



A Message from Dr. Alexandra Estrella, Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools

Response to City's Recommendation for FY 2026-27 Operating Budget

Tonight, we learned that the City of Norwalk's recommended FY 2026–27 Operating Budget, presented by the City's Chief Financial Officer, includes a 4.0% increase for the Norwalk Board of Education. While we appreciate the City's acknowledgment of the needs of our schools, the proposed increase falls short of the 6.5% requested by the Board of Education.

The City's recommended budget is approximately \$6.07 million less than the Board of Education's tentatively approved budget, requiring the Board to reduce its request by that amount.

Throughout the budget development process, conversations between the district and our partners at the City have been open, respectful, and collaborative. We appreciate the time, care, and thoughtful engagement that have gone into these discussions, which have included a candid and constructive exchange of perspectives grounded in good faith and a shared commitment to Norwalk's children.

We are hopeful that this positive dialogue will continue as the process moves forward, so that together we can arrive at a budget that provides the resources our schools, classrooms, and staff need to best support our scholars and sustain their success.

The Board's tentatively approved FY 2026–27 budget was developed with great care and purpose as a maintenance budget designed to preserve the essential services and staffing needed to keep our district operating at current levels. Rising health insurance costs represent one of the most significant pressures on the budget, and any requested increases are otherwise limited to meeting contractual obligations, salary commitments, and the rising costs of utilities and critical services such as special education and multilingual learner support.

This budget reflects the reality that sustaining the positive momentum of our scholars depends on stable, predictable funding.

We remain committed to working constructively with the City to balance the needs of our students with our shared responsibility to be careful and responsible stewards of taxpayer and family resources.