

HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2026 BUDGET ~ BUDGET HEARING
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

The FY2026 total operating budget is \$17,693,311 which includes the general, grant, and food service funds. The general fund budget is \$16,953,671 which is an overall increase in the budget of \$822,701. This represents a 5.1% increase from the FY2025 budget.

- The first draft of the budget was an increase of \$1.9 million and an increase to the tax rate of 24%. This draft budget includes a tax rate increase of approx. 12%. That is a reduction of \$1,051,000 and 12% off the tax rate.
- To help reduce costs and the tax burden, the Board reduced expenses by \$315,000, hoping to use funds from the Special Education, Building Maintenance and Library/Media Trusts (Articles 3-5).
- Also to help further reduce the tax rate, an anticipated fund balance for the current year of \$750,000 was included in the budget.

Revenues: Total general fund revenues are \$197,000 less than the prior year. Some major differences include:

Increases –

- **Adequacy Aid (State Tax): \$55,000.** Based on State estimate/formula.
- **Use of Fund Balance: \$150,000.** Due to an anticipated surplus for the current year, we were able to use funds to lower the tax rate.
- **Rentals: \$34,000.** Increase in rent for the French Pond Program once renovations are complete.

Decreases -

- **Adequacy Aid Grant: \$295,000.** Based on State estimate/formula.
- **Tuition from other districts (including special education): \$81,000.** Based on student projection. Tuition has been budgeted with a 3-7% increase in the rates for FY2026.
- **Services to Other LEA's: \$42,000.** No longer sharing the cost of the elementary PE teacher.
- **Vocational Education Reimbursement: \$13,000.** Based on projection and prior year actual.

Expenditures: Total general fund expenditures are \$823,000 more than the current year budget. Major differences include:

Increases -

- **Special education costs: \$117,000.** Based on student need and includes speech, physical and occupational therapy. This amount is after deducting \$150,000 that the Board will use trust funds.
- **Transportation (regular runs/special education): \$107,000.** Based on student need and increase in pupil transportation due to new negotiated contract (3% increase estimated).
- **Tuition (French Pond/King Street/Vocational): \$43,000.** Due to changes in enrollment.
- **Itinerant Positions: \$88,000.** Includes a change in staff in the current year and the addition of a social worker 3 days per week.
- **Bond Payments: \$274,000.** FY26 will be the first payments for the new bonds for the WES and French Pond School Renovations.
- **Technology: \$70,000.** Required replacement equipment for staff and students is actually \$65,000 more, however, the Board is hoping to use the Library/Media Trust Fund to help fund our technology needs.
- **SAU Administration: \$262,000.** Haverhill's share based on formula. This is mostly due to an increase in salary/benefits, technology, property/liability insurance and a reduction in revenue

from using a prior fund balance. Had the assessment and ADM stayed the same for Haverhill, this amount would have been \$36,000 less.

Decreases -

- **Salaries & benefits: \$81,000.** Health insurance rates are estimated to increase 15.9 & 15%. Includes a full time PE teacher at WES (was .60 FTE) to include health education.
- **Building Operations/Grounds/Equipment: \$105,000.** This amount is after deducting \$100,000 that the Board will use trust funds.

Tax Rate Impact of Warrant Articles:

Article 2: The proposed tax rate for the operating budget is \$14.31 which is a \$1.53 increase over the current year.

Article 6 (CBA Professional Staff): \$.27

TRUST/CAPITAL RESERVE FUND:

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| HAC Library/Media Trust | \$107,696 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | \$27,698 |
| Vehicle Replacement Fund | \$25,494 |
| Special Education Trust | \$493,887 (FY25 – using up to \$100,000 to offset expenses) |
| Building Maintenance Trust | \$442,952 (FY25 – using \$65,000 for WHS drainage project) |
| Moran Trust | \$491,359 (FY25 – using up to \$97,000 for science curriculum) |