
MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Kelly Murphy, Director of Education Finance
Ted Gates, Senior Fiscal Analyst
SUBJECT: School Budget Update
DATE: March 10, 2026

This report reflects the results of school district budgets voted on Town Meeting Day. The Agency of Education will continue to collect updates from districts with failed budgets and will finalize the results following the 30-day petition period. A final summary will be issued in the coming weeks and will begin the process of capturing final approved budgets in early to mid-May, with the timeline contingent on the scheduling of any re-votes.

As of 3/9/2026, we have received 105 submissions (of the 122 expected, including 3 unorganized towns), 4 are pending Superintendent signature and have been included in this summary.

This projection represents:

- 105 of 122 expected have submitted preliminary budget data
- 16 districts are using projected 4.2% average increase (Note: districts have been contacted to get final numbers and will be captured in a future report).
- 88% of Districts have submitted budgets for this preliminary collection.
- Responses represent 93% of FY27 LTWADM (or 131,407 of 141,298), and projected FY27 Education spending (\$1,929,925,232 of \$2,072,437,880).
- Responding District's average increase is 4.2%, while the December 1st letter projected a 5.8% increase. These results are still preliminary and subject to change as more Districts report.
- 6 Districts are currently showing over the excess spending threshold.

Budget Change by District Size – Summary

- 12 districts reduced their budgets, with an average decrease of 3.7% (ranging from -\$43,212 to -\$797,311).



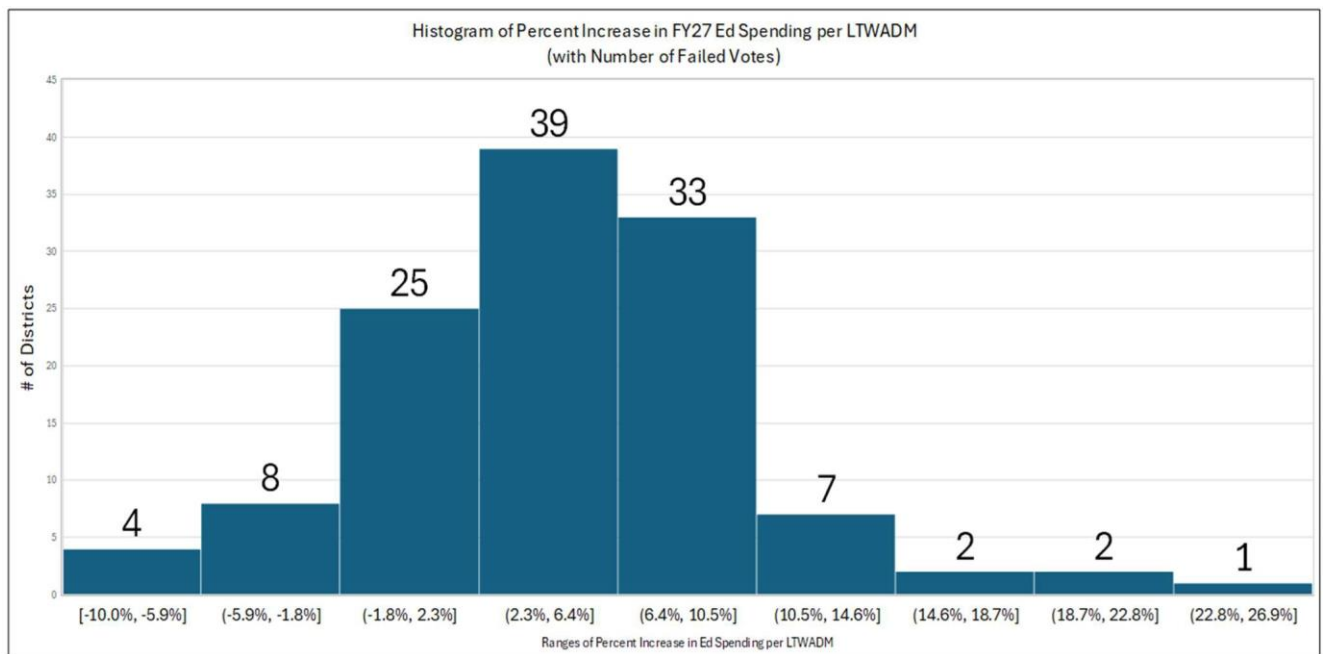
- 36 districts increased budgets by more than 6%, with increases ranging from \$27,106 to \$4,051,293.

By District Size (LTWADM):

- ≤100.5 LTWADM: average increase of \$51,000 (8.2%).
- 120.4–886.91 LTWADM: average increase of \$277,485 (3.9%).
- 1,027.66–1,981.84 LTWADM: average increase of \$894,240 (4.5%).
- 2,099.67–2,910.99 LTWADM: average increase of \$1,378,002 (4.2%).
- 3,179.88–6,909.40 LTWADM: average increase of \$2,430,749 (3.9%).

Note: Average % and \$ increase is derived from education spending.

Chart 1. % Increase in FY27 Education spending per LTWADM (includes 1 of 3 unorganized towns).



Failed:

Table. 1 – Preliminary Budget Survey data (total expenditures and offsetting revenues)

Table 1	FY2027	FY2026	\$ Change	% Change
Budgeted Expenditures	2,305,079,269	2,224,554,067	80,525,201.81	3.6%
Offsetting Revenues	375,154,037	372,888,107	2,265,930.14	0.6%
Education Spending	1,929,925,232	1,851,665,960	78,259,271.67	4.2%

Table. 2 – Total Education Spending (projected based on 4.2% average increase)

Table 2	FY2027	FY2026	\$ Change	% Change
Education Spending - December 1st Letter	2,103,800,000	1,988,399,661	115,400,339	5.8%
Education Spending - Prelim. District Budgets	2,072,437,880	1,988,399,661	84,038,218.89	4.2%

Table. 3 – Failed Budgets (budgets reflecting 4.2% are projections based on average)

Table 3	County	% Chg in Ed Spend (FY27 v FY26)	Ed Spending	LTWADM	% Chg in Ed Spend per LTWADM (FY27 v FY26)
Orange Southwest UUSD	Orange	0.8%	21,945,071	1,412	-1.2%
Missisquoi Valley School District	Franklin	0.5%	39,870,048	3,228	1.3%
Milton	Chittenden	3.5%	34,444,481	2,436	2.7%
Slate Valley UUSD	Rutland	1.6%	27,516,030	2,300	3.5%
Paine Mountain School District	Orange	4.2%	24,233,797	1,707	4.7%
Alburgh	Grand Isle	4.2%	7,554,668	550	4.9%
Newport City	Orleans	3.2%	8,755,198	561	5.5%
Otter Valley UUSD	Rutland	3.0%	28,254,929	1,982	5.5%
Mountain View Union Elementary School	Windsor	7.2%	9,064,891	549	6.1%
Coventry	Orleans	5.7%	5,170,755	334	6.7%
Georgia	Franklin	3.5%	18,416,984	1,163	6.8%
Wolcott	Lamoille	4.7%	6,206,193	432	7.5%
Kingdom East UUSD	Caledonia	5.5%	47,276,483	3,180	8.0%
Springfield	Windsor	3.1%	32,363,791	2,131	9.3%
Echo Valley Community School District	Orange	4.2%	7,096,643	554	9.9%
Green Mountain Unified SD	Windsor	7.2%	18,535,768	1,154	10.0%
Weathersfield	Windsor	11.9%	9,953,590	574	10.4%
Barre UUSD	Washington	5.2%	45,501,740	3,506	13.1%
Blue Mountain USD #21	Orange	10.9%	11,997,373	750	20.1%
Total			404,158,433	28,502	