

Gill-Montague Regional School District
FY 2021 Budget Hearing
February 11, 2020

Changes Since January 28, 2020 Presentation

- Montague's affordable assessment increased by \$9,216
- Gill's assessment increased by \$1,333
- Expense of 2 longevity buyouts was added at \$4,000
- Negotiable Increases expense was increased by \$6,549

Gill-Montague Regional School District Strategy 2017-2020

Rigor	Relevance	Relationships	Rigor and Relevance
Increase the frequency and effectiveness of written and oral tasks that develop the skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, creativity, problem solving and reflection.	Meet students where they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frame questions of natural interest - Build upon prior knowledge - Draw upon cultural experience - Provide choices - Integrate student voices 	Develop school-wide approaches and classroom practices to teach self-awareness, self-management, and relationship skills as well as active citizenship and multicultural understanding.	Increase the frequency of assessments and projects requiring the application of concepts and skills in worthy and authentic contexts.

Educator Learning	Community Engagement
Teacher teams collaboratively create common curricula and shared student learning goals.	Strengthen communications and partnerships with parents and guardians to advance student learning.
Teacher teams examine student performance data, develop and refine instructional strategies, and provide collegial feedback.	Promote the district to prospective students and families.
Elementary team leaders and secondary curricular chairs learn to lead this work in partnership with administrators.	Develop annual budgets and plans for fiscal sustainability with civic leaders and community stakeholders.

District Improvement Plan Goals

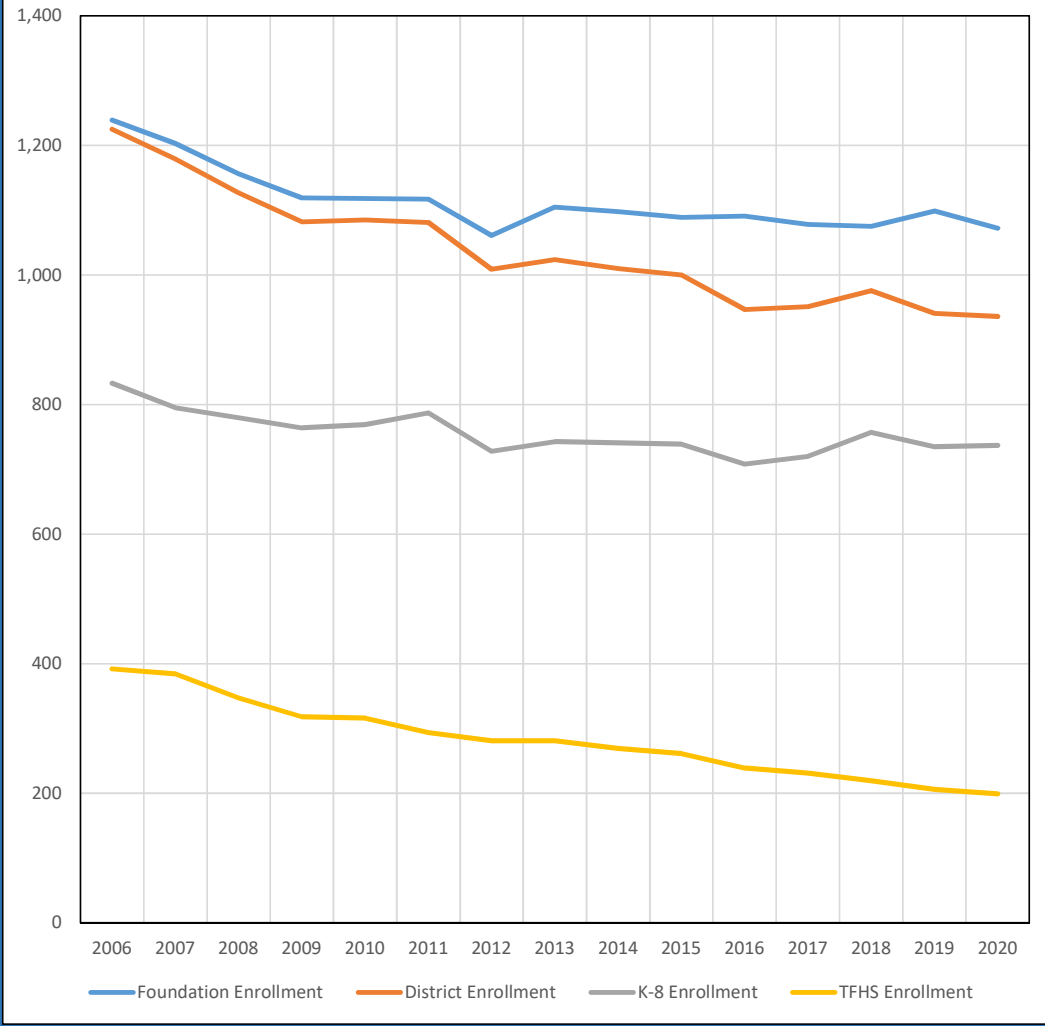
1. Instructional Practice
2. Social and Emotional Learning
3. Teaching for Diversity
4. Curriculum Development
5. Community Engagement

(We won't review these again tonight)

District Enrollment Trends

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Foundation Enrollment	1,239	1,203	1,156	1,119	1,118	1,117	1,061	1,105	1,098	1,089	1,091	1,078	1,075	1,099	1072
District Enrollment	1,225	1,179	1,127	1,082	1,085	1,081	1,009	1,024	1,010	1,000	947	951	976	941	936
K-8 Enrollment	833	795	780	764	769	787	728	743	741	739	708	720	757	735	737
TFHS Enrollment	392	384	347	318	316	294	281	281	269	261	239	231	219	206	199

GMRSD Enrollment History



District Enrollment Trends & Associated Revenues and Expenses

GMRSD Enrollment Trends (2019-12-30)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Resident students (1)	1,282	1,269	1,223	1,224	1,287	1,279	
Resident students attending private or homeschools (2)	77	81	65	76	97	104	?
Resident students attending Franklin County Technical H.S. (2)	75	71	65	66	82	96	117
Resident students who choiced-out (3)	195	225	239	221	234	246	237
Resident students to charter schools (3)	63	66	69	68	62	57	64
Resident students enrolled in district (4)	872	826	785	793	812	776	784
Tuition students from Erving (5)	58	68	67	54	56	63	69
School choice-in students (3)	80	106	95	104	110	102	83
Total students enrolled in district (5)	1,010	1,000	947	951	978	941	936
Associated Revenues and Expenses	FY14 ⁽⁶⁾	FY15 ⁽⁶⁾	FY16 ⁽⁶⁾	FY17 ⁽⁶⁾	FY18 ⁽⁶⁾	FY19 ⁽⁶⁾	FY20 ⁽⁷⁾
Cost to district of Choice-Out Students	1,104,471	1,398,346	1,502,528	1,505,078	1,712,180	1,484,323	
Cost to district of Charter-Out Students (net reimbursement)	838,929	727,827	858,611	895,771	830,755	812,241	
Cost to district of Choice-Out and Charter-Out students	1,943,400	2,126,173	2,361,139	2,400,849	2,542,935	2,296,564	
Revenue gained by Choice-In students	573,815	732,335	803,098	916,527	909,136	817,104	
	1,369,585	1,393,838	1,558,041	1,484,322	1,633,799	1,479,460	

Impact of Improved State Aid

Fiscal Year	Positions Cut or Added	Chapter 70 Aid Increase
2015	-7	\$27,450
2016	-10	\$27,225
2017	3	\$59,975
2018	-5	\$32,340
2019	-2.5	\$32,970
Avg.	-4.3	\$35,992
2020	5.4	\$350,745
2021	9	\$566,710

FY21 Budget Priorities

Increased Chapter 70 Aid may help us do 3 types of things:

1. Increase instructional and support services to students with learning differences (special education, counseling, and academic support)
2. Bring back previously reduced programs/positions
3. Add new programs/positions to improve and compete

Preliminary budget recommends strategic investment of funds across these 3 areas

Student Opportunities Act (SOA)

- 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 will take effect. We project its cost formula changes will increase our Ch. 70 aid by \$566,710 or 8.6%. The new formula provides significant increases related to the following costs: employee benefits, special education, economically disadvantaged students, and English language students.

SOA Obligations

- Legislature Requires District's to Plan – Use Funds to Close Gaps
- Our 2 Biggest Gaps:
 1. In statewide accountability ranking system, the subgroup of white students is quite low: 7th percentile at Sheffield, 8th percentile at GFMS, and 15th percentile at TFHS.
 2. Students with Disabilities: On MCAS, the % of students meeting or exceeding expectations lags behind the all students category by over 20% in almost all grades, across all 3 subjects.

SOA Plans (1 of 2)

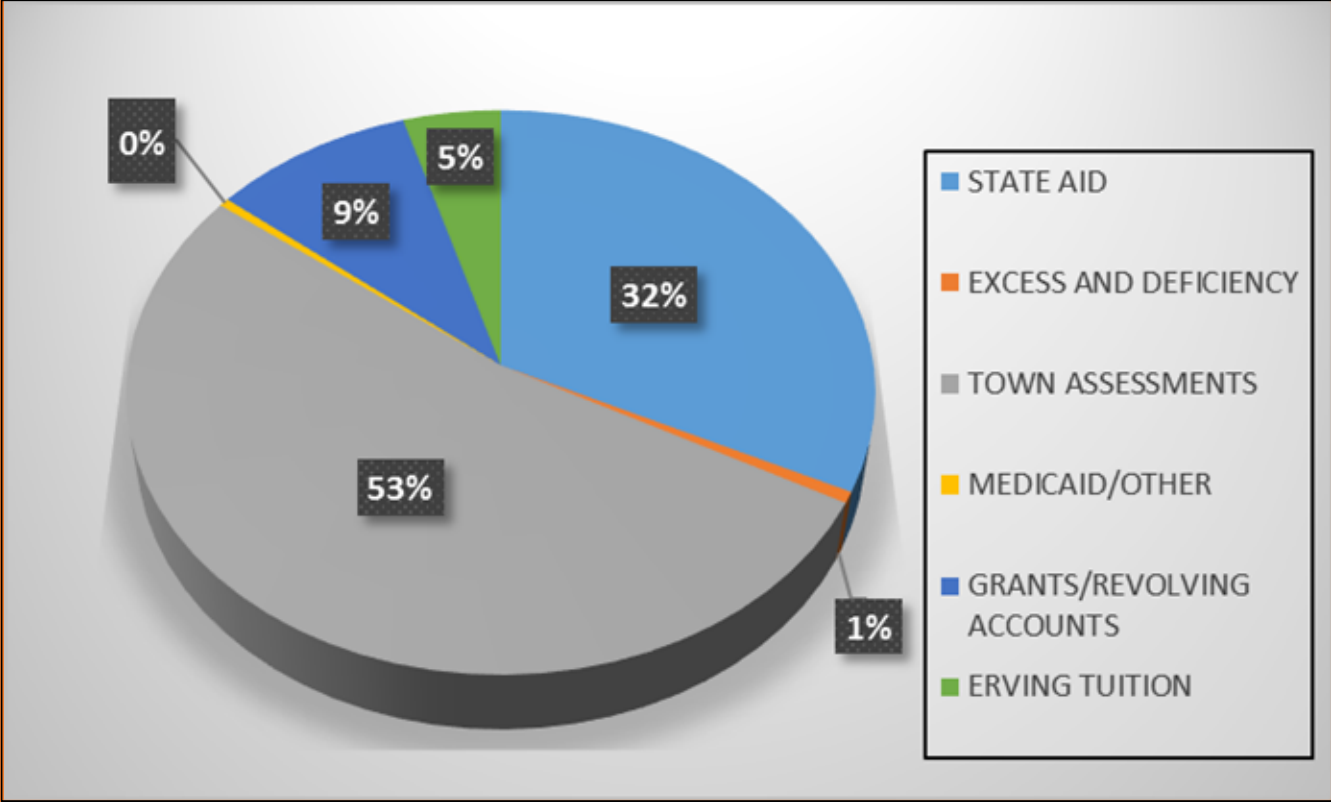
The injection of SOA funds will be help address these gaps as follows:

- Additional reading teacher will increase capacity to provide targeted instruction to IEP students and general ed. students.
- Additional counselor will increase capacity to provide IEP and general ed. students with skills to be socially and emotionally prepared for school tasks.
- Additional 1st grade para-professionals will increase capacity to provide targeted reading and math instruction to small groups.

SOA Plans (2 of 2)

- A new elementary literacy program will be introduced in Fall 2021 to replace one from 2005 which predates ELA standards of the modern era.
- Additional secondary music and health/P.E. teacher will provide more students with enrichment and engaged learning experiences which were cut in the past.
- Family Engagement Coordinator is connecting harder to reach parents and families with school services.

FY 21 Projected Revenues



Revenue Trends

REVENUES	FY17 (Budget)	FY18 (Budget)	FY19 (Budget)	FY20 (Budget)	FY21 (Proposed)
STATE AID	31%	31%	31%	30%	32%
TOWN ASSESSMENTS	49%	51%	52%	53%	53%
GRANTS/REVOLVING	11%	11%	12%	12%	10%
ERVING TUITION	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%
EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
MEDICAID/OTHER	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%
TOTAL BUDGET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FY 21 Projected Revenues

REVENUES	FY17 Budget	FY18 Budget	FY19 Budget	FY20 Budget	FY21 Projected	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	
CHAPTER 70 STATE AID	6,114,489	6,177,674	6,211,590	6,441,443	7,135,439	693,996	11%
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	500,000	530,000	200,000	200,000	150,000	(50,000)	-49%
MEDICAID CONTRA ACCOUNT					(47,000)	(47,000)	
INTEREST INCOME	3,300	3,300	4,000	4,500	6,000	1,500	33%
EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY	300,000	190,000	100,000	150,000	150,000	0	0%
ERVING TUITION	900,000	770,000	805,000	940,000	1,088,800	148,800	16%
CHARTER REIMBURSEMENT	200,000	200,000	121,659	54,183	159,379	105,196	194%
CHAPTER 71 TRANSP REIMB	300,000	316,100	301,765	270,000	349,600	79,600	29%
TOWNS' OPERATING ASSESSMENTS	10,293,621	10,772,099	11,232,240	11,669,848	12,256,156	586,308	5%
CAPITAL DEBT ASSESSMENT (HS)	151,515	147,053	142,538	137,970	133,350	(4,620)	-3%
CAPITAL DEBT ASSESSMENT (Shef)		68,145	66,552	64,914	63,276	(1,638)	-3%
GRANTS/REVOLVING ACCOUNTS	1,513,414	1,512,122	1,489,956	1,427,991	1,289,517	(138,474)	-10%
CIRCUIT BREAKER REVOLVING	176,426	177,494	248,238	306,500	304,370	(2,130)	-1%
SCHOOL CHOICE REVOLVING	705,332	763,950	825,152	875,523	656,881	(218,642)	-25%
TOTAL BUDGET	21,158,097	21,627,936	21,748,690	22,542,872	23,695,768	1,152,896	5.1%
Change from prior year	705,736	469,840	120,754	794,182	1,152,896		

FY 21 Revenue Assumptions

Chapter 70 increase of \$566,710 over FY20 actual and \$693,996 over FY20 budget. Due mostly to anticipated aid increases under the new Student Opportunities Act	\$ 693,996
Erving tuition increase based upon a projected enrollment increase from 67 to 71	\$ 148,800
The combined towns' operating assessment increase is 5%, informed by Montague's affordable assessment determination	\$ 586,308
Increased Chapter 71 reimbursement - We added a bus back to our routes in FY20	\$ 79,600
Increased Charter School reimbursement - due to projected increase in students attending charter schools	\$ 159,379
Decreased Medicaid reimbursement - due to legal changes in what constitute reimbursable expenses	\$ (97,000)
Decreased grants/revolving accounts available - Including a \$50,000 Title I grant decrease in FY20 and a Food Service revenue decline of \$70,000 in FY19	\$ (138,474)
A planned decrease use of school choice revolving funds due to a projected decline in choice enrollment and revenues	\$ (218,642)

Chapter 70 State Aid

Chapter 70 Aid Components	Row Labels	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Foundation Enrollment		1,078	1,099	1,072	1,074
Foundation Budget	A	11,605,184	12,227,503	12,729,673	13,375,838
Minimum Contribution	B	6,037,197	6,132,607	6,160,944	6,247,928
Chapter 70 Calculation	C = A-B	5,567,987	6,094,896	6,568,729	7,127,910
Hold Harmless Aid	D	617,027	123,088	0	0
Chapter 70 Actual Amount	E = C+D	6,185,014	6,217,984	6,568,729	7,135,439

Montague's Affordable Assessment Calculation

Net Tax Levy	19,483,503	
Less: Total Excluded Debt	<u>(1,165,193)</u>	
Available Levy	<u>18,318,310</u>	18,318,310
Net State Aid - Less Offsets		1,795,836
Local Receipts (excise, stickers, etc.)		1,429,876
Use of Free Cash		
Kearsarge for Operating		80,793
Sources Avail. for Operating Budgets		<u>21,624,815</u>
GMRSD Operations Allocation (48.5% of Sources Available)	10,488,035	
GMRSD share of Excluded Debt	123,615	
GMRSD Sheffield Window Debt	63,276	
Total Affordable Assessment	<u>10,674,926</u>	

Town Assessment Calculations

FY21 Assessments	Minimum contribution	Enrollment	Above Minimum	Transport. Assess.	Total Operating Assess.	Operating Assess. Increase	% Increase	Share of HS Debt	Debt Assess.	Total Operating & Debt Assessment
Montague	5,239,247	87.36%	4,887,151	361,637	10,488,035	452,214	4.51%	92.70%	186,891	10,674,926
Gill	1,008,681	12.64%	707,115	52,325	1,768,121	134,094	8.21%	7.30%	9,735	1,777,856
Total Assess.	6,247,928		5,594,266	413,962	12,256,156	586,308	5.02%		196,626	12,452,782

Historical Town Assessments

Montague	FY16 Assessment	FY17 Assessment	FY18 Assessment	FY19 Assessment	FY20 Assessment	FY21 Affordable Assessment	\$ Change	% Change
Operating	8,361,116	8,718,629	9,155,656	9,612,618	10,035,821	10,488,035	452,214	4.51%
Capital	137,227	133,485	200,904	198,542	193,916	186,891	(7,025)	
Total Assessment	8,498,343	8,852,113	9,356,560	9,811,160	10,229,737	10,674,926	445,189	
Assess. Change	2.59%	4.28%	5.01%	4.86%	4.27%	4.35%		
Gill	FY16 Assessment	FY17 Assessment	FY18 Assessment	FY19 Assessment	FY20 Assessment	Gill's FY21 Assessment	\$ Change	% Change
Operating	1,566,029	1,574,992	1,616,443	1,619,622	1,634,027	1,768,121	134,094	8.21%
Capital	18,908	18,030	14,294	10,548	8,968	9,735	767	
Total Assessment	1,584,937	1,593,023	1,630,737	1,630,170	1,642,995	1,777,856	134,861	
Assess. Change	8.65%	0.57%	2.63%	-0.03%	0.79%	8.21%		
Total Anticipated Operating Assessment Increase:							586,308	5.02%

Circuit Breaker Revolving Acct. Activity

Year	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Ending Balance
FY16	17,513	229,501	(153,095)	93,919
FY17	93,919	224,974	(202,711)	116,182
FY18	116,182	274,098	(221,425)	168,855
FY19	168,855	286,710	(172,511)	283,054
FY20 Projected	283,054	267,897	(306,500)	244,451
FY21 Projected	244,451	304,370	(304,370)	244,451

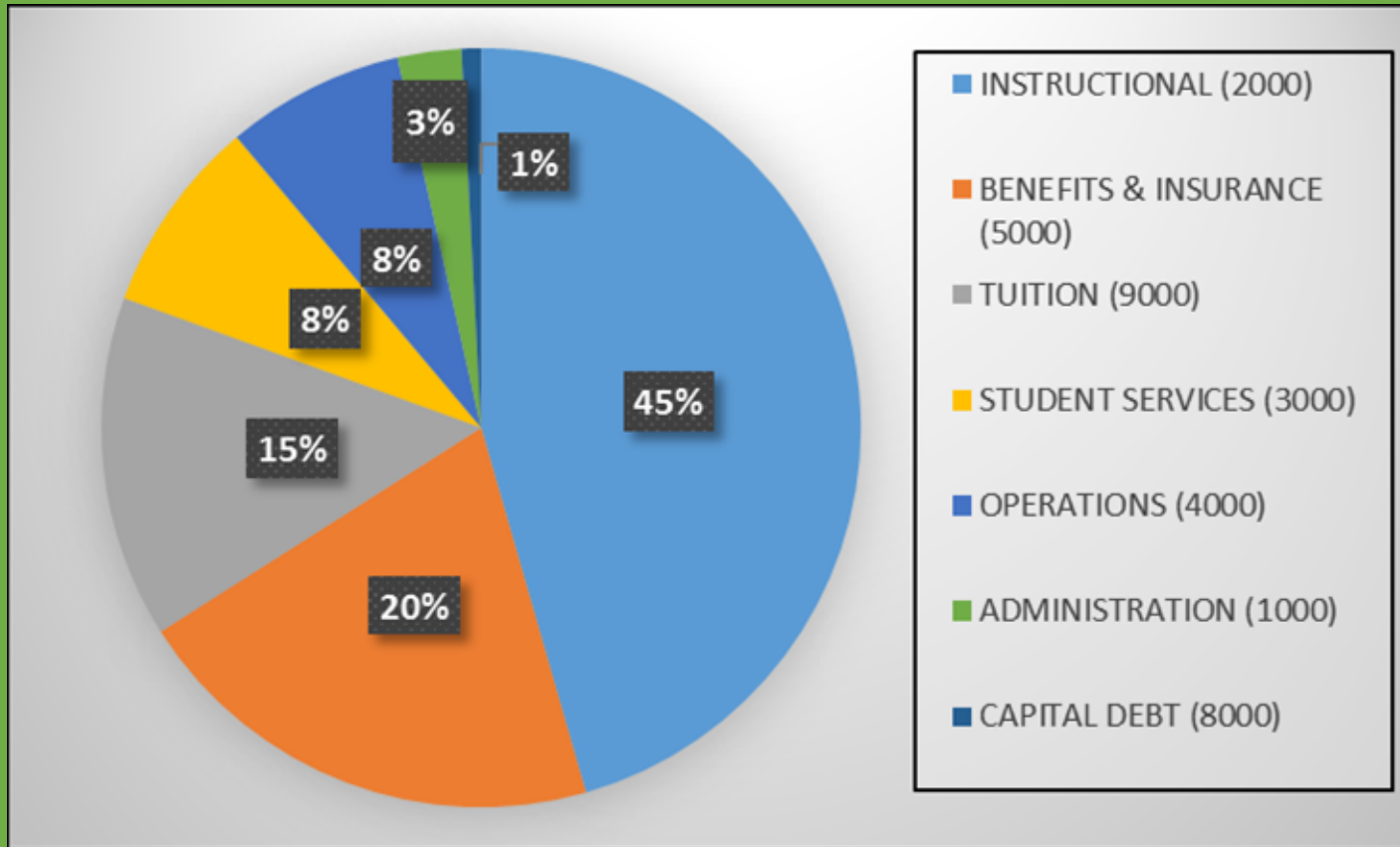
School Choice Revolving Acct. Activity

Year	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Ending Balance
FY16	471,799	803,098	(654,666)	620,231
FY17	620,231	909,984	(826,705)	703,510
FY18	703,510	900,570	(828,576)	775,504
FY19	775,504	817,104	(772,946)	819,662
FY20 Projected	819,662	666,821	(875,523)	610,960
FY21 Projected	610,960	656,881	(656,881)	610,960

Excess and Deficiency Activity

Certified E&D		E&D Annual Contribution		E&D used to reduce assessments	
7/1/2014	\$741,221	FY15	\$227,530	FY16	\$400,000
7/1/2015	\$568,751	FY16	\$121,733	FY17	\$300,000
7/1/2016	\$390,484	FY17	\$134,420	FY18	\$190,000
7/1/2017	\$334,904	FY18	\$3,479	FY19	\$100,000
7/1/2018	\$238,383	FY19	\$334,051	FY20	\$150,000
7/1/2019	\$557,434	FY20	\$180,000 <i>(projected)</i>	FY21	\$150,000 <i>(proposed)</i>
7/1/2020	\$587,434 <i>(projected)</i>	FY21			

FY21 Projected Expenditures



Expenditure Trends

Trends in Major Expenditures	FY17 Budget	FY18 Budget	FY19 Budget	FY20 Budget	FY21 Proposal
Wages	51%	50%	50%	50%	51%
Benefits	19%	20%	20%	19%	19%
Choice & Charter Tuitions	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%
Operations/Utilities	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
All Other Expenditures	14%	14%	15%	16%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FY18 Expenditures Peer Group

Gill Montague

Total Number Of Students: 935
Average Household Income: \$51,403

Winchendon

Total Number Of Students: 1,265
Average Household Income: \$59,332
Distance: 26.4 miles

Gateway

Total Number Of Students: 825
Average Household Income: \$65,370
Distance: 25.9 miles

Greenfield

Total Number Of Students: 1,732
Average Household Income: \$48,493
Distance: 4.6 miles

Palmer

Total Number Of Students: 1,335
Average Household Income: \$51,846
Distance: 27.4 miles

Ware

Total Number Of Students: 1,189
Average Household Income: \$49,630
Distance: 23.9 miles

Adams Cheshire

Total Number Of Students: 1,161
Average Household Income: \$45,295
Distance: 31.8 miles

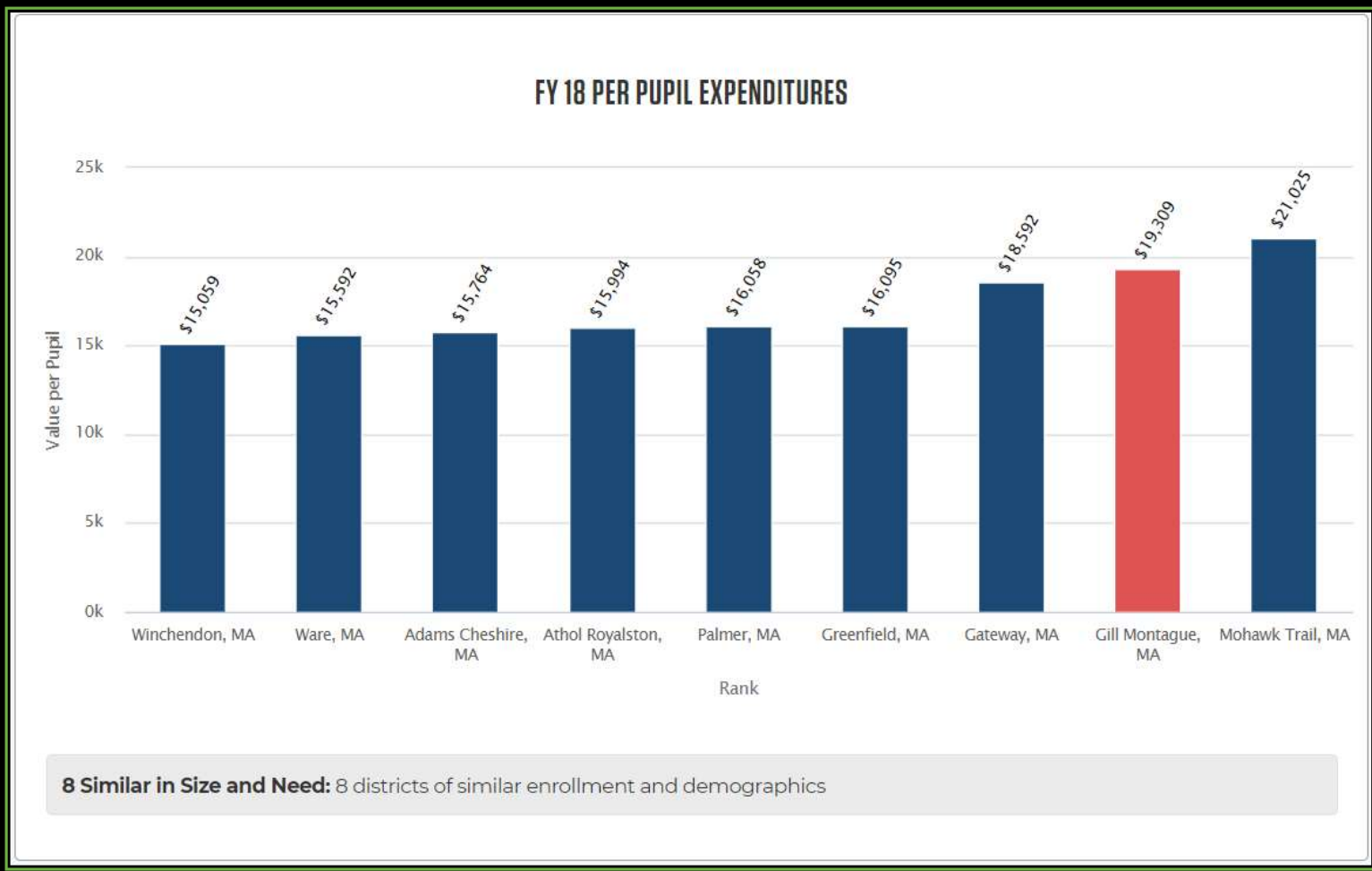
Athol Royalston

Total Number Of Students: 1,453
Average Household Income: \$47,960
Distance: 16.0 miles

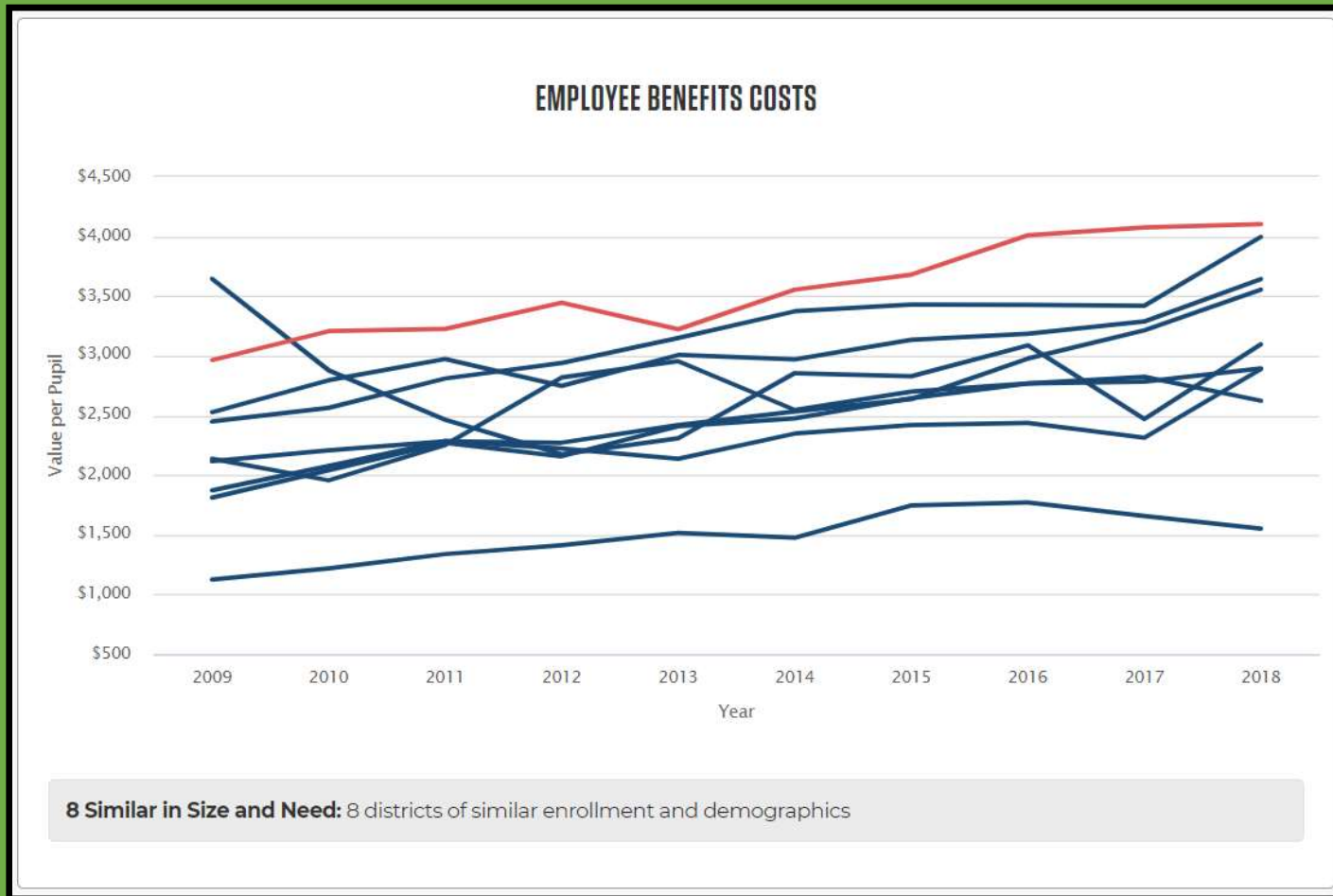
Mohawk Trail

Total Number Of Students: 904
Average Household Income: \$55,642
Distance: 8.6 miles

FY18 Peer Group Expenditure Comparison



GM Spending Compared to Peers



INSURANCE FOR RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES PER STUDENT

\$1,067

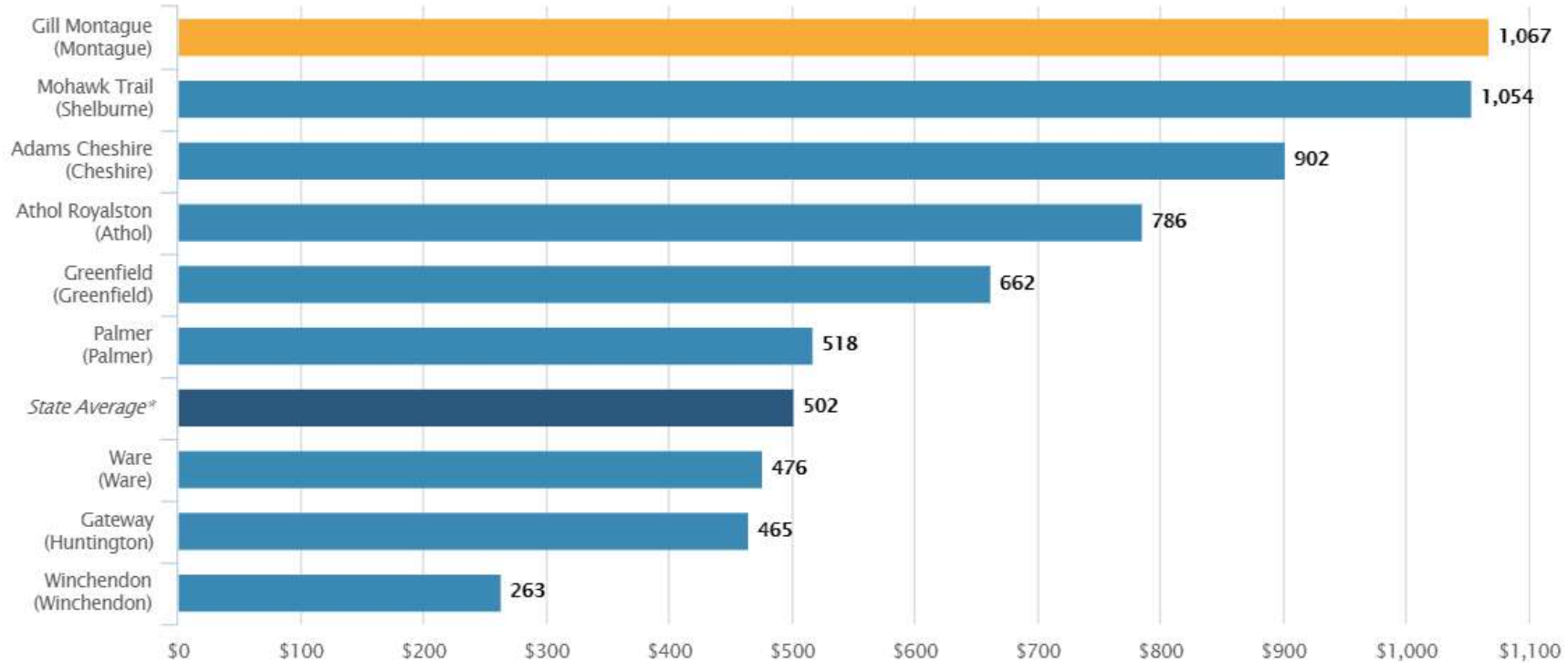
▲ 67% HIGHER THAN SIMILAR DISTRICTS

Change Peer Group

8 Similar in Size and Need

8 districts of similar enrollment and demographics

RANKING: **16** out of **304** districts



Teacher Salary Peer Comparisons

Bachelors	GMRSD	Average	Pioneer	Greenfield	Mohawk	Adams Cheshire	Gateway	Ware	Athol Royalston
Low	42,049	42,467	41,457	44,223	41,138	40,004	43,132	46,793	40,943
High	66,735	65,159	67,573	67,249	61,188	58,853	58,511	68,902	72,264
Masters Degree									
Low	45,389	45,090	43,205	46,085	43,421	40,563	47,046	49,564	45,447
High	69,002	70,351	68,263	71,366	66,331	72,241	65,614	73,834	76,154
M+30									
Low	47,122	47,850	44,073	48,389	46,570	43,281	51,712	52,116	49,540
High	69,994	73,481	69,634	75,364	71,938	74,711	69,811	79,424	76,973
Above M+30									
Low	47,895	49,278	44,515	N/A	N/A	44,212	54,814	54,079	50,155
High	72,970	76,146	71,569	N/A	N/A	80,018	74,000	80,733	77,587
Avg Tchr Salary DESE FY18	61,785		59,813	62,149	76,502	82,426	61,874	63,664	64,604

FY 21 Projected Expenditures

BUDGET SUMMARY (all funds)

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	Change	
	Approved	Approved	Approved	Proposed	\$	%
ADMINISTRATION (1000)	648,044	669,519	628,654	642,851	14,197	2.3%
INSTRUCTIONAL (2000)	9,681,722	9,649,841	10,018,059	10,678,126	660,067	6.6%
STUDENT SERVICES (3000)	1,891,933	2,031,384	2,076,500	1,978,465	(98,035)	-4.7%
OPERATIONS (4000)	1,612,391	1,522,121	1,703,903	1,781,054	77,151	4.5%
BENEFITS & INSURANCE (5000)	4,395,157	4,357,053	4,395,372	4,864,424	469,052	10.7%
COMMUNITY PROGRAM (6000)	0	0	0	25,563	25,563	--
CAPITAL DEBT (8000)	215,197	209,090	202,884	196,626	(6,258)	-3.1%
TUITION (9000)	3,183,493	3,309,681	3,517,500	3,528,659	11,159	0.3%
Total Budget	21,627,937	21,748,689	22,542,872	23,695,768	1,152,896	5.1%
Total projected increase	469,840	120,752	794,183	1,152,896		

FY 21 Large Expenditure Changes

Benefits and Insurance	Assumes health insurance premium increase of 3% and 5 additional retirees/staff. Insurance estimates are based on plan enrollments at November, 2019. Associated increases of \$134,000.
Benefits and Insurance	Property and liability insurance: 18% increase based on a few large claims (Gill flood). Associated increases of \$21,000
Benefits and Insurance	Workers Comp: 10% increase based on insurance company estimates due to recent claim history. Increase of \$12,000.
Benefits and Insurance	All units, with the exception of the custodians, had contracts expire on June 30, 2019. The estimated cost of negotiated salary increases for all bargaining units and administrators is \$220,000 for FY21.
Benefits and Insurance	Town retirement assessment increased by 7% for FY21. Typically this is approximately 24% -25% of total salaries. This year it is equal to approximately 27.2% of salaries (non-Teacher Retirement employees) with an increase of \$43,474
Benefits and Insurance	Potential Retirements: An increase of \$38,000 in retirement payouts.

FY 21 Large Expenditure Changes

Administration	Shift of \$5,500 for software from other budget lines. Salary increases in central office.
Instructional	New positions: \$380,000 for 9 new positions: reading teacher, counselor, special ed. teacher, 1st grade paras, phys e.d./health teacher and music/theater teacher.
Instructional	Adjustment counselor increases of 0.4 FTE at Hillcrest and 0.6 FTE at secondary level were added after the FY20 budget was approved. Associated cost of \$64,000.
Instructional	Postpone new elementary ELA curriculum. Reduce textbook expenditures by \$22,094 from FY2020 (when we purchased elementary math curriculum).
Student Services	Food Services and Athletics budgets need to be decreased to reflect recent actual expenditures
Operations	Utilities increases of \$20,000. Addition of custodial hours and staffing changes \$36,000. Increase of \$20,000 in payments to outside vendors for work on buildings and grounds.
Community Program	Community engagement coordinator position was added after the FY20 budget was approved at a cost of \$23,463
Tuition	School choice tuitions decrease of \$100,000 due to a projected decrease in students choosing out. Special education tuitions increase of \$26,000 and Charter tuition increase of \$20,000

FY21 New Position Requests

Position Requested	FTE	Cost Estimate	School	Rationale
Reading Teacher	1.0	\$60,000	Gill, Hillcrest, Sheffield	Gill: Increase reading teacher position from two days a week (0.4 FTE) to full time (1.0 FTE). Hill/Shef: Increase reading teacher FTEs from 3.6 to 4.0. These increases will allow more students to receive intensive reading instruction. We anticipate that this increase will also reduce some special education service needs.
Special Education Teacher	1.0	\$60,000	Sheffield	Provide pull-out academic instruction to some students in the therapeutic program. We have been trying to fill this position in current year. (This move will also enable a shift of a second para professional to support grade 2/3 IEP students.)
Adjustment Counselor	1.0	\$60,000	Gill, Sheffield	Gill: Increase counseling from 2 to 5 days per week. This person will be present at Gill 5 days a week (a 0.6 FTE addition). Sheffield: Increase counseling from 3 to 4 days a week for the second counselor. This person will be present at Sheffield 5 days week (a 0.4 FTE addition).
First Grade Para-professionals	4.0	\$80,000	Hillcrest and Gill	Provide additional instruction, especially when the classroom teacher works with small groups, and also support the development of students' social and emotional learning skills.
Secondary Music/Theater teacher	1.0	\$60,000	Middle/ High School	Provide music education to all middle school students, expand band and chorus across secondary grades, provide theater education course(s). (Will also allow middle school reading and math support teachers to work with smaller numbers of high need students.)
High School P.E./Health Teacher	1.0	60,000	High School	Provide additional sections of physical education and health at the high school, including a health course tailored to meet the needs of a new Innovations Pathway Program.
Total	9.0	\$380,000		

Preliminary Budget Summary

Summary of FY21 Budget Requests	FY21 Budget Requests - All Funds	FY20 Budget	Change	
Estimated budget with no new positions	23,315,768			
New Position Requests	<u>380,000</u>			
Total Projected Expenditures	23,695,768	22,542,872	1,152,896	5.1%
Total Projected Revenues	<u>23,695,768</u>			
(deficit)/surplus	<u>0</u>			

Next Steps

- January 21 – Special School Committee budget review meeting
- January 22 – Anticipated release of Governor’s FY 21 state budget
- January 28 – School Committee vote on preliminary budget
- February 11 – School Committee budget hearing
- February 26 – Budget presentation to towns’ finance committees
- March 10 – School Committee budget vote
- May 2 - Montague Town Meeting
- May 4 ? - Gill Town Meeting