



# Stamford Public Schools 2023-24 Proposed Budget

Superintendent, Dr. Tamu Lucero  
CFO, Ryan Fealey

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# 2023-24 Board of Education Budget Request

<b>2023-24 Superintendent Operating Budget Request</b>	<b>\$313,871,939</b>
<b><i>BOE Adjustments</i></b>	
Clty Healthcare/Workers Comp/Risk Cross-Charge	\$1,089,057
Other Net Reductions	(\$148,100)
<b>2023-24 BOE Approved Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$314,812,896</b>
<b><i>Additional Adjustments</i></b>	
OPEB Cross-Charge	(\$335,158)
<b>Updated Operating Request</b>	<b>\$314,477,738</b>
<b>Updated \$ Increase</b>	<b>\$12,634,196</b>
<b>Updated % Increase</b>	<b>4.19%</b>

# Budget Overview

- The 2023-24 budget request seeks to maintain current programming, while seeking cost savings where appropriate. There is a net reduction in FTE, and there are no new programs that materially increase the budget. The overall budget increase (Operating plus Grants) is **0.19%**, largely due to the expiration of the ESSER II grant.
- The Operating Budget increase of 4.19% is driven by higher costs, especially in healthcare, Out of District tuition, and energy costs.
- Due to these cost pressures, this budget proposes to continue funding the positions currently in ESSER with that same funding source for FY24. If the ESSER positions had been included in the operating budget next year, the budget request would be approximately **7.1%**. In December, Norwalk's BOE approved a **12.7%** increase for 23-24 to account for their "Fiscal Cliff."
- Additional funding has been allocated to address the findings of the curriculum audit (2 Assistant Directors, funding for teacher curriculum committees, curriculum resources).

# Net Reduction in FTE

Object	Category	Change in FTE (Operating)	Change in FTE (Grants)	Net Change in FTE	Note
101	Teachers	(9.4)	(0.7)	(10.1)	Reduce elementary teachers (14.0) based on enrollment projections; reallocate to Special Education and EL (+11.2); Add 4.0 Strawberry Hill 8th grade, 1.0 Strawberry Hill World Language, 2.6 Alternative Ed, Reduce (8.0) Content TOSAs, (2.0) TOSAs reclass to Object 102, Reduce unused contingencies (4.9)
102	Administrative Certified	0.0	5.0	5.0	Add 1.0 Strawberry Hill AP, 4.0 Asst Directors for curriculum support (2 new, 2 reclassified from 101 TOSAs)
103	Teacher Support	3.0	1.0	4.0	Add 3.0 Speech Pathologists (Operating), 1.0 School Psychologist (Grants)
112	Administration - Non Certified Discretionary	1.0	(1.0)	0.0	Add 1.0 BCBA (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst), Reduce (1.0) SPED Data Compliance Specialist
115	Paraeducators	(13.5)	(1.5)	(15.0)	Reduction of (10.0) SPED Paraeducators due to hiring challenges, (6.0) Kindergarten Paras due to enrollment, add 2 New Arrivals Paras, Reduction (1.0) Rogers Instructional Para
<b>Sum</b>		(18.9)	2.8	(16.1)	

# Operating Budget by Major Object

	Description	2022-23 \$	2023-24 \$	Variance \$	Cont %	Note
100	Salaries and Wages	\$182,976,642	\$187,699,139	\$4,722,497	1.56%	Contractual increases, reduction in FTE
200	Employee Benefits	\$48,079,766	\$49,264,733	\$1,184,967	0.39%	10.5% healthcare premium increase, significant declines in projected Pension and OPEB expense
300	Educational, Rehabilitative, and Legal Services	\$10,687,488	\$11,619,032	\$931,544	0.31%	Special Education contracts, T&L curriculum initiatives
400	Building Upkeep and Repair	\$7,822,782	\$8,709,189	\$886,407	0.29%	Increase in electricity and building repair costs
500	Transportation, Out-District Tuition, & Other Svcs	\$43,484,771	\$46,169,782	\$2,685,011	0.89%	Out of District tuition; final year of current transportation contract
600	Supplies, Materials, and Heating Fuels	\$7,996,308	\$9,785,507	\$1,789,199	0.59%	\$1m+ increase in gas heat and bus fuel; curriculum materials
700	Equipment	\$635,069	\$1,058,953	\$423,884	0.14%	\$300,000 for security projects
800	Dues and Fees	\$160,716	\$171,403	\$10,687	0.00%	
<b>Sum</b>		<b>\$301,843,542</b>	<b>\$314,477,738</b>	<b>\$12,634,196</b>	<b>4.19%</b>	

# Contribution by Category

Category	Increase	Contribution	Note
Wages and Benefits	\$5,907,464	1.96%	Decrease in FTE, wage increases per contracts, healthcare increase, significant declines in projected Pension and OPEB expense
SPED Tuition and Pupil Services	\$1,973,007	0.65%	Based on IEP requirements, increase in placement cost
Utility/Fuel Costs	\$1,692,861	0.56%	Significant increase due to market conditions (Global demand for natural gas, low US inventories, New England pipeline capacity)
Other	\$1,242,228	0.41%	Facilities, Transportation, Legal
Curriculum (Textbooks/Software/PD)	\$943,542	0.31%	Several subject areas
Insurance Cross-Charge (City Risk)	\$575,094	0.19%	Projected increase per city risk manager
Security Upgrades	\$300,000	0.10%	District-wide per department recommendation
<b>Sum</b>	<b>\$12,634,196</b>	<b>4.19%</b>	

# ESSER Funds

Grant Name	ESSER I	CRF (Coronavirus Relief Fund)	ESSER II	ESSER III (ARP)
Awarded Date	3/2020	9/2020	2/2021	5/2021
Funds Available Through	9/2022	12/2020	9/2023	9/2024
Amount	\$2,739,520	\$5,357,085	\$14,547,611	\$32,694,812
Use of Funds	PPE, specialized cleaning supplies, part-time custodians, Security Workers, Summer School 2021, \$400k HVAC work	PPE, specialized cleaning supplies, distance learning software, custodial O/T, HVAC repairs, bus sanitizing, Special Education evaluations, coverage for quarantined teachers	To offset operating budget reduction in FY22 and 23; Parent Facilitators, Tech Specialists, Restorative Support Facilitators, Classroom Teachers, PPE, Summer School 2021, Security Workers, K Paras, \$1.3m HVAC work	Recovery Academy, Acceleration Coaches, SEL Programs, Summer School Enrichment, Capital Projects (HVAC Piping/Automation/Ventilation), Year 3 of Tech Specialists, Parent Facilitators, Restorative Support Facilitators, K Paras
Funds Used 2020-21	\$333,353	\$5,357,085	\$0	\$0
Funds Used 2021-22	\$2,406,167	\$0	\$6,758,698	\$4,677,208
Estimated Expenses 2022-23	\$0	\$0	\$7,788,913	\$7,385,900
Budget 2023-24	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,631,704

**Note: \$10m in ESSER III allocated for capital projects 2022-2024 not included in figures above**

# BOE Operating Budget 10 Year History

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
BOE Operating Budget	\$248,574,216	\$255,113,422	\$263,903,563	\$269,736,292	\$272,790,679	\$283,069,806	\$285,555,203	\$293,586,146	\$301,843,542	\$314,477,738
BOE Requested Increase	2.93%	3.93%	4.98%	3.58%	1.48%	5.03%	6.52%	6.34%	4.56%	4.19%
BOF/BOR Approved Increase	1.43%	2.63%	3.45%	2.21%	1.13%	3.77%	0.88%	2.81%	2.81%	?
% Change CPI-U	1.66%	-0.03%	1.46%	2.23%	2.28%	1.71%	1.37%	5.39%	8.20%	?

8-Year CAGR BOE		2.46%	Assumes 4.19% for 2023-24
8-Year CAGR CPI-U		2.80%	
9-Year CAGR BOE		2.65%	

**Note:** CPI-U is as of September

**Source:** [https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/data/consumerpriceindexhistorical\\_us\\_table.htm](https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/data/consumerpriceindexhistorical_us_table.htm)



# BOE Operating FTE 10 Year History

BOE FTE History Operating											
	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24 (Budget)	Var FY15 vs FY24
Teachers	1354.5	1350.6	1373.8	1366.6	1382.1	1397.8	1354.3	1356.1	1384.4	1378	23.5
Administrators	65.9	66.4	68.4	69.4	73.3	70.3	69.5	75.7	97.7	98.7	32.8
Clerical	80.4	71.4	81.4	79.9	80.7	80.7	80.7	81.7	82.7	82.7	2.3
Paraeducators	359	332	331	363	377	382	353	346	345.5	332	(27.0)
Custodial	154	153	155	153	153	153	146	151	151	151	(3.0)
Other	37	36.5	39.5	39.5	41.5	47.5	35	37	26	26	(11.0)
<b>Sum</b>	<b>2050.8</b>	<b>2009.9</b>	<b>2049.1</b>	<b>2071.4</b>	<b>2107.6</b>	<b>2131.3</b>	<b>2038.5</b>	<b>2047.5</b>	<b>2087.3</b>	<b>2068.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>

**Note:** 20.0 of 32.8 FTE Administrator increase is due to a re-class of certain personnel (HR, Facilities, Public Affairs, BCBA) from “Other” category

Grant FTE Change FY15 vs FY24 (Budget)	
Teachers	112.8
Administrators	13.7
Clerical	1.1
Paraeducators (Kindergarten and Special Education)	53.0
Custodial	0.0
Other (Security Workers/Parent Facilitators)	50.0
<b>Sum</b>	<b>230.6</b>

# 2-Year Budget Plan (FY24/FY25)

- Primary projected budget considerations for FY25 are ESSER-funded positions, healthcare, and transportation.
- The Superintendent is working with staff and other stakeholders to compile a Master Staffing Plan to assist in budget construction for FY25 and beyond. This Plan will consider all positions, not just those currently funded by ESSER.
- The variables displayed below would lead to a requested increase of 6.7% for FY25. With a 4.19% increase in FY24 and a 6.7% increase in FY25, the 10-year operating budget growth trend would still barely be above 3%.

	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Prior FY Operating Budget</b>	\$314,477,738
<b>2.8% Base Increase (Not Incl Below Items)</b>	\$7,116,621
<b>ESSER Positions</b>	\$8,497,500
<b>Healthcare (7%)</b>	\$2,649,637
<b>Transportation (12%)</b>	\$2,790,979
<b>Sum</b>	\$335,532,475
<b>% Increase</b>	6.70%
<b>10-Year CAGR BOE (Assumes 4.19% for FY24 and 6.70% for FY25)</b>	3.05%

# HB 5003

- Proposed bill would fully fund the state's Education Cost Sharing program by FY25 as opposed to FY28. Benefit to Stamford variously estimated at \$5 - \$7.5m
- Stamford's total budgeted ECS allocation for FY24 is about \$17m: \$8m goes directly to the city, and \$9m goes directly to the BOE as the Alliance Grant
- Per CT Gen Stat § 10-262u (2012), any increase in ECS funds for Stamford (or any other Alliance district) is allocated to the BOE as additional Alliance grant funds