

Budget Development Update

November 5, 2024



Agenda

- Budgetary assumptions
- Enrollment review
- Equitable Budgeting review
- RISE funding
- Board Guidance
 - Board action
- Timeline



Budgetary Assumptions

Full list of assumptions posted on budget website

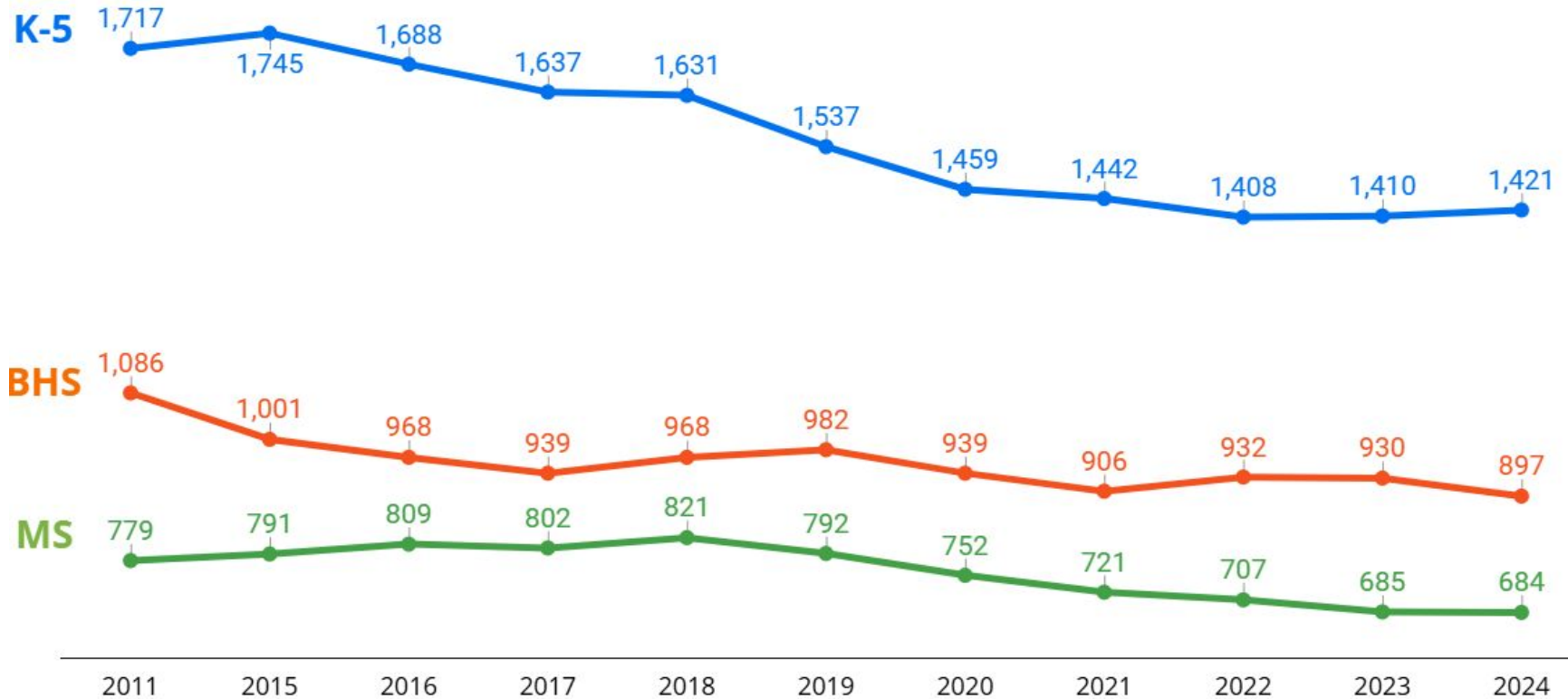
Level Services Budget

- To maintain the current level of services, the overall budget would need to increase by about 5%.
- The General Fund budget (supported by Education taxes) would need to increase nearly 6%.

Major Drivers

- Wages: Bargaining agreements are being renegotiated. Budget for wage settlements range from 2.4% (inflation) to 4%.
- Benefits: Health insurance premiums are estimated to increase by 11.9%.
- Debt Service: 3.8%
- Grants: Personnel costs are increasing faster than grant revenues, requiring the General Fund to absorb these costs to maintain the current service level.

BSD Enrollment History



Equitable Budgeting

A Brief History

- Research-based model created with input from the community.
- Overwhelming support for allocating resources to the students who need them most.
- Provides a foundational level of support plus RISE funds for investments unique to each school community.
- Recognize that our staffing level must be responsive to enrollment changes.

Community Survey: Who did we hear from?

We heard from...

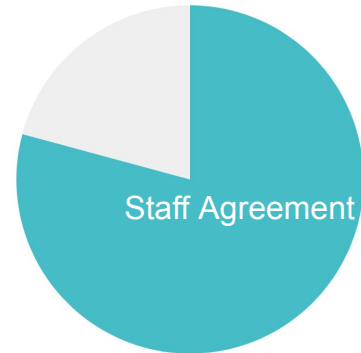
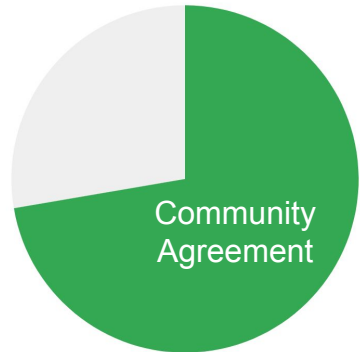
- 450+ students, family members, staff, and community members
- Individuals affiliated with every BSD school and program
- 43.2% of respondents' students receive free or reduced lunch
- 21.7% of respondents' students receive special education services
- 20.9% of our respondents self identified as BIPOC
- 14.4% of respondents speak a language other than English in their home



2020 Community Survey: What did we say?

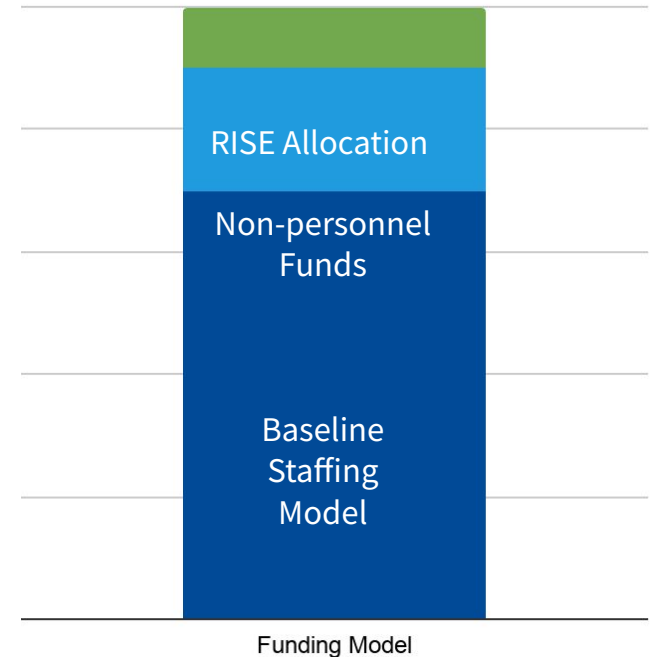
*72% of all respondents and 79% of BSD staff
strongly agree or agree that*

***resources should be allocated in a way that supports
the students who need them most - even if it means
reducing the resources at their school(s).***



Our proposed model has three components

- A **staffing model** will provide each school with its core staffing, using staff:student ratios (e.g. 1 counselor staff for every 200 students)
- Non-personnel funds will be allocated based on a **per-student** basis
- An Equity Allocation will provide additional funding using a **weighted student formula**, meaning more funds in schools with greater need
 - Schools will have discretion in how best to serve their students using these funds
 - Intent and desired outcomes will be documented for future evaluation



Areas of Potential Reductions

- Cabinet has generated a list of reduction for Superintendent consideration.
- The Superintendent intends to recommend limited reductions (subject to board guidance).
- Projected enrollment justifies a limited number of reductions.

RISE Allocation

Nearly \$1.7m of School-directed, Equity-oriented Investments

- RISE allocations are projected to increase by about \$200,000 based on increased student need measures, particularly the poverty measure
 - This is likely due more to improved accuracy than significant changes in economic circumstances.
 - Improved accuracy of the poverty count may increase BSD's long-term weighted average daily membership, thereby offsetting some of this spending increase.

Board Guidance

- Recognize that our staffing level must be responsive to enrollment changes.
- Limit budget growth due to impact of BHS/BTC costs.
- Ensure funding to meet strategic plan objectives.
- Continue to offer academically rigorous programming for all learners.
- Budget wage and benefit increases commensurate with the fiscal reality of our community and state.
- Look for ways to reduce the cost per pupil.



Budget Development Timeline

- 12/3** School board meeting
- 12/17** School board meeting
- 1/7** School Board meeting
- 3/4** Town Meeting Day budget vote

Subject to change

Full budget timeline available at:
<http://www.bsdt.org/district/budget/>

