

The Wakefield Public Schools' recommended budget for the 2016 fiscal year of \$34,787,085 represents an increase of \$3,558,357 or 11.39% over FY15. This budget was thoughtfully developed with the District's strategic objectives and initiatives at the forefront. The budget prioritizes:

- **Quality Teaching:** *Investing in and developing educators to provide students with powerful teaching and learning that prepare them for college, career and citizenship.*
- **Rigorous Curriculum:** *Implementing consistent, standards-aligned curriculum supported by high quality instructional resources.*
- **Individualized Student Learning:** *Ensuring that each student receives targeted, data-informed instruction, with appropriate social and emotional supports.*

These are key levers for accelerating student learning and must continue to drive how WPS allocates finite resources. Considerable time was spent with constituents discussing these objectives and establishing a series of priorities linked to this strategic direction. Members of the District's Leadership Team were asked to submit bold proposals for their respective school or department. These requests were matched with feedback received from staff, community members and representatives from the Wakefield School Committee. The final budget recommendation reflects the collective voices of these partners in an effort to better serve the children of Wakefield. Through a combination of shifting, eliminating and adding resources, there are five significant drivers associated with the FY2016 budget request (see other side for visual).

Quality Teaching

- **Staffing:** It is essential that the WPS pay scale remain comparable to and competitive with local school districts in Massachusetts. It is important to attract, recruit and retain the most qualified and talented staff. Beyond satisfying contractual requirements, the proposal includes additional staff to address increased enrollment, provide math coaching to teachers, offer mental health support for elementary students, provide additional nursing services for middle school and high school students, comply with High School MassCore requirements and ensure that in-district special education students receive the services they deserve.

Rigorous Curriculum

- **Curriculum Adoption:** It is imperative that Wakefield annually replaces outdated curriculum materials. As part of a five-year cycle presented last June, the plan is to adopt new math curriculum (K-8) and a new phonics program (K-1) this fall.
- **Technology:** As part of the District technology plan, the WPS Technology Committee recommended that funds be allocated to replenish and replace student and teacher devices. The District is invested in gradually weaning itself from the town's capital budget to ensure the future viability of digital initiatives.

Individualized Student Learning

- **Full Day Kindergarten:** All WPS students deserve to enroll in a comprehensive and quality Kindergarten program upon entering school. Kindergarten can no longer be optional, but rather a requisite learning opportunity for students to remain on the pathway to college and career. This budget includes funding so that this foundational experience is at no cost to families.
- **Special Education:** The District has long underfunded special education. In doing so, it becomes necessary to carefully scrutinize spending and often utilize funds from other mission critical areas to fund these important and obligatory services. This budget appropriately funds known and anticipated special education costs- out of district placements, transportation and contracted services.

The Wakefield Public Schools' comprehensive budget proposal both restores and introduces foundational services/programs to its seven schools. Full day kindergarten, updated and standards aligned curriculum materials, technology and fully funded special education services are core elements of a strong and effective school system. These represent essential pillars that will allow WPS to realize its strategic objectives and move its schools forward for years to come. WPS has received the overwhelming support of the School Committee, Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and town leaders to prioritize these critical needs. Wakefield continues to demonstrate that children come first and that the community is serious about providing its youth with an exemplary educational experience.

WPS Budget Snapshot

Area	Amount Increase	% of FY16 Increase
FDK Salaries	\$628,218	2.012%
Curriculum	\$230,000	0.737%
Instructional Supplies	\$16,125	0.052%
Professional Development	\$9,925	0.032%
Technology	\$87,550	0.280%
Contractual Salary Obligations	\$1,176,875	3.769%
Added / Removed Positions	\$378,956	1.213%
Clerical Raises / Retro	\$38,582	0.124%
SPED Tuitions	\$658,174	2.108%
SPED OOD Transportation	\$47,240	0.151%
SPED Other	\$37,000	0.118%
Contracted Services	\$34,625	0.111%
Transportation (Regular / Homeless)	\$91,690	0.294%
Utilities	\$83,488	0.267%
Maintenance	\$39,909	0.128%
Total	\$3,558,357	11.394%



**Full Day
Kindergarten**



**Curriculum
Adoption**



Technology



Staffing



**Special Education
Right-sizing**