



Project 211

Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools
October 2024

Model School Budget

Edward Mascovich, 1992

Enrollment Assumptions:

Elementary School

- 300-350 students per school (with three elementary schools);
- Class size of 22 students.

Middle School

- 500 students per school
- Class size of 25 students

High School

- 1,200 students per school
- Class size of 18 students

- Additional funding would be provided for special education based on a percentage of the total foundation enrollment, as the majority of students who receive special education are fully included in general education classrooms, with pull out services being provided. The percentage recommended at that time being 2.5% of total enrollment.
- They felt that the students with more complex special education needs would be best suited receiving their services from collaboratives or private special education schools, which they capped at 1% of total student enrollment.
- The model Foundation Budget would have a district enrollment of 2,500-2,600 students.
- **In FY25, there are 213 districts or 67% with enrollment that is under 2,600 students.**



Quabbin is a regional school district of 1,931 students. Quabbin has five member towns with one preschool, four elementary schools, and a middle/high school which is combined.

753 Quabbin														
	Base Foundation Components							Incremental Costs Above the Base						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Pre-school	----- Kindergarten ----- Half-Day	Full-Day	Elementary	Junior/ Middle	High School	Vocational	Special Ed In-District	Special Ed Tuitioned-Out	English learners PK-5	English learners 6-8	English learners High School/Voc	Low income	TOTAL
Foundation Enrollment	118	0	142	737	462	531	0	74	19	3	1	2	868	1,931
1 Administration	26,471	0	63,708	330,655	207,276	238,233	0	229,134	70,352	333	118	254	68,338	1,234,873
2 Instructional Leadership	47,807	0	115,063	597,191	374,359	430,269	0	0	0	583	207	444	323,781	1,889,703
3 Classroom & Specialist Teachers	219,212	0	527,594	2,738,250	1,510,541	2,553,133	0	756,086	0	4,082	1,448	3,106	3,160,770	11,474,223
4 Other Teaching Services	56,221	0	135,317	702,317	316,923	303,238	0	705,947	1,075	583	207	444	0	2,222,271
5 Professional Development	8,669	0	20,877	108,368	73,634	82,066	0	36,473	0	167	59	127	153,341	483,781
6 Instructional Materials, Equipment & T	31,727	0	76,363	396,336	248,450	456,883	0	31,835	0	417	148	317	23,505	1,265,981
7 Guidance & Psychological Services	22,334	0	53,754	278,991	188,676	239,545	0	0	0	250	89	190	127,987	911,816
8 Pupil Services	6,344	0	15,274	118,893	121,746	322,667	0	0	0	83	30	63	665,070	1,250,170
9 Operations & Maintenance	60,873	0	146,506	760,385	516,756	575,885	0	255,953	0	1,000	355	761	0	2,318,474
10 Employee Benefits/Fixed Charges*	95,686	0	230,293	1,195,267	799,630	816,397	0	303,259	0	969	344	737	540,443	3,983,023
11 Special Education Tuition*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	667,959	0	0	0	0	667,959
12 Total	575,343	0	1,384,749	7,226,654	4,357,991	6,018,317	0	2,318,688	739,386	8,467	3,004	6,442	5,063,235	27,702,274
13 Wage Adjustment Factor	100.0%													
Foundation Budget per Pupil													14,346	

- Each student is provided a specific rate of funding depending on which grade level they are in these categories.

Administration

Instructional Leadership

Classroom & Specialist Teachers

Other Teaching Services

Professional Development

**Instructional Materials, Equipment
& Technology***

Guidance & Psychological Services

Pupil Services

Operations & Maintenance

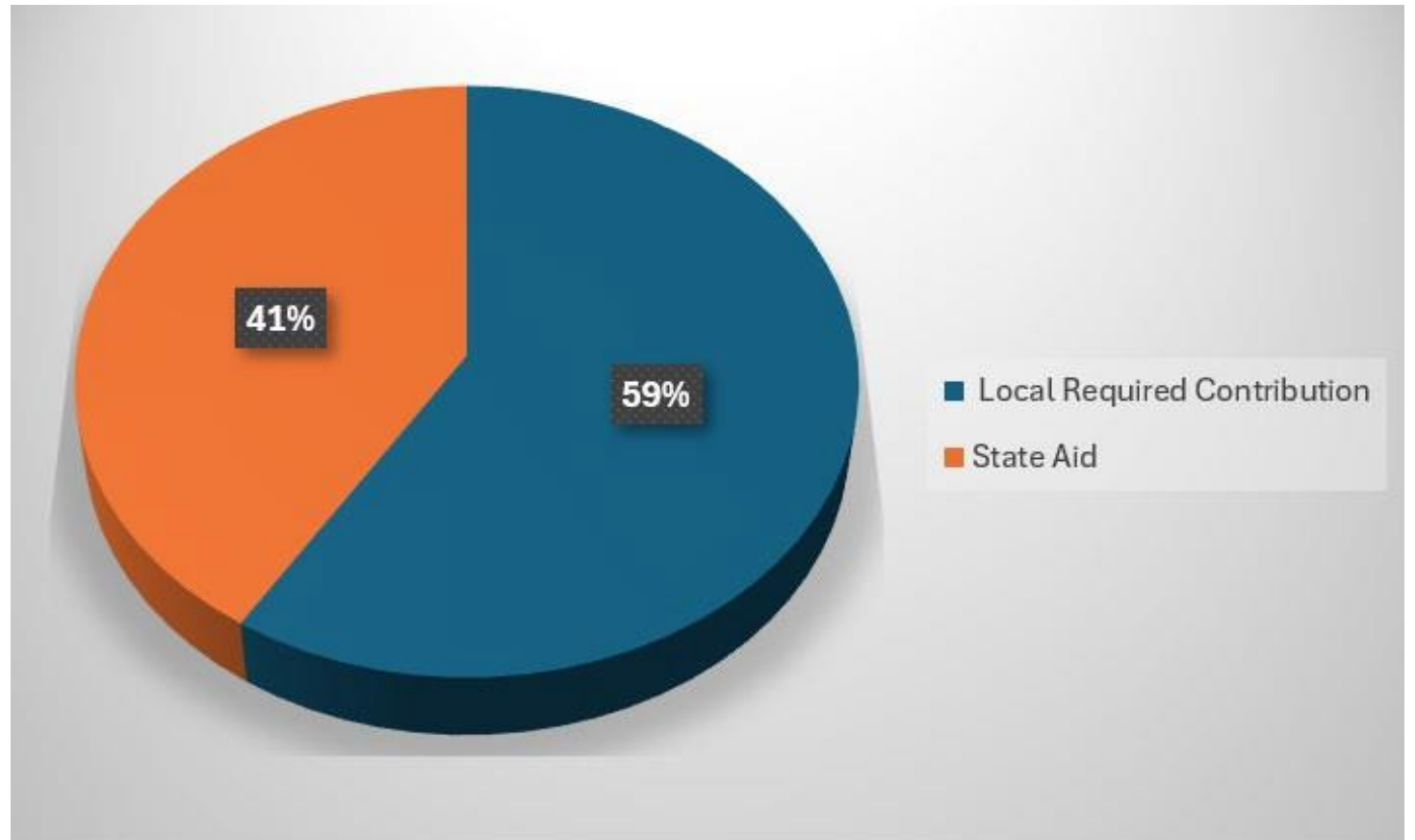
Employee Benefits/Fixed Charges*



What is not considered in the foundation budget:

- 1) The number of towns, and schools within each town in regional school districts;
- 2) Superintendents are mandated to fund a basic foundation of central office and school building based staffing, supports and curriculum regardless of total student enrollment, or type of school district it is;
- 3) School districts experiencing declining enrollment do not meet the student enrollment number (economies of scale) to fund that basic foundation of mandated staffing, supports and curriculum;
- 4) Superintendents must provide Grades PK-12, regardless of whether there are 10 students per classroom, or 30. **Therefore, declining enrollment does not equate to reduced staff, only reduced funding;**
- 5) Regional School district superintendents must maintain viable elementary schools within each of their member towns regardless of student enrollment in each town;
- 6) Closing an elementary school in a regional school district member town is a monumental task which is extremely difficult to obtain agreement for from community, and should always be considered a last resort as it affects the economic growth/new development of the town losing the school;
- 7) Declining enrollment increases the cost of providing education to students due to overall loss of economies of scale.

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- When the Foundation Budget is calculated for every district in the commonwealth, they are added together for a FY25 total of **\$14,535,103,400**. To that total, they apply a percentage split of 59/41, 59% of the total from cities and towns, 41% from state in Chapter 70 aid.
 - 59% of the FY25 total is **\$8,575,711,006**, which is the amount which drives the Required Contribution calculation parameters.



Required contribution is calculated by taking a percentage of your EQV, which is equalized value of the city/town's taxable property and add it to a percentage of your aggregate resident income. **The percentage amount that is applied to EQV and Income is determined by the 59/41 state split.**

For FY25, EQV values are from 2022 (run 2 years behind), and Income value is from 2021 (4 years behind).

This total (EQV + Income) is the city/town's capacity to pay toward education. The municipality's capacity to pay is calculated prior to considering what their foundation budget it. **"Capacity to pay" is what this municipality can pay toward the state total \$8,575,711,006.**

Once that number is determined it is applied to the municipality's total foundation budget and is referred to as **target share** – the target amount you should be paying toward education. To ensure that all municipalities receive Chapter 70 aid, the target share was capped at 82.5%, with the intent being that no municipality should be required to pay more than 82.5% of their own foundation budget.

Over time, 82.5% has been equated to municipalities with wealthy tax bases. While that might be the case for some municipalities, it most certainly is not the case for all. What we have seen in reviewing the data, is that more districts are moving toward the 82.5% cap **as they are in a declining enrollment**, so their foundation budgets are seeing minimal increases.

DistName	Fical Year	EQV	Income	CEY	Town Enrollment	Budget	Contribution	Target share	Actual share
Cambridge	2007	21,282,513,300	3,201,638,000	124,203,837	6,281	59,270,960	88,906,440	82.50%	150.00%
	2008	24,529,458,900	3,454,834,000	126,694,033	6,043	58,586,280	83,184,123	82.50%	141.99%
	2009	24,529,458,900	3,960,036,000	137,821,364	6,115	62,523,714	76,283,365	82.50%	122.01%
	2010	26,124,313,400	4,468,965,000	144,292,217	6,195	65,306,359	75,386,475	82.50%	115.44%
	2011	26,124,313,400	5,127,701,000	147,387,303	6,075	63,289,438	70,899,052	82.50%	112.02%
	2012	28,162,029,300	4,689,154,000	157,301,931	6,215	65,583,156	70,070,141	82.50%	106.84%
	2013	28,162,029,300	4,102,400,000	156,865,874	6,226	68,855,555	68,855,555	82.50%	100.00%
	2014	26,640,125,400	5,012,548,000	172,165,869	6,458	72,833,197	69,898,977	82.50%	95.97%
	2015	26,640,125,400	5,441,865,000	178,800,691	6,709	75,565,947	67,728,118	82.50%	89.63%
	2016	29,733,817,500	5,856,595,000	200,660,223	6,888	79,533,781	68,456,380	82.50%	86.07%
	2017	29,733,817,500	5,555,551,000	194,413,815	7,009	80,655,733	67,464,934	82.50%	83.65%
	2018	39,570,828,700	6,470,673,000	232,653,724	7,159	84,055,800	69,688,258	82.50%	82.91%
	2019	39,570,828,700	6,515,242,000	238,668,251	7,319	88,309,461	72,855,305	82.50%	82.50%
	2020	49,449,365,600	6,443,305,000	267,416,229	7,460	95,754,602	78,997,547	82.50%	82.50%
	2021	49,449,365,600	7,188,046,000	282,303,669	7,519	97,837,766	80,716,157	82.50%	82.50%
	2022	63,505,735,500	8,087,170,000	326,037,417	7,160	100,848,387	83,199,919	82.50%	82.50%
	2023	63,505,735,500	8,626,740,000	361,616,806	7,074	105,936,292	87,397,441	82.50%	82.50%
	2024	70,337,058,800	8,671,847,000	381,521,062	7,030	112,732,474	93,004,291	82.50%	82.50%
		230.49%	170.86%	207.17%	11.92%	90.20%	4.61%		

Cambridge would be an example of a municipality with a wealthy tax base. Significant increases in EQV, and Income, has only recently started seeing declining enrollment, has been capped at 82.5% since formula changed, and as such has seen only minimal increase in required contribution.

DistName	Fical Year	EQV	Income	CEY	Town Enrollment	Town Foundation Budget	Required Contribution	Target share	Actual share
Amherst	2007	1,633,901,900	487,669,000	13,479,388	2,955	23,791,152	11,213,347	56.66%	47.13%
	2008	2,151,338,800	532,496,000	14,732,668	2,909	24,579,604	11,911,939	59.94%	48.46%
	2009	2,151,338,800	578,909,000	15,691,328	2,805	24,952,174	12,589,729	62.89%	50.46%
	2010	2,321,406,100	655,582,000	16,693,013	2,797	25,762,459	16,693,013	64.80%	64.80%
	2011	2,321,406,100	652,989,000	15,796,795	2,703	24,575,078	16,738,477	64.28%	68.11%
	2012	2,347,712,000	603,348,000	16,223,713	2,556	23,864,419	16,879,236	67.98%	70.73%
	2013	2,347,712,000	555,714,000	16,523,031	2,520	24,464,756	17,274,877	67.54%	70.61%
	2014	2,222,072,200	585,682,000	16,948,091	2,445	24,240,071	17,741,255	69.92%	73.19%
	2015	2,222,072,200	607,435,000	17,234,177	2,408	24,125,915	17,816,817	71.43%	73.85%
	2016	2,220,991,600	656,983,000	18,265,918	2,415	24,862,521	18,376,324	73.47%	73.91%
	2017	2,220,991,600	663,320,000	18,172,733	2,394	24,562,999	18,299,196	73.98%	74.50%
	2018	2,348,821,000	697,913,000	18,281,147	2,347	24,754,162	18,385,964	73.85%	74.27%
	2019	2,348,821,000	695,780,000	18,587,941	2,258	24,867,770	18,587,941	74.75%	74.75%
	2020	2,516,974,800	716,838,000	19,437,186	2,257	26,087,908	19,374,211	74.51%	74.27%
	2021	2,516,974,800	772,086,000	20,191,326	2,228	26,191,850	20,191,326	77.09%	77.09%
	2022	2,727,618,700	795,343,000	20,364,490	2,124	26,285,881	20,364,490	77.47%	77.47%
	2023	2,727,618,700	763,306,000	21,518,321	2,102	27,318,085	21,280,892	78.77%	77.90%
	2024	2,913,802,400	825,705,000	22,956,334	2,052	28,354,986	22,289,606	80.96%	78.61%
		78.33%	69.32%	70.31%	-30.56%	19.18%	98.78%		

While **Amherst** has seen a 30.56% decline in foundation enrollment and only 19.18% increase to their Foundation Budget, their required contribution has increased 98.78%.

The two reasons driving the increase in target share being declining enrollment/minimal increase in foundation budget, and overall total increase in state foundation budget which Amherst is paying toward (59/41 percentage split).

DistName	Fical Year	EQV	Income	CEY	Town Enrollment	Town Foundation Budget	Required Contribution	Target share	Actual share
Princeton	2007	458,549,100	126,218,000	3,609,372	605	4,553,662	3,773,181	79.26%	82.86%
	2008	517,610,900	140,870,000	3,745,876	610	4,810,094	3,882,380	77.88%	80.71%
	2009	517,610,900	150,761,000	3,953,896	591	4,921,755	4,013,670	80.34%	81.55%
	2010	559,866,000	161,777,000	4,080,862	585	5,019,909	4,081,064	81.29%	81.30%
	2011	559,866,000	168,672,000	3,962,856	579	4,881,242	4,132,161	81.19%	84.65%
	2012	509,789,500	172,630,000	4,132,184	557	4,775,636	4,229,244	82.50%	88.56%
	2013	509,789,500	150,253,000	4,064,864	510	4,567,834	4,263,659	82.50%	93.34%
	2014	466,681,000	162,772,000	4,173,482	470	4,279,274	4,253,334	82.50%	99.39%
	2015	466,681,000	161,541,000	4,132,891	468	4,327,636	3,894,872	82.50%	90.00%
	2016	459,644,500	165,478,000	4,220,837	456	4,367,966	3,806,867	82.50%	87.15%
	2017	459,644,500	170,313,000	4,246,583	466	4,469,176	3,719,658	82.50%	83.23%
	2018	467,603,100	174,316,000	4,143,437	459	4,497,011	3,726,654	82.50%	82.87%
	2019	467,603,100	176,083,000	4,237,912	463	4,720,162	3,794,852	82.50%	80.40%
	2020	514,460,100	179,229,000	4,462,914	446	4,771,566	3,935,641	82.50%	82.48%
	2021	514,460,100	186,264,000	4,534,826	452	4,942,196	4,077,311	82.50%	82.50%
	2022	591,085,900	201,570,000	4,827,897	435	4,939,215	4,074,852	82.50%	82.50%
	2023	591,085,900	211,798,000	5,370,111	450	5,446,793	4,233,364	82.50%	77.72%
	2024	639,721,900	244,599,000	6,010,740	433	5,552,294	4,424,289	82.50%	79.68%
		39.51%	93.79%	66.53%	-28.46%	21.93%	17.26%		

Princeton has 28.46% in declining enrollment with corresponding minimal increase in foundation budget, but steady increase to a 82.5% target share.

Aid Calculation FY25

Prior Year Aid	
1 Chapter 70 FY24	16,938,538
Foundation Aid	
2 Foundation budget FY25	27,702,274
3 Required district contribution FY25	12,767,470
4 Foundation aid (2 -3)	14,934,804
5 Increase over FY24 (4 - 1)	0
Minimum Aid	
6 Minimum \$104 per pupil increase	200,824
7 Minimum aid amount	
"If line 6 - line 5 > 0, then line 6 - line 5, otherwise 0)	
	200,824

Comparison to FY24

	FY24	FY25	Change
Enrollment	1,951	1,931	-20
Foundation budget	27,040,443	27,702,274	661,832
Required district contribution	12,220,640	12,767,470	546,830
Chapter 70 aid	16,938,538	17,139,362	200,824
Required net school spending (NSS)	29,159,178	29,906,832	747,654
Target aid share	50.18%	48.84%	
C70 % of foundation	62.64%	61.87%	
Required NSS % of foundation	107.84%	107.96%	

In FY24, Quabbin received \$16,938,538 in Chapter 70 aid (Row 1 on left side of screen). In FY25, it was determined that Quabbin’s Foundation Budget warrants \$14,934,804 in Foundation Aid (Row 4). When the formula changed in FY07, the legislature promised that they would hold school districts harmless from cuts in Chapter 70 aid, and they kept that promise. Chapter

The Student Opportunity Act provides for a guarantee of at least \$30 per student in minimum aid for school districts. The legislature increased that to \$104 per pupil in the FY25 budget. As Quabbin did not see an increase in foundation aid, they qualified for the \$104 minimum per pupil aid bringing their total FY25 aid to \$17,139,362. The difference between the total Chapter 70 aid (\$17,139,362) and Foundation Aid (\$14,934,804) calculated for FY25 is the amount the district is in hold harmless status for, which for Quabbin is \$2,204,558.

- **There are 211 school districts in hold harmless status in FY25.** Hold harmless aid is essential to help maintain the mandated foundation of a central office and school building based staffing.
- The arguments surrounding the “fairness” of hold harmless and minimum per pupil aid are pointless, as the simple fact is if both are removed many if not most of these districts would just cease to exist, or cuts would be so catastrophic that the district would be unsafe to operate.

Comparison of the percentage increase of key Chapter 70 factors from FY07 to FY25

Pct Increase FY07 to FY25	Enrollment	Foundation Budget	Required Contribution	Foundation Aid	Chapter 70 Aid	NSS
Pentucket	-31.34%	17.02%	84.97%	-43.46%	3.76%	41.86%
Triton	-35.45%	16.04%	33.65%	-24.45%	10.53%	26.29%
Lawrence	12.72%	136.43%	231.42%	132.88%	132.30%	135.86%

Pentucket and **Triton** are both three member town regional school districts in declining enrollment, have been in hold harmless status since at least FY07, receive yearly minimum aid increases from the state, and as such the state has placed the full burden of funding their education budget increases every year on the backs of their member towns. They both have received modest foundation budget, aid and mandated net school spending increases since FY07.

Lawrence is an urban district who is not in declining enrollment or hold harmless status, and has benefited tremendously from the Chapter 70 formula with significant increases to their foundation budget, aid and mandated net school spending since at least FY07.

Net School Spending

Mandated Net School Spending (NSS) is the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget, plus hold harmless aid.



A district who is not in hold harmless status has a mandated NSS of 100%.



A district in hold harmless status has a mandated NSS of foundation (100%) plus the amount of hold harmless aid they are receiving (example: 100% for foundation budget and let's say hold harmless aid equals 10% of foundation, so NSS would be 110%), so their actual NSS scale has been tipped to that perceived "wealthy" district right out of the gate.

Pentucket	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
C70 Required Net School Spend	24,677,418	25,482,576	26,435,608	27,585,242	26,859,125	27,270,595	27,835,807	28,344,316	28,856,822	29,038,276	28,595,758	28,985,487	29,603,211	30,619,291	31,221,610	31,777,054	32,721,029
NSS as Pct of FB	100.36%	103.48%	104.76%	105.92%	105.75%	109.54%	110.95%	115.50%	118.80%	123.03%	126.82%	127.46%	126.77%	125.85%	126.96%	129.80%	126.51%
Actual/Budgeted Net Sch Spend	27,191,194	28,883,283	28,938,874	30,054,605	29,580,693	29,829,046	30,984,142	31,419,110	32,210,528	32,610,093	32,933,687	33,243,660	34,211,203	35,444,961	34,954,197	36,513,796	38,335,324
Pct yearly increase		6.22%	0.19%	3.86%	-1.58%	0.84%	3.87%	1.40%	2.52%	1.24%	0.99%	0.94%	2.91%	3.61%	-1.38%	4.46%	4.99%
Actual NSS as Pct of FB	110.58%	117.29%	114.68%	115.40%	116.47%	119.82%	123.50%	128.03%	132.60%	138.16%	146.06%	146.19%	146.50%	145.68%	142.14%	149.15%	148.22%
Triton	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
C70 Required Net School Spend	26,383,197	27,549,366	28,679,999	29,334,835	29,176,103	29,383,450	30,169,408	30,675,782	30,228,699	30,263,209	29,352,095	28,991,582	29,585,218	29,838,194	30,279,477	29,398,313	30,693,281
NSS as Pct of FB	101.66%	103.70%	103.96%	105.21%	107.11%	109.54%	112.68%	115.98%	117.21%	117.65%	118.25%	118.93%	116.91%	116.88%	116.18%	117.98%	108.32%
Actual/Budgeted Net Sch Spend	28,032,455	30,772,080	31,533,277	30,933,819	31,779,902	32,266,160	33,173,835	33,513,087	34,614,893	35,343,901	36,001,222	36,444,521	38,165,904	40,038,089	41,572,112	42,334,952	44,349,248
Pct yearly increase		9.77%	2.47%	-1.90%	2.74%	1.53%	2.81%	1.02%	3.29%	2.11%	1.86%	1.23%	4.72%	4.91%	3.83%	1.83%	4.76%
Actual NSS as Pct of FB	108.01%	115.83%	114.30%	110.95%	116.67%	120.28%	123.90%	126.71%	134.22%	137.40%	145.04%	149.51%	150.82%	156.84%	159.51%	169.90%	156.52%

The first two rows of each table above are the mandated NSS amounts with percentages. Net School Spending is the sum of the district's foundation budget and hold harmless aid they are receiving that year. As you can see in FY23 the **mandated NSS** percentage for **Pentucket** is **126.51%**, and **Triton** is **108.32%**.

Lawrence	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
C70 Required Net School Spend	127,674,227	133,818,133	141,941,372	139,147,197	141,676,511	152,346,057	158,948,561	166,158,253	177,176,381	186,136,095	187,267,344	189,992,671	198,734,285	210,870,987	218,786,376	234,592,261	253,714,475
NSS as Pct of FB	100.24%	100.03%	100.00%	94.79%	98.16%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.80%	100.14%	100.95%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Actual/Budgeted Net Sch Spend	125,850,826	132,414,125	126,045,683	143,451,465	142,593,040	147,211,482	155,165,709	167,445,815	178,087,681	186,684,814	190,305,242	190,850,691	200,188,704	202,726,007	216,257,469	236,633,806	255,811,720
Pct yearly increase		5.22%	-4.81%	13.81%	-0.60%	3.24%	5.40%	7.91%	6.36%	4.83%	1.94%	0.29%	4.89%	1.27%	6.67%	9.42%	8.10%
Actual NSS as Pct of FB	98.81%	98.98%	88.80%	97.72%	98.80%	96.63%	97.62%	100.77%	100.51%	100.29%	102.43%	100.59%	101.69%	96.14%	98.84%	100.87%	100.83%

Lawrence however is essentially 100% as they are not a district in declining enrollment or hold harmless status, so their NSS is their Foundation Budget.

While the current Chapter 70 Foundation Budget formula is no way sufficient for the majority of districts in the state, it does work well for urban school districts for the most part. The foundation budget has been previously described as a “foundation” to build from. The far majority of districts must therefore spend amounts above foundation or mandated NSS.

Pentucket	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
C70 Required Net School Spend	24,677,418	25,482,576	26,435,608	27,585,242	26,859,125	27,270,595	27,835,807	28,344,316	28,856,822	29,038,276	28,595,758	28,985,487	29,603,211	30,619,291	31,221,610	31,777,054	32,721,029
NSS as Pct of FB	100.36%	103.48%	104.76%	105.92%	105.75%	109.54%	110.95%	115.50%	118.80%	123.03%	126.82%	127.46%	126.77%	125.85%	126.96%	129.80%	126.51%
Actual/Budgeted Net Sch Spend	27,191,194	28,883,283	28,938,874	30,054,605	29,580,693	29,829,046	30,984,142	31,419,110	32,210,528	32,610,093	32,933,687	33,243,660	34,211,203	35,444,961	34,954,197	36,513,796	38,335,324
Pct yearly increase		6.22%	0.19%	3.86%	-1.58%	0.84%	3.87%	1.40%	2.52%	1.24%	0.99%	0.94%	2.91%	3.61%	-1.38%	4.46%	4.99%
Actual NSS as Pct of FB	110.58%	117.29%	114.68%	115.40%	116.47%	119.82%	123.50%	128.03%	132.60%	138.16%	146.06%	146.19%	146.50%	145.68%	142.14%	149.15%	148.22%

Triton	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
C70 Required Net School Spend	26,383,197	27,549,366	28,679,999	29,334,835	29,176,103	29,383,450	30,169,408	30,675,782	30,228,699	30,263,209	29,352,095	28,991,582	29,585,218	29,838,194	30,279,477	29,398,313	30,693,281
NSS as Pct of FB	101.66%	103.70%	103.96%	105.21%	107.11%	109.54%	112.68%	115.98%	117.21%	117.65%	118.25%	118.93%	116.91%	116.88%	116.18%	117.98%	108.32%
Actual/Budgeted Net Sch Spend	28,032,455	30,772,080	31,533,277	30,933,819	31,779,902	32,266,160	33,173,835	33,513,087	34,614,893	35,343,901	36,001,222	36,444,521	38,165,904	40,038,089	41,572,112	42,334,952	44,349,248
Pct yearly increase		9.77%	2.47%	-1.90%	2.74%	1.53%	2.81%	1.02%	3.29%	2.11%	1.86%	1.23%	4.72%	4.91%	3.83%	1.83%	4.76%
Actual NSS as Pct of FB	108.01%	115.83%	114.30%	110.95%	116.67%	120.28%	123.90%	126.71%	134.22%	137.40%	145.04%	149.51%	150.82%	156.84%	159.51%	169.90%	156.52%

Lawrence	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
C70 Required Net School Spend	127,674,227	133,818,133	141,941,372	139,147,197	141,676,511	152,346,057	158,948,561	166,158,253	177,176,381	186,136,095	187,267,344	189,992,671	198,734,285	210,870,987	218,786,376	234,592,261	253,714,475
NSS as Pct of FB	100.24%	100.03%	100.00%	94.79%	98.16%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.80%	100.14%	100.95%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Actual/Budgeted Net Sch Spend	125,850,826	132,414,125	126,045,683	143,451,465	142,593,040	147,211,482	155,165,709	167,445,815	178,087,681	186,684,814	190,305,242	190,850,691	200,188,704	202,726,007	216,257,469	236,633,806	255,811,720
Pct yearly increase		5.22%	-4.81%	13.81%	-0.60%	3.24%	5.40%	7.91%	6.36%	4.83%	1.94%	0.29%	4.89%	1.27%	6.67%	9.42%	8.10%
Actual NSS as Pct of FB	98.81%	98.98%	88.80%	97.72%	98.80%	96.63%	97.62%	100.77%	100.51%	100.29%	102.43%	100.59%	101.69%	96.14%	98.84%	100.87%	100.83%

- The bottom three rows highlighted in pink are the Actual or Budgeted NSS, which DESE pulls from the End of Year Report (EOYR) which each school district is required to file in September. DESE calculates the amount each district spent in NSS categories to determine that districts are in compliance with the mandated NSS spending requirements.
- The “Pct yearly increase” is the actual percentage each of these school districts increased their total NSS each year. If you review those percentage increases for Pentucket and Triton you will note rather modest average increases, which steadily increased their Actual NSS Percentage of Foundation numbers each year to the FY23 Triton Actual NSS percentage of Foundation rising to 156.52%.
- Compare that to Lawrence which had rather significant percentage increases to their Actual NSS percentage, yet they were spending at or below their Foundation Budget/mandated NSS amount. The Foundation Budget calculated for Lawrence by the Chapter 70 formula is sufficient for them to operate.

- A “snapshot” of Triton in FY23 by the casual observer would be – “Wow, they are spending at 156.52% of foundation. They must be a wealthy district!”
- The reality is that due to their hold harmless/minimum aid status, Triton must have an Actual NSS at 156.52% of foundation in FY23, or they would have had to have made draconian cuts to staffing and other line items each year prior. The 156.52% number is a cumulative percentage resultant of modest increases each year.
- The long-story-short version is – Actual NSS percentage is high because the mandated NSS reflects minimum aid increases, so in order to keep the doors of the district open for business, the NSS had to be increased with funding solely from the member towns, which is completely untenable.

Next Steps

Senator Lewis filed an [amendment](#) to the FY25 Senate budget which was unanimously adopted, however did not make it into the final budget:

“SECTION 106A. (a) There shall be a chapter 70 task force to study and make recommendations for updating the calculation of required local contributions as defined in section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws.

(c) The task force shall study and make recommendations on the local contribution calculations pursuant to section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws, including, but not limited to the: (i) extent to which the wealth and income measures accurately determine a municipality's resources and a municipality's ability to contribute to its foundation budget costs; (ii) impact of chapter 132 of the acts of 2019 on foundation budget increases, target local contributions and required local contributions; (iii) impact of the increasing number of municipalities that are subject to the 82.5 per cent maximum local contribution; (iv) impact of the fixed 59 per cent local share of the statewide foundation budget on the calculation of combined effort yield for each municipality; (v) extent to which the municipal revenue growth factor accurately captures a municipality's expected revenue increases; (vi) increasing number of municipalities that are subject to below effort adjustments; (vii) impact of low and declining student enrollment; (viii) impact of section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws on municipalities and their ability to make their required local contributions; and (ix) any other potential impacts from the local contribution calculations. The task force shall review reports and other related documents, including, but not limited to, the local contribution study pursuant to section 21 of said chapter 132.

Senator Lewis also filed Senate Bill. [303](#) *An Act increasing the Commonwealth's share of the education foundation budget*, which would incrementally increase the percentage of aid the state contributes from 41% to 46% over a five year period.

The new legislative term begins the first week of January, and legislators will be given a deadline to file new bills to be considered over the two-year term (usually the end of January or early February). The bills will be assigned to committees who will hold public hearings on each bill filed.

The FY26 budget begins with Governor Healey filing her budget recommendation by the third week in January. That House and Senate Ways & Means will then begin to hold public budget hearings throughout the state. The House files their budget in April, and the Senate in May. Both budgets then go to a Conference Committee to reconcile the differences between the budgets.

We recommend:

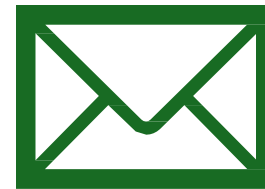
- Establish a listserv to communicate advocacy alerts
- Schedule future meetings



Source of data:

[DESE FY25 Chapter 70 Complete Formula Spreadsheet](#)

[DESE Chapter 70 Trends in Aid and Local Contribution](#)



Questions:

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