

Weston Public Schools 2024-2025 Budget Guidelines

The Weston School District dedicates itself to providing outstanding academic, social, and emotional education in a fiscally responsible manner. Weston continues to be regarded as one of the highest performing school districts in Massachusetts, receiving varied prestigious accomplishments and continuing to be highly ranked in many metrics. To maintain the overall strength of the school system within a budget that honors the support of taxpayers, the School Committee provides the following general guidelines to assist the School Administration in preparing the budget for fiscal year 2025.

Enhance Excellence in Curriculum and Instruction

Planning for Fiscal Year 2025 will seek to extend the quality of our programs and enhance services and approaches that enable all students to reach high standards and expectations, as captured in measurable student outcomes and growth indicators.

This goal must be achieved above all else.

Maintain a Safe and Secure Educational Environment and Infrastructure

The budget should continue to support safe and educationally sound school environments. We should continue to collaborate with the Town to achieve economies of scale in the maintenance and operation of our facilities and grounds. Building and ground security should continue to receive reasonable improvements within the broad contours of our school community's cultural expectations. We should continue routine maintenance of our facilities, conduct regular building reviews, and establish a public, multi-year capital project plan. We will continue to work closely with the Weston Police and Fire Departments and the Board of Health regarding safety and security.

For 2024-25, we will focus effort on exploring how our technology investments are and can drive operational efficiencies for our administrators, teachers, and staff in supporting both day-to-day activities and broader district academic and financial priorities.

Budget Should Prioritize Direct Student Services and Align to District Priorities

The School Administration should continue to be sensitive to the Town's short and long-term financial constraints, including the tax burden of budgetary decisions and the uncertainty of state and federal funds. This means making a concerted effort to be fiscally prudent. The School Committee prioritizes spending on direct student services over administrative costs and expects program enhancements to be offset by budget reductions or increased process improvements as far as possible. While the School Administration and School Committee both continue to stress the importance of fiscal responsibility, the primary consideration continues to be providing students and teachers with the tools and resources they need to succeed at a high level.

For 2024-25, staffing levels should be assessed to ensure that each position contributes to directly supporting and improving student achievement and growth. Spending will be reviewed for alignment to current district priorities and optimization of resources. We encourage the Administration to consider new funding sources and strategies that may contribute to the district's annual budget.