

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Superintendent's Budget Recommendation to the
School Committee
FY2024 Budget (updated 3-6-23)**

Focus of FY2024

To present a transparent and responsible budget that will meet the needs of the students and staff of NMRSD. This year, we accomplished this through a series of budget summits between district and town representatives. The process began early and four (4) meetings were held in October, November, December, and January.

School Year 2023-2024

As we plan for FY2024, the NMRSD is also looking ahead at the additional challenges we will face in FY2025 as all 5 of our collective bargaining agreements and our bussing contract are set to expire on June 20, 2024.

For collective bargaining, in addition to our compensation study, we are closely monitoring the outcomes of recent work stoppages and settlements reached across the state. For transportation we are in communication with districts that had expiring contract this year with our provider and only bidder in the last several years.

Other Causes for Increases

New students, state mandates, influx of PreK students who are special education eligible, post-pandemic social-emotional student needs, and district class size policy. This has led the district to respond by:

- Hiring additional content area teachers or paraprofessionals to maintain compliance with class size policy;
- Hiring additional counseling staff to support students;
- Hiring English Language teachers per the DESE (mandate);
- Hiring additional special education teachers, paraprofessionals, behavior technicians, and service providers to support our students and to maintain compliance with Individualized Education Plans.

Result is an increase of 14.70 additional staff over what was budgeted in FY2023.

2021 Per Pupil Cost

North Middlesex Regional School District (7 - 2898)	\$18,225
Groton Dunstable Regional School District (5 - 2256)	\$18,968
Grafton Public Schools (4 - 3153)	\$14,927
Tewksbury Public Schools (7 - 3239)	\$19,139
Norton Public Schools (5 - 2376)	\$17,350
State Average Cost	\$19,113

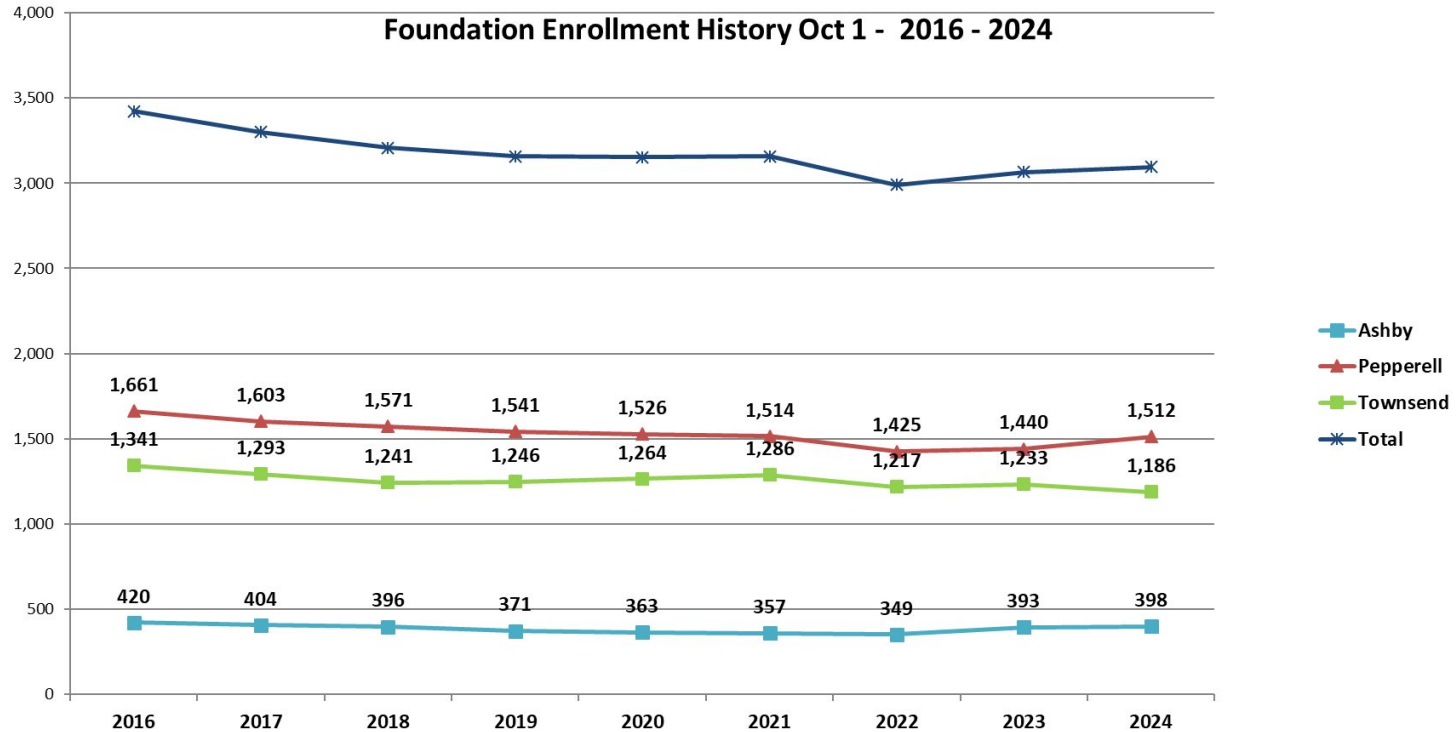
- NMRSD 2021 per pupil cost is \$888 per student below the state average.
- The NMRSD is assessed slightly over a million dollars for students who opt to attend charter schools. This is a direct offset to the Chapter 70 state funding that is received.
- A key reason that NMRSD per pupil cost is higher than some of of comparable districts is the number of buildings the district utilizes.

Overall Budget Picture

The FY2024 budget represents a 6.27% increase over FY2023:

- An increase of \$3,830,663 to \$64,960,615
- A change of 14.70 FTE over FY2023. A total of 467.70 FTE for FY2024

Historical Enrollment Projections



Foundation Enrollment

FY 2023			FY2024		
▪ Ashby	393	12.82%	Ashby	398	12.86%
▪ Pepperell	1,440	46.97%	Pepperell	1,512	48.84%
▪ Townsend	1,2337	40.21%	Townsend	1,186	38.30%
Total:	3,066		Total:	3,096	

(30 student increase FY23)

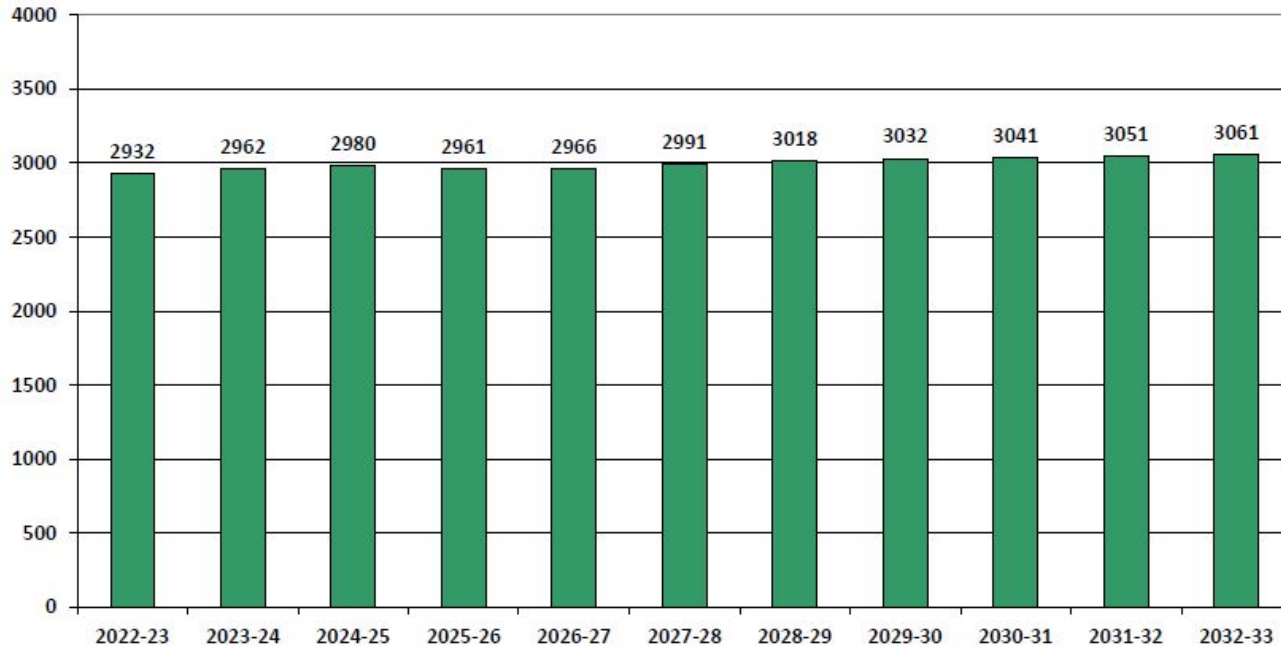
Shift in District Enrollment

- Ashby - Increase of 0.04%
- Pepperell - Increase of 1.87%
- Townsend - Reduction of -1.91%

Foundation enrollment relies on the count students that the district is financially responsible for on October 1st of any given year

Projected Enrollment

K-12, School Years 2022-23 to 2032-33



Revenue FY2024



North Middlesex FY24 Budget - Revenue Sources

	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget	FY24 Request	Difference	% Inc (decr)
State Aid	\$ 21,604,003	\$ 21,909,119	\$ 22,011,090	\$ 101,971	0.5%
Other District Revenue (including School Choice)	\$ 880,062	\$ 740,000	\$ 855,000	\$ 115,000	15.5%
E&D	\$ 2,045,000	\$ 2,645,000	\$ 2,045,000	\$ (600,000)	-22.7%
Total State Aid & Other District Revenue	\$ 24,529,065.00	\$ 25,294,119	\$ 24,911,090	\$ (383,029)	-1.5%
Town Operating Assessments					
Ashby	\$ 3,264,887	\$ 3,583,967	\$ 4,083,884	\$ 499,917	13.9%
Pepperell	\$ 14,223,864	\$ 14,571,210	\$ 16,695,930	\$ 2,124,720	14.6%
Townsend	\$ 10,583,271	\$ 10,864,741	\$ 12,000,589	\$ 1,135,848	10.5%
Total Assessments	\$ 28,072,022.00	\$ 29,019,918	\$ 32,780,403	\$ 3,760,485	13.0%
Transportation Assessment					
Ashby	\$ 323,083	\$ 368,574	\$ 389,135	\$ 20,561	5.6%
Pepperell	\$ 1,319,176	\$ 1,350,501	\$ 1,490,819	\$ 140,318	10.4%
Townsend	\$ 1,126,623	\$ 1,156,367	\$ 1,147,855	\$ (8,512)	-0.7%
Total Transportation Assessment	\$ 2,768,882	\$ 2,875,442	\$ 3,027,809	\$ 152,367	5.3%
DEBT Assessment					
Ashby	\$ 455,382	\$ 468,935	\$ 565,106	\$ 96,171	20.5%
Pepperell	\$ 2,296,694	\$ 2,021,784	\$ 2,211,956	\$ 190,172	9.4%
Townsend	\$ 1,542,162	\$ 1,401,680	\$ 1,420,384	\$ 18,704	1.3%
Use of Bond Premium	\$ 49,855	\$ 48,073	\$ 43,867	\$ (4,206)	-8.7%
Total Debt Assessment	\$ 4,344,093	\$ 3,940,472	\$ 4,241,313	\$ 300,841	7.6%
TOTAL ALL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$ 59,714,060	\$ 61,129,951	\$ 64,960,615	\$ 3,830,664	6.27%

Excess & Deficiency History

North Middlesex Regional School - Historical E&D Analysis

From Fiscal Year Activity	E&D Certified	Amount Used for Subsequent Year Budget	Remaining	% Used toward budget
FY14	\$ 1,516,911	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,266,911	16.48%
FY15	\$ 1,958,782	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,658,782	15.32%
FY16	\$ 2,744,243	\$ 490,000	\$ 2,254,243	17.86%
FY17	\$ 3,035,703	\$ 1,360,000	\$ 1,675,703	44.80%
FY18	\$ 3,172,219	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,872,219	40.98%
FY19	\$ 3,118,552	\$ 2,045,000	\$ 1,073,552	65.58%
FY20	\$ 3,256,149	\$ 2,045,000	\$ 1,211,149	62.80%
FY21	\$ 3,704,476	\$ 2,645,000	\$ 1,059,476	71.40%
FY22	\$ 3,055,573	\$ 2,045,000	\$ 1,010,573	66.93%

Projected Enrollment Elementary FY2024

Ashby	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Average Class Size	
Kindergarten	17	18				17.50	
Grade 1	22					22.00	
Grade 2	27	??				27.50	
Grade 3	17	18				17.50	
Grade 4	15	15				15.00	
Spaulding	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Average Class Size	
Kindergarten	22	22	22	22		22.00	
Grade 1	18	18	18	19		18.25	
Grade 2	23	24	24	24		23.75	
Grade 3	19	20	20	20		19.75	
Grade 4	20	20	20	21		20.25	
Varnum	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Average Class Size
Kindergarten	25	25	25	25	25	??	25.00
Grade 1	25	25	25	25	26	??	25.20
Grade 2	24	24	25	25	25		24.60
Grade 3	21	22	22	22	23	23	22.33
Grade 4	24	24	24	24	24		24.00

Projected Enrollment Middle Schools FY2024

Hawthorne Brook Middle School	Average Class Size
Grade 5	18.33
Grade 6	20.10
Grade 7	18.33
Grade 8	19.00

Nissitissit Middle School	Average Class Size
Grade 5	21.83
Grade 6	19.50
Grade 7	21.33
Grade 8	19.83

Projected Enrollment High School FY2024

NMRHS	Enrollment 2022	Enrollment 2023	Projected Enrollment 2024
Grade 9	216	188	187
Grade 10	187	213	188
Grade 11	178	181	213
Grade 12	214	176	181
Total	795	790	769

General Fund Budget Summary FY 2024

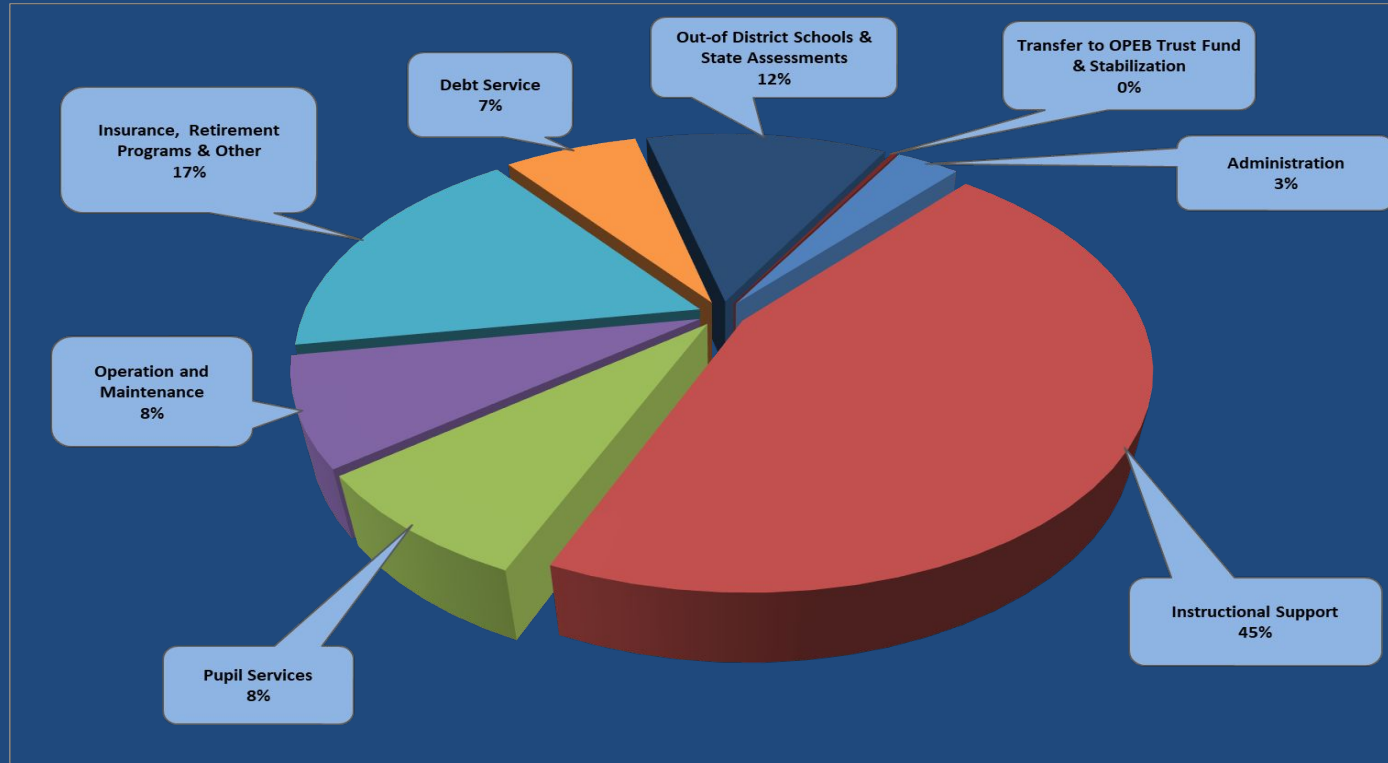


North Middlesex Regional School District

Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Budget - Draft for Adoption

Appropriation Category	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY23 FTE	FY23 Exp & Encumb thru 3-1-23	FY24 Draft for Adoption	FY24 FTE Budget	Difference FY24 to FY23	% increase over FY23	Change FTE
Administration	1,416,933	1,454,660	10.20	1,435,737	1,501,926	10.20	47,266	3.25%	-
Instructional Support:	26,240,379	27,784,217	364.75	26,662,037	29,082,746	379.20	1,298,529	4.67%	14.45
<i>Instructional Leadership</i>	3,089,661	3,208,408	29.00	2,887,037	3,293,565	29.00	85,157	2.65%	-
<i>Classroom & Specialist Teachers</i>	18,467,262	19,529,884	232.66	19,078,927	20,276,882	240.16	746,998	3.82%	7.50
<i>Other Teaching Services</i>	3,644,044	3,795,275	103.09	3,858,133	4,273,248	110.04	477,973	12.59%	6.95
<i>Professional Development</i>	179,056	248,850	-	118,213	259,100	-	10,250	4.12%	-
<i>Instructional Materials, Equipment & Technology</i>	860,356	1,001,800	-	719,726	979,950	-	(21,850)	-2.18%	-
Pupil Services:	4,716,277	5,034,697	32.80	4,814,478	5,202,247	32.80	167,550	3.33%	-
<i>Guidance, Counseling & Testing</i>	1,432,815	1,591,468	21.00	1,539,551	1,653,085	21.00	61,617	3.87%	-
<i>Pupil Services</i>	3,283,462	3,443,229	11.80	3,274,927	3,549,162	11.80	105,933	3.08%	-
Operations & Maintenance	4,434,321	5,088,813	39.25	4,391,176	5,172,624	39.50	83,811	1.65%	0.25
Insurance, Retirement Programs & Other	9,284,669	10,257,395	6.00	8,662,635	11,281,869	6.00	1,024,474	9.99%	-
Debt	4,344,095	3,944,473	-	3,027,745	4,245,446	-	300,973	7.63%	-
Out-of-District Schools & Assessments	7,400,366	7,015,697	-	7,227,269	8,073,758	-	1,058,061	15.08%	-
Transfer to OPEB, Capital Project and Stabilization	150,000	550,000	-	550,000	400,000	-	(150,000)	-27.27%	-
Total General Fund Appropriation	\$ 57,987,040	\$ 61,129,952	453.00	\$ 56,771,077	\$ 64,960,615	467.70	\$ 3,830,663	6.27%	14.70

FY 2024 Budget by Appropriation Category



Conclusion

The FY2024 spending proposal for NMRSD represents our effort to continue a strong educational agenda in a challenging fiscal environment, continued examination of our priorities and beliefs, and at a time when we are contending with the costs of serving our students and families at a level that NMRSD demands of its public school system. Our priorities continue to be:

- Classroom teachers and class size are important.
- Professional learning and program evaluation are critical elements of a successful organization.
- Serving NM students within the NMRSD is best for families and our schools.
- Equity does not mean equal . . . some of our students require more of our teachers and services than others in order to meet rigorous standards.
- Quality early education programming is an integral part of a public school system.
- Technology is an important component of a quality teaching and learning environment.
- An agile central administration is necessary to serve a complex school population.