

Budget Hearing Session I: 4-1-2026

Q. Were the Budget Hearings advertised?

A. Advertised on the 20th March in the Lowell Sun - **Attachment 1** - per MGL. Budget Hearing notification was approved by the School Committee in the **December 17, 2025** School Committee Meeting (New Business, 8.4 FY2027 Budget Development Calendar Draft). Budget Hearings were also reviewed/approved in the **March 18, 2026** School Committee Meeting (New Business, 9.2 Finance Public Hearings-Annual School Budget).

Q. How best to sustain district-wide positions? i.e. Fine Arts, Athletics

A. These are positions that need to be discussed and agreed upon either via funding share, or “guardrails” (necessary) positions internally, prior to finalizing the components of our funding formula for FY28.

Q. Who was hired with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) hires? Are those the positions being cut?

A. The personnel hired during the period in which ESSER relief was afforded the district have been identified by position as indicated in the table below. The table shows the increase in hiring over time, and how positions were absorbed by the district general (operating) fund (GF), reduced or maintained through school-based allocations.

As the funding source has ended, positions need to be reduced. School site leaders, in concert with School Site Councils and district administration allocate personnel resources that best meet the needs of students.

Position	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	
Assistant Principal	0	0	5	5	0	Absorbed by GF
Teacher - Other (PBR, Intervention)	0	0	22	20	0	Absorbed by GF
Building Based Substitute	0	0	10	10	0	Reduced and maintained by school-based allocations
Paraprofessional - Regular Ed	0	0	49	49	0	Absorbed by GF
Library Media Specialists	0	0	0	14	0	Reduced and maintained by school-based allocations
Tutors	0	0	28	28	0	Absorbed by GF
Social Workers - Building Based	0	33	30	30	0	Absorbed by GF
Social Workers - SPED (Shared)	0	10	0	0	0	
Total FTE	0	43	144	156	0	

Q. Can we identify the positions for reduction?

A. These positions were identified for School Committee Members in **Attachment 2 - Personnel Increases & Decreases 4-1-2026**. The process for reductions is as follows: Allocations were made to schools on the basis of the Funding Formula which LPS has used for the last six years. School site leaders, in concert with the site leadership team and under the advice of the School Site Council, allocated monies to personnel resources that

best met the needs of the students at their site. Site leaders then reviewed their budgets/allocations with the District Leadership team.