

January 20, 2021

FY 2021-22

Winnacunnet Cooperative
School District Proposed
Operating Budget

THE WINNACUNNET COMMUNITY

Educating the whole student by providing a flexible, engaging, and supportive atmosphere where learning is relevant and lifelong.



The proposed FY 2021-22 operating budget reflects a commitment to providing an education that promotes creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and responsible decision making – through collaborative and independent work. We believe this will enable our students to become active, contributing citizens of our community and help prepare all students to achieve their full potential.



BUDGET GOALS



The Winnacunnet 2021-22 proposed operating budget provides funding and resource allocation that enhances academic programs to support all students. Winnacunnet Cooperative High School continues to follow a personalized learning model that incorporates Winnacunnet's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations – as delineated by the district's stated goal:

- *Working as a team, the Winnacunnet High School Faculty and staff will provide proficiency-based learning for all students that is equitable, personalized, and rigorous, resulting in 100% of Winnacunnet students graduating college and career ready by offering all students access to all courses, developing and implementing a competency-based assessment system, and providing multiple pathways that recognize students' diverse interests and abilities, consistently using these new approaches school-wide.*

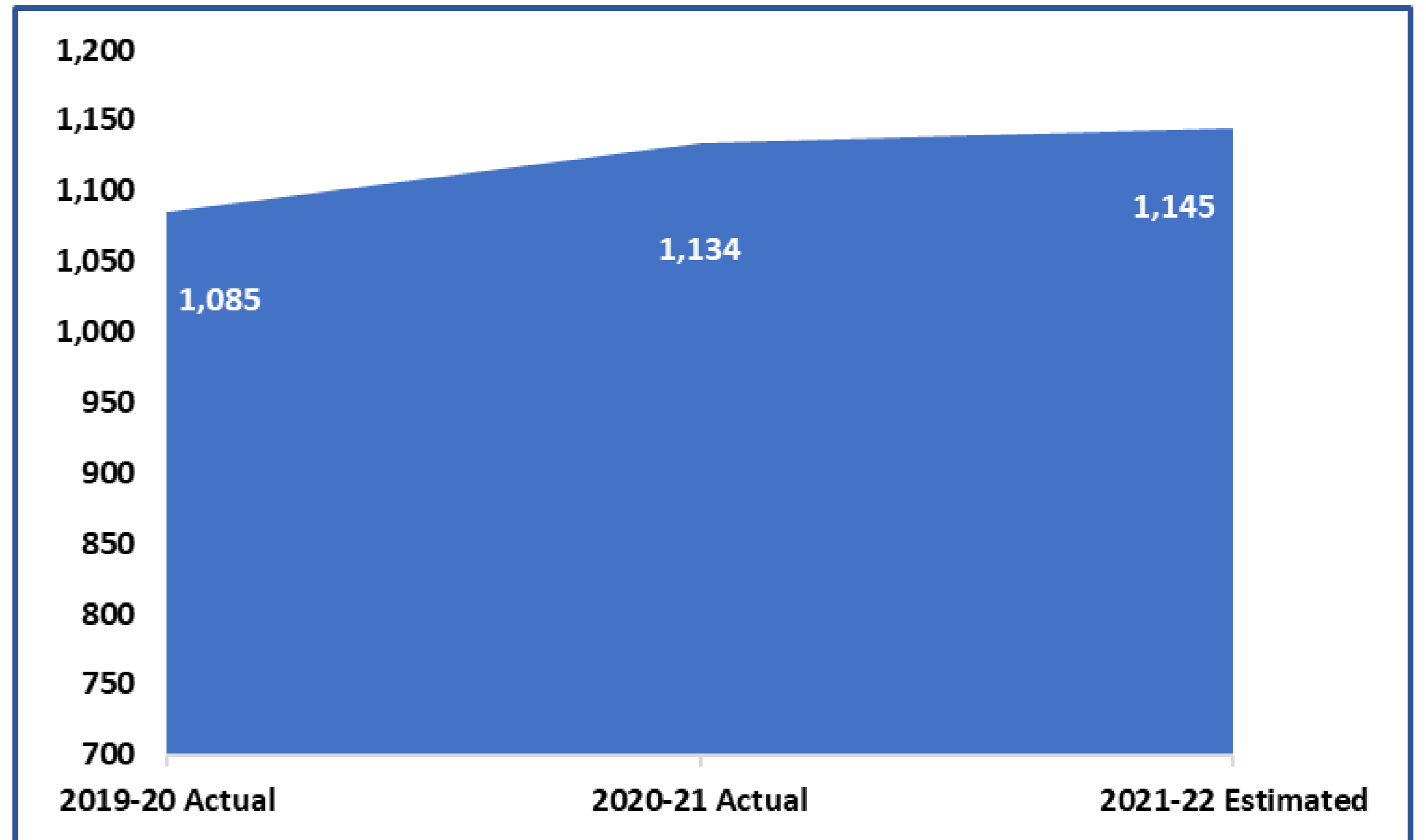
The 2021-22 proposed budget provides the resources to support this goal, and the initiatives that have been implemented to provide a personalized learning environment for each student. Further, the budget reflects continued implementation of the School Board approved Competency Based Education Learning Plan, Technology Plan, and Facilities Plan.

ENROLLMENT



The SAU will be conducting refreshed enrollment projections in the Fall of 2021, post-pandemic.

Due to the uncertainty of school enrollments in this unique time; the projected 2021-22 enrollment is based on actual 2020-21 enrollment plus families who have indicated their intention of students returning to school in 2021-22.



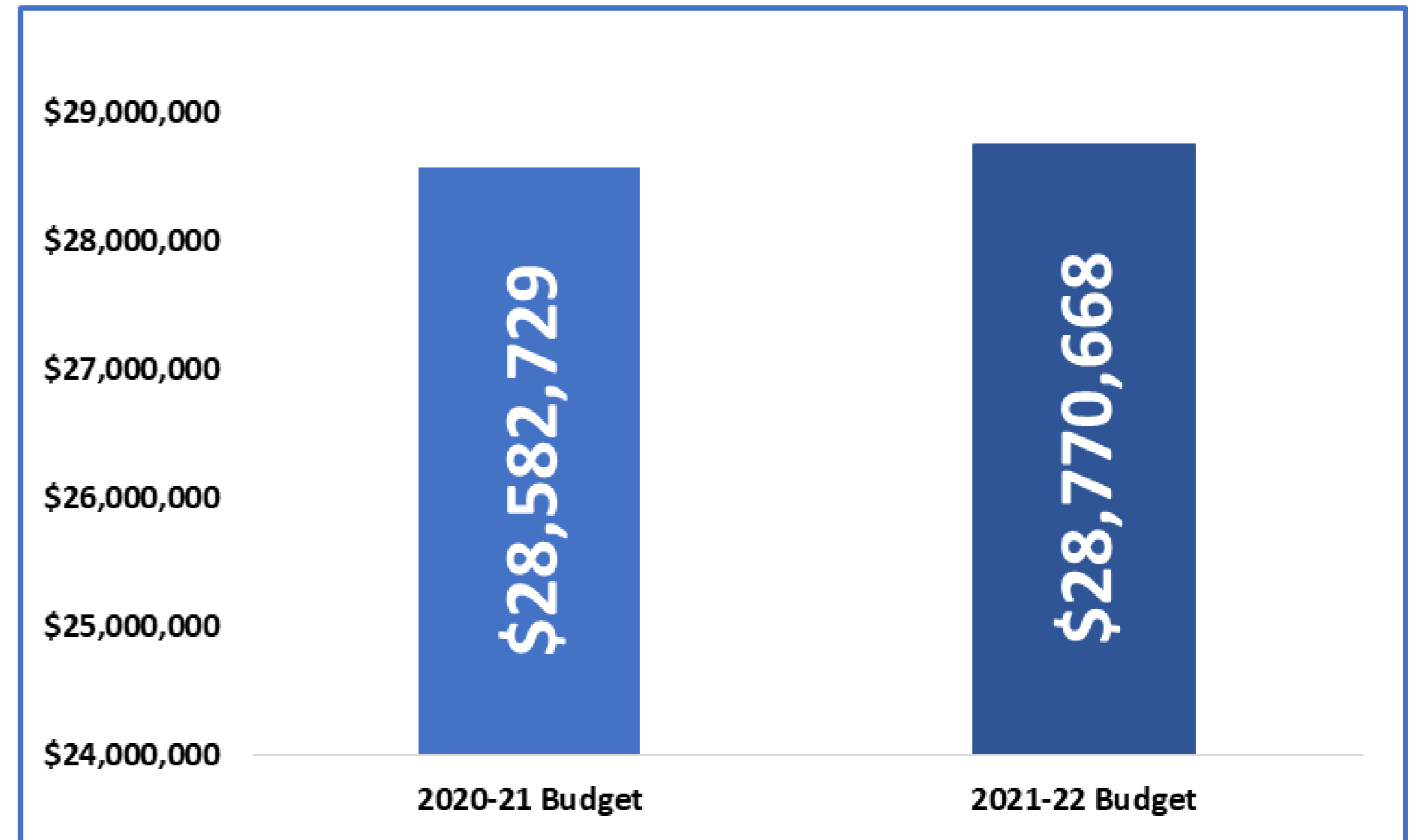
THE WINNACUNNET COMMUNITY
BUDGET SUMMARY



The FY 2021-22 Winnacunnet Cooperative School District proposed operating budget is \$28,770,668.

This reflects an increase of +0.66% or a +\$187,939 increase from the 2020-21 budget.

The proposed budget is -\$208,667 less than the default budget.



THE WINNACUNNET COMMUNITY

BUDGET SUMMARY



BUDGET DRIVERS

The 2021-22 proposed budget reflects a focus on maintaining current programming and services, while re-examining budget priorities and cutting expenditures across all departments. The budget includes no new significant initiatives or investments, understanding that our member communities are facing economic challenges and revenue headwinds.

Unfortunately, the State of New Hampshire Retirement System has dramatically increased employer contribution levels after delaying and neglecting to properly fund the state's pension obligations for decades. As such, local towns are responsible to supplement the unfunded pension obligation from years past for our educators, police, fire, and other municipal employees. The following summarizes the retirement increase as well as other significant contractual obligations, totaling an increase of \$1,411,480:

Retirement: +\$503,178; The New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) increased the employer contribution for all teachers by 3.22% and all other employees by 2.89%.

Salaries - Certified Staff: +\$756,875; Contractual cost of living adjustment (COLA) and step increases for certified teachers as part of the SEA collective bargaining agreement. Plus additional two (2) special education case managers based on student enrollments and student need.

Transportation: +\$96,234; Transportation services for special education and regular, daily routes.

Vocational Programs - Tuition: +\$82,110; Tuition for students to attend Seacoast School of Technology (SST) due to increase in student enrollment and annual tuition increase as determined by the SST board.

THE WINNACUNNET COMMUNITY
BUDGET SUMMARY



BUDGET DRIVERS

There are many reductions included in the proposed budget to offset the aforementioned \$1.41 million contractual increases. The following are the significant budget decreases in the proposed 2021-22 Winnacunnet Cooperative School District operating budget:

Special Education - Tuition: -\$587,411; Elimination of out of district placement for students requiring special services.

Health Insurance: -\$221,293; Utilization of health care expendable trust to under budget account by - \$150K (to be used only if needed), a modest 3.4% GMR, and plan election changes at lower cost.

Information Technology: -\$69,354; Reflects savings in information access fees, technology equipment, workshops/seminars, repair and maintenance, equipment leasing, contracted services, and supplies accounts.

Buildings: -\$65,664; Reductions in Renovations, overtime salaries, auditorium improvements, equipment, heating fuels, and electricity accounts.

THE WINNACUNNET COMMUNITY

BUDGET SUMMARY



COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Embedded in the SAU operating budget is a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all non-union staff members. This COLA represents an annual salary increase for all non-union staff members within the respective district operating budgets. The administration recommends an SAU-wide COLA based upon documented inflation.

We utilize the consumer price index (CPI) for the Portsmouth region. The CPI saw an increase of 0.8% from July 2019 to July 2020 for our specific geographic region. The budget process is such that we forecast a year in advance, and inflation data looks at 12 months in arrears. So, although the COLA will never match CPI on an annual basis, this consistent practice equalizes any inequality, by utilizing the same time-frame and index. As such, based upon current data showing previous year inflation at 0.8%, the administration recommends a cost of living adjustment of 0.8% SAU-wide for the 2021-22 school year.

The Seacoast Education Association (SEA) collective bargaining agreement for teachers calls for a 2.75% COLA, and is included in the 2021-22 operating budget.

The Seacoast Educational Personnel Association (SESPA) collective bargaining agreement for educational associates calls for a 1.00% COLA, and is included in the 2021-22 operating budget.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



The following budget detail summarizes each individual budget function with associated significant increase or decrease, and reasoning for the variance:

REGULAR EDUCATION

Budget: \$7,311,340

Increase: +\$191,427 (+2.69%)

The primary driver for the increase is due to the SEA salaries cost of living adjustment and step increases, which is offset by a reduction in supplies and equipment accounts.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Budget: \$3,557,664

Decrease: -\$395,648 (-10.01%)

The decrease in special education is based on the elimination of a few out of district placement tuitions, offset by the hiring of two special education case managers, which is based on student enrollments and student need to service students with individualized education plans (IEP).

BUDGET IN DETAIL



VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Budget: \$334,110

Increase: +\$82,110 (+32.58%)

The increase in vocational programs reflects an increase in student enrollment and the annual tuition increase as determined by the Seacoast School of Technology's (SST) governing board.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Budget: \$882,168

Decrease: -\$1,501 (-0.17%)

The decrease in student activities reflects reductions in supplies, uniforms, dues and fees, equipment, and speakers, based on expenditure history and needs of the respective activities.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Budget: \$67,500

Decrease: -\$1,900 (-2.74%)

The slight decrease represents a reduction in supplies, based on actual expenditure history.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



EVENING SCHOOL

Budget: \$129,589

Increase: +\$10,245 (+8.58%)

The increase is based on a reduction in available grant funding the federal government provides for evening school programs. The actual cost of the program is otherwise neutral.

GUIDANCE

Budget: \$861,718

Decrease: -\$7,504 (-0.86%)

The decrease in guidance reflects the natural transition of the JAG program as a contracted service to in-house operating under our extended learning opportunities (ELO) program. Additional reductions include cost savings in testing and workshops, offset by increases due to staff salary cost of living adjustment, step increases, and right-sizing contract days for professional staff.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



HEALTH SERVICES

Budget: \$144,404

Increase: +\$3,133 (+2.22%)

The increase reflects the staff salary cost of living adjustment and step increases.

SPEECH SERVICES

Budget: \$1

Increase: +\$0.00 (+0.00%)

The Speech Services account is kept open for potential future need.

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Budget: \$1

Increase: +\$0.00 (+0.00%)

The Other Support Services account is kept open for potential future need.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Budget: \$414,018

Increase: +\$1,612 (+0.39%)

The increase in Improvement of Instruction account reflects salary cost of living adjustments and step increases, offset by a reduction in professional development salary stipends, workshops, and seminars.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

Budget: \$179,538

Increase: +\$4,388 (+2.51%)

The primary driver for the increase is due to the staff salary cost of living adjustment and step increases, offset by a reduction in books/print media based on expenditure history.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Budget: \$648,285

Decrease: -\$69,354 (-9.66%)

The Information Technology accounts align with the School Board approved Technology Plan. The decrease in technology is primarily due to savings in information access fees with a new internet / network services provider and a reduction in technology equipment, workshops/seminars, repair and maintenance, equipment leasing, and supplies accounts, as well as the elimination of shared position with SAU. The reduction is slightly offset by increases in software licensing and salaries due to cost of living and step increases.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



SUPPORT SERVICES

Budget: \$60,000

Decrease: -\$3,500 (-5.51%)

The decrease in the support services accounts reflects a reduction in other salaries based on expenditure history.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Budget: \$67,151

Decrease: -\$1,900 (-2.75%)

The decrease in board of education reflects a reduction in annual meeting costs based on actual expenditure history.

SAU SERVICES

Budget: \$885,590

Increase: +18,506 (+2.13%)

The slight increase in SAU services reflects an enhanced vision of the SAU, envisioned to better serve all of our districts. The new SAU 21 organizational model provides an aligned, high functioning structure that utilizes economy of scale, operational efficiencies, and shared personnel – to provide cost, performance, and efficiency benefits to each individual district.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Budget: \$910,651

Increase: +\$34,551 (+3.94%)

The primary driver for the increase is due to the administrative salary cost of living adjustment and step increases and rental/lease equipment for copier and printer leases. The copier costs are artificially higher, as toner and overage charges were mistakenly charged to another account. Reductions in the account include a decrease in postage, telephone, and travel reimbursement accounts.

BUILDINGS

Budget: \$1,733,243

Decrease: -\$65,664 (-3.65%)

The Buildings, Grounds, and Vehicles accounts align with the School Board approved Facilities Plan. The decrease in buildings is due to a decrease in the renovations account to push back projects due to cost considerations, as well as reductions in overtime salaries, auditorium improvements (per auditorium plan), equipment, heating fuels, and electricity reflecting an SAU-wide negotiated lower rate. These reductions were offset by increases based on staff salary cost of living adjustment, step increases, consulting services for roofing and HVAC, and repair and maintenance.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



GROUNDS

Budget: \$255,601

Decrease: -\$31,999 (-11.13%)

The decrease in grounds is due to a reduction in the grounds repair and equipment accounts.

VEHICLES

Budget: \$31,734

Increase: +\$6,800 (+27.27%)

The increase reflects a proposed purchase of a tractor to replace one that has reached end of life.

SECURITY SERVICES

Budget: \$2

Increase: +\$0.00 (+0.00%)

No increase to the Security Services account is budgeted.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



TRANSPORTATION

Budget: \$1,198,710

Increase: +\$96,234 (+8.73%)

The increase in transportation is primarily due to special education transportation, based on student need for in-district and out of district transportation. The remainder of the increase reflects year 3 of the 5-year contract with First Student to supply regular education, athletic, field trip, and other transportation services.

DEBT SERVICE

Budget: \$1,968,688

Decrease: -\$244 (-0.01%)

The debt service account provides the principal and interest payments on the bond issue for the building project. The last payment is scheduled for August 2024.

Due to refinancing, we will receive a total of \$522,657 in refunds over the 20 year term.

BUDGET IN DETAIL



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Budget: \$6,542,833

Increase: +\$317,108 (+5.09%)

The increase in employee benefits primarily reflects The New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) mandated increase in employer contribution for all teachers by 3.22% and all other employees by 2.89%. This is offset by the reduction of the health insurance account to account for potential GMR/actual variance or plan election changes with the ability to utilize the health care expendable trust if the operating budget cannot support the actual cost.

INTERFUND TRANSFER

Budget: \$1

Increase: +\$0.00 (+0.00%)

We do not anticipate a need for a transfer from the general fund to cover a school nutrition deficit.

FOOD SERVICE

Budget: \$586,128

Increase: +\$1,039 (+0.18%)

The increase is due to the staff salary cost of living adjustment and step increases, offset by a reduction in supplies and equipment.

DEFAULT BUDGET



DEFAULT BUDGET

\$28,979,335 (+\$208,667 more than the proposed operating budget of \$28,770,668)

The amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget, and eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under recruitment or positions redefined in the proposed operating budget, as determined by the governing body, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted, of the local political subdivision. In calculating the default budget amount, the governing body shall follow the statutory formula which may result in a higher or lower amount than the proposed operating budget.

WARRANT ARTICLES



WARRANT ARTICLES

In consideration of current economic conditions, the administration proposes inclusion of only the scheduled annual HVAC replacement, per the approved HVAC replacement plan, for the March 2021 ballot.

HVAC – Technology Education Building: \$325,000

We have consulted with our roof consultant and recommend the delay of the roof replacement one year.

WARRANT ARTICLES



WARRANT ARTICLES

The expendable trusts are currently at or near target balances. Due to this and consideration of current economic conditions, the school board does not propose the inclusion of any additional warrant articles for the March 2021 ballot.

The following outlines the current balances for the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District's four established expendable trusts:

Expendable Trust:	Balance:	Target:
Special Education:	\$406,545	\$400,000
Building Maintenance:	\$257,030*	\$200,000
Health Care:	\$236,690	\$300,000
Technology:	\$ 5,394	N/A

**Note: The building maintenance trust has an approved withdrawal for this past year's roof project, and we plan to utilize additional building trust monies for installation of security bollards and garage/shed roof replacement, which will bring the balance down to approximately \$175,000.*

THE WINNACUNNET COMMUNITY

Thank you to the school board,
budget committee, teachers,
parents, students, staff, and
community for the outstanding
support of the Winnacunnet
Cooperative High School!

