

March 2025

BPS Budget Request

2025-26

V1

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Vision

Bridgeport Public Schools envisions a culturally responsive, high-performing learning environment where students thrive academically, socially, emotionally and civically.

Mission

We model excellence and equity in education for every child at every level by focusing on quality instruction and providing efficient systems and structures in schools to sustain a culture committed to success.

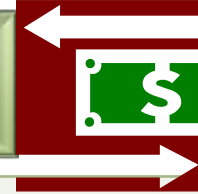


Part 1

FISCAL FRAMEWORK: Goals and Challenges

- ☐ Fiscal Goals
- ☐ District Enrollment
- ☐ NCEP
- ☐ School Allocation Model
- ☐ Fiscal Challenges

FISCAL GOALS



- 1 A Structurally Balanced Budget**
To maintain a structurally balanced budget, built on a comprehensive financial plan comprised of all fund sources, that ensures real cost management and the most effective educational program possible.
- 2 School-based Budgeting Model**
To maintain and enhance the School-based Budgeting Model, grounded in empowerment and accountability at the school level.
- 3 Fiscal Accountability**
To ensure fiscal accountability through continued integrity, transparency, reporting and systems management.
- 4 Comprehensive Fiscal Management**
To engage in comprehensive fiscal management, encompassing analysis, internal control and innovation, in order to secure resources, optimize resource utilization and attain fiscal stability.

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

38 Schools: 29 Elementary/Middle + 7 High School + Aquaculture + Bridgeport Learning Center

Year	Date	Enrollment	Change	Elem	HS	
2025-26	10-1-25	19,800	+70	13,902	5,902	
2024-25	10-1-24	19,734	+440	14,059	5,675	
2023-24	10-1-23	19,294	+161	13,926	5,368	
2022-23	10-1-22	19,133	+84	13,892	5,241	
2021-22	10-1-21	19,049	-281	13,923	5126	
2020-21	10-1-20	19,330	-800	14,219	5111	
2019-20	10-1-19	20,130	-134	15,017	5113	
2018-19	10-1-18	20,384	-403	15,188	5196	
2017-18	10-1-17	20,787	-264	14,452	5335	

SPED & ELL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Students	10-1-24	%	10-1-25	%	#Change	% Change
ALL	19,734		19,800		+70	+0.4%
SPED	3,819	19.4%				
ELL	6,149	31.2%				
SPED & ELL	9,968	50.6%				

NCEP: Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil

JANUARY 2025 Report				
FIVE (5) DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST ENROLLMENT				
		Net Cost Expenditures (NCE)	Average Daily Students Registered	Net Cost Expense Per Pupil (NCEP)
Code	District	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-24
064	HARTFORD	420,466,622	18,577	22,634
135	STAMFORD	348,120,094	15,977	21,789
093	NEW HAVEN	349,228,182	17,200	20,304
151	WATERBURY	328,224,151	18,540	17,704
015	BRIDGEPORT	324,882,916	19,364	16,778

Bridgeport grossly underfunded, in comparison to its peer districts.

- Bridgeport is underfunded by approximately \$19M for each \$1,000 in NCEP it does not receive.
- **For example – had Bridgeport received the same level of funding as Hartford, Bridgeport's budget would rise by over \$113M!**

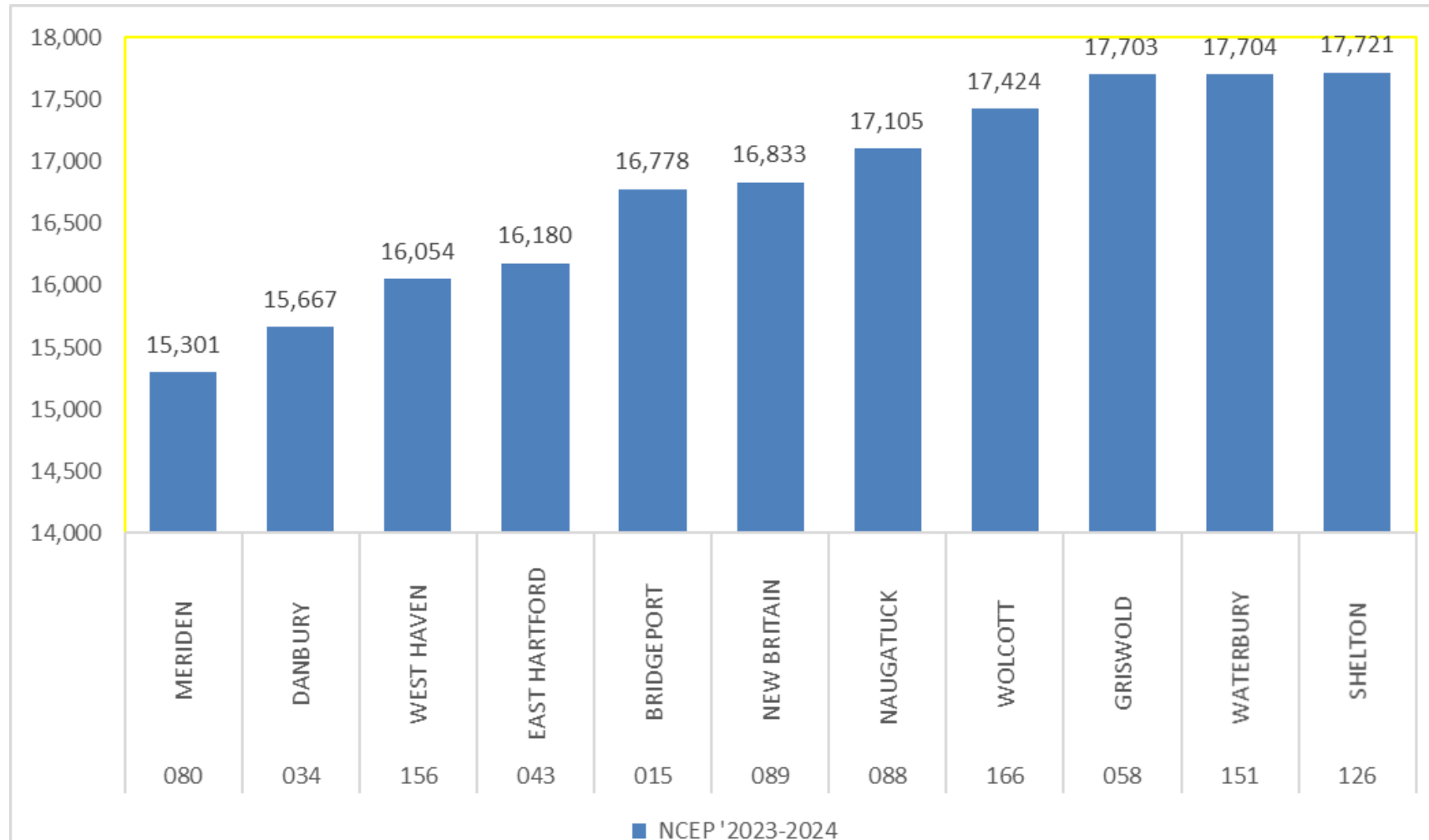
Of 166 CT school districts, ranked by NCEP, from highest to lowest:

- Bridgeport is #162.

NCEP: Net Current Expenditures Per Pupil, Published by CSDE, based on the EFS Report, which includes General Funds, grants and in-kind services.

*NCE: Includes ESSER grants

Out of 166 Districts, BPS is 5th Lowest in Net Current Expenditure Per Pupil



NCEP and State SPED Excess Cost Grant

- The State **SPED Excess Cost grant** provides partial reimbursement for expenses incurred by districts for **SPED out of district (OOD) placements**.
 - The **district** is required to pay **4.5 times NCEP** for each OOD placement.
 - In addition, the district pays the **“percentage cap” of the balance of the cost**, which is determined annually.
- The **Excess Cost** grant pays the final remainder of the total cost.

Year	Excess Cost Cap
FY25	21.20%
FY24	27.14%
FY23	23.75%
FY22	18.02%
FY21	16.52%
FY20	29.11%
FY19	26.38%
FY18	27.56%
FY17	24.61%
FY16	22.37%

Example

- For each Local Initiated OOD Placement, the district pays:
 - NCEP x 4.5
 - Plus: CAP x balance of the remaining cost
- **Example: An OOD placement has a total cost of \$100,000.**
 - The district pays: NCEP 16,778 x 4.5 = \$75,501.
 - Plus: Cap @ **21.20%** x \$24,499 [\$100,000 - \$75,501] = \$5,194.
 - **Total District Share = 75,501 + 5,194 = \$80,695.**
 - **State Share (Sped Excess Cost) = \$19,305.**

SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)

2023-24 EFS	
SPED \$: Percent of Total Budget [including all grants]	29.7%
Total SPED \$ =	\$114,793,164
SPED \$: Percent of General Fund (operating budget)	33.7%
SPED \$ in General Fund =	\$81,801,637

Special Education Expenditures	2023-24	Amount
In-district & Transportation		92,153,495
Out of district tuition	Net:	22,639,669
State Excess Cost Grant Received	Cap = 27.14%	(\$8,607,799)

School Allocation Model

Core Components

Empowerment

Accountability

Equity

Transparency

1 Position Allocation

Equitable and uniform staffing formulas, with consideration for school-specific needs.

2 Operating Allocation

- \$25/student
- Continued Option: deployment of discretionary funds for part-time personnel (hourly, per diem); e.g., interventionists, tutors etc.

3 Teacher's Choice Allocation

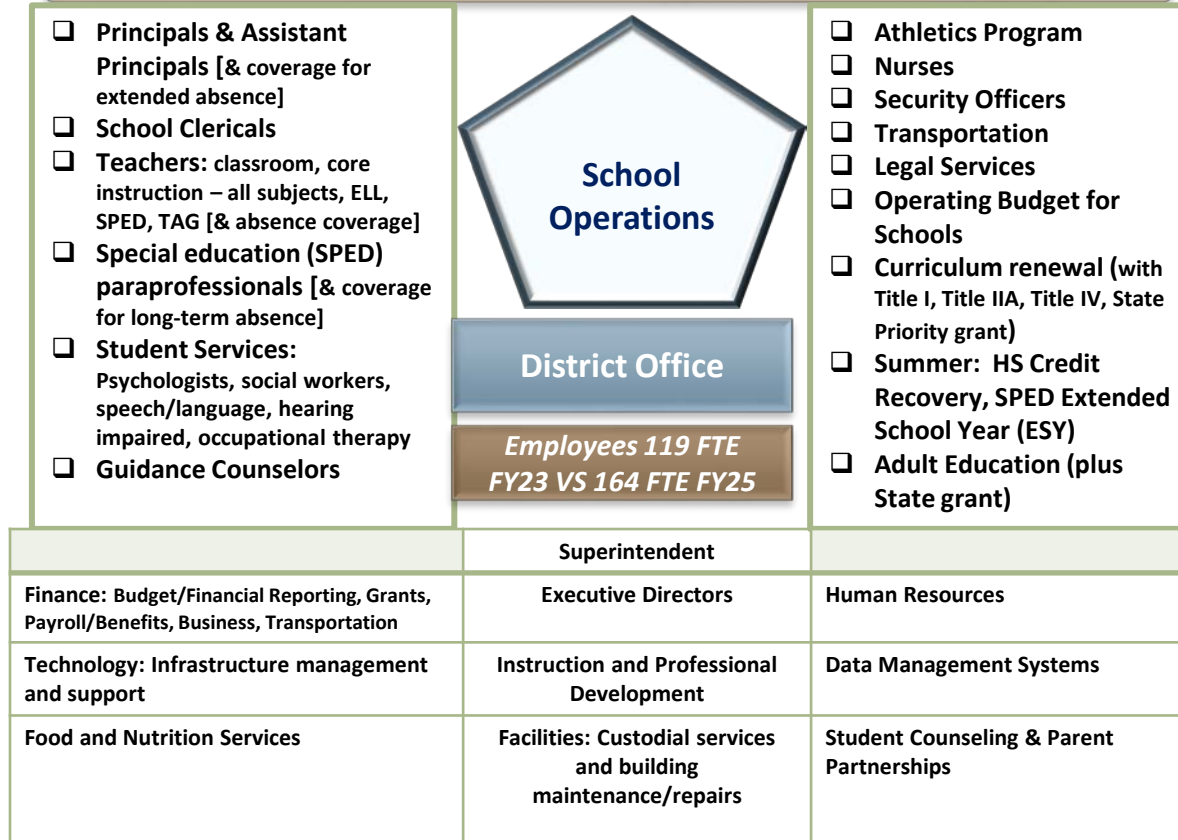
- \$30/classroom teacher, based on the first payroll in October.
- School Specialty E-Card (distributed via email)

4 Parent Engagement Budget [Grant-funded]

- \$9.59/student in FY25 [Formula: 1% of Title I appropriation/projected register]
- Elementary Schools = Title I; High Schools = State Priority Grant
- Requires submission of a Budget Plan approved by: Principal & PAC/PTSO President

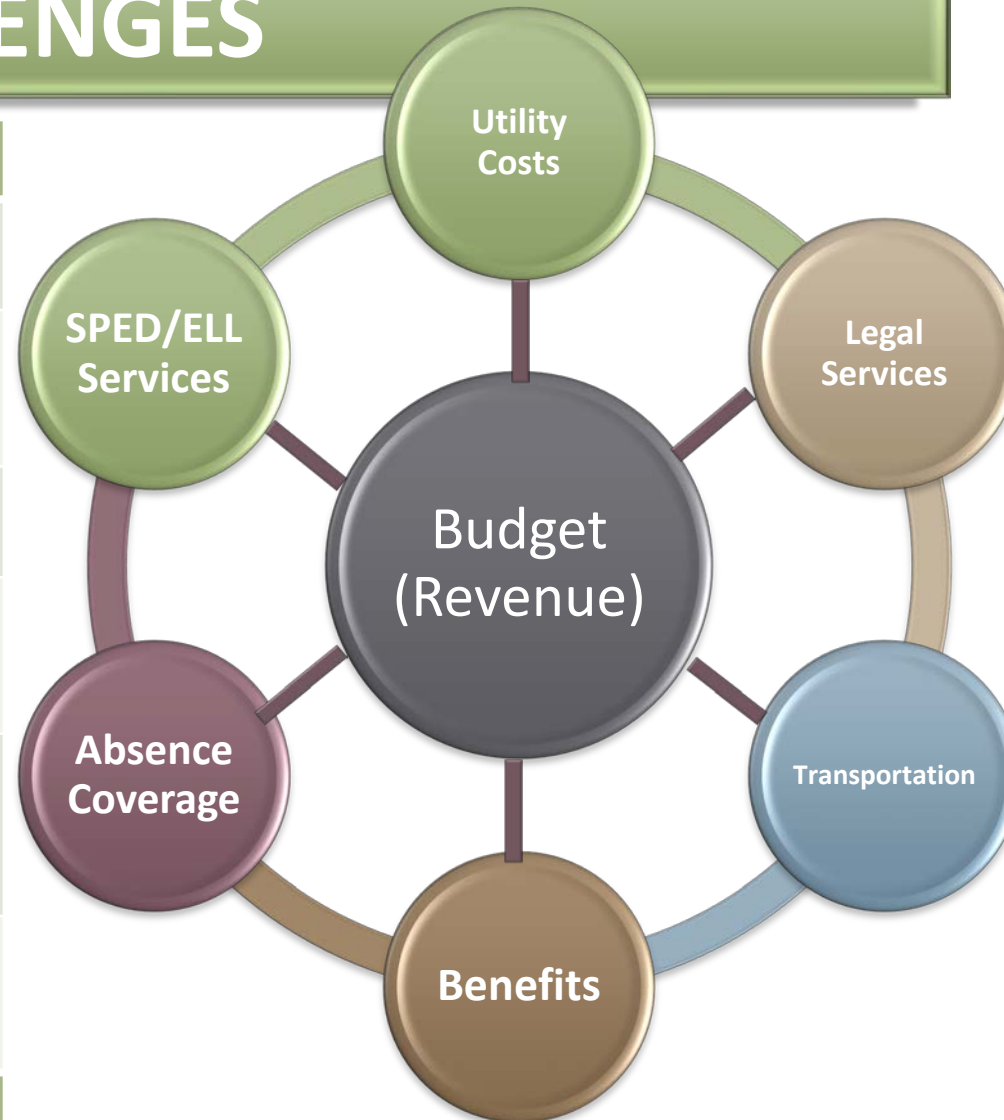
What does the OPERATING BUDGET fund?

Essential and mandated services to support the educational program

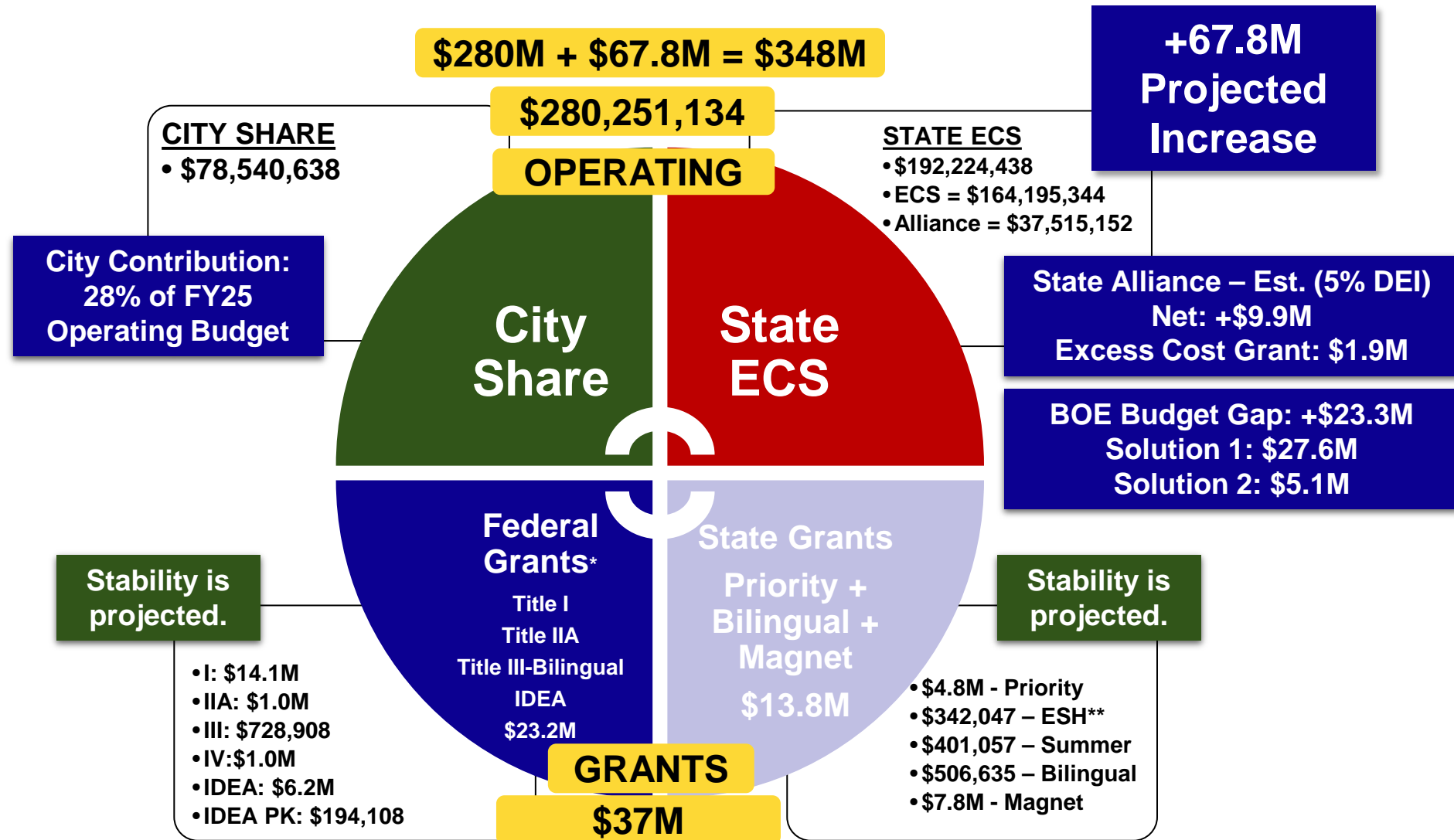


FISCAL CHALLENGES

Challenge	Cost Control
Utility Costs	Energy Conservation
Legal Services	Training – knowledge of laws and regulations
Transportation	Efficient routing methods
Special Education & ELL Services	Intervention strategies
Absence Coverage	Monitoring through Red Rover – absence management [KES]
Benefits – Escalated Cost	Reduced employer share in negotiated agreements



Operating Budget Request 2025-26



* Excluding nonpublic school amounts

** Priority Extended School Hours

Proposed for 2025-26

(Millions)

Budget Years		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 REQUEST
State Revenue - ECS Allocation		\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20	\$164.20
State Revenue - Alliance ECS grant		18.07	16.91	16.91	18.04	20.90	23.22	24.75	24.76	28.03	37.52	47.40
City Share		63.32	63.38	63.77	65.49	66.79	69.04	71.04	73.04	75.54	78.54	103.54
Budget Gap												32.97
BOE BUDGET		\$245.59	\$244.49	\$244.88	\$247.72	\$251.88	\$256.46	\$259.99	\$262.00	\$267.77	\$280.25	\$348.10

Average annual dollar increase over 9 years

\$3,851,154

Average annual percentage increase over 9 years

1.49%

2024-25 Budget Request Increase

\$67,848,573

Average annual dollar increase over 10 years with FY25 Budget Request

\$10,250,896

Average annual percentage increase over 10 years with FY25 Budget Request

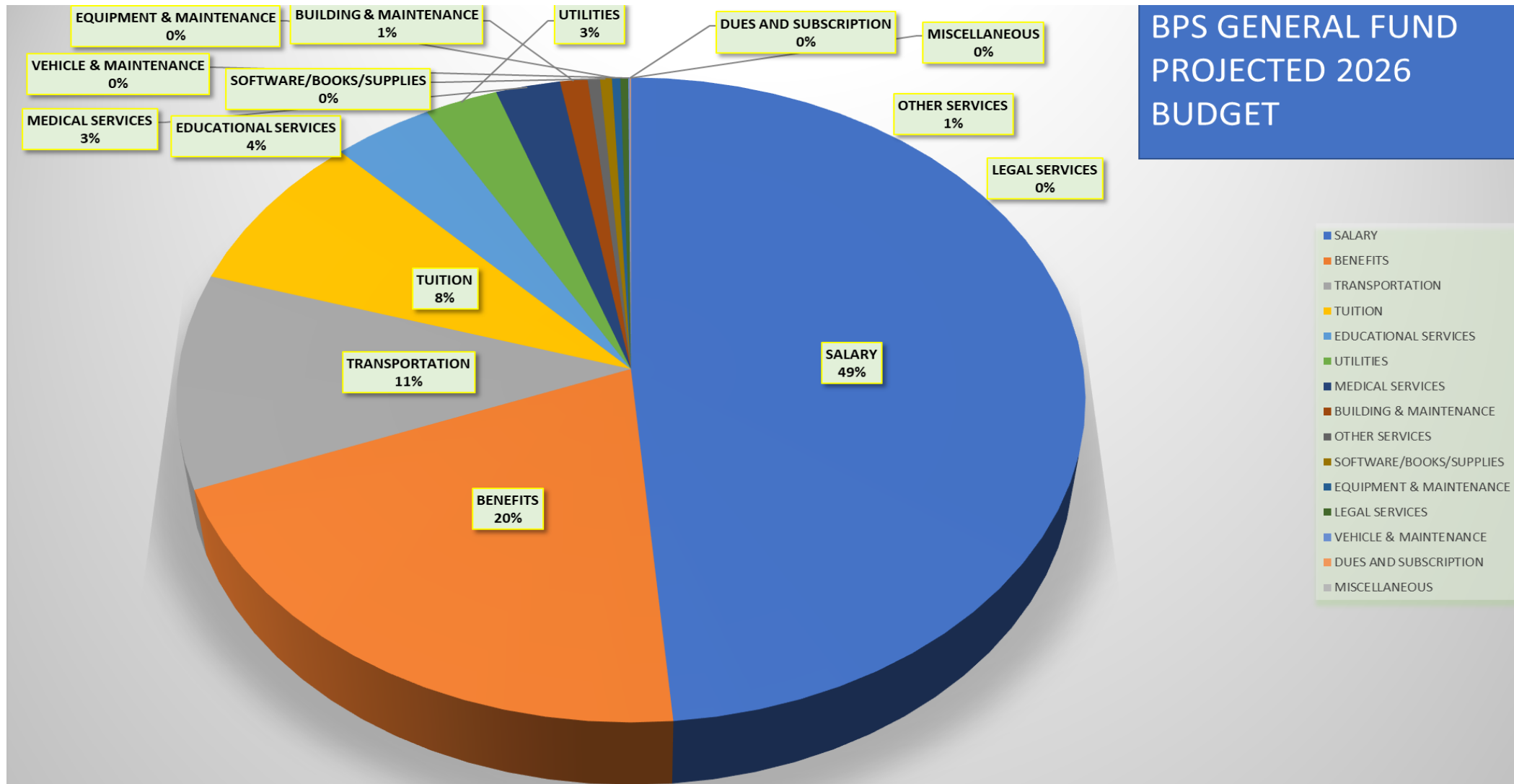
3.76%

BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNT CATEGORY	FY24 ACTUAL	FY25 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY25 YEAR END FORECAST	FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY25 BUDGET VS FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET
SALARY	122,634,026	137,412,212	137,174,540	151,089,038	(13,676,826)
BENEFITS	53,666,770	52,292,371	57,292,370	63,369,160	(11,076,789)
TRANSPORTATION	24,924,167	14,848,886	31,008,000	33,450,000	(18,601,114)
TUITION	20,798,527	13,568,512	23,793,666	25,279,300	(11,710,788)
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3,903,242	5,554,048	9,490,271	12,141,199	(6,587,151)
UTILITIES	4,396,922	4,152,857	8,353,681	8,883,409	(4,730,552)
MEDICAL SERVICES	2,383,884	4,250,000	7,604,562	7,832,698	(3,582,698)
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	3,402,865	4,781,585	4,848,160	3,336,876	1,444,709
OTHER SERVICES	1,064,899	1,901,438	1,888,247	1,484,396	417,042
SOFTWARE/BOOKS/SUPPLIES	912,011	1,530,536	1,461,638	1,434,606	95,929
EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE	886,620	1,020,942	1,005,621	1,006,034	14,908
LEGAL SERVICES	395,579	953,125	953,125	953,125	-
VEHICLE & MAINTENANCE	201,124	341,334	193,574	196,574	144,760
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION	147,065	104,497	104,497	104,497	-
MISCELLANEOUS	18,280	23,640	23,640	23,640	-
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	239,735,982	242,735,982	285,195,590	310,584,553	(67,848,571)

BPS GENERAL FUND PROJECTED 2026 BUDGET

BPS GENERAL FUND PROJECTED 2026 BUDGET



Student Enrollment: Trends & Implications

Student Enrollment	2024-25 10-1-24	% of Total	2021-22 10-1-21	% of Total	Change: 3 years	% Change: 3 years
SPED	3,819	19.4%	3,473	18.3%	+346	+10%
ELL (Bilingual)	6,149	31.2%	4,410	23.2%	+1,739	+39.5%
Total District	19,734		19,049		+685	
SPED & ELL	9,968	50.6%	7,883	41.4%	+2,085	

Enrollment has increased, FY22 to FY25, and the SPED/ELL populations have risen.

1. Enrollment

- ❖ **Total:** In 3 years, from 2021-22 to 2024-25, enrollment increased, 19,049 to 19,734, an increase of 685 students; SPED/ELL enrollment has increased by 2,085.
- ❖ **Kindergarten – new CT law:** Students must be age 5 by September 1st to be eligible to enroll in Kindergarten, unless granted an exception.

2. Implications - FISCAL

- ❖ Increased reliance on Alliance ECS grant funding to offset additional SPED/ELL expenses.

3. Implications – PROGRAMMATIC

- ❖ Our special needs populations – SPED and ELL – require more intensive services with lower student:staff ratios, which have a higher cost factor.

BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES

Description	FY2025 Projection	FY2024 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2020 Actual	6yr Category (Inc)/Dec
Teacher salaries	24,822,742	24,443,779	20,480,934	23,109,990	22,064,354	22,990,183	(1,832,559)
Instructional aide salaries	10,517,307	10,357,357	10,521,628	10,015,478	10,411,219	10,383,943	(133,364)
Other salaries	4,088,266	5,339,411	5,452,843	5,314,653	3,152,044	3,024,125	(1,064,141)
Employee benefits	12,746,707	12,180,428	12,863,313	11,975,401	11,075,338	9,933,098	(2,813,609)
Purchased services	33,481,152	30,725,266	19,353,200	18,326,741	16,028,034	16,423,234	(17,057,918)
Special education tuition	34,698,902	31,343,209	27,278,681	26,399,309	27,066,202	27,511,530	(7,187,372)
Supplies	69,107	196,557	295,950	359,789	90,772	80,261	11,154
Property services	243,618	195,559	217,765	306,648	219,417	128,408	(115,211)
Equipment	172,322	5,842	234,031	2,973	5,176	5,064	(167,257)
Grand Total	120,840,123	114,787,407	96,698,345	95,810,983	90,112,557	90,479,846	(30,360,277)
Yr. Over Yr. (INC)/DEC	(6,052,715)	(18,089,062)	(887,363)	(5,698,426)	367,289	-	(30,360,277)
SPECIAL EDUCATION OUT OF DISTRICT							
TUITION	34,698,902	31,343,209	27,278,681	26,399,309	27,066,202	27,511,530	(7,187,372)
TRANSPORTATION	9,331,480	6,745,181	4,997,385	4,277,659	4,427,444	2,993,189	(6,338,291)
MEDICAL SERVICES	7,522,631	5,430,976	4,142,921	3,451,346	2,900,123	1,939,025	(5,583,606)
TOTAL OOD SPED EXPENSE	51,553,013	43,519,367	36,418,987	34,128,313	34,393,769	32,443,743	(19,109,269)

Essential Need: Critical and Non-Discretionary Services

Area	Explanation	Projected Amount
Collective Bargaining Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified: BEA (Step/Salary lane movement) + BCAS• AFSCME_J; Nurses; BSCA_Z_; LIUNA; NAGE• Plus: Medicare, MERF, Social Security (as applicable)	\$7,920,000

Collective Bargaining Groups	Projected Increase
BEA - Teachers	\$6,050,000
BCAS – Administrators and Supervisors	\$500,000
AFSCME & “J” Unaffiliated	\$615,000
Nurses & Liuna	\$80,000
NAGE	\$97,000
Trades	\$61,000
City Supervisors & “Z” Unaffiliated	\$192,000
Medicare + MERS + Social Security	\$325,000

TRANSPORTATION

Expenditures: FY25 Actual & FY26 Projected

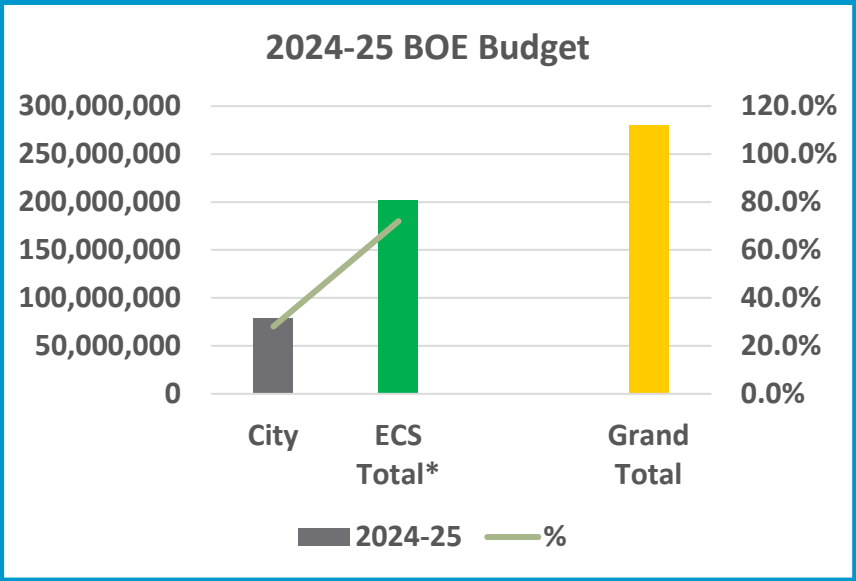
Account	Category	FY25 Amount	Notes	FY26 Projection
835 837 840 841 843	Specific Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquaculture \$0.09M Agriscience \$0.16M CES Six to Six \$0.25M RCA \$0.12M Athletics \$0.14M 	\$0.76M	Net: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Magnet Grant = \$1M Homeless = Title I 	\$0.78M
875	Regular [busses + BPS drivers + Transportation Specialist]	\$6.6M		\$6.9M
876	Charter	\$1.9M		\$2.0M
877	Special Education	\$20.8M		\$22.7M
878	Parochial/Non-public	\$0.7M		\$0.8M
879	SPED Charter Schools	\$0.36M		\$0.38M
TOTAL		\$31M		\$33M

Other Major Cost Factors

Cost controls are built into the budget to optimize resources, on an *ongoing* basis.

AREA	Details	FY 26 Projected Expenditures	Built-in Savings	Explanation of Savings
Transportation Contract	WE Transport	\$30-33 M projected	5-year contract 2022-27 + 6.72%, 4.25%, 3.25%, 4.0%, 3.75%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY24 Regular Bus = \$437.85/day FY25 Regular Bus = \$452.08/day FY26 Regular Bus = \$470.16/day = \$85,98.96 for 181 school days Negotiated progressive electrification of the fleet.
Free Bus (Field) Trips	WE Transport	Free	\$23,500	Ten (10) free trips per month, up to 100 per school year, Bridgeport locale
Substitute Staffing Service	Kelly Educational Staffing	\$12.1M Projected [including vacancies]	5-year contract 2021-2026 Teachers + paras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark-up percentages remain stable. Prior Year Expenses charged to ESSER which expired on September 30, 2024.
Utilities	Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer, Telephone	\$8.9M projected	\$250,000	Continued energy conservation measures

Operating Budget: State/City Share



BOE Budget	2024-25	BOE Budget	2024-25	%	CHANGE
City	78,540,638	City	78,540,638	28.0%	3,000,000
State ECS	164,195,344	ECS Total*	201,710,496	72.0%	9,486,058
State Alliance ECS	37,515,152				
Grand Total	280,251,134	Grand Total	280,251,134	100.0%	12,486,058
Total Change					4.66%

w/o Alliance	242,735,982
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2024-25 Operating Budget Request: CITY Appropriation

Requested CITY Revenue

CITY= +\$25M

=9% of Total FY25 Budget

= +31.9% City Increase

\$25 Requested = to fund *fully mandated, escalated costs + essential services from ESSER* CBA mandated salary increases, health insurance, MERS (non-certified staff), transportation, utilities and essential district services.

	TOTAL	CITY	STATE
	% Growth	% Growth	% Growth
	w. Alliance	w. Alliance	w. Alliance
Year	Total Budget	Total Budget	Total Budget
2015-16	2.45%	1.05%	1.40%
2016-17	-0.45%	0.02%	-0.47%
2017-18	0.06%	0.16%	-0.10%
2018-19	1.36%	0.70%	0.65%
2019-20	1.59%	0.52%	1.06%
2020-21	1.82%	0.89%	0.92%
2021-22	1.38%	0.78%	0.60%
2022-23	0.78%	0.77%	0.01%
2023-24	2.20%	0.95%	1.25%
2024-25	4.40%	1.12%	3.28%
Avg /year	1.56%	0.70%	0.86%

City Share = Average growth of 1.56%/year (10 years)

2025-26 Budget: Closing the \$67.8M Gap

	Component	Source	Projected
1	New Revenue	Requested City Addition + State Alliance ECS	\$34.9M
2	Solution 1:	Includes savings derived when vacancies are covered by substitutes or time delays in hiring occur, plus Deficit Prevention Mode and other strategies to generate savings.	\$27.6M
3	Remaining Budgetary Gap	Source to fill this gap has not yet been identified	\$5.3M
	TOTAL GAP		\$67.8M

#1: New Revenue	Requested \$	% of Total Budget	Notes
CITY	\$25M	9%	Additional Amount requested. Subject to City Approval.
STATE: Alliance ECS	\$9.9M	4%	Projected Net Alliance ECS addition – subject to change.
TOTAL	\$34.9M		

