

Town Meeting Day is March 7th!

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 \$104,144,584 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 \$21,325.14 per equalized pupil.

Spending at this level could produce a property tax rate increase of 4.03% (current estimate).

PROPOSED BUDGET AT A GLANCE

FY 2023 Total Budget	\$98.2 million
Annual Increases to Wages, Health Insurance, Debt Service, Utilities, etc.	\$3.8 million
BHS/BTC 2025 Borrowing	\$2.1 million
TOTAL FY 2024 Budget	\$104.1 million
Increase from FY 2023	6%

TAX IMPACT ESTIMATES

Estimate based on a surplus in Vermont's Education Fund, which reduces the impact on local tax rates.

Property Tax Payer	4.03% Increase
Impact on \$370K homestead	\$207
Income Tax Payer	0.07% Increase
Impact Tax \$50k income	\$1

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Recognize that our staffing levels must be responsive to enrollment changes.
2. Limit budget growth due to increases in wages, benefits and pending BHS/BTC costs.
3. Ensure funding to meet strategic plan objectives.
4. Continue to offer robust programmatic offerings.
5. Consider multi-year impact of changes and minimize annual disruptions.

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!



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What is the story behind this budget?

We entered this year's budget season using our new equitable budgeting process for the second year, working to provide robust baseline allocations for schools that reflect best practices and consistency across schools. We knew this year's process would be challenging, as declining enrollment meant we would need to make some staffing reductions to ensure alignment between the two. This was especially important knowing that wages and benefit increases would be adding to the budget, Federal COVID recovery funding (ARP-ESSER) would be going away after this year, and we would begin borrowing for the new high school and technical center. Thankfully, we were able to look at creative ways to retain staff members impacted by cuts to avoid layoffs and put forth a budget with a modest tax impact.

Disciplined Spending Yields Surplus

Thanks to disciplined fiscal management, last year BSD operated with a surplus for our eighth consecutive year. Our proposed budget limits the impact on taxpayers by applying \$2.3 million of these funds directly to supporting the FY24 budget, reducing the need to ask taxpayers for this money.

Why are taxes increasing?

The primary drivers of this year's budget are increased costs for wages and benefits and borrowing for the BHS/BTC 2025 project. Those factors, combined with declining enrollment, put upward pressure on taxes. To keep the tax impact as low as possible, we made slight reductions in our staffing numbers and applied some of last year's budget surplus to offset costs. (We believe natural attrition will create sufficient vacancies to allow educators in eliminated positions to remain with BSD.)

Recognizing Injustice and Seeking Equity (RISE) Allocation

Our budgeting model includes a RISE Allocation for each school. 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

Interventionists - Special Educators - Professional Learning - Counseling Services - Unified Arts - Coaching.

Middle Equity Supports

Interventionists - Parent/Family Engagement - Student Leadership - Guidance

High School Equity Supports

Mental Health Counselor - Reading & STEAM Interventionists - Co-teaching Training - Year End Studies

	FY23 RISE	FY24 RISE	Change
SA	\$110,188	\$113,546	\$3,358
IAA	\$120,901	\$124,209	\$3,308
Smith	\$93,226	\$90,335	-\$2,891
Champlain	\$100,690	\$110,032	\$9,342
EES	\$114,814	\$111,805	-\$3,009
Flynn	\$114,763	\$150,586	\$35,823
Hunt	\$172,355	\$164,717	-\$7,638
EMS	\$170,343	\$177,332	\$6,989
BHS	\$421,061	\$415,546	-\$5,515



Development of the District budget is informed by the District's Strategic Plan and our North Star: every learner is challenged, empowered, and engaged. Turn this document over to learn more about the budget.