

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019-20 the Newton Public Schools district is projected to serve over 13,000 students in an integrated preschool, fifteen elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools, and two alternative high school programs. The FY20 Superintendent's Proposed Budget is \$236,372,312, and includes an \$8.8 million increase, 3.9% over the FY19 budget of \$227,560,263. Salaries and benefits make up 86% of this proposed budget.

Included in the proposed FY20 budget is an additional \$1 million increase to implement the long awaited Full Day Kindergarten program to better serve students and families in Newton. The introduction of Full Day Kindergarten will have a lasting positive impact for our kindergarten students as teachers implement high quality, research-based early childhood practices that integrate physical, academic, social-emotional, and behavioral development throughout the school day, including play, for our youngest learners. This initiative is made possible with dedicated additional funding to support the specialized new role of Kindergarten Aides working in partnership with Kindergarten Teachers in the classroom.

The Newton Public Schools system-wide K-12 enrollment of 12,685 students in the 2018-19 year saw a decrease of 65 students from the previous year, ending a thirteen year trend of rising enrollments from 2004 to 2017, during which 1,482 students (13%) were added to the system. The FY20 budget is formulated based upon a projected 2019-20 enrollment of 12,702 students, a slight increase over the current year. A number of elementary schools currently enjoy relief from enrollment pressure, while other elementary schools continue to be enrolled at capacity. Newton's secondary schools are expected to be enrolled at capacity for the next five years. Detailed enrollment information is found in the [Enrollment Analysis Report](#) and the [Class Size and Enrollment Planning Report](#) available online.

Newton's successful capital investments in facilities have significantly impacted the district's ability to implement Full Day Kindergarten in 2019-20, as widespread school crowding has diminished. Improvements in space for district-wide programs also have allowed in-district programming for diverse learners to flourish and may be contributing to the current decreases in the number of students placed out of district, resulting in lower tuition costs. Detailed information about our [Building Projects and Long-Range Facilities Plan](#) is also found online.

The proposed FY20 budget preserves Newton's commitment to excellence and equity for all students. This budget dedicates resources to continue vast and rich educational programs, to maintain favorable and equitable class sizes across the district, and to provide a broad array of special education programs. The budget also addresses enrollment growth at the high school level, invests in prevention and social and emotional supports for all students, and supports resources to meet required services.

Funds are now embedded in the FY20 budget to replenish and purchase technology equipment for the one-to-one technology initiative at both high schools and the FY20 budget provides significant support for ongoing technology infrastructure investments. The budget also builds in funding to support our teachers and maintain continuity for students with a contracted daily

substitute and absence management system. Charter maintenance funding is increased (3.0%) to ensure that the district keeps pace with required maintenance.

The FY20 budget continues investments that are carefully aligned with critical district-wide goals in the context of short-term fiscal strength, including the development of financial reserves, together with areas of long-term budget pressure. Transportation, for example, continues to be a major operating expense budget driver, increasing at rates beyond the FY20 budget allocation of 3.4% and contributing to the overall general budget pressure. The combined increase for both Regular and Special Education Transportation is approximately \$1 million in FY20 due to the following:

- Regular transportation increase in costs of 15% due to the district's need to add three buses to accommodate the expansion of the Cabot school district and the relocation of Horace Mann in September 2019
- Special education van transportation expected increase of 12% as a result of the recently completed bid process

There are also some significant positive expense trends in the FY20 budget. Projected utilities expenditures for FY20 continue to be well controlled, as they have been in recent years, due to proactive management and city-wide energy efficiency initiatives. FY20 projected utilities expense increases by \$138,000 (a 3% increase over FY19), due primarily to increased energy supply rates, as well as the planned openings of Horace Mann at 225 Nevada Street with new air-conditioning units and the new fully air-conditioned Cabot with a larger square footage. Rising electric costs are offset by the positive impact of solar canopies and solar roof panels as part of Phase 3 of the City's energy efficiency plan. Newton's commitment to solar investment in all three phases of the program has effectively helped to control electricity expenses in the school budget.

For the second year in a row, out-of-district tuition costs are projected to decrease by nearly \$460,000, or 6%. This is significant when compared to historical cost increases for this typically volatile expenditure area. Currently, there are 15 fewer students placed in out-of-district schools than last year. We believe that the Newton Public Schools' robust and comprehensive in-district special education programs are making meaningful differences in reducing these costs. As always, out-of-district tuition is an area of vigilant budget monitoring. A reduction in long-term high cost placements affects Newton's reimbursement under the state's Circuit Breaker program, and lower future reimbursements have been accounted for in the FY20 budget. As was done in FY19, the FY20 budget continues additional investments to expand special education programs and general education supports that will continue to address the academic and social and emotional needs of our students in a more effective and efficient manner. This strategic investment has been part of our philosophy of a whole child and wraparound approach to each student and Newton's long commitment to inclusive education as a right of every child in the Newton Public Schools.

The strategic use of one-time funds to cover operational and mandated costs is important in the FY20 budget and presents some risk. One-time funds, in a defined amount, will be used to cover additional maintenance, technology, and equipment needs of the district and also help with any unanticipated expenditures. The reliance on one-time funds to cover operating expenses may

present challenges in future budgets, as the district could be susceptible to unforeseen changes that could negatively impact the school budget. All budgets contain areas of risk and the district feels confident that reasonable assessments of risk in the FY20 budget, amounting to less than 1% of the operating budget in total, have been made.

FUND: 01 - GENERAL FUND
 DEPARTMENT: NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
 DEPARTMENT SUMMARY**

	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2018	AMENDED 2019	YTD 03/31/2019	RECOMMENDED 2020	CHANGE 2019 To 2020
FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT SUMMARY						
98001080 SCHOOL COMMITTEE	211,905,404	219,774,631	227,560,263	144,824,831	236,372,312	8,812,049
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT	211,905,404	219,774,631	227,560,263	144,824,831	236,372,312	8,812,049
OBJECT SUMMARY						
5795 - UNDISTRIBUTED BUDGET	211,905,404	219,774,631	227,560,263	144,824,831	236,372,312	8,812,049
TOTAL OBJECT	211,905,404	219,774,631	227,560,263	144,824,831	236,372,312	8,812,049