
To: District/School Leadership
From: Derek Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Date: February 27, 2026
Subject: Finance Updates

Budget Process

The budget process continues to follow the roadmap for action as per the School Committee approved Budget Calendar. Recent developments include the following:

- **Budget Kickoff** was completed in the first week of February with all administrators. Content included:
 - An update on the completed work including but not limited to: review/approval of essential components of the school funding formula; community input meetings; a community survey; enrollment projections and the release and review of the Governor's Budget, to include State Aid (Chapter 70).
 - **Finance-school-site budget meetings** are close to completion (three held daily); FY27 workbook review for each site; review of the new **Principal-Cabinet Summary sheets**, which present an executive summary of the budget status at each location.
 - A **second set of budget meetings** in the form of **Principal-Cabinet meetings** are coming up in the first week of March. School-site leaders will be reviewing the status and impacts of budget adjustments with Cabinet members.
- **Funding Status:**
 - Budget-building for the operating budget:
 - Begin with **revenue**. Known **revenue** is Chapter 70 (state aid) serving as the first anchor. **Assumed revenue** or the **local cash contribution** follows and completes the total revenue picture.
 - **School allocations** are determined by our adopted **Fair Student Funding** formula which includes various components (guardrails, weights and transition policies). These are meant to protect operational viability, reflect service obligations to students and promote staffing continuity.
 - District level **expenses** were examined to include the largest cost-drivers: **salaries and benefits, transportation and special education services**
- **Recommendation:**
 - **Modest reductions** will have to be made across all cost centers to **present a balanced budget**. This will include a **downward adjustment** to staffing and programs at both the Central Office and school sites.
 - **An examination of all expenses** is underway to elicit **cost savings**. **Savings** will ensure that we are able to reallocate dollars as necessary, confidently fund our obligations and prepare for unanticipated expenses to maintain staffing and services.