

Lexington Public Schools

*Superintendent's FY 09 Recommended
Level-Service Budget*

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Lexington's Vision:
Excellent, Efficient, and Effective
Schools

Lexington Core Purposes

- Academic Excellence
- Caring and Respectful Relationships
- Continuous Improvement

LPS Budget Guidelines

In developing the FY 09 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. Recommend a small number of program improvements that will significantly advance the quality of teaching and learning.
3. Ensure all legal mandates will be met.
4. Ensure professional staffing guidelines will be met.

LPS Budget Guidelines

In developing the FY 09 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, reduce special education transportation costs per rider, 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. Identify ways to reduce the budget, if there are not sufficient monies available to fund a level-service budget.
8. In addition the School Committee will meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss ways to fund unanticipated special education costs.

Approved by School Committee: October 3, 2007

What Is a Level Service Budget?

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

- A. No new programs are recommended
- B. Current class size guidelines are maintained
- C. Special education legal requirements are funded
- D. Contractual requirements are funded (e.g. utilities, union contracts, transportation contracts)
- E. No increases for instructional expense budgets, unless legally required (equalized per pupil spending for K-5 and 6-8 schools)

FY 09 Recommended Level Service Budget

FY 08 Budget	\$ 68,161,243
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Recommended Increase	\$ 3,857,931
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FY 09 Budget	\$ 72,019,174
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5.66%

	Changes
Collective Bargaining (steps, lane changes, negotiations)	3,008,984
Long-term Substitutes (formerly an expense)	200,000
ABA/BCBA Tutors (formerly an expense)	258,000
Positions (SPED & Enrollment)	434,610
Salaries & Wages	\$3,901,594
SPED Tuitions	226,979
Transportation (SPED)	202,423
Transportation (REG)	46,796
Supplies/Materials	65,211
Utilities	-186,173
Long-term Substitutes (formerly an expense)	-140,899
ABA/BCBA Tutors (formerly an expense)	-258,000
Expenses	-\$43,663
Total Request	\$3,857,931

The Top 5 Challenges We Face

1. Meet State, Federal, and Local Revenue Challenges
2. Meet all legal and required services
3. Fund required special education services adequately
4. Provide an adequate mechanism to fund unanticipated special tuition and transportation costs
5. Provide excellent, efficient, effective education for all students

1. Meet State, Federal, and Local Revenue Challenges

- A 3% projected increase in State Chapter 70 funding for education (\$202,461)
- No projected increase in federal special education funding
- Possible 15% decrease in federal Title I funding

2. Provide Legal and Required Services

The FY 09 budget includes funds for:

- Collective bargaining obligations
- Increases in mandated services for special education students
- Increase in mandated services for students learning English as a second language

3. Fund required services adequately

- The budget includes additional funds to pay for the cost of new/changed out-of-district placements (\$226,979 over FY 08 budget)
- The budget includes funds for required special education services (2.9 K-5 teachers, 3.9 instructional assistants)
- The budget includes funds for 1.0 English as a Second Language teacher due to a 27% increase in enrollment

4. Provide a mechanism to fund unanticipated special education costs

The Town Manager has proposed the town set up a special education stabilization account. The FY 09 budget only includes a request for known students who require or we expect will require an out-of-district placement.

5. Provide effective education for all students

The Level Service budget:

- Continues the district's commitment to data-driven instruction, high standards, and regular education intervention (e.g., Professional Learning Communities, 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 grade 6-12 teaching positions
- Reduces the number of K-5 teaching positions, due to declining enrollment (-2.0)
- Continues funding the Math, PE/Wellness, Science curriculum review processes

Additional Teachers

Middle School	6-8 Special Ed	Psychologist	0.40
Middle School	6-8 Special Ed	ILP Teacher	0.50
Middle School	6-8 Special Ed	DLP Teacher	1.00
K-12	K-12 Special Ed	Occupational Therapist	1.00
K-12	English Language Learners	ESL Teacher	1.00
Total Teachers			3.90

Additional Instructional Assistants - Special Education

Middle School	6-8 Special Ed	ILP Program	0.50
Middle School	6-8 Special Ed	DLP Program	2.00
High School	9-12 Special Ed	High School	3.40
Total IAs			5.90
Other Services			
ABA/BCBA	K-12 Special Ed		4.00
Grand Total			13.80

FY 06 Per Pupil Expenditures

Source – MA Dept. of Education

CAMBRIDGE	K-12	\$22,370
WALTHAM	K12	\$16,190
WESTON	K-12	\$16,073
LINCOLN	K-8	\$15,651
DOVER SHERBORN	Gr. 9-12	\$15,559
CONCORD CARLISLE	Gr. 9-12	\$15,424
CONCORD	K-8	\$14,411
BROOKLINE	K-12	\$14,298
NEWTON	K-12	\$13,822
LINCOLN SUDBURY	Gr. 9 -12	\$13,546
BEDFORD	K-12	\$13,495
DOVER	K-5	\$13,298
LEXINGTON	K-12	\$12,600
WAYLAND	K-12	\$12,317
WATERTOWN	K-12	\$12,287
WESTWOOD	K-12	\$11,885
WELLESLEY	K-12	\$11,494
NATICK	K-12	\$11,092
BELMONT	K_12	\$10,374

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

- \$14,366 (average per pupil expenditures for these six towns)
- \$12,600 (Lexington's per pupil expenditure)
- \$ 1,766 (Net difference)

$\$1,766 \times 6,195 \text{ students} = \$10.9 \text{ million per year}$