

2026-2027

MSAD #49

School Budget Proposal

M.S.A.D. #49 Board of School Directors

Albion

Katrina Dumont.....207-649-3532
 Billie Jo Brown-Woods, Vice Chair207-649-2743

Benton

Hannah Bard207-649-0999
 Christine Wentzel.....207-314-0980

Clinton

Robert Hartley207-426-8567
 Terry Knowles.....207-238-0635
 Neal Caverly207-314-2397

Fairfield

Rae Davis-Folsom.....207-446-0838
 Rachel Hachey207-692-3838
 Maxwell Kenney207-660-1110
 Heather Hussey207-668-6022
 Karen Kusiak, Chair.....207-441-2048
 Ryan Warren301-357-0591

Administration

Superintendent of Schools	Roberta Hersom
Assistant Superintendent of Schools	Sean Boynton
Lawrence Primary School Principal	Lori Lee
Lawrence Primary School Assistant Principal/Early Learning Administrator	Pam Blais
Lawrence Elementary School Principal	Brian Wedge
Lawrence Elementary School Assistant Principal	Kellie Paisley-Hopper
Lawrence Junior High School Principal	Laura Reynolds
Lawrence Junior High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director	Derek Langley
Lawrence High School Principal	Dan Bowers
Lawrence High School Assistant Principal	Jason Cyr
Lawrence Dean of Students/Athletic Director	David Packard
Adult Education Director	Adam Sikora

Budget

Actual Warrant Articles will be **underlined**. These are the Articles as they are written on the budget meeting warrant as you will see them when you vote at the **May 12, 2026 at Lawrence Junior High School, 7:00 PM.**

The State requires Articles 1 through 11 to allocate the total school budget among different expenditure categories, as indicated for each article. The budget recommended by the School Board consists of the following Articles 1 through 16. Together, these articles constitute the proposed school operating budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be presented to the voters scheduled for June 9, 2026.

ARTICLE 1 – REGULAR INSTRUCTION

Article includes all elementary (PreK-8) and secondary (9-12) education, which includes teachers' salaries and benefits, books, teaching supplies, equipment purchases and substitute teacher salaries.

Article 1 - Regular Instruction

Salaries	\$ 7,175,936.77
Benefits	\$ 2,473,506.92
Contracted Services, Staff & Professional Development, Conferences	\$ 48,450.00
Maintenance, Equipment, Repairs	\$ 27,570.00
Phones, Postage, Travel, Tuition	\$ 4,720.00
Supplies, Books	\$ 238,041.71
Equipment, Software & Miscellaneous Dues, Fees	\$ 527,149.25

TOTAL ARTICLE 1 – REGULAR INSTRUCTION \$ 10,495,374.65

Article 1 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Board recommends \$ 10,495,374.65

ARTICLE 2 – SPECIAL EDUCATION

Includes all salaries, benefits of teachers, educational technicians, and specialists for grades K-12, also supplies, books, equipment, plus contracted services, and cost of placing severely impaired youngsters in therapeutic day treatment settings. An amount supports the education of state agency clients, which is reimbursed totally by the State.

Article 2 – Special Education

Salaries	\$ 3,795,975.03
Benefits	\$ 1,615,861.00
Contracted Services, Staff & Professional Development, Conferences	\$ 724,000.00
Maintenance, Repairs	\$ 1,500.00
Out of District Tuition	\$ 936,000.00
Maine Care Local Seed Special Purpose Private School	\$ 240,000.00
Phones, Postage, Travel	\$ 11,300.00
Supplies, Books.....	\$ 26,980.63
Equipment, Software & Miscellaneous Dues, Fees	\$ 63,050.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 2 – SPECIAL EDUCATION..... \$ 7,414,666.66

Article 2 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Board recommends \$ 7,414,666.66

ARTICLE 3 – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Tuition charged for high school students to attend Mid-Maine Technical Center. Approximately 97 students from Lawrence will attend ½ day sessions at the Regional Center in 2026-2027.

Article 3 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education

School Board recommends \$ 0.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 3 – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION..... \$ 0.00

ARTICLE 4 – SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

Includes System Directors and Central Office salaries, legal, audit, insurance cost, budget meetings, cost for advertising vacant positions, printing of newsletters, and all business functions for the District.

Article 4 – System Administration

Salaries	\$ 666,868.63
Benefits	\$ 260,727.35
Professional Services – Auditors and Legal	\$ 115,000.00
Contracted Services, Staff and Professional Development	\$ 19,450.00
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 37,500.00
Phones, Postage, Travel, Tuition, Liability Insurance	\$ 137,622.48
Supplies and Books	\$ 13,000.00
Equipment, Software and Miscellaneous Dues, Fees	\$ 130,146.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 4 – SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION \$ 1,380,314.46

Article 4 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for System Administration

School Board recommends \$ 1,380,314.46

ARTICLE 5 – OTHER INSTRUCTION

Stipends for coaches and advisors in all co-curricular programs, officials' fees, supplies, uniforms, facility rental, and all co-curricular transportation costs. This covers all athletic programs plus drama, bands, chorus, math team, etc.

Article 5 – Other Instruction

Salaries	\$ 380,340.00
Benefits	\$ 34,597.12
Contracted Services	\$ 126,250.00
Phones, Postage, Travel, Tuition	\$ 500.00
Supplies and Books.....	\$ 100,045.00
Equipment, Software, Transportation and Dues	\$ 176,603.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 5 – OTHER INSTRUCTION..... \$ 818,335.12

Article 5 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction

School Board recommends \$ 818,335.12

ARTICLE 6 – STUDENT AND STAFF SUPPORT

Salaries and benefits for library staff, technology staff, counselors, nurses, clerical assistance, improvement of instruction and the contracted service of a school resource officer. Library books, computers and related technology, supplies and materials for specialized testing of students. Materials and counseling with students having problems. Medical and educational materials for nurses in all schools are included in this Article.

Article 6 – Student/Staff Support

Salaries	\$ 1,459,984.08
Benefits	\$ 518,471.91
Contracted Services, Professional Development	
Conferences, Resource Officer	\$ 174,417.90
Maintenance & Repairs.....	\$ 67,514.40
Phones, Postage, Internet and Travel	\$ 16,871.50
Supplies, Books.....	\$ 89,897.02
Equipment, Software & Misc. Dues and Fees	\$ 369,370.60

TOTAL ARTICLE 6 – STUDENT/STAFF SUPPORT \$ 2,696,527.41

Article 6 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support

School Board recommends \$ 2,696,527.41

ARTICLE 7 – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Includes salaries and benefits for principals, clerical support, office supplies, materials, equipment, telephone, postage, dues for student fees, and graduation expenses.

Article 7 – School Administration

Salaries	\$ 1,151,628.18
Benefits	\$ 389,817.86
Contracted Services, Staff & Professional	
Development, Conferences	\$ 6,150.00
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 12,250.00
Phones, Postage, Travel, Tuition	\$ 1,000.00
Supplies, Books.....	\$ 46,458.56
Equipment, Software & Miscellaneous Dues, Fees	\$ 12,545.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 7 – School Administration \$ 1,619,849.60

Article 7 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for School Administration

School Board recommends \$ 1,619,849.60

ARTICLE 8 – TRANSPORTATION

Cost of salaries, benefits, insurance, fuel, maintenance of school buses to transport students to and from school, as defined by Maine’s Essential Programs and Services.

Article 8 – Transportation

Salaries	\$ 1,576,256.98
Benefits	\$ 521,323.02
Contracted Services, Prof. Development, Conferences	\$ 120,500.00
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 26,400.00
Phones, Postage, Travel, Insurance.....	\$ 47,248.36
Fuel, Supplies, Books	\$ 418,842.00
Bus Purchase & Bus Equipment	\$ 342,500.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 8 – TRANSPORTATION..... \$ 3,053,070.36

Article 8 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses

School Board recommends \$ 3,053,070.36

ARTICLE 9 – FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Includes salaries and benefits of all custodians, maintenance and support service workers. Also includes cleaning and repairs to buildings, minor capital outlay, electricity, fuel, repairs of all equipment, indoor air quality, removal of asbestos, keeping the grounds in shape, and cleaning and repairing of the boilers.

Article 9 – Facilities Maintenance

Salaries	\$ 1,511,521.90
Benefits	\$ 594,378.00
Contracted Services, Professional Dev. Conferences	\$ 52,250.00
Maintenance, Repairs	\$ 1,294,100.00
Phones, Postage, Travel, Insurance.....	\$ 258,845.30
Utilities (heat, electric) Supplies, Books.....	\$ 1,668,285.00
Equipment, Software, Dues	\$ 14,500.00
ACA.....	\$ 1,000.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 9 – FACILITIES MAINTENANCE..... \$ 5,394,880.20

Article 9 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance

School Board recommends \$ 5,394,880.20

ARTICLE 10 – DEBT SERVICE

Article 10 – Debt Service

Article 10 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments

School Board recommends \$ 3,640,784.96

TOTAL ARTICLE 10 – DEBT SERVICE..... \$ 3,640,784.96

***100% State funded ----- Zero local tax dollars**

ARTICLE 11 – OTHER EXPENDITURES

Article 11 To see what sum the District will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures

School Board recommends \$ 0.00

TOTAL ARTICLE 11 – OTHER EXPENDITURES..... \$ 0.00

Articles 12 through 13 raise funds for the proposed school budget.

ARTICLE 12 – STATE/LOCAL EPS FUNDING ALLOCATION

The District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by the State law to be the minimum amount that the District must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of State dollars.

Article 12 To see what sum the District will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the District will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total State Appropriated: (By municipality)

Town of Albion	\$ 2,718,746.13
Town of Benton	\$ 4,114,353.55
Town of Clinton	\$ 6,059,320.69
Town of Fairfield	\$ 10,484,588.45

Total State	
Appropriated:	\$ 23,377,008.82

Total Raised: (Required Local Contribution by Municipality)

Town of Albion	\$ 1,257,047.41
Town of Benton	\$ 1,549,270.25
Town of Clinton	\$ 1,701,120.75
Town of Fairfield	\$ 3,345,603.34

School District	
Total Raised:	\$ 7,853,041.75

ARTICLE 13 – ADDITIONAL LOCAL FUNDS

Written ballot required

Article 13 To see what sum the District will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (Recommend \$ 6,998,078.52) which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (Recommend \$ 6,998,078.52) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board recommends \$ 6,998,078.52, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$ 6,998,078.52. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: The EPS model does not recognize all the costs of school functions; in some areas EPS amounts are less than the board believes are necessary to provide a quality education.

The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the District's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the District budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 14 – SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Article 14 To see what sum the District will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 from the District's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, local funds for non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Board recommends \$ 36,513,803.42

ARTICLE 15 – RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Article 15 To see if the District will raise and appropriate \$ 84,498.24 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program?

ARTICLE 16 – AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

Article 16 To see if the District will appropriate \$ 184,610.28 for adult education and raise \$ 54,105.51 as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program?

ARTICLE 17 – AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

Article 17 In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as many be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

ARTICLE 18 – AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS AMONG COST CENTERS

Article 18 Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

ARTICLE 19 – AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES FROM THE WILLIAMSON PROJECT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Article 19 Shall the School Board be authorized to expend approximately **\$250,000** from the Williamson Project Capital Reserve Fund to pay costs to repair an AC Handler at the Williamson Performing Arts Center and to further expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

2026-2027 SUMMARY OF UNIT ALLOCATION

	EPS Local Allocation	Additional Local Funds	Total
Albion	\$ 1,257,047.41	\$ 1,120,192.25	\$ 2,377,239.66
Benton	\$ 1,549,270.25	\$ 1,380,600.69	\$ 2,929,870.94
Clinton	\$ 1,701,120.75	\$ 1,515,919.18	\$ 3,217,039.93
Fairfield	\$ 3,345,603.34	\$ 2,981,366.40	\$ 6,326,969.74
TOTAL	\$ 7,853,041.75	\$ 6,998,078.52	\$ 14,851,120.27

2026-2027 SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM ALLOCATION

Albion	\$ 13,525.76	Clinton	\$ 18,303.95
Benton	\$ 16,670.05	Fairfield	\$ 35,998.48

Total: \$ 84,498.24

2026-2027 ADULT EDUCATION ALLOCATION

Albion	\$ 8,660.74	Clinton	\$ 11,720.30
Benton	\$ 10,674.09	Fairfield	\$ 23,050.38

Total: \$ 54,105.51

Anticipated Revenues

	Budgeted: 2025-2026	Projected: 2026-2027
LOCAL:		
Foundation Allocation	\$ 7,494,765.00	\$ 7,853,041.75
Local Debt Service Allocation	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Additional Local Funds	\$ 4,904,996.63	\$ 6,998,078.52
<i>Sub Total</i>	\$ 12,399,761.63	\$ 14,851,120.27
OTHER:		
Balance Forward	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
Tuition	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Interest	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 285,000.00
Sale of Inventory	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Gate Receipts	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Reimbursement Medicaid	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
State Agency Clients	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
<i>Sub Total</i>	\$ 3,377,000.00	\$ 2,392,000.00
STATE:		
State Funded Debt Service	\$ 3,720,036.20	\$ 3,640,784.96
Foundation Allocation	\$ 15,608,373.29	\$ 15,523,967.07
Education Svc Center Allocation	\$ 114,755.20	\$ 105,931.12
<i>Sub Total</i>	\$ 19,443,164.69	\$ 19,270,683.15
TOTAL:	\$ 35,219,926.32	\$ 36,513,803.42

M.S.A.D. #49 Revenue Report
Federal/State Grants Received
2025-2026

Description	Estimated Revenue
Title IA & Title IA Reallocated	\$ 1,014,245.03
Title IIA Improving Teacher Quality	\$ 145,779.71
Title IVA	\$112,400.60
Title V	0.00
Program Improvement	0.00
Individuals with Disability Education Act	617,864.68
IDEA Preschool	13,630.41
Adult Basic Education (AEFLA)	17,616.54
MCCA/College Transitions (Adult Ed. – multi-town)	20,504.50

Resident Per Pupil Operating Costs

Information as reported on the Maine Department of Education ESSA website:

Resident Student Per Pupil Operating Costs

For 2024-2025 School Year

State of Maine Average per-Pupil Costs	\$ 19,804
M.S.A.D. #49 Per-Pupil Costs	\$ 16,823
Difference	(-\$ 2,981)

M.S.A.D. #49 spends less than 180 out of 257 School Administrative Units.

2025-2026 Enrollments for M.S.A.D. #49

	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Primary	46	126	118	124											414
Elemen.					118	132	138	137							525
LJHS									119	116					235
LHS											143	116	133	111	503
Totals	46	126	118	124	118	132	138	137	119	116	143	116	133	111	1677

Students Attending as of 4/1/2026

SCHEDULE FOR VOTING

JUNE 9, 2026

ALBION	Albion Town Office, Besse Building 22 Main Street 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
BENTON	Benton Town Office, 1279 Clinton Avenue 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
CLINTON	Clinton Town Office, 27 Baker Street 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
FAIRFIELD	Fairfield Community Center, 61 Water Street 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM