



Hebron Board of Education

2024-2025 Budget Summary

Heather Petit, Chair Joseph Margaitis, Vice-Chair Sera Coppolino, Secretary
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The Board of Education is considering an initial budget totalling \$13,739,881, or a 7.35% increase in funding for the 2024-2025 school year. This budget continues our important work outlined in our District Advancement Plan which has produced the strongest student outcomes for our students during these past three years. **This is a budget to maintain current programming and services. No new programming is proposed. No major staffing changes are proposed.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is the budget increasing?

A. The budget is increasing for a few reasons:

1. Two challenges are beyond our control. First, we will have a large increase in health insurance costs next year. Health insurance premiums currently stand to increase by 16.5%. Second, next year teacher salaries are increasing at a higher rate to keep pace with national trends to increase starting pay for teachers. Contractual salary and benefits increases for all staff total \$606,991, or a 4.74% increase to the FY24 budget.
2. There is an increased need for special education outplacement costs over the FY24 budget of \$240,018, which represents an increase of 1.88% to the FY24 budget.
3. Our budget includes a required air quality inspection, a state unfunded mandate. We have also included other needed repairs to both schools to begin to address high priority items identified in the facilities study. This includes repairs to our heating system and water systems. These operational costs total \$50,877, or a 0.40% increase to the FY24 budget.
4. Our bus contract is expiring this year. While we were able to successfully negotiate a contract extension to minimize the impact of rising transportation expenses, the first year has a 6% increase. This totals \$28,271, or a 0.22% increase to the FY24 budget.
5. All other budget changes reflect only \$14,156, or a 0.11% increase to the FY24 budget.

Q. How are changes in enrollment impacting the budget?

A. With enrollment projected to total 722 students, a 3.3% increase, mostly focused within Kindergarten, we will most likely need six sections of Kindergarten next year. Overall, we expect to need the same total number of class sections across our two schools next year.

Q. Was a second School Resource Officer included in the budget?

A. School resource officers are funded through the town budget, rather than the school budget. We have requested that the town include a second school resource officer for our schools for next school year. It is our hope the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance support this important request.

Q. Are there any additional preschool classes included in the budget?

A. No, due to our re-accreditation process we are not able to add any additional preschool classes next year.