

# Washington School District FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget

Annual School District Meeting  
March 9, 2024

# Article 1

- Election of Officers
  - Two School Board Members for 3-year terms
  - One Moderator for 1-year term
  - One Clerk for 1-year term
  - One Treasurer for 1-year term

Presenter - Eric

Arin Mills and Danielle Moore are finishing their terms

## Article 2

- Accept the reports of agents, auditors and committees or officers

Presenter - Danielle

## Article 3

- Compensation of School Board and other Officers
  - School Board Chair \$750
  - School Board Members \$500
  - School District Clerk \$75
  - School District Treasurer \$500
  - School District Moderator \$100

Presenter – Laura

Article 3 is to set compensation for these positions. There is no change from last year

## Article 4

- Washington School District  
Operating Budget - \$2,884,594
  - For support of the schools, payment of salaries and statutory obligations

Presenter – Arin

This doesn't include any special warrant articles except for compensation of the School Board and other Officers as listed in Article 3.

The other special warrant articles are for the SAU services and expendable trust funds.

## Budget Summary

• Proposed FY 2025 Budget	\$2,884,594
o Washington Apportionment of SAU Budget	\$172,376
• Proposed Budget Including SAU	\$3,056,970
• FY 2024 Budget Including SAU	\$3,017,427
• Proposed Increase	\$39,543
o Percent Increase	1.31%

The total increase including the SAU portion of the budget between FY2024 and FY2025 is \$39,543 or 1.31%

Without the SAU apportionment, the proposed budget is increasing \$32,613 or 1.14%

# Budget Key Factors

• <b>Transportation Increase</b>	<b>+ \$65,244</b>	<b>32.6%</b>
○ SpEd transportation based on student needs (\$55K)		
○ Contract increase for routine, daily transportation (\$10.2K)		
• <b>Health Insurance Rate Increase</b>	<b>+ \$41,403</b>	<b>35.4%</b>
○ 17.8% Premium increase		
• <b>Salary Increase</b>	<b>+ \$28,967</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
○ Reflects current staff & cost of living increase		
• <b>General Education Tuition Decrease</b>	<b>-( \$95,593)</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>
○ Lower number of projected High School students		

These are the most significant drivers and net to an increase of \$40,021. The actual increase is \$39,593.

- Transportation is increasing \$65.2K.

- Special Education is up \$55K based on anticipated requirements
- Routine bussing up \$10.2K based on our contract

- Like most school districts, we belong to a health insurance pool managed by HealthTrust. Due to increased claims and higher costs, health premiums are rising dramatically state-wide. The rate increase for our district is 17.8%. In addition to the rate increase, we experienced changes in coverages (e.g., two-person to family)

- Salary increase of \$29K driven by new hire costs and cost of living increases

- GenEd Tuition is based on the estimated number of students who will be tuitioned to HDMS and HDHS

- 20 MS (one ghosts) up from 17
- 35 HS (two ghosts) down from 42 (this year 9 seniors and only 3 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

# Expenses and Services

General Fund Expenditures	Approved FY2024	Proposed FY2025	\$ Diff	% Diff
Regular Instruction	\$1,909,116	\$1,836,646	-\$72,470	-3.80%
Special Education	\$287,900	\$290,799	\$2,899	1.01%
Student Services	\$124,425	\$153,591	\$29,166	23.44%
Curriculum & Staff Development	\$1,900	\$1,750	-\$150	-7.89%
District Administration	\$35,392	\$31,172	-\$4,220	-11.92%
School Administration	\$103,490	\$108,494	\$5,004	4.83%
Media & Technology	\$23,000	\$21,800	-\$1,200	-5.22%
Facilities	\$154,532	\$159,872	\$5,340	3.46%
Transportation	\$200,226	\$265,470	\$65,244	32.59%
Food Service Transfer	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$3,000	25.00%
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,851,981</b>	<b>\$2,884,594</b>	<b>\$32,613</b>	<b>1.14%</b>
SAU Allocation	\$165,446	\$172,376	\$6,930	4.19%
<b>Total w/ SAU Allocation</b>	<b>\$3,017,427</b>	<b>\$3,056,970</b>	<b>\$39,543</b>	<b>1.31%</b>

## Regular Instruction:

- Decrease in tuition (-95.6K)
  - 20 MS (one ghosts) up from 17
  - 35 HS (two ghosts) down from 42 (this year 9 seniors and only 3 8<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Health (\$13K) – rate increase of 17.8%
- Salaries (\$12K) – cost of living increase

**Special Education:** Nearly level; over half of requirement is for outside placements which are stable

**Student Services:** New hire costs (employee higher on salary scale and with more costly benefit coverages)

**District Admin:** Some decreases based on current copier and audit contracts

**School Admin:** Health increase is \$2.6 of the \$4.4K

**Media & Tech:** Decrease in software based on actuals and anticipated requirements

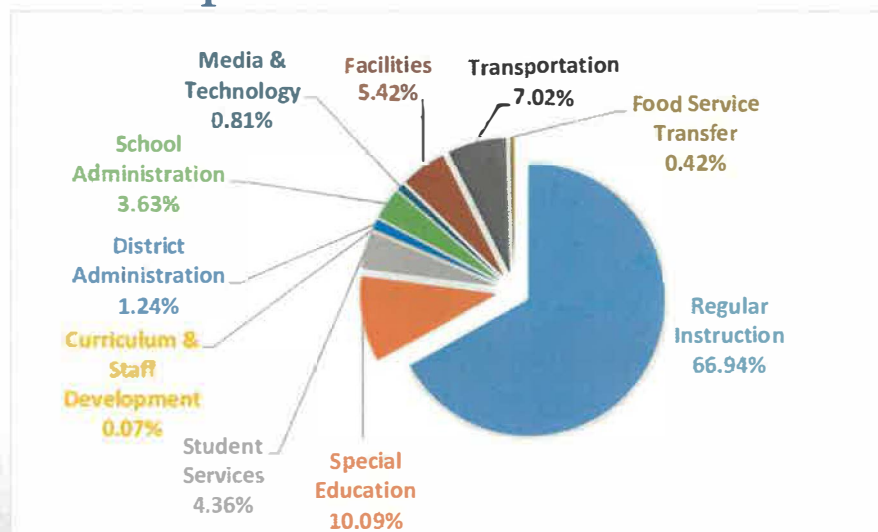
**Facilities:** Health increase is \$1.8 of the \$4.4K; property & liability insurance (\$1.2K); gas for van (\$0.5K); electricity & propane level based on rates & anticipated usage

**Transportation:** Special Education bussing (\$55K) based on student needs; Routine bussing contract increase (\$10K)

**Food Service Transfer:** Increase based on FY2023 deficit; food prices have skyrocketed.

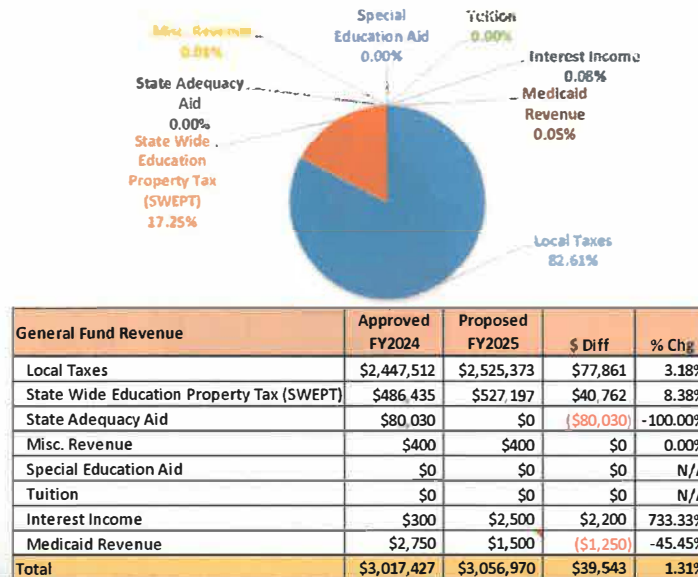
**SAU Allocation:** Total SAU assessment is lower for FY2025, but Washington's share is higher based on a more dramatic increase in property values; If the SAU budget is defeated, the alternative budget will result in a higher allocation (\$172,978 – SAU revenues decrease more dramatically than expenses)

# Expenses and Services



This slide is just a graphical depiction showing how big of a piece of the pie each type of expense makes up.

# Revenues and Resources



- “**Local Taxes**” balance revenues with expenses and is dramatically influenced based on amount received in SWEPT and Adequacy Aid
- **SWEPT** is collected locally and is part of the municipality’s tax burden. SWEPT is based on a rate of \$1.22 per thousand in property values – this year the rate is down from \$1.44, but property values are significantly higher which caused the amount to increase by over \$40K
- Adequacy Aid is a grant that is not part of the municipality’s tax burden. It is a complicated formula that starts with a pupil count (average daily membership) which is multiplied by \$4,182 (up from \$4,100).
  - Of note is that this amount was ruled unconstitutional on Nov 20, 2023 and that the amount should be a minimum of \$7,356.01 (76% higher than the current factor).
  - The \$4,182 is adjusted for factors related to free & reduced meals, special education, and English language learner services; then subtracts the SWEPT amount
  - If the SWEPT amount is higher, you receive no **Adequacy Aid**. For FY2025, the calculated cost of an adequate education was \$503,855 and our SWEPT was over \$527K, so we receive no adequacy aid.
  - **If the impact of Court ruling was factored into this year’s calculations, we would receive \$254,923 instead of \$0**
- The **interest** rate in FY2022 was about 0.1% and the rate is now 2.85%; it will likely start to drop, but nowhere near 0.1% (>\$8K in FY2023); On the flip-side, we’re seeing less qualifying Medicaid expenses/reimbursements

# Article 5

- SAU #34 Budget
  - Washington Apportionment \$172,376
  - Total SAU Proposed Budget is \$1,156,115
  - Hillsboro-Deering and Windsor also assigned apportionments
  - Majority vote of all the school district voters in the SAU
  - If defeated, Washington Apportionment is \$172,977 (an increase of \$601) and total SAU Alternative Budget is \$1,160,145

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Presenter - Eric

Article 5 is the SAU#34 budget apportionment for Washington SD. SAU#34 provides oversight and services to three School Districts; Hillsboro-Deering, Washington, and Windsor

The SAU proposed budget is lower than FY 2024 due to an increase in revenues. However, the Washington apportionment is actually increasing by 4.2% because our property values have increased more dramatically than Hillsboro, Deering and Windsor

Apportionment is formula driven

- 50% equalized valuation of properties
- 50% average daily membership of schools attended
  - MS & HS students are included in the Hillsborough Deering School District average daily membership calculation

The Alternative SAU budget is actually higher since revenues may drop off more dramatically than expenses if the SAU loses the ability to contract for additional help (e.g., the Business Office collects indirect costs for federal grants and usually contracts for assistance at various times; without this assistance, indirect costs could lag)

## Article 6

- Funds from State and Federal Aid
  - Food Service \$40,000
  - Federal and State Projects \$80,000
  - These appropriations have offsetting revenues from school lunch sales and State and Federal revenues and do not affect the tax rate

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Presenter - Danielle

This article is just giving us the authority to accept and spend funds related to the Food Service Program and Federal & State grants. The amounts are just estimates.

Food Service revenue is generated by federal funds (national school lunch program & fresh fruits & vegetable program) and meals purchased

Grants – based on current awards for Title Grants and Federal Special Education Grants (IDEA), but subject to change based on federal programming changes

## Article 7

- Appropriate \$30,000 to Special Education Expendable Trust Fund
  - From the year end undesignated fund balance available on July 1, 2024
  - Occurs only if budget has positive ending balance
  - To fund mandatory unanticipated Special Education expenses
  - Estimated Fund Balance is currently \$362,982

Presenter - Laura

A residential placement can cost as much as \$500k; a high needs student could wipe out the fund

## Article 8

- Appropriate \$50,000 to Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund
  - From the year end undesignated fund balance available after July 1, 2024
  - Occurs only if budget has positive ending balance
  - To fund school building maintenance and repair expenses
  - Estimated Fund Balance is currently \$137,836

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Presenter - Arin

These funds give us the flexibility to fund unanticipated projects (e.g., replacement of a boiler) or to fund items on our capital maintenance plan which currently has about \$660K worth of projects identified

## Article 9

- Appropriate \$10,000 to Tuition Trust Fund
  - From the year end undesignated fund balance available after July 1, 2024
  - Occurs only if budget has positive ending balance
  - To fund unanticipated middle and high school tuition costs
  - Estimated Fund Balance is currently \$20,020

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Presenter - Eric

We base the tuition budget on projected enrollment but families may move into town at any time.

Tuition is about \$24K per student and we don't have much flexibility in our budget over 83% of our operating budget is for tuition, salaries & benefits

# Article 10

- To Transact any Other Business

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Presenter - Danielle

Annual School District Meeting

*Saturday, March 9, 2024*

*9:00am*

*Washington Elementary School*

Budget documents available at

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

