



***Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District***  
***School Administrative Unit #63***

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Peter Weaver  
Superintendent of Schools

Ned Pratt  
Director of Student Support Services

Kristie LaPlante  
Business Administrator

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

March 18, 2025

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Weaver and I met with representatives from **Butler Transportation**, who are now a subsidiary of Beacon Mobility. The District's contract remains with Butler Transportation but their new partnership with Beacon Mobility may open us up to future options for Special Education Transportation as well as other transportation options for some of our athletics teams. We also discussed recruitment opportunities for bus drivers as well as cost factors that may impact our next Transportation contract.

Last summer, **HB 1264** passed which requires accessible voting equipment for all local elections. This law requires communities to have a voting system that meets the accessibility for individuals with disability requirements of Section 301 of the Help American Vote Act. This new requirement will cost our District roughly \$1,200 per election for our Candidates ballot to be configured on a tablet in each community to meet these requirements. We are working with the Town Clerks in each community to reimburse them the costs they have incurred on our behalf for the Candidates ballot.

Last week, the NH House narrowly passed HB 675 which would **require all school districts to cap their spending according to a specific formula:**

- July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027 (FY 26 and FY27) – Budgets would be capped at the previous year's appropriation amounts, less facilities acquisition and construction, multiplied by the average inflation rate of the previous five years.
- After June 30, 2027, Budgets shall not be more than the greater of:
  1. The 5-year average percent change in ADMR used for the purposes of calculating Adequacy Aid applied to the previous appropriation, less facilities acquisition and construction, or
  2. The 5-year average appropriation, less facilities and construction.
- The Department of Revenue will be required to audit each District's budget before implementation to ensure there are no excess appropriations and they will disqualify any excess appropriations.
- Voters would need a two-thirds majority to override this spending cap.

As the bill is currently written, any known budget increase due to teacher salaries (CBA out years), health insurance increases, special education services, utilities/energy costs, or facilities maintenance would require deep cuts elsewhere in the budget to remain under the cap.

I am working with our Director of Student Support Services, Mr. Pratt, to evaluate Special Education spending this school year and the possible need to **draw funds from the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund**. There are many cost factors that are influencing Special Education spending this year – transportation vendors and availability, employee vacancies, staffing agencies, and a student who moved in that needs services out of district.

We are working to determine our maximum projected spending for this year, what amount (if any) can be absorbed within our Operating Budget, and what amount we may need to withdraw from the Capital Reserve Fund. We intend to have this information available to the Board in April.