

Budget Hearing Session II: 4-8-2026

Q. Provide a list of personnel that have been moved from grants to the general fund operating budget year-over-year and note the reason for the change.

A. Grants Personnel FY26 v FY27.

The table below provides a summary of changes in grant funded personnel from FY26 to FY27. A brief **rationale** has been provided per line.

Rationale for 240 changes: The most significant personnel changes are connected to fund code 240, a federal special education entitlement grant in Massachusetts, designed to ensure students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). It provides funds for special education and related services, aimed at supporting student needs and equity.

Special education (SPED) services are increasing quickly, and we are legally required to provide them based on each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). By shifting certain positions off the 240 grant, we can better manage required fringe benefit costs. These positions are often difficult to fill, and when they remain vacant, the associated fringe funds (about 9% of salary) cannot be recovered or reassigned, resulting in lost funding.

There is also concern that 240 grant funding may be reduced at the federal level in the upcoming fiscal year. As a result, we are prioritizing the use of these funds for essential SPED supplies and contracted services.

Grants Personnel FY26 v FY27

Staffing					Rationale
Clerical Staff - Central Administration	3.0	\$ 195,774	2.0	\$ 143,364	240 to local
Alternative School Coordinator - Leblanc	1.0	\$ 135,552	0.0	\$ -	240 to local
Video Production Instructor - LHS	1.0	\$ 86,000	0.0	\$ -	PEG funds not available
Paraprofessionals - Special Education	48.0	\$ 1,593,600	0.0	\$ -	240 to local
Tutors - English Language Learners	22.0	\$ 554,400	23.0	\$ 579,600	Title III - increase based on need
Instructional Specialist	11.0	\$ 1,258,477	10.0	\$ 1,144,070	TI reduced, anticipated reduction in funding
Early Childhood Specialist	0.0	\$ -	0.5	\$ 37,392	CPPI 50% local, 50%
CFCE Parent Liaison	4.0	\$ 188,388	3.0	\$ 145,956	CFCE grant remained level, could not sustain
PEG Developer Coach	1.0	\$ 89,655	0.0	\$ -	moved to CPPI
Community Schools Managers	3.0	\$ 294,876	4.0	\$ 401,788	3.0 Community Schools Grant, 1.0 Title I
Adult Education Teachers	1.0	\$ 98,929	0.0	\$ -	Used revolving funds
Literacy Specialist	15.0	\$ 1,716,105	14.0	\$ 1,583,722	TI reduced, anticipated reduction in funding

Budget Hearing Session II: 4-8-2026

Q. Provide an update on the Lowell High School positions being considered for reduction.

A. The table below has been updated as of 4-10-26. It reflects the most recent updates to positions considered for reduction at Lowell High School, incorporating feedback from the School Committee and the community. It highlights how input was used to inform adjustments and ensure decisions were made thoughtfully and transparently.

Key Positions Cut Original Submission	Key Positions Recommended for Reinstatement (SSC 4/7/26)	Key Positions Cut Recommendation (SSC 4/7/26)	Key Positions for Reinstatement (4/10/26)	Key Cut Revisions (4/10/26)
College and Career Counselor	College and Career Counselor		College and Career Counselor	
		Clerk Schedulers, Cut 2 of 5		Clerk Schedulers, Cut 2 of 5
		Student Support Specialists (House Offices), Cut 3 of 6		Cut 4 of 7 Student Support Specialists
Department Chair (Arts)	Department Chair (Arts)		Reinstate Department Chair (Arts)	
Enrollment Counselor	Enrollment Counselor			Cut One Enrollment Counselor
Freshmen Academy Counselor	Freshmen Academy Counselor		Reinstate Freshmen Academy Counselor	
Music Teacher		Music Teacher	Reinstate Music Teacher	
Social Worker (BRYT)		Social Worker (BRYT)		Cut Social Worker (BYRT)
				Cut one Business Teacher (replaced with CTE-Business position)

Budget Hearing Session II: 4-8-2026

Administrative Assistant (Main Office)		Administrative Assistant (Main Office)		Cut 1 Administrative Assistant (Main Office)
			Add 1 Social Studies Teacher (to reflect Tom Thornton's position- previously erroneously omitted on LHS book- correct number of 28 was in the main budget)	

Q. Provide information on consulting services and related contracts, as this should be an area considered for cost savings

A. Attachment I: Consulting Services and Contracts provides a sample of Lowell Public Schools (LPS) contracts approved since July 1, 2025. It is intended to offer a balanced snapshot of the consulting services the district engages and the funding sources used to support them. Please note that any contract valued at \$5,000 or more requires School Committee approval. Note: Grant funded or grant offset cells have been highlighted with color. It is clear that the majority of items and preponderance of costs are assumed by grants.

Q. Provide information on hardware and software, as this should be an area considered for cost savings.

Rationale for funding technology initiatives

Investing approximately \$1M annually in technology is both necessary and strategic for Lowell Public Schools, and represents a fractional portion of the budget (1/287 or 0.003%).

It ensures our students will remain competitive in a global, technology-driven world while providing equitable access to digital curriculum and instructional tools. No matter which industry or field our students move into, being technologically fluent is a necessity.

Reliable, up-to-date technology also enables teachers to deliver high-quality instruction through modern classroom tools (e.g., interactive boards and devices). Without this level of investment, the district risks falling behind in infrastructure, instructional delivery, cybersecurity, and operational efficiency—areas that are now essential, not optional.

Summary of technology initiatives by line

- **Line 54 – Computer Hardware**

Supports critical infrastructure and classroom technology. This includes network

Budget Hearing Session II: 4-8-2026

switches that keep schools connected, replacement of aging interactive classroom panels (with a large portion over 5 years old - approx 85% of 1200 panels district-wide), upgrades to AV equipment in shared spaces, transition to VOIP phone systems as copper lines are phased out, and buildouts for new or expanding schools. It also covers replacement parts to maintain existing devices and ensure continuity of operations.

- **Line 55 – Computer Software**

Reflects rising costs for essential software systems that support daily operations and instruction. This includes cybersecurity tools, the student information system, internet filtering for student safety, administrative and financial systems, and helpdesk/ticketing platforms. The increase ensures the district can maintain secure, compliant, and efficient digital systems.

- **Line 56 – Internet Service Provider**

Funds reliable, high-capacity internet connectivity across all schools. The budget accounts for the full cost of fiber service to ensure uninterrupted access. It supports districtwide networking, instructional streaming, communication systems, and cybersecurity protections like firewalls. The increase also reflects inflation and expanded network needs.

- **Line 57 – Photocopier Maintenance/Services**

Covers costs associated with a new copier lease implemented in FY26 to address reliability issues. The FY27 increase reflects additional machines brought into the district, ensuring staff have consistent access to printing and copying resources necessary for daily operations.