Overview

On Monday, May 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater, the Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education (the "Board") will hold a District Meeting on its proposed 2026-2027 budget. No vote will be taken at this meeting. A budget referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, and voters are encouraged to participate.

Budget development began in September and involved an extensive development and review process with district staff over more than a six-month period. The proposed budget was then reviewed in February and further reduced with Board input. The latest revised board proposed budget was presented to each of the region's sending towns during the months of March and April.

The total budget request of $25,257,227 is an increase of $432,498, or 1.74 percent more than the current budget of $24,824,729. The increase is due primarily to: an increase of $75,493 in the Salary account due to contractual obligations along with staffing changes and staff reductions; an increase in Benefits of $265,713 primarily due to a 9.4 percent increase in health insurance; an increase of $221,064 in Professional/Technical Services mostly attributable to Special Education programming requirements; an increase of $38,777 in Property Services attributed mainly to energy, fuel and utilities; a decrease of $208,334 in Other Purchased Services from a decrease in Special Education outplacement tuitions and transportation for outplaced students; an increase in Supplies of $35,404; minor shifts between accounts net a $0 impact under Property; and an increase in Other Objects and Other Use of Funds of $4,381 due to adjustments to dues and fees and no new borrowing since 2012.

Salaries and Benefits

Salaries are based on 130.70 full-time equivalent positions (FTE) – including 98.0 certified positions. The Benefits section includes a 9.4 percent increase from health insurance renewal costs.

Revenues

The overall 2026-2027 revenues are anticipated to decrease by an estimated $10,093. This is primarily due to a decrease in Regular Education and Vo-Ag Tuition revenues.

Revenues are derived from taxation, state grants and other sources. The primary source is through regional taxpayers. The budget expenditure summary and allocations are as follows:

Budget Summary:
Expenditures by Category

Category	2026-2027
Salaries	$12,684,227
Benefits	$ 4,173,831
Purchased Professional Services	$ 2,528,355
Purchased Property Services	$ 1,408,035
Other Purchased Services	$ 3,388,456
Supplies	$ 648,739
Property	$ 370,859
Other Objects	$ 66,225
Other Use of Funds	$ -11,500
Total Budget	**$25,257,227**

Increase of 1.74%

(Enrollment from each town)

Percentage of budget (allocations) paid by each town is based on Average Daily Membership (10/1/2025).

	Students	% Allocation
Barkhamsted	182	26.57%
Colebrook	70	10.22%
New Hartford	372	54.31%
Norfolk	61	8.90%
Totals	**685**	**100.00%**

Member Town Allocations

	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change
Barkhamsted	$5,983,177	$6,116,861	$133,684
Colebrook	$2,398,702	$2,352,816	-$45,886
New Hartford	$12,271,850	$12,503,075	$231,225
Norfolk	$1,975,535	$2,048,929	$73,394
Other Sources	$2,195,465	$2,235,546	$40,081

Average Daily Membership