



North Stonington Public Schools 2025-2026



Proposed Budget of the Board of Education

Presented
May 5, 2025

Achievements

14th Ranked Middle School in CT by US News and World Report

Highest Elementary Test Scores in the region:

(Stonington, East Lyme, Montville, Groton, Preston, Brooklyn, Ledyard, Killingly, Griswold, Lisbon, Norwich)

Math - Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6

ELA - Grades 3 and 4

Science - Grade 5

High Scores at Wheeler

SAT - 3rd in ELA, 4th in math in the region

Science - 2nd in region for grade 8 and 11



Initiatives in FY25

Full Time Athletic Director

Director of Instruction and Learning

Cub Club

BCBA/RBT

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Innovative Instruction and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)

- Interdisciplinary Learning and STEAM night
- New Math Instruction using Bridges program and DESMOS math (grade 6)
- Science of Reading implementation using Into Reading program
- Measuring and analyzing student progress using more accurate tools (Amira and IXL)
- District Literacy Plan
- Professional Development on research-based teaching practices



WHEELER

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL

- Increased interdisciplinary activities to promote collaboration
- Student-Led Conferences for student accountability before HS experience
- DESMOS, STEMSCOPES (Collaborative programming)
- Every single sport ran this year!

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

- Options for ALL students
- Pathways: Engineering, Business and Education - INTERNSHIPS!
- Continued connections with Preston/Voluntown tuition opportunities
- Co-Ops to increase our already successful sports programs
- NEIT Dual Enrollment Opportunities



Welcome to Wheeler!



Sure



Harry



Felix



Li



PROTECT THE DEN



SPECIAL SERVICES

Expanded Transition Activities

Revamping Life Skills at Wheeler

- *Functional Life Skills – Budgeting, meal prep, transportation, time management.
- *Social Skills Development – Communication, relationship-building, and problem-solving.
- *College & Career Readiness – Resume-building, interview practice, job exploration.

Increasing Student Success

- *Keeping students in district and fostering engagement.



Technology in the classroom- NSES

Instructional Uses:

- Research Activities
- Digital Presentations (older grades)
- Typing Programs (computer class)
- Small group rotations using computers as a station
- Interactive lessons
- Desmos (math) simulations and interactive lessons (Grade 6)

Average Time Spent Per Day:

- Grades K-4: 15 minutes/day independent
15 minutes/day instructional
- Grades 5-6: 30 minutes/day independent
30 minutes/day instructional

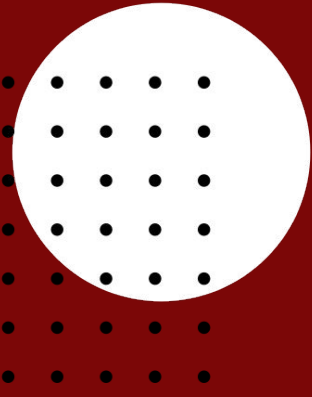
Technology in the classroom- Wheeler

Instructional Uses:

- STEMscopes (6-8)- Digital labs, videos
- Collaboration- Presentations, group work
- Research- Source evaluation and databases
- Simulations- Desmos, Phet Labs
- Reinforcement- Khan Academy (ELA/Math/SAT)
- Interactive Lessons- Nearpod, Pear Deck
- STEAM Programming- Coding, robotics, video, photography

Average Time Spent in an 88 Minute Block:

- 15-20 minutes of independent device use
- 30 minutes of tech-supported instruction



Enrollment and Projected Enrollment



	2024-2025	2025-2026
North Stonington Elementary (PreK-grade 6)	387	382
Wheeler (grades 7-12) <i>Includes 34 students from Preston and Voluntown who pay tuition to the town</i>	351	344
Total Projected Enrollment	738	726

If students choose these options, we are required to support them:

Magnet Schools (we pay tuition) enrollment: 9

Vocational Agriculture Schools (we pay tuition) enrollment: 4

Technical Schools (we do not pay tuition) enrollment: 26

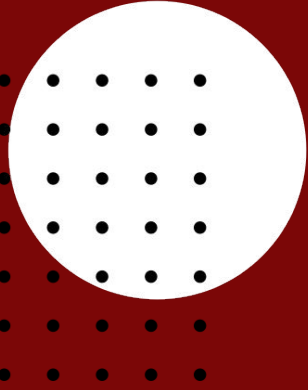


Budget Drivers

	Amount	Increase
Salaries Mostly Contractual Obligations	10,528,420	351,812
Benefits Health Insurance up 9%	2,663,728	119,358
Technology Implementation of Sustainable Technology Plan and Reorganization of Software	347,049	102,049
Maintenance	216,000	(43,000)
Transportation New contract and Sports Transportation	1,278,750	170,878
Utilities	407,500	103,000
Central Office	218,835	36,105
Other Expenses - Schools	494,771	89,810
Tuition	123,420	(90,461)
Total Budget Increase		\$839,551

The total increase of \$839,551, adjusted for grants of \$222,032 is down to **\$617,519**

FY25
\$15,438,422



Overall Budget



FY26	FY25	Increase	Percent Increase
\$16,056,441	\$15,438,822	\$617,519	4.00%

FACILITIES

	FY26 Budget	FY25 Budget	Increase
Supplies	80,000	53,220	26,780
Uniform Allowance	9,500	5,000	4,500
General Building Services (repairs, inspections, contracts)	75,000	105,000	(30,000)

TECHNOLOGY- STAFFING

IT Director from LEARN - 2 days per week
(includes different expertise in technology areas)

IT Technician from LEARN - 2 days per week

Cost is \$80,000

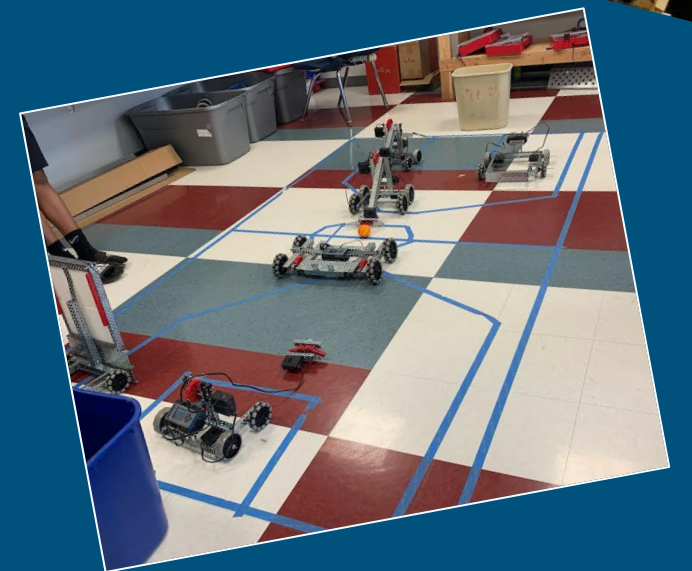
Compared to hiring an IT Director: \$148,737* (salary and benefits)

*cost if paid the same as our retired IT Director

TECHNOLOGY - HARDWARE

Sustainable Technology Plan

- One:one Chromebook program: Grades 5-8, Grades 9-12
- Interactive Whiteboards
- Teacher Laptops (no desktop replacements) so one computer per teacher instead of two



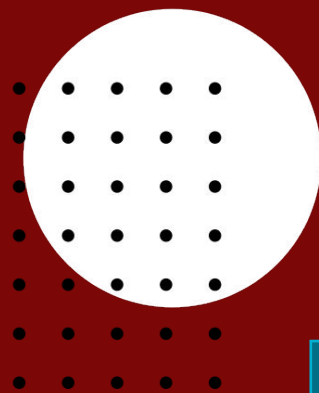
TECHNOLOGY- INFRASTRUCTURE



We are experiencing IT infrastructure failures

We must replace aging infrastructure in order to maintain functionality (Internet, phones, public address system, cameras)

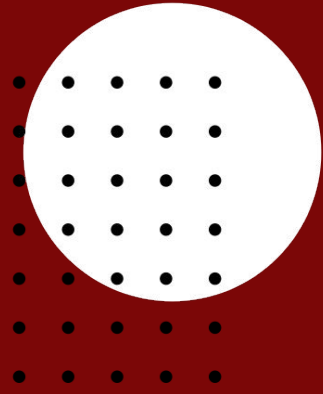
The budget includes \$20,200 for IT infrastructure replacement.
Plan - Over 5 years replace all switches (equivalent of 30), access points, servers, and firewall.



Projected Revenue to the Town



	Amount
ECS (Educational Cost Sharing)	\$2,564,202 (\$96,105 less than current year)
School of Choice Tuition <i>Second Cohort Graduating in 2025</i> <small>As out-of-town families continue to realize the value of the high quality of education and extracurricular opportunities offered by our schools, we expect this tuition revenue to grow.</small>	\$510,814
Total	\$3,075,016



Funded with Nonlapsing Account (not in Budget)



Item	Cost
Contract Negotiations	\$40,000
IT Infrastructure	\$20,200
Teacher Laptops (32)	\$38,400
Interactive Whiteboards (5)	\$20,000
Chromebooks (52)	\$23,400
Security Cameras (30) 10 Replacement and 20 New	\$13,000
Total	\$155,000

Budget History

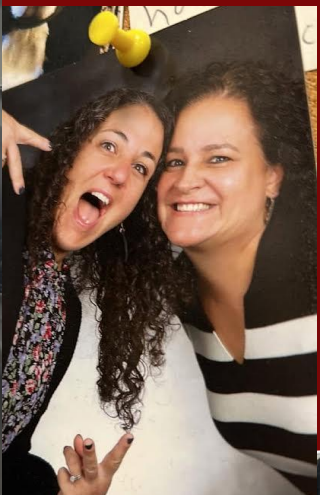
Year	Increase
2016-2017	0.91%
2017-2018	0.00%
2018-2019	4.97%
2019-2020	1.93%
2020-2021	2.50%
2021-2022	1.13%
2022-2023	1.74%
2023-2024	4.41%
2024-2025	1.79%
2025-2026	4.00%
10 year average	2.34%

Average Rate of Inflation during the same time period is 3.26% (2016-2025*)

***projected at 3.0% for 2025**

Other CT School Districts – Actual Increases in 2024–2025,
and BOF approved budgets for 2025–2026

School District	Actual Increase 2024-2025	BOF Approved Increase 2025-2026	Total of Actual in '24-'25, and BOF Approved for '25-'26
Hebron	6.78%	4.92%	11.70%
Somers	5.21%	5.68%	10.89%
Stonington	4.50%	4.94%	9.44%
Salem	5.60%	3.50%	9.10%
Waterford	3.98%	4.78%	8.76%
East Haddam	2.75%	5.64%	8.39%
North Stonington	1.79%	4.00%	5.79%



Thank You