



# **FY21 Superintendent's Proposed Budget**

April 2020

# Budget Process

**The process of developing the FY21 Superintendent's Proposed Budget was complex and involved the following:**

- **Managing and forecasting the FY21 budget**
- **Collaborating with central office leaders and principals to ensure that the budget reflects school-based needs**
- **Focus on budget guidelines as approved by LAE**
- **Robust and regular communication between District and LAE**

# Proposed Budget Timeline

- **School Planning Meetings - February 24th - March 6th**
- **SOA Hearings and discussion - March 10th, March 11th , March 31st**
- **Budget Hearings - April 13th & April 27th**

# Budget Reviews by School and Department

- **Individual meetings were held with each school and department leadership team to discuss any proposed changes in the following areas:**
  - Staffing
  - Expenditures
  - Academic and Enrichment Services
  - School Calendar
  - School Operational Plans
  - Goals and Strategies for Improvement for the new school year
- **At the school level, the Teacher Leadership Team (TLT) was involved in the decision-making regarding budget, calendar, operational plans, and goal development**
- **Review and feedback was gathered from School Leadership Teams (SLT)**
- **After all budget meetings were held decisions were made based on district priorities.**

# Funding Sources

Lawrence receives a budget every year from two sources:

1. **City of Lawrence (recommended by the Mayor and approved by City Council):** This budget is often referred to as our local budget appropriation
2. **State and federal grants:** Lawrence receives grants either through a formula based on our population (referred to as entitlement grants) or on a competitive basis. Most federal grants are passed through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Grant time periods can vary and are usually not aligned to the July 1 – June 30 fiscal year.

# Steps to Determine State Aid

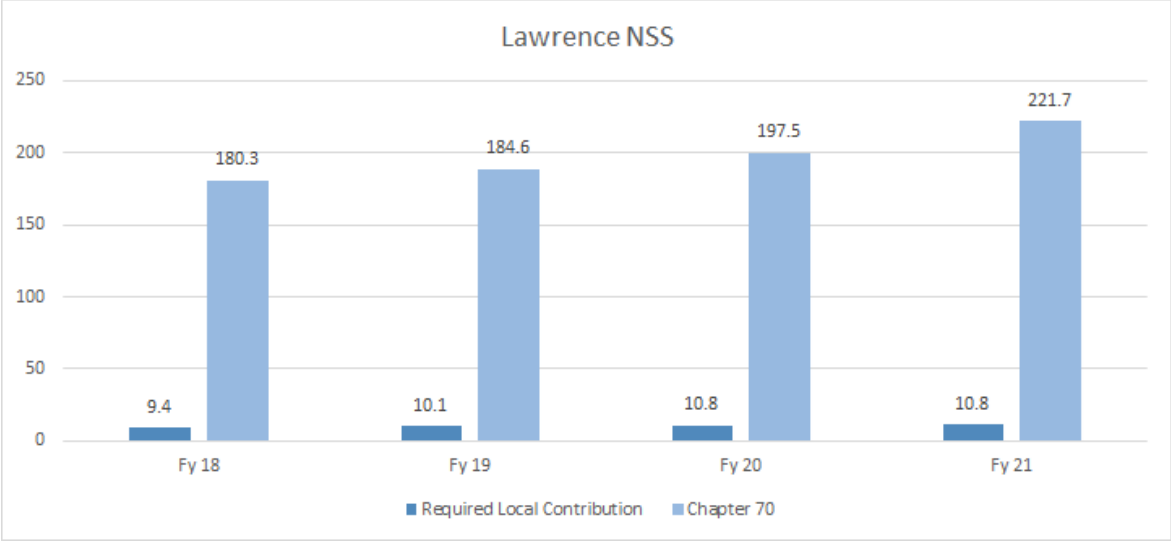
1. The Chapter 70 state aid formula defines and calculates each community's **foundation budget**, which is the adequate funding level for each district based on the specific grades, programs, and demographic characteristics of its students.
2. It then determines an equitable **local contribution**, or how much of that “foundation budget” should be paid for by each city and town’s property tax, based upon the relative wealth of the community.
3. The remainder is funded by Chapter 70 **state aid**.

# Net School Spending

**Local Contribution + State Aid =  
Net School Spending (NSS) requirement.**

**This is the minimum amount that a district  
must spend to comply with state law.**

# Lawrence Net School Spending Requirements



The City of Lawrence will receive \$221,780,106 in Chapter 70 aid in Fiscal Year 2021, which makes up 95.1% of the overall net school spending requirement. The City's minimum obligation to NSS is \$11,560,136 for FY20.



# FY 21 Net School Spending (NSS) Calculation

**Net School Spending Level Based on Governor's Budget** **233,340,242**

**Less City Qualifying Costs**

Administration	745,504
Operations/ Maintenance	1,714,253
Employee Benefits	28,050
Tuition (Charter/ Choice)	25,618,199
<b>Total Qualifying Costs</b>	<b>28,106,006</b>

**School Committee Appropriation**

<b>205,234,236</b>	
Transportation (City Cost)	9,250,000
Adult Education (City Cost)	1,300,000
Building Leases (City Cost after 3 Yrs.)	

# Student Opportunity Act

- The Student Opportunity Act makes an unprecedented \$1.5 billion new investment in Massachusetts public education, ensuring public schools have adequate resources to provide a high-quality education to students across the state, regardless of zip code or income level.
- All Districts are required to submit a 3- year, evidence-based plan for the Commissioner's approval, outlining how we spend their funding to support student subgroups. The due date of the plan is currently unknown.
- The City of Lawrence will see an increase of \$21,784,737 in their Chapter 70 money for FY21.

# How Does LPS Fund the Schools?

**School-based autonomy** - Schools have the ability to create staffing and move funds from one account to the other, as long as they stay within their allocation. This is why schools may have different staffing and non-salary budgets.

**Staffing** - We provided funding to schools to cover the cost of salary increases according to the career ladder and salary schedules.

**Non-salary budgets** - We provided level funding for non-salary account budgets from FY20 to FY21.

# **What is Funded in this Budget Request?**

- **All existing staff positions, programs (enrichment, intramurals, athletics, and extended day)**
- **Level funding for school instructional and operational materials**
- **All cost escalations for health and dental insurance, other employee benefits, Special Education tuitions**

# Budget Priorities

- **Student Achievement** - Provide equitable, standards-aligned curricula and instruction for all of our students
- **Support Services** - Expand continuum of academic, social-emotional and mental health support, particularly for at-risk students
- **Engagement** - Grow family and student engagement to build partnerships in service of student success in the areas of attendance, academics, holistic development

**Questions**

**Thank you**