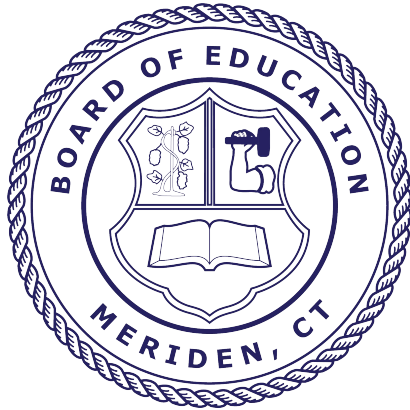




Welcome

Dr. Steven J. O'Donnell
Board of Education President
March 31, 2026



Dr. Steven J. O'Donnell, *President*

Nickimmy C. Hayes, *Vice President*

Kim A. Carbone-Pandiani, *Secretary*

Enileika Lopez-Riddle, *Treasurer*

Migdalia Alicea

Ayra Garcia

Robert E. Kosienski, Jr.

Tony A. Martorelli

Stephany Morales-Valentin



Mark D. Benigni, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Michael S. Grove

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Barbara A. Haeffner

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Innovation

Louis Bronk

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Talent Development

Daniel Crispino

Assistant Superintendent for Student Supports and Elementary Education

OUR VISION

Regardless of socioeconomic status or prior learning experiences, all students must be able to access digital resources to expand their world.

OUR CORE VALUES

- We all learn differently
- Voice and choice matter
- Educational species need to be flexible
- Learning can occur anytime, anywhere

Our Schools and Students

8,381
OVERALL
ENROLLMENT

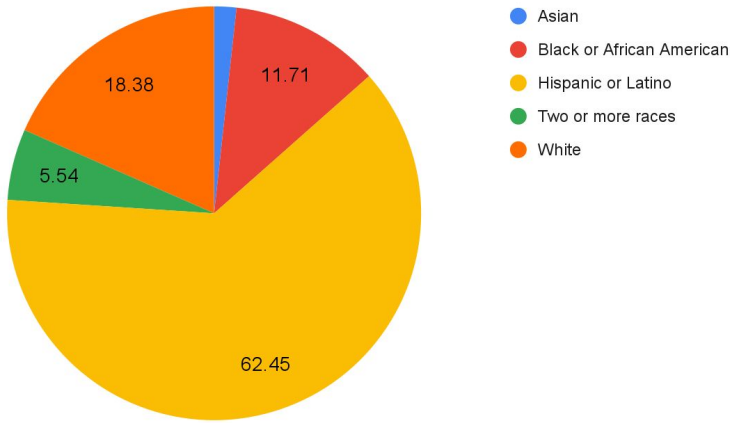
8
Elementary
Schools

3
Middle
Schools

2
High Schools

3
Alternative
Programs

Race/Ethnicity



Our Students

- Students of Color 81%
- Multilingual Learners 20%
- Free & Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility 78%
- Students with Disabilities 22%

EdSight



STUDENT ENROLLMENT- 16 YEARS

School Year	Enrollment
2025 - 2026	8,381
2024-2025	8,707
2023 - 2024	8,789
2022 - 2023	8,630
2021 - 2022*	8,521
2020 - 2021	8,118
2019 - 2020	8,163
2018 - 2019	7,973
2017 - 2018	7,933
2016 - 2017	7,949
2015 - 2016	7,993
2014 - 2015	8,100
2013 - 2014	8,183
2012 - 2013	8,260
2011 - 2012	8,342
2010-2011	8,406

Average Yearly Enrollment - 8,278 Students

Enrollment does not include students who are residents of Meriden who are attending interdistrict magnet schools, charter schools, or Connecticut Technical High Schools.

EdSight

PERCENT OF MINORITY STUDENTS

School Year	%
2025-2026	82
2024-2025	81
2023-2024	80
2022-2023	78
2021-2022	77
2020-2021	75
2019-2020	74
2018-2019	72
2017-2018	70
2016-2017	69
2015-2016	68

EdSight

FREE AND REDUCED PRICED MEALS

School Year	%
2025-2026	78
2024-2025	78
2023-2024	78
2022-2023	77
2021-2022	76
2020-2021	77
2019-2020	77
2018-2019	77
2017-2018	74
2016-2017	71

Fourth highest percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced priced meals in Connecticut.

Academic Successes

Filters: indicates an active filter

District: Meriden School District || School: <No item selected> || :2024-25, 2023-24, 2022-23, 2021-22, 2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15

Select Accountability Years ▾

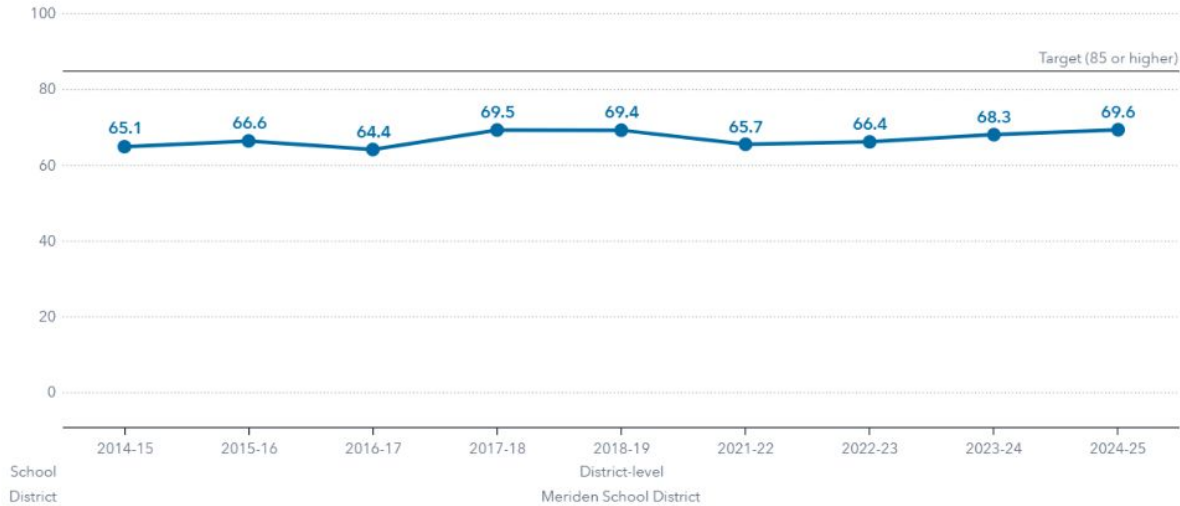
Select Districts ▾

Select Schools ▾

Include State-level

< Accountability Index Indicator (Ind.) 1 Ind. 2 Ind. 4 Ind. 5-6 Ind. 7-9 Ind. 10 Ind. 11 Ind. 12 Trend Crosstab (Export) >

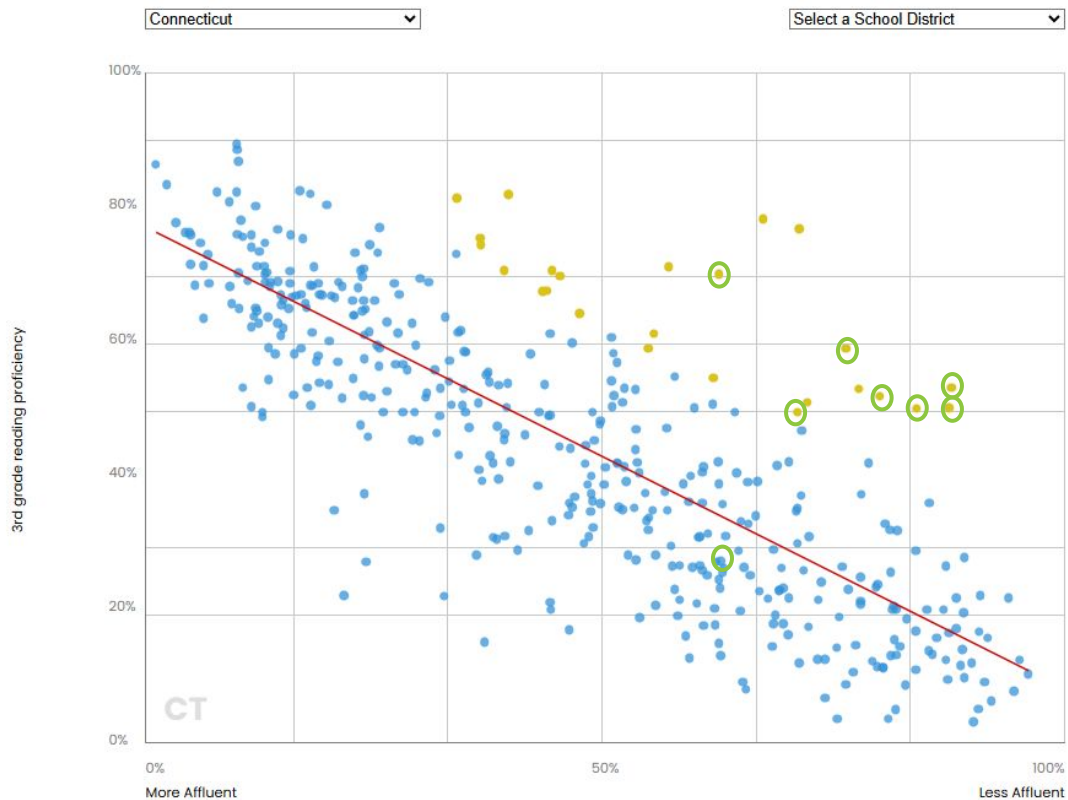
Accountability Index



The overall **Accountability Index** is the percentage of total possible points earned on all available indicators.

INTERACTIVE

Reading Scores vs. Poverty Level in 41,883 U.S. Schools



Reading Proficiency

School	Actual %	Expected %
Hooker	71	34
Franklin	50	28
Hale	60	24
Putnam	52	22
Sherman	51	19
Barry	51	17
Pulaski	54	16
Hanover	28	34

Key: ● School ● Exceptional School

SBA Results Grades 3-8
Percent of Students at Levels 3/4 Above Proficient
English Language Arts

	2022	2023	2024	2025	1-Year Change	2-Year Change	3-Year Change
Grade 3	37	41	49	46	-3	+5	+9
Grade 4	46	43	53	57	+4	+14	+11
Grade 5	49	50	53	55	+2	+5	+6
Grade 6	42	45	39	43	+4	-2	+1
Grade 7	42	45	42	42	0	-3	0
Grade 8	37	41	46	47	+1	+6	+10

DISTRICTS MERIDEN OUTPERFORMED

SBA English Language Arts

Grades 3-8 Achievement

Griswold	Norwalk	Gilbert School	Windham
Watertown	Naugatuck	Stamford	CREC
Windsor	Plymouth	Manchester	Norwich
Enfield	Winchester	Stratford	Waterbury
Norfolk	Sterling	Bloomfield	Ansonia
Stafford	Putnam	CES	New Haven
Plainfield	Windsor Locks	Sprague	Goodwin(GUES)
New Milford	Hamden	Chaplin	New London
Killingly	Middletown	Derby	Bridgeport
Region 11	East Hartford	Danbury	Hartford
Torrington	LEARN	ACES	New Britain
West Haven	East Haven		

SBA Results Grades 3-8
Percent of Students at Levels 3/4 Above Proficient
Math

	2022	2023	2024	2025	1-Year Change	2-Year Change	3-Year Change
Math 3	37	49	55	56	+1	+7	+19
Math 4	37	45	58	62	+4	+17	+25
Math 5	34	42	47	53	+6	+11	+19
Math 6	29	33	26	39	+13	+6	+10
Math 7	29	29	29	28	-1	-1	-1
Math 8	19	22	25	32	+7	+10	+13

DISTRICTS MERIDEN OUTPERFORMED

SBA Math

Grades 3-8 Achievement

East Windsor	Sharon	Hampton	ACES
Watertown	Norwalk	Danbury	CREC
Groton	New Milford	Killingly	Sprague
Bristol	Windsor Locks	Putnam	Ansonia
Woodstock	Griswold	Middletown	Waterbury
Stafford	CES	Manchester	Norwich
Winchester	Hamden	Stratford	Hartford
West Haven	East Hartford	East Haven	New Haven
Thomaston	Sterling	Region 11	Bridgeport
Windsor	Stamford	Bloomfield	Goodwin (GUES)
Enfield	Naugatuck	Windham	New Britain
Plainfield	Gilbert School	LEARN	New London
Plymouth	Torrington	Derby	

2025 CT State Schools of Distinction

Benjamin Franklin
Elementary School

Nathan Hale
Elementary School

Thomas Hooker
Elementary School

Roger Sherman
Elementary School

Israel Putnam
Elementary School



Most schools recognized out of the 36 Alliance Districts.

SBA Alliance Comparison Growth Adjusted 2025

9-Year Growth Rank	District	ELA & Math % of Change over 9 Years
1	Meriden	35.6%
2	Vernon	31.7%
3	East Hartford	26.2%
4	East Windsor	15.3%
5	Windham	10.6%
6	West Haven	9.6%
7	Winchester (3-6)	8.5%
8	Waterbury	7.2%
9	Bridgeport	4.0%
10	Windsor	3.2%
11	Bristol	2.1%
12	Windsor Locks	0.5%
13	East Haven	(0.6%)
14	Putnam	(0.8%)
15	Norwalk	(0.9%)

State of Connecticut - 1.0%

9-Year Growth Rank	District	ELA & Math % of Change over 9 Years
16	Hartford	(1.6%)
17	New Haven	(1.7%)
18	Bloomfield	(1.8%)
19	Norwich *	(2.2%)
20	Manchester	(2.2%)
21	Naugatuck	(2.9%)
22	Ansonia	(4.9%)
23	New Britain	(5.0%)
24	Derby	(9.0%)
25	New London	(11.3%)
26	Killingly	(12.5%)
27	Danbury	(13.5%)
28	Hamden	(17.3%)
29	Middletown	(18.8%)
30	Stamford	(20.7%)

CT Alliance Districts - 0.9%

U.S. News & World Report

CT Top 100
Elementary Schools



Ranked #82

CT Top 100
Middle Schools



Ranked #85

NextGen Accountability Index 2024-2025

School	2023-2024	2024-2025	Increase
Edison Middle School	59.8	65.3	+5.5
Lincoln Middle School	56.6	58.6	+2.0
Washington Middle School	52.8	55.4	+2.6
Maloney High School	64	66.8	+2.8
Platt High School	58.9	60.7	+1.8

NGSS Summative Assessment

Percent at Achievement Levels and Average Scale Score by Grade by Year

	2022	2023	2024	2025	1-Year	2-Year	3-Year
	Level 3/4	Level 3/4	Level 3/4	Level 3/4	Change	Change	Change
Grade 5	43	46	47	47	0	+1	+4
Grade 8	30	36	37	39	+2	+3	+9
Grade 11	24	29	30	31	+1	+2	+7

School Day SAT Across Years by School
 2025 SAT School Day
 Percent at Benchmark

EBRW

MATH

	2022	2023	2024	2025	1-Year Change	2022	2023	2024	2025	1-Year Change
Maloney	44.4	41.1	43.1	49	+5.9	19.7	12.3	17.3	19	+1.7
Platt	26.9	29.9	31.7	34	+2.3	11.1	9.8	10	10	0
District	35.4	35.5	37.5	42	+4.5	15.3	10.8	13.7	15	+1.3

AP/ECE/DUAL CREDIT COURSES

	2010-2011	2025 - 2026
All Students	184	1,270
Free/Reduced	40	772
Hispanic	25	392
Black	10	199
ELL	1	38
SPED	0	23
Over 30 higher level course offerings		

Four-Year Graduation Rates by Year

Year	% of Students who Graduate in Four Years
2024-2025	87
2023-2024	86
2022-2023	82
2021-2022	87
2020-2021	85
2019-2020	85

MONEY INC

EDUCATION

The 30 Best School Districts in the Northern U.S.: Academic Excellence and Student Achievement

By Dana Hanson • Posted on August 29, 2025 • Updated on November 29, 2025



The northern United States houses some of the nation's most academically distinguished public school districts, consistently ranking among the top performers in standardized testing, college preparation, and overall educational excellence.

1. Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125, Illinois
2. Scarsdale Union Free School District, New York
3. Lake Washington School District, Washington
4. Minnetonka Public Schools, Minnesota
5. Shaker Heights City School District, Ohio
6. Edina Public Schools, Minnesota
7. **Westport Public Schools, Connecticut**
8. North Shore School District 112, Illinois
9. New Trier Township High School District 203, Illinois
10. School District of University City, Missouri
11. **Meriden Public Schools, Connecticut**
12. West Linn-Wilsonville School District, Oregon
13. Upper St. Clair School District, Pennsylvania
14. Carmel Clay Schools, Indiana
15. Bloomington Public Schools, Minnesota
16. Syosset Central School District, New York
17. Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Illinois
18. Wayzata Public Schools, Minnesota
19. San Ramon Valley Unified School District, California (Northern Bay Area)
20. Evanston/Skokie School District 65, Illinois
21. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Michigan
22. **Greenwich Public Schools, Connecticut**
23. Roseville Area Schools, Minnesota
24. Palo Alto Unified School District, California
25. St. Paul Public Schools, Minnesota
26. Grosse Pointe Public Schools, Michigan
27. Burlington-Edison School District, Washington
28. Bergen County Technical Schools, New Jersey
29. Amherst Central School District, New York
30. Richfield Public Schools, Minnesota

Class of 2025



Stanford
University



BROWN



Cornell University



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY





Budget Drivers

BUDGET DRIVERS

The main budget drivers account for 93% of the requested budget increase.



SALARIES (CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED)

\$1,376,190

Recommended to be covered by the City Manager's Budget



HEALTH INSURANCE

\$949,317

Recommended to be covered by the City Manager's Budget



TUITIONS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATION)

\$1,534,465



PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

\$1,046,419



COMMUNICATION

\$984,305

PERCENT OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

School Year	%
2025-2026	23
2024-2025	22
2023-2024	21
2022-2023	21
2021-2022	21
2020-2021	21
2019-2020	21
2018-2019	21
2017-2018	20
2016-2017	20

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

School Year	CCC	STARS	STEP(S)	SOAR	PRIDE	Venture	TLC
2025-2026	31	190	70	32	130	59	52
2024-2025	32	154	69	33	129	63	66
2023-2024	37	132	76	60	111	69	59
2022-2023	36	104	74	57	101	55	62
2021-2022	29	96	68	49	82	66	62
2020-2021	24	82	74	43	92	59	58
2019-2020	25	67	67	44	88	72	59
2018-2019	19	68	51	51	120	51	29
2017-2018	25	52	39	50	73	46	32
2016-2017	10	42	39	0	0	40	0

EdSight

Special Education STARS Program

- 2025-2026 An additional 36 students attending STARS Programs
- Average Cost for students attending STARS in-house program is \$30,753
 - $\$30,753 \times 36 = \$1,107,108$
- Average cost for Placed-Out Tuition with same disability \$162,622.55
 - District will receive Excess Cost Reimbursement of \$35,528.38
 - District will pay \$127,094.20
 - $\$127,094.20 \times 36 = \$4,575,384$

Savings of \$3,468,276

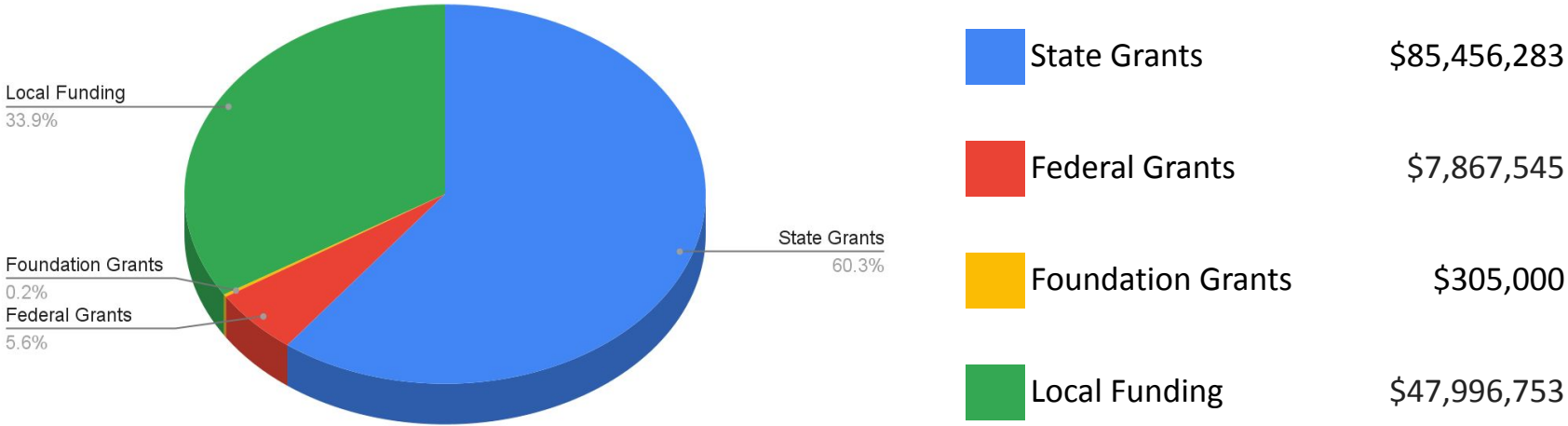
OUTPLACED STUDENT COSTS FOR HIGH TUITION SCHOOLS

Student	Tuition	Transportation	Total
Student 1	\$196,536	\$79,585	\$276,121
Student 2	\$185,015	\$82,950	\$267,965
Student 3	\$186,964	\$61,737	\$248,701
Student 4	\$179,997	\$66,538	\$246,535
Student 5	\$218,091	\$12,925	\$231,016
Student 6	\$221,240	\$0	\$221,240
Student 7	\$192,707	\$9,431	\$202,138
Student 8	\$179,997	\$8,690	\$188,687
Student 9	\$179,997	\$8,690	\$188,687
The cost of the above 9 students			\$2,071,089

Enileika Lopez-Riddle

Board of Education Treasurer

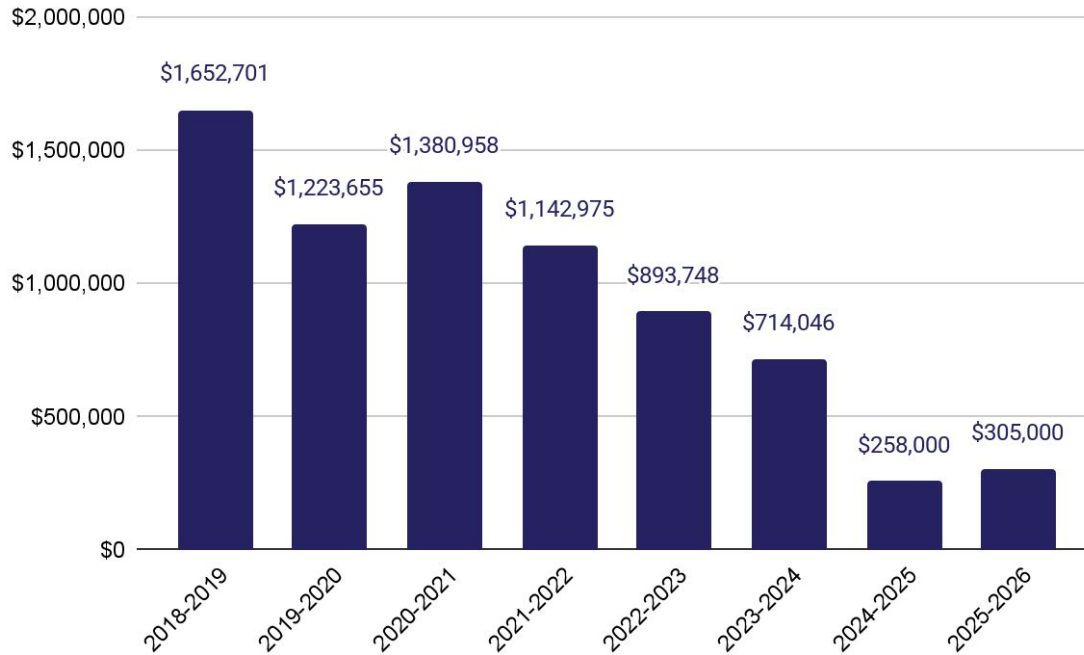
2025-2026 Funding Sources



Federal Grant	Allocation
IDEA	\$2,649,649.48
Title I	\$4,266,891.36
Title II	\$406,923.75
Title III	\$213,007.66
Title IV	\$281,072.28
McKinney-Vento Homeless	\$50,000.00
Total	\$7,867,544.53

State Grants	Allocation
Family Resource Center	\$222,726
Bilingual Grants	\$149,823
Priority School Grant - Reading Support	\$977,771
After School Grant - Middle Schools	\$153,880
Extended School Hours - Elementary	\$160,150
Alliance Grant	\$29,922,907
ECS	\$53,869,026
Total	\$85,456,283

Competitive Foundation Grants

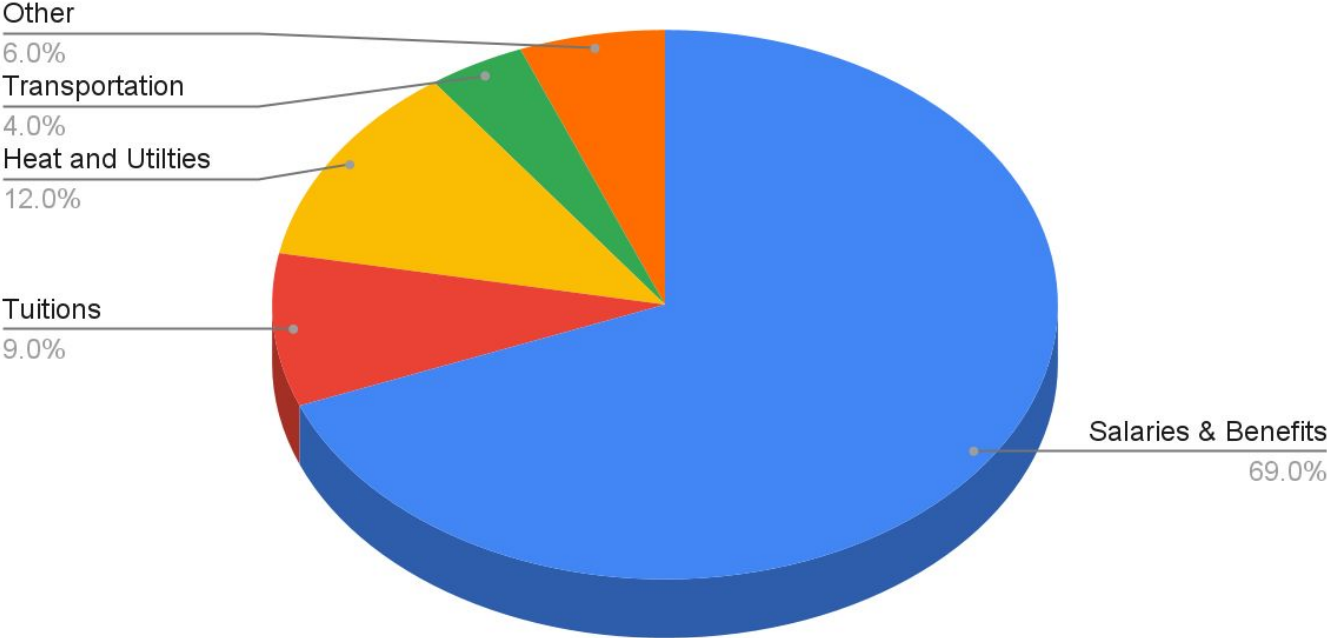


2025-2026

- Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- Dalio Foundation RISE Network
- Athlife Foundation



Where Our Money Is Spent 2025-2026



In-Kind Services Provided by the City of Meriden

Staff

- Crossing Guards
- School Nurses
- School Resource Officers

Services

- Unemployment
- Classified Pensions
- Financial System
- Health Insurance
- Workers' Compensation

Partial Staff

- MIS
- Finance
- Safety and Risk
- Purchasing
- Health

2024-2025 NET CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL (NCEP 1/26)

Rank	District Name	NCEP	Rank	District Name	NCEP	Rank	District Name	NCEP	Rank	District Name	NCEP
1	SHARON	40,587.15	42	DARLEN	25,238.54	83	EASTFORD	23,113.48	124	MONTVILLE	20,732.23
2	DISTRICT NO. 12	43,884.21	43	CLINTON	26,048.97	84	WINDSOR	23,084.40	125	FARMINGTON	20,726.20
3	CORNWALL	41,000.38	44	MILFORD	25,008.43	85	GUILFORD	23,082.07	126	ROCKY HILL	20,692.77
4	CANAAN	40,210.10	45	MANSFIELD	25,806.01	86	NEWINGTON	22,805.08	127	GROTON	20,634.38
5	KENT	38,546.00	46	VOLUNTOWN	25,772.80	87	FRANKLIN	22,803.52	128	LISBON	20,595.04
6	NORFOLK	38,236.18	47	EASTON	25,738.27	88	WINCHESTER	22,777.32	129	TORRINGTON	20,566.97
7	DISTRICT NO. 1	35,536.57	48	BRANFORD	25,737.10	89	DISTRICT NO. 5	22,775.11	130	PLYMOUTH	20,547.70
8	WESTBROOK	34,207.37	49	DISTRICT NO. 18	25,447.18	90	NORWALK	22,701.78	131	MONROE	20,518.34
9	DISTRICT NO. 4	33,192.25	50	STONINGTON	25,418.94	91	MARLBOROUGH	22,643.99	132	PLAINFIELD	20,488.11
10	DISTRICT NO. 11	32,793.74	51	WATERFORD	25,380.11	92	WEST HARTFORD	22,442.38	133	NORTH HAVEN	20,384.12
11	ESSEX	32,725.34	52	RIDGEFIELD	25,332.29	93	COLCHESTER	22,368.69	134	BRISTOL	20,331.88
12	SALISBURY	32,548.90	53	BARKHAMSTED	25,221.82	94	NEWTOWN	22,359.52	135	MANCHESTER	20,326.06
13	DISTRICT NO. 9	32,287.17	54	MADISON	25,207.58	95	POMFRET	22,352.82	136	DISTRICT NO. 10	20,075.85
14	SCOTLAND	30,934.30	55	DISTRICT NO. 18	25,141.04	96	COLUMBIA	22,318.19	137	NORTH STONING	19,970.49
15	COLEBROOK	30,812.18	56	EAST HADDAM	25,133.29	97	WATERTOWN	22,075.74	138	SOUTHINGTON	19,930.35
16	DEEP RIVER	30,804.51	57	UNION	25,101.34	98	NEW LONDON	22,039.93	139	TRUMBULL	19,923.95
17	REDDING	30,639.18	58	MIDDLETOWN	25,070.14	99	GLASTONBURY	21,835.52	140	EAST HAVEN	19,761.29
18	HAMPTON	30,500.48	59	WILTON	24,980.74	100	NEW HAVEN	21,820.18	141	BROOKLYN	19,711.37
19	CHESTER	30,482.70	60	FAIRFIELD	24,844.22	101	PLAINVILLE	21,801.01	142	WOODSTOCK	19,706.85
20	HARTLAND	30,337.01	61	DISTRICT NO. 15	24,837.72	102	SIMSBURY	21,750.84	143	TOLLAND	19,697.00
21	DISTRICT NO. 7	29,861.81	62	HEBRON	24,808.97	103	GRANBY	21,747.88	144	LEDYARD	19,696.85
22	CHAPLIN	29,547.41	63	ANDOVER	24,722.30	104	SOMERS	21,719.72	145	STERLING	19,617.00
23	DISTRICT NO. 13	29,509.84	64	BOZRAH	24,592.14	105	AVON	21,636.50	146	VERNON	19,572.82
24	SHERMAN	29,218.22	65	WINDSOR LOCKS	24,296.64	106	CROMWELL	21,604.67	147	ANSONIA	19,528.12
25	NORTH CANAAN	28,178.43	66	EAST LYME	24,209.18	107	THOMASTON	21,548.27	148	COVENTRY	19,489.20
26	WESTON	28,001.74	67	HAMDEN	24,180.13	108	PORTLAND	21,536.65	149	CANTERBURY	19,414.48
27	DISTRICT NO. 14	28,079.83	68	DERBY	24,104.50	109	ORANGE	21,529.30	150	SHELTON	19,320.05
28	GREENWICH	28,970.50	69	CANTON	24,089.18	110	STRATFORD	21,437.90	151	ELLINGTON	19,054.00
29	DISTRICT NO. 20	28,508.47	70	STAFFORD	24,000.70	111	WOODBIDGE	21,341.34	152	SEYMOUR	19,047.44
30	OLD SAYBROOK	28,138.96	71	HARTFORD	23,790.69	112	OXFORD	21,308.50	153	GRISWOLD	18,749.76
31	WESTPORT	27,714.71	72	WINDHAM	23,703.20	113	SUFFIELD	21,164.29	154	BETHEL	18,720.73
32	EAST WINDSOR	27,380.44	73	NEW FAIRFIELD	23,704.52	114	NEW MILFORD	21,132.57	155	SOUTH WINDSOR	18,601.21
33	DISTRICT NO. 8	27,180.95	74	NORWICH	23,074.05	115	NORTH BRANFORD	21,110.00	156	ENFIELD	18,504.18
34	WILLINGTON	27,013.28	75	STAMFORD	23,640.88	116	SPRAGUE	21,041.13	157	WATERBURY	18,463.71
35	BLOOMFIELD	26,983.87	76	WALLINGFORD	23,599.70	117	PUTNAM	20,908.77	158	WOLCOTT	18,455.82
36	LEBANON	26,905.74	77	KILLINGLY	23,451.73	118	BROOKFIELD	20,862.78	159	BRIDGEPORT	18,310.05
37	NEW HARTFORD	26,859.94	78	BERLIN	23,448.68	119	WETHERSFIELD	20,855.78	160	NAUGATUCK	18,083.99
38	DISTRICT NO. 17	26,504.41	79	EAST GRANBY	23,425.54	120	DISTRICT NO. 16	20,844.59	161	EAST HARTFORD	17,987.11
39	THOMPSON	26,475.57	80	BOLTON	23,410.98	121	CHESHIRE	20,815.54	162	NEW BRITAIN	17,518.90
40	NEW CANAAN	26,344.91	81	PRESTON	23,357.45	122	SALEM	20,810.01	163	DANBURY	17,436.08
41	ASHFORD	26,338.90	82	EAST HAMPTON	23,247.21	123	BETHANY	20,767.70	164	WEST HAVEN	16,823.07
									165	MERIDEN	10,300.87



NET CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL (NCEP 1/26) SURROUNDING TOWNS

District ranking out of 165	District	NCEP (2024-2025) 1/2026	Additional dollars per student above Meriden	Total yearly Increase if funded same as selected district
58	Middletown	\$25,070	\$8,719	\$72,422,257
67	Hamden	\$24,160	\$7,809	\$64,863,714
76	Wallingford	\$23,600	\$7,249	\$60,208,782
78	Berlin	\$23,449	\$7,098	\$58,954,410
121	Cheshire	\$20,816	\$4,465	\$37,083,549
133	North Haven	\$20,384	\$4,033	\$33,500,175
138	Southington	\$19,930	\$3,579	\$29,731,161
163	Danbury	\$17,436	\$1,085	\$9,013,754
164	West Haven	\$16,823	\$472	\$3,922,093
165	Meriden	\$16,351		

Exciting BOE and City Partnership



AI rendering of the new
Casimir Pulaski Elementary School



Mark D. Benigni, Ed.D.

Superintendent



Brian P. Daniels
City Manager

City of Meriden, Connecticut

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

142 East Main Street, City Hall

Meriden, CT 06450-5605

Telephone (203) 630-4123 • Fax (203) 630-4274

bdaniels@meridenct.gov

March 2, 2026

Mayor Kevin Scarpati
Members of the Meriden City Council
142 East Main Street
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

RE: Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Message

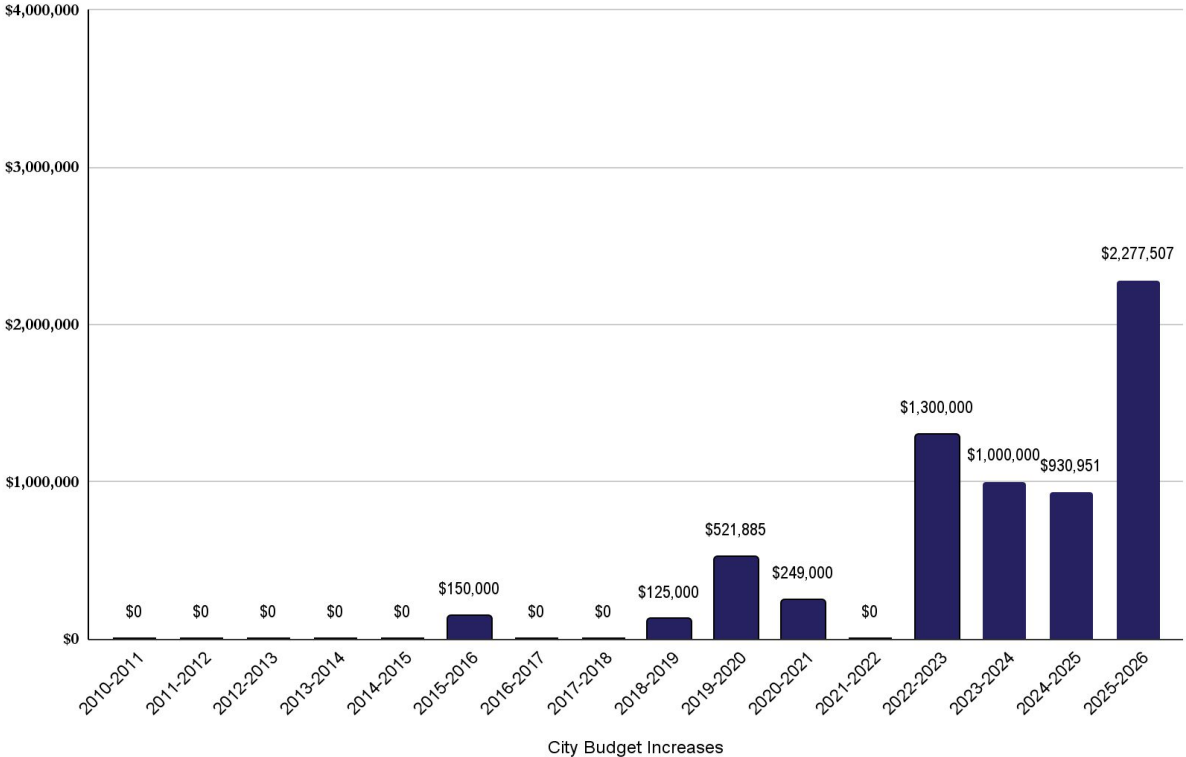
Pursuant to the City Charter, and consistent with the City's past fiscal practices, I hereby propose a FY27 budget designed to responsibly deliver, in the short and long term, those services necessary to all our residents and local businesses, recognizing the City's financial constraints.

The proposed \$243,640,765 FY27 budget currently presents a 4.6% overall increase in operating

As to the BOE's FY27 proposed budget, and after discussions with the BOE Superintendent, this budget proposes an increase of \$2,325,507 for BOE funding, which amount covers the BOE's current projected increases for salaries (\$1,376,190) and health insurance (\$949,317).

only a motor vehicle tax to experience a tax decrease in FY27.

CITY BUDGET INCREASES - 16 YEARS



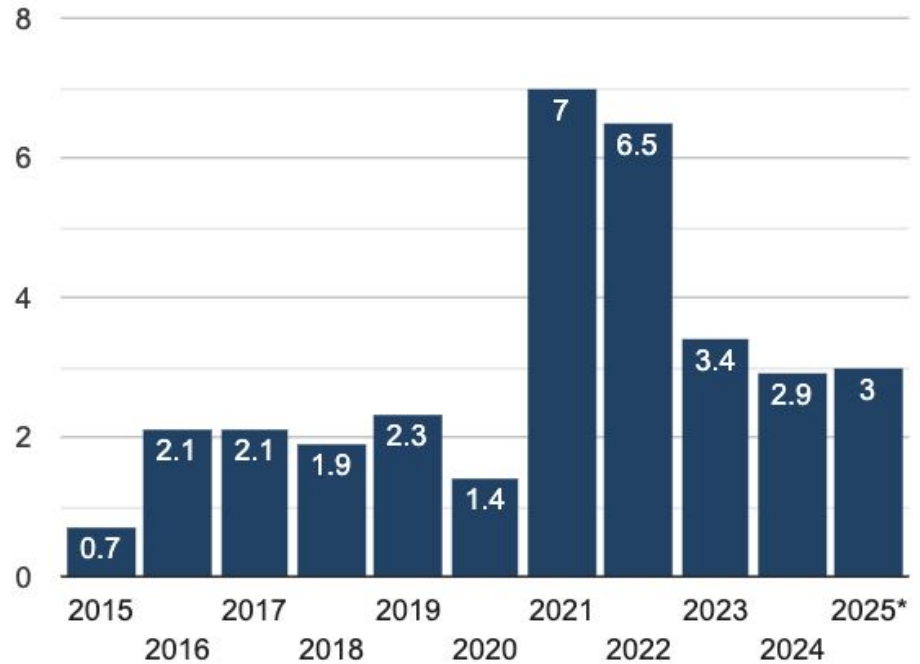
Average increase per year: \$409,646

FACTORS INFLUENCING BUDGET

CT Minimum Wage Increases

- 2024 Increase: 4.6%
- 2025 Increase: 4.2%
- 2026 Increase: 3.6%

Chart: United States Annual Inflation Rates (2015 to 2025)



2026-2027 Budget Request

SY 2026-2027
BUDGET REQUEST

DISTRICT BUDGET INCREASE 4.59%

\$6,305,336

STATE ALLIANCE GRANT INCREASE

\$0 as of 3-24-2026

TOTAL REQUEST FROM THE CITY

\$6,305,336

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDED

\$2,325,507

ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED

\$3,979,829

BOE Approved 3-24-2026

Connecticut School Districts' Budget Requests

District	% Increase
Meriden	4.59
Hamden	5.90
Manchester	6.13
North Haven	6.35
Southington	6.71
Stamford	7.20
Cheshire	7.54
Waterbury	8.00
Bristol	12.83
New London	14.00
New Britain	14.82
New Haven	16.00

Reductions in Budget

230 Retirement

620 Heat Energy

410 Public Utilities

Level-Funded Items in Budget

220 Longevity

627 Transportation Supplies

321 Instruction

642 Library books

590 Purchased Services

690 Other Supplies and Materials

Minor Budget Increases

207 Life/Disability/E.A.P \$358

225 Severance \$18,066

322 Other Prof. Tech. Serv. \$12,370

430 Repair/Maint Services \$17,195

529 Other Ins/Jug. \$1,626

580 Travel, Other \$33,163

613 Maintenance Supplies \$53,364

810 Dues and Fees \$17,636

Budget Drivers

Salaries (Certified and Classified)	\$1,376,190
Health Insurance	\$949,317
Tuitions (Including Special Education)	\$1,534,465
Pupil Transportation	\$1,046,419
Communication	\$984,305
Total:	\$5,890,696

The main budget drivers account for 93% of the budget increase.

Staffing Reductions - 20 Positions

2 Teachers at John Barry 4/5 (\$198,100)	1 Teacher at Maloney (\$99,050)
1 Teacher at Nathan Hale 2 (\$99,050)	1 Teacher at Platt (\$99,050)
2 Teachers at Hanover 4/5 (\$198,100)	2 Teachers at Lincoln 2 ILA (\$198,100)
1 Bilingual Teacher at Thomas Hooker (\$99,050)	1 Middle School Specialist (\$99,050)
1 Teacher at Casimir Pulaski 3 (\$99,050)	1 WMS Counselor (\$99,050)
2 Teachers at Israel Putnam K and 2 (\$198,100)	2 Administrators (\$342,000)
1 Teacher at Roger Sherman 3 (\$99,050)	2 Secondary and Elementary Paraeducators (\$75,220)

101 Certified Salaries

Certified: \$65,057,186

Increase: \$ 772,343

- Contracted salaries:
 - GWI Teachers at max. 2.0% with Step 4.69%
 - Administrators 3.00%
- Unknown Turnover reduction of \$425,000
- Reduction - 18 Certified Staff

151 Classified Salaries

Classified: \$17,967,502

Increase: \$ 603,847

- Unknown Turnover Reduction of \$150,000
- Reduction of 2 Paraeducators
- Salary Increase - Negotiated

Salary Increases GWI

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Teachers (max step)	2.62%	4.69%	4.23%
Administrators	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Clerical	3.25%	3.25%	3.00%
Custodians	3.25%	3.25%	3.00%
Paraeducators	3.00%	3.00%	2.75%
Family-School Liaisons	2.25%	3.25%	-

CT Minimum Wage Increases: **2024 Increase: 4.6%, 2025 Increase: 4.2%, 2026: 3.6%**

201 Health Insurance

Health Insurance: \$18,735,949

Increase: \$ 949,317

Based on staff enrolled in district's insurance on November 1, 2025

- Rate using 10% increase
- HSA Employee Funding Share \$1,056,310
- Reduction of 20 positions on Health Insurance

213 Social Security

Social Security: \$2,600,969

Increase: \$ 228,730

- 7.65% FICA/Medicare on athletics/extracurriculars/tutors/substitutes
- 1.45% Medicare for teachers and administrators

330 Other Professional Technical Services

Other Professional Technical Services: \$1,365,169

Increase: \$ 122,747

Items Increasing from 2025

- Contracted Special Educational Services - \$97,051
- Software Licenses non educational - \$25,696

410 Public Utilities

Public Utilities: \$2,694,709

Decrease: (\$ 184,923)

- Estimated rate increase: 25% on October 2025 on Eversource rate per City
- \$94,000 Loan for lighting ended June 24
- 8,949,893 kWh (3 year average Eversource)
- 1,850,720 kWh (3 year average Solar)

510 Pupil Transportation

Pupil Transportation: \$10,275,330

Increase: \$ 1,046,419

New Britain Transportation increase: 3.89%

First Student Transportation increase: 6.5%

Additional Hours Special Education Transportation: \$345,172

Additional Summer Hours Special Education Summer School: \$219,722

540 Communications

Communications: \$1,742,286

Increase: \$ 984,305

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Telephone/Internet Services/ Devices	\$317,731	\$317,731
Postage/Printing	\$295,319	\$295,319
District Marketing & Events	\$95,933	\$95,933
Chromebooks	0	\$520,000
Technology Software & Renewals	\$48,998	\$513,303
Total	\$757,981	\$1,742,286

560 Tuitions

Tuitions: \$13,804,434

Increase: \$1,534,465

	2024-25	2025-26	Budgeted 2026-27	Difference	% Difference
Magnet Schools	\$444,801	\$444,801	\$260,417	(\$184,384)	(41.45%)
Special Education	\$9,457,480	\$11,299,797	\$13,058,828	\$1,759,031	15.57%
Vocational Agriculture	\$525,371	\$525,371	\$485,189	(\$40,182)	(7.65%)
Total	\$10,427,652	\$12,269,969	\$13,804,434	\$1,534,465	12.51%

Special Education Students - New to Meriden 2025-2026 Previously Outplaced

	Student	School	Annual Cost
DCF no Nexus	Student 1	Out of District	\$157,000
DCF Meriden Nexus	Student 2	Public, Needs program	\$40,000
Moved to Meriden	Student 3	Out of District	\$176,110
Moved to Meriden	Student 4	Out of District	\$152,239
DCF no Nexus	Student 5	Out of District	\$58,183
Moved to Meriden	Student 6	Hospital	\$40,000
Moved to Meriden	Student 7	Out of District	\$76,580
Moved to Meriden	Student 8	Out of District	\$88,200
Moved to Meriden	Student 9	Out of District	\$131,000

Unanticipated Board of Education Expense: \$722,312

611 Instructional Supplies

Instructional Supplies: \$1,562,785

Increase: \$ 293,315

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Educational Renewals	\$477,412	\$596,379	\$620,831	\$914,146
Teaching Supplies	\$262,847	\$262,847	\$273,624	\$273,624
General Supplies	\$173,321	\$136,352	\$141,942	\$141,942
Art Supplies	\$88,894	\$88,894	\$92,539	\$92,539
Music Supplies	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$62,460	\$62,460
Paper	\$151,576	\$75,000	\$78,074	\$78,074
Total	\$1,229,050	\$1,219,472	\$1,269,470	\$1,562,785

620 Heat Energy

Heating: \$1,364,084

Decrease: (\$152,243)

Price	2025-2026	2026-2027
Heating Oil	\$101,283	\$103,122
Natural Gas	\$955,281	\$827,447
Diesel/Gasoline	\$459,763	\$433,515
Total	\$1,516,327	\$1,364,084

641 Textbooks

Textbooks: \$464,800

Increase: \$161,471

Replacement of old textbooks and renewing of licenses for digital content.

SY 2026-2027
BUDGET REQUEST

TOTAL REQUEST FROM THE CITY 4.59%

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CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDED

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BOE Approved 3-24-2026



Michael S. Grove

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

CIP Approved Project

Edison Roof Replacement

- Edison Middle School Roof Replacement: 24 years old
- 110,000 sq/ft of roofing
- Architect Hired Silver Petrucelli
- Bidding Project in April
- Construction Starting in June
- Estimated Completions 12/26
- State Approve \$3,112,527 Grant
- Estimate Cost \$4,110,575



CIP Approved Project

Lincoln Middle School Parking Lot Mill/Pavement:

- Starting in Summer 2026
- 106,000 sf of parking lot
- 15 catch basins
- 2950 linear ft curbing
- Budget \$813,000



CIP Requests 2026/2027 - 2030/2031

- FY 2026/2027 Washington Middle School Cooling Tower: 27 years old; estimate cost \$425,000
- FY 2027/2028 Edison Middle School Boilers: 22 years old; estimate: \$1,200,000
- FY 2028/2029 John Barry Elementary School Roof: 27 years old; estimate \$2,645,000
- FY 2029/2030 Benjamin Franklin Elementary School: Parking Lot Mill and Pavement Project \$480,000
- FY 2030/2031 Israel Putnam Elementary School Classrooms Air Conditioning: \$1,300,000



School Building Facility Updates

District Repair and Improvement Program(DRIP)

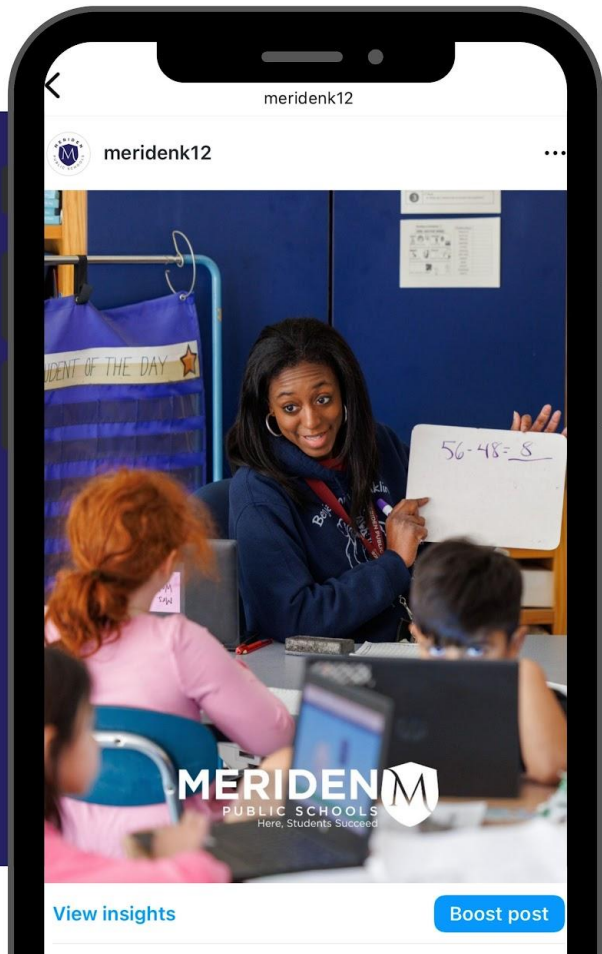
Items below were removed from budget and will be applying towards State Grant:

- Remodeling Washington student bathrooms
- Abate asbestos tile classroom floors at Putnam
- Repair air condition system at Edison
- Add playground equipment at Roger Sherman
- Repair roof at Maintenance Facility
- Carpet Platt Media Center
- Remove 20 year old trailers from Washington and Nathan Hale



Closing Remarks

Dr. Steven J. O'Donnell
Board of Education President



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MERIDEN 
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Here, Students Succeed

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

School Year	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Total Enrollment
2029-2030	3,596	1,998	2,514	8,108
2028-2029	3,615	1,960	2,543	8,118
2027-2028	3,669	1,951	2,563	8,183
2026-2027	3,691	1,948	2,614	8,253
2025-2026	3,727	1,997	2,657	8,381

560 Special Education Tuitions

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 Estimate	2026-27 Budgeted
Tuitions	\$9,981,235	\$11,742,053	\$14,577,476	\$15,764,459
Excess Cost	(\$2,077,723)	(\$2,761,491)	(\$3,277,679)	(\$2,705,631)
Board Cost	\$7,903,512	\$8,980,562	\$11,299,797	\$13,058,828
Excess Cost % of Reimbursement	71.42%	75.74%	72.70%	68.90%