



Superintendent's 2026-2027 Budget Presentation

March 2, 2026

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Creating a Budget



Our budget must:

- 1. Reflect our Values and Priorities**
- 2. Secure Resources to Meet the Needs of our Students**
- 3. Embody Fiscal Responsibility**
- 4. Confer Value in the Eyes of our Taxpayers**
- 5. Align With Our Identity and Footprint**



Identity and Footprint

When building the budget we consider:

- > Our enrollment of students: We are 812 wonderful students from 10 vibrant communities.
- > Our faculty and staff: We are over 200 caring professionals.
- > With respect to students and staff, we are in a period of relative stability.





Our Core Values

- > Our Budget must therefore Mirror our Priorities and Values
- > Our Priorities and Values are expressed in our Strategic Plan and by Our Choices and Actions



Reflecting on Our Values and Priorities

Our Stakeholders Reflected and Decided that Region 12 Will:

- > Deliver Powerful Learning
- > Develop Family and Community Engagement
- > Maintain a Climate where Everyone is Safe and Everyone Belongs
- > Innovate and Deliver Value Across the Many Facets of our Operations
- > These are the Values that Drive (and have Driven) our Budget Priorities, and are always enacted with fiscal responsibility.



The “Story” of this Budget:

- > A partnership between a school district and its community
- > Taxpayers who routinely say yes to our requests, for the good of our students
- > Our gratitude, and our hard work, to deploy all the resources you’ve given us
- > A budget confers value, in the eyes of our communities, by providing what students need at reasonable cost



Prior Impactful Investments . . .

In support of our Strategic Plan, this Board and our taxpayers have voted to support past budgets that provided for:



1. Math intervention at Shepaug
2. A full time social worker for the District
3. Development of Link Crew at Shepaug
4. A new state mandated reading program in our elementary schools (American Reading Company or “ARC”)
5. A teaching and learning initiative called “Leaders of Their Own Learning”
6. A refurbished planetarium plus dedicated staff support (.2 FTE) to oversee operations for our students and our community
7. Three armed security officers in our elementary schools, and a full time security presence in the mall at Shepaug

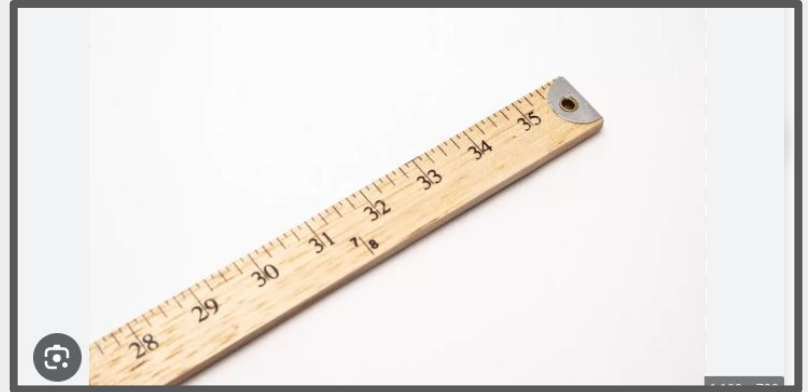
Delivering Results

- > US News & World Report Ranks Shepaug in the top 20% of CT High Schools
- > [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) Ranks Region 12 as in the top 20% of CT School Districts
- > Region 12 Teachers Ranked 10th in the State by [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) (top 8%)
- > Over last several years, all elementaries received status as schools of distinction
- > Overall grade “A” rating from Niche, with special emphasis on having a “small tight knit community with focus on personalization.”

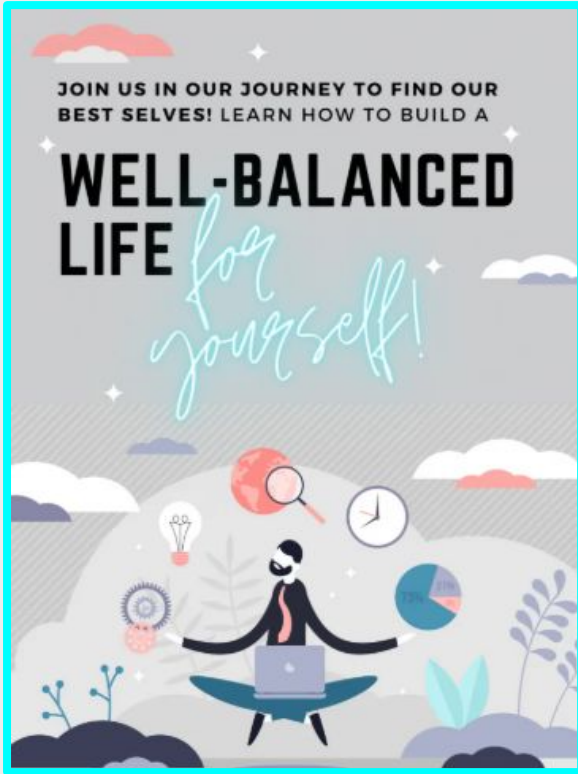


External Measures

- > Our Percentage of Students Meeting SAT Benchmarks in ELA and Math exceeds the state level, and the levels of all our sending towns and Regions 1,7,14,15 and 20).
- > Percentage of Students Meeting SBAC Goals exceeds the State Level and the Levels Achieved in 10 of our 12 Sending and Surrounding Regional Towns



Developing Renaissance People



- > 3 CIAC State Champions
- > 6 Berkshire League Champions
- > Multiple Sportsmanship Award Winners
- > Multiple HALO award winners (Best Costume, Lighting, Prop & Sound Design; Best Male and Female Actors in a Musical, Best Male Actor in a Comedy)
- > Multiple Individual and Team State and National CDE Awards (Agriscience)

Allowing Us To Continue Big Moves at Low Costs...

Based on the strength of that foundation, we can now move all of the following programs forward, without incurring major additional costs:

- > Continue with Leaders of Their Own Learning to improve the quality of instruction and develop students who are not just compliant, but truly engaged, and who are developing independence (Teaching and Learning)
- > Develop a middle school version of Link Crew (School Climate, Belonging, Safety)
- > Launch new dual enrollment courses at Shepaug (Innovation)
- > Continue the College and Career Accelerator (Innovation, Teaching and Learning)
- > Continue adding teaching voice to the Strategic Plan through the Teaching and Learning Council (Climate, Teaching and Learning)





- > Revitalize Senior Project at Shepaug, partly by developing better relationships with community based technical advisors (Community Involvement)
- > Develop and implement a K-12 Vision of the Learner (Teaching and Learning)
- > Intensify elementary connection to STEM with a modest investment in PLTW kits (Innovation, Teaching and Learning)
- > Continue the World Language Program at our Elementary Schools (Teaching and Learning)
- > Add PT/OT In House (Student Wellness and Teaching and Learning)

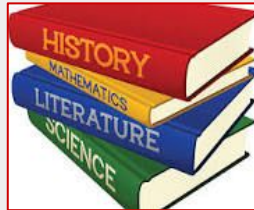
Continue all these powerful teaching and learning initiatives:

- > Primary Partners for our Elementary Students
- > Fifth Grade Agriscience Day
- > Math Professional Development
- > Math Intervention
- > The ARC Reading Program in our Elementary Schools
- > Flock Theater in our Elementary Schools
- > Support for Model UN Trip
- > Leveraging all the new technology we received to support Art, CTE, and our elementary schools



Serving our Students with Fiscal Responsibility

- > This year's budget requests modest additional financial support to build on the foundation we established.
- > We seek Board and community support for our budget which includes new initiatives.
- Project Lead The Way (PLTW) support kits for our elementary students to develop STEM education (\$15,000)(PTL)
- New instructional software to let teachers design “breakout room” lesson plans (\$2,500)(PTL, I)
- Textbooks for new ECE courses at Shepaug (\$6,174) (PTL)
- New basketball uniforms (\$3,800)(Belonging)
- Support Choir Trip to Radio City (\$9000)



Items Also Requested in this Budget

Funding for :

- > Teaching and Learning Council and Completing Curriculum Maps (\$11,000) (TL)
- > Automated Equipment For Cleaning the Barn (\$5,000) (C)
- > Training for Faculty to Use Assistive Technology for our Students (\$1,777) (TL, I)
- > A new post-secondary planning tool for counselors to use in supporting our students (moving from Naviance to School Links) (\$1,500) (TL, I)



Staffing Changes

We are reducing 1.0 teaching FTE at WPS because 4th grade will go from two sections to one to align to enrollment.



We have a 1.25 increase in FTE for OT/PT services that has **no budgetary impact** as the the funds for the salaries of these new staff members were previously budgeted as Purchased Services.

Budget Neutral Grant Funded Initiatives

- > \$30,000 from Title I to Support Training for Counselors at Shepaug to earn “RAMP Certification” and hone additional skills.
- > An additional \$60,115 in Title I and Title II Funding for staff professional development and targeted support to our students in the areas of numeracy and literacy.
- > \$363,023 from IDEA Grant Funding to Support Special Education Programs, including services provided to private schools in the Region.
- > \$55,000 from Perkins Grant Funding and Private Donations for a Bobcat Skid Steer to support our Agriscience operations



Fiscal Responsibility



- > We hyperfocus on keeping track of our pennies. They add up to dollars.
- > Those dollars meet our needs efficiently, without us asking for more money.
- > Consider this space - our Library Learning Commons - it was completely financed by money leftover after scouring our budget, all year long, for savings.

Careful Management of Funds

- > We found \$519,000 for this space through hypervigilance and austere mindsets.
- > This space NEEDED the work.
- > These needs could have driven our budget up by more than 2%, but instead we made it happen within our current means.
- > This is a mindset we adopt all the time, and it pays off. There are numerous smaller examples that aggregate to big savings.



Building Our Budget

- > Departments and School Principals attended meetings to discuss needs
- > Business office determined contractual payroll costs, benefits costs and other operational expenses
- > Submitted requests totalled \$29,573,738
- > After review and consideration, reductions were made totalling \$189,816 and cost savings were realized in the amount of \$255,783
- > No cuts were made to instructional or enrichment programs that impact our students



Budget Request 2026-2027



> Superintendent's 2026-2027 Budget Proposal \$29,128,139

Overall Increase from Prior Year is 3.11%

> Less Anticipated Agriscience Revenue **(\$ 1,845,172)**

> Total Budget Request to Towns \$27,282,967

This represents an increase of 2.96% to our Towns



Budget Impact: Key Increases

Staff Salaries	3.35%	\$564,890
Employee Benefits	7.67%	\$352,714
Special Education	23.78%	\$172,495
Capital Facilities Improvements	43.33%	<u>\$117,945</u>
Total of Key Increases		\$1,208,044
Total additional funding requested 2026-2027		\$ 879,289*

***Before Agriscience Revenue Credit**



Budget Impact: Areas of Cost Savings

Technology	-28.47%	(\$162,210)
Transportation	- 2.67%	(\$ 34,894)
Copiers	-10.00%	(\$ 4,772)
Superintendent's Office	- 4.74%	(\$ 7,970)
Debt Service	- 2.12%	(\$ 20,650)
Telephones	-30.25%	<u>(\$ 25,287)</u>
Total Cost Savings		(\$255,783)

2026-2027 Capital Facilities Budget Request



Location	Upgrade	Budget Funding	Other Funding Source(s)*	Total Cost
Burnham School	Update Mezzanine Fresh Air	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000
Washington Primary School	Update Mezzanine Fresh Air Front Office RTU	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$200,000
Booth Free School	Classroom LED Conversion	\$ 20,000	\$50,000	\$ 70,000
Shepaug Valley School	Rooftop Exhaust Replacements	\$100,000	--	\$100,000
Central Office	Roof Replacement	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
	Total Facilities Projects:	\$390,000	\$430,000	\$820,000



*Other funding sources include Elementary CNR Fund (\$80,000); 2% Fund (\$294,895); State DRIP Grant (\$55,105)



On the Horizon

- **Art Room Renovations at Shepaug Valley School**
- **Cafeteria Renovations at Shepaug Valley School**
- **Collaboration with Intermunicipal Elementary Committee to Address Elementary Buildings**
- **10-Year Capital Plan**

2026-2027 Budget Request By Town



	Bridgewater	Roxbury	Washington
2026-2027 Membership Percentage (10/1/25 Enrollment)	26.541%	29.281%	44.178%
2026-2027 Net Assessment*	\$7,060,693	\$7,789,615	\$11,752,659
2025-2026 Net Assessment*	\$6,386,095	\$7,754,545	\$11,677,431
Increase	\$674,598	\$35,070	\$75,228

*Net Assessment is after Agriscience Revenue (\$1,845,172) & Tuition-In Credit (\$680,000)

Impact to Our Towns



2024-2025 Audit Results: \$684,108 Fund Balance

resulting from \$237,705 Budget Surplus and \$446,403 in additional Tuition-In Revenue

	24-25 Fund Balance Distribution	Increase in 26-27 Budget over Prior Year	Net Increase to Taxpayers
Bridgewater	\$162,226	\$674,598	\$512,372
Roxbury	\$195,310	\$35,070	(\$160,240)
Washington	\$326,571	\$75,228	(\$251,343)

Thank You
to the Region 12 Board of Education
and our communities of
Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington



C Andrea Swiedler 2010

