

FY2024 Budget School Department

Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Public Budget Hearing: March 28, 2023

SY 2022-2023:

The 2022-2023 school year began with all of our schools in a crunch to get staff hired, as we had several retirements and resignations at the end of the previous school year and over the summer.

Filling these positions continues to prove difficult as the year goes on, as there exists a critical educator/administrator/staff shortage throughout the country post-COVID. As a result, our entire staff across the district has worked harder than they ever have to cover classes and provide support to the classroom teachers and our students.

The good news, this year, was that we were no longer subject to COVID restrictions or mask requirements, and we could conduct athletics, activities and all aspects of the school day, as usual.

In addition, the state of Massachusetts announced the continuation of universal breakfast and lunch programming for all students for the remainder of the school year, which has been a great help to our students and families, as well as our food service revenue. And, with any luck, the Legislature will vote to keep it moving forward.

Also, thanks to the continuation of our ESSER grant funding, we have been able to continue to provide after school remediation and other academic support opportunities to our students at all schools.

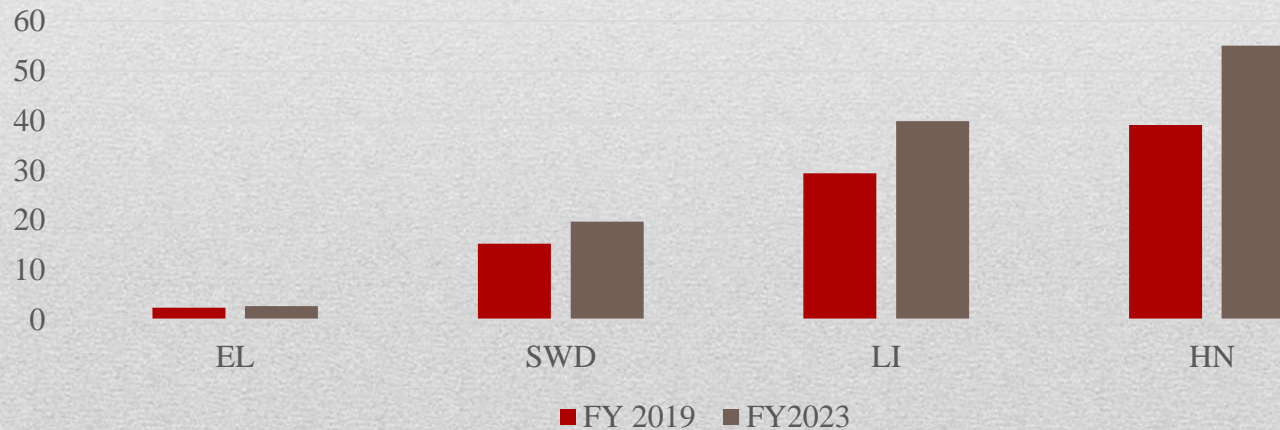
Focus for the FY24 Budget

- Continue to meet the ongoing academic needs of our students that have resulted from disrupted learning, as well as the increasing mental health concerns.
 - Ensure we are able to hire highly-qualified staff members in each of our schools to fill all open positions or positions that may become open throughout the year.
 - Maintain current qualified and experienced staff.
 - Support the strategies and initiatives outlined in Year Three of our three-year District Strategic Plan.
 - Provide necessary resources and training for staff to meet the changing needs of our students.
 - Support opportunities for parent education and engagement in the school system.
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NPS – Special Populations

Students	FY2019 – Pre-COVID	FY 2023 – Post-COVID
	%	%
EL	2.4	2.7
SWD	15.3	19.7 (+4%)
Low Income	29.4	39.9 (+10.5%)
High Needs	39.1	50.7 (+11.5%)
Total Enrollment	2077	1947

Five-Year Comparison



ESSER III Grant Funded Positions Included in the FY24 Budget

School	Position	FTE Added with ESSER FY22	FTE Previously from GF/Other Grant	Total FTE funded from ESSER FY24
District	Social Worker	1.0		1.0
NES	Adjustment Counselor	1.0	1.0	2.0
MS	Adjustment Counselor	1.0	1.0	2.0
HS	Adjustment Counselor	0.2	0.1	0.3
NES	LBLD Teacher	1.0		1.0
HS	Reading Specialist		1.0	1.0
NES/MS/HS	Instructional Assistants	5.0	6.0	11.0
NES	Custodian - Nights	1.0		1.0
NES	Custodian - Days	0.5		0.5
NES/MS	Permanent Sub Nurse	0.5	0.5	1.0
NES/MS/HS	Permanent Substitute	3.0	4.0	7.0
	Total FTEs:	14.2	13.6	27.8
Total Budgeted for Positions Above:		\$1,075,465		

- Grant funds originally allocated to sustain positions added in FY22 through FY24
- Positions funded through general fund in previous years funded by ESSER in FY24 = available revenue

FY24 Revenue (current projections)

Chapter 70 State Aid: \$15,845,971

- Minimum required increase of \$30 per student
- Minimum required increases since 2014

Town Contribution: \$10,042,882

- Increase of \$452,690 over FY23

Appropriation: \$25,888,853

- Chapter 70 + Town Contribution
- Maintains 2% increase despite basically flat state aid increases

Year	Chapter 70	Increase	% of Appropriation
2019	15,539,941	66,900	66.4%
2020	15,603,931	63,990	65.5%
2021	15,603,931	-	64.3%
2022	15,664,621	60,690	63.3%
2023	15,786,061	121,440	62.2%
2024	15,845,971	59,910	61.2%

Year	Appropriation	\$ Increase	% Increase
2019	23,389,965	479,522	2.1%
2020	23,839,465	449,500	1.9%
2021	24,254,032	414,567	1.7%
2022	24,739,112	485,080	2.0%
2023	25,376,253	637,141	2.6%
2024	25,888,853	512,600	2.0%

FY24 Revenue (current projections)

- **Grants: \$2,088,711**

- Typical grant funding included in operating budget ~1.0M to 1.2M
- ESSER III funds for added/existing staff positions included in grant funding increases the amount of grant funds budgeted in FY24 above the norm (funds expire 9/30/24)

- **Revolvers: \$4,109,139**

- School Choice, PK Tuition, Circuit Breaker, Athletic Revolver, Transportation Revolver, Use of School
- Anticipated amount needed to fund proposed operating budget
- Closes the gap between the operating budget and the appropriation/grants
- Throughout the year, if operating budget expenses come in lower than budgeted, less revolver funds are utilized. If operating budget expenses come in higher, more revolver funds could be utilized (or reductions made).

FY2023 Revolver Projections

Starting Balance	3,934,513
2023 Revenue	2,074,345
2023 Expense	2,496,685
Ending Balance	3,512,172

FY2024 Revolver Projections

Starting Balance	3,512,172
2024 Revenue	2,211,000
2024 Expense	4,109,139
Ending Balance	1,614,033

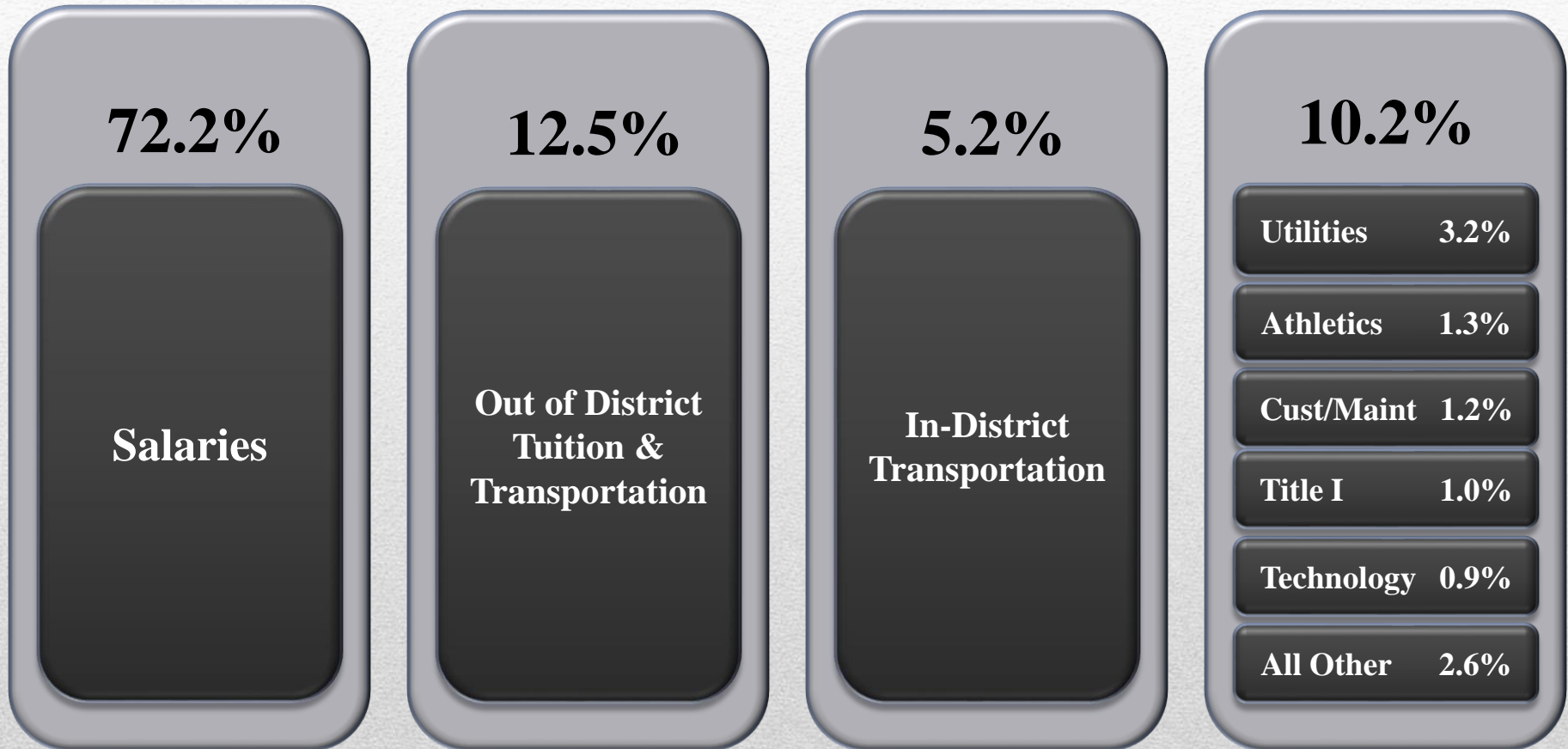
FY23 operating budget expenses are trending under budget = less expenses to be paid from FY23 revolvers = higher FY23 revolver ending balance = additional revolver funds to carry forward into FY24 & FY25

FY24 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

\$32,086,703

- \$1,452,350 or 4.74% increase over FY23 Original Approved Budget

FY24: Where Does the Money Go?



All Other includes: Supplies/Materials/Text (0.8%); Professional Development (0.2%); Instructional Contracted Services (0.7%); Other Expenses (0.8%)

FY2024 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Category	FY 2023 Approved	FY 2024 Proposed	Increase/ Decrease	% Change
Salary/Other Compensation	22,598,133	23,155,070	556,936	2.5%
Supplies/Materials/Texts	269,069	267,169	(1,900)	-0.7%
Professional Development	70,902	73,533	2,631	3.7%
Instructional Contracted Services	294,404	229,260	(65,144)	-22.1%
Athletics	376,153	402,948	26,795	7.1%
Technology	301,073	283,860	(17,213)	-5.7%
Utilities	947,478	1,038,358	90,879	9.6%
Custodial/Maintenance	385,453	385,587	134	0.0%
Transportation	1,469,199	1,654,057	184,858	12.6%
Out of District Tuition & Trans	3,309,906	3,994,955	685,049	20.7%
Title I	342,080	330,061	(12,019)	-3.5%
Other Expenses	270,503	271,847	1,343	0.5%
	30,634,354	32,086,073	1,452,350	4.74%

- Other expenses includes: copiers, legal, dues, accreditation. advertising, Medicaid billing, postage, MTRS grant expenses, etc.

FY24 Expense Drivers

Category	Increase	Contributing Factors
Out of District Tuition & Transportation	\$ 685,049	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 28 students budgeted in FY24 vs 29 students budgeted in FY23• 5 less placements (graduating/returning to district)• 4 additional placements (2 new FY24, net 2 increase FY23)• OSD set inflation rate at 14%• Transportation: same # runs; higher daily rates = 171k increase
Salaries	\$556,936	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salary grid step increases (2.5% to 6% average per union)• Negotiated collective bargaining % increases (1% to 1.5%)• No budgeted retiree replacements, but some FY23 replacement hire savings carries forward• 8 additional instructional assistants needed
Transportation	\$ 184,858	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13% increase in-district regular and special education school bus contract rates• Increased Foster/McKinney Vento daily rates = need is unknown in advance – budget based on current rate/past incidence

Reorganization of Positions:

Transfers:

School	Position	FTE		School	Position	FTE
NES	Grade 5 Teacher	1.0	→	NES	Grade 4 Teacher	1.0

Additions:

School	Position Added	FTE
NES	Instructional Assistants	4.0
Middle	Instructional Assistants	1.0
High	Instructional Assistants	2.0

Restructure:

School	Position	FTE		School	Position	FTE
NES	Team Chair	1.0	→	NES	Elementary SpEd Coordinator	1.0
NES	1:1 Nurse Assistant LPN	1.0	→	NES	Instructional Assistant	1.0

Adjustments due to grant funding:

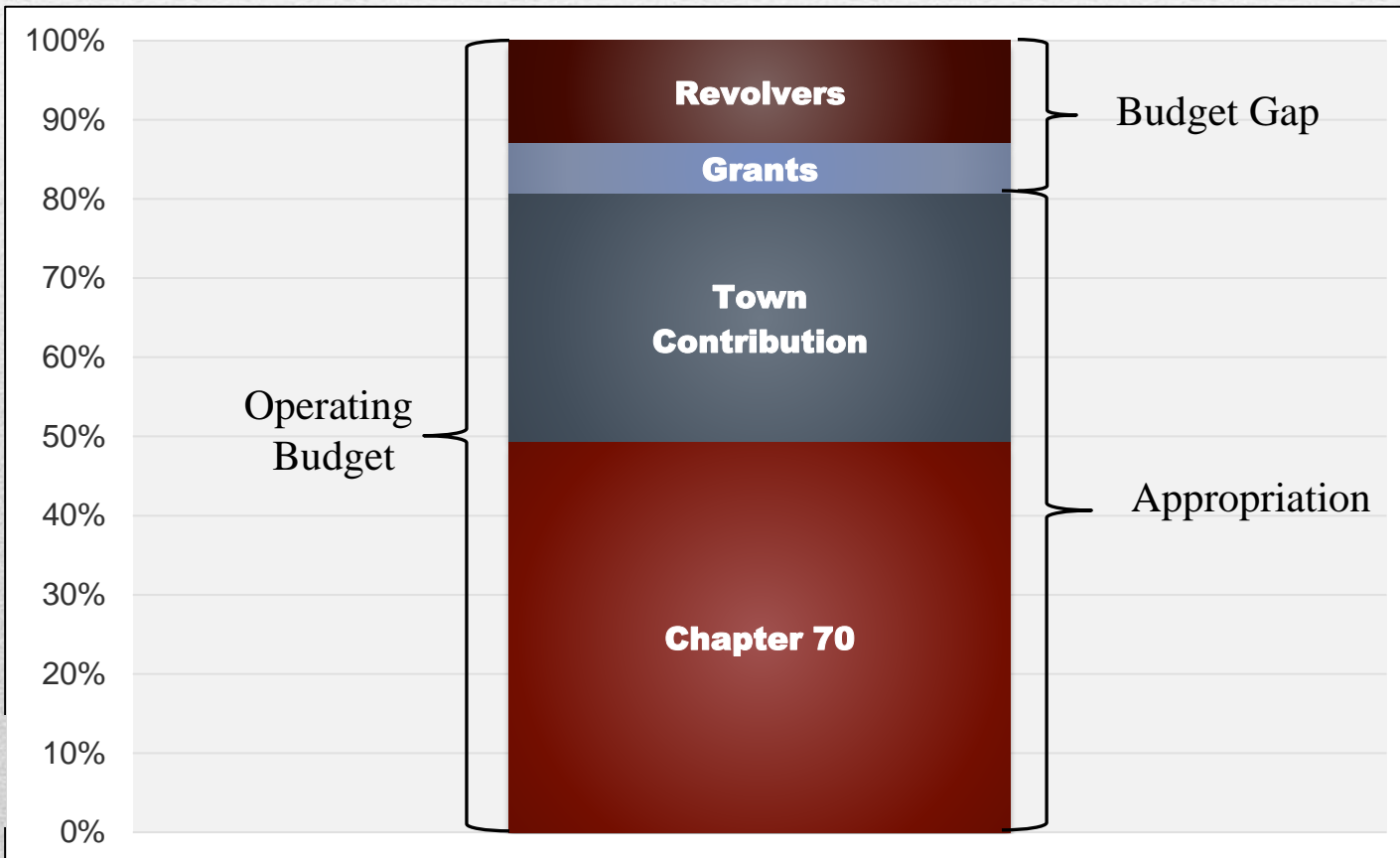
School	Position Reduced	FTE		School	Position Added/Maintained	FTE
District	Float Nurse	1.0	→	NES	Permanent Nurse Substitute	0.5
High	BRIDGE Academic Liaison	.40	→	High	BRIDGE Adjustment Counselor	0.1

SUMMARY:

Total FTEs Reduced	Total FTEs Added	Net FTEs Added	Total \$ Increase
0.9	7.0	6.1	\$ 93,733

FY24 Operational Budget Gap

Operating Budget	\$32,086,703
- <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>\$25,888,853</u>
Budget Gap	\$ 6,197,850



How has the Budget Gap Been Sustained this long?

Level Services/Fees/Reductions		FY	Initial Budget	Actual Expenses	\$ Under Budget	% Under Budget
FY15:	Reduced level services budget by \$1.1M	2015	24,785,898	24,284,143	501,755	2.0%
FY16:	Reduced level services budget by \$475k; increased fees	2016	25,096,347	24,736,238	360,109	1.4%
FY17:	Level services	2017	26,396,360	25,799,343	597,016	2.3%
FY18:	Reduced level services budget by 77k	2018	27,079,883	26,307,905	771,978	2.9%
FY19:	Reduced level services budget by \$611k	2019	27,125,322	26,218,195	907,126	3.3%
FY20:	Level services; reallocate expenses to grants/capital funds	2020*	27,532,807	26,080,889	1,451,918	5.3%
FY21:	Reduced level services budget by \$222k	2021*	28,851,528	26,684,387	2,167,140	7.5%
FY22:	Initially level services; ESSER positions added upon grant award	2022	28,932,495	28,461,774	470,721	1.6%

- 2020: COVID Shutdown March 2020-June 2020
 - Reduced in district and out of district transportation costs; reduced utilities; no spring season for athletics; reduced overtime costs; maintained salary for permanent staff, but reduced substitute costs, etc.
- 2021: Remote → Hybrid → In-Person School Year
 - Reduced out of district transportation costs; reduced utilities; abbreviated athletic seasons; reduced overtime costs; reduced summer program costs; delayed start to positions not needed during remote learning; reduced stipends for programs that did not run; unpaid leaves of absence; reduced substitute costs, cleaning supplies paid by grants, etc.
 - FY21 grants carried forward to help fund FY22, resulting in FY22 grants carrying forward to help fund FY23

Looking Ahead to FY2025

- The proposed FY24 budget utilizes \$4.1M in revolver funds to balance the budget. If \$2.2 million is received as revolver revenue for FY25 (~ level to projected FY24), only \$2.8 million of revolver funds will be available to balance the FY25 budget in order to leave a \$1M balance. This is \$1.3 million less than is planned to be utilized in FY24.
- If FY23/FY24 expenses comes in under budget and less revolver funds are needed to balance the budgets in those years, and/or if FY23/FY24 revolver revenue comes in higher than projected, additional revolver funds will be available to help fund the FY25 budget.
- ESSER III grant funds are currently funding \$1M of the FY24 budget; however, these funds will not be available in FY25
- Funding challenges: state aid increases are minimal; appropriation increases have been limited to ~2% of total appropriation; ESSER funds available in FY22-FY24 but will not be continued in FY25; more revolver funds are budgeted to be utilized than replenished.
- We have continued to push off and prolong the time until the next large budget deficit, but unless the FY23 and FY24 budgets come in significantly under budget, or an additional revenue source presents itself, sustaining the current level of services budgeted for FY24 in the FY25 budget will be extremely challenging

FY2024 Revolver Projections	
Starting Balance	3,512,172
2024 Revenue	2,211,000
2024 Expense	4,109,139
Ending Balance	1,614,033

FY2025 Revolver Projections	
Starting Balance	1,614,033
2025 Revenue	2,200,000
2025 Expense	2,814,033
Ending Balance	1,000,000

Calculation for visual purposes only

FY 2024



- Esser Grants
- SEL and Mental Health Grants
- Title Grants
- Revolver Funds Carryover from Prior Years' Decreased Expenses

FY 2025



- ~~• Esser Grants~~
 - ~~• SEL and Mental Health Grants~~
 - Title Grants
 - ~~• Revolver Funds Carryover from Prior Years' Decreased Expenses~~
 - Cont. Salary increases (exceeding appropriation increase)
 - Cont. Population changes
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Important Upcoming Dates

- School Committee Votes on the Budget – April 11, 2023
- Annual Spring Town Meeting – May 2, 2023