

2008-2009 Budget Guidelines

We are fortunate to live in a town that both demands and supports an excellent school system. The School Administration has identified system needs to ensure continued excellence. These needs are summarized in a comprehensive Long Range Plan approved by the School Committee. The following general guidelines are meant to assist the School Administration in preparing the budget for fiscal year 2009. These guidelines reflect the Town's desire to maintain the overall strength of the school system by supporting the implementation of the Long Range Plan while recognizing continuing local and general economic challenges.

Preserve Excellence in Curriculum and Instruction

Execution of the Long Range Plan requires that we provide adequate resources and funding for major initiatives: In Fiscal Year 2009 this includes continued support for implementation of Differentiated Instruction and the Global Initiative. At the core of our efforts will be preserving the quality of our programs and services that enable all students to reach high standards and expectations, in addition to achieving adequate yearly progress toward 2014 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) performance goals. Equally important is the successful completion of our collective bargaining agreements as quality faculty and staff are so vital to our success. Negotiation efforts are centered on maintaining competitive and financially responsible contracts.

Maintain a Safe and Secure Environment and Infrastructure

The budget should continue to support safe, secure and educationally sound school environments, while seeking energy conservation and appropriate efficiencies to reduce costs. We should continue to collaborate with the Town to achieve economies of scale in the maintenance and operation of our facilities. We should continue routine maintenance of our facilities, regular building reviews and the multi-year capital project plan.

Maintain the Rate of Budget Growth at a Responsible Level

The School Administration must continue its sensitivity to the Town's short and long-term financial constraints, including the tax burden of budgetary decisions. Our efforts this year should reflect the progress we have made, with the support of the community, in right-sizing our operations over the past several budgets. Primary consideration should be given to offsetting budget reductions in support of program enhancements, as we anticipate a more resource-constrained year in fiscal year 2009.