

2025 New Boston School District Voter Guide

New Boston Central School

15 Central School Road New Boston, NH 03070

On behalf of the New Boston School Board, we are pleased to provide you with this year's School District Voter's Guide for your reference. The Board has worked together to develop explanations for each of the articles that will appear on the School District ballot on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the Tom Mansfield Gymnasium at the New Boston Central School. It is our continued goal to maintain open lines of communication with the public. We encourage you to reach out to us so that we can answer or clarify any questions you might have, nbcboard@sau19.org. We also encourage you to look at our website: <https://www.nbcs.k12.nh.us/> for all budget related documents and presentations.

New Boston School Board 2024-2025

Bill Schmidt (Chair)	Term Expires	2027
Julie Kirlin (Vice Chair)	Term Expires	2025
Belynda Cianci	Term Expires	2025
Kelly Socia	Term Expires	2026
Nicole Treat	Term Expires	2026

Keith Diaz (School District Moderator)	Term Expires	2026
William Gould (School District Treasurer)	Term Expires	2026
Maralyn Segien (School District Clerk)	Term Expires	2026

NBCS Administration

Tori Underwood	NBCS Principal
John Bridle	NBCS Assistant Principal
Jennifer Gilliland	NBCS Special Education Facilitator

SAU Administration

Brian Balke	Superintendent of Schools
Wendy Kohler	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Scott Gross	Business Administrator
Kate Magrath	Human Resources Director
Jennifer Freitas	Director of Special Education

Tax Impact Overview

Tax rate impacts of warrant article are ESTIMATES based on expected local, state, and federal revenues which are subject to change. Additionally, the tax rate is impacted by the Town of New Boston's total townwide valuation projected to increase in 2025 by 1% to \$969,699,023.

Should all articles pass, it is estimated that the overall local school portion of the tax bill will **decrease by \$0.12** from a rate of \$15.19 per thousand to an estimated rate of \$15.07 per thousand.

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
February 4, 2025

To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of New Boston qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, in the Tom Mansfield Gym at New Boston Central School, at 7:00 P.M. for the first session of the School District Annual Meeting, also known as the first Deliberative Session, to act on the following subjects and determine matters which will then be voted upon by official ballot on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

You are further notified to meet on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, also known as the second session, to vote on all matters by official ballot. The polls are open on March 11, 2025, at 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM in the Tom Mansfield Gym at New Boston Central School.

ARTICLE 1: Election of Officers

To choose two members of the School Board for the ensuing three years

ARTICLE 2: Operating Budget

Shall the school district raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling TWENTY MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO DOLLARS (20,196,472)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be TWENTY MILLION SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$20,071,352), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This warrant article (the Operating Budget Article) does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)

The School Board recommends this article 5-0-0.

The Finance Committee does not recommend this article 5-1-0.

EXPLANATION: The FY 2025-2026 Total Operating Budget of **\$20,196,472** is recommended by the New Boston School Board.

The School District's total operating budget is comprised of three major funds: general, special revenue/grants and food service. ***Only the general fund budget is supported by tax dollars.***

The proposed **General Fund** Operating Budget of \$19,619,643 is \$159,475 or **0.8% less than** the current year's FY 24-25 general fund budget.

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February 4, 2025

Fund	Current Budget 2024-2025	Proposed Budget 2025-2026	Difference
General Fund	\$ 19,779,118	\$ 19,619,643	\$ (159,475)
Special Revenue/Grants	\$ 353,775	\$ 350,000	\$ (3,775)
Food Service	\$ 217,060	\$ 226,829	\$ 9,769
Total Operating Budget	\$ 20,349,953	\$ 20,196,472	\$ (153,481)

General Fund: The proposed general fund operating budget is impacted by several key factors: 1) increased wage and benefit costs at NBCS based on previously approved support staff contracts, 2) decreases in tuition charges to Goffstown, 3) special education decreases in out-of-district placements, 4) increased cost of SAU Management Services, 5) increased cost of regular education and special education transportation and 5) increased costs of information technology (IT) for licenses and fees. (See chart below)

<u>FY 26 Proposed Budget - Major Factors</u>			
Wage Lines	\$	74,127	0.37%
Tuition to Goffstown	\$	(91,577)	-0.46%
Out of District Placements	\$	(475,500)	-2.40%
SAU Management Service	\$	37,910	0.19%
Transportation	\$	206,684	1.04%
Information Technology	\$	50,000	0.25%

The proposed operating budget also includes the cost of tuition for New Boston to send 157 students to Mountain View Middle School (the same as in FY 25) and 338 students to Goffstown High School (decrease of 1). The tuition payments to the Goffstown School District are calculated using a formula from the AREA Agreement. The formula calculates New Boston's allocated share of the expense for our students attending Goffstown's schools and is based on the percentage of the total student population at those schools comprised of New Boston students, and the total budget appropriations required for Goffstown to operate those schools. The proposed operating budget also supports specialized in-district and out-of-district programs for all our students, no matter what their educational needs might entail, and no matter what school(s) they attend.

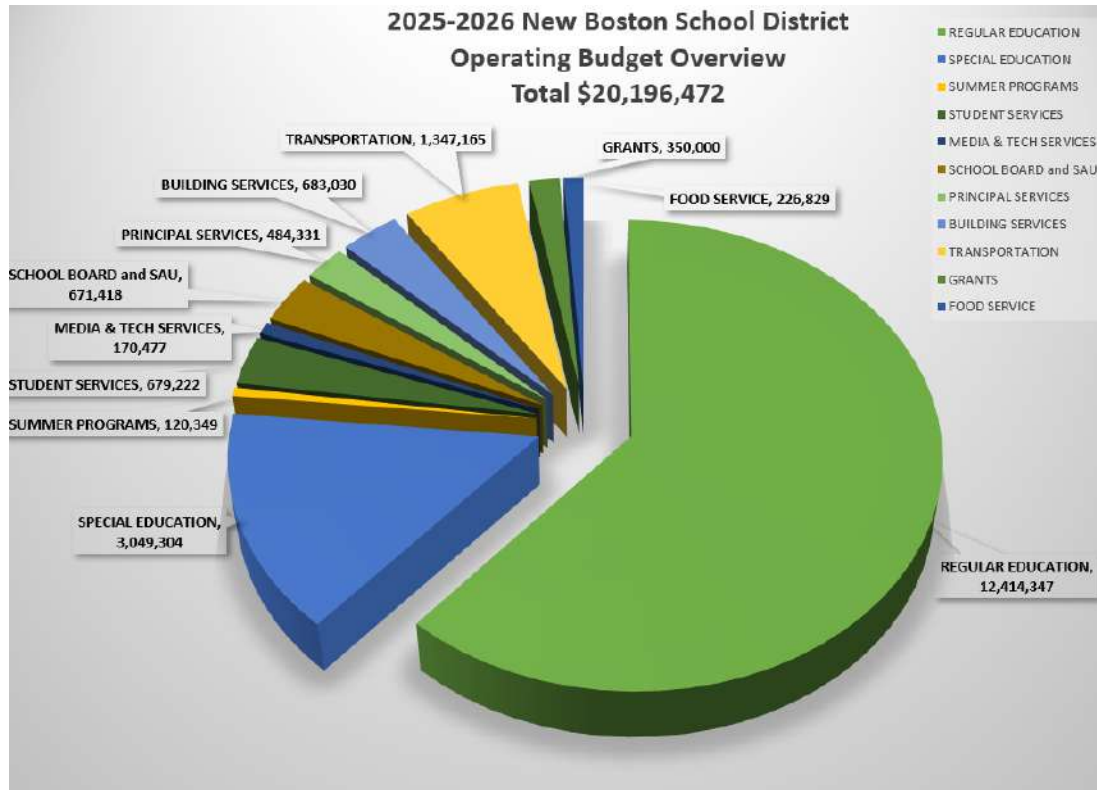
Notable for the FY 26 proposed budget is a slight decrease in the per student tuition charges for both MVMS and GHS. This is a result of a greater number of students at both schools who reside in Goffstown.

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
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Special Revenue/Federal Grant Funding for New Boston has remained the same as the previous year. This total is \$350,000. This federal grant funds represent various grants such as IDEA for special education purposes and a few other Title Grants that we anticipate the School District will spend in FY 2025-2026.

Food Service: There is also a slight increase of \$9,769 for a new total of \$226,829. This increase is attributable to the increased cost of labor and food costs.

Both the Special Revenue/Federal Grant Funds and Food Service Operations are self-funding; revenues are used to offset expenses.



Default Budget Appropriation

The New Boston School District’s FY 2025-2026 Default Budget Appropriation of \$20,071,352 is \$125,120 more than the proposed FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget of \$20,196,472. The difference between the proposed budget and the default budget is estimated at \$0.13 on the tax rate.

Return on Investment: Cost Per Pupil and State Assessment Results

The state elementary school average cost per pupil expenses in 2023-2024 was \$21,545. New Boston Central School per pupil expenses for the 2023-2024 school year was \$17,937, the **10th lowest in the state out of 154** elementary schools. **New Boston’s elementary school costs are \$4,169 below the State average.** Despite this low spending, we exceed the state average in SAS testing.

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
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STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (SAS) 2024 RESULTS

	English/Language Arts		Mathematics		Science	
	NBCS	State	NBCS	State	NBCS	State
Grade 3	71%	50%	69%	53%		
Grade 4	75%	50%	63%	49%		
Grade 5	80%	56%	43%	40%	68%	36%
Grade 6	75%	52%	67%	41%		

The state middle school average for per pupil expenses in 2023-2024 was \$20,583 while Mountain View Middle School per pupil expense for this same year was \$15,913 per pupil, the lowest in the state out of 62 middle schools.

Mountain View Middle School's is **\$4,670 less than the State average.**

The state high school average for per pupil expenses in 2023-2024 was \$21,222. The per pupil expense for Goffstown High School in 2023-2024 was \$16,816, the 3rd lowest in the state out of 72 high schools.

Goffstown High School cost per pupil is **\$4,406 less than the State average.**

This budget does not include the costs associated with any other special warrant articles.

Overall, the New Boston School District has a long history of providing an excellent education to our students, at a responsible cost to taxpayers. The commitment of the NBCS staff to student achievement has yielded higher than average state assessments and reflects a strong return on the community's investments in our school.

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
February 4, 2025

ARTICLE 3: Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Between the New Boston School District and the New Boston Education Association (NBEA)

Shall the New Boston School District vote to approve the cost items included in the New Boston Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the New Boston School Board and the New Boston Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2025-2026	\$320,909
2026-2027	\$204,101
2027-2028	\$213,165

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$320,909 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; this amount to be offset by \$12,302 from the Special Revenue Fund with the remaining amount of \$308,607 to be raised by taxation for the purpose of funding the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2 the Operating Budget. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board recommends this article 5-0-0

The Finance Committee does not recommend this article 4-2-0

EXPLANATION: This article asks voters to approve the cost items associated with the collective bargaining agreement reached between the New Boston Education Association (NBEA) and the New Boston School Board.

The New Boston Education Association (NBEA) is comprised of 47 members that include elementary classroom, special education, art, physical education, and music teachers, as well as the school guidance counselor, psychologist, speech and occupational therapy professionals and the school nurse.

The ability to attract and retain quality teachers and professional staff is critical in maintaining the exceptional results we are experiencing at the New Boston Central School.

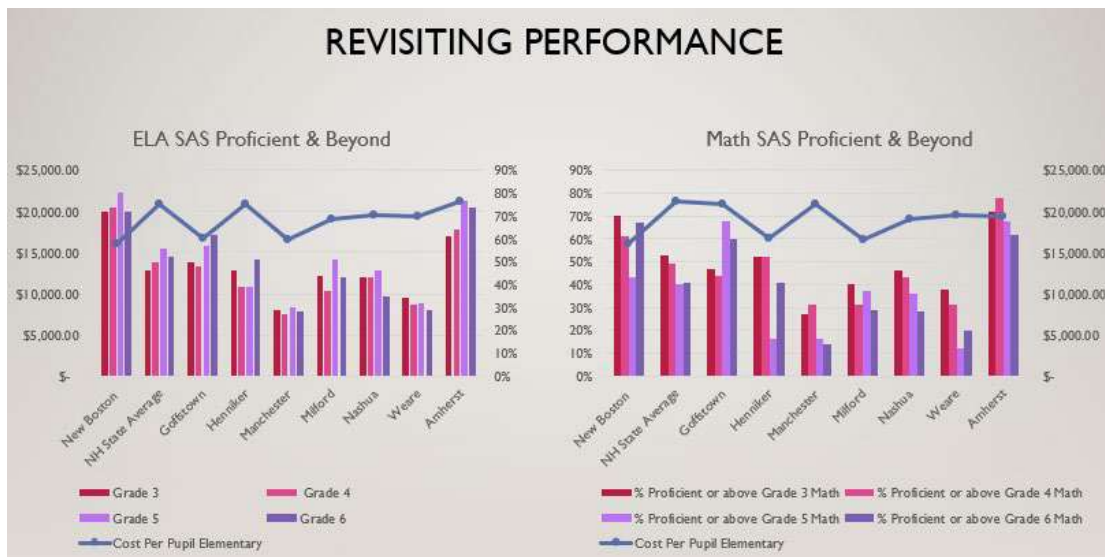
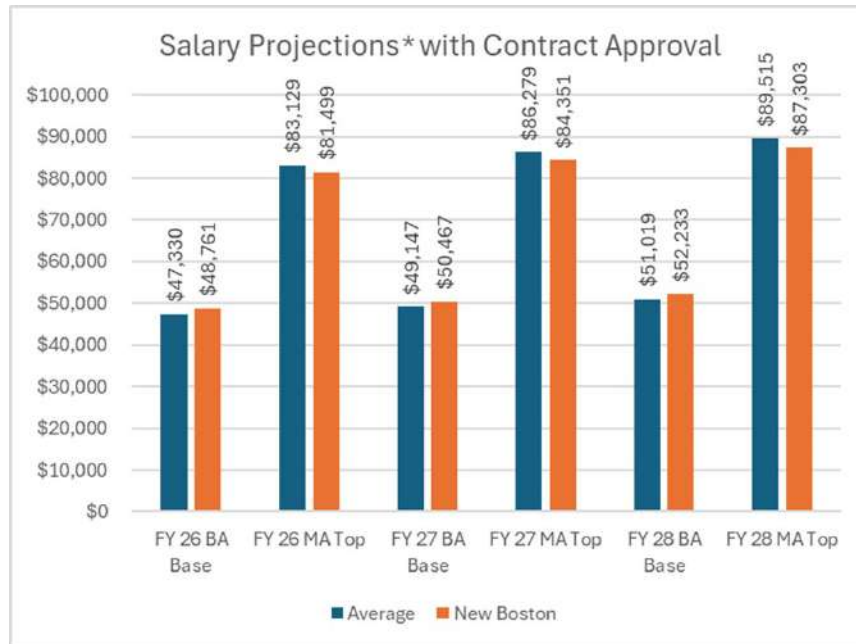
Major highlights of the agreement are as follows:

- An additional contracted day will be added to allow staff to complete mandatory state training and professional development.
- Wage increases are needed to attract and retain qualified staff. With teacher prep program enrollment decreasing and surrounding communities paying higher wages, adjustments are needed to our wage grids to ensure a competitive position.
- Language adjustments were made to provide clarification in areas of the agreement that were unclear.

Both the NBEA and the New Boston School Board ratified this three-year agreement. It calls for an estimated increase in salary and benefits of \$320,909 in 2025-2026 (of which \$308,607 is raised through taxation and the balance of \$12,302 *will come from revenues in the Special Revenue (Grants) Fund.*

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting February 4, 2025

In summary, the proposed teacher (professional staff) CBA seeks to provide competitive wages with surrounding communities to attract and retain qualified staff.



ARTICLE 4: Special Meeting Permission for Defeated CBA

Shall the New Boston School District, if article #3 (Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #3 cost items only? (Majority vote)

The School Board recommends this article 5-0-0

The Finance Committee voted 3-3-0 on this article

School Deliberative Ballot Determination Meeting
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ARTICLE 5: Capital Reserve Fund Deposit:

Shall the school district vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) to be added to the New Boston Central School Facilities Renovation and Repair Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) (established in 2010), with this sum to come from the June 30, 2025, fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2025? No new amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The School Board recommends this article 5-0-0

The Finance Committee recommends this article 6-0-0

EXPLANATION:

The New Boston School District Facilities Renovation and Repair Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) has been an invaluable planning and budgeting tool for the School District. The CRF provides the School District the opportunity to repair and replace aging school infrastructure that is both planned and unexpected. In addition, the CRF is a valuable funding source in competing for competitive grants that require matching funds.

The School Board remains committed to the upkeep and maintenance of New Boston Central School. This \$200,000 CRF deposit from the unassigned fund balance does not require an appropriation of any **new** taxation.

Based on the community's support of the school's CRF, the school district has been able to proactively replace components of both building and IT related infrastructure. Below is a recent history of projects that have been funded by the capital reserve fund over the last two years.

**RECENT HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT'S USE
OF THE CRF**

July 1, 2023	\$ 300,814.22	CRF Balance
July 2, 2023	\$ 150,000.00	CRF Deposit
FY 22-23 Projects	\$ (37,609.26)	Milestone Server - Pends CRF Request from Trustees
FY 22-23 Projects	\$ (33,277.30)	Wi-Fi Density -Pends CRF Request from Trustees
FY 22-23 Projects	\$ (67,327.33)	Core Switches, etc. -Pends CRF Request from Trustees
FY 22-23 Projects	\$ (24,017.92)	Media Center Carpet - Pends CRF Request from Trustees
November 1, 2023	\$ 288,582.41	Expected CRF Balance- Spendable
June 30, 2024	\$ 302,892.04	CRF Balance
July 1, 2024	\$ 75,000.00	CRF Deposit
July 2, 2024	\$ 377,892.04	CRF Balance

The Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) provides an important funding source for future NBCS projects such as: NBCS building HVAC controls, modular classroom HVAC replacement, roof section replacements (as needed), retaining wall replacements, septic system replacement, parking lot repavement.(see chart below for future CRF projects)

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FUTURE CRF PROJECTS	
ITEM	COST
H.V.A.C CONTROLS TO REPLACE OLD AND FAILING CONTROLS	\$100,000+
MODULAR CLASSROOM HVAC	\$40,000+
ROOF SECTION REPLACEMENTS	\$200,000+
REPLACE RETAINING WALLS	\$60,000+
SEPTIC FIELD REPLACEMENT	\$100,000+
PARKING LOT PAVEMENT	\$600,000+
REPLACE AGING PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM	\$100,000+
REPLACE AGING KINDERGARTEN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	\$75,000+

ARTICLE 6: Petition Article-Rejection of Taxpayer Funding for private education through Education Freedom Accounts

Will the voters of New Boston, New Hampshire, direct our state elected officials to uphold their duty to fiscal accountability by rejecting any extension of taxpayer funding for private education through Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs), school vouchers, until we have full accountability, transparency, and a suitable funding plan that ensures no further strain on public schools or local property taxpayers? If so, we direct the Town Administrator to deliver this warrant article and results to New Hampshire's Governor and members of the State Legislature within thirty (30) days of this vote.

The School Board recommends this article 4-1-0

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Revenue Estimates

Below are revenue estimates for all three funds: General, Food Service and Special Revenue (Grants) and are subject to change. The use of fund balance to reduce taxes is based on mid-year projections of already collected revenues, and the estimated amount of current year budget dollars that will likely be unspent as of June 30, 2025.

Revenue Source	FY 24-25	FY 25-26 (estimated)
Local (school lunch sales and investment earnings)	\$170,560	\$181,803
State (Special Ed Aid, meals)	\$153,025	\$158,695
Federal (Mostly grants and food service)	\$424,775	\$433,302
Use of Fund Balance (to reduce taxes)	\$476,588	\$700,000
NH Adequacy	\$3,109,430	\$3,101,491
SWEPT (Statewide Property Tax)	\$1,368,415	\$1,331,005
Other (use of fund balance and revenues from misc. sources)	\$75,000	\$200,000
Total Revenue	\$5,777,793	\$6,106,296

Polls are open on Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:00 am to 7:00 pm

In the Tom Mansfield Gym at the New Boston Central School

If you have any questions about the enclosed information, please contact:

Brian Balke
SAU19 Superintendent
brian.balke@sau19.org
SAU19 at 603-497-4818

William “Bill” Schmidt
School Board Chairperson
nbsboard@sau19.org