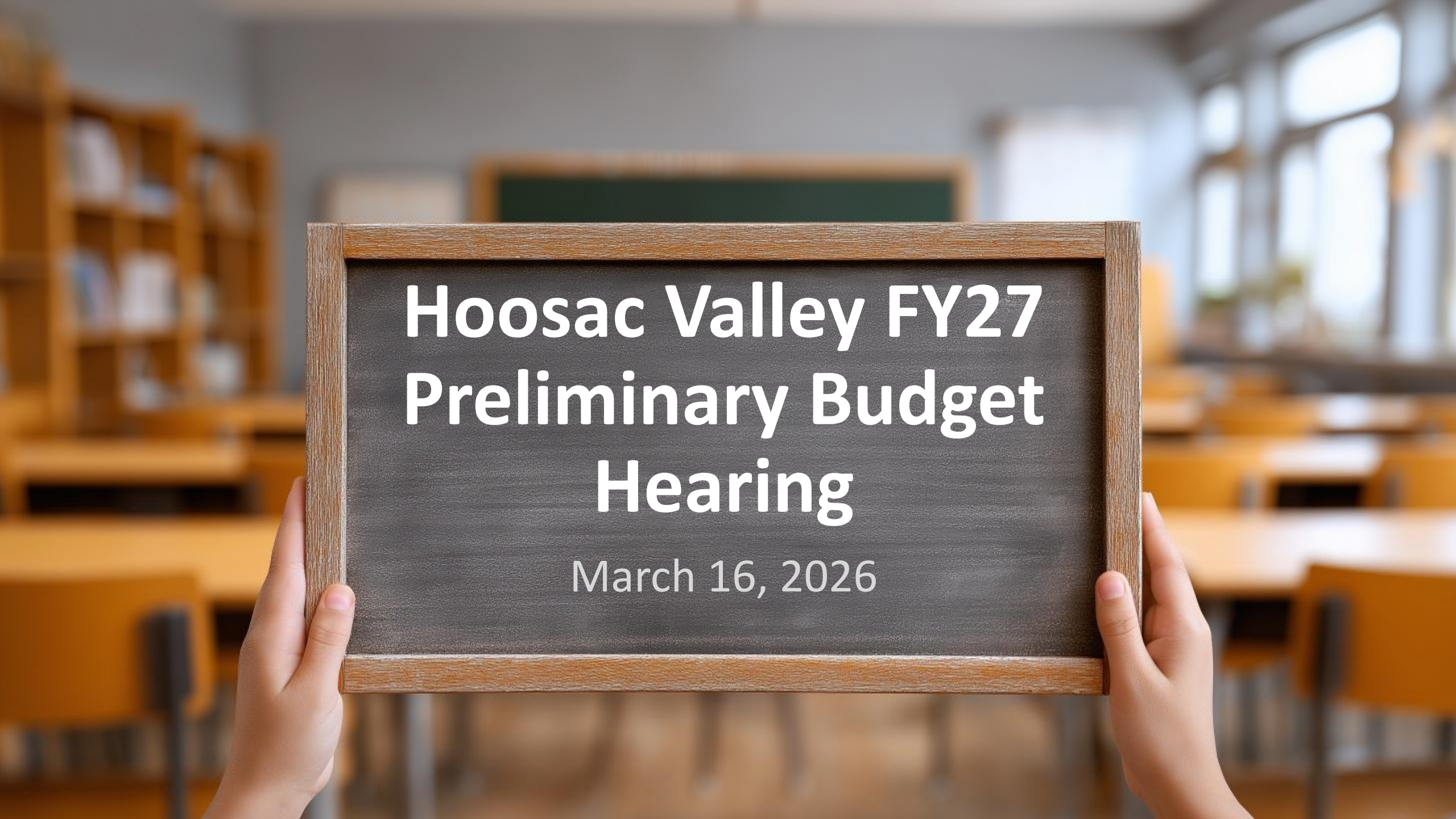




Hoosac Valley FY27 Preliminary Budget Hearing

March 16, 2026

A child's hands are holding a rectangular wooden-framed chalkboard. The chalkboard is black and has the text "Superintendent's Overview" written on it in white. The child is wearing a light-colored, patterned shirt. The background is a blurred classroom setting with wooden desks and a chalkboard.

Superintendent's Overview



2026 BOYS BASKETBALL DIVISION 5 STATE CHAMPIONS HOOSAC VALLEY









School lunch hero: 8-year-old Hoosac Valley Elementary student saves choking classmate

By Dylan Thompson, The Berkshire Eagle Mar 14, 2026 2 min to read



1 of 2



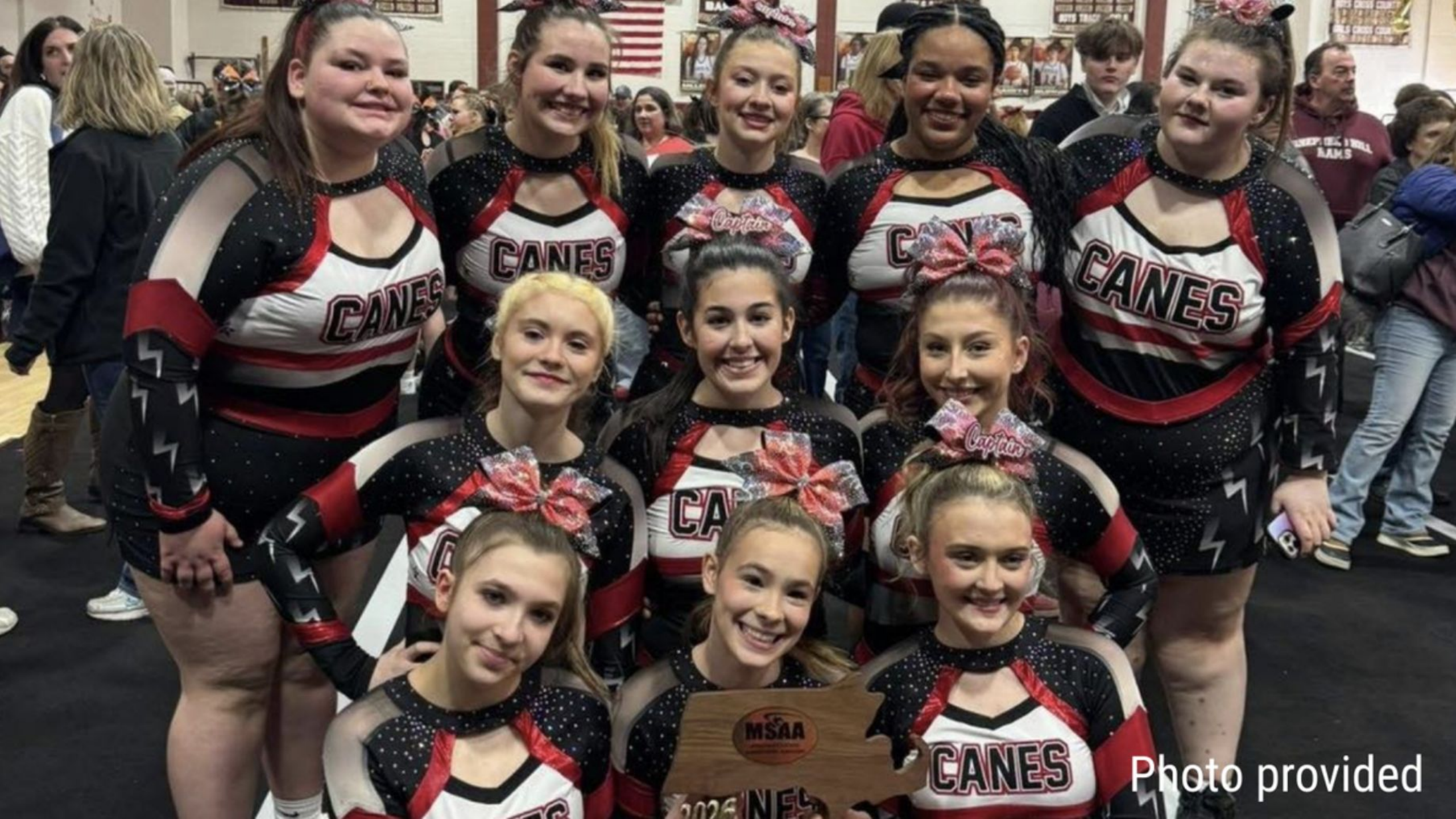


Photo provided





VS



4:45 PM



HOOSAC VALLEY/DRURY UNIFIED BASKETBALL

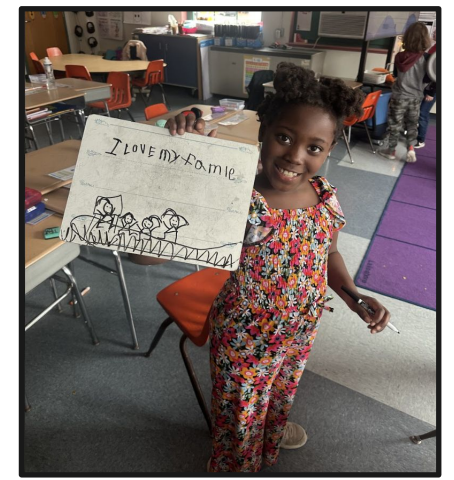
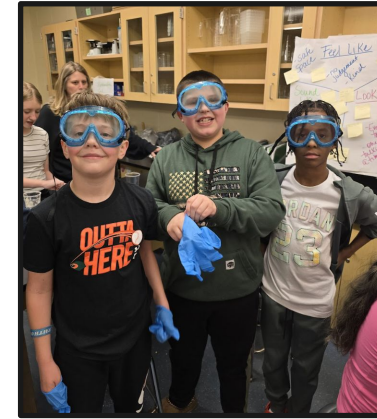
GAMEDAY

WEDNESDAY, OCT 8TH



FILL THE GYM!

Our Students



Investments for Kids

- Innovation Career Pathways
- Portrait of a Learner
- High Quality Instructional Materials (Curriculum)
- Professional development
- MTSS and Inclusive Practices
- Mental Health Planning (BIRCH)
- BBT and ILT
- Curriculum Based Assessments
- Dropout Prevention Plan
- Focus on Literacy: Science of Reading, SRSD
- CPPI PreK and Partnerships with community partners & Transition to K
- NECC program and specialize instruction
- MYCAP: POG & Pathways



Hoosac Valley FY2027 Budget Story

Special Education Budget Increased 22% for FY2027

- Move in student needs resulted in an additional \$200,000 in staffing needs (i.e. RBT services, 1:1 paras)
- OOD Tuition will be between \$1.3 and \$1.6 million (10 students)
- Speech service expenses increased exponentially due to contracted services \$150,000

Health insurance increased \$351,961

Charter and Choice Assessments increased \$437,813

Overall level service increase - \$1,579,735

Where We Started This Budget Cycle

LEVEL SERVICE BUDGET - \$24,716,371
INCREASE - \$1,579,735 (6.83%)

TOWN OF ADAMS ASSESSMENT - \$6,710,982
INCREASE - \$752,779 (12.63%)

TOWN OF CHESHIRE ASSESSMENT - \$3,358,474
INCREASE - \$361,831 (12.08%)

Rural Towns Face Existential Crisis



Rising Costs

Education costs rise with inflation and mandates while state aid remains flat



Levy Ceiling

Many towns approaching Prop 2½ limits with no capacity for overrides



Nothing Left to Cut

After years of reductions, schools have eliminated all non-essential programs and staff



Depleted Reserves

Emergency funds exhausted, leaving no buffer for unexpected costs

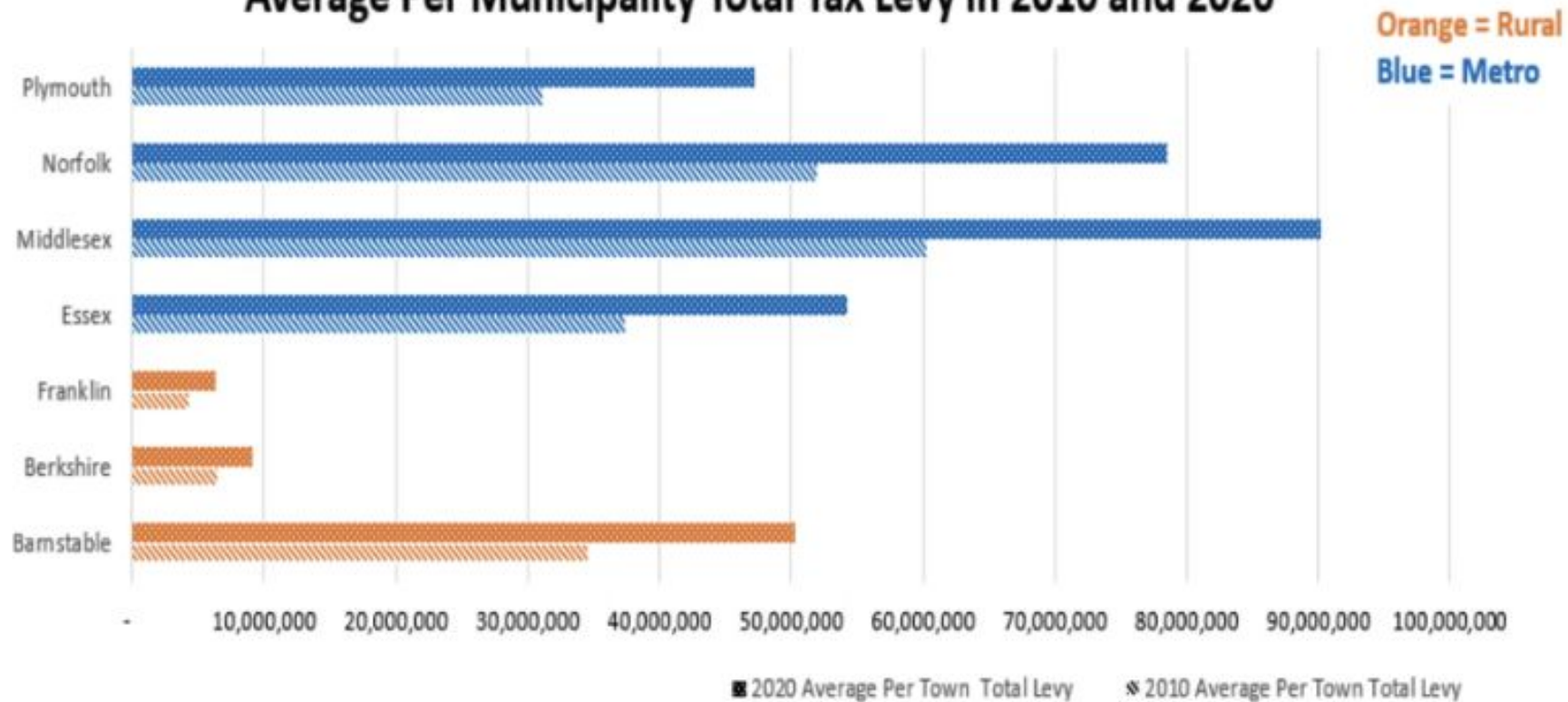


Growing Student Needs

Mental health, special education, and support service demands increasing

The convergence of these factors creates an unsustainable situation requiring immediate state-level intervention through adequate Rural Aid funding.

Average Per Municipality Total Tax Levy in 2010 and 2020



Source: MA Dept. of Revenue, Division of Local Services

Real-World Example: Why Per-Pupil Funding Fails Rural Schools

Rural Elementary School

- **200 students**
- 2 classes per grade K-6
- 14 homeroom teachers needed
- ~14 students per classroom

Foundation budget: **\$3,310 per pupil**

Assumed total cost: $200 \times \$3,310 =$ **\$662,000**

Suburban Elementary School

- **300 students**
- 2 classes per grade K-6
- 14 homeroom teachers needed
- ~21 students per classroom

Foundation budget: **\$3,310 per pupil**

Assumed total cost: $300 \times \$3,310 =$ **\$993,000**

❏ **The Problem:** Both schools need exactly the same number of teachers, yet the rural school receives \$331,000 less—a 33% funding deficit—simply because it serves fewer students. This is the structural inequity at the heart of rural school finance.

Considerations for Resourcing in 2027

Substantially separate programming – utilizing NECC for a second ~~secondary~~ elementary level classroom? – ~~accommodating up to 14 slots~~ We currently have 15 students for a program that has a 12 student cap.

FY2026 Investment – \$215,000, plus differential for support staff

FY2027 investment – \$430,000, plus differential for support staff

- Potential to service more of our students at Hoosac Valley rather than needing to pay tuition
- Potential to collaborate with other local districts to create cost savings

Our most vulnerable learners deserve the opportunity to learn with their peers!

Building Principals

Successes

- Pre-K - building on that work
- MS Student Supports (RESET) - looking to expand impact
- Pathways

Building Administrators - Work that gets championed by each

Struggles - things we're working through and need to support and consider

Vision for the 26-27 school year

Position Reductions - Operating Budget

1.0 FTE Sch Adjustment Coun- Attrition - \$97K

1.0 FTE ES Media - reduce - \$70K

1.0 FTE MS STEM - reduce - \$75K

1.0 FTE SPED Coordinator - reduce - \$80K

1.0 FTE Secretary - \$40K

*MS/HS Shared position will become MS Band

Overall decrease approximately \$362,000

Position Shifts to Alternate Funding Sources

2.0 FTE (.5 of each lead teacher) PreK to SC - \$176K
(*earmark likely coming)

1.0 FTE ACE/1.0 FTE RESET to Rural Aid - \$78K

1.0 FTE School Psych to Rural Aid - \$70K

2.0 FTE (ES AND MS) APTL to School Choice - \$190K

Overall Shift Approximately \$514,000

Considerations for Resourcing in 2027

Social Emotional and Mental Health Supports

High School

- ~~ACE and RESET spaces (Coordinators)~~
- ~~School Adjustment Counselor~~
- Dean

Middle School

- ~~Reset Teacher (Rural Aid)~~
- ~~School Adjustment Counselor~~
- Dean (Rural Aid)

Elementary School

- RBT
- School Adjustment Counselor
- Dean (Rural Aid)

Middle and High School Student Support

- Reset Coordinator
- School Adjustment Counselor
- Reset Paraprofessional (Rural Aid)

District Resources

- BCBA
- Secondary RBT (Currently open)
- (2) School Psychologists

Partnerships

- Optimal Healing (Grants)
- BIRCh (Grants)

What We Are Proposing

OVERALL BUDGET- \$23,990,355
INCREASE - \$853,719 (3.69%)

TOWN OF ADAMS ASSESSMENT - \$6,169,351
INCREASE - \$211,148 (3.54%)

TOWN OF CHESHIRE ASSESSMENT - \$3,174,989
INCREASE - \$177,446 (5.92%)