

# ESSEX WESTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT



**2022-23  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**[WWW.EWSD.ORG/BUDGET](http://WWW.EWSD.ORG/BUDGET)**

# FY'24 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

**\$90,796,463**  
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENSES FOR THE EWSD FOR FY'24

**\$8,897,662**  
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENSES FOR THE CENTER FOR TECH., ESSEX FOR FY'24

**\$20,141**  
NET EDUCATIONAL SPENDING PER EQUALIZED PUPIL

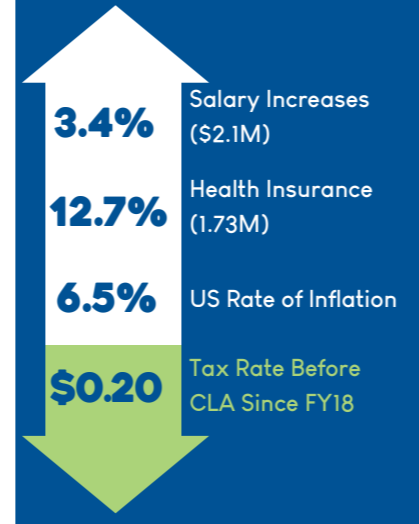
THE PROPOSED FY'24 BUDGET			FY23 v. FY24	
	FY23	FY24 Proposed	\$ DIFF	% DIFF
<b>Total Expenditures</b>				
EWSD Expenses	\$86,008,927	\$90,796,463	\$4,787,536	5.57%
CTE Expenses	\$8,226,539	\$8,897,662	\$671,123	8.16%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$94,235,466</b>	<b>\$99,694,125</b>	<b>\$5,458,659</b>	<b>5.79%</b>
<b>Offsetting Revenues</b>				
EWSD Revenues	-\$18,158,613	-\$17,165,813	\$992,800	-5.47%
CTE Revenues	-\$8,226,539	-\$8,897,662	-\$671,123	8.16%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>-\$26,385,152</b>	<b>-\$26,063,475</b>	<b>\$321,677</b>	<b>-1.22%</b>
<b>Net Educational Spending</b>	<b>\$67,850,314</b>	<b>\$73,630,650</b>	<b>\$5,780,336</b>	<b>8.52%</b>

PROJECTED FINAL TAX IMPACT				
	FY23	FY24	CHANGE	%
Westford	\$1.5933	\$1.5963	\$0.0030	0.19%
Town/City	\$1.6019	\$1.6607	\$0.0588	3.67%
Income Rate	2.28%	2.29%	0.01%	0.58%

### EWSD BUDGETED EXPENSES PER DOLLAR SPENT



### FY24 BUDGET MAJOR DRIVERS



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### VOTING

Mon., April 10 (7:00 p.m.)

\*EWSD Annual Meeting in the EHS Auditorium

Tue., April 11 (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) - VOTE

\*City residents at Champlain Valley Expo

\*Essex Town outside the City residents at EMS

\*Westford residents at Westford School

\*Ballots will be mailed to all active voters\*

The EWSD Annual Report/proposed budget will be available online beginning on 3/31/23. The EWSD Annual Report will be available online and at the following locations when it is completed:

- Brownell Library
- Essex Free Library
- EWSD District Offices
- Westford Public Library
- Essex Town Clerk's Office
- Westford Town Office
- City of Essex Junction Municipal Office



For further information, including projected tax impacts, please visit: [www.ewsd.org/budget](http://www.ewsd.org/budget)

Request a hard copy: 802-878-8168

# BETH COBB - EWSD SUPERINTENDENT

Dear EWSD Families and Community Members,

Thank you for living in this great community and supporting the Essex Westford School District. We continue to strive toward our vision of growing hearts and minds for a better today and tomorrow: every day, every way, every one. This statement embodies the core of the educational experience for students and their families from prekindergarten through graduation.

An excellent education is the cornerstone of a community and we often hear of families who have chosen to live here because of our schools. Our community and schools work closely to support one another to ensure that all of our students have access to high-quality programs and opportunities that prepare them for great careers and bright futures.

Our FY'24 budget reflects this dedication and commitment to our students. It is focused on academic excellence, equity, and our student's social and emotional well-being. It distributes resources across all schools

and ensures that our operational structures maximize positive instructional impact for all students. The budget provides students with what they need while being sensitive to the taxpayers.

The budget reflects an alignment of resources that ensure a safe and well-maintained learning environment for our students and staff. By better aligning our schools' start and stop times, we can provide more reliable and safe transportation for our students. Our budget supports healthy and nutritious meals for our students, which supports their ability to learn.

Our budget maintains a systemic approach to high-quality instruction and a systemic approach to intervention across all our schools. This is essential in creating excellence and equity in the EWSD. We have evidence of great success within our District when intervention has been implemented with fidelity, and all teachers are dedicated to the process.

In Vermont, on July 1, 2023, a systemic approach to

intervention will be required by law, as well as having a district-wide coordinated viable curriculum, comprehensive assessment plan, and educational support teams at the school and district levels. Much of this we have been working towards since 2018.

In Vermont, each school district is required to have expectations for College and Career Readiness. This includes academic excellence as well as skills and abilities that students should be able to demonstrate upon graduation.

This year, our School Board and administration engaged with students, staff, and community members in determining our EWSD competencies. Battelle for Kids has facilitated the process, and they will finish their work with us in just a few weeks. The Board will adopt the competencies as policy, and then we will work to make the competencies an EWSD reality.

Deep gratitude to our EWSD teachers, support staff, and administrators for the work they do every day, with a focus on equity, social-emotional learning, and academics. This would not be possible without the commitment of our bus drivers, child nutrition staff, technology experts, office staff, and facilities and safety staff.

A special thank you to our EWSD School Board members, who have dedicated many hours to policy, engaging with our data, celebrating our successes, hearing our needs, being absorbed with the budget process, and truly focusing on success for all.

With Appreciation,

Beth Cobb  
EWSD Superintendent



# EWSD BOARD REPORT

The 2022-2023 school year can be described as a year of commitment to recovery. Much time has been spent reviewing the lessons learned from the pandemic years and focusing our efforts and resources on what we need to help our students and staff rebuild and recover.

It is heartening to see data that shows that while many of our students lost learning during the COVID pandemic overall, our students fared much better than most in our State and the Nation. This is not something to herald, but it is important in that it shows us that in some areas, we have been making the correct decisions with curriculum and staffing priorities.

What this data also shows us are areas where we are not where we want and need to be, and our administration has been very reflective and responsive. They are currently creating a detailed response plan with concentration on our math curriculum and staff training around this work.

We as a Board remain steadfast in our support of the systemic initiatives our District began pre-pandemic:

- Professional Learning Communities
- Equity
- Professional Development
- Social and Emotional Learning

All of these investments have yielded returns in the form of top-tier administrators and teachers, ongoing work to make our school communities equitable and supportive for students, teachers, and staff, and to provide our students with the much-needed emotional and mental health supports as we emerge from the pandemic years.

We remain supportive of giving our top educators the resources to build their skills and collaborate and share best practices across our schools. Recruiting and retaining the best teachers is a priority for our District. While the past few years have kept us all in a state of dealing with what each day will bring, our Board is sup-

porting the District's work to look forward – to begin the process of envisioning our future. What will our students need? What will our staff and educators need? What will our community need?

Our Portrait of a Graduate work just recently completed, and this work is a start in our process of collecting community input on what our educational community of tomorrow will look like.

I am very thankful for my fellow Board members and appreciative of their work. Our District is large and complex, and we are so fortunate to have the amazing administrative team that we have – thank you. I am thankful for our dedicated staff and teachers – they give so much of themselves to our students each day. They truly care and it shows.

Finally, I am thankful for our community, and for its continued support of our District's work. Now, more than ever, we need that continued support as we stay the course and do the hard but rewarding work of educating our learners in a rapidly changing and complex world!

With Respect,

Erin Knox  
EWSD Board Chair

## EWSD Board Members

Erin Kennedy Knox (Chair)	Essex Junction
Scott Brown (Vice Chair)	Essex Junction
Robert Carpenter (Clerk)	Essex Town
Marlon Verasamy	Essex Junction
Diane Clemens	Essex Junction
Brendan Kinney	Essex Town
Jemima Talbot	Essex Town
Laura Taylor	Essex Town
Scott Cooledge	Westford
Andre Roy	Westford
Maddie Ahmadi	Student Rep
Wade Winter	Student Rep



[WWW.EWSD.ORG/BOARD](http://WWW.EWSD.ORG/BOARD)



# ESSEX WESTFORD SPOTLIGHT

## Westford Robotics Teams Flourish at State Championships

Four FIRST Lego League teams from Westford School competed in the FLL Vermont State Championships with great success, as they finished the exciting day by claiming half of the championship's awards!

- Engineering Excellence Award – Pickle Pandas
- Motivate Award – Interplanetary Pizza Pandas
- Rising All-Star Award – Muddy Pandas
- Innovation Project Award – Panda-Monium!

This group devoted some 60+ hours over the season!  
Learn more: <https://bit.ly/WestfordRobots>



## CTE Brings Back Building Trades To Help Fill Labor Gap

Vermont needs workers ready and capable of building homes. So CTE relaunched a program to help fill in the growing gap in the labor force. It's the building systems program that covers HVAC, plumbing and electrical, things the state has continued to make known we need.

The current workforce occupying these fields is aging out, leaving open jobs across the state with starting pay of around \$40,000 a year, jobs he is committed to filling by getting students trained and certified. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/CTEBuildingTrades>



## Hiawatha Students Helping the Community

Hiawatha students participated in their annual Hand-to-Hand Sale again this year. For this event, families were invited to bring in small, well-cared-for, unwanted items for the sale (or monetary donations for the cause).

Students then had an opportunity to select items for their families, and 'purchase' the items with non-perishable items that they brought in. All monetary donations were then used by the first graders to go to Hannaford's to purchase items the Heavenly Pantry needs. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/HiaHand2Hand>



## Founders & Summit Recognized for PBIS Framework

FMS and Summit Street received recognition for their Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Framework during the Annual Vermont PBIS Leadership Forum on Oct. 3, 2022, and were recently highlighted in the 2021-22 VTPBIS Annual Report. Their stories and data will be highlighted as best practices for other Vermont schools to learn from and use in planning!

Vermont Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is a state-wide effort designed to help school teams form a proactive, school-wide, systems approach to improving social and academic competence for all students. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/FmsSumPBIS>



## Two Students Named Vermont's 2023 Presidential Scholars

Congrats to Anthony Rizvanov (EHS/BTC) and Evan Hodgson (CTE/EHS) who were honored as Vermont's Presidential Scholar recipients for the 2022-2023 school year in a recognition ceremony at the Vermont State House.

Students were selected based on nominations from teachers, administrators, and fellow students. Presidential scholars are recognized in three categories; general, arts, and career technical education. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/VTPresScholars>



## EMS Teacher Matt Bristol Honored With Teaching Award

Matt Bristol, a physical education teacher at Essex Middle School has been named a 2023 SHAPE America District Teacher of the Year. Bristol was one of four winners at the middle school level.

The SHAPE America District Teacher of the Year is a top honor for educators in the East Coast. Bristol is now eligible for national teacher of the year. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/EMSBRistol>



## Ahmadi Named US Senate Youth Program Delegate

Congratulations to EHS senior Maddie Ahmadi, who was one of only two Vermont students named a state delegate as part of the 2023 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

Annually, two students from each state are selected for a \$10,000 scholarship and an all-expenses-paid week-long trip to Washington D.C. While at the capitol, students learn about the inner workings of the federal government and they meet with members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Presidential Administration. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/EHSUSSenate>



## Senator Bernie Sanders Holds Student Town Meeting

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), the incoming chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions visited EHS and CTE to hold a student town meeting on January 12.

"Last year, I was lucky enough to hear from thousands of Vermont students all across our state," said Sanders. "Every time, I am impressed by their insights and ideas about how we move forward in our communities, in our state, and in our country. To my mind, if we are to address the many crises we face, we must listen to young people and encourage them to engage in the political process."



## EWSD Start/End Times Adjusted Starting This Fall

Throughout the state and the nation there has been a shortage of bus drivers over the last few years. In the EWSD, this has led to inconsistent transportation for many of our learners, which is unacceptable. To help correct this, and improve how our students learn and how our systems function, we will be updating the start and end times at each school starting this fall.

In our current system, our transportation requires 23 drivers, but with the updated start and end times, we can reduce that to 17 drivers. The improvement will see our younger learners start five to 20 minutes earlier, while our older learners 25-to-40 minutes later. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/EWSDtimechanges>



## EWSD Portrait of a Graduate

The EWSD is leading the way in making 21st-century learning a reality for all students. The District sought out a diverse perspectives from our students, families, staff, and the broader community to develop a Portrait of a Graduate.

Now more than ever, our students must be provided high-level learning opportunities that foster critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and other 21st-century skills and mindsets. Our shared aspiration is that all our students have an educational experience that prepares them to be lifelong learners and contributors today and tomorrow. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/EWSDPoG>



## EHS Senior Hoppe Earns UVM Green & Gold Scholarship

Congrats to EHS senior Anna Hoppe, who is a recipient of the UVM Green & Gold Scholarship. This is an academic merit scholarship program that considers the nomination of the highest-achieving rising high school seniors from every eligible Vermont secondary school, and Vermont residents attending select border schools.

As a Green & Gold Scholar, Hoppe will also receive an invitation to UVM's prestigious Honors College. The scholarship awards full in-state tuition for up to four years to those who apply, are accepted and attend UVM.



## CTE Teacher is Vermont Finalist for Presidential Award

CTE teacher Tom Payeur has recently been announced as a Vermont finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), in the Mathematics award category. Vermont-level finalists will be honored at the state ceremonies this year. The Vermont State Board of Education will recognize Payeur with a Board Resolution saluting his accomplishment.

The teachers chosen to be Presidential Awardees will be notified by the White House, honored in Washington, D.C. and will receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation.



# STUDENT PERFORMANCE

In the EWSD Department of Learning and Instructional Impact we work diligently using a distributed leadership approach to ensure that all students have access to essential learning opportunities (a guaranteed and viable curriculum) in every classroom in the District. We also ensure systems of support are in place so that teaching teams are able to analyze relevant and timely data by student, by skill, and by learning target.

This data analysis determines which students need additional time and support as well as extension opportunities if they have mastered essential learning. We do this work with a prekindergarten-12 lens, for all content areas. Below you will find details about some of the work we have done over the past year.

## LOCAL ASSESSMENT PLAN ENHANCEMENTS

Universal screener (K-12): As of the 2022-2023 school year, all kindergarten-grade 12 students are taking Renaissance Learning's Star Early Literacy or Star Reading and/or Star Math assessments. These universal screening assessments are being administered to K-11 students three times a year and to grade 12 students twice a year. The assessment results are reviewed to assist teachers with determining what students may need additional support or intervention in math or reading.

These assessment results assist teams in creating goals and intervention plans that support students in meeting achievement benchmarks throughout the year. This assessment plan improvement ensures that the EWSD has assessment data that can be used longitudinally to track students' growth. This is the first school year that we have used a system such as this in the EWSD.

In addition to managing all aspects of the universal screening system for each student, we also work closely with other departments to support a comprehensive local assessment plan and this data supports our annual equity audit.



## DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Discovery Program at EHS continues to expand and allows students to pursue their passions through the development of a teacher-supported independent project. This year, the program was able to offer two sections. Student projects this year ranged from the exploration of a light weight aircraft, the development of biomimetic jewelry, and identifying environmentally-friendly food sources.

## IMPLEMENTING A NEW STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Once again this spring we will be administering the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) State Assessments. This year, the AOE will be implementing a new State Assessment System. This new assessment will replace the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) as well as the VT Science Assessment (VTSA). The AOE has informed us that this new Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP), will provide students with an improved assessment system in terms of equity and accessibility (e.g., translations, embedded speech to text).

This year, VTCAP will be used to assess the areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics and science. Individual student reports will be sent to families by their school after students have completed testing. These reports may not be available until August, and will be included in your child's back to school information packet. These reports will provide information on your student's progress toward the statewide academic standards. The primary purpose of this State assessment program is to provide families, teachers, and school leaders with an increased understanding of how teaching and learning is taking place and how students' needs are being met. State assessment results from the spring of 2022 are still embarrassed by the Agency of Education.



## PLC/RTI/MTSS WORK

A professional learning community is built on the four pillars of mission, vision, values, and goals, and the work is driven by three big ideas:

- a focus on learning
- a collaborative culture
- a focus on results



Teams in these schools continually work to answer four critical questions: (1) What do we want all students to know and be able to do? (2) How will we know if they have learned it? (3) How will we respond when some students have not learned? and (4) What will we do when they have already learned it? As schools and teams work in and commit to a cycle of continuous improvement, they must also examine two core beliefs that drive the work in a school culture where all truly means all:

- We believe that all students can learn to high levels
- We take collective responsibility for the learning of all students

In the EWSD, we continue to work on deeper and more comprehensive systemic implementation of the PLC at Work and RTI at Work practices, to ensure that we have the right structures in place to ensure that all students learn at high levels and have extended learning opportunities as well. We are proud to have three of our schools recognized as model PLC schools. These are Essex Elementary School, Hiawatha Elementary School, and Summit Street School. Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results are demonstrated, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work®, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown "a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment." Each one of our schools is committed to implementing the Professional Learning Community and Response to Intervention Practices to ensure a comprehensive Multi Tiered System of Support for all of our EWSD students.

## ENHANCED K-5 PROGRESS REPORTS

This year, the District implemented digital progress reports for students in grades K-5. In addition, teachers are also now reporting student progress on essential standards in literacy and math. This provided families with more specific information about student progress, and better aligns with our middle and high school reporting systems and standards.



## ROWLAND FELLOWSHIP

EHS teacher Adam Murray was awarded a Rowland Fellowship for the 2023-2024 school year. Murray will be co-creating new ways to increase student engagement with students and teachers from EHS. We are excited to support him in his work to enhance the culture of learning at Essex High School.

## MULTILINGUAL (ML) PROGRAM GROWTH

- Focused on improving ML program infrastructure: Lau plan, District handbook, translation services, educating faculty & staff on federal, state, and local laws and policies
- Improved registration and intake procedures for new families
- Organized ML family events for the community and established a ML Advisory Council that meets monthly, and supported the multilingual affinity group for the Portrait of a Graduate work
- Streamlined federal procurement for Title III
- Professional development and ongoing support for EL teachers
- Expanded Spectrum Multicultural Youth Program (now includes EHS, EMS and ADL)
- Built upon relationships with outside agencies to provide additional support for families. We now have a curated list of resources translated for families to use.
  - Connecting Cultures
  - Refugee Service Providers Network
  - Chittenden Asylum Seekers Network
  - Vermont Agency of Education
  - US Comm. for Refugees and Immigrants
  - Association of Africans Living in Vermont
  - UVM Multilingual Studies Program
  - Aunt Dot's Place
  - Vermont Family Network and more



# EWSD FY'24 PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUE		FY 21 Actuals	FY 22 Actuals	FY 23 Approved Budget	FY 24 Proposed Budget	\$ Diff FY 23 App v FY 24 Pro
LOCAL	PRIOR YR SURPLUS CARRYOVER	\$0	\$0	\$3,900,000	\$2,733,000	-\$1,167,000
	SHARED SVCS REIMBURSE	\$780,254	\$1,150,295	\$1,135,766	\$1,213,810	\$78,044
	TUITION	\$919,184	\$1,216,495	\$1,132,400	\$1,215,445	\$83,045
	SPECIAL ED EXCESS COSTS	\$337,071	\$373,442	\$405,000	\$372,470	-\$32,530
	MISC OTHER LOCAL REVENUE	\$272,832	\$412,260	\$444,414	\$461,700	\$17,286
<b>LOCAL Total</b>	<b>\$2,309,341</b>	<b>\$3,152,492</b>	<b>\$7,017,580</b>	<b>\$5,996,425</b>	<b>-\$1,021,155</b>	
STATE	EDUCATION SPENDING GRANT	\$62,953,999	\$62,892,370	\$67,041,682	\$72,722,395	\$5,680,713
	SPED FUNDING	\$8,413,830	\$8,969,636	\$8,829,113	\$8,910,388	\$81,275
	TECH CTR ON BEHALF PYMTS	\$693,770	\$734,380	\$808,632	\$908,255	\$99,623
	STATE AID TRANSPORT	\$671,069	\$744,241	\$851,253	\$848,000	-\$3,253
	SPED REIMBURSE-EXTRA	\$848,505	\$640,086	\$1,148,059	\$1,300,000	\$151,941
	STATE PLACED-SPED REIMBURSE	\$28,287	\$86,575	\$153,270	\$86,000	-\$67,270
	MISC OTHER STATE REVENUE	\$31,556	\$84,888	\$74,000	\$25,000	-\$49,000
	<b>STATE Total</b>	<b>\$73,641,016</b>	<b>\$74,152,176</b>	<b>\$78,906,009</b>	<b>\$84,800,038</b>	<b>\$5,894,029</b>
FEDERAL	INTER-FUND TRANSFERS	\$421,551	\$0	\$85,338	\$0	-\$85,338
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$76,371,908</b>	<b>\$77,304,668</b>	<b>\$86,008,927</b>	<b>\$90,796,463</b>	<b>\$4,787,536</b>	

	FY23	"FY24 Proposed"	FY'23 vs. FY'24 \$ DIFF	FY'23 vs. FY'24 % DIFF
Total Net Educational Spending	\$67,850,314	\$73,630,650	\$5,780,336	8.52%
Equalized Pupil FTE	3,739.23	3,655.81	-83.42	-2.23%
Net Ed Sending/Equalized Pupil	\$18,146	\$20,141	\$1,995	10.99%
Projected Homestead Yield	\$13,314	\$15,479	\$2,165	16.26%
Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.3629	\$1.3012	-\$0.0617	-4.53%



EXPENSES		FY 21 Actuals	FY 22 Actuals	FY 23 Approved Budget	FY 24 Proposed Budget	\$ Diff FY 23 App v FY 24 Pro
Instructional Programs	DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$43,874,386	\$46,309,924	\$49,219,095	\$52,239,809	\$3,020,714
	ATHLETICS	\$782,875	\$957,778	\$913,556	\$1,018,681	\$105,125
	CO-CURRICULAR	\$83,673	\$137,514	\$171,608	\$284,025	\$112,417
<b>Instructional Programs Total</b>		<b>\$44,740,934</b>	<b>\$47,405,216</b>	<b>\$50,304,259</b>	<b>\$53,542,515</b>	<b>\$3,238,256</b>
Instructional Support	STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	\$7,214,788	\$7,752,018	\$8,038,755	\$7,914,435	-\$124,320
	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$3,513,664	\$3,368,517	\$3,740,285	\$3,650,878	-\$89,407
	OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERV.	\$142,798	\$179,388	\$202,387	\$213,692	\$11,305
<b>Instructional Support Total</b>		<b>\$10,871,250</b>	<b>\$11,299,923</b>	<b>\$11,981,427</b>	<b>\$11,779,005</b>	<b>-\$202,422</b>
Administrative/Other Support	DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	\$613,818	\$671,453	\$770,265	\$795,270	\$25,005
	SUPPORT SERVICES - SCHOOL ADMIN	\$4,118,337	\$4,355,655	\$4,502,005	\$5,333,924	\$831,919
	DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES	\$4,628,490	\$4,766,851	\$6,048,242	\$5,841,561	-\$206,681
	FACILITIES AND DISTRICT SAFETY	\$7,038,636	\$8,075,071	\$8,653,704	\$9,464,312	\$810,608
	TRANSPORTATION	\$2,343,519	\$2,516,561	\$3,023,477	\$3,379,514	\$356,037
	DEBT SERVICE	\$702,394	\$692,325	\$687,471	\$660,362	-\$27,109
	OTHER	\$13,561	-\$152,620	\$38,077	\$0	-\$38,077
<b>Administrative/Other Support Total</b>		<b>\$19,458,755</b>	<b>\$20,925,296</b>	<b>\$23,723,241</b>	<b>\$25,474,943</b>	<b>\$1,751,702</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>		<b>\$75,070,939</b>	<b>\$79,630,435</b>	<b>\$86,008,927</b>	<b>\$90,796,463</b>	<b>\$4,787,536</b>

	FY23	"FY24 Proposed"	FY'23 vs. FY'24 \$ DIFF	FY'23 vs. FY'24 % DIFF
<b>WESTFORD</b>				
Tax Rate after CLA	\$1.593	\$1.596	\$0.003	0.19%
Common Level of Appraisal	85.54%	81.51%	-4.03%	-4.71%
<b>ESSEX TOWN AND CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION</b>				
Tax Rate after CLA	\$1.602	\$1.661	\$0.059	3.67%
Common Level of Appraisal	85.08%	78.35%	-6.73%	-7.91%
<b>Non-Homestead Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$1.466</b>	<b>\$1.386</b>	<b>-\$0.080</b>	<b>-5.46%</b>
Westford	\$1.714	\$1.700	-\$0.013	-0.78%
Essex Town & City of Essex Junction	\$1.723	\$1.769	\$0.046	2.66%
<b>Income Sensitivity Base</b>	<b>\$15,948</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>	<b>\$1,652</b>	<b>10.36%</b>
Income Sensitivity Yield	2.28%	2.29%	0.01%	0.44%



# CTE FY'24 PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUE		FY 21 Actuals	FY 22 Actuals	FY 23 Approved Budget	FY 24 Proposed Budget	\$ Diff FY 23 App v FY 24 Pro
Local	TUITION - SENDING DISTRICTS	\$2,627,544	\$2,404,098	\$2,940,322	\$2,966,308	\$25,986
	PRIOR YR SURPLUS CARRYOVER	\$0	\$0	\$141,373	\$295,487	\$154,114
	PROGRAM REVENUES	\$23,865	\$62,203	\$39,750	\$41,200	\$1,450
	OTHER MISC LOCAL REVENUES	\$29,268	\$13,278	\$13,263	\$13,000	-\$263
<b>Local Total</b>		<b>\$2,680,677</b>	<b>\$2,479,579</b>	<b>\$3,134,708</b>	<b>\$3,315,995</b>	<b>\$181,287</b>
State	STATE SUPPORT - TECH ED	\$3,198,047	\$3,394,365	\$3,480,818	\$3,826,612	\$345,794
	TUITION REDUCTION	\$1,286,667	\$1,313,315	\$1,400,153	\$1,539,300	\$139,147
	TECH ED - DIRECTOR SUPPORT	\$106,430	\$108,665	\$108,665	\$113,816	\$5,151
	TECH ED - GUIDANCE SUPPORT	\$42,794	\$43,814	\$43,814	\$45,294	\$1,480
	TECH ED - COOP SUPPORT	\$34,966	\$33,675	\$33,675	\$33,227	-\$448
	OTHER MISC STATE REVENUES	\$22,955	\$24,706	\$24,706	\$23,418	-\$1,288
<b>State Total</b>		<b>\$4,691,859</b>	<b>\$4,918,540</b>	<b>\$5,091,831</b>	<b>\$5,581,667</b>	<b>\$489,836</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$7,372,536</b>	<b>\$7,398,119</b>	<b>\$8,226,539</b>	<b>\$8,897,662</b>	<b>\$671,123</b>



## CTE Hosts Strategic Visioning Summit

Over 70 students, community and municipal leaders, local and state policy makers, community organizations, educators and school leaders came together on Sept. 23 to discuss what the future of career and technical education can look like in the region. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/CTEVisioningSummit>

EXPENSES		FY 21 Actuals	FY 22 Actuals	FY 23 Approved Budget	FY 24 Proposed Budget	\$ Diff FY 23 App v FY 24 Pro
Instructional Programs	TECHNICAL EDUCATION	\$5,001,652	\$5,533,036	\$5,821,936	\$6,151,450	\$329,514
	ADULT EDUCATION	\$133,393	\$140,169	\$147,685	\$152,988	\$5,303
<b>Instructional Programs Total</b>		<b>\$5,135,045</b>	<b>\$5,673,205</b>	<b>\$5,969,621</b>	<b>\$6,304,438</b>	<b>\$334,817</b>
Instructional Support	STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	\$91,202	\$94,262	\$94,542	\$342,451	\$247,909
	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$4,903	\$2,946	\$300	\$15,977	\$15,677
	OTHER INSTRUTIONAL SUPP.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Instructional Support Total</b>		<b>\$96,105</b>	<b>\$97,208</b>	<b>\$94,842</b>	<b>\$358,428</b>	<b>\$263,586</b>
Administrative/Other Support	DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES	\$944,256	\$1,338,461	\$1,279,576	\$1,362,529	\$82,953
	SUPPORT SERVICES - SCHOOL ADMIN	\$553,950	\$572,148	\$591,466	\$629,465	\$37,999
	TRANSPORTATION	\$136,531	\$178,630	\$291,034	\$242,802	-\$48,232
	OTHER	\$173,508	\$2,852	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Administrative/Other Support Total</b>		<b>\$1,808,245</b>	<b>\$2,092,091</b>	<b>\$2,162,076</b>	<b>\$2,234,796</b>	<b>\$72,720</b>
<b>Total Spending</b>		<b>\$7,039,395</b>	<b>\$7,862,504</b>	<b>\$8,226,539</b>	<b>\$8,897,662</b>	<b>\$671,123</b>

# 2023 ANNUAL WARNING

## ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #51 2023 ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 10, 2023 AT 7:00 PM AND APRIL 11, 2023 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

The legal voters of the Essex Westford Educational Community School District #51 (hereafter "Essex Westford School District") comprising the voters of the City of Essex Junction, Town of Essex (outside of the City), and the Town of Westford are hereby notified and warned to meet at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 10, 2023, in the auditorium at Essex High School on Educational Drive, to transact any of the following business (Articles 1-3) not involving Australian Ballot. Upon the conclusion of the business not involving Australian ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced towns on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 7:00 am at which time the polls will open, until 7:00 pm, at which time the polls will close, to transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot (Articles 4-10).

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator for a term ending at the 2024 Annual Meeting.  
Article 2: To elect a Clerk for a term ending at the 2024 Annual Meeting.  
Article 3: To elect a Treasurer for a term ending at the 2024 Annual Meeting.  
Article 4: To authorize the Essex Westford School District to borrow money to be used for the payment of District expenses by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date of issuance pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund.  
Article 5: Shall the voters of the Essex Westford School District approve the school board to expend \$90,796,463 which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?  
Article 6: Shall the voters of the Essex Westford School District approve the school board to expend \$8,897,662 which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the support of the Center for Technology, Essex for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?  
Article 7: Shall the voters of the Essex Westford School District authorize the school board to allocate the Center for Technology, Essex FY'22 audited fund balance of \$483,223, without effect upon the District tax levy as follows: assign \$295,488 as revenue for the Center for Technology, Essex 2023-24 operating budget and assign the remaining balance, \$187,736 as revenue for future operating budgets?  
Article 8: Shall the voters of Essex Town (outside of Village) elect two (2) school directors for a term of three (3) years? One three-year term, and one one-year term  
Article 9: Shall the voters of the City of Essex Junction elect two (2) school directors for a term of three (3) years?  
Article 10: Shall the voters of Westford elect one (1) school director for a term of three (3) years?

### POLLING PLACES

The voters of the Essex Westford School District, residing in their respective city and towns, will cast their ballots from 7:00 am-7:00 pm in the polling places designated for their community as follows:

- + Town of Essex: Essex Middle School in the Town of Essex
- + Town of Westford: Westford School in the Town of Westford
- + City of Essex Junction: Champlain Valley Expo Blue Ribbon Pavilion in the City of Essex Junction

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots for Articles 8-10 will be counted by local town/village election officials who shall transmit the voting results to the Clerk of the Essex Westford School District, who will then tabulate the final results.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots for all other Australian ballot items shall be transported by the members of the Board of Civil Authority to a central location where the ballots will be comingled and counted under the supervision of the Clerk of the Essex Westford School District, who will then tabulate the final results (pursuant to 16 VSA Section 741-742).

The legal voters of the Essex Westford School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

### INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Said persons and voters are further notified and warned that the meeting Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Essex High School Library, on Educational Drive, in Essex Junction shall also serve as an informational hearing to discuss Articles 4-7 which will be voted on by Australian ballot on April 11, 2023.

ATTEST:  
  
 Erin Kennedy Knox, Essex Westford School Board Chair

Received for record and recorded prior to posting this 22 day of February 2023  
  
 John Sonnicks, Essex Westford School District Clerk

# 2022 EWSD ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES/RESULTS

## OFFICIAL RESULTS ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #51 ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 12, 2022

**ARTICLE I:** To elect a Moderator for a term ending at the 2023 Annual Meeting.  
**JOHN SONNICK VOTED IN AS MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE II:** To elect a Clerk for a term ending at the 2023 Annual Meeting.  
**JOHN SONNICK VOTED IN AS CLERK**

**ARTICLE III:** To elect a Treasurer for a term ending at the 2023 Annual Meeting.  
**SUSAN MCNAMARA-HILL VOTED IN AS TREASURER**

**ARTICLE IV:** To authorize the Essex Westford School District to borrow money to be used for the payment of District expenses by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date of issuance pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund.  
**ARTICLE IV PASSED: YES - 4305, NO - 1274**

**ARTICLE V:** Shall the voters of the Essex Westford School District approve the school board to expend \$86,008,927 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,146 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 7.30% higher than spending for the current year.  
**ARTICLE V PASSED: YES - 3633, NO - 2306**

**ARTICLE VI:** Shall the voters of the Essex Westford School District approve the school board to expend \$8,226,539 which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the support of the Center for Technology, Essex for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022?  
**ARTICLE VI PASSED: YES - 4571, NO- 1056**

**ARTICLE VII:** FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR THE ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT 51 for a term of three (3) years. Vote for no more than TWO:  
**ROBERT CARPENTER AND LAURA TAYLOR ELECTED**

**ARTICLE VIII:** FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR THE ESSEX WESTFORD EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT 51 for a term of three (3) years. Vote for no more than ONE:  
**MARLON VERASAMY ELECTED**



# THIS IS THE EWSD

Local high-tech startup Beta Technologies parked its mobile aircraft simulator at Essex High School this week with the goal of inspiring the next generation of STEM professionals.

"It's like the coolest thing I've ever done. I feel like I'm actually in an airplane," said one student.

The simulator transported students straight into the sky, with instructors teaching some tricks of the trade while hovering a mile high. Lifting off and barrel-rolling inside the trailer feels so real that some students forget they haven't left the ground.

"It's kind of like a video game," said Adowyn Byrne. The senior and STEM Academy student is one of the dozens of curious learners that took the virtual controls of Alia, Beta's electric aircraft. Display screens show the parts that power the helicopter-hybrid. "The batteries and everything -- we've talked about stuff like that in physics class so it's cool to see stuff that I've only seen on worksheets actually in person."

With a hand from Beta employees, the aspiring aerospace and

biomedical engineers, environmental scientists, and entrepreneurs steer the functional scaled model through a VR headset. It's easy to see why students squeal with excitement when they sit in the seat. It's a truly immersive experience surrounding the pilot with 190-degree views of Burlington International Airport. And from the speakers comes the soft hum of the electric aircraft.

"Their eyes light up when they say, 'Is this real?' And we're like, 'Hey, it's like three miles that way. We'd love to come have you check it out,'" said Beta founder Kyle Clark. He says he sat at the same desks in the same classrooms as the students he's meeting. "My physics class was right up there. And of course, I looked out that window at every airplane that went by."

Now, as his company continues its vertical climb, he's coming full circle. The focus is not to show a student what we've been doing but more so to show anybody -- the students, faculty, or whatever -- we're not very far from Essex High School to founding an aircraft company," Clark said. "Those tools that you learn in school can be applied in logical and pragmatic

## ALUMNI PROFILE - KYLE CLARK

ways to develop something really neat."

Clark's mission with this visit to his alma mater closes the space between academics and reality. Essex STEM Academy leader Lea Ann Smith says Clark is living proof that STEM students are navigating the path to our collective future. "I really want to encourage them to think creatively and to think of creative solutions for the future problems of the world. And an opportunity like this, to see such a wonderful solution to some tricky problems, is just great to watch," she said.

And some students like senior Tekla Holm-Brown may point their noses in Beta's direction. "It's really nice to know that a company like this, which I could possibly work for in the future, could be right where I live now, so I can keep living in Vermont," Holm-Brown said.

Credit - WCAX/ Christina Guessferd  
Published: Oct. 14, 2022



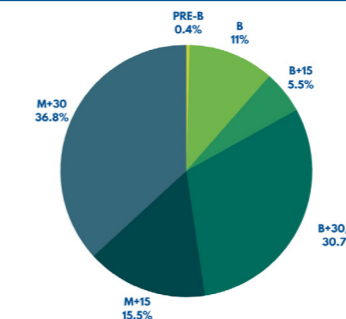
WATCH ONLINE

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE IN THE EWSD

EWSD employs 489 licensed educators. Over 27% of our educators have more than 15 years of teaching in our district, while over 37% have been hired since the merger.

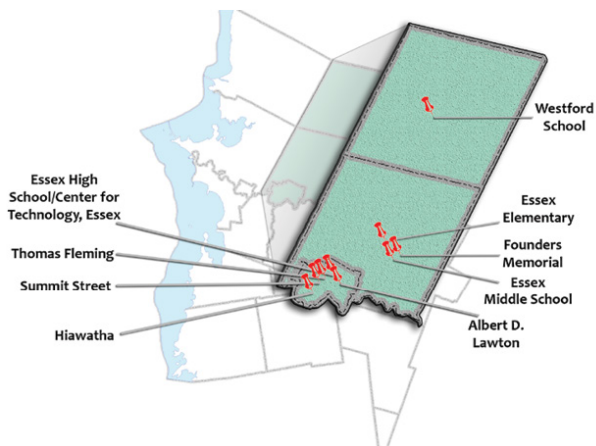
Almost 70% of our licensed educators hold a master's degree or higher. Below is a breakdown of the number of licensed educators at each educational level.

0-5 Years	184
6-15 Years	172
16-30 Years	127
31+ Years	6





# 2022-23



## EWSD ONLINE

Follow all the amazing accomplishments and hard work of the students and staff in our community online ([www.ewsd.org](http://www.ewsd.org)) and through social media!

Find EWSD on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using the handle [@EssexWestford](https://www.instagram.com/EssexWestford) or find district videos on YouTube by searching 'EssexWestford'

## CONTACT US



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