



JANUARY 2026

OVERALL BUDGET INCREASE



2026-2027 Requested Budget

\$146,971,610

-

2025-2026 Adopted Budget

\$128,000,000

=

A Difference of

\$18,971,610

⋮

14.82%

increase from
2025-2026
Adopted
Budget

MAY 2026 UPDATE

State Contribution

\$13,292,120

Local Funding Request

\$5,679,490

⋮

4.4%

updated
local
request



TURNAROUND STATUS (Lowest performing 5% of schools in CT)

DISTRICT	2021-2022	2024-2025	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
New Britain School District	5 Schools	2 Schools	▼ -60%	

NOTABLE CSDNB ACCOMPLISHMENTS

METRIC	2021-2022	2024-2025	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
Student Attendance	87.8%	90.2%	▲ +2.4%	
Elementary ELA	14.7%	19.4%	▲ +4.7%	No longer last in the state
Elementary Math	7.9%	19.1%	▲ +11.2%	No longer last in the state
Middle School ELA	18.3%	14.7%	▼ -3.6%	
Middle School Math	7.1%	9.4%	▲ +2.3%	No longer last in the state
High School ELA	29.3%	27.4%	▼ -1.9%	
High School Math	9.7%	7.0%	▼ -2.7%	
ML Student Mastery	3.4%	6.1%	▲ +2.7%	Nearly doubled in three years
Sp.Ed. Students Outplaced	17.1%	16.2%	▼ -0.9%	More kids staying in NB
Teachers of Color	19.6%	22.7%	▲ +3.1%	
College Credit Courses Completed	332	640	▲ +308	Nearly doubled in three years

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR GRADES 3-8

GRADE AND AREA OF STUDY	2021-2022	2024-2025	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
Grade 3 ELA	13.9%	15.6%	▲ +1.7%	
Grade 4 ELA	10.8%	20.5%	▲ +9.7%	Nearly doubled in three years
Grade 5 ELA	19.4%	22%	▲ +2.6%	
Grade 6 ELA	14.5%	13%	▼ -1.5%	
Grade 7 ELA	17%	13.6%	▼ -3.4%	
Grade 8 ELA	23.4%	17.5%	▼ -5.9%	
Grade 3 Math	9.7%	20.3%	▲ +10.6%	More than doubled in three years
Grade 4 Math	7.3%	21.5%	▲ +14.2%	Nearly tripled in three years
Grade 5 Math	6.6%	15.4%	▲ +8.8%	More than doubled in three years
Grade 6 Math	5.8%	8.7%	▲ +2.9%	
Grade 7 Math	7.7%	9%	▲ +1.3%	
Grade 8 Math	7.7%	10.4%	▲ +2.7%	

DISTRICT FUNDING RANKING

DISTRICT	2021-2022	2024-2025	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
New Britain School District	148 th / 165	162 nd / 165	▼ -14	



ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

Smalley, Chamberlain, and Northend: Successfully graduated from Turnaround School Status. No longer identified among the state's lowest-performing 5% of schools. (2025)

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS RECOGNIZED LOCALLY & NATIONALLY



Eric Nelson (NBHS)

Received 2025 Pathway Educator Award for Excellence in Manufacturing.

Michaelknight Zayas (NBHS)

Nationally recognized by NAF for innovative student learning experiences. (2025)

Eileen Marquez (NBHS)

Honored by the Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents (CALAS) for leadership, equity, and excellence in education. (2025)

Alicia Hernandez Strong (Smalley)

Recipient of the 2025 NAACP Connie Collins Community Service Award. (Education)

COLLEGE & CAREER EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY



NBHS earned NAF Distinguished Status for its College and Career Academies through high-quality, industry-aligned student learning experiences. (Multi-Year)

EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



HALS Academy named a CT Blue Ribbon School, one of only four schools in the state honored for high performance and closing achievement gaps. (2025)

MULTILINGUAL EXCELLENCE

132 NBHS students earned the Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy in 8 languages – including the school's first recipient in Dari (2025)



EXPANDING COLLEGE ACCESS & SAVINGS FOR FAMILIES

560 NBHS students earned college credit through dual enrollment, AP, ECE, and career pathway programs. (2025)

Nearly 25% of graduates left high school with college credit. (2025)

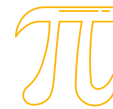
An estimated **\$500,000** saved in college tuition costs for New Britain families. (2025)

MATH GROWTH ACROSS MULTIPLE GRADE LEVELS

Grade 4 Math proficiency nearly **tripled** in the past three years.

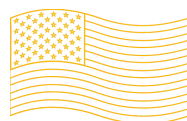
Grades 3 and 5 Math proficiency more than **doubled** in the past three years.

Grades 6–8 all showed proficiency gains.



Districtwide momentum continues in mathematics achievement

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SUCCESS ABOVE STATE & GLOBAL AVERAGES



NBHS AP U.S. History students earned an 83% pass rate with an average score of 3.75, outperforming both Connecticut and global averages. (2025)

ELEMENTARY ELA GROWTH ACROSS GRADE LEVELS



Grades 3, 4, and 5 all demonstrated continued growth in Elementary ELA achievement.

DISTRICT-WIDE ELEMENTARY ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

CSDNB is no longer ranked last in Connecticut in either Elementary ELA or Elementary Math achievement.



CO-CURRICULAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED REGIONALLY AND STATEWIDE



7 NBHS musicians selected for the CMEA Northern Region Music Festival. Lisa Naples advanced to the CMEA All-State Orchestra. (2025)

HALL OF FAME STATUS



Michelle Abraham, Brookside teacher and NBHS coach, was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame. (2025)

A TRADITION OF INTEGRITY

NBHS Athletics has earned multiple CIAC Sportsmanship Awards for promoting respect, teamwork, and integrity in athletics. (Ongoing)

MARCHING BAND EXCELLENCE & CHAMPIONSHIP TRADITION

Undefeated 2025 competition season with top honors at Royal Blues and Cheshire.

Four-peat champions at the Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade, earning Best Town Contingent and Best High School Band honors for the third straight year. (2026)



UNDEFEATED

NBHS Girls Flag Football finished the regular season undefeated and ranked #1 in their division. (2026)

STUDENT ARTISTS RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY



NBHS student artists were selected for the 2025 Congressional Art Competition, with artwork exhibited at the Mattatuck Museum and online. (2025)

CHAMPIONSHIP CHEERLEADING SUCCESS



NBHS Cheerleading captured a State Championship after a season of competitive success. 6 former NBHS cheerleaders now compete on Central CT State University's Cheer Team. (2026)

GROWING ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION & EXCELLENCE



Student athlete participation increased by more than 200 students in the past year. More than 900 middle school students participated in athletics this year. At NBHS, 41 All-Conference student-athletes recognized this fall and winter and 6 All-State athletes were honored this year alone.



HISTORIC WRESTLING ACHIEVEMENT



Kaydence Atkinson became the first wrestler in NBHS history to advance to Nationals, qualifying in both 2025 and 2026 after winning State and New England titles.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

NBHS Football captured the CCC division title and earned the #1 ranking in Class LL. (2025)

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FUTURE EDUCATORS PROGRAM



Home to a multi-year national championship-winning Educators Rising program. Earned 7 top-three finishes at the 2026 State Conference, including 4 first-place awards. Multiple students qualified for Nationals. The program continues expanding opportunities for future educators across grade levels. (Ongoing)

PERFORMING ARTS EXCELLENCE



NBHS Choral & Drama Department earned multiple HALO Awards for excellence in musical theatre and student performance. (Ongoing)

TRACK & FIELD EXCELLENCE

Track & field participation has tripled in the past 3 years. Athletes qualified for national competition 4 times during that span. Two recent NBHS graduates are now NEC Champion runners at CCSU.



FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS

The New Britain Middle School Cheerleading Team earned a first-place finish in its very first season. (2025)



OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EXPANDING COLLEGE ACCESS THROUGH FAFSA SUCCESS



NBHS earned state recognition for achieving one of Connecticut's largest FAFSA completion increases, reaching a 54.9% completion rate. (2023)

RECOGNIZED FOR STUDENT SAFETY & BIKE EDUCATION

CSDNB was named a Connecticut Vision Zero Community for its commitment to bike education and student safety. (2025)



NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SCHOOL CULTURE & STUDENT SUPPORT



CSDNB named a Northeast PBIS District of Distinction for excellence in positive school climate, equity, and student success. (2025)

District leaders presented nationally on innovative strategies supporting student behavior, SEL, and school culture. (2024)

A LEGACY OF COLLEGE ACCESS & PARTNERSHIP

NBHS was recognized by UConn as an original partner school, continuing to expand college-level opportunities with 264 students enrolled in 18 UCONN courses alone. (2025)

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS



Special education outplacements decreased over the past 3 years.

Kyle Greene-Pendleton – Recipient of ASHA's Rolland J. Van Hattum Award for leadership and innovation; co-founder of the KEY Program.

Dr. Melissa R. Olson – Published co-author in the Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools & Early Intervention for research on expanding practitioner roles in public education. (2025)

LEADERSHIP & STAFF EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Tyrone Richardson – Selected to the 100 Men of Color Class of 2025 for leadership, mentorship, and community impact.

Scott Ahern – Recipient of the Ken Griffin Compass Award from the New Britain-Berlin YMCA.

Michelle Norton (DiLoreto) & Joseph Body (Pulaski) – Nominated for the AMLE Adult Advocate Award for student mentorship and advocacy.

NBHS Leadership Team – Featured on The Efficacious Educator Podcast for innovative work improving school climate and culture.

Maryellen Manning – Published in District Administration and featured on Dr. Reda Othman's Leadership Podcast for her work on collaboration and communication in education.

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS & OPPORTUNITY



Nearly \$300,000 in scholarships was awarded to more than 100 NBHS students during Scholarship Night 2025.

RECOGNIZED FOR STUDENT WELLNESS EXCELLENCE

CSDNB achieved full implementation of districtwide wellness, nutrition, and physical activity standards through recognition by the Connecticut State Department of Education. (2025)



STUDENT LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Smalley Elementary earned the 2024 Innovator Award after students raised \$2,000 for breast cancer awareness and research. (2024)



AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

Winner of two Bonnie B. Carney Awards for Educational Communications. For Social Media and Newsletter Communications for CSDNB's District Dispatch.



Gasper, Anthony

Gasper, Anthony

0 - CSDNB - All Staff; Board of Education

Hello New Britain,

Firstly, I'd like to wish all of our teachers a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week. I know that during budget season it can sometimes be difficult to be optimistic, but I remain hopeful and I hope that you'll take a few minutes to read the (long) message below.

I'm writing with hopeful news about the budget.

Infusion of State dollars: As you may have already heard, the Governor and legislature have approved a substantial increase in funding for districts. The impact for New Britain is an additional \$13.3 million. This is a huge boost to our budget gap. We know that this support was made possible by the broad-based advocacy by students, parents, staff, our Mayor and the legislative delegation. On behalf of the kids of New Britain, **THANK YOU to everyone who advocated at the state level** in any way. Your advocacy definitely made a difference. At tonight's Board of Education meeting I'll be announcing more personnel and items being taken off of the potential reductions list.

Impact on our request to the City: This boost from the State brings our budget into a range that is actually better than some previous years! We began our process needing \$18.9 million (14.82%). Please remember that this is a no-frills and no-extras budget. This was just to maintain current services. With this weekend's announcement of funding from the State, our budget gap is now \$5.6 million (~4.38%). This is a huge positive change!

More work to do: However, the work is not yet done. On this Thursday at 6:30pm, I will present the Board's budget to Common Council. I'm extremely happy to be presenting a ~4.38% budget instead of 14.82. But, \$5.6 million is still a lot of money to be short. Positions, materials, and programs are still on the line. I appreciate the fact that the Mayor's budget adds \$1 million to our general fund. This is an excellent start. I'm hoping that Common Council will find ways to bridge the gap even further. I know that this is not an easy decision for the Council but I'm also 100% confident in our budget preparation and its honesty.

If you want further detail about why this budget season has been so tumultuous, read on....

Bad Timing — Nobody's Fault: The story of this year's budget is one of timing. In the past, we've been very thankful to receive large increases from the State in the form of Alliance (ECS) dollars. Our legislative delegation played a large role in advocating for us in this way. What's critical to know is that in each of the past two years, we knew while building the budget that ~\$8+ million additional would be



coming from the State. This let us "bake in" these numbers in the budget. This meant that our request to the city was reduced by this amount. Initially, the Governor's FY27 budget projected that Alliance districts like ours would not get increases. Therefore, we did not have additional state funds in our original budget. This meant that the full impact of inflation had to go into our request from the City. Now that we've received word of the \$13.3 million, we are in a much better position. The unfortunate timing of this budget season was no one's fault.

Back to a more "normal" request from the City: In the past two years, we knew about Alliance increases in advance so they were used to reduce the request to the City (along with other, smaller changes in revenue). This year, official sources were saying that Alliance would have no increase....until the announcement this weekend.

Fiscal Year (FY)	Level-Services Budget Gap	Expected Alliance Increase	Request to the City of NB*
FY25	\$14.3m	\$8.6m	\$5.7m
FY26	\$23.6m	\$9m	\$14.6m
FY27 (prior to 5/2/26)	\$18.9m	\$0	\$18.9m
FY27 (on 5/2/26)	\$18.9m	\$13.3m	\$5.6m

*There are variations in other, smaller funding sources so these columns may not neatly add together.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Invictus,
Tony