

# Presentation to Town Meeting: School Committee's FY 24 Recommended Budget



April 27, 2023

# Presentation to Town Meeting: School Committee's FY24 Recommended Budget

**This presentation will review the following items:**

- FY24 Recommended Financial Summary
- FY24 Recommended Budget Development
- FY24 Recommended Investment Priorities
- Beyond FY24 Discussion

# FY 24 Recommended Budget Financial Summary

**Finance Committee Budget Guidelines:**

FY23 Appropriated Budget  
\$51,783,363

FY24 Budget  
\$53,725,343

**Dollar Change over FY23**  
**\$ 1,942,000**

***Percentage Change over FY23***  
***3.75%***

**Revised Budget:**

Allocation of Savings from Utilities Accommodated Costs \$

# The FY24 Recommended Budget

## **Aligns investments with District Strategic Objectives:**

- Identified investment priorities totaling \$1,723,895.

## **Meets all contractual obligations and legal mandates:**

- Personnel costs - zero-based budget based on contractual obligations \$1,176,905.
- Projected non-personnel costs - based on known service contracts, spending trends, and anticipated changes in demand and price.

## **Maximizes sustainable resources & leverages renewable grants/special revenue funds to support Tier 1 and 2 instruction and “invest to save”:**

- Personnel - 240 grant, METCO grant, DPH grant, retirements, Food Service funds, FY23 School Choice funds, consolidation of elementary section.
- Non-Personnel - Circuit Breaker increase, end of Special Education services, changes in placements, decrease in unassigned tuition, employee physicals.

# Approach to FY24 Budget Development: School Committee Guidance

- Continue progress toward Universal FDK
- Consider a plan to incorporate ESSER-funded positions into operating budget
- Respond to recommendations by DESE and Special Education Program Reviews
- Support RMHS Innovation Pathways
- Continue Middle School Curriculum Work
- Maintain class sizes within School Committee guidance
- Examine staffing schedules
- Analyze workforce turnover toward increasing retention
- Make decisions that are sustainable over time

## Approach to FY24 Budget Development: Process

- Consulted with stakeholders and worked with program, school, and district leaders - identify investment priorities that align with our district strategic objectives.
- Used program assessments, student data, and instructional network - make decisions on proven strategies that produce gains in student learning.
- Calculated baseline costs to comply with contracts and legal mandates - guided by projected enrollment, class sizes, and student needs.
- Maximized resources - redeploy existing resources and leverage grant and special revenue funds to prioritize investments in student outcomes.

# Approach to FY24 Budget Development: District Strategic Objectives

## ***Strategic Objective 1: Supportive and Safe Learning Environment***

Healthy and successful learning communities exist when all members of the community feel seen, valued, affirmed and connected.

## ***Strategic Objective 2: Coherent Instructional Systems***

High-quality instruction is our best lever for improving outcomes for students, and in particular, groups of students who have not met with success in our district.

## ***Strategic Objective 3: School Operations***

Efficient operational systems are at the foundation of the success of our students and staff.

# Strategic Objective 1: Supportive and Safe Learning Environment



## FY24 Investment Priorities:

- Begin two-year process of adopting ESSER Secondary Counselors, 2.0 FTE; Special Education Teacher, 1.0 FTE; Team Chairs, 2.6 FTE
  - Social Emotional Curriculum Exploration Preschool to Grade 8
  - Project Wayfinder Curriculum at RMHS
  - 1 to 1 Nurse, 1.0 FTE
  - Middle School Adjustment Counselor/METCO Coordinator, .50 FTE  
*(Cost share with METCO Grant)*
  - RMHS METCO Coordinator, 1.0 FTE  
*(Funded by METCO Grant)*
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## Strategic Objective 2: Coherent Instructional Systems



### FY24 Investment Priorities:

- Full-day Kindergarten, reduced tuition from \$3,600 to \$2,650
- Elementary Learning Center Teacher, 1.0 FTE
- Seal of Biliteracy
- Mentoring Program
- Curriculum Content Reviews
- Elementary Assistant Principals, 5.0 FTE
- K-8 Math Coaches, 2.0 FTE
- Multilingual Learner Teachers, 1.5 FTE
- Team Chair .40 FTE position and stipends, *(Stipends funded by 240 grant)*
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), 1.0 FTE
- Secondary Transition Specialist, 1.0 FTE

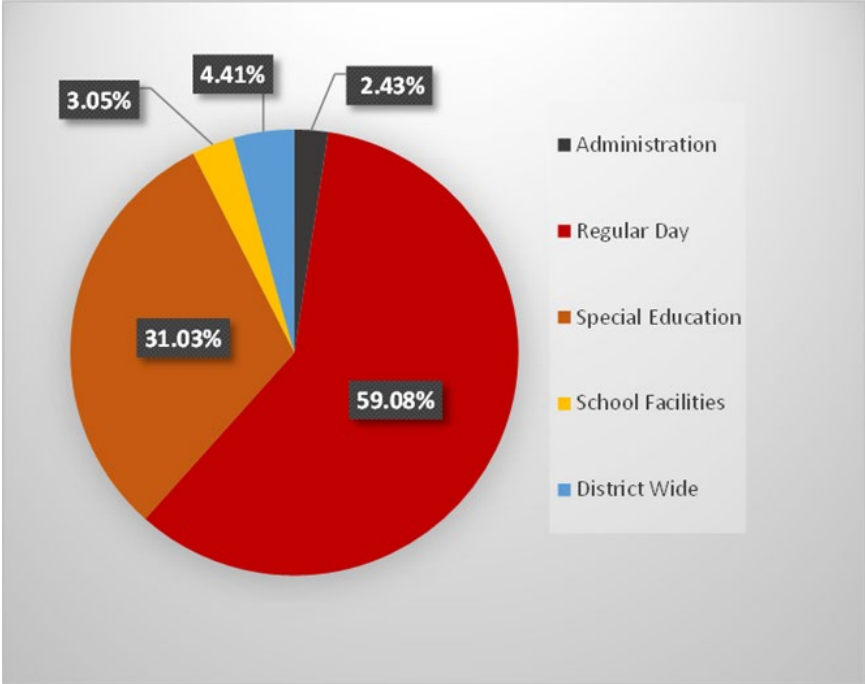
## Strategic Objective 3: School Operations



### FY24 Investment Priorities:

- Annual Community Report
  - Nurse Per Diem Substitute Wages (*Funded by Department of Public Health grant*)
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# FY24 Recommended Budget Cost Centers: Percentage to Total



## Cost Centers: % to Total Budget

Administration	2.4%
Regular Day	59.1%
Special Education	31.0%
District Wide	4.4%
Facilities	3.1%

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## Administration

Total: \$1,311,157

\$ Change: \$7,397

% Change: .57%

Salaries and Expenses for Central  
Office and District Administration

### Personnel: \$ Change \$27,232

- COLA and contractual agreements
- Applied School Choice Funding

### Non-personnel: \$ Change ( \$19,835)

- Efficiencies in telecommunications, reduced employee physicals, auditing services, and advertising
  - Increase in legal service rates and added new annual Community Report Publication, which will be supported by students
  - Budget line items based on expenditures trends and projected needs
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## Regular Day

Total: \$31,954,246

\$ Change: \$2,249,073

% Change: 7.57%

Salaries, Services, Materials and  
Equipment for all Regular Day  
Instructional Programs

Personnel: \$ Change \$2,212,740

- COLA and contractual agreements
- Investment Priorities

Non-personnel: \$ Change \$36,333

- Project Wayfinder
  - RMHS Library Books (*Partially funded through Lost Books Revolving Fund*)
  - New photocopier contract and new copier for RMHS
  - Investment Priorities
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## Special Education and Student Services

Total: \$16,716,146

\$ Change: (\$214,975)

% Change: (1.27%)

Salaries, Services, Materials and Equipment for All Special Education Programs In-district and Out-of-district

### Personnel: \$ Change \$686,651

- COLA and contractual agreements
- Investment Priorities

### Non-personnel: \$ Change (\$901,626)

- Termination of POST contract
- Reduction of legal service hours
- Increase in transportation services
- Increase in Circuit Breaker Reimbursement
- Changes in out of district placements:
  - Increase in private day rate of 14% and 5% all others
  - Reduced unassigned residential tuition fee
  - Net decrease of 3 students
  - Decrease of 1 student from pending services

## Districtwide

Total: \$2,380,272

\$ Change: \$157,828

% Change: 7.1%

Salaries and Expenses for four District

Wide services: Athletics, Extra-curricular, Health Services, Technology

## Athletics - 8 sports, 1193 participants

Total: \$720,528, \$ Change \$29,423, % Change: 4.26%

- Personnel cost increase by COLA (and stipend adjustment in FY23)
- Stipend adjustment in FY24 budget
- Transportation increase

## Extra-curricular - 11 activities, 255 participants

Total: \$78,087, \$ Change: \$8,539, % Change: 12.28%

- Personnel cost increase by COLA
  - Stipend adjustment in FY24 budget
  - Transportation increase
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## Districtwide, *continued*

Total: \$2,380,272

\$ Change: \$157,828

% Change: 7.1%

Salaries and Expenses for four District  
Wide services: Athletics, Extra-  
curricular, Health Services, Technology

## Health Services

Total: \$913,224 , \$ Change: \$111,275, % Change:  
13.88%

- Personnel cost increase by COLA
- 1.0 FTE 1 to 1 Nurse
- Increase in Per Diem Substitute Wages

## Technology

Total: \$668,433 , \$ Change: \$8,591, % Change:  
1.30%

- Personnel cost increase by COLA
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## School Facilities

Total: \$1,644,782

\$ Change: \$23,937

% Change: 1.48%

Salaries and expenses to clean and maintain eight school buildings and R.I.S.E. Preschool program.

Personnel: \$ Increase \$19,664

- COLA and contractual agreements, Staffing Exchange

Non-personnel: \$ Increase \$4,273

- Annual increase in contracted cleaning services at Coolidge and RMHS
  - Increase in supplies' costs
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## Beyond FY24- Future Opportunities

- Time on learning
- Universal free full-day Kindergarten
- Elementary school building project
- Higher levels of literacy and math instruction
- Supports and connections for all learners
- High School Innovation Pathways
- Cost-effective and vertically-aligned in-district special education programs
- Capacity building of instructional staff and district leadership
- Instructional and administrative technology plan and structure
- Upcoming labor contract negotiations

## Beyond FY24 - Ensuring Sustainability

- Create strategic multi-year financial plan that leverages Operating Fund, Grants, and Special Revenue Accounts and aligns with district priorities.
- Ensure that the personnel budget, which represents 85% of the total budget, is efficiently and effectively allocated by assessing and optimizing student groupings, staff ratios, and instructional schedules.
- Invest in staff development and Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs that yield highest outcomes for students over time, resulting in future savings.
- Manage risk by continuing to budget for all known and potential expenses, pairing with pre-payment of special education out of district tuitions and establishing Special Education Reserve Fund.
- Assess and closely monitor financials to identify savings early to redirect toward short-term supports known to produce gains in student outcomes.
- Evaluate outcomes and refine budget development process.

## Beyond FY24 – Additional Information

### Full-day Kindergarten:

- Continue tuition fee reduction \$2,650 in FY24, \$3,600 in FY23, \$4,450 in FY22
- Reduced \$1.1M FDK Offset to \$600,000 in FY24
- Maintained \$621,000 in Special Revolving Fund going into FY24 to create bridge in FY25 and FY26

### FY24 FTE Funded through Grants:

- Title 1: 1.70 FTE - Tutors
- IDEA SPED 240: 25.05 FTE - Paras, BCBAs
- IDEA SPED 262: .73 FTE- Preschool Para
- METCO: 6.0 FTE – Director, Adjustment Counselor/METCO Coordinator
- \*ESSER: 3.4 FTE - SPED Teacher, Guidance, Team Chair

***\*Note: ESSER Funding ends 9/30/24. \$259,000 will budgeted to the FY25 Budget***

## In Summary, the FY24 Recommended Budget....

- Aligns investments with District Strategic Objectives.
- Meets all contractual obligations and legal mandates.
- Maximizes sustainable resources and leverages renewable grants/special revenue funds to support Strategic Objectives.
- “Invests to Save” by redeploying funds to our Tier 1 and Tier 2 services districtwide.

Thank you for your support of our students, staff, and community.

