

Elementary School Budget Override- Warrant Article 6

The Boxford Elementary School Committee has approved a FY2024 school budget that would require the passage of a \$265,216 override to fully fund it. The FY2024 budget is a level-service budget that aligns with the School Committee's goal to continue academic and social emotional programs for students that address post-pandemic learning needs. The budget maintains historical class size averages, the level of small group learning and instruction, support of social emotional learning and our special subject programs. The budget also provides resources to support evidence-based literacy instruction at all grades and levels. The District has not proposed an override since 2017.

The costs of supplies and services are up across the Commonwealth. An unprecedented rise (14%) in tuition costs associated with out of district placements is outside of the school committee's control. Primary cost drivers are salaries, transportation, health insurance and special education tuitions and services. The Boxford Schools budget is developed based on student needs, starting at \$0 and assigning costs.

If the requested override does not pass, the elementary schools would deliver fewer programs and services than in FY2023. The District will have to consider reductions that impact direct services to students. The cuts to the budget would require reductions that would total \$265,216.