

**Budget Workshop
Regional School District 14
February 8, 2012**

Process

The budget building process began in October with department leaders and administrators evaluating the needs of their departments and schools with certified and non-certified staff.

The Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations met with each Principal, the athletic director, technology director, and Director of Pupil Services to review their budgets and make initial cuts based upon the prioritization of needs.

The Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations convened a Leadership Team Meeting to review the entire budget and made another round of cuts based upon the input of the Team.

After several reviews with the Superintendent, the Director of Finance and Operations worked with his staff to assemble the final revisions of the current budget document for workshop review.

Regional School District Board of Education Goals

Regional School District 14 will provide a culture of academic excellence through leadership and adherence to systemic, cohesive PreK-12 curriculum and instruction.

Specifically, Regional School District 14 leaders and teachers will develop and implement a coherent approach to improving writing skills across the district.

Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

Secondary School Reform

The Key Elements of Connecticut's Plan for Secondary School Reform:

- Assuring Quality and Consistent/Coherent Curricula
- Addressing Each Student's Needs and Interests
- Early Intervention and Easing the Transition from Middle School to High School
- Offering New Ways to Experience Learning
- Assuring Excellent Teaching Through Pre-Service Training and In-Service Professional Development
- Increasing Credits, Expanding Opportunities
- Allowing Students to Demonstrate Skills and Pursue Personal Interests
- Holding All Students to High Standards
- Providing a Variety of Supports to Ensure that All Students Succeed
- Ensuring that All Students Graduate "College Ready"

CAPSS (CT Association of Public School Superintendents) Transformation Project

- Base instructional program on internationally benchmarked standards;
- Personalize Learning-based instruction on student learning needs, styles, and interests;
- Increase options for students and learning paths to meet standards;
- Increase options for students to demonstrate learning

NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges)

- Current research-based best practices
- 21st Century learning expectations, which address academic, social, civic competencies
- Curriculum purposely designed to ensure all students practice and achieve 21st Century learning expectations
- Curriculum emphasizes depth of understanding and application of knowledge
- Clear alignment between written and taught curriculum
- Effective curricular coordination and vertical articulation between and among all academic areas
- Staffing levels to ensure full implementation of the curriculum, including co-curricular programs and other learning opportunities
- Common planning time to provide professional staff the opportunity to collaborate on matters related to curriculum, assessment and current research
- Personalizing instruction

- Engaging students in cross-disciplinary learning
- Emphasizing inquiry, problem-solving, and higher order thinking
- Applying knowledge and skills to authentic tasks
- Integrating technology
- Formal ongoing advisor/advisee program
- Professional Development that maintains currency with best practices
- Timely, coordinated and directive intervention strategies for all students

2012-13 Budget Objectives:

(In light of the action taken by the teachers to agree to a zero percent increase for the 2012-13 school year, we have an opportunity to enhance programs and secure greater resources for students and teachers to improve learning.)

Enhance the instructional program in our schools in a cost-effective manner based on instructional best practices and research:

- Reduce fixed costs by continuing to apply rigorous bidding and contractual negotiations practices;
- Provide oversight and support in the areas of PreK-12 curriculum and instruction, professional development and student assessment;
- Enhance instructional supports for State and Federally mandated initiatives, including SRBI, Secondary School Reform, and the Common Core State Standards;
- Provide the resources necessary to ensure our school facilities are safe, clean, and reflect the community's pride in our schools.