

March 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

This year, we have set out to design a series of short videos that makes clear to the larger Simsbury community both the importance and the connectedness of the Simsbury Public Schools' Vision of a Graduate.

This first video overviews the roadmap behind our district's vision for every student. Witness how each school level– from elementary to middle to high school– builds upon the previous, developing the essential skills that our students will need for future success.

Watch as our staff and students prove that we are not *just* working on our kids' education, but on a crucial investment in the future. We invite you to see how it unfolds! Here is the [link](#) to the VoG video.

On Wednesday, February 21st, I had an opportunity to present the district budget to the Board of Education. The budget represents an increase over last year's operating cost of 4.97 percent. I encourage you to take a moment and scroll through the [Superintendent's Budget Presentation](#). The budget themes and priorities listed below help to frame our budget planning and ultimately our budgetary requests. They remain the key focus areas as we move forward.

Budget Themes and Priorities for 2024-2025:

- Meet increased contractual obligations;
- Adjust for market increases in tuition/transportation;
- Enrollment driven staffing needs in special education;
- Facilities and maintenance needs;
- Inflationary adjustment;
- Offsetting new staffing needs by reallocating current funding resources.

A summary of the Main Budget Drivers demonstrates that the majority of our budget represents fixed costs which have been impacted significantly by inflationary challenges and market adjustments.

Summary of Main Drivers

Contractual Obligations	\$2,738,069	3.33%
Enrollment Driven Staffing	\$ 655,298	0.80%
Market Driven Increases	\$ 783,109	0.95%
Prior Year Deficits	\$ 984,689	1.20%
Insurance	\$ 405,502	.49%
Reductions & Reallocations	<u>(\$1,478,135)</u>	<u>(1.80%)</u>

Total	\$4,088,533	4.97%
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On February 27th, the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the budget, moving it forward to the Board of Finance for review and discussion. The Board of Finance presentation will take place on March 5th at 5:45 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. I will continue to keep you posted as this process continues to move forward toward a final plan.

I would like to give a shout out to our Culinary Arts students who participated in their first CT ProStart Invitational at Dunkin' Park earlier this week. The ProStart Program is supported by the Connecticut Restaurant Association and Connecticut Hospitality Educational Foundation. Nine of our SHS students participated in the competition and our team placed 3rd in the state, being judged by numerous award winning chefs across CT. Congratulations to Family & Consumer Sciences teacher Gianna Gurga and the entire team for an incredible day!

I thank you for your continued support of our school system and the advocacy you continue to provide. As always, I hope you will contact me directly if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Regards,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools