

Long Island School 25-26 Budget Summary

33 Fern Avenue, Long Island, ME 04050

PROCESS:

The School Committee reviewed the enrollment projections from now through 2030, and heard the community support for maintaining a functioning school that will attract young families to the island as well as be fiscal responsibility. The School Committee held budget review and revision workshops, as well as a separate public hearing in addition to the Town's public hearing. At each meeting the committee invited public comment and considered feedback before finalizing the school budget.

Proposed Budget by cost center as of 3-12-25

	BUDGETED 2024-25	PROPOSED 2025-26	CHANGE
REGULAR INSTRUCTION	\$ 426,817	\$ 400,730	- 26,087
SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 20,300	\$ 47,513	+ 27,213
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION	\$ 45,283	\$ 55,312	+ 10,029
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 30,505	\$ 9,033	- 21,472
STUDENT/STAFF SUPPORTS	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,773	- 4,227
OPERATION/MAINTENANCE	\$ 72,450	\$ 70,543	- 1,907
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 27,550	\$ 7,078	- 20,472
ALL OTHER (NUTRITION)	\$ 8,750	\$ 3,002	- 5,748
TOTAL	\$ 646,655	\$ 603,984	- 6.6%.

Highlight of changes

Anticipate potential new early primary students and grades 3-5 cohort. Our teachers plan to host a community brainstorming pizza dinner on May 7th at 6:30 PM at the school to brainstorm ideas about how to increase enrollment for the primary levels in hope of attracting new families. The school committee plans to review and research the feasibility of the ideas generated.

Reduced staffing by 35% for 2025-26; including eliminating 1 full-time administrative position, part-time supplemental instruction for specials, part-time lunch aid, and part-time bus driver.

Both the Long Island and Portland three year teacher contracts expire this year, so there is no new Portland contract at this point to follow for use in budgeting. Therefore, the school committee and teachers negotiated their own simplified scale to follow for the next three years. This eliminated additional teacher instructional stipends as part of new Long Island teacher contract resulting in a net 7% increase in total teacher salaries for 25-26. Research showed LI teacher salaries are currently 14% below the 24-25 area average *after we removed the two highest paying districts from our comparison group (which had raised the average to 20% higher than Long Island)*. The plan is to gradually get closer to the lower group average over this three year contract, but another adjustment may be necessary three years from now.

Fund special education costs as required by law.

Reduction in both tuition from GDI and tuition out for MS/HS.

Our parents support this budget with the proposed staffing levels in order to prepare our upper elementary students for the multiple teachers they will experience in middle school, ensure quality continuity of learning if one teacher is absent, continue to provide transportation and continue to plan, prepare, and provide school lunches.

Movement of existing costs to correct school budget cost centers.