



East Hampton Public Schools

BUDGET UPDATE

Message from the Board of Education

The East Hampton Board of Education requested the lowest increase in the last decade at 1.9%. This is just .1% higher than what residents approved for the schools last year after four referendums.

Superintendent Paul Smith and the BOE believed that a proposal of 1.9% up front was an appropriate and honest request. We believed this was the number that the district could live with for a year, that citizens would support, and that would help the budget pass on the first referendum.

Achieving a 1.9% increase was also a struggle against rising costs. This amount would maintain what we offer today. It was achieved through the reduction of 2.4 teaching positions through attrition, assumptions of 3 more retirements, a low 7.5% increase in health insurance costs, and reductions in other line items that have been lowered year after year.

Every year we manage increases in contractual obligations such as salaries (.97% increase), benefits (.75% increase), transportation (.45% increase), and services for outplaced students (.59% increase), as well as unfunded mandates handed down from the state.

The reduction to 1.7% or approximately \$59,000 approved by the Board of Finance will result in additional cuts, but cutting below 1.7% would be severe, with several teaching positions being cut, some programs eliminated, and further reductions to an already strained budget.

Maintaining a quality education system for our students should be a priority, as it benefits the town and its citizens in many ways.

Ken Barber, Chairman
Jeffrey Carlson
Tania Sones
Joanne Barmasse
Jarod Bushey

Christopher Goff
Debra Devin
Carol Williams
Erika Bonaccorso

About the 2016-2017 School Budget

This year's school budget with an increase of 1.9% was developed with three important considerations in mind:

1

First, it took four votes to pass last year's Town and School Budgets. When it passed, the school budget increase was 1.8%. The School Board understands that a prolonged referendum process is in no one's best interest. That's why the Superintendent's proposed budget is as close to last year's increase as possible.

2

Second, the attempt was made to adhere as closely as possible to the Town Council Budget Philosophy, which stated, "The Board of Education should maintain current spending levels." While the Town Council was asking for a 0% budget from the Board, a budget could not be developed that low without doing damage to the schools and programs. The school budget does meet the Town Council's expectation to "maintain or where possible reduce staff" as next year's budget at 1.9% does have a decrease of 2.4 teaching positions.

3

Third, the budget was developed to balance the needs of our students with the needs of the town. This minimal increase of 0.10% over last year's budget is the smallest possible increase that simply maintains programming as it currently exists in the schools. No new programming or new technology is proposed in this budget.

At 1.7%, though a very thin budget, it is still a fiscally responsible budget that both the Board of Education and the Board of Finance support.



East Hampton 2025

The Community's vision for education!

We know that an education in the 21st century must focus on more than teaching academic skills. An education must also focus on deep learning skills including communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and character. This doesn't mean that there is less of a focus on academic skills; it means that attention must also be paid to those skills required for success in our children's future.


Our goal in developing **East Hampton 2025** is to take our vision for education and clarify our priorities in all grades, PK-12. These eight statements have been selected as our priorities based on the feedback of over 350 responses to our survey of teachers, parents, and students, **therefore this a vision for educational progress developed by the community of East Hampton!**

Our hope is that these statements direct open and honest conversations in our community, assist with strategic planning, and promote clear directions for future school budgets.

East Hampton Public Schools — East Hampton, Connecticut

East Hampton 2025

Educating for Excellence



Today's youth live in a world brimming with opportunity. Some will create, catalyze, and capitalize on a dynamic world hungry for innovation. Thriving in the 21st century will require real competencies, far more than academic credentials

Tony Wagner, Most Likely To Succeed

Vision of The East Hampton Public Schools

Preparing and inspiring students to be innovative, responsible, contributing members of an ever-changing global society.

The East Hampton Public Schools District:

- promotes respect by developing a culture that fosters compassion, acceptance, and positive relationships;
- inspires students to own their learning, pursue their passions, and develop creativity in all learning environments;
- nurtures a growth mindset that emphasizes adaptability, resilience, and perseverance to encourage lifelong learning;
- teaches students to be effective communicators, critical thinkers, and collaborators through exposure to diverse areas of study;
- cultivates active learning and encourages curiosity, valuing both the process and the product;
- empowers students to engage actively with the community to create positive change from the local to the global;
- demonstrates resourcefulness to maximize value for the community and inspire students to be flexible and to seek sustainable solutions;
- creates partnerships between students and the community to foster civic engagement and public service.

Our budgets must match the bold expectations of this community vision for education!

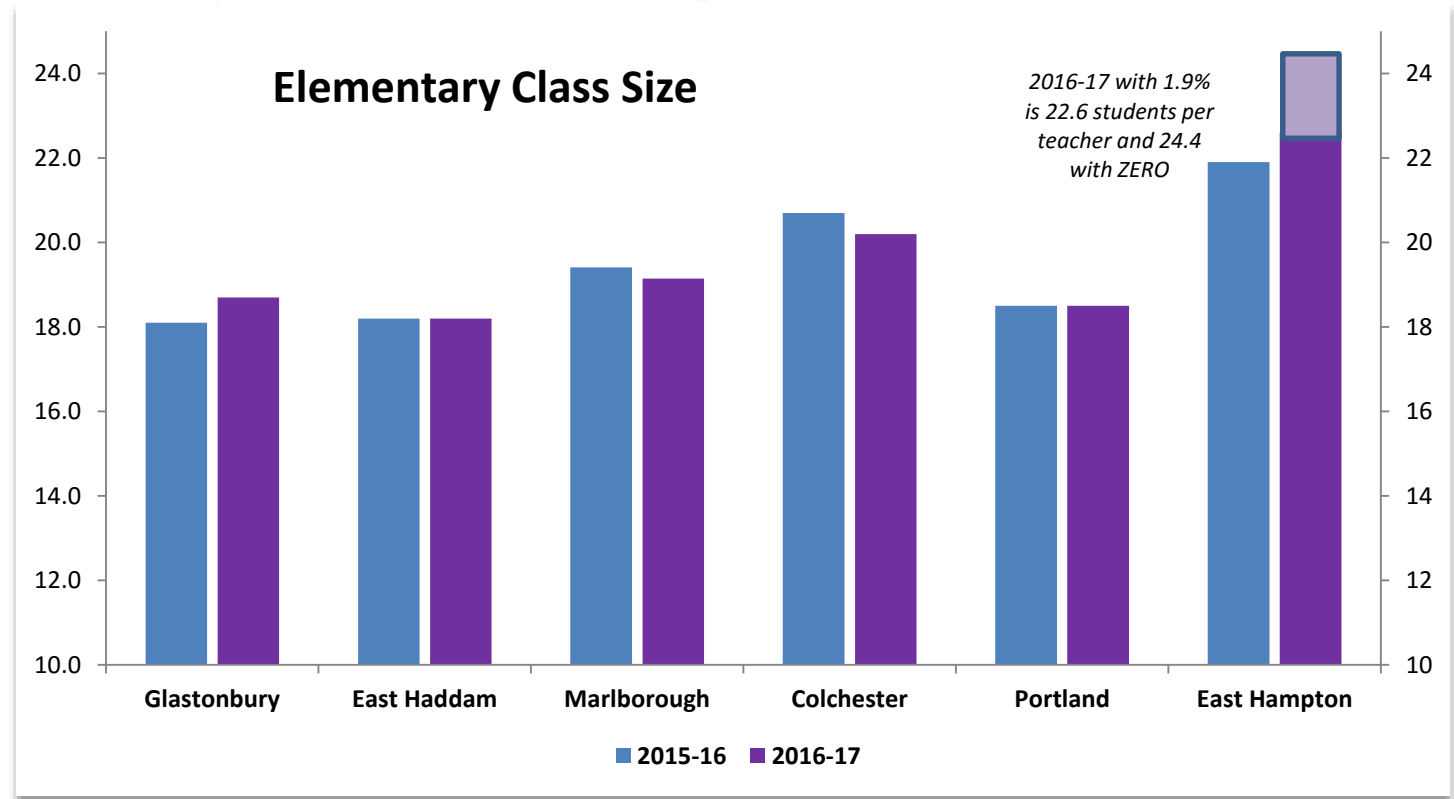
Demonstrated Student Success

Test results and accolades to the school district have proven that dollars are being wisely invested. East Hampton has been recognized numerous times over the last four years as an **Advanced Placement (AP) HONOR ROLL High School** for increasing the number of AP Courses and increasing the number of students taking AP courses. The school has also been recognized as one of "**America's Best High Schools**" by *U.S. News and World Report*.

In a report by *Connecticut Magazine* in 2013, East Hampton High School was ranked 6th in Education out of over 45 towns in the Greater Hartford region. SAT scores for the Class of 2015 continue the trend of well above state and national scores.

	EAST HAMPTON	STATE OF CT	NATIONAL
Critical Reading	535	504	495
Math	519	506	511
Writing	550	504	484

The Impact of a 0% Budget



The 1.7% budget approved by the Board of Finance will require additional cuts by the Board of Education. To get to the original 1.9% increase, new technology, supplies, and other items were reduced to the least possible amount. But beginning with 1.9% and going down to 0% requires deep cuts.

Reductions in Teaching Positions:

A minimum of four positions (in addition to the two teaching positions at the Middle School already eliminated to get to 1.9%)

Reductions in Athletics Programs

Eliminate all programs at the Middle School, High School Golf, High School Volleyball, and Concussion Baseline Testing.

Reductions in Central Office Expenditures

Cuts include existing evaluation software, custodial supplies, and building repairs.

Comments have been expressed that in the past the school has said cuts will be made, but they never seem to be made in the end. **Please do not make that assumption with this budget.**

The budget was prepared in January with the absolute figure necessary to move forward one year with the smallest possible increase – especially after four referenda last year.

The final budget for this current school year contained an increase that was reduced to 1.8% as a result of the multiple referenda. To get to 1.9% starting with the lower base from this current year, all accounts have been reduced to their lowest figures and teachers will indeed be cut if the budget is reduced to 0%.

Please support the school budget.
Public participation strongly encouraged!



The Return on the Community's Investment

Our schools succeed every day! Students excel in meaningful ways in the classroom, in the community, in the arts, and on the fields!

Feeding Children Everywhere

Katie Williams chose for her senior capstone project to raise funds for Feeding Children Everywhere. She excelled in her fundraising and contributed over \$5000 in food supplies that will benefit children around the world with over 23,000 meals!



PANTHER PRIDE

East Hampton Middle School was recently recognized as one of five schools in the state as a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Model School. The purpose of the CT PBIS Model Schools Project is to recognize schools for successfully implementing school-wide systems for PBIS. Students, staff and the school community have bought into the four pillars of respect, responsibility, compassion and pride. Under the guidance of Nancy Briere, the PBIS team has demonstrated exemplar status through a three-year grant called SPDG (School Personnel Development Grant).



Governor's Scholar

Signe Lee, a student at East Hampton High School, was selected as one of thirty of Connecticut's top juniors

designated as a Governor's Scholar. Sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), the purpose of the program is to recognize academically talented high school students in schools throughout the state, and present thirty students for special recognition to the Governor of Connecticut.

Student Artists & Singers

East Hampton High School art students, **Alexis Abbotts**, **Hannah Welburn**, **Carli D'Antonio**, **Alexander Ulm**, and **Alyssa Sweett** each had artwork featured in the 31st annual Future Visions Art Show at Lyme Academy in Old Lyme.



Alexis Abbotts, a senior and AP Studio Art student, had two works selected to be hung at the Future Visions juried exhibition. **Hannah Welburn**, a senior, was chosen to receive the CT Association of Schools Scholar Artist for 2016.

Music Department students represent East Hampton at the most prestigious regional and state music festivals including 2016 Shoreline Conference Festival, 2016 University of Connecticut Real Men Sing, 2016 Southern Connecticut Regional Music Festival, and 2016 Connecticut All State Festival.

Student Athletes

Athletic teams in the middle school and high school excel in conference and state contests. State

Championships, school pride, and participation rates each season of 25% to 40% of the student body make these some of the most valuable experiences for our Bellringers!



