Highlights



Ophelia Uzar, Grade 2, Toquam



Mia Botero, Grade 5, Roxbury

STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Budget - May 2026

Budget Process

The budget process for the district began in October 2025, with the Superintendent providing general guidelines to all administrative staff to begin developing a budget for fiscal year 2026-27 that addresses program needs in a fiscally responsible manner. The budget would need to provide adequate resources to fund high growth budget areas such as Special Education, Health Insurance, Facility Maintenance, and Utilities. Starting in December 2025, with input from Central Staff and Administrators (including principals and assistant principals), the Superintendent's Operating Budget Request was assembled. At the same time, meetings were held with cabinet members to review all areas of the budget, to link budget requests to district goals, and determine priorities for 2026-27. Each program and building was thoroughly reviewed for staffing needs, trends, and alignment with district goals.

The Board of Education's Operating Budget Request for 2026-27 is $359,975,133, an increase of 3.73% over 2025-26.

Board of Education Goals

Each year, the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools work to develop Board and Superintendent Goals that support the district's mission. The operating budget and all grant budgets are aligned to these goals:

MISSION OF Stamford Public Schools:
The mission of the Stamford Public Schools is to provide an education that cultivates productive habits of mind, body and heart in every student.

VISION OF Stamford Public Schools:
The Stamford Public Schools will be a learning organization that continuously improves its effective, innovative and transformational teaching and learning. We will challenge, inspire and prepare all students to be productive contributing members of society.

District Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Learning Organization (Community) – All members of SPS will acquire and apply practices of a Learning Organization to promote a culture of continuous improvement and excellence.

Strategic Goal 2: Habits of Mind – All learners will acquire and effectively apply critical thinking, creative thinking, and self-reflective thinking to be academically prepared for lifelong learning and the world of work.

Strategic Goal 3: Habits of Body – All students will be prepared to lead an active lifestyle and to make healthy choices**.**

Strategic Goal 4: Habits of Heart – All learners will acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Budget Development Assumptions

Enrollment

The district's projection for student enrollment is shown in Section 4 of this document. A bar chart with actual enrollment from 2004-05 to 2025-26 along with an enrollment projection for 2026-27 shows the overall trend in enrollment.

For 2026-27, the total number of students (including in-district, out-of-district, and home instruction) is expected to increase by 29 to 15,377 students, an increase of 0.18%.

Elementary	+	17	
Middle Schools	-	(16)	
High Schools	+	49	
All Other	-	(21)	(Includes Pre-Kindergarten, Out of District, Anchor, IAI)
Total		**29**	

Revenue

Included in Section 6 of this document is an estimate of Education Revenues to the Stamford Public Schools and the City of Stamford. The operating budget for the school district in the amount of $359,975,133 is partially offset by state entitlements (such as ECS) and other revenues that are paid directly to the City. The state entitlements and other revenues are estimated to be $8,966,732. When these funds are subtracted from the operating budget request, the estimated cost to local taxpayers is $351,008,401.

Additional funds are obtained directly by the district from Federal entitlement grants, state grants, corporate grants, and private grants. Most grants are projected at the same level as 2025-26, unless specific information suggesting otherwise is available. Our projections for all grants are shown in section 9 of this document.

Grants are usually earmarked for specific purposes and are generally intended to “supplement and not supplant” local operating budget funds.

Salaries and Wages (100)

The salaries and wages included in this budget are based on settled collective bargaining agreements and “best estimates” for unsettled contracts.

Based on the current trend, new teacher positions have been budgeted at $78,323 plus benefits of $21,000 and paraeducators have been budgeted at $30,000-$40,000 (depending on Program) plus benefits.

Additionally, the salary accounts have been reduced by $3.5m for estimated “vacancy savings” due to staff turnover from retirements and resignations, unfilled positions, and degree level changes.

Employee Benefits (200)

This portion of the budget includes the cost for employees' medical and dental insurance as well as the employer's share of Social Security costs. For 2026-27, all of the districts bargaining units have health insurance through the State of Connecticut Partnership Plan.

The increase in projected insurance cost is shown in the 202 Health Insurance account. Our Medical Insurance cost is expected to increase by just under 12% and Dental Insurance by 5%. Further details are available in Section 10.

Revenue credits are included in the Board of Education budget for two items: premium cost sharing for active employees and grant offsets to the insurance account for grant funded employees.

The cost of the 230 Pension account is predicted to decrease by -$468,290 (-16.3%), and the cost of the 231 Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") account is predicted to decrease by -$79,770 (-6.1%), pending updated figures from contracted actuaries.

Educational, Rehabilitative, and Legal Services (300)

This grouping includes outside services, which are primarily rehabilitative and legal in nature. For 2026-27, this group will increase by $571,964.

The 323 Pupil Services account is meant to cover additional student services that are required by Special Education student's Individual Education Plan ("IEP"). The funding pays for physical and occupational therapy services and other services mandated by IEPs. Costs for students which exceed 4.5 times the average per pupil cost are reimbursed, in part, by the State Excess Cost Grant.

Building Upkeep and Repairs (400)

Items in these accounts, which cover utilities and deferred maintenance, are slated to decrease by -8.9%. This figure is driven by decreases in estimated electricity cost, as well as certain repairs being covered by building use rental funds. Costs for gas heat, which are expected to increase materially, are included in the 600 account grouping.

Transportation, Out-of-District Tuition, and Other Services (500)

This group is primarily composed of the student transportation, insurance, and out-of-district tuition accounts.

The transportation budget was built on the services provided by First Student and ECS Transportation. The contractual rates will increase by 5.5% for Home-to-School service and up to 5% for Out-of-District Special Education transportation.

A portion of the district's transportation cost is funded through the Magnet School Transportation grant which helps out of town students to attend Rogers International School, Strawberry Hill and AITE.

Property, casualty, and general liability insurance costs are estimated to increase by 8.5% due to increased premiums as per the city risk manager.

The Out-of-District Tuition Account provides funding to other institutions for Special Education students who are required to attend based on their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The law guarantees each Special Education student a "free, appropriate, public education" and because of this, sometimes a school or institute outside the Stamford School District better meets his or her needs.

The gross tuition cost is offset by Agency Placement and Excess Cost Grant revenue in the amount of $6,695,103. The final budget of $25,521,829 is an increase of $5,682,097 (28.64%).

The Board of Education's Budget does not include funding for students to receive free breakfast and lunch, but does contain $250,000 to cover unpaid student lunches.

Supplies, Materials, and Heating Fuels (600)

The supply budget for the school system includes both classroom-based consumable supplies and also heating fuels such as oil and natural gas. Each of the schools is given a per-pupil allotment based on their estimated pupils for 2026-27 to cover items such as paper, pencils, copy paper, and textbook replacements.

Items such as textbook adoptions, heating oil, and natural gas are managed and budgeted centrally and not included in the "per student" allocation formula.

The "per-pupil" allotment is discretionary funding allocated to each school and managed by the principal based on site needs. The building principals will be able to re-allocate site money via budget transfer. The formula stated above follows a practice adopted in prior years. The allocation of funds based on students allows the schools to fund all basic supplies for regular, Special Education and English Learner students as well as "supply-intensive" subjects such as Art. The district adheres to the practice of "dollars following students" and more or less students may necessitate an adjustment to the budget. We will maintain a margin of +/- 25 students at each building for budget purposes.

Equipment (700)

The equipment account is used to fund purchase of items with a unit cost of over $1,000 and a useful life of more than one year.

Dues and Fees (800)

This account covers expenditures for professional organizations or associations for individuals, schools, or district-wide programs.

2026-27 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2025-26 Orig. Budget	2026-27 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
510101	Teacher Salary	$115,319,648	$115,010,363	($309,285)	-0.3%	Contractual increase; reduction of 62.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510102	Administrative Certified	$16,316,925	$16,980,196	$663,271	4.1%	Contractual increase; reduction of 2.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510103	Teacher Support Salary	$12,272,254	$13,677,985	$1,405,731	11.5%	Contractual increase; +2.4 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510104	Teacher Extra Service	$1,239,432	$1,256,472	$17,040	1.4%	Based on analysis of recent trend
510105	Class Coverage	$1,251,804	$1,246,804	($5,000)	-0.4%	Based on analysis of recent trend and incorporating updated contractual rate
510106	Maternity Leave	$1,150,000	$1,075,000	($75,000)	-6.5%	Note: this is not an additional cost to the budget. While teachers are on leave, their wages are charged to this line **instead of** line 101 or 103.
510107	Vacancy Savings	$0	$0	$0		$3.5m estimated savings from resignations, retirements, and leaves of absence. The offset is spread throughout wage lines, which is why it shows as a $0 in this line.
510109	Substitutes	$3,416,475	$3,416,475	$0	0.0%	Based on analysis by HR department
510110	Retirement	$800,000	$800,000	$0	0.0%	Anticipated retirement payments per contract
510111	Long-Term Sick Leave	$1,750,000	$1,425,000	($325,000)	-18.6%	Note: this is not an additional cost to the budget. While teachers are on leave, their wages are charged to this line **instead of** line 101 or 103.
	Total Certified Salaries and Wages	**$153,516,538**	**$154,888,295**	**$1,371,757**	**0.9%**	
510112	Administration - Non Certified Discretionary	$2,617,288	$2,862,563	$245,275	9.4%	Contractual increase; (See Section 5 for details); Certain city chargebacks moved here
510113	Administration - Non Certified	$1,471,781	$1,841,717	$369,936	25.1%	Contractual increase; 2.0 FTE moved from 510114 during FY26
510114	Clerical/Technical Salary	$7,717,025	$7,822,473	$105,448	1.4%	Contractual increase; reduction of 2.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510115	Paraeducators	$14,911,227	$15,427,700	$516,473	3.5%	Contractual increase; reduction of 6.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510116	Custodial/Mechanical Salary	$12,245,720	$13,197,868	$952,148	7.8%	Contractual increase; $600k normally charged to lunch fund included here per USDA guidance
510117	Security Workers	$2,742,701	$2,881,571	$138,870	5.1%	Contractual increase; reduction of 1.0 FTE (See Section 5 for details)
510118	Parent Facilitators	$852,182	$950,769	$98,587	11.6%	Contractual increase
510119	Para Sub Coverage	$125,000	$165,000	$40,000	32.0%	Per department estimates
510120	Temporary Part-Time Salary	$2,173,304	$2,152,131	($21,173)	-1.0%	Per department/site estimates
510121	Custodial/Mechanical Overtime	$2,492,147	$2,543,166	$51,019	2.0%	Includes trades, standby, landscaping, snow removal, summer cleaning, schedule coverage. Incorporates contractual increase plus adjustment for anticipated savings due to changes in contract language.
510122	Clerical Overtime	$167,426	$410,390	$242,964	145.1%	Increased to reflect FY25 actuals; includes $150k Apples OT previously charged to other accounts
510123	Police and Fire Overtime	$89,800	$89,800	$0	0.0%	Per department/site estimates
510124	Security Worker Overtime	$350,000	$360,000	$10,000	2.9%	Based on FY25 trend and departmental oversight to manage increase
510125	Parent Facilitator Overtime	$20,000	$20,000	$0	0.0%	Based on FY25 trend
	Total Non-Certified Salaries and Wages	**$47,975,601**	**$50,725,148**	**$2,749,547**	**5.7%**	

2026-27 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2025-26 Orig. Budget	2026-27 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
520201	Clothing/Tool Allowance	$160,000	$160,000	$0	0.0%	Per contract
520202	Health/Hospital Insurance	$43,729,828	$44,101,901	$372,073	0.9%	12% increase premium increase, use of claims reserve, increase in grant offset versus FY26; reduction in FTE leads to reduced cost; see Section 10 for details
520207	Social Security	$4,618,605	$5,140,935	$522,330	11.3%	Updated to reflect FY25 deficit
520208	Unemployment Insurance	$130,000	$130,000	$0	0.0%	Based on trend
520215	Tuition Reimbursement	$171,000	$171,000	$0	0.0%	Contractual item for teachers and administrators
520216	Childcare Reimbursement	$50,000	$50,000	$0	0.0%	Contractual item for teachers
520230	Pension	$2,879,719	$2,411,429	($468,290)	-16.3%	Based on FY25 actuals and expected increases
520231	Other Post Retirement Benefits-OPEB**	$1,307,000	$1,227,230	($79,770)	-6.1%	Based on FY25 actuals and expected increases
520260	Worker's Compensation	$2,606,610	$2,827,509	$220,899	8.5%	Per city risk
	Total Employee Benefits	**$55,652,762**	**$56,220,004**	**$567,242**	**1.0%**	
530321	Contracted Services	$1,700,051	$2,175,517	$475,466	28.0%	Increase includes world language contracted support, HR Sacred Heart programming, security costs moved from other accounts
530322	Instructional Program Improvement	$187,500	$174,500	($13,000)	-6.9%	Based on department requests (certain costs budgeted in 550580 Professional Development as of FY26)
530323	Pupil Services	$7,781,212	$8,053,034	$271,822	3.5%	Based on analysis of student needs by Special Education team
530324	Legal Services	$887,745	$1,001,818	$114,073	12.8%	In-house and external legal services
530326	Contracted Svcs - Buildings/Grounds	$2,512,500	$2,216,344	($296,156)	-11.8%	3% increase in Facilities account; reduction in security services due to FY25 surplus; $305k reduction for projects to be financed by DRIP grant
530330	Other Professional and Technical Svcs	$553,991	$573,750	$19,759	3.6%	$280,000 for Domus MS Family Advocates added back by BOE
	Total Educational, Rehabilitative, and Legal Services	**$13,622,999**	**$14,194,963**	**$571,964**	**4.2%**	
540411	Electricity	$5,285,860	$4,856,341	($429,519)	-8.1%	Based on projection from CES; Projected 13% decline in Delivery Cost (infrastructure), 1% increase in Supply Cost (market cost/usage)
540412	Gas - Non heat	$0	$0	$0		Propane for kitchens; charge to Food Service Fund
540413	Water	$458,719	$365,173	($93,546)	-20.4%	Based on FY25 actuals
540420	Repair, Maintenance, and Cleaning	$2,674,173	$2,232,038	($442,135)	-16.5%	Includes outside vendors for HVAC, fire sprinklers, elevators, generators, water, drains; supplies for in-house carpentry, electrical, plumbing; $300k of additional needs are budgeted in Building Use Fund; $305k reduction for projects to be financed by DRIP grant
540440	Rentals	$391,329	$386,361	($4,968)	-1.3%	Includes facilities rentals including containers, construction equipment, custodial equipment
540450	Construction Service	$1,275,918	$1,287,783	$11,865	0.9%	Architectural, Engineering, Environmental, Carpentry, HVAC, Plumbing; Debt payments as per OPM
540452	Grounds Maintenance	$525,300	$541,060	$15,760	3.0%	Includes maintenance of vehicles, fences, trees, playgrounds, misc. repairs
	Total Building Upkeep and Repair	**$10,611,299**	**$9,668,756**	**($942,543)**	**-8.9%**	

2026-27 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2025-26 Orig. Budget	2026-27 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
550510	Student Transportation Services	$28,624,918	$29,331,881	$706,963	2.5%	5.5% contracted increase in-district, 5% out of district. The account increase is only 2.5% as $1.2m of summer school transportation has been budgeted to Alliance Grant (otherwise would have been 6.7%)
550511	Field Trips	$302,004	$402,918	$100,914	33.4%	Additional WHS sports buses, T&L grade 2-4 field trips
550520	Insurance Allocation	$3,293,390	$3,572,491	$279,101	8.5%	Estimate from city risk
550530	Telephone	$357,550	$359,337	$1,787	0.5%	Based on trend
550531	Postage	$66,009	$68,989	$2,980	4.5%	Based on usage
550540	Advertising	$43,500	$38,981	($4,519)	-10.4%	Includes Facebook, Downtown Directory
550541	Recruitment and Retention	$70,000	$66,000	($4,000)	-5.7%	Increase to address departmental goals
550550	Printing	$701,541	$719,966	$18,425	2.6%	Based on contract
550560	Tuitions	$19,839,732	$25,521,829	$5,682,097	28.6%	Driven by: a) Increase in tuition rate; 2) Projected reduction in state special education grant; 3) Excess Cost "reserve" projected to be fully drawn down in FY26
550580	Professional Development	$355,188	$288,228	($66,960)	-18.9%	Per department/site requests (Certain costs moved to other operating accounts)
550581	In-District Travel	$13,000	$14,750	$1,750	13.5%	Per department/site requests
550590	Other Purchased Services	$1,835,045	$1,128,125	($706,920)	-38.5%	Network Fiber WAN-LAN/Internet; maintenance for energy efficiency computer software; State of CT internet; BOE website; Software formerly budgeted in Alliance Grant (Google Suite, Destiny, Securly) School HFC funds; $250,000 to cover unpaid student lunch balances
	Total Transportation, Out-District Tuition, & Other Svcs	**$55,501,877**	**$61,513,495**	**$6,011,618**	**10.8%**	
560611	Instructional Supplies	$2,827,375	$4,366,156	$1,538,781	54.4%	Per department/site requests; $561k increase in Special Education supplies driven by additional ASD classrooms, Oakwood program; Elementary Magnetic Reading, i-Ready, CKLA, Empowering Writers
560613	Maintenance Supplies	$500,472	$515,486	$15,014	3.0%	Increase due to higher supply costs
560621	Gas Heat	$1,882,183	$2,115,661	$233,478	12.4%	Based on projection from CES; Projected 12% decline in Delivery Cost (infrastructure), 36% increase in Supply Cost (market cost/usage)
560624	Oil Heat	$10,000	$7,593	($2,407)	-24.1%	Minimal usage
560626	Gasoline	$40,750	$11,199	($29,551)	-72.5%	City charge-back for BOE vehicle fuel; based on trend, pricing
560629	Bus Fuel	$934,900	$1,301,740	$366,840	39.2%	310,000 gallons at $4.20
560641	Texts/Workbooks	$556,370	$405,997	($150,373)	-27.0%	Per department/site requests
560642	Library Books/Periodicals	$38,361	$17,154	($21,207)	-55.3%	Per department/site requests
560643	Computer and AV Materials	$1,831,453	$2,341,219	$509,766	27.8%	$242k Oracle ERP licenses; Powerschool; Curriculum technology (i-Ready, Branching Minds)--some formerly budgeted in Alliance Grant
560690	Office Supplies	$175,585	$189,564	$13,979	8.0%	Per department/site requests
560691	Other Supplies	$232,500	$260,179	$27,679	11.9%	Athletics supplies, BOE expenses
	Total Supplies, Materials, and Heating Fuels	**$9,029,949**	**$11,531,948**	**$2,501,999**	**27.7%**	

2026-27 BUDGET OF THE STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Highlights
Variance Analysis

Obj	Description	2025-26 Orig. Budget	2026-27 Budget	$Var Orig. Bud	%Var Orig. Bud	Reason
570730	Instructional Equipment	$400,818	$531,780	$130,962	32.7%	Includes classroom furniture budget, computer lab replacements at HS
570739	Non-Instructional Equipment	$528,000	$489,095	($38,905)	-7.4%	Includes $100,000 for building security projects (cut from $300,000)
	Total Equipment	**$928,818**	**$1,020,875**	**$92,057**	**9.9%**	
580890	Dues and Fees	$187,023	$211,649	$24,626	13.2%	Includes CABE, CES, CAPSS, CAUS, CASBO, CASPA, FCIAC
	Total Dues and Fees	**$187,023**	**$211,649**	**$24,626**	**13.2%**	
	Total Operating Budget	**$347,026,866**	**$359,975,133**	**$12,948,267**	**3.73%**	