



Stamford Public Schools 2023-24 Proposed Budget

Superintendent, Dr. Tamu Lucero
CFO, Ryan Fealey

March 30, 2023

2023-24 Board of Education Budget Request

2023-24 Superintendent Operating Budget Request	\$313,871,939
<i>BOE Adjustments</i>	
City Healthcare/Workers Comp/Risk Cross-Charge	\$1,089,057
Other Net Reductions	(\$148,100)
2023-24 BOE Approved Operating Budget	\$314,812,896
<i>Additional Adjustments</i>	
OPEB Cross-Charge	(\$335,158)
Updated Operating Request	\$314,477,738
Updated \$ Increase	\$12,634,196
Updated % Increase	4.19%

Budget Overview

- The 2023-24 budget request seeks to maintain current programming, while seeking cost savings where appropriate. There is a net reduction in FTE, and there are no new programs that materially increase the budget. The overall budget increase (Operating plus Grants) is **0.19%**, largely due to the expiration of the ESSER II grant.
- The Operating Budget increase of 4.19% is driven by higher costs, especially in healthcare, Out of District tuition, and energy costs.
- Due to these cost pressures, this budget proposes to continue funding the positions currently in ESSER with that same funding source for FY24. If the ESSER positions had been included in the operating budget next year, the budget request would be approximately **7.1%**. In December, Norwalk's BOE approved a **12.7%** increase for 23-24 to account for their "Fiscal Cliff."
- Additional funding has been allocated to address the findings of the curriculum audit (2 Assistant Directors, funding for teacher curriculum committees, curriculum resources).



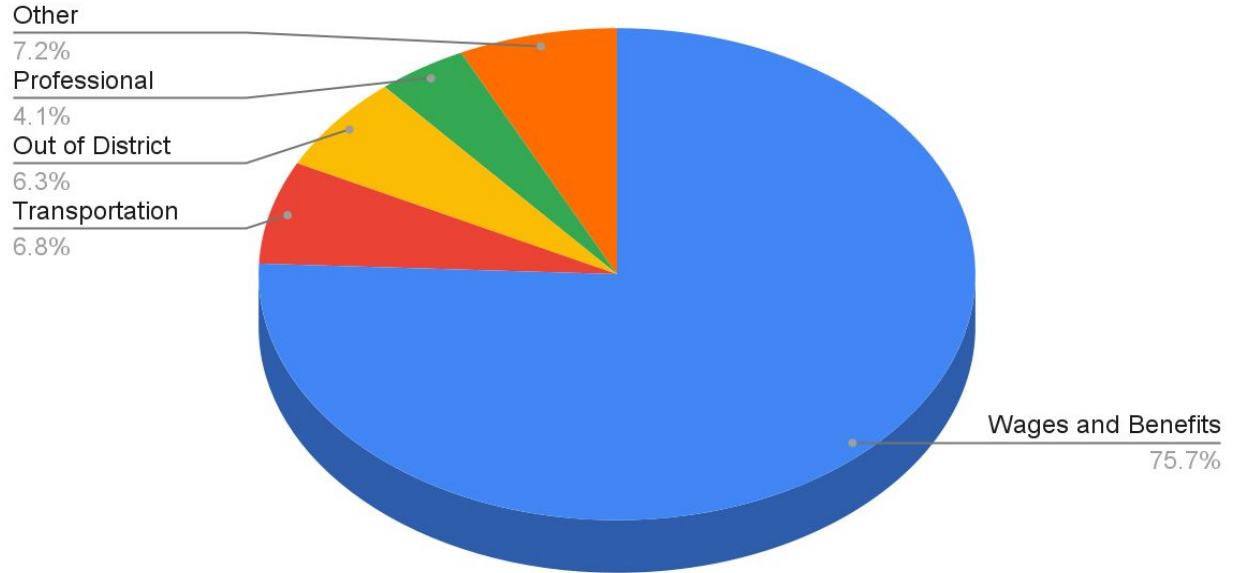
Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

BOE FY24 Budget (All Funding Sources)

Other

- Facility Repair & Maintenance
- Electricity
- Water
- Construction Costs
- Property & GL Insurance
- Telephone Costs
- Postage Costs
- Districtwide Copiers
- Professional Development
- Districtwide Internet Connection
- Classroom Supplies
- Maintenance Supplies
- Gas Heat
- Textbooks/Workbooks
- Districtwide Software
- Instructional Technology
- Classroom and Office Furniture
- Athletic Equipment
- Dues & Fees



Net Reduction in FTE

Object	Category	Change in FTE (Operating)	Change in FTE (Grants)	Net Change in FTE	Note
101	Teachers	(9.4)	(0.7)	(10.1)	Reduce elementary teachers (14.0) based on enrollment projections; reallocate to Special Education and EL (+11.2); Add 4.0 Strawberry Hill 8th grade, 1.0 Strawberry Hill World Language, 2.6 Alternative Ed, Reduce (8.0) Content TOSAs, (2.0) TOSAs reclass to Object 102, Reduce unused contingencies (4.9)
102	Administrative Certified	0.0	5.0	5.0	Add 1.0 Strawberry Hill AP, 4.0 Asst Directors for curriculum support (2 new, 2 reclassified from 101 TOSAs)
103	Teacher Support	3.0	1.0	4.0	Add 3.0 Speech Pathologists (Operating), 1.0 School Psychologist (Grants)
112	Administration - Non Certified Discretionary	1.0	(1.0)	0.0	Add 1.0 BCBA (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst), Reduce (1.0) SPED Data Compliance Specialist
115	Paraeducators	(13.5)	(1.5)	(15.0)	Reduction of (10.0) SPED Paraeducators due to hiring challenges, (6.0) Kindergarten Paras due to enrollment, add 2 New Arrivals Paras, Reduction (1.0) Rogers Instructional Para
Sum		(18.9)	2.8	(16.1)	

Contribution by Category

Category	Increase	Contribution	Note
Wages and Benefits	\$5,907,464	1.96%	Decrease in FTE, wage increases per contracts, healthcare increase, significant declines in projected Pension and OPEB expense
SPED Tuition and Pupil Services	\$1,973,007	0.65%	Based on IEP requirements, increase in placement cost
Utility/Fuel Costs	\$1,692,861	0.56%	Significant increase due to market conditions (Global demand for natural gas, low US inventories, New England pipeline capacity)
Other	\$1,242,228	0.41%	Facilities, Transportation, Legal
Curriculum (Textbooks/Software/PD)	\$943,542	0.31%	Several subject areas
Insurance Cross-Charge (City Risk)	\$575,094	0.19%	Projected increase per city risk manager
Security Upgrades	\$300,000	0.10%	District-wide per department recommendation
Sum	\$12,634,196	4.19%	



Analysis of Health Insurance Premiums

	Estimated Cost	Increase vs FY23	Contribution to Budget Increase
2023-24 Health Insurance Cost Projection (Current)	\$37,865,929	\$2,798,210	0.93%
2023-24 Health Insurance Cost Projection (Self-Insurance)	\$40,247,554	\$5,179,835	1.72%

Note: Estimates from Gallagher 12.2022

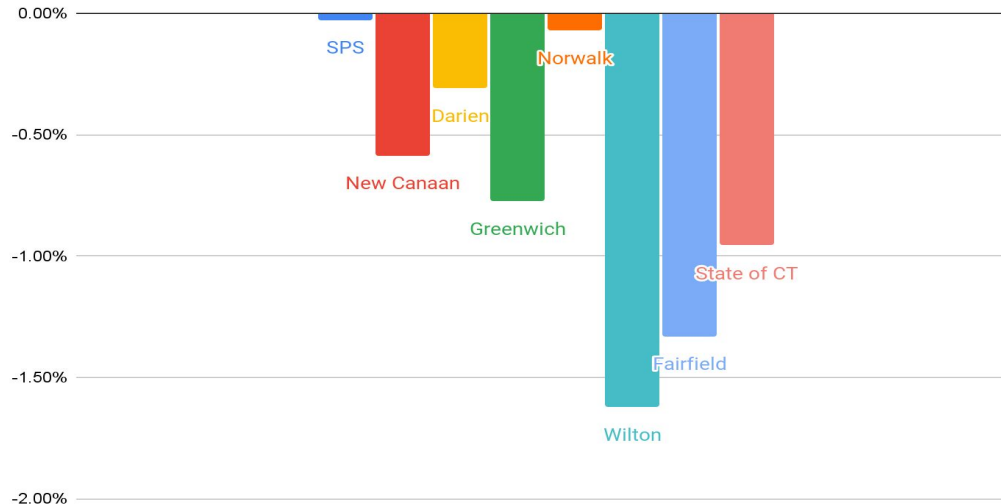
Enrollment Projections

Enrollment projections are calculated internally, as well as by Powerschool Predictive Enrollment Analytics, and are based on historical trends and birth rate analysis.

- Overall enrollment in FY24 is projected to increase from 16,258 students to 16,390, an increase of 132 students, or 0.81%. Special Education and EL projections will be discussed in the presentation on those programs later in the month.
- For additional context, for the 5 year period ending 2022, SPS enrollment was essentially flat (down 0.03%). Over the same period, enrollment statewide as well as in many districts decreased, as reflected in the chart below:

Public School Enrollment Trend 2016-2022

Data per CT EdSight





Per Pupil Spending

FAIRFIELD COUNTY NCEP		
District	Average Daily Membership 2021-22	NCEP 2021-22
Redding	1,215	\$26,621
Greenwich	8,378	\$26,311
Weston	2,208	\$24,262
Sherman	387	\$24,170
Westport	5,278	\$24,149
Darien	4,708	\$23,180
Wilton	3,715	\$22,980
Ridgefield	4,564	\$22,394
New Canaan	4,154	\$22,164
Easton	1,303	\$21,953
Fairfield	9,359	\$21,581
Norwalk	11,881	\$21,396
New Fairfield	2,081	\$21,314
Stamford	16,034	\$20,679
Newtown	4,073	\$20,035
Bridgeport	18,972	\$18,748
Stratford	7,068	\$18,721
Monroe	3,377	\$17,837
Trumbull	6,772	\$17,628
Bethel	3,126	\$17,507
Shelton	4,613	\$17,385
Danbury	11,756	\$15,451
Average	6,277	\$21,219

Spending Compared to State Average

Scaled to SPS 2021-22 Budget \$

	SPS	State Average	Variance
Instruction	\$192,435,956	\$184,126,493	\$8,309,463
Support Services	\$53,294,953	\$54,823,218	(\$1,528,265)
Central Office	\$4,537,575	\$10,086,295	(\$5,548,720)
Student Transportation/Plant Operations	\$43,317,662	\$41,708,083	\$1,609,579
Other*	\$0	\$2,842,058	(\$2,842,058)
Sum	\$293,586,146	\$293,586,146	

*Food Service and Enterprise Operations (i.e. activities that are financed and operated like a private business, for example a school bookstore)

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education. Per Pupil Expenditures by Function, 2020-21 (latest available data as of 1/6/2023). Available from: https://public-edsight.ct.gov/overview/per-pupil-expenditures-by-function---district?language=en_US



BOE Operating Budget 10 Year History

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
BOE Operating Budget	\$248,574,216	\$255,113,422	\$263,903,563	\$269,736,292	\$272,790,679	\$283,069,806	\$285,555,203	\$293,586,146	\$301,843,542	\$314,477,738
BOE Requested Increase	2.93%	3.93%	4.98%	3.58%	1.48%	5.03%	6.52%	6.34%	4.56%	4.19%
BOF/BOR Approved Increase	1.43%	2.63%	3.45%	2.21%	1.13%	3.77%	0.88%	2.81%	2.81%	?
% Change CPI-U	1.66%	-0.03%	1.46%	2.23%	2.28%	1.71%	1.37%	5.39%	8.20%	?

8-Year CAGR BOE		2.46%	
8-Year CAGR CPI-U		2.80%	
9-Year CAGR BOE		2.65%	Assumes 4.19% for 2023-24

Note: CPI-U is as of September

Source: https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/data/consumerpriceindexhistorical_us_table.htm

ESSER Funds

Grant Name	ESSER I	CRF (Coronavirus Relief Fund)	ESSER II	ESSER III (ARP)
Awarded Date	3/2020	9/2020	2/2021	5/2021
Funds Available Through	9/2022	12/2020	9/2023	9/2024
Amount	\$2,739,520	\$5,357,085	\$14,547,611	\$32,694,812
Use of Funds	PPE, specialized cleaning supplies, part-time custodians, Security Workers, Summer School 2021, \$400k HVAC work	PPE, specialized cleaning supplies, distance learning software, custodial O/T, HVAC repairs, bus sanitizing, Special Education evaluations, coverage for quarantined teachers	To offset operating budget reduction in FY22 and 23; Parent Facilitators, Tech Specialists, Restorative Support Facilitators, Classroom Teachers, PPE, Summer School 2021, Security Workers, K Paras, \$1.3m HVAC work	Recovery Academy, Acceleration Coaches, SEL Programs, Summer School Enrichment, Capital Projects (HVAC Piping/Automation/Ventilation), Year 3 of Tech Specialists, Parent Facilitators, Restorative Support Facilitators, K Paras
Funds Used 2020-21	\$333,353	\$5,357,085	\$0	\$0
Funds Used 2021-22	\$2,406,167	\$0	\$6,758,698	\$4,677,208
Estimated Expenses 2022-23	\$0	\$0	\$7,788,913	\$7,385,900
Budget 2023-24	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,631,704

Note: Does not include \$10m in ESSER III for capital projects 2022-2024

2-Year Budget Plan (FY24/FY25)

- Primary projected budget considerations for FY25 are ESSER-funded positions, healthcare, and transportation.
- The Superintendent is working with staff and other stakeholders to compile a Master Staffing Plan to assist in budget construction for FY25 and beyond. This Plan will consider all positions, not just those currently funded by ESSER.
- The variables displayed below would lead to a requested increase of 6.7% for FY25. With a 4.19% increase in FY24 and a 6.7% increase in FY25, the 10-year operating budget growth trend would still barely be above 3%.

	2024-25
Prior FY Operating Budget	\$314,477,738
2.8% Base Increase (Not Incl Below Items)	\$7,116,621
ESSER Positions	\$8,497,500
Healthcare (7%)	\$2,649,637
Transportation (12%)	\$2,790,979
Sum	\$335,532,475
% Increase	6.70%
10-Year CAGR BOE (Assumes 4.19% for FY24 and 6.70% for FY25)	3.05%

HB 5003

- Proposed bill would fully fund the state's Education Cost Sharing program by FY25 as opposed to FY28. Benefit to Stamford variously estimated at \$5 - \$7.5m
- Stamford's total budgeted ECS allocation for FY24 is about \$17m: \$8m goes directly to the city, and \$9m goes directly to the BOE as the Alliance Grant
- Per CT Gen Stat § 10-262u (2012), any increase in ECS funds for Stamford (or any other Alliance district) is allocated to the BOE as additional Alliance grant funds