

Gill-Montague Regional School District

FY24 Preliminary Budget Proposal

January 31, 2023

- Introduction
- Program Offerings
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Enrollment
- Budget Needs
- Revenue
- Expenses
- Summary
- Capital needs
- Questions

Agenda

FY24 Budget Schedule

January 10, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- Preliminary Budget Presentation to School Committee

January 17, 2023 School Committee Special working Meeting

- Review of line item budget
- Budget Discussions

January 24, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- Budget Discussions
- Vote Preliminary FY24 Budget (Must be prior to February 1st)

Minimum Contribution and State Aid numbers are necessary to accurately estimate Assessments. Assessments will be estimated after the State Budget is released during the 1st week of March

January 31, 2023

Town of Montague & Town of Gill Select Board/Finance Committee's meet with GMRSD School Committee representatives, Superintendent and Director of Business & Operations regarding FY24 Budget.

FY24 Budget Schedule, continued

February 14, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- Budget Discussions
- Public Hearing
 - Budget must be available to be viewed 48 hours prior
 - Public Hearing must be held by February 15th

February 28, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- Budget Discussions

March 14, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- FY24 Budget Vote
 - Two thirds vote required
 - Budget must be voted 45 days prior to 1st town meeting, but no later than March 31st

May, 2023 Town meetings – projected dates:

- Town of Gill – 1st Monday (May 1st)
- Town of Montague – 1st Saturday (May 6th)

FY24 Major Budget Themes



Enrollment & Inflation

Enrollment in district stable.

Decline in Choice out/Charter enrollment (after FY22 increase)

Anticipated higher inflation rate than typical in Foundation Budget calculation



FY24 Budget Increase

Budget increase of 4.8% with increased dependence on School Choice Revolving & E&D

Based on Montague's Affordable Assessment



Student Opportunity Act

Continuation of SOA in Foundation Budget calculation expected to lead to higher state aid for GMRSD in spite of Foundation Enrollment decline



Stimulus Funds

ESSER III
FY24 allocation of \$1M – potentially the final year of funding for 13 positions



Staffing & Resource Needs

Continuation of Air purifier filter replacement

Continuation of Pandemic related Academic and Social Emotional Staffing needs

What can you do?

- Get involved in your student(s) schools
- Attend School Committee Meetings
- Join School Committee
- Submit comments or concerns on the District's budget to: brian.beck@gmrds.org

District Administration:

Brian Beck, Superintendent

Joanne Blier, Director of Business & Operations

Dianne Ellis, Director of Pupil Services

Jeanne Powers, Director of Curriculum

Tina Mahaney, Director of Technology

School Administration:

Christopher Barnes, Middle/High School Principal

Kerry Heathwaite, Sheffield Elementary Principal

Sarah Burstein, Hillcrest Elementary Principal

Walter Huston, Gill Elementary Principal

Citizen Participation

School Committee:

Gill Members:

Jane Oakes, Chair – Term Ends: 2025

William Tomb, Vice Chair -- Term Ends: 2023

Cristina Marcalow -- Term Ends: 2024

Montague Members:

Brooke Billings -- Term Ends: 2023

VACANCY -- Term Ends: 2025

Heather Katsoulis, Treasurer -- Term Ends: 2025

Jennifer Waryas -- Term Ends: 2024

Nicholas Licata -- Term Ends: 2024

John Irminger, Secretary – Term Ends: 2023

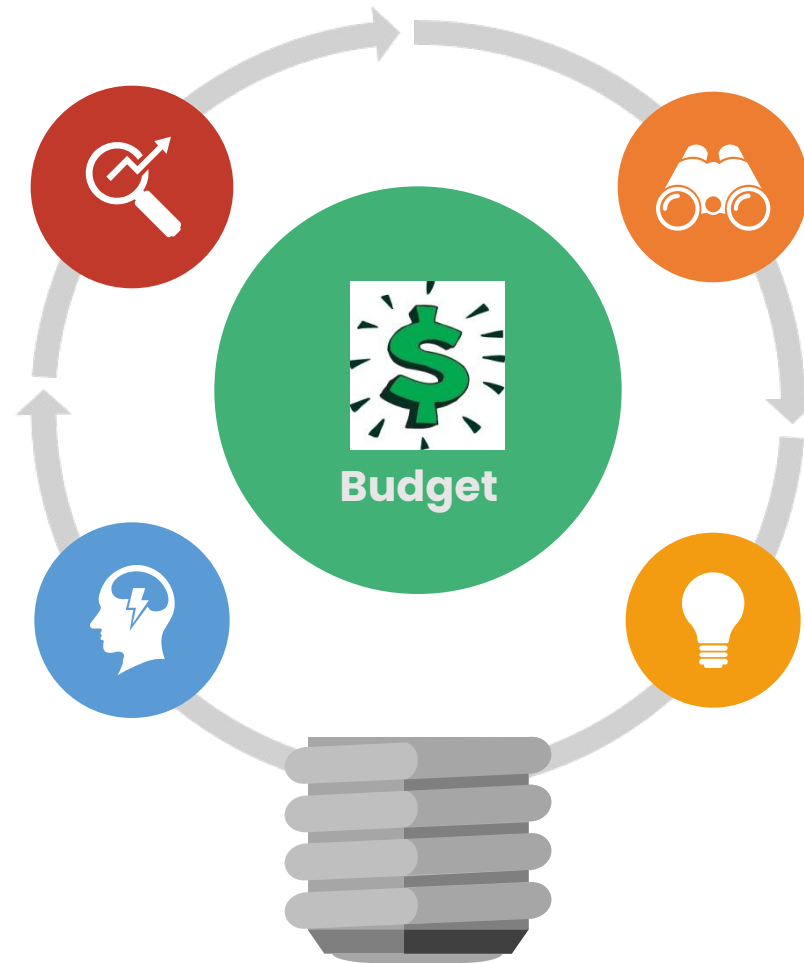
How We Create Our Budget

Research

Each department looks at its budget and determines its needs by using expense trends and current student data as well as recommendations from the School Improvement Councils.

Manage

Budget is presented to School Committee for approval (School Committee may make additional recommendations) and then pass the approved budget onto Member Town Officials.



Analysis

We use data provided by the state and historical data to make student centered, efficiency focused and data informed decisions when thinking about our future needs.

Action

The Admin Team reviews budget requests and determines actual needs as well as potential cuts. We strive to build a budget that will provide students with the best learning experience possible, given the resources at our disposal.

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL DISTRICT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

DISTRICT VISION – The Gill-Montague Regional School District is a community that empowers every student for continuous learning, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment.

THEORY OF ACTION - The pandemic has resulted in substantial disruptions to student learning for more than a year. In order for our students to recover from lost learning opportunities, we are committing to the following priorities in the development and implementation of the district and school-based annual strategic plans:

- Foster a sense of belonging and partnership among students and families
- Continuously monitor students' understanding
- Ensure strong grade-appropriate instruction, with scaffolding to provide access to new content and skills

District Long Term Goals (2021 – 2024)

#1 ENGAGEMENT FAMILY:

Our schools will welcome and engage families as active partners to support the academic and social-emotional development of students

#2 ENGAGEMENT STUDENTS:

Staff will welcome and engage students as active partners in their learning, who take pride in their efforts, and make positive contributions to the school

#3 GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT:

Educators will regularly monitor the impact of instruction on student learning and will make adjustments to maximize student growth and achievement

#4 GRADE-APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION:

Educators will deliver grade-appropriate instruction with high expectations for all students and provide scaffolding to ensure access to learning

#5 INCLUSION & EQUITY:

Educators commit to creating an inclusive and equitable school environment that provides relevant and accessible educational opportunities, embodies social justice practices, and affirms all students' cultures and identities



Districtwide

Initiatives and Grants:

- **Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health Grant**
We are in the second year of this grant. This year, we are focusing on nine goals across the district. The goals include reviewing and adopting an elementary social-emotional curriculum, training on screening for mental health concerns and threat assessments, and refining school-based behavioral supports and systems.
- **Cultural Responsive Practices Leadership Academy**
The team is in year one of this academy and is receiving professional development regarding responsive practices in curriculum, policy, and procedures. The group will identify an area of need and create an action plan to improve the area of need this school year.
- **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support – Math Recovery Academy**
Our elementary Math Interventionists are taking part in this three year academy, in which they are taking the Math Specialist courses. We are also able to offer basic Math Recovery training to all of our elementary faculty and staff over the next three years.
- **Lead for Literacy Grant**
Professional development for a small group of educators related to early literacy. A focus on instruction in the classroom and pull-out intervention services. The team will also receive support in refining our district-wide elementary literacy plan.
- **Ed Tech Cohort**
Professional development and sharing of best practices with other MA schools. Our priority area includes supporting our multilingual learners and their families with the use of PlusPortals.

Secondary Schools

- Social-emotional screeners & skills based psychoeducational groups
- Common writing assessment three times a year to measure growth in student writing
- Rich and robust Arts curriculum – Substantial increase in participation

- No fee Athletics

Turners Falls High School

- Maker Space
- Dual Enrollment courses
- I-Ready Diagnostic Assessment in Math & ELA
- Innovation Pathways
 - Health Care & Social Assistance
 - Manufacturing
 - Project Lead the Way courses
 - Introduction to Engineering Design
 - Principles of Engineering
 - Computer Integrated Manufacturing
 - Currently in the process of applying for a third pathway, Environmental Science
- Advisory & Guided Academic Progress (GAP)

Great Falls Middle School

- I-Ready Diagnostic Assessment in Math and ELA & Intervention Program
- Middle School teaming model & Developmental Designs Approach
- Addition of theater arts courses
- Wilson Reading Intervention

Elementary Schools

Coordinated, Evidence-Based Academic Curriculum:

- ELA – Wit & Wisdom, Geodes, Heggerty, and Foundations
- Math – Bridges and Number Corner
- Science – Mystery Science

Increase in Sensory Pathways

Updated Math & Literacy plans with grade specific assessment calendars

Math Interventionists

STEM special weekly for all students

Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum Review Committee

Responsive Classroom

Quality Tier 1 and Tier 2 support for students – academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally

Classroom paras in all kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms

- Skill development, improve adult to student ratio and support to address pandemic learning loss

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Curriculum

- Grade-Level material with scaffolds in place to support learning gaps
- Review and adoption of Social-Emotional Curriculum at elementary level
- Review and adoption of older curriculum at the secondary level

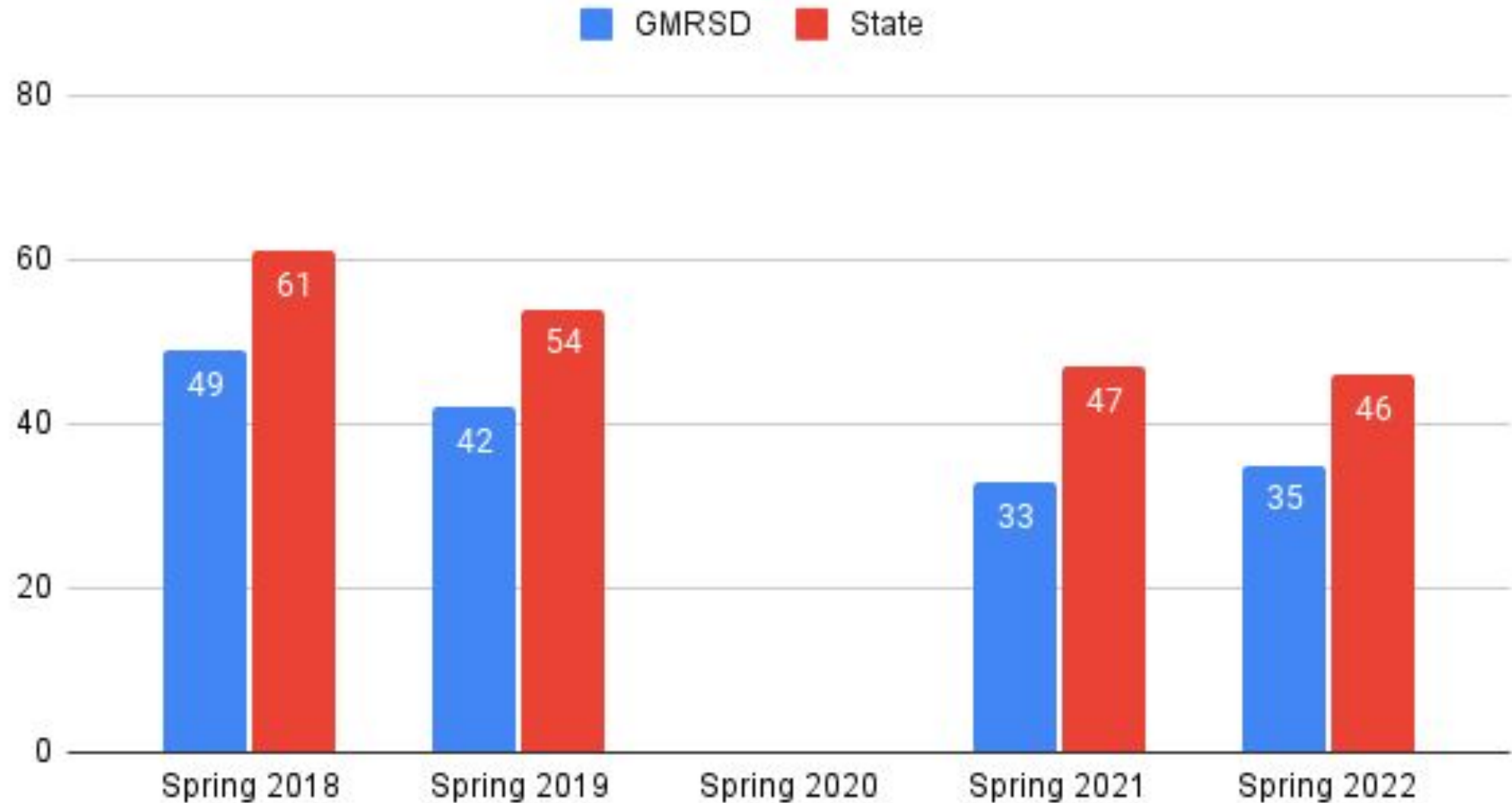
Instruction

- Differentiated to meet the needs of all students
- Specific interventions for students as needed; reading, math, social-emotional
- Adjustment to practice based on student data; three times a year data meetings

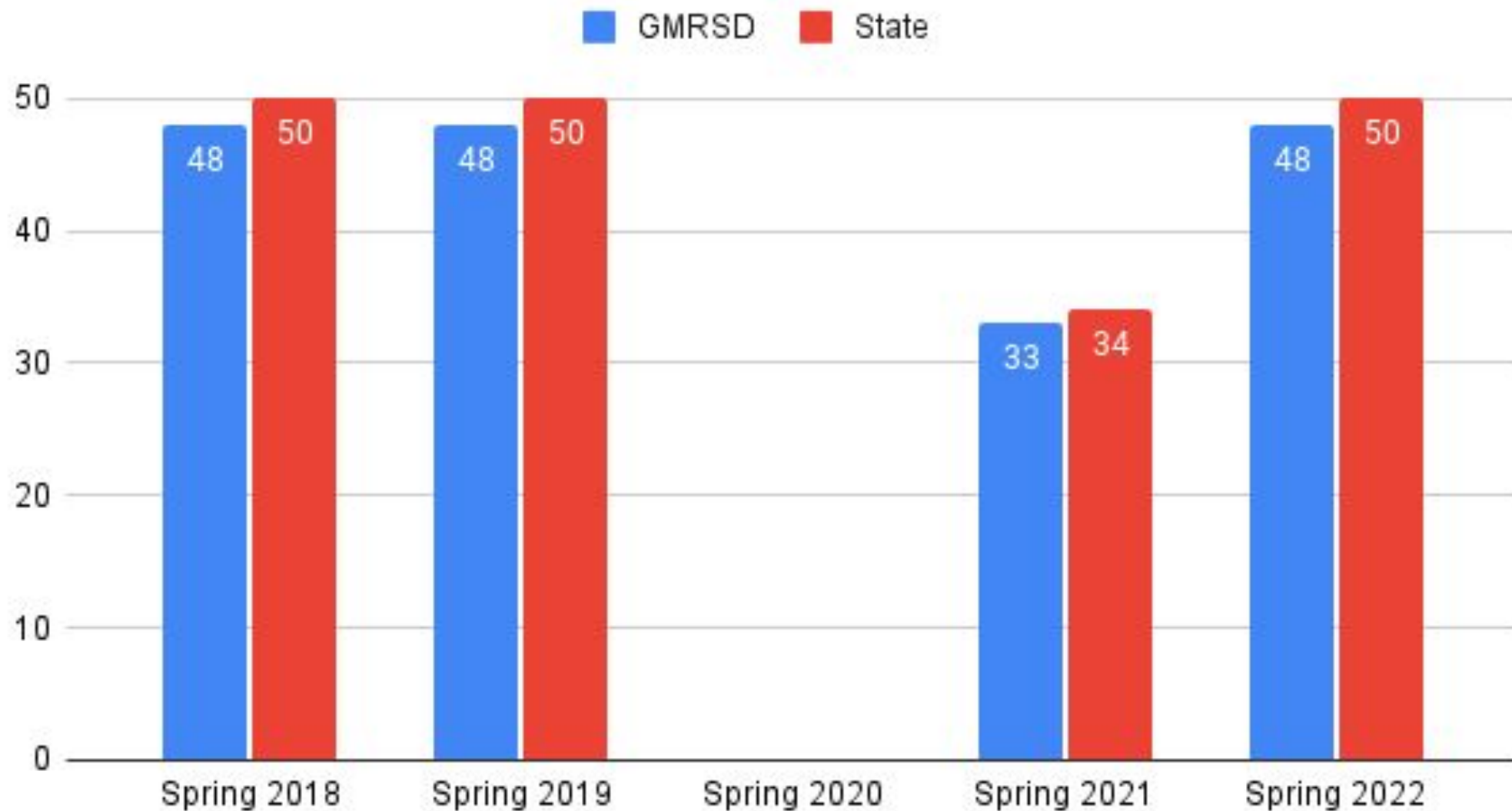
Assessment

- K-12 I-Ready Diagnostic in Reading and Math
- Secondary focus on writing by using common assessments
- Elementary Literacy and Math Assessment Calendars

Average MCAS % Meeting & Exceeding: GMRSD vs. State



Average MCAS SGP Trend: GMRSD vs. State



GMRSD SAT/PSAT Scores 2021

Fall 2022 PSAT Scores for 10th Grade

Subject	Average Score
Reading and Writing	480 out of 760
Math	461 out of 760

Fall 2022 PSAT Scores for 11th Grade

Subject	Average Score
Reading and Writing	516 out of 760
Math	461 out of 760

SAT Trends

Year	Average Score
2019-2020	1053
2020-2021	No Data
2021-2022	1110
2022-2023	1104



*Student
Enrollment*

District Enrollment Trends

YEAR	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Foundation Enrollment	1,098	1,089	1,091	1,078	1,099	1,072	1,072	974	1026	
District Enrollment	1,010	1,000	947	951	976	941	934	849	842	866
K-8 Enrollment	741	739	708	720	757	735	737	660	658	673
TFHS Enrollment	269	261	239	231	219	206	199	189	184	193
Year	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Choice In	97	106	95	104	109	95	83	65	63	90
Choice out	195	225	239	221	234	255	239	201	216	179
YEAR	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Charter	60	70	69	69	56	59	61	63	77	60

Budget Needs



FY24 Budget Priorities

Anticipated Chapter 70 and Assessment increases along with final year of ESSER Grant & increased use of E&D and Revolving funds will allow us to:

1. Continue to assess and respond to pandemic learning loss of both academic and social/emotional growth
2. Continue prior year increased instructional and support services for students with learning differences (special education, counseling and academic support)
3. Identify and implement interventions for a wide range of social emotional needs – implement goals aligned in SEL Mental Health Grant
4. Prioritize building strong relationships with students and families
5. Support secondary program expansions in Theater, Music, Fine Arts and Innovation Pathways programming

FY24 New Position Requests (not included)

NEW POSITIONS REQUESTED BUT NOT INCLUDED IN BUDGET	FTE	Estimated Cost	School
Speech Language Pathologist Increase	0.2	\$ 14,400	Hillcrest
Pre-K Teacher	0.5	\$ 35,000	Hillcrest
Pre-K - Grade 2 Special Education Team Leader	0.6	\$ 42,000	Hillcrest
Facilities Admin Support	0.5	\$ 20,000	District
Grounds	0.5	\$ 22,000	District
Data Services Tech Assistant	0.5	\$ 28,000	District
Classroom Paraprofessional Grade 2	1	\$ 25,000	Sheffield
Total	3.8	\$ 186,400	

FY24 Large Expenditure Changes

Insurance & Fixed Charges	Health Insurance assuming 5% increase and additional retirees/staff - Insurance estimates are based on plan enrollments in November, 2022.	\$ 169,166
	Town Retirement Assessment increase of 13% for FY24 is based on employees on October 1, 2022. This year we will contribute approximately 29% of all salaries (non-Teacher Retirement employees) We also pay Teachers Retirement for all teachers paid on Federal Grants.	103,287
	Decrease in unemployment and workers comp costs based on recent filings	(62,280)
	Units A & C contracts expired on June 30, 2022. Negotiable increases include increases for these two contracts for FY23 & FY24 as well as FY24 non-union increases.	\$ 373,830
Instructional	Decreased dependence on ESSER funds for supplies, Professional Development and Technology Equipment	\$ (128,826)
Operations	Increase in Utility Costs (gas, oil & electricity)	\$ 64,400
	Budget for contracted building maintenance to complete work outlined in building assessments and preventative maintenance in all of our the buildings.	\$ 67,100
Administration	Increase in Administrative Technology software and position adjustments	\$ 30,925
Student Support Services	The full time Transportation Coordinator is now a shared position with Greenfield. The cost of this position is a reimbursable transportation expense.	\$ (20,224)
	Food service salary increases based on the new contract and the increased cost of food and supplies has lead to increased program costs over the last several years. Revenue increases due to CEP and free meals for all help to support this higher costs.	\$ 92,011
Tuition	With a decrease in both Choice out and Charter enrollment in the current year, we have made slight reductions to the budget for both lines in the FY24 budget	\$ (159,190)
	While we had a handful of students who have recently aged out and/or graduated, we also have several new high cost Out of District placements beginning in FY23. We also have a couple of anticipated OOD Placements that we are budgeting for.	\$ 179,295

Budget Summary

Budget assumptions were adjusted in order to present a balanced budget. The unknowns at this time are all state related revenues and expenses such as Chapter 70, Chapter 71, Circuit Breaker, School Choice and Charter. We have not added any new positions in this version of the budget. The Chapter 70 increase of \$300K is a very rough estimate and we will not have a final number until March 2023, just before the budget vote.

ALL FUNDS				
Revenue	FY24		Expenses	FY23
State Aid	8,613,054		Administration (1000)	710,356
Assessments	13,531,537		Instructional (2000)	12,096,144
Erving Tuition	1,138,000		Student Services (3000)	2,270,101
Other GF Revenue	62,000		Operations (4000)	2,274,955
E&D	400,000		Benefits & Insurance (5000)	5,886,701
Revolving & Grants	3,844,468		Community Programs (6000)	27,049
Total Revenue	27,589,059		Tuitions (9000)	4,204,473
			Capital Debt (8000)	119,280
			Total Expenses	27,589,059

A photograph of a laptop on a desk. The laptop screen shows a financial dashboard with a bar chart on the left, a pie chart in the center, and a vertical bar chart on the right. The pie chart is divided into blue, pink, and red segments. The bar chart has four bars of increasing height. The vertical bar chart has five horizontal bars of different colors. In the foreground, four stacks of gold coins are placed on the laptop's keyboard, increasing in height from left to right. The background is a blurred office setting with warm lighting.

Revenue

Where Does Our Funding Come From

Chapter 70

Chapter 70 is the MGL that establishes funding requirements for school districts in Massachusetts and provides state aid to support school operations.

29.4%

Grant & Revolving Accounts

School Choice and Circuit Breaker Revolving accounts, Grants (including ESSER Grants, and other smaller revolving accounts the District uses to support the Budget.

13.9%

Other Revenue: E&D, Medicaid, Interest, Charter Reimbursement

2.4%

Town Assessments

Local funds collected primarily through property taxes from our member districts.

49%

Erving Tuition

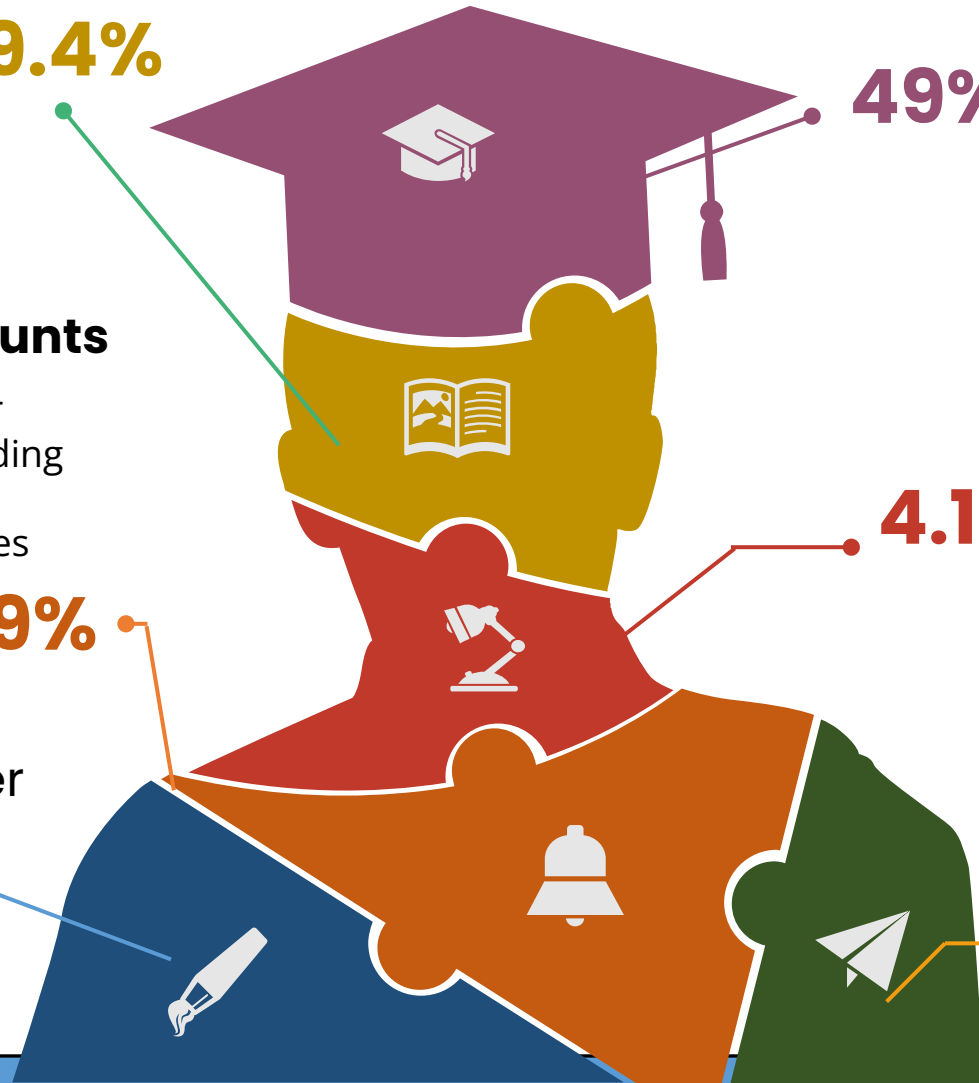
The Town of Erving pays tuition to the District for their 7 – 12 students to attend Great Falls Middle & Turners Fall High School through a tuition agreement established in the 1980's that uses prior year expenses and enrollment to determine a cost per pupil.

4.1%

Transportation Reimbursement

MGL Chapter 71 provides transportation reimbursement to regional school districts projected at approximately 75% of the total cost of eligible riders from the previous year.

1.2%



FY24 Preliminary Chapter 70 Assumptions

- FY24 Chapter 70 will not be released until the first week of March, just before school committee votes budget on March 14, 2023
- Foundation Budget rates are expected to continue their phase in through FY27 at a rate of 1/6th per year, increasing such categories
- This would increase such categories as Guidance & psychological services, Special education, English learners and Low Income students.
- Inflation rate is expected to be capped at 4.5%
- GMRSD foundation enrollment is expected to decrease due to a decline in our Choice & charter enrollments. Our in district enrollment has remained flat.
- Low income enrollment now based on 185% of the federal poverty level. Over 60% of GMRSD Students fall into this category in FY23 Chapter 70 calculation

Montague's Affordable Assessment

- Beginning in FY2010, the Town of Montague agreed to dedicate 48.5% of its available revenues to the GMRSD assessment.
- The agreement was formalized in a document known as “The Compact”.
- We begin our budget process by using this estimate to determine the increase to the Montague Assessment and then calculate the equivalent assessment increase for the Town of Gill.
- After the Governor's budget is released, (which includes each town's required local contribution), we calculate both of the town's actual assessment for the new school year.

Montague's Affordable Assessment Calculation

Montague's Affordable Assessment Calculations	FY23 Affordable Assessment	FY24 Affordable Assessment
Net Levy (Total less allowance for abatements)	20,878,954	21,394,033
Less Excluded Debt (+GMRSD Debt for town buildings)	(1,183,694)	(1,182,917)
Available Levy	19,695,260	20,211,116
Net state aid (total less charges and offsets)	1,867,544	1,914,986
Local receipts	1,583,548	1,814,265
Total available sources for operating expenses	23,146,352	23,940,367
Total Sources for GMRSD Operating		
48.5% of Available Sources to GMRSD Operating	11,225,981	11,611,078
Montague's share of excluded GMRSD Debt	115,471	114,333
	11,341,452	11,725,411
**Assessments will be adjusted to the revised affordable assessment (4.16%) after we receive Chapter 70 calculation		3.39%

School Choice Revolving Account

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Ending Balance
FY19	\$ 775,504	\$ 817,104	(\$ 772,946)	\$ 819,662
FY20	\$ 819,662	\$ 677,230	(\$ 707,815)	\$ 789,077
FY21	\$ 789,077	\$ 553,081	(\$ 91,422)	\$ 1,250,736
FY22	\$ 1,250,736	\$ 625,408	(\$ 377,549)	\$ 1,498,595
FY23 Projected	\$ 1,498,595	\$ 676,308	(\$ 647,421)	\$ 1,527,482
FY24 Projected	\$ 1,527,482	\$ 650,000	(\$ 900,000)	\$ 1,277,482

Circuit Breaker Revolving Account

Circuit Breaker Revolving	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Ending Balance
FY19	\$ 168,855	\$ 286,710	(\$ 172,511)	\$ 283,054
FY20	\$ 283,054	\$ 269,904	(\$ 284,634)	\$ 268,324
FY21	\$ 268,324	\$ 252,487	(\$ 269,162)	\$ 251,649
FY22	\$ 251,649	\$ 165,337	(\$ 306,934)	\$ 110,052
FY23 Projected	\$ 110,052	\$ 241,597	(\$ 110,268)	\$ 241,381
FY24 Projected	\$ 241,381	\$ 260,000	(\$ 258,868)	\$ 242,513

**Food Service
Program
Historical
Revenue &
Expense**

**FY23 Beginning
Balance \$320K**

Year	Revenue (Food Service)	Expenses (Food Service)	GF Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)
FY16	\$488,878	\$ 492,222	\$ 51,271	\$ (54,615)
FY17	\$494,806	\$ 486,050	\$ 55,529	\$ (46,773)
FY18	\$547,598	\$ 534,040	\$ 59,155	\$ (45,597)
FY19	\$474,125	\$ 495,015	\$ 112,263	\$ (133,153)
FY20	\$524,570	\$ 567,230	\$ 64,739	\$ (107,399)
FY21	\$599,574	\$ 384,444	\$ 133,948	\$ 81,182
FY22	\$718,884	\$ 619,829	\$ 28,370	\$ 70,686
FY23 YTD	\$306,167	\$ 343,340	\$ -	\$ 77,827
FY23 Ant	\$420,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 5,000	
FY24 Est	\$712,892	\$ 712,892		\$ -

Excess and Deficiency Activity (a.k.a. savings account)

History of E&D certification & use

Certified E&D		E&D used to reduce assessments	
7/1/2017	\$334,904	FY19	\$100,000
7/1/2018	\$238,383	FY20	\$150,000
7/1/2019	\$557,434	FY21	\$150,000
7/1/2020	\$615,319	FY22	\$150,000
7/1/2021	\$907,914	FY23	\$250,000
7/1/2022	\$1,121,000	FY24	\$400,000
7/1/2023 Projected	\$900,000	FY25	



FY24 Projected Revenue

REVENUES	FY20 Approved	FY21 Approved	FY22 Approved	FY23 Approved	FY24 Projected	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	
CHAPTER 70 STATE AID	\$ 6,441,443	\$ 7,049,318	\$ 7,129,856	\$ 7,778,051	\$ 8,078,054	\$ 300,003	3.9%
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	0.0%
MEDICAID CONTRA ACCOUNT		\$ (47,000)	\$ (47,000)	\$ (47,000)	\$ (47,000)	\$ -	
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 1,000	12.5%
EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 150,000	60.0%
ERVING TUITION	\$ 940,000	\$ 1,088,800	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,120,000	\$ 1,138,000	\$ 18,000	1.6%
CHARTER REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 54,183	\$ 159,379	\$ 161,840	\$ 350,000	\$ 200,000	\$ (150,000)	-42.9%
CHAPTER 71 TRANSP REIMB	\$ 270,000	\$ 266,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 334,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 1,000	0.3%
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$ 11,669,848	\$ 12,331,264	\$ 12,485,121	\$ 12,968,749	\$ 13,412,257	\$ 443,508	3.4%
CAPITAL DEBT ASSESSMENT (HS)	\$ 137,970	\$ 133,350	\$ 128,730	\$ 124,005	\$ 119,280	\$ (4,725)	-3.8%
CAPITAL DEBT ASSESSMENT (Sheff)	\$ 64,914	\$ 63,276	\$ 61,638	\$ -		\$ -	
GRANTS/REVOLVING ACCOUNTS	\$ 1,427,991	\$ 1,244,433	\$ 1,370,000	\$ 1,348,517	\$ 1,469,936	\$ 121,419	9.0%
TRANSPORTATION REVOLVING		\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0.0%
ESSER GRANT			\$ 196,000	\$ 1,076,405	\$ 1,015,664	\$ (60,741)	-5.6%
CIRCUIT BREAKER REVOLVING	\$ 306,500	\$ 304,370	\$ 210,000	\$ 132,432	\$ 258,868	\$ 126,436	95.5%
SCHOOL CHOICE REVOLVING	\$ 875,523	\$ 596,881	\$ 600,000	\$ 689,306	\$ 900,000	\$ 210,694	30.6%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 22,542,872	\$ 23,546,072	\$ 24,123,185	\$ 26,432,465	\$ 27,589,059	\$ 1,156,594	4.4%

Student Opportunities Act

- Foundation budget is based upon student enrollment and DESE cost formulas.
- In FY20, foundation budget cost formulas changed and the district received Chapter 70 aid above “Hold Harmless” levels for the first time in many years.
- In FY21, the *Student Opportunities Act* took effect. Due to formula changes this increased our Chapter 70 Aid by 8.1% or \$532,027. The new formula provides significant increases related to the following costs: employee benefits, special education, economically disadvantaged students, and English Language students.
- In FY22, the significant decline in student enrollment, not only in our district, but statewide, reversed our forward progress in SOA Foundation/Chapter 70 increases, returning us to a hold harmless district that received the minimal \$30 per pupil increase.
- In FY23 the Chapter 70 Formula continued its new growth model which, due to a 50 student increase (primarily choice & charter) our district saw an increase in Chapter 70. If our enrollment continues to grow to pre-pandemic levels, we should continue to see significant Chapter 70 growth in the coming years.
- We expect to see the continued growth of the Chapter 70 formula in FY24. However, based on preliminary choice and charter declines, it appears that we will lose approximately 60 students from our foundation enrollment.



Expense Drivers

Student Learning Options

Provide all students with rigorous and culturally relevant curriculum, resources and programs that support individual goals.

Inflation

Expenses that the district incur continue to rise annually and outpace increases in revenue.

Technology and Information

The rapid increase in technology and information has accelerated the need to more frequently replace educational materials and equipment. The pandemic forced us to get in front of our technology needs.

Pandemic Learning Loss

The learning loss resulting from remote learning for the last two years will be addressed with ESSER funds through FY24.

Student Learning Options

Inflation

Technology And Information

Pandemic Learning Loss

Students in Poverty and Low Income Families

Special Education

Aging Buildings

Students in Poverty and Low Income Families

43.8% of Massachusetts school aged children live in families that are low income. These students often require added services from public education.
***Gill-Montague RSD's low income percentage is 60.2% compounding this issue.*

Special Education

There are a variety of factors that drive the increase in Special Ed including:

- Medical advances
- Increased identification rate of students classified as learning disabled,
- Other local social agencies are covering less of the needs of special ed. students, leaving schools to shoulder more of the cost.

Aging Buildings

Because of budgetary constraints, deferred maintenance activities and outdated facilities, spending on building improvements will continue to increase.



FY23 Projected Expenditures

EXPENDITURES	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Proposed
Administration (1000)	669,519	624,654	642,851	660,195	679,430	710,356
Instructional (2000)	9,649,841	9,926,264	10,495,766	11,011,013	11,915,961	12,096,144
Student Services (3000)	2,031,384	2,030,860	1,978,465	2,113,428	2,176,310	2,270,101
Operations (4000)	1,522,121	1,703,903	1,829,054	1,925,353	2,038,682	2,274,955
Benefits & Insurance (5000)	4,357,053	4,392,062	4,864,424	4,788,069	5,269,148	5,886,701
Community Programs (6000)			25,563	26,082	26,561	27,049
Tuitions (9000)	3,309,681	3,517,500	3,513,323	3,433,696	4,202,368	4,204,473
Capital Debt (8000)	209,090	202,884	196,626	190,368	124,005	119,280
TOTAL BUDGET	21,748,689	22,398,127	23,546,072	24,148,204	26,432,465	27,589,059
Total projected increase	120,752	649,438	1,147,945	602,132	2,284,261	1,156,594

ESSER III GRANT SPENDING PLAN FOR FY24

ESSER III FY24 PLANNED EXPENSES	FY24
Instructional Technology Salary	61,464
High School Innovation Pathway Salary	73,190
High School Math Teacher Salary	50,812
Math Interventionist - Gill/Hillcrest/sheffield	197,464
Speech Language Pathologist Salary - Gill	14,430
Speech Language Pathologist Salary - Hillcrest	57,722
Adjustment Counselor - Sheffield	73,190
Dean of Students - Sheffield	70,963
1st grade Paras	89,898
Summer program Professional Staff	65,000
Summer program Support Staff	64,000
Summer Transportation	30,000
PD Stipends	15,000
Technology Equipment	29,000
Sanitation & PPE Supplies	20,000
Nurse subs	6,000
Negotiable Increases	40,000
MTRS	57,531
Total ESSER III Planned Expenses	1,015,664
Grants funds available through Sept 2024	

Capital Needs



Gill Elementary funded pending projects (funding allocated by town)

New Security Doors \$20,000

We had gathered quotes from various vendors for the new door, frame, closures, strike and hardware for the new double door entryway. Due to the location where the double door will need to be placed, we will also need to relocate the main office doorway, fire alarm, security alarm and lighting fixture. We hope to refresh quotes and order parts soon as the lead time is expected to be quite long and would like to schedule the project during the summer break. With the floor replacement last summer we couldn't also complete the door project. With building costs up at this time, it is possible that the project comes in above budget. However, per Ray Purington, the town of Gill has \$10K in grant money that they could use toward this project if necessary.

Roof (MSBA) Feasibility Study \$20,000 +

We have been denied funding through MSBA for several years, however, I believe having the Building Condition Assessment completed will help our application move forward. Heath is checking to see if there were any active leaks in the recent heavy rain.

Gill heating computer \$10,000

The computer that runs the Gill heating system is having frequent failures and shutdowns and is in need of replacement. Additionally, there is not notification capability for the system or user authentication. Notification would have alerted us to the boiler failures that occur occasionally and user authentication can restrict who has access to certain parts of the system. This was purchased as part of the Siemens project. Quotes for this replacement have come in just under \$10K. Annual upgrades of the system quoted are in the range of \$4K annually.

Hillcrest Elementary pending projects (funding allocated by town)

- **Intercom \$25,000**

Vendors are providing concepts for solutions that will work with the bell system and provide paging for every room and have the ability to page from every room. They are also investigating if the current phone system will integrate a building paging solution.

- **Roof Repairs \$1,297 remaining**

This has been an ongoing issue as we are chasing leaks each time we have heavy rains. Heath detected new leaks in room 6 after the recent heavy rains. This area was recently repaired as part of this project but will need more attention.

- **Façade \$55,000**

We are putting together specs so that we can go out to bid on this project. The hope is that the work can be completed next summer.

- **Hillcrest flooring \$46,118 remaining**

The main traffic areas (hallways, all purpose room, café & kitchen floors have been remediated and a seamless epoxy floor installed. The balance remaining is to install carpets over tiles in classrooms as needed.

Sheffield Elementary pending projects (funding allocated by town)

- **Intercom \$30,000**

Vendors are currently making site visits, evaluating possible solutions (both wired, wireless, desk station access and divided intercom circuits between Admin and Sheffield) so a building-wide announcement can be made (lockdowns, emergencies, etc.) Exterior paging for the front door and recess for emergency broadcast will be investigated as well. New systems are also being investigated for bell system compatibility. They are also investigating if the phone system will integrate with the paging system.

- **Central Office Canopy \$10,000**

We had received quotes and the vendor didn't follow with completing the project. Due to the high cost of building materials we are above budget on the originally quoted project. A vendor will look at the project to see if there are any cost saving solutions to bring the expense down.

- **Central Office Façade \$45,000**

We are putting together specs so that we can go out to bid on this project. The hope is that the work can be completed next summer.

- **Fire Alarm System \$90,000**

Project has been put out to bid and we received a bid for \$88K, just under budget. There have been some delays in getting the project to move forward. We anticipate the ordering of equipment will happen soon and the project will happen primarily during school breaks.

FY24 Capital Requests

Sheffield Elementary – Gym & Auditorium Complex Roof Repair

The gym and roof of the Sheffield Auditorium is currently failing in several locations. Since there are talks about a renovation for Sheffield in the next few years, we need to initiate a project to do short-term repairs to the roof so that the internal building infrastructure does not sustain further water damage. Currently, the roof leaks have created water damage in several areas of the ceilings, floors and wooden balconies of the gym complex. The roof drains in the building also need be repaired as a part of this project, as this is the source of some of the leaks since the current pitch is not steep enough, and water pooling is causing the pipes to leak at the joints.

Sheffield Elementary – Administration Building – Security Door

This project is intended to create a physical boundary between the two buildings to increase security to both the Sheffield Elementary School and the Administration Building. The doorway would replace an existing wooden doorframe that is currently kept open and allows free access between the two buildings with a new secure door system that has card access from either side of the doorway. Staff would have to credential with their card access to get through the doorway into either building. The project will require the construction of the doorframe, fire alarm system tie-in, card access installation and door closer hardware. It is suspected to require asbestos project management and remediation as well.

Planning phase for MSBA application for Addition / Renovation of the Sheffield Elementary School



Montague Elementary Building Condition Assessment Summary (first 5 years)

While these numbers and issues serve as a guide, they are not expected to be used as a capital plan exactly as they were received, rather, we will make ongoing adjustments to the timeline and get estimates for the projects as they become priorities.

Sheffield Capital Project summary	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Accessibility Review	12,500	1,616,000	-	-	-
Electrical, Telephone & Security	-	-	40,000	-	-
Exterior Walls	56,000	519,775	338,250	324,400	12,000
Fire Alarm, Life Safety & Code	16,500	16,500	-	-	-
Heating, Ventilation & Air Condtnng	-	27,500	-	-	-
Interior Finishes	-	13,500	48,125	-	18,000
Roofing	54,700	-	-	-	528,000
Site & Features at Grade	32,000	52,560	70,400	-	72,000
Special Systems & Components	500	20,000	-	500	-
Vertical Transportation	-	-	-	-	110,000
Sheffield Elementary School Complex	\$ 172,200	\$ 2,265,835	\$ 496,775	\$ 324,900	\$ 740,000
Hillcrest Capital Project summary	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exterior Walls	-	288,000	470,000	-	-
Heating, Ventilation & Air Condtnng	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	171,000
Interior Finishes	27,500	95,000	187,500	87,500	-
Roofing	15,000	-	1,155,000	-	-
Site & Features at Grade	12,600	187,000	15,000	-	123,750
Special Systems & Components	-	20,000	-	-	-
Hillcrest Elementary School	\$ 56,100	\$ 591,000	\$ 1,828,500	\$ 88,500	\$ 294,750
Montague Elementary School Buildings	\$ 228,300	\$ 2,856,835	\$ 2,325,275	\$ 413,400	\$ 1,034,750
					6,858,560

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Montague Elementary School Building Project – Anticipated Timeline

MSBA Montague Elementary Anticipated Timeline	FY23		FY24				FY25				FY26				FY27				FY28				FY29		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
SOI Submission	■																								
Eligibility Period	■																								
Invitation from MSBA			■																						
Form Project team				■																					
Feasibility Study						■																			
Schematic Design							■																		
MSBA Board Approval								■																	
Project Funding Appropriation								■																	
Detailed Design									■																
Bidding										■															
Construction											■														
Debt Payments Begin																								■	



1. ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

Time at which the school project has been invited to continue in the MSBA Pipeline



3. FEASIBILITY STUDY

Development of an MSBA-approved Preliminary Design Program & Preferred Schematic Report.



5. FUNDING THE PROJECT

Securement of community approval, funding, and negotiation of the MSBA Project Funding Agreement.



7. CONSTRUCTION

School construction is in progress with a dedicated team keeping a close eye on the budget & schedule.

2. FORMING THE PROJECT TEAM

Selecting the Architect & establishing the ProPay reimbursement process.



4. SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Development of a final design program & negotiation of a Project Scope & Budget Agreement with the MSBA.



6. DETAILED DESIGN

Generation of construction documents, bid procurement, & awarding of a construction contract.



8. COMPLETION

Project close-out includes finalizing permits & maximizing grant reimbursements.



Educational Needs of Hillcrest & Sheffield Elementary

- Pandemic impact & 21st Century learning skills have highlighted the need for updated buildings with additional space.
 - The expansion and renovation of Sheffield to include Pre-k – Grade 1 will provide a comprehensive school ready to serve the learners of tomorrow.
- Related Arts teachers & service providers must share common space.
- Request for Modular building was included in the FY24 budget request from Hillcrest Principal
- New technology such as 1:1 Chromebooks and Touchview display screens are not being used to their potential due to lack of space.
- Blended learning, online collaboration and virtual experiences should be in a space that is conducive to investigation, research, collaboration, creation and other types of learning experiences which provide a foundation for problem solvers and critical thinkers.

Montague Elementary Schools MSBA project estimate

Click https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/building/Ed_Facility_Planning to read about the process to prepare for a potential building project.

Click https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/sites/default/files/edit-contentfiles/Building_With_Us/Ed_Facilities_Planning/Orange%20Educational%20Program.pdf to see the Orange educational program planning document that was created in preparation for their Dexter Park building project.

Based on some very rough estimates from prior MSBA elementary projects of comparable size, and using the MSBA reimbursement rate we had for the Sheffield Window project, the annual cost of a new/renovated elementary building would be in the \$825K range. The High School MSBA project was reimbursed at a rate of 90%, but I'm not aware that they reimburse at such a high rate any more.

Cost Estimate Summary	
MSBA Building Estimate	\$ 55,000,000
Estimated 76% reimbursement rate	\$ 41,800,000
Montague Share	\$ 13,200,000
Est Annual cost including interest for new building (20 years)	\$ 825,000
Average cost to keep up with Capital project list from Building Condition Assessment report for the next 5 years	\$ 1,371,712

How We Will Continue The Discussion

Research

Continue to research options to fund Gill-Montague RSD as well as stay on top of future recommendations from the state about best practices.



Manage

Put knowledge to work to manage budgets as well as work on plans for future investments based on student and industry standards



Improvement

Continue to invest in the education of Gill-Montague RSD students. Prepare students for college and career readiness through rigorous academic standards and promotion of bi-literacy. Make data informed decisions when it comes to students' educations.



Analysis

Continue to use DESE provided data as well as historical data to analyze our own spending trends, using this data for district to district comparisons.



Action

Work closely with Town and School Stakeholders to determine not only the needs of the school district but also the needs of the member town's.



Questions

