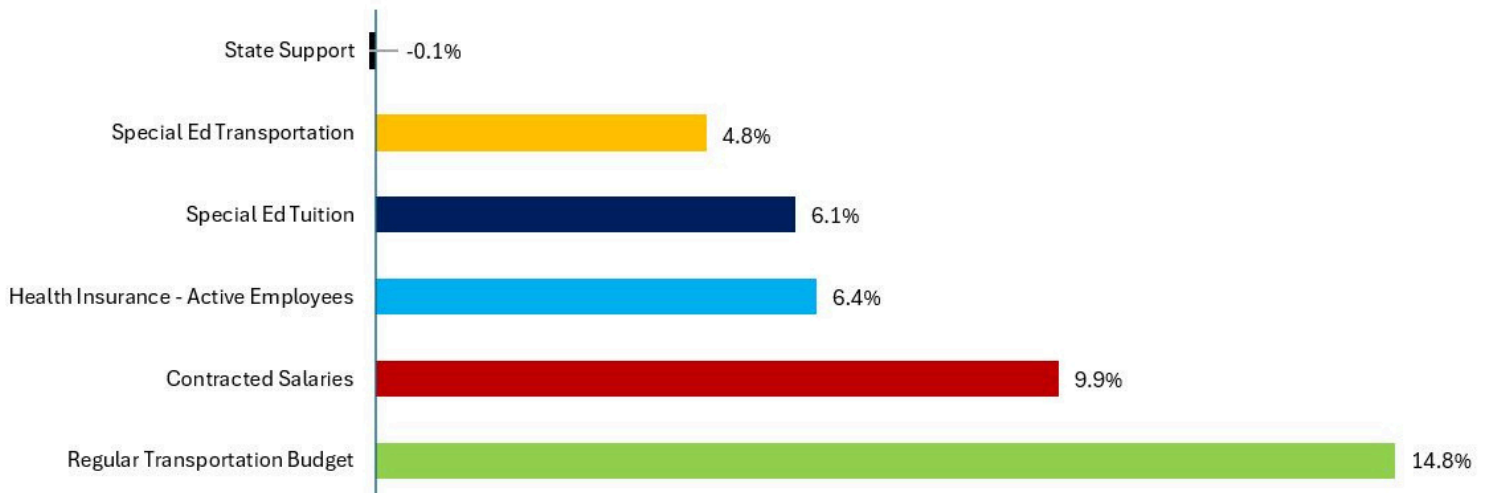


Q&A, NMRSD PROPOSED BUDGET



Major Cost Drivers, 2024-2025 Budget



Towns limited to 2.5% increase under Proposition 2 1/2

How is the school budget developed?

The District reviews all existing services and programs, and solicits requests from all departments. District leaders review these requests against available funding, and work with our sending communities of Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend to best reflect their economic realities. We work to ensure the budget reflects the District's core values of meeting the educational, social, and emotional needs of all students in a safe and welcoming environment.

What are the challenges this year?

This year the District is facing a number of inflationary pressures that are no different than those facing our school families. At the same time, the state has not lived up to its legal responsibility to public education and regional school districts. While some of our costs are rising by double digits, state support for next year is a 0.1% reduction from this year.

You always make your budget work. Why is this year any different?

The District has averaged a **2.89%** increase for the past five years, making numerous cost-saving efforts. This year maintaining level services will require a **5.79%** increase, beyond what our towns can afford.

What happens if there is no additional local financial support?

Should there be no additional money available for next year, the District projects:

- Elimination of 30 to 32 staff positions, resulting in K-8 class sizes of 27 to 32
- Elimination of all after-school programming: athletics, band, clubs, etc.

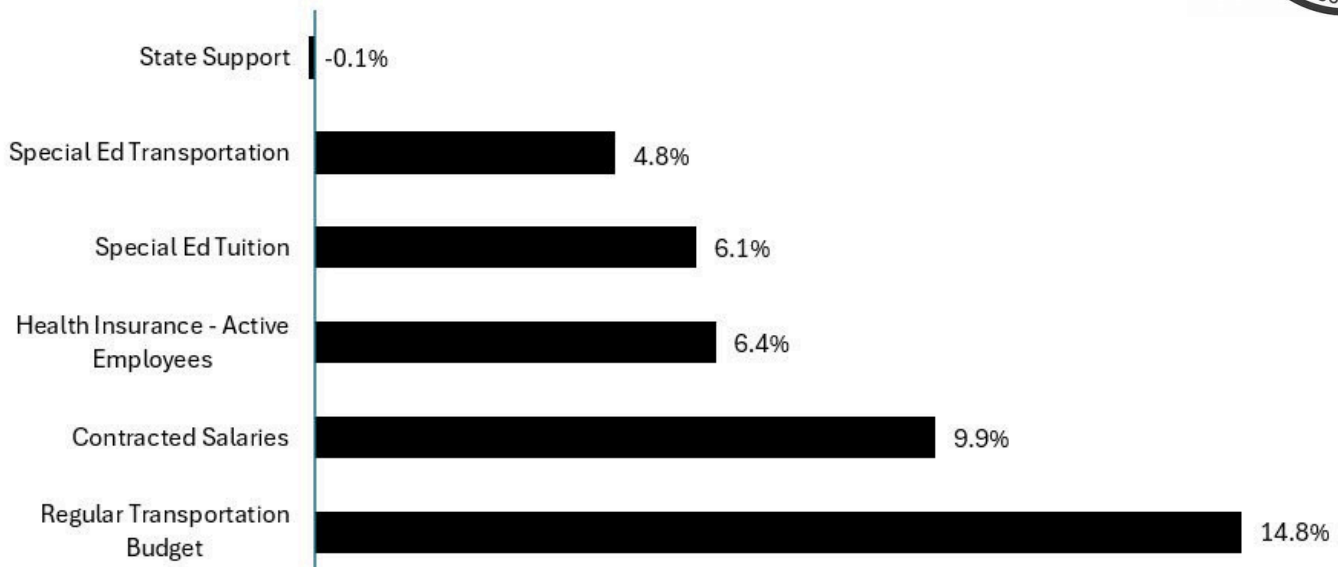
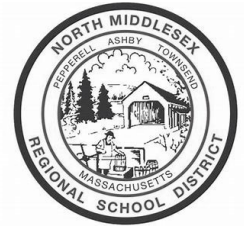
Town	Students	Percentage	Change
Ashby	406	13.11%	0.25%
Pepperell	1,494	48.24%	-0.60%
Townsend	1,197	38.65%	0.35%

Why is the North Middlesex budget increase different from the towns' assessment increases?

The NM budget is the total the District intends to spend in a fiscal year. Assessments to the towns equal the total NM budget minus state, federal aid and District funds. Member towns are assessed in three parts: operations, transportation, and debt service. Operations include the required state formula based on member towns' property wealth and local income. Transportation is divided by town based on student population on the previous Oct 1. Debt service is based on enrollment of the students in a building.

For more information, please visit NMRSDbudget.org

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