



SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420

To: Salem School Staff & Families
From: Ryan Little, Budget/Finance Subcommittee Chair
Date: March 13, 2026
Re: Budget Updates

The Salem Board of Education would like to provide a brief update following the March 5, 2026 Board of Finance meeting, during which the Board of Finance reviewed and acted on the Board of Education's proposed budget.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board of Finance voted to approve a Board of Education budget of \$12,530,000. This represents an increase of \$501,832 from the current year's budget and a reduction of \$158,784 from the Board of Education's proposed budget.

The meeting was productive and collegial. Members of the Board of Finance expressed appreciation for the significant work that went into developing the proposed budget and for the clarity of the presentation. Please [click here](#) to access the budget presentation and related budget communications posted on the district website.

As a matter of practice, the Board of Education does not take action regarding potential budget adjustments until the Board of Finance establishes its final budget figure following the Public Hearing process. The Board will provide another update to staff and families following the March 19 Board of Finance meeting in which the Board of Finance votes on the School Board budget that goes before the Town at the April 8, 2026 Public Hearing. It is important to note that families and staff are welcome to attend Board of Finance meeting and/or the Public Hearing.

Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to the Board members, staff, and administrative team who contributed significant time and effort to developing a fiscally responsible budget that maintains and enhances the programming and services we provide to Salem students. This work is especially important given the limited resources available to districts and the increasing statutory and regulatory requirements school systems must navigate. To reassure staff, families, and the taxpayers of Salem that the Salem Board is doing everything we can to advocate for the specific challenges of small school districts, please [click here](#) to view our Board's position statement on having access to Regional Bonus funds in the Education Cost Sharing Formula that would allow us to receive additional funds for tuitioning our students to East Lyme High School. Additionally, you can [click here](#) to see our Superintendent testifying before the State Education Committee on this topic.

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"Salem inspires learning, creativity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and citizenship."