

Town Meeting Day is March 4th!

Visit www.bsdt.org/budget for complete budget and voting information.

BALLOT LANGUAGE *(Keep in mind that spending at this level could produce a property tax rate decrease of 4%)*

Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$134,779,831 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? Burlington School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,825.77, which is 6.74% higher than spending for the current year.

**PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCES
PROPERTY TAX RATES BY 4%**

Total Current Year Budget (FY25)	\$144.9 million
Annual Increases to Wages and Health Insurance	+ \$5.6 million
Funding for Future Facilities Investments	+ \$0.6 million
Inflationary Growth, Debt Service, Replacing External Funds	+ \$2.8 million
Reductions (Expiring Grant Funds, Central Office Budget, 2 FTE Teaching Positions)	- \$19.2 million
Total Proposed Budget for Next Year (FY26)	\$134.7 million
Percent Change from FY25 Budget	-7%



TAX IMPACT ESTIMATES

See reverse for more information.

Property Tax Payer	Decrease of 4%
Impact on \$370K homestead	-\$238
Income Tax Payer (\$370K homestead)	Decrease of 12%
Impact Tax \$50k income (\$370K homestead)	-\$165



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

1. Budget results in a 4% property tax rate reduction and a 12% reduction for those who pay taxes based on income.
2. Drives funds towards students who need it the most with updated RISE allocations.
3. Continues to align staffing to enrollment while minimizing layoffs.
4. Plans to proactively address future facilities needs rather than relying on bonding.
5. Development of BSD's budget is informed by the District's Strategic Plan and our North Star: *Every learner is challenged, empowered, and engaged.*



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What is the Story Behind this Year's 4% Tax Rate Decrease?

This year, we focused on keeping taxes low and providing more resources to support schools. **As a result, we are proposing a budget that will decrease the current tax rate by 4%.** This is possible thanks to Vermont's strong state education fund, sound governance, School Board leadership and advocacy in Montpelier, and disciplined budgeting.

- We use an equitable budgeting system that matches the number of staff to the number of students. Over the past four years, we've reduced staff as student numbers have gone down.
- We didn't create big future problems by hiring a lot of staff with temporary ESSER funds. Instead, we used most of that money for protective equipment, curriculum, and building improvements. When we did hire staff, most of those jobs ended when the funding ran out.
- We worked hard to change the State's funding formula to get fair funding, and now we're seeing the positive results of these efforts.



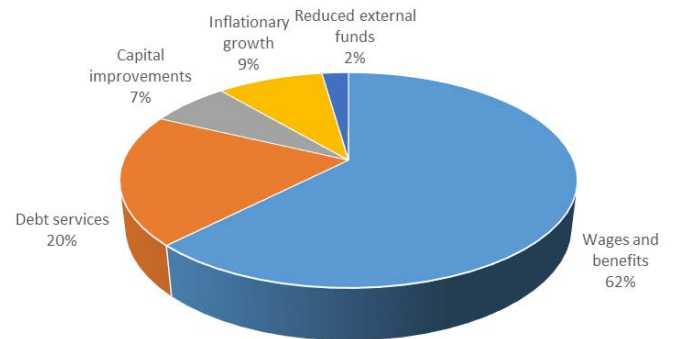
4% Tax Rate Decrease!

Why is Education Spending Increasing if our Budget is Decreasing?

State and Federal Grants impact our overall budget but do not impact education tax rates. Even though the overall budget is decreasing (as a result of receiving fewer one-time grants), the part of the budget that impacts tax rates (education spending) is increasing by about \$10 million. This is a result of

- Higher costs for things like wages and benefits (health insurance alone is going up 11.9%)
- Paying off debt (mainly for the high school and IAA)
- Inflation (for things like rent, utilities, etc.)
- Replacing a small amount of expiring funds

The budget also includes \$600,000 to support facilities improvements, helping us fix problems as they come up, plan for medium-sized projects, and avoid borrowing more money in the future.



How are we Working to Control Costs?

Our recommendation includes the reduction of two positions this year, including one teacher at Flynn Elementary (where we have one fewer classroom next year due to enrollment) and a District Substitute position (one of the last remaining ESSER positions). We are also proposing another reduction in Central Office budgets, and we will no longer need to pay for leases for IAA students as our renovation of IAA nears completion.

How Does Borrowing for the BHS/BTC Project Impact this Budget?

The bond is a small portion of increased spending this year. Moving forward, debt service for this may increase slightly but will not be a driver of new spending. Without the bond, this year's budget would have resulted in an even larger tax rate reduction.



Development of BSD's budget is informed by the District's Strategic Plan and our North Star: every learner is challenged, empowered, and engaged. Turn this document over to learn more about the budget.