



# SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420

To: Salem School Families  
From: Sean Reith, BOE Chairman and Brian Hendrickson, Superintendent  
Date: April 26, 2024  
Subject: Budget Update

This communication is being sent to provide families and staff with an update on the 2024-25 budget process.

On Wednesday, April 10th, the Board of Finance held a Public Hearing on the budget. This meeting was then followed by a regular meeting of the Board of Finance the next day, Thursday, April 11th. As a result of both meetings, a reduction of \$250,000.00 from the Board of Education's proposed budget request was made to the Salem School District budget for the 2024-25 school year. This reduction was in addition to a previous reduction of \$90,000.00 taking the total amount of Board of Finance reductions to \$340,000.00.

This past Tuesday, April 23rd, the Board of Education Subcommittee met and discussed the potential programming impact of the recent Board of Finance reduction. Unfortunately, the areas that will most likely be impacted are below:

- **New Student Behavior Management Program** - this is a new program designed for the 24-25 school year and was created based on identified needs of staff, students and families in the area of student behavior. This Special Education program is designed to provide more support to help assist students regulate behaviors within the school setting. This program included a Special Education Teacher and a Registered Behavior Technician trained in managing disruptive student behavior.
- **Class Sizes & Scheduling** - administration will now have to reexamine class sizes and scheduling to ensure that the district is operating as efficiently as possible and is consistent with current class size guidelines. Scheduling across the elementary and middle school may be impacted by stricter adherence to class size guidelines. Additionally, open positions created by retirements may not necessarily be filled if more efficient scheduling can be created - consistent with bargaining group contracts - that has limited to no impact on programming.

Although the Subcommittee did not make any decisions on reductions, we are sharing areas that will most likely be impacted to keep families and staff aware of the impact of the Board of Finance reduction. It is also important for everyone to know that there are still multiple unknown variables that will impact how we make reductions. Unknown variables include current AFSCME (non-certified staff) negotiations, Kindergarten enrollment, and several other contracts with vendors that service the district such as technology. As we manage all of these variables, please know that the Board and the administration are committed to identifying areas for reduction that will have the least amount of impact on programming. To this end, the administration and the Board will be working diligently in the coming months to review all programming and scheduling to ensure we are being as efficient as possible with the hopes that any reductions will be able to be absorbed through attrition and/or more efficient scheduling and programming.

## **Next Steps**

The next step in the budget process is the Town Meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm in the Salem School Multi-Purpose Room. The Town Meeting is then followed by the Town Referendum on the Budget on May 8th at Town Hall.

As always, thank you for your partnership and teamwork as we work to serve the students, families and staff in Salem.

Phone: 860-892-1223

[www.salemschools.org](http://www.salemschools.org)

Fax: 860-859-2130

*"Salem inspires learning, creativity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and citizenship."*