

PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Preston Public Schools FY 27 Budget March 26, 2026 Re-engage! Transition! Extend!



Kelly McNamara , Chair FC

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Superintendent**

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Context and Information

- ❑ Review Context
 - ❑ Federal - State - Community
- ❑ Key priorities
- ❑ Important concepts
- ❑ Review Budget Development Process
- ❑ Due Diligence: Review all discussed options
- ❑ Recommendations for BOF Consideration



- ❖ 375 students: 412 last year
- ❖ 190 High School Students/ 9 HS
- ❖ 16%: 96 504s - 17%: 99 IEPS
- ❖ 33% Free and Reduced Lunch
- ❖ Spanish, Portuguese, German, Arabic, Italian, Farsi, Japanese, Cantonese, Mandarin, French, Polish, and Russian
- ❖ 15% BIPOC students



This is who we are! How will our community change?

Commissioner of Education: Russell-Tucker

The well-being of our students, school communities, and families is of paramount importance.

By providing a safe and supportive learning environment, we set students on a path toward unlocking their lifelong potential as thoughtful and engaged global citizens.

Joint Strategic Plan Goals



Goal 2	Maintain and improve the quality of schools and municipal services.
	Recruitment, retention, and succession planning of quality staff is essential to solidifying schools and municipal services. We strive to implement best practices to support employees in all capacities and to strengthen municipal capacity through recruitment, retention, and staffing in all levels of leadership across all departments.

Working in Partnership

- ❑ Board of Finance Expectations
- ❑ Student Based Budgeting Process
- ❑ BOE Finance Committee
- ❑ Full Board of Education
- ❑ Administration



Due Diligence and Detail



- ❑ Added more Finance Committee meetings to allow for more time
- ❑ Added an additional full Board meeting to allow for more time
- ❑ Created a comprehensive calendar of our process
- ❑ Considered many options
- ❑ Remained focus Team Mission: Students, Families, Staff

FY 27 Budget Summary: \$15,653,740

	2025-2026	2026-2027			
Budget Category	Approved Budget	Budget Request	Adjustments*	Net Budget Request	\$ Change
Salaries	\$ 6,673,714	\$ 7,106,555	\$ -	\$ 7,106,555	\$ 432,841
Employee Benefits	2,179,580	2,596,483	-	\$ 2,596,483	416,903
Plant Operations and Utilities	473,070	528,031	-	\$ 528,031	54,961
Administrative Support	270,555	298,839	(275,799)	\$ 23,040	(247,515)
Secondary Tuition	2,459,694	2,255,071	-	\$ 2,255,071	(204,623)
Operational Support	260,663	289,551	-	\$ 289,551	28,888
Transportation	192,496	240,300	-	\$ 240,300	47,804
Student Services and Tuition	2,215,610	2,137,403	-	\$ 2,137,403	(78,207)
Supplies and Materials	76,444	78,444	-	\$ 78,444	2,000
Instructional Technology	286,117	398,863	-	\$ 398,863	112,746
Total	\$ 15,087,943	\$ 15,929,539	\$ (275,799)	\$ 15,653,740	\$ 565,798
Percentage Increase					3.75%

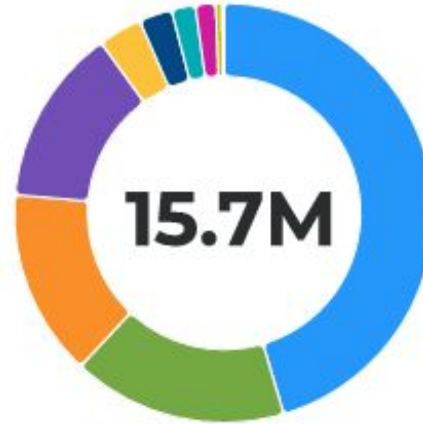
* BOE reductions reviewed. Specific line items to be determined.



Clear Gov



FY27 Expenditures by Program



Salaries	\$7,106,556	45.40%
Employee Benefits	\$2,596,483	16.59%
Secondary Education	\$2,255,070	14.41%
Special Education	\$2,137,403	13.65%
Plant Operations	\$528,031	3.37%
Technology	\$398,862	2.55%
Operational Support	\$289,551	1.85%
Transportation	\$240,300	1.54%
Supplies and Materials	\$78,444	0.50%
Administrative Support	\$23,040	0.15%

FY 27 Budget Drivers: Fixed Costs 89%+



Salaries	\$7,106,555	45%
Benefits	\$2,596,483	15%
Special Education	\$2,137,403	14%
Secondary Tuition	\$2,255,070	15%
		89%

GRANTS that support US! FY 27: \$3,538,734

Title I	\$82,698	Ed Cost Sharing	\$2,952,496
Title II	\$11,673	Excess Cost	\$100,000
Title III	\$809	SEED	\$23,669
Title IV	\$10,000	DRIP	\$49,159
IDEA 611	\$135,903	SRSA	\$41,620
IDEA 619	\$4,603	Adult Ed	\$21,104

Adjustments After Extensive Review: \$275,799

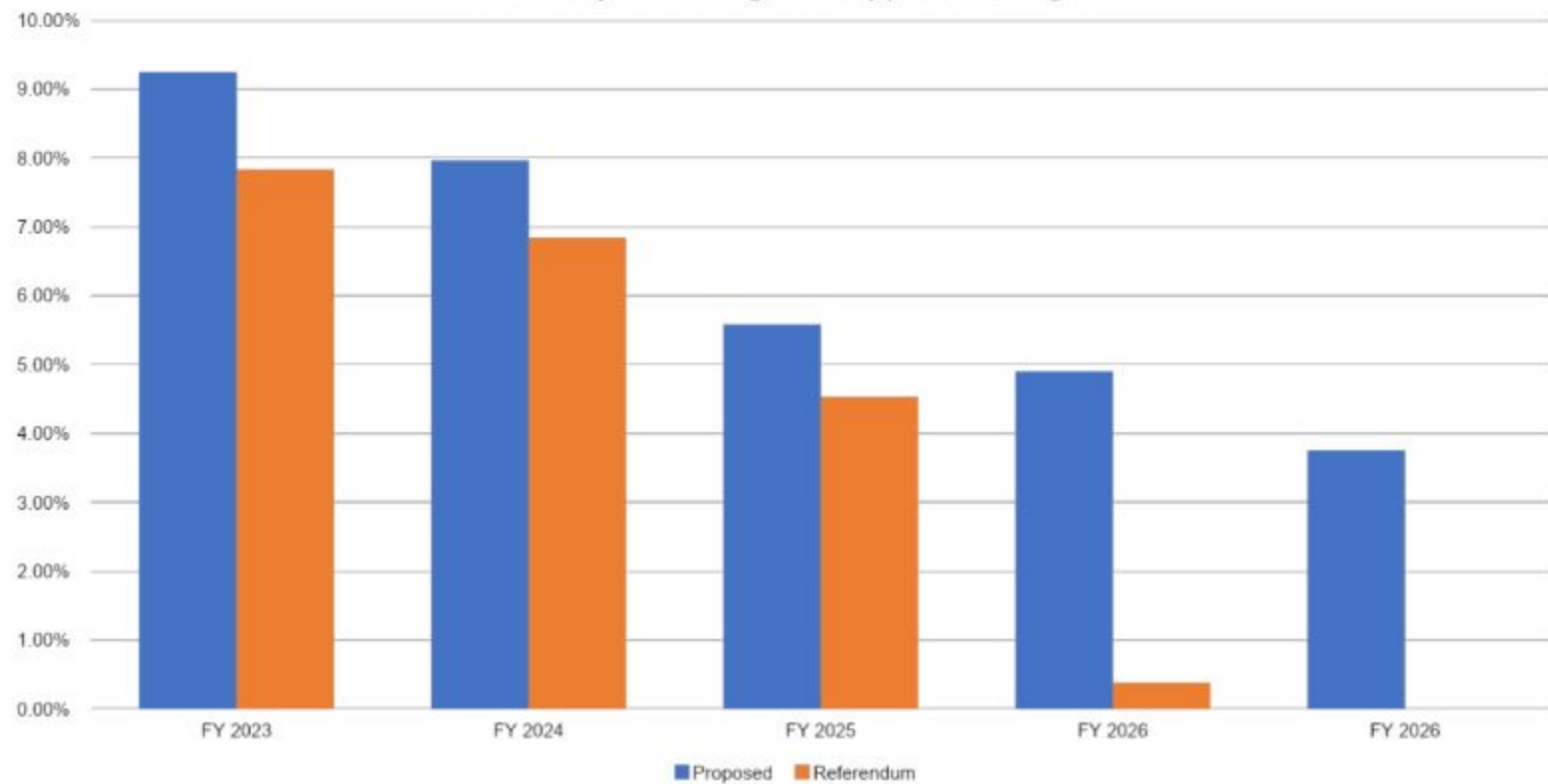
Assistant Athletic Director	(\$1,910)	Plant Ops Unexpected Repairs	(\$10,000)
Elementary Spanish	(\$37,782)	Plant Ops Non-Instructional Equip	(\$7,000)
Summer/School Year Curriculum	(\$4,000)	Plant Operations Electricity	(\$14,617)
IT – Software Renaissance	(\$15,000)	Transportation Contracted Serv	(\$12,500)
Excess Cost	(\$50,000)	IT-C Purchased Services	(\$25,000)
Plant Ops Custodial Substitutes	(\$5,000)	IT Software – SchoolAI	(\$2,900)
Plant Ops Window Replacements	(\$4,000)	Stipends – Social Media	(\$2,000)
Plant Operations Uniforms	(\$2,000)	Stipends – Reading/Math PPMS	(\$3,641)
Plant Ops Custodial Supplies	(\$5,000)	Stipends – Reading/Math PVMS	(\$3,641)
School Supplies	(\$2,500)	Stipends – Environmental Club	(\$707)
		Stipends – Steam Fair	(\$707)
		TBD	(\$ 65,894)

Other Considerations

- ❑ Personnel
 - ❑ Classroom teacher
 - ❑ Paraeducator
 - ❑ Part-time administrator
 - ❑ Education Cost Sharing
 - ❑ Excess Cost
 - ❑ New Grants



BOE Proposed Budget vs. Approved Budget



DRG Average Budget Increases: DRG + LOCAL

Canterbury - 6.67% (LOCAL)

Franklin - 5.45% (DRG)

Griswold 4.97% (LOCAL)

Hampton 5.82% (DRG)

Lisbon 7.31% (DRG)

North Stonington 5.47%
(DRG)

Portland 4.99% (DRG)

Salem 5.4% (LOCAL)

Stonington 5.68% (LOCAL)

Voluntown 2.87 % (LOCAL)

Additional Topics: Technology

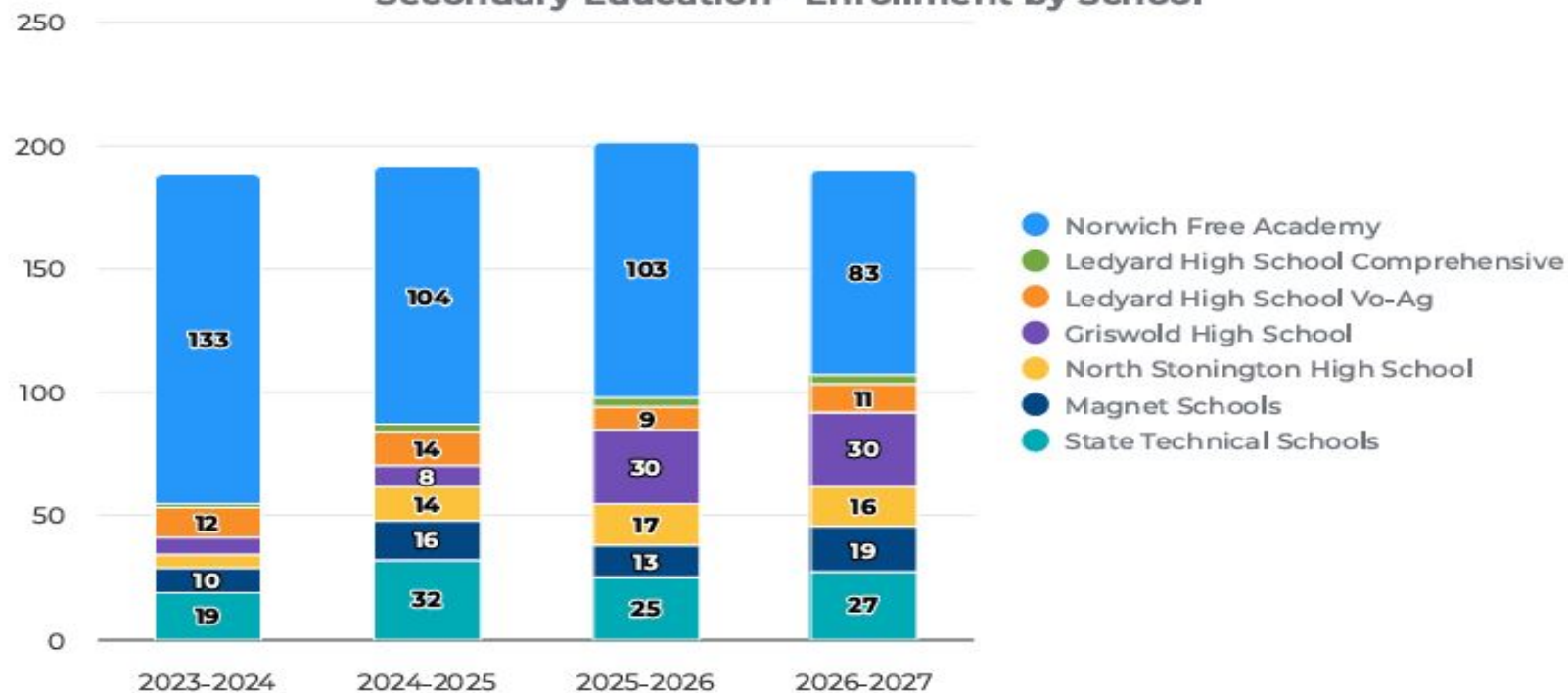


- ❑ Cybersecurity
- ❑ Continuous maintenance
- ❑ Continuous refreshing
- ❑ Infrastructure Maintenance
- ❑ Software Audit every year



Secondary Education

Secondary Education - Enrollment by School



MBR - Minimum Budget Requirement

- To ensure state education aid (such as Education Cost Sharing or ECS funds) is used to supplement local support.
- The State Department of Education may withhold ECS funds in an amount equal to two times the difference between the MBR and the actual budgeted amount.
- MBR legislature may make a change.

The MBR ensures a baseline of education spending.

THE NUMBERS: $565,798 + \$370,281 = \$936,079$ reduction

ECS: Education Cost Sharing

- ❑ ECS is the primary state education equalization aid program, providing over 50% of the state's total contribution to public elementary and secondary education
- ❑ The grant amount depends on a town's property tax base, resident income (town wealth), and student needs.
- ❑ **PRESTON is HELD HARMLESS for FY 27.**
- ❑ **Funds go directly to the Town**
- ❑ Debate continues as to future years.

Moving Forward!



OUR COMMUNITY VISION IS
TAKING SHAPE!

- Mental Health Remains Priority
- Fine Motor Skills
- 65 Military Students
- Normalizing: ***NOT back to Normal***
- Technology: Mission Critical
- Curriculum: Designed Mission
- Instruction: ***Durable not Fragile***
- Artificial Intelligence!?
- The Future is Known
Let's Plan for It!

PILLARS OF PRESTON

- I. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- II. Effective Communication
- III. Innovation and Creativity
- IV. Global Citizenship



We acknowledge the weight and the HOPE of the moment.

CHALLENGES:

Increasing Costs

Volunteerism

Funding Instability

Transformation

Construction

Population

General Need

NEW and DEEPER PARTNERSHIPS:

Troopers; Fire Department; DPW

Small District Superintendents - General

North Stonington - Instruction

Voluntown - Staff

Parks and Recreation - Expanding

Capital Planning - Community

Town and District: Continue

Our Best Work!



Band and Chorus





SPORTS: Championships!



District Reference Group

Group E

003 ASHFORD	032 COVENTRY	068 KENT	113 PORTLAND	154 WESTBROOK
013 BOZRAH	036 DEEP RIVER	071 LEBANON	114 PRESTON	160 WILLINGTON
019 BROOKLYN	039 EASTFORD	073 LISBON	122 SALISBURY	169 WOODSTOCK
021 CANAAN	041 EAST HADDAM	074 LITCHFIELD	123 SCOTLAND	201 DISTRICT NO. 1
024 CHAPLIN	053 FRANKLIN	098 NORFOLK	125 SHARON	206 DISTRICT NO. 6
026 CHESTER	063 HAMPTON	099 NORTH BRANFORD	140 THOMASTON	216 DISTRICT NO. 16
029 COLEBROOK	065 HARTLAND	102 NORTH STONINGTON	145 UNION	903 WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Variables Used to Determine the DRGs:

Income

Education

Occupation

Family Structure

Poverty

Home Language

District Enrollment