

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 24  
SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE**

**Part 1: School Operating Budget**

The School Board of the Regional School Unit has proposed a school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Pursuant to Order of the Governor, the budget meeting where these articles are presented has been replaced by a remote public hearing. The budget recommended by the School Board consists of the following Articles 1 through 16. Together, these articles constitute the proposed school operating budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be presented to the voters as Question 1 at a budget referendum election scheduled for July 14, 2020.

**EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET**

<b>Proposed Expenditures by Cost Center</b>		
<b>ARTICLE 1:</b>	Regular Instruction	\$ 7,029,762.63
<b>ARTICLE 2:</b>	Special Education	\$ 2,717,425.80
<b>ARTICLE 3:</b>	Career and Technical Education	\$ 51,826.28
<b>ARTICLE 4:</b>	Other Instruction	\$ 371,267.74
<b>ARTICLE 5:</b>	Student and Staff Support	\$ 1,271,338.21
<b>ARTICLE 6:</b>	System Administration	\$ 595,381.32
<b>ARTICLE 7:</b>	School Administration	\$ 1,084,963.82
<b>ARTICLE 8:</b>	Transportation and Buses	\$ 1,214,700.58
<b>ARTICLE 9:</b>	Facilities Maintenance	\$ 2,007,577.55
<b>ARTICLE 10:</b>	Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 859,654.24
<b>ARTICLE 11:</b>	All Other Expenditures	\$ 150,000.00

**STATE SUBSIDY AND LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 12:** The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit appropriate the amounts set forth below for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and raise and assess the amounts set forth below as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

**Recommended amounts set forth below:**

<u>Town</u>	<u>E.P.S. Amount Appropriated</u>	<u>E.P.S. Amount Raised/Unit Assessment</u>
Eastbrook	\$ 673,571.27	\$ 605,320.00
Franklin	\$ 2,301,277.53	\$ 1,433,545.00
Gouldsboro	\$ 2,783,499.72	\$ 2,036,033.88
Mariaville	\$ 650,583.08	\$ 570,555.00

Sorrento	\$ 316,589.41	\$ 316,589.41
Steuben	\$ 1,820,934.97	\$ 1,344,383.00
Sullivan	\$ 1,867,877.54	\$ 1,505,392.66
Waltham	\$ 567,677.57	\$ 259,169.66
Winter Harbor	\$ 786,243.25	\$ 595,033.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,768,254.34</b>	<b>\$ 8,666,021.96</b>

*State Mandated Explanation: The Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

**OTHER LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 13:** The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$181,584.50** for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

*State Mandated Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the Regional School Unit's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the Regional School Unit voters.*

**ARTICLE 14:** The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$150,000.00** to transfer to the school nutrition program.

**ARTICLE 15:** The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit raise and appropriate **\$4,007,478.33** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$4,007,478.33** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$4,007,478.33: The EPS funding model favors school units that are both large and urban. While a single administrative unit continues to bring greater efficiencies as well as foster programming equity and staffing levels that are more closely aligned with EPS guidelines than multiple and redundant single building units, our schools are still small and widely scattered; which increases operating costs.

Given these circumstances, it would be very difficult for a unit so rural and geographically spread out to ever achieve the targets calculated in the model.

*State Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.*

**SUMMARY OF TOTAL 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET**

**ARTICLE 16:** The School Board recommends that the Regional School Unit authorize the School Board to expend **\$17,353,898.17** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

**Part 2: Referendum Questions.**

The following school budget and other questions will be submitted to referendum on July 14, 2020:

**Question 1:** **School Budget.** Shall Regional School Unit No. 24 appropriate the sum of **\$17,353,898.17** and raise the sum of **\$13,005,084.79** for the 2020-2021 school budget?  
**School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.**

**VOTER INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 1**

The Regional School Unit No. 24 school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals **\$17,353,898.17**. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of **\$13,005,084.79**, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the RSU's cost sharing formula and state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the maximum state and local spending target by **\$4,007,478.33**. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Amount Appropriated</b>
Regular Instruction	\$ 7,029,762.63
Special Education	\$ 2,717,425.80
Career and Technical Education	\$ 51,826.28
Other Instruction	\$ 371,267.74
Student and Staff Support	\$ 1,271,338.21
System Administration	\$ 595,381.32

School Administration	\$	1,084,963.82
Transportation and Buses	\$	1,214,700.58
Facilities Maintenance	\$	2,007,577.55
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$	859,654.24
All Other Expenditures	\$	150,000.00
<b>Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,353,898.17</b>

**Question 2:**      **Cost Center Transfers.** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?  
**School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**

**Question 3:**      **RSU Adult Ed Program.** Shall the Regional School Unit appropriate \$428,566.24 for adult education and raise \$239,145.30 as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program?  
**School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**

**Question 4:**      **Capital Reserve Fund.** Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer up to \$400,000.00 from the ending balance of school operating funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to the existing capital improvements reserve fund?  
**School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**