

Town Meeting Day is March 1st!

Visit <https://www.bsdt.org/budget> for complete budget and voting information.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$98,232,381 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,310.56 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 13.13% higher than spending for the current year.

Spending at this level could produce a property tax rate decrease of 6.98% (current estimate).

PROPOSED BUDGET AT A GLANCE

FY 2022 Total Budget	\$95.1 million
Annual Increases to Health Insurance and Wages, Debt Service, Utilities, etc.	\$2.5 million
DtBHS Safety and Security Upgrades*	\$0.6 million
TOTAL FY 2023 Budget	\$98.2 million
Increase from FY 2022	3.29%

*DtBHS improvements will be paid for with surplus funds from previous budgets.



TAX IMPACT ESTIMATES*

Property Tax Payer	6.89% Decrease
Impact on \$370K homestead	-\$307
Income Tax Payer	8.09% Decrease
Impact Tax \$50k income	-\$102

*Estimate based on a surplus of approximately \$90 million in the Education Fund, at time of publication, which reduces the impact on local tax rates. It is important to note that Vermont Governor Phil Scott and the General Assembly could choose to divert money from the Education Fund for other purposes; doing so would increase local education tax rates.

Turn this document over to learn more about how we created this budget to support equity, engagement, and deep learning.

Cultivating caring, creative, and courageous people. Join the journey!



Town Meeting Day is March 1st!

Visit <https://www.bsdt.org/budget> for complete budget and voting information.

What is the story behind this budget?

We entered this budget season fully aware that our community is absorbing the impacts of a citywide reappraisal, financial uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the prospect of building a new high school and technical center. For this reason, the FY23 budget only proposes operational increases associated with costs that typically increase yearly, such as wages, health insurance, and utilities. As part of our strategy to limit the impact on taxpayers, we are using Federal ESSER funds to allow for some new spending, particularly on COVID safety and student well-being, without increasing local tax rates.

Disciplined Spending Yields Surplus

Thanks to disciplined fiscal management, last year BSD operated with a surplus for our seventh consecutive year. Our proposed budget limits the impact on taxpayers by applying \$2.1 million of these funds directly to supporting the FY23 budget (including \$600,000 to support necessary improvements to Downtown BHS), reducing the need to ask taxpayers for this money.

How can a budget increase result in a 6.98% tax decrease?

Vermont's Education Finance System is a complicated formula that considers both local spending decisions and the amount of money in the State's Education Fund. This year, there is a ~\$90 million surplus in the Education Fund, which reduces the need for increases in local tax rates. It is important to note that Vermont Governor Phil Scott and the General Assembly could choose to divert money from the Education Fund for other purposes, and doing so would increase Education tax rates.

New Equitable Budgeting Model

School Year 22-23's proposed budget was created using a new Equitable Budgeting Model. The work to create a new process began in 2021, when an Equitable Budgeting and Staffing Work Group received input from more than 500 stakeholders.

In our new model, we begin by working with principals to review their staffing rosters and enrollment projections before receiving a base-line budget year. Using that information, principals work with their new School Advisory Groups, a team of volunteers made up of family members, students, and staff who directly advise the principal as they create the school budget.

Recognizing Injustice and Seeking Equity (RISE) Allocation

Our new model also includes a RISE Allocation for each school. ***The RISE Allocation does not require new taxpayer dollars; instead, the funding comes from existing funds and new federal funding.*** Principals work with their school communities and advisory groups to create plans to use these resources to support our strategic plan goals. The following are some examples of the types of investments identified through this process.

Elementary Equity Supports

Intervention - Special Educators (SA, CES) - Tutoring (SA, Smith) - Academic Paras (IAA, EES) - Classroom Libraries (IAA, EES)

Middle Equity Supports

Interventionists - Guidance (EMS) - Parent Ambassadors (HMS) - Student Leadership (EMS)

High School Equity Supports

Mental Health Counselor - Math and Reading Interventionists - Restorative Practices Staff - Guided Study Teacher

BHS/BTC 2025 Timeline

This fall we will put forward a bond proposal to build a new high school and technical center. We are working hard to keep the tax impact of this as low as possible. We have successfully set aside \$11.5 million for the project (including \$10m from ESSER funds and an additional \$1.5m in surplus money), have begun conversations with partners to support fundraising, and will be requesting State and Federal Aid whenever possible. The first cost estimate for the new campus will be presented this spring, with a final amount ready for voters by August of 2022. Please visit www.bsdt.org to learn more.



Development of the District budget is informed by the District's Mission, Vision, and Core Beliefs. Turn this document over to learn more about the total budget and the proposed decrease it would have on tax rates.