

Hello,

I am a Stamford resident and parent. I am also a teacher in a nearby district.

The proposed Budget for 2025-2026 must be the floor and not the ceiling for your discussions. I can compare Stamford schools to the district in which I work and I see a marked difference in the services and support offered to students and teachers. This affects curriculum, instruction, behavior, social/emotional health, and test scores. Funding our schools is one of your most vital responsibilities. Our children are the future of our community and democracy. We need well-educated and well-rounded students and humans on this planet. If you cut our schools, less people will want to move to our town and more people will move out.

I feel strongly about all of your budget cut considerations, including the following:

- I have seen Kindergarten behaviors increase since Covid. The Kindergarten Paras are necessary to keep our kids SAFE.
- The fact that there is a consideration to cut Assistant Principal jobs is, quite bluntly, absurd. A short and nonexhaustive list of the role of an Assistant Principal includes the following: Supports delivery of high-quality instruction and teacher professional learning; Evaluates teachers and provides feedback; Mentors and disciplines students; Oversees school operations, culture, safety and morale; Fosters family connections and support; Coordinates and leads Special Education meetings, services and IEP compliance. How can you possibly consider cutting Assistant Principals? Their responsibilities will simply get pushed onto the Principal and other teachers, who are already incredibly overloaded with to-dos.
- **HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY CONSIDER REDUCTIONS IN SECURITY STAFF WITH THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN OUR COUNTRY?!**
- The consideration of cutting electives in both elementary and secondary school just saddens me. We know that some but not all kids love math. Some kids find joy in reading, but not all. Some kids love PE, but not all. We have kids who love art or music, but some who do not. There are children who love learning new languages, or planting in a garden, or dance, or technology. Our job is to nourish the talents in all our children by giving them exposure to a variety of academic and elective options. We want well-rounded and interesting people!?
- And then you want to reduce Teachers on Special Assignment, some of whom support our amazing teachers with the HUGE job they have? When do teachers get real, in the classroom, transferable support?
- You are considering cutting Advanced Learning and/or IB Programming- yet your advanced learners and IB schools are the highest performing in the city? This makes no sense.

Please appropriately fund Stamford Public Schools by **increasing** the budget for 2025-2026. Our children are our city and humanity's future. There is no more important item on which to spend our money.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

-Julia Haas-Godsil