

05.20.2026

# Memo

**To:**  
Branford Board of Education

**From:**  
Blaize Levitan  
Chief Operating Officer

**cc:**  
Dr. Christopher Tranberg  
Superintendent of Schools

**Re:**  
Concise FY27 Budget  
Adjustments &  
Recommendations

## Background & Fiscal Impact

The FY27 Final Budget has been adopted by the Town. The Board of Finance reduced the Board of Education’s recommended FY27 budget by \$729,015. Additionally, an anticipated savings of \$168,000 from two home-to-school transportation route reductions will not be realized. Collaborative route optimization with *Zum* may successfully recover about \$68,000 of that variance, leaving a \$100,000 transportation shortfall.

**Net Real Budget Reduction:** \$400,000 | **Gross Reconciled Deficit:** \$829,015

## Proposed Balancing Adjustments

The administration recommends the following line-item reductions to balance the FY27 budget without impacting classroom instruction:

Account Number	Description	Impact Context	Reduction
01907300-555100	Transportation	Technical accounting entry; offset by Town fund.	(\$429,015)
01907300-555100	Transportation	Increase needed to account for 2 routes not being reduced.	\$100,000
01900274-588900	Subsidy to Cafeteria Fund	Universal free breakfast state-funded; multi-year strategy.	(\$392,000)
01900161-528100	Employee Health Insurance	Captures surplus variance; trends under-budget.	(\$8,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>Total Recommended Adjustments</b>	<b>(\$729,015)</b>

## Reduction Rationale Detail

**1. Transportation (-\$429,015) | Account 01907300-555100** Non-substantive operational impact. The Town established a new transportation electrification fund and will reimburse the BOE for expenses up to this amount in FY27, making this a pure accounting adjustment.

**2. Subsidy to Cafeteria Fund (-\$392,000) | Account 01900274-588900** Eliminates the local subsidy originally intended for universal free meals due to the following structural mitigations:

- **State Funding:** Universal free breakfast is fully funded by the state for FY27; efforts will focus heavily here.
- **Sustainability:** Expanding capacity and funding for farm-fresh food initiatives continues.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** Building a multi-year plan with the Town to phase in a shared meal fund. Notably, the state administration recently indicated preliminary legislative support for universal free lunch in the next session.

**3. Employee Health Insurance (-\$8,000) | Account 01900161-528100** Captures minor savings from a favorable tracking trend. This line has run over-budget this year, however renewal projections indicate the line may remain more stable. This micro-adjustment successfully shields direct instructional programming from structural cuts.

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