FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Spring 2026

Dear Members of the Lyme and Old Lyme Communities,

The Region 18 Board of Education approved a budget for the 2026-2027 school year at its February 4,2026 meeting. This $41,477,955 budget represents a 4.61% increase from the adopted budget for the current year. This budget is now transmitted to you, the voters, for your deliberation and action.

The main drivers for this budget include increases in special education costs and negotiated salary increases for our certified staff members. We have developed a budget that continues to maintain all of our award winning academic and extracurricular offerings, which are commensurate, and oftentimes superior, to both public and private schools throughout Connecticut.

This budget supports our commitment to continued adherence to class size guidelines, continuance of existing academic and extracurricular activities, adjustments for anticipated changes in the special education population, adequate funding for maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds, scheduled replacement of technology and equipment, and program improvements that are consistent with high academic and operational standards.

The Board of Education encourages citizens to learn about the budget composition and participate in scheduled budget activities. Thus, you are invited to review the proposed budget, attend our public sessions and, of course, vote on May 5.

Sincerely,
Ian Neviaser
Superintendent of Schools

Jason Kemp
Chair, Board of Education



Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

lymeoldlymeschools

www.region18.org

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Congratulations to our Students



Congratulations to the high school **mock trial team** for placing third in the Connecticut Mock Trial Competition. More than 60 schools from across the state competed in the program.



Congratulations to the **boys basketball** team for claiming the Shoreline Championship Cup for the second year in a row!

Fifth graders from Mile Creek School and Lyme School participated in the **District Chorus Concert** along with students from the middle school and high school chorus groups. Congratulations to all for a stellar performance!





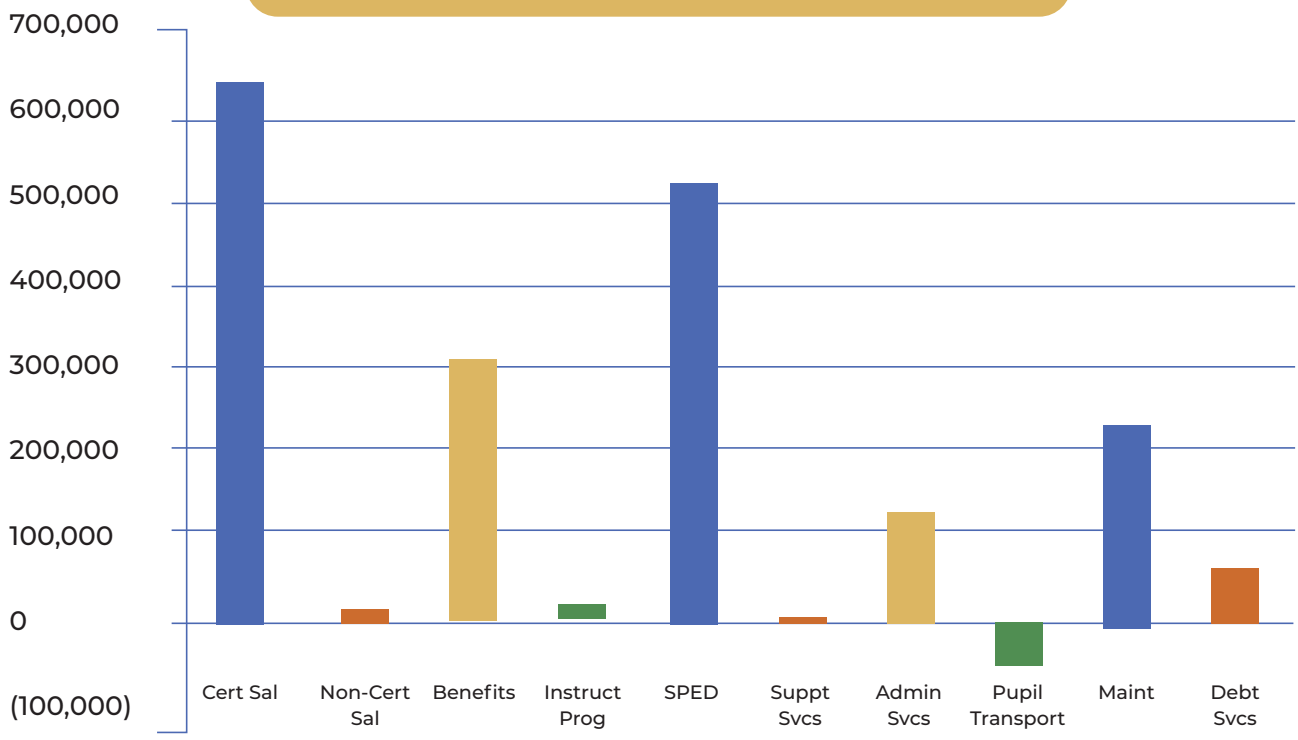


Both the **middle school musical** *Beauty and the Beast* and the **high school musical** *Hello Dolly* performed to nearly sold out audiences this winter. Congratulations to the cast, crew, musicians, and numerous volunteers for sharing their immense talent.

Overall Budget Summary

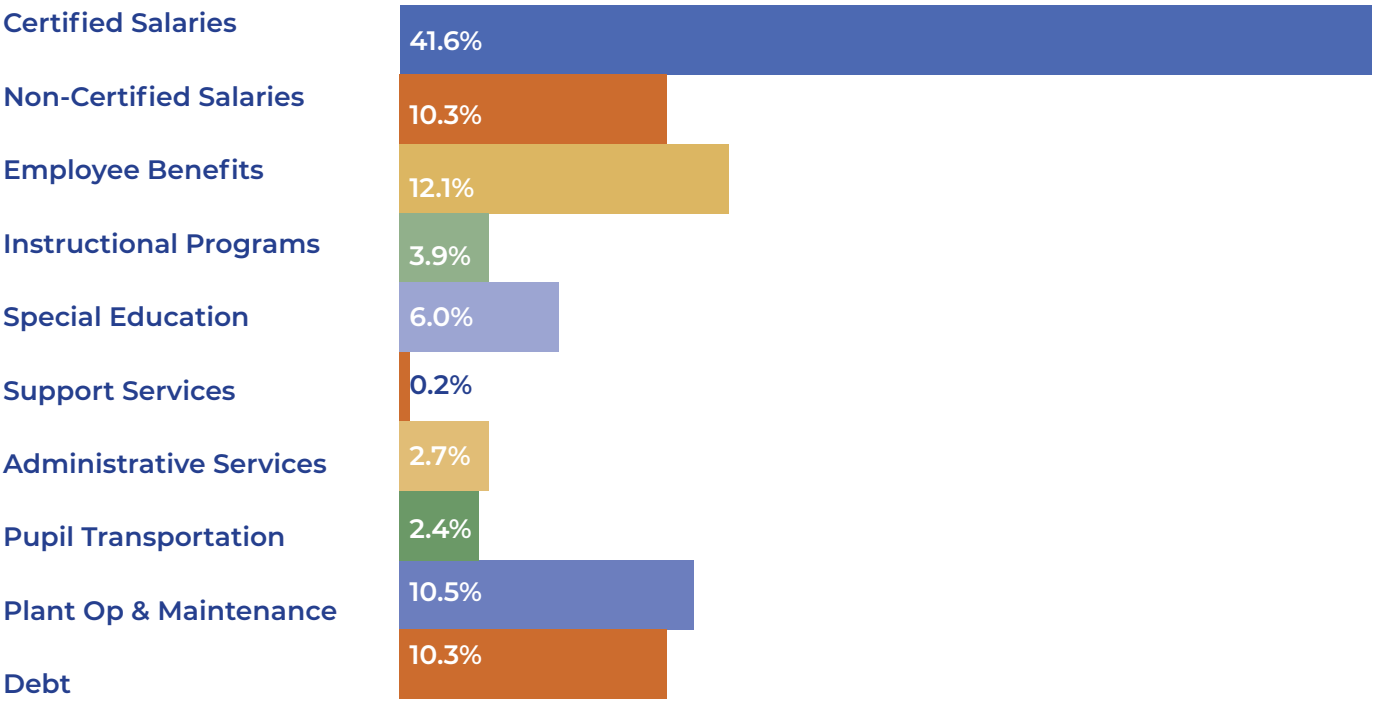
	24-25 Actuals	25-26 Budget	26-27 Budget	$ Increase or (Decrease)	% Inc or (Dec) by Line Item
Certified Salaries	16,368,703	16,627,814	17,263,137	635,323	3.82%
Non-Certified Salaries	3,969,294	4,263,615	4,271,028	7,413	0.17%
Employee Benefits	4,180,138	4,722,729	5,025,932	303,203	6.42%
Instructional Programs	1,363,802	1,616,322	1,624,992	8,670	0.54%
Special Education	1,526,653	1,965,473	2,478,686	513,213	26.11%
Support Services	127,422	78,360	82,603	4,243	5.41%
Administrative Services	1,571,562	979,148	1,103,415	124,267	12.69%
Pupil Transportation	670,223	1,047,503	1,010,548	(36,955)	(3.53)%
Plant Op & Maintenance	4,698,029	4,136,551	4,350,323	213,772	5.17%
OPERATING BUDGET	**34,475,826**	**35,437,515**	**37,210,664**	**1,773,149**	**5.00%**
Debt Service	2,108,363	4,213,288	4,267,291	54,003	1.28%
TOTAL BUDGET	**$36,584,189**	**$39,650,803**	**$41,477,955**	**$1,827,152**	**4.61%**

Budget Drivers



2026–2027 Proposed Budget

$41,477,955 4.61% increase



Historical Budget Perspective

2021-2022	$34,874,548	
2022-2023	$34,830,464	-0.13%
2023-2024	$35,844,345	+2.91%
2024-2025	$36,920,881	-3.00%
2025-2026	$39,872,263	7.99%
2026-2027	$41,477,955	4.61%

2021-2022	$34,874,548
2026-2027	$41,477,955
Total increase over five years	+$6,603,407

That is an average annual increase over five years of $1,320,681 or 3.67% per year

New Policy on Reserve Fund

In October of 2025, the Board of Education adopted a new policy that governs their Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures. This fund is for capital expenditures such as planning, construction, reconstruction, acquisition, and equipment. Annual and supplemental transfers to the fund may not exceed 2% of the district's annual budget. The Board of Education reviews transfers annually (generally in October using the 10-year plan) and submits a detailed annual report to the towns.



2026/2027 Facilities Plans

- Replace hot water heaters at Lyme School
- Replace hot water heater at LOLMS
- Repair concrete at the rear entry of Lyme School
- Replace security alarm at Mile Creek School







Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
49 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

The Regional School District 18 Board of Education prohibits harassment and discrimination in educational programs, services, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, military or veteran status, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, or past or present physical or mental disability in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and appropriate state laws.

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings:

MAY 4: District Budget Meeting, 6:30 PM

MAY 6: Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

JUNE 3: Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org under the “District Information” tab.

Budget Referendum • May 5, Noon – 8:00 PM

Voting Locations:

Old Lyme Residents: Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School gym

Lyme Residents: Lyme Town Hall