

Franklin Public Schools: FY27 Budget Request Overview

A responsible, zero-based budget approach to be fiscally responsive to Franklin's current context.

Total Request
\$72.3M
FY27 Operating Budget

Year-over-Year Increase
+2.5%
Over FY26 Budget

Net new staff
Zero
No increase in headcount

What's Driving Costs?

How Have We Responded

Cost Breakdown

NON-DISCRETIONARY COST INCREASES

COST AVOIDANCES

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Contractual Obligations +\$1.1M
83.4% of total budget
Legally binding step increases, lane changes, and longevity adjustments built into collective bargaining agreements the district has no discretion to reduce.

-\$3.2M
District Reorganization
PreK-8 consolidation reduced administrative overhead, sustaining savings into FY27 and holding the increase to 2.5%.

-\$1.7M
In-district Special Education
specialized programs keep students in their home community and avoid costly out-of-district tuition placements.

Total budget request	\$72,341,254	+2.5%
Total salaries	\$60,307,078	+1.88%
Non-salary expenses	\$12,034,176	+5.75%
Chapter 70	\$30,815,693	+1.17%
Circuit Breaker	\$4,711,130	+15.72%

Special Education +\$1.1M
8.25% increase in this category
Reflects rising state-set tuition rates and contracted service costs the district is legally required to provide for students with disabilities. A portion is offset via Circuit Breaker, but the gap continues to grow.

- 65.1 FTE
FTE Reductions
FY25: 24 FTE reduced following failed override.
FY26: 29 FTE reduced through reorganization, and 12.1 FTE reduced following second failed override.

Serving Franklin Students

Transportation +\$128K
6.88% increase in this category
Reflects increases in contracted agreements for transportation services the district is required to provide.

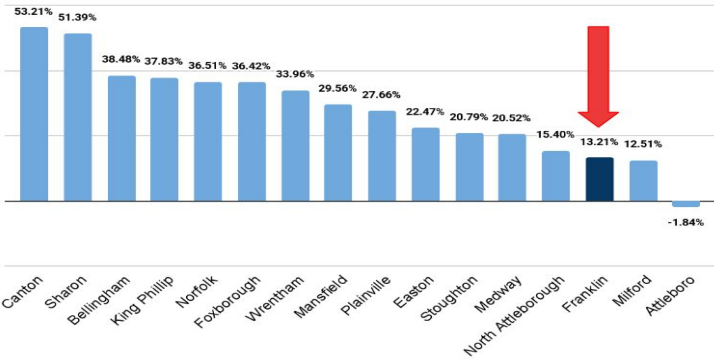
97% Student-facing Staff
Over 97% of the district's staff are directly student-facing or in support of instruction. Administrative overhead represents only 3% of total staffing.

87-88% Enrollment Retention
Despite declining school-age populations statewide, FPS retains nearly 9 of 10 eligible school-aged children.

How Franklin Compares to Peer Districts

Why is the FY27 budget request lower than FY26?

FY24 Hockomock Net School Spending Comparison



Health Insurance
The FY27 request is \$72.3M vs. an FY26 appropriation of \$78.3M. **This is not a service cut.** Starting in FY27, employee health insurance and medicare costs (about \$8.8M) are consolidated under the Town of Franklin's benefits line; they simply moved to a different budget line. On a true apples-to-apples basis, the increase is 2.5%.

\$78.3M - \$7.7M = \$70.6M + 2.5% = \$72.3M
FY26 - FY26 Benefits = True FY26 + 2.5% = FY27 Request

What happens if the budget is underfunded?
Salaries, special education, and transportation are legal obligations. The district cannot reduce them. Any shortfall comes directly out of classrooms, intervention programs, and student activities.

FY27 Budget Development Timeline of Franklin Public Schools

October 6, 2025

FY27 Budget Workbooks & Guidelines Distributed

The School Business Office distributed FY27 budget workbooks, timelines, and budget development guidelines to all school principals and cost center administrators. This marked the formal launch of the FY27 budget planning process.

October 15–24, 2025

Initial Budget Development Meetings

The School Business Administrator met individually with school principals and department leaders to review budget workbooks, discuss anticipated needs, evaluate current spending trends, and begin development of departmental budget requests.

October 27, 2025

Budget Requests Submitted

All schools and departments submitted their FY27 budget requests to the School Business Administrator for review and analysis.

October 28, 2025

Budget Subcommittee FY27 Budget Overview

An initial overview of the FY27 budget development process, timeline, and early financial considerations was presented to the School Committee Budget Subcommittee.

November 4–21, 2025

Administrative Budget Review Meetings

The Superintendent and School Business Administrator conducted comprehensive review meetings with principals and cost center administrators to evaluate all submitted budget requests, discuss priorities, and assess alignment with district goals and available financial resources.

December 9, 2025

Preliminary Budget Review

The Budget Subcommittee reviewed the preliminary FY27 budget request, and an overall budget update was provided to the full School Committee. Discussions included projected revenues, staffing considerations, operational needs, and financial challenges.

December 10–24, 2025

Development of Superintendent's Recommended Budget

District leadership refined and finalized the Superintendent's Recommended FY27 Budget based on administrative review, projected revenues, contractual obligations, student needs, and community priorities.

December 22, 2025

Budget Submission to Town Administration

FY27 operating budget proposals and requests were formally submitted to the Chief Financial Officer as part of the Town's coordinated municipal budget process.

January 15, 2026

Budget Update with School Leaders

The Superintendent provided school principals and cost center administrators with an update on the status of the FY27 budget development process, including revisions, projected funding levels, and next steps.

January 27, 2026

Presentation of Superintendent's Recommended Budget

The Superintendent formally presented the FY27 Recommended Budget to the School Committee. The presentation outlined district priorities, staffing recommendations, operational investments, and the financial framework supporting the proposed budget.

February 10, 2026

School Committee Public Hearing

The School Committee conducted a public hearing dedicated exclusively to the FY27 budget. This hearing provided an opportunity for public input, stakeholder feedback, and community engagement regarding the proposed spending plan.

February 24, 2026

School Committee Budget Vote

Following review, discussion, and public input, the School Committee voted to approve the FY27 budget and forward it to the Town for consideration as part of the overall municipal budget process.

April 6–9, 2026

Finance Committee Budget Hearings

The Town Finance Committee held budget hearings to review departmental and school budget requests, ask questions, and evaluate the proposed FY27 financial plan prior to Town Council consideration.

May 20–21, 2026

Town Council Budget Hearings

Tonight's hearing represents the culmination of many months of planning, analysis, collaboration, and public discussion. The Town Council is reviewing the FY27 budget recommendations and hearing presentations from departments, including Franklin Public Schools, as part of the final municipal budget adoption process.



Understanding School Revolving Funds

Franklin Public Schools: Financial Overview for the Community

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

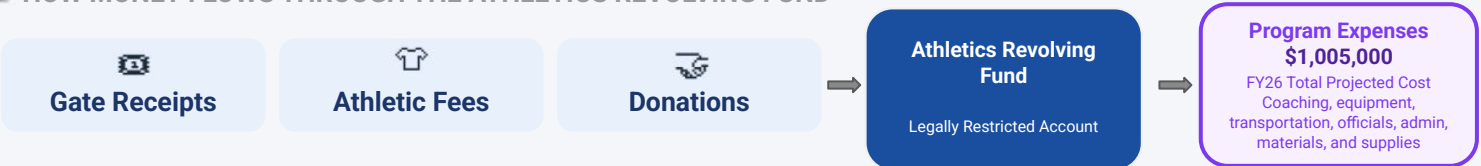
Revolving funds are **dedicated accounts** where specific revenues are collected and spent only on that same program. This is required by Massachusetts law.

Funds Cannot Be Mixed - Athletic fees cannot offset Transportation costs, and vice versa.

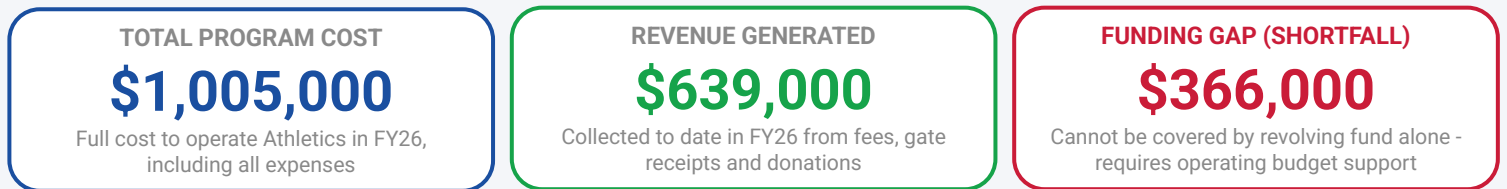
WHAT IS A REVOLVING FUND?

Think of each fund as a **dedicated bucket**: money flows in from fees and receipts, and flows out to cover program costs. The term “revolving” means revenue cycles continuously in and out to sustain operations. A healthy fund maintains a **one-year operating reserve** as a financial cushion per School Committee guidelines.

HOW MONEY FLOWS THROUGH THE ATHLETICS REVOLVING FUND



FY26 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Revenue Covers 63.5% of Program Costs

36.5% Gap Requires Supplemental Funding



✓ The Resolution: Operating Budget Supplementation

Because revolving fund revenue alone cannot cover program costs, the district must bridge the **\$366,000** gap using the general operating budget. This supplemental investment is required to keep Athletics fully operational for our students. This approach has been reviewed for legal compliance and is consistent with responsible fiscal management.

⚠ Why We Cannot Simply Overestimate Revolving Fund Revenue for FY27

A suggestion has been made to increase district reliance on revolving fund revenue by **\$700,000 in FY27**. This is not financially responsible - we cannot budget for revenue we do not realistically generate. Doing so would result in:

⚡ Risk 1: Guaranteed Deficits

Actual revenue would fall short of the overinflated estimate, creating a structural deficit from day one of the fiscal year.

⚡ Risk 2: Mid-Year Budget Crisis

A mid-year deficit would force an emergency supplemental request to the Town - disruptive, damaging to credibility, and avoidable.

🔄 OUR COMMITMENT: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

- 1 Fiscal Balance**
 Work toward maintaining a one-year operating reserve in all revolving funds, per School Committee guidelines.
- 2 Responsible Auditing**
 Manage all accounts to continue to achieve clean annual audits and meet all state and local financial reporting requirements.
- 3 Transparent Reporting**
 Provide the community with clear financial reports that accurately reflect program revenues, costs, and funding gaps.
- 4 Accurate Forecasting**
 Base all revenue projections on realistic, defensible figures to meet a budget target.