

# OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT



**2026 School District  
Deliberative Session**

**February 3, 2026  
7:00 PM  
ORMS Recital  
Hall**

# Process for Deliberative Session

## **General**

1. We will not follow Roberts' Rules of Order. The Moderator's goal is to keep the meeting moving courteously and within state law, to reflect the intent of the voters present as the legislative body of the school district, and to avoid procedural quagmires.
2. Voters can overrule any decision of the Moderator by raising a Point of Order and moving to change the Moderator's decision followed by a second to the motion and a majority vote.

## **Signing in and Voting**

1. Only registered voters from Durham, Lee, or Madbury may vote at the Deliberative Session.
2. Check in with ballot clerks to receive your voter card.
3. Voting will normally be by a show of voter cards, by holding voter cards up in the air.

# Process for Deliberative Session

## Discussion of Warrant Articles

1. Each warrant article will be read aloud to introduce it, and the sponsor has an opportunity to explain the article.
2. After explanation, voters can ask questions or propose amendments.
3. Only registered voters of Durham, Lee, and Madbury, along with the School District Superintendent, Business Administrator, and Attorney, may speak to the Deliberative Session. Others may be permitted to address the Meeting by motion and vote.
4. Comments and questions from voters must be related to the warrant article under discussion.
5. If you would like to speak, come to the microphone. After the Moderator has recognized you, give your name and which town you live in before you begin. We need to record the identity of each speaker in the minutes.
6. After you speak on an issue, we will give everybody else who wants to speak on that issue their opportunity before you speak again.

# Process for Deliberative Session

## Amendments

1. Amendments must be presented in writing with the name and town of the proposer. Each proposed amendment must receive a second before it is discussed. After discussion, the amendment will be voted on.
2. We will only address one amendment at a time. Amendments-to-amendments are not allowed.
3. Amendments cannot eliminate the subject matter of the article.
4. Some articles have wording that by law cannot be changed.
5. Amendments cannot change an article so that a vote For or Against the article has the same meaning.

# Process for Deliberative Session

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# Candidates Forum – Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 pm, Oyster River High School Auditorium

School Board Candidates and the public are invited.

The ORHS Student Senate is organizing this candidates' forum.

Input requested on the topics you'd like to hear candidates address.

Please share your suggestions. Questions will be developed based on community and student input.



<https://forms.office.com/r/6ZHRsdiEa6>

# Election-Day Volunteers Needed

We need at least 2 registered voters from each town to help with ballot counting the evening of March 10.

Please contact [moderator@orcsd.org](mailto:moderator@orcsd.org).

# 2026 School Warrant

To the Inhabitants of the Oyster River Cooperative School District of Durham, Lee, and Madbury qualified to vote upon District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Oyster River Middle School in said district on the 3rd day of February 2026, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for Session 1 of the Annual School District Meeting for discussion of Articles 3 through 13 and any amendments thereto. Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article at Session I.



# 2026 School Warrant

Official ballot voting for school district officers (articles 1 and 2) and on articles 3 through 13 will occur at town polling locations on Tuesday, March 10, 2026:

|                 |                           |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Town of Durham  | Oyster River High School  | 7:00 am to 7:00 pm  |
| Town of Lee     | Lee Public Safety Complex | 7:00 am to 7:00 pm  |
| Town of Madbury | Madbury Town Hall         | 11:00 am to 7:00 pm |

# Articles 1 and 2

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

ARTICLE 2: To choose two (2) At-Large School Board members for the ensuing three years.

# Warrant Article # 3 - Bond

## Article # 3: Mast Way/Moharimet Renovation Expansion Project

Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,827,000 (gross budget) to finance renovations and additions at both elementary schools to include additional classrooms, expanding a cafeteria, and creating appropriate spaces to deliver services to students (the “Project”); and authorize the issuance of not more than \$9,827,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the dates, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; and authorize the School Board to accept on behalf of the District any federal, state, or private funds that may become available to fund the Project and use such funds toward the Project or to reduce the amount of bonds or notes issued for the Project; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$245,675 for the initial debt service payment due during the fiscal year?

***The School Board recommends this Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)***

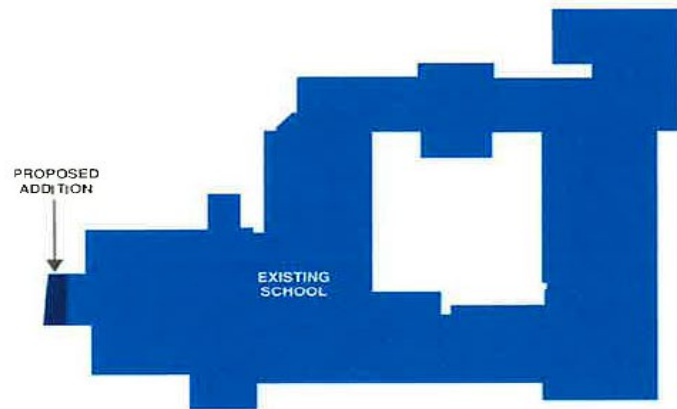


# Mast Way School

## Potential Expansion and Renovation

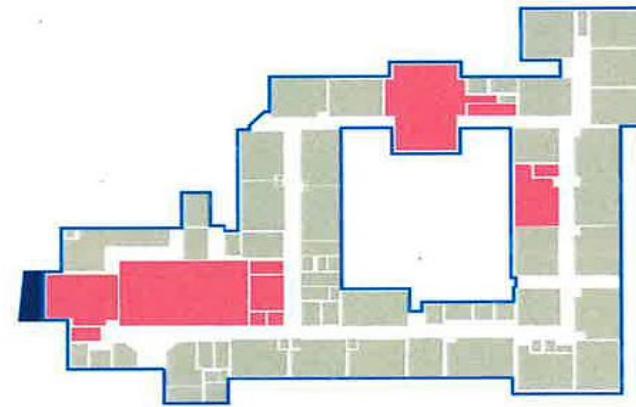


NOVO STUDIO | ARCHITECTS



### ADDITION

- Cafeteria expansion
- 20' added to provide seating space



### RENOVATION

- OT/PT room
- Relocated cool down room
- Additional small meeting and testing spaces
- Connection between the Library and the North Commons

| Problem   | Solution  |
|---|---|
| <b>Cafeteria Expansion</b><br>The existing space is at capacity, with no room for additional occupants. Surfaces are hard, creating acoustic challenges and an uncomfortably loud atmosphere.   | Expansion to accommodate more occupants and better acoustics adding enough square footage for an additional 46 students and staff.  |
| <b>OT/PT Room</b><br>Existing space is oversized and not at grade with the existing school.   | Right size the room and lower the floor to match the existing school.   |
| <b>Library/North Commons</b><br>Spaces are separated by a wall, creating two small areas and preventing team teaching opportunities for the librarian and STEM teacher.   | Remove the wall and open the space for greater flexibility and project-based learning opportunities.  |
| <b>Math and Science</b><br>The Math and Science specialist does not have a dedicated teaching room and is utilizing a conference room since the space had to be converted to a general education classroom.   | Create floor plan efficiencies and carve out a right-sized room to accommodate teaching demands next to the Library/Learning Commons in a space serving as storage and a Cool Down Room, which will be moved as part of this project. |
| <b>Cool Down Room</b><br>The existing room is located next to the library. When a student is dysregulated, the noise can travel, creating interruptions in student learning in nearby rooms, including the library. Additionally, it is best located closer to the front of the building where other student resources are located. | By reducing the OT/PT room to an appropriate size, the square footage can be allocated to a new location for the Cool Down Room.  |
| <b>Resources Room/ESOL</b><br>The Resource Room is currently within a general education classroom and is undersized.  | By relocating this room to the classroom next to the ESOL teacher's office, a space that is oversized, the additional square footage can be allocated to the Resource Room.   |
| <b>Student Break and Testing Room</b><br>The school does not have enough small rooms for students on special learning plans for private testing.  | The corridor next to the cafeteria is redundant, and the space is appropriately sized for a small testing room to hold 3 to 6 people.   |



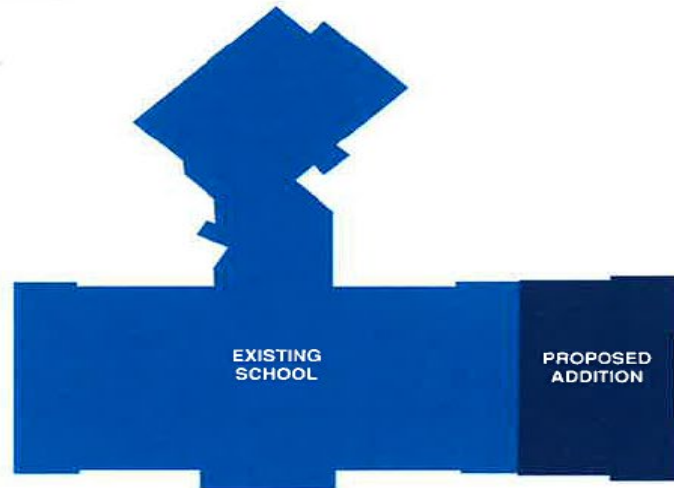


# Moharimet School

## Potential Expansion and Renovation

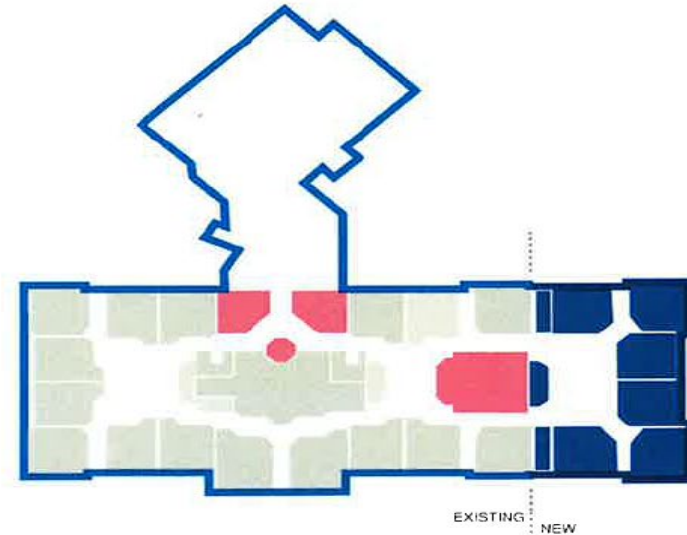


**NOVO STUDIO** | ARCHITECTS



### ADDITION

- General education classrooms
- Single story
- Needed student support spaces



### RENOVATION

- New tutor center and conference room
- Critical program adjacencies
- Decentralized student services

## Problem

### General Education Classrooms

The school does not have enough general education classrooms.

### Art Classroom

Currently, the art room is a general education classroom, and Art is taught in the East Commons. There are no walls, just partial height partitions. There is no sink and no access to the kiln.

### OT/PT Room

The current OT/PT room is undersized, and the space is shared with the ESOL teacher.

### ESOL

The school currently has no ESOL room and the program shares a corner in the OT/PT room. The space is too small and is dysfunctional.

### Special Education and Speech

Two speech and language providers share the space with special education instruction. The space is overcrowded and interferes with adequate program delivery.

### Tutor Room

Tutors are working in the existing administration conference room. There is not enough space nor an ideal layout for the tutors and students, and the administration does not have a conference room.

### Conference Room

The administration and staff currently have no conference room. When meetings need to take place, staff utilizes the Makerspace or huddle around the small table in the principal's office.

## Solution

The project will build four additional classrooms.

By building new general education classrooms, the room with the kiln, previously used for Art, can be made available and art can return to that classroom.

Build a new space for the OT/PT, so each program can be delivered in their own space.

By building new, right-sized student resource areas, an office in the existing building becomes available for ESOL.

Renovate and add a room in the existing East Commons, which will become the Central Commons. This space is directly across from the other two speech rooms and is an ideal location.

By building a new room for the Resource Room, tutors can use the existing room, which is the right size for tutoring services.

The proposed renovation of service delivery spaces will free the conference room so it can serve its original purpose.

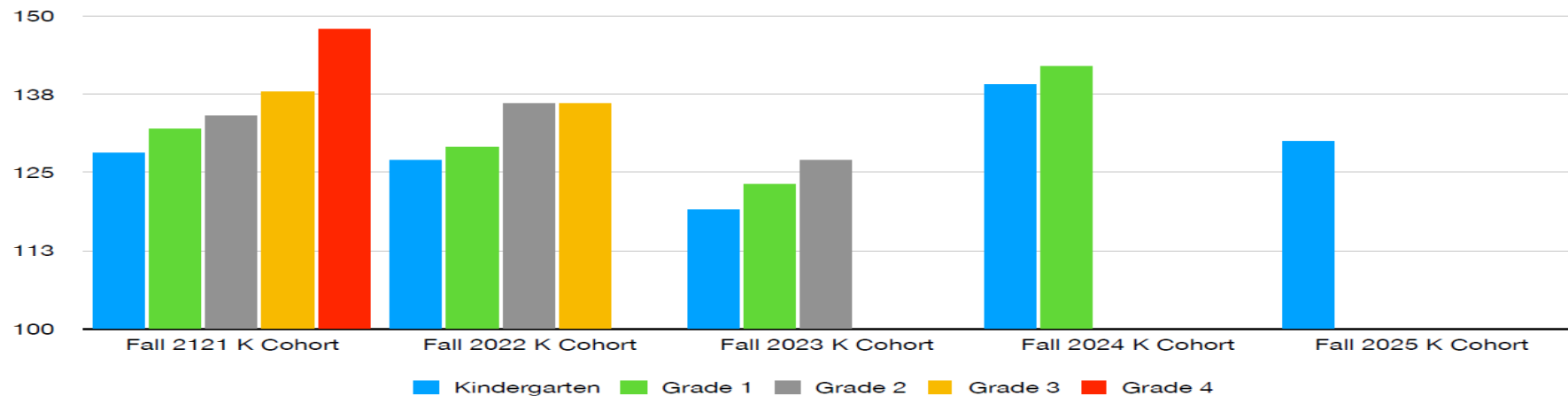
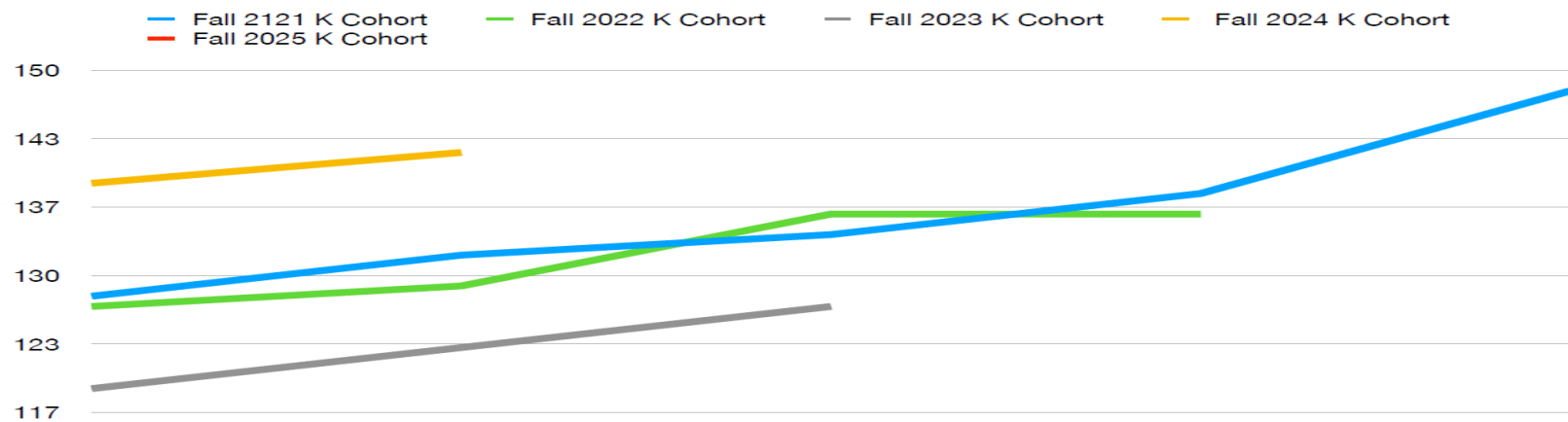


Table 1

|                    | Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 |
|--------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fall 2121 K Cohort | 128          | 132     | 134     | 138     | 148     |
| Fall 2022 K Cohort | 127          | 129     | 136     | 136     |         |
| Fall 2023 K Cohort | 119          | 123     | 127     |         |         |
| Fall 2024 K Cohort | 139          | 142     |         |         |         |
| Fall 2025 K Cohort | 130          |         |         |         |         |





# Warrant Article # 4

## Article # 4: Operating Budget

The average cost-per-pupil for the preceding year as calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75, I (a) is \$24,268. ELA Proficiency: 75%; Math Proficiency: 65%; Science Proficiency: 61%.

Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$61,846,067. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$60,463,982 (Default Budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law; or the District may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X, and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only.

***The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)***

### Note:

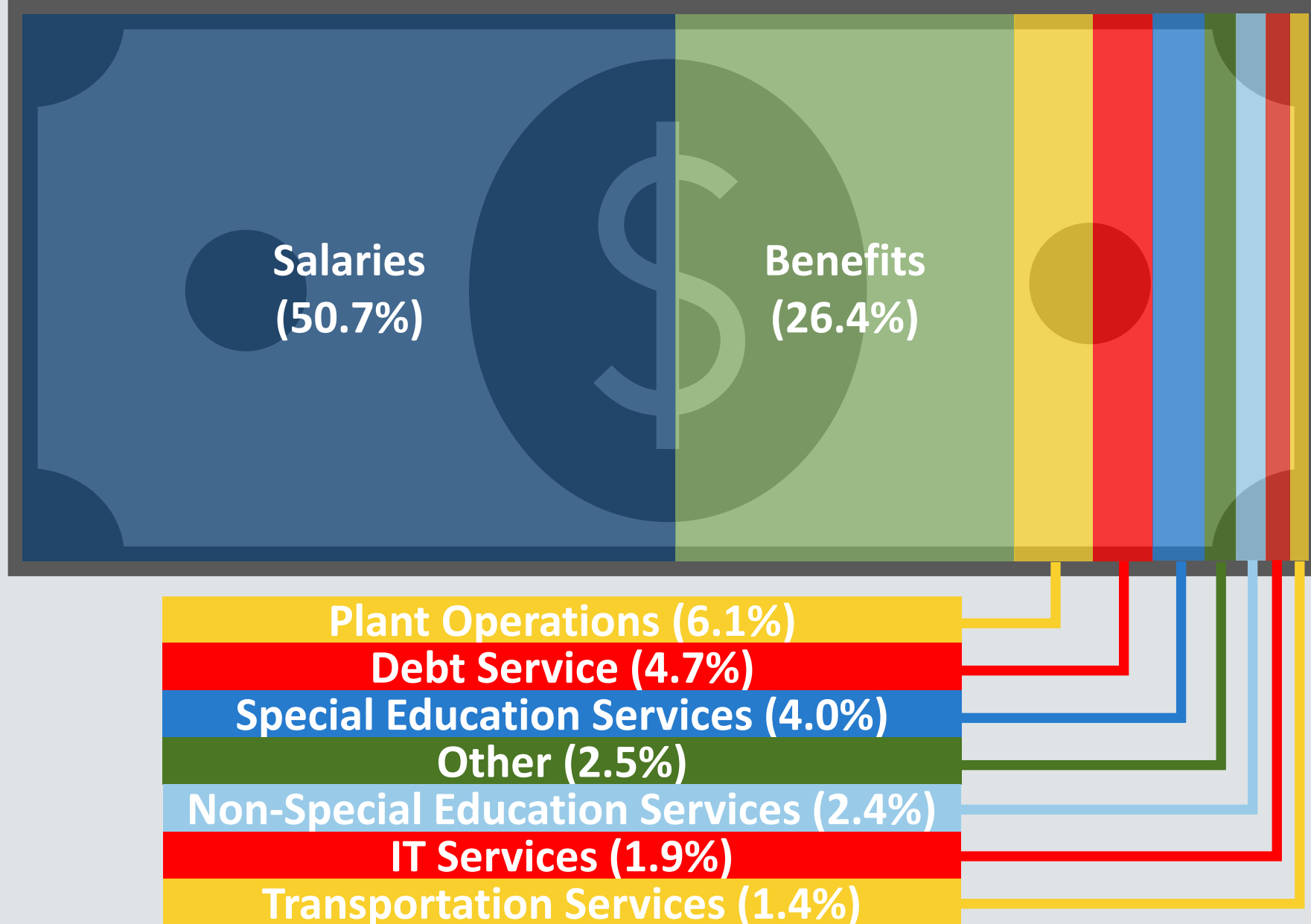
Fund 10 = \$59,664,022 (regular operating budget); Fund 21 = \$1,432,045 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22 = \$645,000 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23 = \$105,000 (expenditures from pass through funds).

# FY27 Proposed Budget

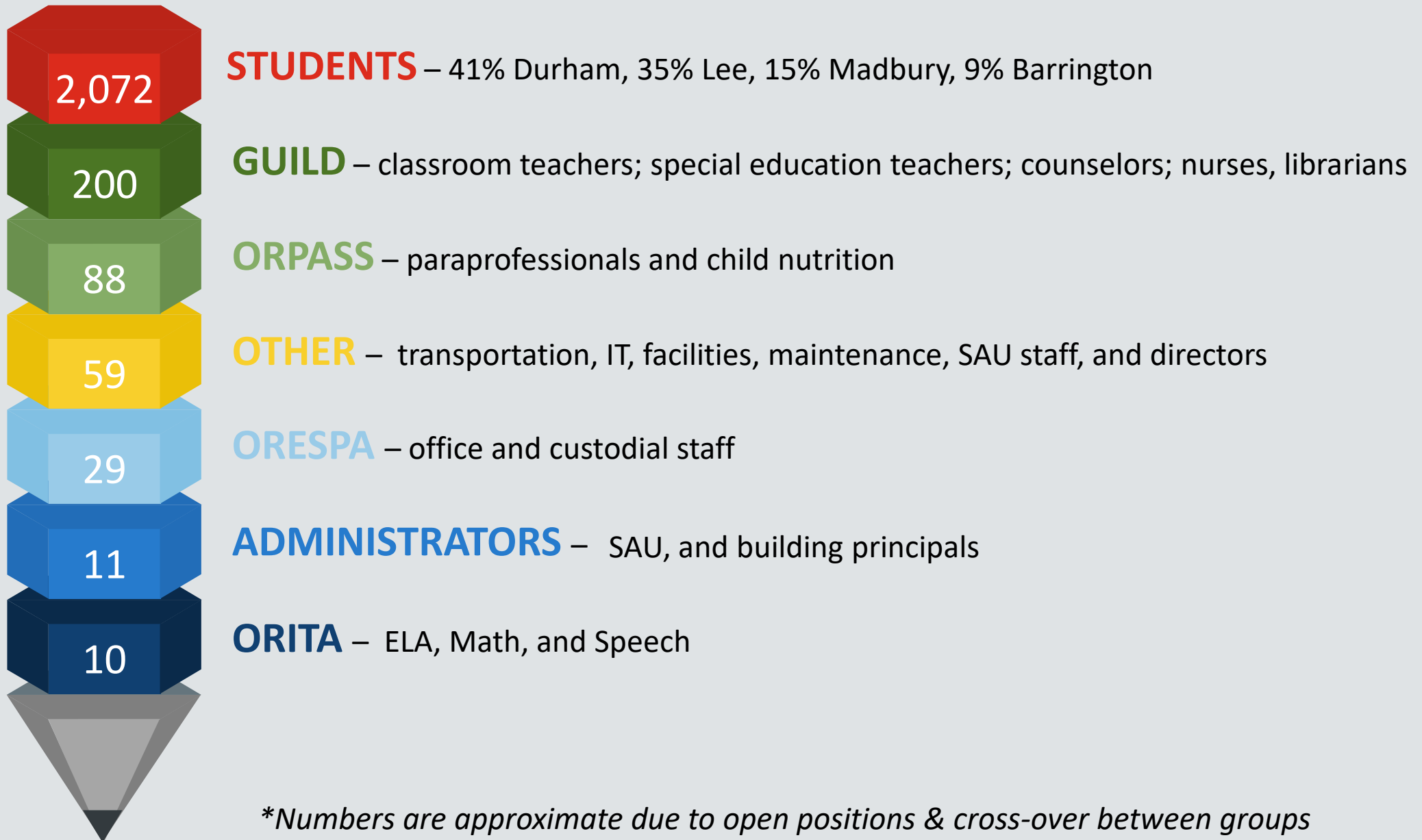
|  | FY26                | FY27                | INCREASE           | CHANGE        |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| FUND 10<br>(General Fund)                  | \$57,674,589        | \$59,664,022        | \$1,989,433        | +3.45%        |
| <i>FUND 21<br/>(Food Service)</i>          | <i>\$1,249,628</i>  | <i>\$1,432,045</i>  | <i>\$182,363</i>   | <i>+14.6%</i> |
| <i>FUND 22<br/>(Federal Funds)</i>         | <i>\$645,000</i>    | <i>\$645,000</i>    | <i>\$0</i>         | <i>+0.0%</i>  |
| <i>FUND 23<br/>(Other Special Revenue)</i> | <i>\$105,000</i>    | <i>\$105,000</i>    | <i>\$0</i>         | <i>+0.0%</i>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>\$59,674,217</b> | <b>\$61,846,067</b> | <b>\$2,171,850</b> | <b>+3.64%</b> |

*\*Italicized funds are offset by matching revenue*

# FY27 Operating Budget



# FY27 Demographics

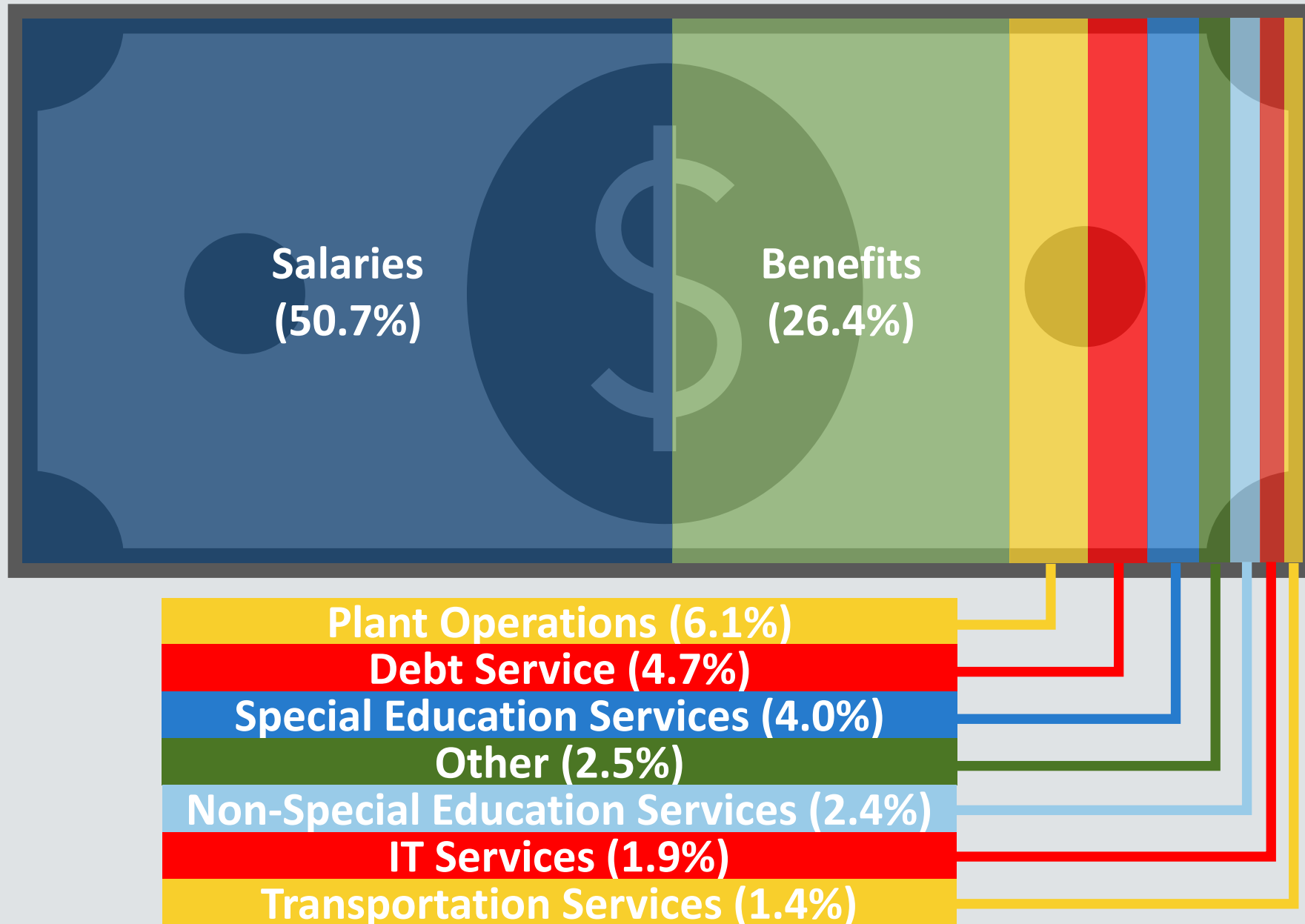


## FY27 Increases

| Expenditure      | Increase           | Notes   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Salaries         | \$1,100,000        | Approximate value of approved contract increases (Step + COLA); Average COLA 3.5% |
| Health Insurance | \$813,131          | Average increase of 10.2%   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>\$1,913,131</b> | <b>3.3% Increase from FY26 Fund 10</b>  |

*\*Note that the salary increases are estimates based on contract costs. Actual increases are typically lower and depend on the current personnel, not the personnel at the time of the agreement.*

# FY27 Operating Budget



# FY27 Increases



## CURRICULUM

**\$175,296**

Strengthen Math Instructional Practices, K-8; Professional Development;  
*Adoption of mandated ELA Curriculum, K-5;*  
*Implementation of High School Curriculum from required 306 changes;*  
*Implement new behavioral intervention risk assessment framework*



## SERVICES & SUPPORT

**Default**

All services required under NH's compensatory attendance law. This includes special education & 504s and related services & unhoused students



## PROGRAMMING

**\$50,000**

Expansion of course offerings at ORHS including AP English Language, Original Science Research, extended learning opportunities & career technical education; Project-based learning; School-wide themes; Field Trips; Clubs; Athletics; The largest increase is due to increased enrollment in CTE programs.

# FY27 Increases



## PLANT OPERATIONS

**\$719,434**

Continued maintenance of district facilities;  
Replace ORHS HVAC at end of life; Security upgrades for building access;  
Flooring replacements at MOH, MW, ORHS (Year 1 of 3);  
Roofing restoration at MOH, MW, ORHS (Year 2 of 4)



## TECHNOLOGY

**\$105,190**

Support of 1:1 devices, including device replacement for grades 1, 5, & 9;  
Increased software subscription costs; Testing AI instructional platform;  
Enhancing the security of our digital infrastructure



## TRANSPORTATION

**\$132,333**

GPS system purchase & video camera replacement;  
Continued support of vehicle replacement plan;  
Increased fuel costs

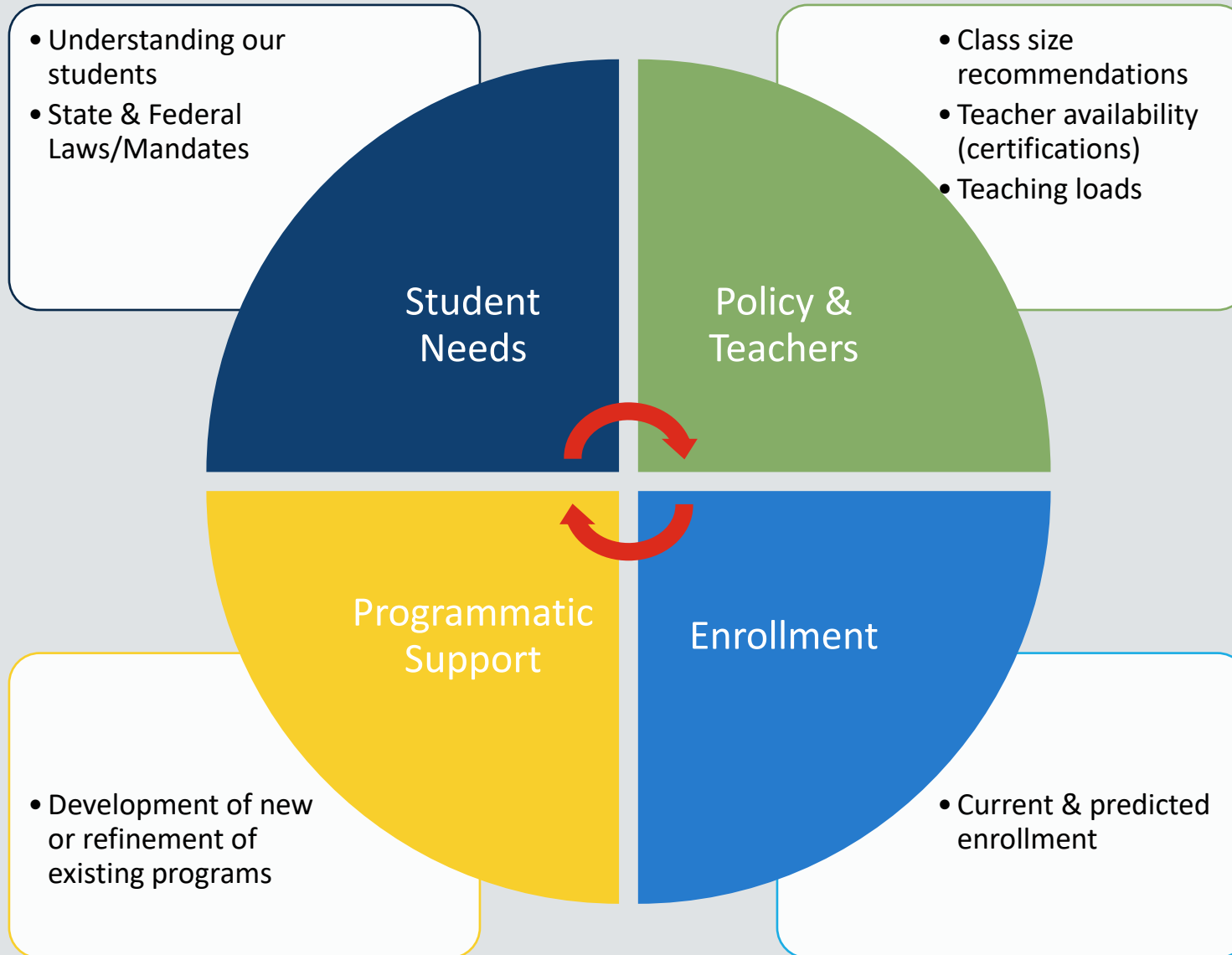
**TOTAL REQUESTS: \$1,382,085**



## FY27 Reductions

| Expenditure        | Increase            | Notes   |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Plant Operations   | -\$505,000          | Scale back on HVAC improvements, other repairs                            |
| Personnel/Staffing | -\$519,000          | 2.0 FTE (ORMS & ORHS)<br>1.0 FTE School Nurse<br>3.0 FTE Academic Support |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>-\$1,024,196</b> |   |

# FY27 Reductions – Staffing Decisions



## FY27 Reductions – Staffing Decisions

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1.0 FTE<br>ORMS Teacher     | A new grade-level team model has been developed based on enrollment that better optimizes our teaching loads and class sizes. This model will remain in place for the next five years.   |
| 1.0 FTE<br>ORHS Teacher     | Enrollment and programmatic decline has led to an overstaffing in Spanish at ORHS. The reduction of one Spanish teacher will allow our foreign language offerings to better match the demand, while not reducing course offerings.   |
| 1.0 FTE<br>School Nurse     | We currently have 5 RNs and 2 LPNs in the district. Given our known health needs, the District will assign one RN at each building, with additional staffing decisions to be made prior to fall of 2026.   |
| 2.0 FTE<br>Academic Support | We currently have 2 literacy tutors and 1 math tutor at MW & MOH. With current caseloads, the same level of academic support can be provided with 1 ELA tutor and 1 math tutor at each building. MW & MOH will continue to have 1 literacy and 1 math specialist at each building. |
| 1.0 FTE<br>Academic Support | At ORMS, a new ELA specialist (teacher) position is being developed to provide academic support, direct instruction, and MTSS leadership. It is the analogue to the existing Math specialist position. This replaces the need for the ELA tutor at ORMS.                           |

# FY27 Budget

|  | FY26                | FY27<br>DEFAULT            | REQUESTS           | FY27<br>PROPOSED             |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| FUND 10<br>(General Fund)                  | \$57,674,589        | \$58,281,937<br>(1.05%)    | \$1,382,085        | \$59,664,022<br>(3.46%)      |
| <i>FUND 21<br/>(Food Service)</i>          | <i>\$1,249,628</i>  | <i>\$1,432,045</i>         | <i>\$0</i>         | <i>\$1,432,045</i>           |
| <i>FUND 22<br/>(Federal Funds)</i>         | <i>\$645,000</i>    | <i>\$645,000</i>           | <i>\$0</i>         | <i>\$645,000</i>             |
| <i>FUND 23<br/>(Other Special Revenue)</i> | <i>\$105,000</i>    | <i>\$105,000</i>           | <i>\$0</i>         | <i>\$105,000</i>             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>\$59,674,217</b> | <b>\$60,463,982</b>        | <b>\$1,382,085</b> | <b>\$61,846,067</b>          |
| <b>INCREASE FROM FY26</b>                  |                     | <b>\$789,765<br/>1.32%</b> |                    | <b>\$2,171,850<br/>3.64%</b> |

*\*Italicized funds are offset by matching revenue*

Should the FY27 Proposed Budget fail to be approved by voters, the Default Budget becomes the budget for FY27. It is **\$1,382,085** less than the Proposed Budget.

# FY27 Proposed Revenue

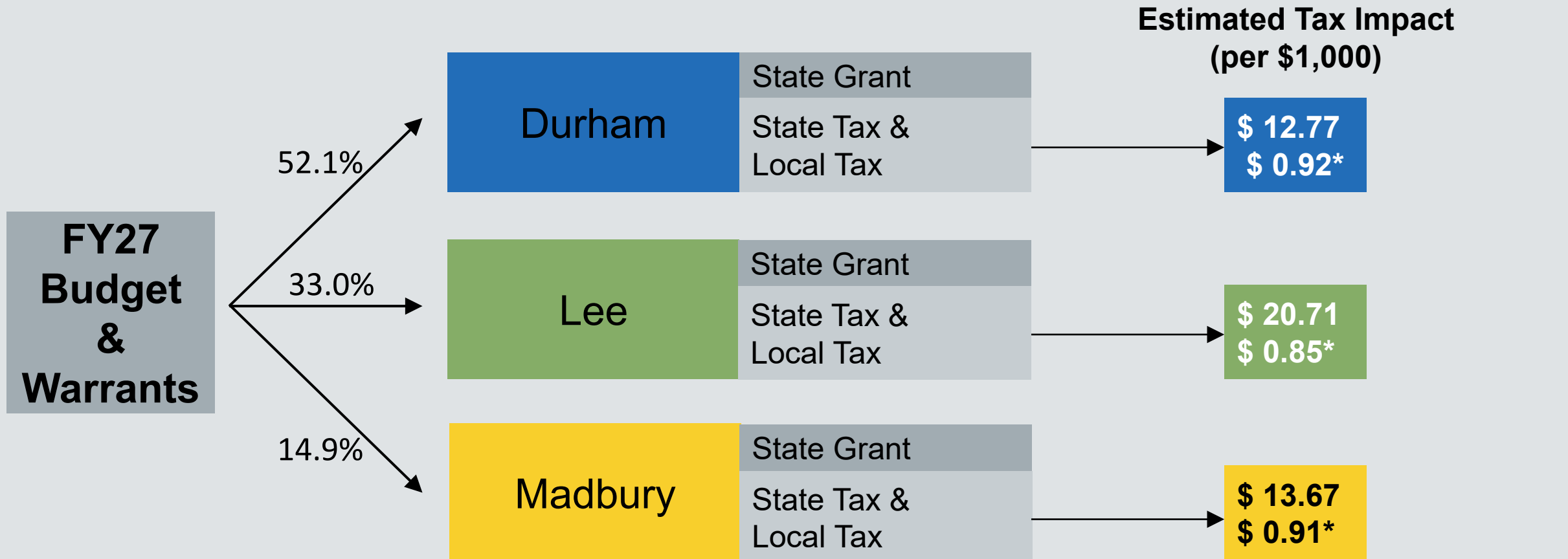
| Source                  | FY27               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Fund Balance            | \$250,000          |
| Tuition                 | \$3,766,556        |
| Interest                | \$150,000          |
| <i>School Nutrition</i> | <i>\$1,432,045</i> |
| EFA                     | \$9,617            |
| <i>Expendable Trust</i> | <i>\$250,000</i>   |
| Other                   | \$30,000           |
| <i>Grants</i>           | <i>\$750,000</i>   |
| Special Education Aid   | \$190,000          |
| Medicaid                | \$150,000          |
| Vocational Aid          | \$7,500            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>\$6,985,718</b> |

*\*Italicized funds are offset by matching expenses*

# FY27 Tax Impact

|                           | FY26                | FY27<br>PROPOSED            |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Operating Budget          | \$59,674,217        | \$61,846,067<br>(3.64%)     |
| Elementary Bond           | --                  | \$213,498                   |
| ORPASS Contract           | --                  | \$543,972                   |
| ORESPA Contract           | --                  | \$213,498                   |
| <i>Expendable Trusts</i>  | <i>\$250,000</i>    | <i>\$250,000</i>            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$59,924,217</b> | <b>\$63,099,212</b><br>5.3% |
| <b>REVENUE</b>            | <b>\$7,055,220</b>  | <b>\$6,985,718</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL TO APPORTION</b> | <b>\$52,868,997</b> | <b>\$56,113,494</b><br>6.1% |

# FY27 Estimated Tax Impact



These estimates are based on all Warrant Article – Actual tax rate will be established in Oct/Nov 2026

# Warrant Article # 5

## Article # 5: Approval of the ORPaSS CBA

Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Paraeducators and Support Staff and the Oyster River Cooperative School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2026-2027 | \$543,972 |
| 2027-2028 | \$577,025 |
| 2028-2029 | \$176,733 |

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$543,972 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

***The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)***



# Warrant Article # 6

## Article # 6: Approval of the ORESPA CBA

Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Office Educational Support Personnel Association and the Oyster River Cooperative School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2026-2027 | \$213,498 |
| 2027-2028 | \$104,826 |
| 2028-2029 | \$106,852 |

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$213,498 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

***The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)***

# Warrant Article # 7

## Article # 7: Facilities Trust Fund

Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 125,000 to be added to the Facilities Development, Maintenance, and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund which was established in March of 2017. This sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1.

***The School Board recommends this appropriation. No amounts to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)***

# Warrant Article # 8

## Article # 8: Special Education Trust

Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund which was established in March of 1999. This sum to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1. ***The School Board recommends this appropriation. No amounts to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)***

# Warrant Article # 9

## Article # 9: Open Enrollment

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 for the purpose of funding the estimated tuition of School District students who attend open enrollment schools/programs located outside of the Oyster River Cooperative School District in accordance with RSA 194-D.

***The School Board recommends this Article. (Majority vote required)***

# **Warrant Article # 10**

## **Petition Warrant Article**

### ARTICLE # 10: Petition Warrant Article

Shall the provisions of RSA 32:14 through 32:24 (Budget Committee) be adopted by the Oyster River Cooperative School District, as provided by RSA 195:12-a?

***The School Board does not recommend this article.***

# Warrant Article # 11

## Petition Warrant Article

### ARTICLE # 11: Petition Warrant Article

To see if the Oyster River Cooperative School District will vote to rescind the authority previously adopted regarding the retention of year-end unassigned general funds as provided by RSA 198:4-b, II. If adopted, this article mandates that any unassigned general fund balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year be used to reduce the District tax rate. ***The School Board does not recommend this article.***

# **Warrant Article # 12**

## **Petition Warrant Article**

### ARTICLE # 12: Petition Warrant Article

Shall the Oyster River Cooperative School District adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the School Board and Budget Committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes by more than the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the Northeast Region? This cap may be overridden only by a 3/5 majority vote of the School Board and Budget Committee.

***The School Board does not recommend this article.***

# **Warrant Article # 13**

## **Petition Warrant Article**

ARTICLE # 13: Petition Warrant Article:

To see if the Oyster River Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of hiring an independent auditing firm to conduct a performance audit of the School District Administration?

***The School Board does not recommend this appropriation.***



# Candidates Forum – Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 pm, Oyster River High School Auditorium

School Board Candidates and the public are invited.

The ORHS Student Senate is organizing this candidates' forum.

Input requested on the topics you'd like to hear candidates address.

Please share your suggestions.

Questions will be developed based on community and student input.



<https://forms.office.com/r/6ZHRsdiEa6>

# Election-Day Volunteers Needed

We need at least 2 registered voters from each town to help with ballot counting the evening of March 10.

Please contact [moderator@orcsd.org](mailto:moderator@orcsd.org).

# 2026 School Warrant

Official ballot voting for school district officers (articles 1 and 2) and on articles 3 through 13 will occur at town polling locations on Tuesday, March 10, 2026:

|                 |                           |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Town of Durham  | Oyster River High School  | 7:00 am to 7:00 pm  |
| Town of Lee     | Lee Public Safety Complex | 7:00 am to 7:00 pm  |
| Town of Madbury | Madbury Town Hall         | 11:00 am to 7:00 pm |

# FY27 Budget

Supporting documents for the FY27 Proposed Budget can be found at:

**[www.orcsd.org](http://www.orcsd.org)**

Thank You.

## Questions?