



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”



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Fact Sheet on Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the Winchendon Public Schools

1. A vote for the FY25 school district budget is only to approve the bottom line total amount of \$17,432,926. This amount was determined to be what the Town of Winchendon can afford to support public education.
2. The proposed Chapter 70 funds for FY25 are \$14,039,746, representing only a \$38,832 increase from FY24 Chapter 70 funds.
3. The proposed budget of \$17,432,926 is what the Town of Winchendon can afford. Once the district was provided with this amount, we worked backwards to use the limited funds for the students. An override is being discussed for next fiscal year because both the town and the schools have had to rely on outside revenues just to balance their FY25 budgets.
4. The school district is relying on other funding sources in the amount of \$1,106,227 (Circuit Breaker, Rural Aid and School Choice revenues) just to cover the expenses listed in the proposed FY25 budget.
5. There are 7.5 people (teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries) that were previously funded by other revenue sources (School Choice Funds and other grants). Rather than cutting these positions, the district put them into the FY25 budget to solidify the positions and ensure future funding. This increased the proposed FY25 budget expenses by \$574,151.
6. Comparing administrative salaries listed in FY24 to the proposed FY25 budget does not take into account that the majority of administrators are different people who were hired after August 2024. On average, these salaries were increased by 3%.
7. The teachers will receive their 1.5% increase in addition to the increase of moving up a step on the contractual salary scale. So, the total amount of their increase is 1.5% plus the dollar amount of the step increase. The increase for each teacher is dependent on their placement on the salary scale which was established through union negotiations.
8. The necessary teaching reductions were determined by the District Leadership Team (Principals, Directors and Central Office Administrators) after months of evaluating student data, building schedules, and student programming. Many of the reductions are the unfilled positions that the schools have managed without this year (4). The other reductions have been made necessary due to decreased enrollment (3) and reworking building schedules to ensure we are effectively and efficiently using our most valuable resources... our staff. Only four (4) teachers received “reduction-in-force” letters due to budget and enrollment decreases. Each of these teachers will have an opportunity to move into an open position for which they are certified and qualified.
9. All elementary students will continue to have a special each day: Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and a new Social Emotional Support Special.