

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2027 BUDGET HEARING
JANUARY 26, 2026

The FY2027 general fund budget is \$535,552 which is an overall decrease in the budget of \$187,584. This represents a 25.94% decrease from the FY2026 budget. As a reminder, the Board reduced the current year budget by \$30,000 in tuition expenses to be pulled from the Trust Fund.

EXPENDITURES:

- The total General Fund budget decreased \$187,584 which is a 25.94% decrease from the current year budget. The grant listed in the budget for \$7,435 is the IDEA grant which covers specific special education expenses. Both the revenue and expense are budgeted at the same amount and therefore no taxes are raised.
- Tuition (including vocational, alternative programs and charter schools) is **\$66,500** less than the current budget (\$96,500 had we not reduced to the budget by \$30,000 to use trust funds).
 - Haverhill set the tuition rate at a 3% increase for next year.
 - There are no contingency spots for additional students.
 - In the current year budget, tuition expense was reduced by \$30,000. This amount is to come from the Expendable Trust Fund as voted in March 2025. At this time, it is anticipated that we will not need to withdraw funds from the trust.
 - FY2027 budget includes 17 students. FY2026 budget includes 21 and the actual number of students is 20 at this time.
- Special education costs, including instruction, transportation, speech services, summer school, etc. have decreased **\$119,520**.
- Transportation (regular/vocational) – increased **\$3,075**
- SAU Assessment – decreased **\$3,064**
- School Board liability insurance and dues – decreased **\$1,771**

REVENUE:

- Adequacy Aid grant & state tax (estimated) increased **\$9,598** for FY2027.
- Vocational education reimbursement increased **\$3,815**.
- Medicaid reimbursement decreased **\$10,000**.

- Use of Fund Balance decreased **\$68,008**. Any fund balance anticipated at the current year end is suggested to be place in the trust fund per Article 7 on the Warrant.

TAX RATE:

This budget will result in a tax rate decrease from \$9.11 to \$6.85. (-\$2.26).

Note: The tax rate increases/decreases approx. \$.18 for each \$10,000 of expense.

TRUST FUND:

The current balance in the trust fund is approximately \$281,930 (as of 6/30/25).