



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Greenfield School Committee

Priorities & Guidance for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Development

"The Greenfield Public School District is a place where every child is supported on their path to success."

Overview

This document provides the community with information about the School Committee's priorities for the Fiscal Year 2026 School Department Budget. It is also designed to provide guidance to the Superintendent of Schools and the School Department administration regarding the development of its initial Fiscal Year 2026 School Department Budget proposal.

For FY26, we look forward to a renewal and refresh of our Strategic Priorities as we plan ahead with optimism. With this context we set forth the following budget priorities and guidance for development of the FY26 annual operating budget.

Priorities

The initial FY26 School Department Budget proposal shall include resources to address each of the following priorities that the School Committee has set:

1. *Curriculum and Instruction*

- To continue to fund and support the ELA and math high-quality instructional materials recently adopted by the District, such as, CKLA/Amplify, Eureka Squared, Illustrative Math
- To review and if necessary, revise, the district-wide SEL curriculum
- To maintain and potentially expand art and music opportunities districtwide
- To maintain and potentially expand opportunities for activities, assemblies, or programs aligned with grade-level standards and curriculum units
- To invest in and adopt high-quality instructional materials for K-5 science.
- To invest in and adopt the ELLevation platform to support English-language learners
- To provide foreign language instruction at GMS

2. *Staffing/Volunteers*

- To maintain a level of staffing needed to continue to provide small and educationally appropriate class sizes
- To consider additional resources that may be necessary to fill needs for substitute teachers
- To increase and support parent and community volunteers in the district

3. *Professional Development*

- To provide needed resources to support staff in teaching our English learner population
- To explore investments advancing the district's commitment to the core value of equity, particularly as it works to advance anti-racism throughout our school communities.
- To invest in restorative practices through professional development for administrators, teachers and instructional assistants, and through related programming for students
- To support our SEPAC in developing parents' capacity for understanding their rights in special education and our ELPAC in supporting parents of English language learners

4. *Transportation*

- To consider additional transportation resources to support sports and extracurricular events, as well as to increase accessibility for parent engagement in related district groups and events.

Assumptions & Guidance

It is assumed that the initial FY26 School Department Budget proposal will:

1. Provide adequate resources to meet all legal mandates required of the school district
2. Reflect the terms of collective bargaining agreements and other contractual obligations
3. Provide sufficient resources to maintain a) the existing educational programs and b) staffing levels necessary to meet mandates and priorities
4. Utilize the best available information to project changes in costs (such as tuition) and revenues (such as state funding through the Chapter 70 and Circuit Breaker programs, grants, etc.)
5. Estimate level funding for all federal and state grants and plan for the continuation of programs or services, as desired
6. Examine ways to reduce or shift costs in order to achieve district priorities without requiring additional funding allocations wherever possible
7. Align with Greenfield School Committee policy DBD Budget Planning by:
 - a. ensuring the educational welfare of the children in our schools while attempting to balance the valid interest of taxpayers
 - b. achieving the greatest educational returns and contributions to the educational program for dollars expended, and
 - c. establishing levels of funding that will provide high-quality education for all students.