

## **FAQ's from BOF: February 5, 2026**

**1) Regular Ed Paras increased by 20.58%**

During 25-26 a special Ed Para was reassigned to cover Rosetta Stone instruction.

**2) Special Ed Paras decreased by 19.38%**

During 25-26 a special Ed Para was reassigned to cover Rosetta Stone instruction.

**3) Regular Ed Instructional Supplies increased by 21.95%**

Inflation has impacted my items utilized by our school staff, this budget request is in line with actual 24-25 expenditures.

**4) Technology Equipment - Middle School increased by 203.70%**

With ESSER funds expiring we need to fund the 4 year iPad replacement cycle in the Board's budget, This request is for 50 iPads.

**5) Special Education Tuition Outplacement decreased by 55.85%**

A child is graduating and will no longer be the financial responsibility of the district.

**6) Number of Outplaced students for 2026/2027?**

We have two outplaced students moving to District 19 and have one placeholder.

**7) Special Education population:**

Increased from 15%-20% prevalence.

**8) Support Svcs Special Ed Staff decreased by 72.16%**

Services will be contracted out, see 100.2100.340.00.2.10

**9) Outsourced Behavior Therapist increased by 186.11%**

With ESSER funds expiring we need to fund these services from the Board's budget.

**10) Telephone budget increased by 46.67%**

Budget increased to reflect actual costs

**11) Internet increased by 89.47%**

We have added a Starlink subscription as a back-up during power/internet outages.

**12) Maintenance Supplies & Repairs increased by 37.04%**

Budget increased to reflect actual costs which have increased due to inflation

**13) Maintenance Boiler Repairs increased by 71.43%**

Budget increased to reflect actual costs

**14) Maintenance HVAC increased by 62.50%**

Budget increased to reflect actual costs

**15) Maintenance Fire Safety increased by 100.00%**

Budget increased to reflect actual costs

**16) Per Pupil Expenditure keeps rising even though our population is decreasing**

Even though our population is decreasing we still need the same amount of support. We have to abide by the same laws and mandates as all the other school districts regardless of size. One of the major asks that the community asks for is to continue small class sizes through any survey we put out. This is a number one priority for our BOE supported by the community.

**17) Why do we use Apple devices?**

Chromebooks can be less powerful than iPads, limited to Chrome browser/web apps for some tasks, less robust app ecosystem than iPad.

iPads Powerful performance (M-chips), vast App Store (iOS/iPadOS), intuitive touch/Pencil support, seamless Apple integration, premium build

The approximate cost of an iPad with 4 yrs of AppleCare+ is \$550/unit. A comparable Lenovo chromebook with a 3/yr warranty is \$400/unit.

**18) How is After Care Program paid for?**

This is not a BOE funded program. This year it was funded with the last of the ESSER funds. It is a town program and will be a pay per child unless other funding grant is found.

**Unfilled position:**

1 full time Spanish or world language teacher

**19) If you are unable to get the requested percentage what can be scaled back?**

The proposed budget is not asking for any new programs such as a full time Library Media Specialist, Foreign Language teacher for the elementary school. We continue to increase our efficiency by aligning our staffing with the schools needs and priorities put forth by the Board of Education and the Community Survey. When we want to offer extensions for our students we seek out grants, such as the one we have gotten for Farm to School to teach our students gardening and sell that food in our cafeteria. We have also been able to provide our students with learning all about the Arabic culture and various other online introductions to various cultures.

Fiscal Year	Increase to Budget	Inflation Rate	COLA
FY 21-22	2.98%	7% (2021)	1.3% (2021)
FY 22-23	4.21%	8% (2022)	5.9% (2022)
FY 23-24	2.89%	4.1% (2023)	8.7% (2023)
FY 24-25	0.7%	2.9% (2024)	3.2% (2024)
FY 25-26	2.49%	2.7% (2025)	2.5% (2025)
Projected 26-27	3.38%	Predicted 2.4%-2.8%	2.8% (2026)

The BOE has been very reasonable in what they have put forward to the town considering the fluctuations in inflation and Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)