

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Tolland School System will educate and challenge students to achieve their potential by providing a variety of educational experiences to enable them to be productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

Account Code	Descriptions	2015-2016 Department Request	2015-2016 Manager Proposed	2015-2016 Adopted Budget
900-00	Board of Education	38,469,361	38,297,831	38,275,831
	Subtotal -- Board of Education	38,469,361	38,297,831	38,275,831

PROGRAM	BOARD OF EDUCATION	900-00
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Board of Education's Message:

The budget adopted by the BOE is up 3.44% over the current (FY 2014-15) budget. The base budget submitted by the Superintendent to the BOE was up 4.74% over the current year adopted budget. The budget is adjusted for labor contracts, health insurances and other contractual items. Due to several factors, a total of ten certified positions and five paraprofessional positions have been eliminated. Even with these staff reductions, the BOE budget increase is 3.44%. This increase does include the School Resource Officer position. The

This budget, although it includes several layoffs and is a very lean budget, preserves important educational priorities for the coming year. These priorities include the Math in Focus and Writers Workshop programs as well as the necessary professional development, supplies and materials to execute the necessary curriculum development and changes in Language Arts and Mathematics.

There are several factors that have adversely impacted this budget, including budget prepayments, health insurance increases and contractual obligations. The prepayment in the old (FY 2013-14) fiscal year for operating expenditures in the current (FY 2014-15) fiscal year resulted in a "void" in next year's proposed increase has a larger % impact. These prepayments include:

- \$200,000 for health insurance
- \$52,646 summer curriculum writing
- \$140,000 OPEB contribution
- Total of \$392,646 or a little over 1% of the current budget

In effect, the current year's budget is understated by this 1% for operating expenses due to the prepayments. Its impact is felt however, in next year's (FY 2015-16) budget, since these unbudgeted operational costs have to be built back in.

Adding to next year's costs, as well as having an impact on this year's budget, was the implementation of all-day kindergarten after the current budget was adopted. While some costs had been anticipated, unbudgeted items put in place this fiscal year for all-day kindergarten include one additional teacher and support staff. These reoccurring expenditures are therefore built into the proposed budget. Although several new staff positions were requested, they had not been approved in the Superintendent's budget.

Special education is up over \$400,000. This estimate is based on the aging of the current special education students and the Board's liability for next year. This figure changes daily, and it is the best estimate available at this time. The special education budget has been netted out for the Excess Cost reimbursement from the State. In other words, the Excess Cost reimbursement is needed to balance the budget. The Governor's proposed budget is maintaining the current funding level for the Excess Cost reimbursement, although we anticipate increasing local costs. The actual reimbursement rate we will receive will vary depending on the number of special education students state-wide that BOEs apply for. Since the State appropriation is a fixed amount, our reimbursement rate varies. This BOE budget assumes a reimbursement to be 79% of what it should be. Unfortunately the federal and state mandates for special education services do not go away!

The Town had originally advised us to increase health insurance costs by 6%. The insurance line item was then adjusted for the number of employees covered, including the elimination of health insurance for the positions eliminated, as well as an adjustment for an increase in the employees' share of health insurance. As noted, the aforementioned insurance prepayments in the old fiscal year adversely impact next year's health budget.

All salary line items have been updated for known existing employees, degree changes, step increases and contractual requirements. Although we do not have any confirmed retirements, this budget assumes seven teachers will retire and their replacements will be hired at a lower level (MA-1).

The bus contract will begin its 2nd year (of a 5 year contract) starting July 1, 2015 and the new rates have been incorporated into the budget. The decline in gasoline and diesel prices has been built into the budget. Gasoline rates were provided by the Town; we estimated diesel rates based on current market conditions and in anticipation of the fuel bids currently out to bid.

Over \$1.1 million in new staffing was requested, and although there certainly is a need for the positions requested, the Superintendent did not approve any new positions due to the size of the budget increase. Of the ten certified positions eliminated, two are currently vacant positions (Science Curriculum Coordinator and Speech Teacher). The other certified positions cut include: Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Social Worker, World Languages teacher, PE teacher, elementary teacher, music teacher, .5 reading teacher and 1.5 special education teachers. Five paraprofessional positions were also eliminated.

The budget process was somewhat difficult due to the recent changes of key Central Office staff in the last several months. This turnover has included the departure of the Superintendent, Interim Superintendent, Business Manager, Interim Business Manager and Human Resources Director. This was in addition to the need to fill the district positions of the Director of Curriculum and the Principal of the Middle School. If effect, there were major changes in seven key district positions, all in a highly compressed time period.

Budget Change Commentary:

The recommended funding level by the Town Manager for the Board of Education is \$38,297,831 which is a reduction of \$193,530 from the amount requested by the Board of Education but an increase of 2.92% or \$1,086,250 over current year expenditures. The Town Manager worked very closely with the Superintendent of Schools to determine cost reductions that would not impact educational services. These reductions were realized in savings in health insurance and Other Post Employment Benefit annual required contribution savings and will not impact the Board of Education Budget Plan. The Adopted Budget of \$38,275,831 is \$22,000 less than the Town Manager proposed budget due to a reduction in gas and diesel savings that were identified.

Budget Development Process:

To develop budget requests, administrators, especially school principals, meet with staff and parents to develop a sound spending plan for the coming year. It should be recognized that spending requests will undoubtedly exceed the financial resources available to fund them all. It is incumbent upon the administrator to establish spending priorities and to submit a budget request that meets the guidelines established by the Superintendent. After the Town Council has set the budget allocation for the School District within the overall Town Budget, a referendum is set for the first Tuesday in May. Upon subsequent approval of the Town Budget, the Board of Education, if necessary, meets to adjust the budget to the level allocated by the approved Town Budget referendum. A final budget is adopted by the Board of Education no later than June 30th.

Assigned Positions:

2013-2014	2014-2015	Position Title	2015-2016
FTE			
213.71	220.24	All Schools – Certified	212.24
72.30	76.80	All Schools – Non-Certified	71.80
23.50	25.50	Facilities Services	23.50
47.42	46.52	Support Services	44.52
356.93	367.06	Total	352.06

FUNCTION Board of Education	ACTIVITY Board of Education			PROGRAM Board of Education			CODE 900-00	
	Line Item Description	2011-2012 Actual	2012-2013 Actual	2013-2014 Actual	2014-2015 Adopted	2014-2015 Amended	2015-2016 Manager Proposed	2015-2016 Adopted Budget
REGULAR PAYROLL	29,140,280	29,107,126	29,036,513	28,126,215	28,126,215	28,921,437	28,549,542	
OTHER SERVICES AND FEES	5,526,871	6,578,801	6,947,521	9,063,366	9,063,366	9,376,394	9,726,289	
PAYROLL EXPENDITURES	29,140,280	29,107,126	29,036,513	28,126,215	28,126,215	28,921,437	28,549,542	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	5,526,871	6,578,801	6,947,521	9,063,366	9,063,366	9,376,394	9,726,289	
TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	34,667,151	35,685,926	35,984,034	37,189,581	37,189,581	38,297,831	38,275,831	2.92%