



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT JUNE 9!

As a community, we all value our children and their education. Our responsibility is to prepare every student for success.

Today's students are tomorrow's colleagues, doctors, plumbers, and service workers: we need them to learn the hard work, collaboration, and thoughtful, creative problem solving that only an education provides. That education is an investment. The School Board has worked diligently and thoughtfully for six months to develop a budget that invests wisely. Every decision was made with care, balancing the needs of our students with the financial realities facing our community. Now, we need your help and support. Passing this budget is critical to maintaining strong academic programs, supporting safe and functional school buildings, and ensuring opportunities for all students.



For more info, scan, or visit [msad49.org](http://msad49.org)

### The bottom line

We are asking you to support a total MSAD # 49 2026-2027 budget of **\$36,513,803.42**. This fact sheet is intended as a summary of key points about the budget. School budgets are complex, so we want to make sure that you have all of the relevant facts you deserve & need to support our students with this budget.

### What we can control

State & federal law mandates most of the services & supports that we offer. We are also bound to negotiated contracts for planned & scheduled teacher & staff pay increases. Meeting these responsibilities is both ethically right & financially responsible: neglecting our legal obligations could lead to large, avoidable costs in penalties, litigation, or settlements.

### Our families' affordability struggles

We are all feeling the pinch of increasing costs; we see it every time we go to the grocery store or fill our cars with gas. Public schools are not immune to these increases. Meeting these responsibilities is both ethically right & financially responsible: neglecting our legal obligations could lead to large, avoidable costs in penalties, litigation, or settlements

### Specific cost increases



Employee benefits up \$415,390.36, due largely to an **8.89% increase in health insurance for 2027** (following a 8.29% increase in 2026, district health insurance costs have risen 17.9% over 2025)



Heat, utilities & fuel costs are up \$342,364.25 for 2027



The total negotiated wages & benefits increase is \$653,578.33 for 2027

### We have had to make hard decisions ...

**73%** of our school budget is allocated to salaries & benefits

Because such a large portion of our budget goes to our payroll, if cuts are necessary, it is nearly impossible to find them without reducing roles. None of us wants to let people go. We've tried to be as surgical as possible, preserving programming, making the most of our school consolidation, & re-allocating the responsibilities of existing staff as employees retire.



We have had to reduce 13.5 roles this year. If this budget does not pass, we will have to let people go and core programming will suffer. We very much would like to avoid this.

### Looking Ahead

The other regrettable decision we've made is to delay much needed facility maintenance projects, like sprinkler repair and HVAC updates. This is a temporary solution to keeping costs in check for this challenging year. We have known issues with our buildings that are not going away and that will need to be financed in a future budget.



Please Support Our Schools!

Vote June 9, 2026

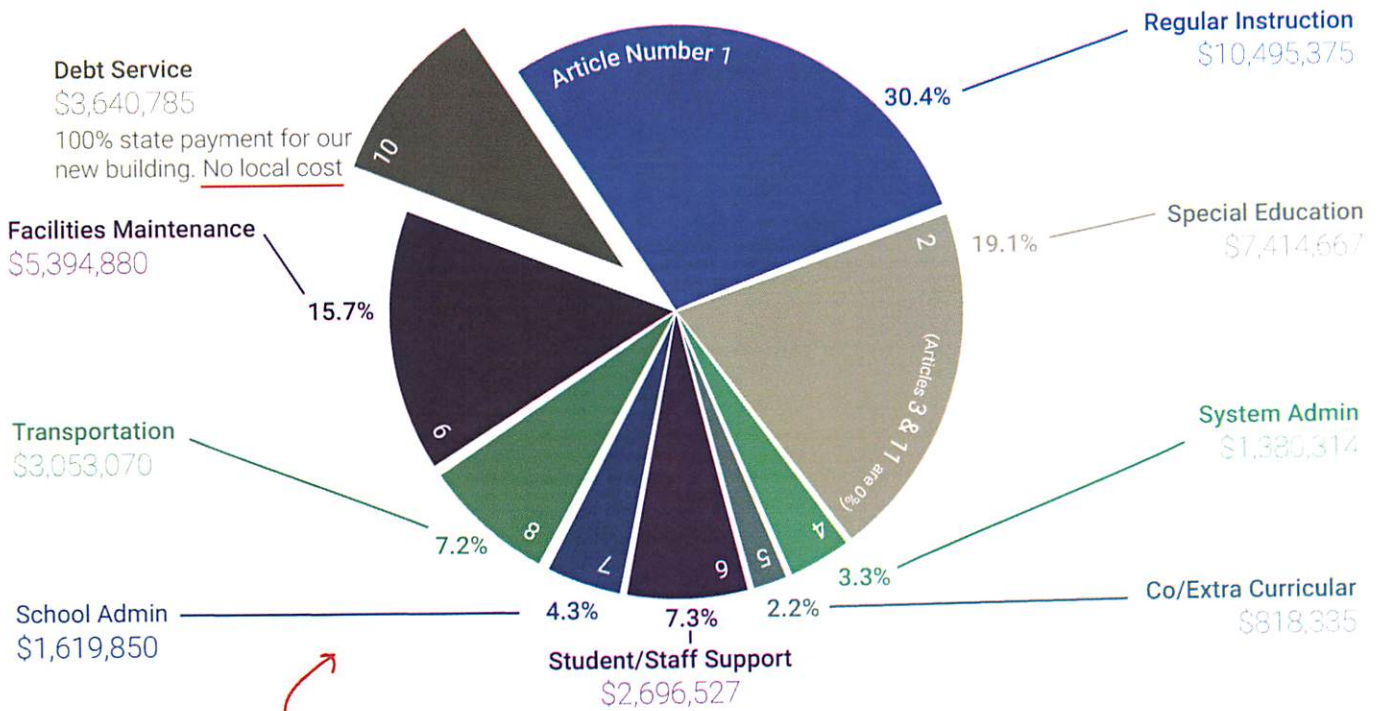
8 AM to 8 PM at your town's location

Albion Town Office,  
Besse Building 22 Main Street

Clinton Town Office  
27 Baker Street

Benton Town Office,  
1279 Clinton Avenue

Fairfield Community Center  
6 Water Street



### Where does our money go?

State of Maine Title 20-A requires that we express our budget in eleven articles (budget categories). The process has strict oversight, and much of our spending is mandated by the state. After reviewing each article to make difficult cuts to fight rising costs, our 2026-2027 budget is shown in the pie chart above.

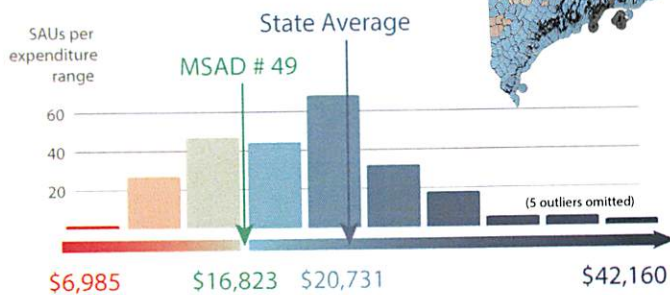
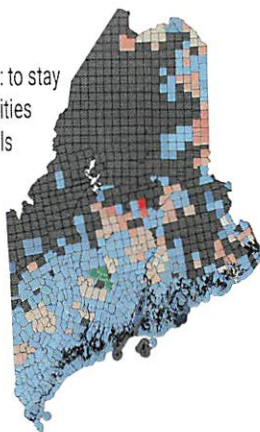
### Does the state help us?

Yes, the state of Maine covered 67.6% of our financial year 2025 budget. This may amount to a smaller share this coming year, though, as changes in enrollment are reducing our state subsidy.



### How do we compare?

Adequate funding for our schools is vital to our communities: to stay competitive in attracting the families that make our communities thrive, we must continue to attract staff that make our schools great. We operate with a high level of efficiency. While MSAD 49 spends less per pupil, our mission is to provide the best educational experiences and outcomes for our children.



Source: Maine Department of Education, "School Finance FY25 Resident Expenditure Per Pupil" 1-7-2024

### How is Local Share Determined?

- A valuation is provided by the Maine Revenue Service each year, determining each town's ability to pay.
- The percentage of students from each town within MSAD 49 determines that town's share of the districts' total allocation.
- Mil Expectation is set by calculated recommended funding level each year.

