

Hampton Falls School District Proposed FY25 Operating Budget

February 6, 2024





Article 01: Operating Budget

Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,498,244? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,540,578 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required.)

NOTE: Warrant Article #1 (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.

The School Board recommends this article. Vote: 5-0

The proposed FY 2024-25 operating budget reflects an investment at the Lincoln Akerman School to provide our students an environment that promotes successful intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth.





School Goals



Lincoln Akerman School

The proposed Hampton Falls School District FY25 operating budget was constructed to support the following identified goals:

- Support the growth of our New Pre-School entering year two.
- Advancing our technology plan and 1:1 Chromebook program for students.
- Support continued growth in year two of a new math program.
- Support professional development opportunities for staff.
- Maintain a safe building and grounds for children to learn and play in.
- Take care of the needs of differently abled children through Special Education.

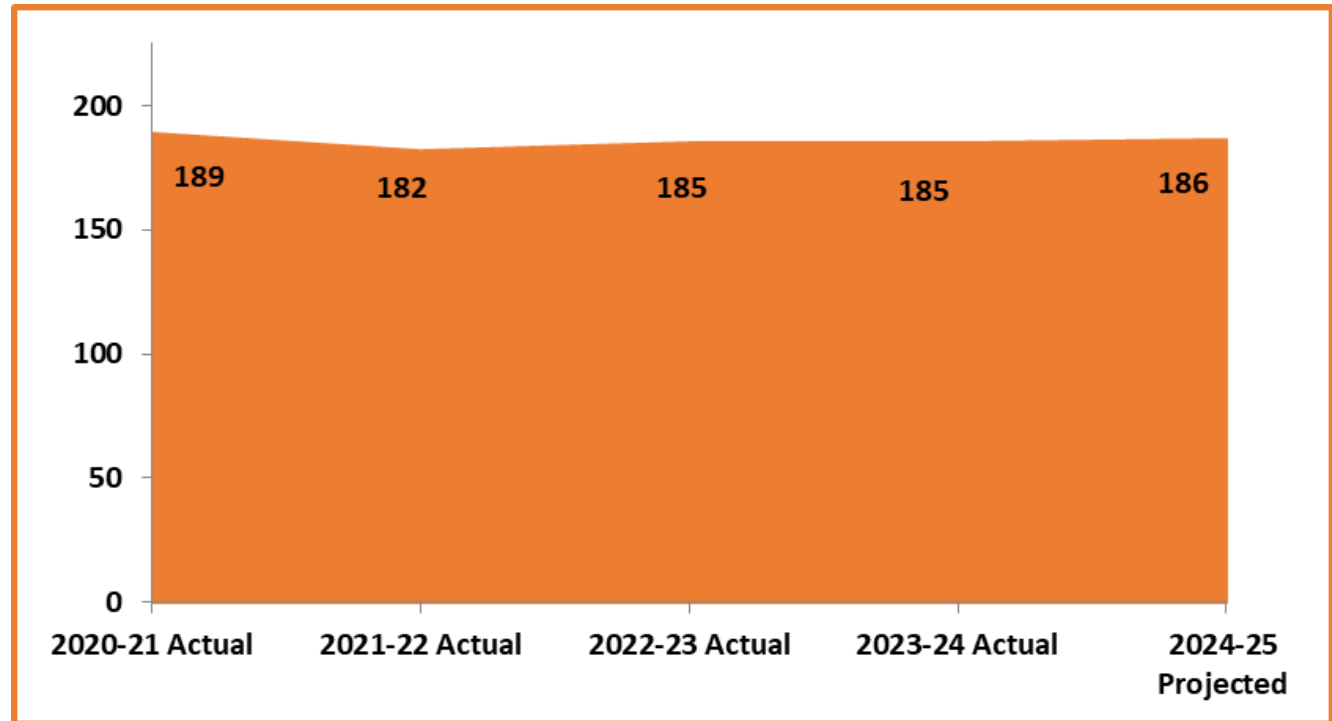


Budget Priorities



Lincoln Akerman School

We anticipate level enrollment at the Lincoln Akerman School from 185 students in 2023-24 to 186 students in 2024-25.



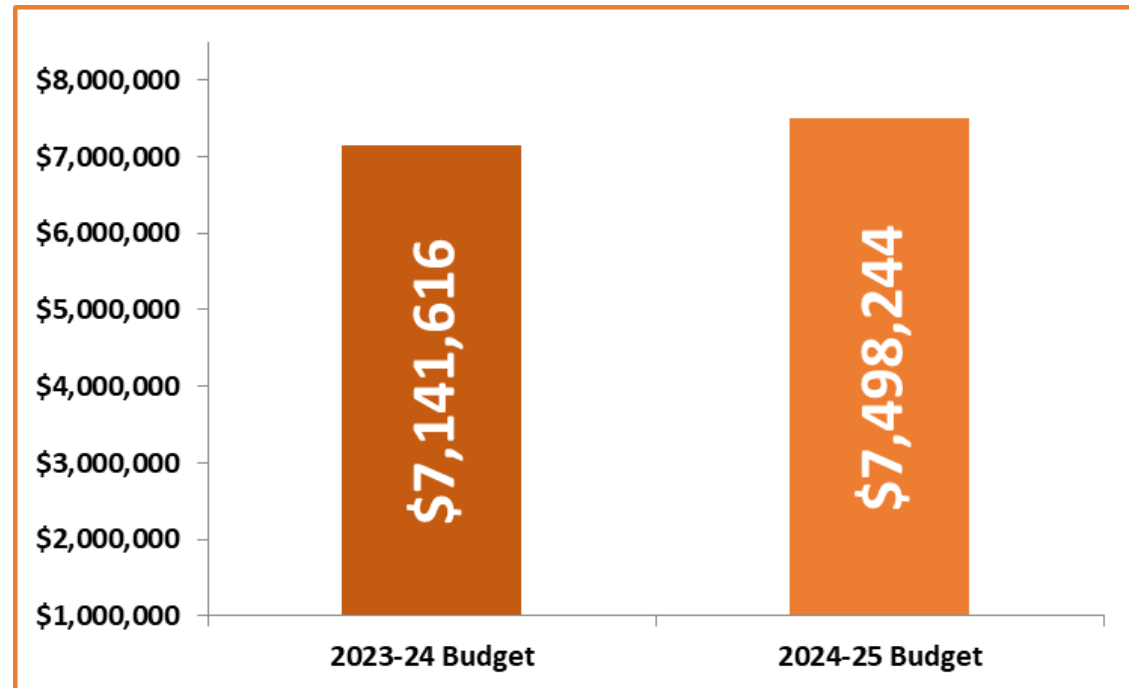


Proposed Budget



Lincoln Akerman School

The FY 2024-25 proposed Hampton Falls School District operating budget is \$7,498,244. This reflects an increase of +4.99% or a +\$356,628 increase from the FY 2023-24 budget of \$7,141,616. The proposed budget is -0.59% or -\$42,334 lower than the default budget of \$7,540,578.





Budget Drivers



Lincoln Akerman School

The following are the significant budget drivers in the proposed 2024-25 Hampton Falls School District operating budget:

- Cost escalation across multiple accounts due to price inflation; including supplies, books, equipment, food service, software, repair/maintenance, technology hardware, contracted services, furniture, etc.
 - Despite increased costs due to price inflation, many accounts were level-funded or reduced due to the decline in student enrollment.
- Significant health insurance premium rate increase, offset slightly by underbudgeting for GMR vs. Actual rate differential (and, ability to utilize health care expendable trust).
- Increase in special education costs, particularly the tuition costs for out of district placements to service students with specialized needs per their individualized education plan (IEP).
- Elimination of part-time Food Service position (currently vacant).
- Reduction of bus route based on student enrollment.



Cost of Living Adjustment



Lincoln Akerman School

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Embedded in the Hampton Falls School District operating budget is a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all non-union staff members. This COLA represents an annual salary increase for all non-union staff members within the respective district operating budgets. The administration recommends an SAU-wide COLA based upon documented inflation.

We utilize the consumer price index (CPI) for the Portsmouth region. The CPI saw an increase of 2.8% from July 2022 to July 2023 for our specific geographic region. This consistent practice equalizes any inequality, by utilizing the same time-frame and index. As such, based upon current data showing previous year inflation, the administration recommends a cost of living adjustment of 2.8% SAU-wide for the 2024-25 school year.

Social Security 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment	3.20%
United States CPI-U (July 2022 - July 2023)	3.20%
SAU 21 Teacher FY25 Cost of Living Adjustment (SEA CBA)	3.00%
Portsmouth CPI-U (July 2022 - July 2023)	2.80%
SAU 21 Non-Union Staff FY25 Cost of Living Adjustment	2.80%



Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

GENERAL EDUCATION

Budget: \$1,863,532

Increase: +\$84,714 (+4.76%)

The increase in General Education reflects the salary adjustment and step increases due to the new teachers collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The increase is slightly offset by a reduction in rental/lease equipment and equipment based on enrollment.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Budget: \$1,609,352

Increase: +\$131,541 (+8.90%)

The increase in Special Education is primarily due to an increase in out of district placement tuition and the addition of a 0.5 FTE case manager position. The increase was offset by a decrease in professional services and the reduction of 2.0 FTE educational associate positions (currently unfilled in FY24). The staffing adjustments were based on student need and services per individualized education plans (IEPs).



Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Budget: \$59,633

Decrease: -\$6,058 (-9.22%)

The decrease in Student Activities represents reductions in the supplies, admissions, and speakers accounts, offset by an increase in costs for officials.

GUIDANCE

Budget: \$63,598

Increase: +\$4,274 (+7.20%)

The increase in Guidance reflects cost of living adjustment and step advancement on salary schedule.

HEALTH

Budget: \$76,098

Increase: +\$1,847 (+2.49%)

The increase in Health is due to the teacher cost of living adjustment, offset by a slight reduction in supplies.



IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Budget: \$23,465

Decrease: -\$4,861 (-17.16%)

The decrease in the Improvement of Instruction account represents reductions in workshops/seminars, in-service training, professional development, curriculum salaries, and travel reimbursement.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

Budget: \$93,888

Increase: +\$2,659 (+2.91%)

The Educational Media budget reflects staff salary cost of living adjustment and steps, offset by reductions in general supplies, AV/Media supplies, and books/print media.

Budget in Detail





Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

TECHNOLOGY

Budget: \$218,527

Increase: +\$3,857 (+1.80%)

The Information Technology budget aligns with the school board approved technology plan. The slight increase reflects the staff cost of living adjustment, the rental/lease for our 1:1 Chromebooks, and internet costs. Reductions in professional development, repair/maintenance, supplies, and software accounts offset the increase.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Budget: \$41,866

Decrease: -\$504 (-1.19%)

The decrease in the Board of Education account reflects reductions in legal, annual meeting, and other expenses, offset by an increase in our audit services account, and the cost of living adjustment for district officers.



Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

SAU SERVICES

Budget: \$146,480

Increase: +\$3,669 (+2.57%)

The increase in SAU Services reflects the SAU central office budget allocation, based on enrollment and property valuation. The SAU 21 model provides an aligned, high functioning structure that utilizes economy of scale, operational efficiencies, and shared personnel – to provide cost, performance, and efficiency benefits to each individual district; while embracing individual school district identity and autonomy.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Budget: \$199,322

Increase: +\$3,915 (+2.00%)

The increase in the School Administration account reflects the non-union staff cost of living adjustment and steps, offset by reductions in supplies and dues & fees.



Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

BUILDINGS

Budget: \$406,440

Decrease: -\$9,229 (-2.16%)

The decrease in the Buildings account are due to reductions in anticipated heating fuels, renovations, furniture, and repair/maintenance costs. Additional savings were recognized with the plan to utilize the building maintenance expendable trust. The reductions were offset by increases including the staff cost of living adjustment, and generalized price inflation for facilities supplies, cleaners, insurance, contracted work, and materials.

GROUNDS

Budget: \$53,315

Decrease: -\$19,065 (-26.34%)

The decrease in Grounds reverts to normal spending levels, after one-time expenditure for a storage/maintenance shed.



Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

TRANSPORTATION

Budget: \$366,475

Decrease: -\$66,910 (-15.44%)

The decrease in Transportation is due to special education transportation, based on student need for in-district and out of district transportation. Additionally, the budget includes the reduction of a bus route in year 1 of the 5-year contract with First Student to supply general education, athletic, field trip, and other transportation services.

DEBT SERVICE

Budget: \$362,359

Decrease: -\$1,772 (-0.49%)

The Debt Service account reflects the principal and interest payment on the bond issue for the building project and the Kensington Road property. The last payment for Kensington Road is scheduled for August 2024, and the last payment for the new addition is scheduled for August 2038.



Budget in Detail



Lincoln Akerman School

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Budget: \$1,709,150

Increase: +\$253,843 (+17.44%)

The increase in employee benefits reflects a large health insurance premium increase, reduced slightly by underbudgeting the health insurance account.

INTERFUND TRANSFER

Budget: \$35,000

Increase: +\$0 (+0.00%)

The change to the Interfund Transfer is budgeted.

FOOD SERVICE

Budget: \$169,744

Decrease: -\$25,292 (-12.97%)

The decrease in the Food Service fund reflects the reduction of a part-time food service position (currently unfilled), and savings in food supplies due to enrollment.



Default Budget



Lincoln Akerman School

Default Budget: \$7,540,578

(+42,334 higher than the proposed operating budget of \$7,498,244)

The amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget, and eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under recruitment or positions redefined in the proposed operating budget, as determined by the governing body, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted, of the local political subdivision. In calculating the default budget amount, the governing body shall follow the statutory formula which may result in a higher or lower amount than the proposed operating budget.



Article 02: Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton Falls School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association for the following increases and reductions in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary Increase	Estimated Benefits Increase	TOTAL Estimated Costs
2024-25	\$31,471	\$2,748	\$34,219
2025-26	\$29,395	\$2,454	\$31,849
2026-27	\$14,895	\$19,845	\$34,740
2027-28	\$14,054	\$18,466	\$32,520

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,219 for the 2024-25 school year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement. (Majority vote required.)

The School Board recommends this article. Vote: 5-0

NOTE: In order for this article to be adopted, it must be approved by the voters of the school districts of Hampton Falls, North Hampton, Seabrook, South Hampton and the voters of the Winnacunnet Cooperative School District (which includes Hampton voters).



Warrant Articles



Lincoln Akerman School

Seacoast Education Support Personnel Association (SESPA) Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Warrant Article

Year 1: \$34,219; Year 2: \$31,849; Year 3: \$34,740; Year 4: \$32,520

SESPA employees, our amazing educational associates, help our teachers to assist with our students learning growth on a daily basis – providing paraprofessional support to maximize and ensure our students receive requisite educational opportunities and experiences – both in general education and special education.

Passage of the CBA is critical for the Lincoln Akerman School and the SAU's retention of our best educational associates and our ability to hire new high-quality ones. It is incredibly important that we are able to compete with area school districts, or we are at risk of losing our educational associates. We currently provide uncompetitive compensation and benefits to these extremely important employees. When contracts fail, EA's do not receive pay increases or steps. And, this further perpetuates a significant compensation differential with surrounding SAU's.

The proposed CBA warrant article will need approval from each member district, including the North Hampton, Hampton Falls, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Winnacunnet ballots. Should it fail on any ONE of these ballots, it will fail for all our districts. This will result in our tremendous EA's receiving no salary step or cost of living adjustment.



Article 03: School Resource Officer

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of providing a School Resource Officer to serve the Lincoln Akerman School. (Majority vote required)

The School Board recommends this article. Vote: 5-0



Warrant Articles



Lincoln Akerman School

School Resource Officer: \$50,000 (via raise and appropriation)

The Hampton Falls School District proposes to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of a School Resource Officer (SRO) to serve the Lincoln-Akerman School in a part-time capacity.

The proposed School Resource Officer role will be a Hampton Falls Police Department employee, but fully integrated into the school community, including but not limited to the following responsibilities:

- Promote a positive relationship between students and law enforcement officials.
- Foster educational programs/activities to increase each student's knowledge of and respect for the law and the function of law enforcement.
- Provide a safe, healthy and secure environment on campus and in the immediate proximity of the campus.
- Assist in the development of a Safe School Plan and crisis preparedness guidelines for schools.



Article 04: Building Maintenance Expendable Trust

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, with up to \$50,000 to be funded from the June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the School Board: 5-0



Warrant Articles



Lincoln Akerman School

Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Warrant Article – \$50,000:

The School Board proposes funding the Building Maintenance expendable trust with \$50,000, utilizing unreserved fund balance, for the March 2024 ballot.

The intent is to build the balance of the building maintenance expendable trust in order to supplement the cost of the asbestos remediation, and future capital projects, per the capital improvement plan (CIP).

Important Note: Funding for the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust comes from any potential available year-end fund balance – not raised via additional taxation.

Expendable Trust Fund:
Building Maintenance

Current Balance
\$248,138

Target Balance:
\$350,000

Thank You!

Thank you to the school board,
teachers, parents, students,
staff, and community for the
outstanding support of the
Lincoln Akerman School!

