEPORT | \$361,665,718 | 19,753 | \$18,311 |

Source: CSDE, 2025-26 Estimated Revenues Report

BRIDGEPORT IS GROSSLY UNDERFUNDED, IN COMPARISON TO ITS PEER DISTRICTS:

- BRIDGEPORT RECEIVED **\$48,601,013** TOTAL ALLIANCE GRANT (FY26)
- WATERBURY RECEIVED **\$86,794,371** TOTAL ALLIANCE GRANT (FY26)

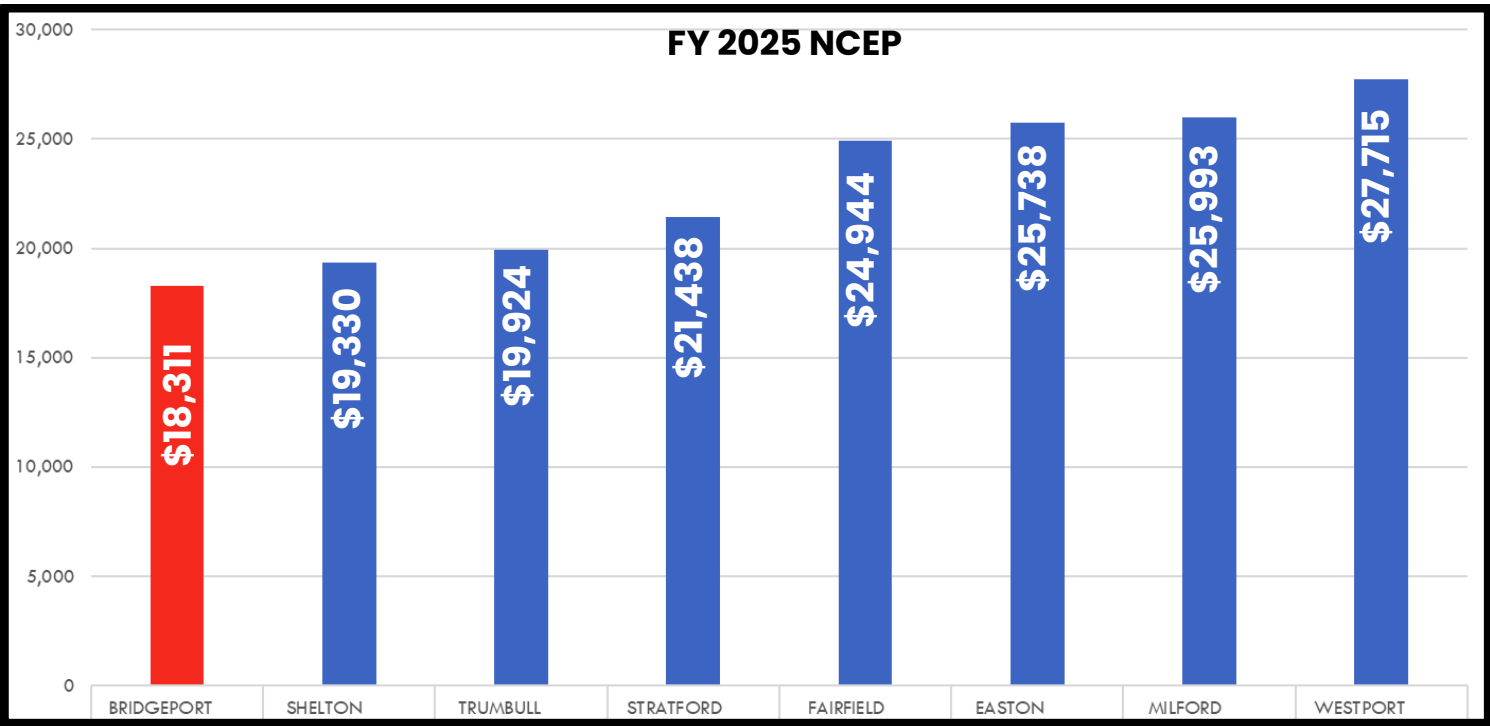
OF THE 166 CT SCHOOL DISTRICTS RANKED BY NCEP, FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST:

BRIDGEPORT IS #160

NCEP: NET CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL, PUBLISHED BY CSDE, BASED ON THE EFS REPORT, WHICH INCLUDES GENERAL FUNDS, GRANTS AND IN-KIND SERVICES

***NCE: INCLUDES ESSER GRANTS**

NET CURRENT EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL (NCEP) COMPARED TO SURROUNDING DISTRICTS



Source: CSDE, 2025-26 Estimated Revenues Report

OUT OF 166 DISTRICTS, **BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS 7TH LOWEST** IN NCEP

FY 2027 SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET



FY 2026–2027 BUDGET INCREASES

FY27 STATUS QUO BUDGET REQUEST: **\$47.7M**
INCREASE **16.2%**

FY27 SCHOOL-BASED BUDGET REQUEST: **\$61.6M**
INCREASE **20.9%**

**FY27 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDED
BUDGET REQUEST TO THE BOARD: \$44.1M
INCREASE 14.97%**

FISCAL STABILITY EFFORTS



FY27 SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET INCREASE

FY26 Revised
\$294,461,995

School Based Budget Increase
\$61,627,583
20.9% Increase

FY27 Requested
\$356,089,578

Superintendent's Recommend Budget
\$338,528,441
14.97% increase

Breakdown of Requested Increase

Status Quo Increases **\$47,701,121**
16.2% increase

- Costs to maintain current services and staffing levels
- Includes wages and benefits, utilities, transportation, tuition, medical and educational services

Additional FY27 Needs **\$13,926,462**

- Grant funded employee health insurance premium increase: \$3,434,765
- Grant funded employee union wage increases: \$2,491,697
- Departmental and school additional requests (approx.): \$8,000,000

School-Based Total Requested Increase
20.9% increase **\$61,627,583**

Net Impact

Expense Reductions **\$15,961,137**

- Not able to secure funding to support school-based and departmental additional requests
- Contractor Services (net savings)
- Operational accounts freeze, attrition and turnover savings
- Reduce assumed health insurance increase from 20% to 14% (General Fund and Grants)
- Decrease of professional learning program

Revenue Increases **\$1,600,000**

- Food and Nutrition Center indirect cost reimbursement
- Food and Nutrition Center retirees health insurance reimbursement

Total Impact
\$17,561,137

Net Increase
\$44,066,446 (14.97%)

FY 2027 SUPERINTENDENT SOLUTIONS

Potential expense reductions and revenue increases applied to the Superintendent's revised budget

Breakdown of Requested Increase

- Not fund departmental/school additional FY27 requests **\$8,000,000**
- Terminate contract (net FY27 savings) **\$1,300,000**
- Operational accounts freeze, attrition, employee turnover savings **\$1,500,000**
- Reduce FY27 health insurance increase from 20% to 14% (General Fund) **\$3,630,708**
- Reduce FY27 health insurance increase from 20% to 14% (Grants) **\$1,030,430**
- Decrease professional learning program **\$500,000**

Total Expense Reductions
\$15,961,137

Additional Revenue Increase Measures

- Food and Nutrition Center indirect cost reimbursement **\$600,000**
- Food and Nutrition Center retirees health insurance reimbursement **\$1,000,000**









Total Revenue Increases
\$1,600,000

Total Solutions Impact
\$17,561,137

FY27 Superintendent Revised Budget
\$15,961,137

Net Increase
\$44,066,446 (14.97%)

FISCAL STABILITY EFFORTS

-  A budget and hiring freeze for non-essential goods, services, and personnel has been implemented to preserve resources for core instructional needs.
-  Each principal and department director has been asked to submit potential budget reductions for review, ensuring that all leaders participate in responsible stewardship.
-  Community Forums and Thought Exchanges to gather input from parents, staff, and community members to develop our budget goals.
-  Worked with our transportation vendor to obtain a **.5% reduction in FY 27 resulting in a \$163,909 savings.**
-  Upgraded lighting to energy-efficient LED systems in more than 26 schools, resulting in permanent cost reductions and **generating annual savings of \$988,333**
-  Deployed TASKI Ecobot 50 pro series, maximizing resources with new cleaning technology.
-  Additionally, we are working closely with the City, our State Delegation, parent advocacy groups, and community partners to secure increased funding sources for the students and families of Bridgeport.
-  Integrating the 34 forensic audit recommendations into day-to-day financial operations

FY 2026–2027 BUDGET INCREASES

FY27 STATUS QUO BUDGET REQUEST: **\$47.7M**
INCREASE **16.2%**

FY27 SCHOOL-BASED BUDGET REQUEST: **\$61.6M**
INCREASE **20.9%**

**FY27 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDED
BUDGET REQUEST TO THE BOARD: \$44.1M**
INCREASE **14.97%**

NEXT STEPS

**Board Community Budget Forums
(TBD by Board)**

**Board Budget Workshops
(TBD by Board)**

**Board Meeting to Approve Budget
(TBD by Board)**

**Board Sends Budget to Mayor/OPM
(2/7/2026)**

**Mayor Submits Capital Budget to City Council
(3/3/2026)**

**Mayor Submits Proposed General Fund Budget
to City Council
(3/23/2026)**

APPENDICES

Complete Budget Spreadsheet

Nutrition Center Budget

Annual Budget Planning Guide

THANK YOU



BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**For your partnership,
collaboration, and
commitment to our students.**