

Lexington Public Schools

*Superintendent's FY '08
Recommended Same-Service Budget*

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Lexington's children deserve
the best possible future!



Lexington's Vision: Efficient and Effective Schools

Lexington Core Purposes

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Caring and Respectful Relationships**
- **Continuous Improvement**

LPS Budget Guidelines

In developing the FY'08 budget, the Superintendent will:

1. Continue the current level of services with the understanding the School Committee will consider equal-cost substitutions in the recommended budget with all assumptions clearly defined.
2. Provide the School Committee with a list of budget alternatives that:
 - A. Restore essential services lost due to the lost override vote
 - B. Identify ways to reduce the budget, if there are not sufficient monies available to fund a level-service budget.
3. Meet legal mandates.
4. Meet professional staffing guidelines.

LPS Budget Guidelines

In developing the FY'08 budget, the Superintendent will:

5. Continue to identify alternatives which will provide services in more cost-effective ways (e.g., build more in-house capacity to avoid some special education out-of-district costs, reduce energy consumption, explore the cost-effectiveness of lease-purchasing some special special education vans, find less expensive means of purchasing some projects).
6. Maintain capital assets in order to support the instructional program, protect the physical assets of the Town of Lexington, and ensure the health and safety of our students.
7. Work with the School Committee to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss ways to fund unanticipated special education costs .

Approved by School Committee: October 3, 2006

What Is a Same Service Budget?

Since no two school budgets can ever be exactly the same, a same-service budget is based on the following assumptions:

- A. No new programs are recommended
- B. Current class sizes averages are maintained
- C. Special education legal requirements are funded
- D. Contractual requirements are funded (e.g. utilities, union contracts, transportation contracts)
- E. 3 % increases are provided for instructional expense budgets

FY '08 Recommended Same Service Budget

FY '07 Budget *	\$ 63,419,500
Recommended Increase	\$ 6,608,105
FY '08 Budget	\$ 70,027,605
	10.42%

* Based on the November Special Town Meeting

Changes

Benefits for New Positions	568,680
Collective Bargaining	3,257,764
New Positions (SPED & Enrollment)	1,064,654
Salaries & Wages	4,891,098

SPED Tuitions	1,294,116
Utilities	283,311
Transportation (SPED & REG)	306,023
3% Supplies Increase (less one time)	286,020
Expenses	2,169,470

Revenue Offsets: New Circuit Breaker	(452,464)
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Total Request	6,608,105
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The Top 5 Challenges We Face

1. State, Federal and Local Revenue Challenges
2. Meeting all legal and required services
3. Adequately funding required special education services
4. Providing a mechanism to fund unanticipated special education costs
5. Providing effective education for all students

1. State, Federal and Local Revenue Challenges

- No projected change in State Chapter 70 funding for education
- No projected increase in federal special education funding
- Projected 15% decrease in federal Title I funding
- Projected gap between local revenue and finances needed to fund a same service budget

2. Legal and Required Services

The FY 08 budget includes funds for:

- Collective bargaining obligations
- Increases in utility costs
- Increases in mandated services for special education students
- New positions needed to maintain current class size averages where there is a projected increase in enrollment

3. Adequately funding required special education services

- The School Committee voted on November 28, 2006 to add three new in-house programs that will reduce the growth of future out-of-district placement costs (projected cost avoidance is \$865,000)
- The budget includes an additional \$841,652 to pay for the cost of new/changed out-of-district placements.
- The budget includes funds for required special education services (0.5 K-5 teacher, extended programs in the summer)

4. Providing a mechanism to fund unanticipated special education costs

Four-step process if special education costs exceed the FY 08 budget:

1. Charge the school department's special education contingency account. The budget includes \$190,000 to pay for three unanticipated special education placements
2. Reallocate projected surplus funds, if any, to cover unanticipated special education costs.
3. Request funds from the Reserve Fund held by the Appropriations' Committee
4. Request an additional appropriation from the Town Meeting. The Town Manager has proposed the town set up a special education stabilization account.

5. Providing effective education for all students

The Same Service budget:

- Continues the district's commitment to data-driven instruction, high standards, and regular education intervention (e.g. Action Research, middle school math, Boston College Initiative)
- Supports programs and professional staff that promote the social and emotional well-being of our students
- Maintains the current number of teaching positions
- Adds teaching positions in order to maintain current class size averages
- Continues funding the Math and PE/Wellness curriculum review processes

Regular Education Teachers

<u>School</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Position Title</u>	<u>FTE</u>
All K-5 Schools	Grade K-5	Teachers	1.00
All K-5 Schools	Grade K-5	Music, Art, PE Specialists	0.23
Clarke	Mathematics	Teacher	0.25
Clarke	Science	Teacher	0.25
Clarke	Foreign Language	Teacher	0.25
Clarke	Social Studies	Teacher	0.25
Clarke	English	Teacher	0.25

Regular Education Teachers

<u>School</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Position Title</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Clarke	Specialists (Art, Music...)	Teacher	0.50
Clarke	Social Studies	Teacher	0.05
Diamond	Social Studies	Teacher	0.05
High School	All Instructional Departments	Unallocated Teachers	2.40
K-12	K-12 Student Services	Nurse (0.5)	
REG. ED. SUBTOTAL			5.48

Special Education Teachers

All K-5 Schools	Grade K-5	Special Ed.	0.50
Pre-K	Early Childhood SPED	Occupational Therapy	
Pre-K	Early Childhood SPED	Speech language Therapy	
Pre-K	Early Childhood SPED	Teacher	
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	Occupational therapist	0.20
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	Social Worker	0.20
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	Speech Language Therapist	0.50
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	Teacher	1.00

High School	Special Needs	Psychologist (.5 FTE)	
High School	Special Needs	Occupational Therapist	0.50
High School	Special Needs	Speech/Language Pathologist	0.50
High School	Special Needs	Teacher	1.00
High School	Special Needs	Teacher	
High School	Special Needs	Teacher	0.50
High School	Special Needs	Teacher	1.00
High School	Special Needs	Therapist	1.50
SPED SUBTOTAL			7.40

Special Education Support

Pre-K	Early Childhood SPED	Assist Teacher	
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	Instructional Assistant	3.00
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	ILP - Summer stipends	
Clarke	6-8 Special Ed	ILP - Extended day stipends	
High School	Special Needs	Instructional Assistant	2.00
High School	Special Needs	Instructional Assistant	2.00
SPED SUPPORT SUBTOTAL			7.00

Other Position

Fiske	Custodial	Custodian	1.00
SUPPORT SUBTOTAL			1.00

FY 05 Per Pupil Expenditures

Source – MA Dept. of Education

CAMBRIDGE	K-12	\$17,551
LINCOLN	K-8	\$14,790
WALTHAM	K12	\$14,227
WESTON	K-12	\$12,879
DOVER SHERBORN	Gr. 9-12	\$12,662
WATERTOWN	K-12	\$12,287
NEWTON	K-12	\$11,852
BROOKLINE	K-12	\$11,791
FRAMINGHAM	K-12	\$11,721
CONCORD	K-8	\$11,251
LINCOLN SUDBURY	Gr. 9 -12	\$11,192
BEDFORD	K-12	\$11,083
CONCORD CARLISLE	Gr. 9-12	\$10,853
DOVER	K-5	\$10,785
LEXINGTON	K-12	\$10,543
WAYLAND	K-12	\$10,293
WESTWOOD	K-12	\$9,921
WELLESLEY	K-12	\$9,759
NATICK	K-12	\$9,105
BELMONT	K_12	\$8,214

What if Lexington spent the same per pupil as Bedford, Watertown, Waltham, Weston, Brookline and Newton?

- \$12,353 (average per pupil expenditures for these six towns)
- \$10,543 (Lexington's per pupil expenditure)
- \$ 1,810 (Net difference)

$\$1,810 \times 6,199 \text{ students} = \$11.2 \text{ million per year}$

What could we accomplish?

- The same service budget could be funded without an override ($\$6,608,105 - \$1,700,000 = \$4,908,105$)
 - Budget Request less Available new Revenue = Override amount
- The entire supplemental budget could be funded (\$1,357,000)
- All of last year's two override questions could be funded (\$3,166,116)
- Money would still be left for additional programs capital projects, fee reductions and/or tax relief (\$1,768,779)

What can we do?

- Lobby our legislators and the Governor to support more state aid to cities and towns (MA ranks 43rd out of 50 states)
- Lobby Congress to fund special education at 40%, as promised in 1975
- Continue to implement cost-saving measures that do not impact effective instruction
- Request additional local revenues

We have a bright future ...

