

RSU 9 is committed to fostering an informed voting community. This pamphlet provides a clear, concise summary of the 20 articles that make up the proposed Mt. Blue Regional School District FY27 budget. Our goal is to give you the information you need ahead of the upcoming two-step voting process: first at the Annual Budget Meeting on May 26th, and finally at the Referendum on June 9th.

Article 1: Regular Instruction - Funding for elementary, secondary, and other instruction.

What's in it? Costs for teachers and regular education support staff, including salaries & benefits, curriculum, supplies, and books.

FY 26: \$13,129,901
FY 27: \$12,747,346
% decrease: -2.91%

Why is it down? Multiple retirees, we did not use all of a special increase which passed at last year's budget meeting, along with the reduction of 6 positions, reduced salary and health insurance cost increases.

Article 2: Special Education - Funding for elementary and secondary Special Education programs and staff.

What's in it? Includes costs for teachers, support staff, and admin salaries & benefits, out-of-district placements, curriculum, supplies, & books/furniture.

FY 26: \$8,101,782
FY 27: \$8,382,418
% increase: +3.46%

Why is it up? This amount can fluctuate year-to-year depending on the number of students and the level of required services needed. The increase to our taxpayers could have been another \$800,000, but because of expected and planned-for reimbursement from MaineCare, it is 3.46%.

Article 3: Career & Technical Education (Foster CTE Center) - Funding for technical instruction, staff, guidance services, administration, building operations, and transportation.

What's in it? Includes costs for instructors, support staff, and admin salaries & benefits, curriculum materials, supplies, books, equipment, Contingency Funds, and furniture for the Foster CTE Center.

FY 26: \$4,271,404
FY 27: \$4,573,477
*% increase: +7.07%

*(*CTE Funding comes from the state, and is not included in your local tax assessments.)*

Why is it up? An increase in state funding and previous year fund balance.

Article 4: Student & Staff Support - Funding for student counseling services and other student and staff support & technology services.

What's in it? Includes health services, library services, instructional technology, counselors & social workers, and evaluation programs. Includes costs for professional and staff salaries & benefits and technology equipment for students & staff.

FY 26: \$3,702,120
FY 27: \$3,949,167
% increase: +6.67%

Why is it up? Estimated increase of negotiated salaries & benefits, along with some tech purchases.

Article 5: Other Instruction - Funding for elementary and secondary athletics and co-curricular activities.

What's in it? A large percentage of these costs are for coaching stipends and benefits, along with the Director of Athletics salary and benefits. Also includes supply and equipment needs, and cost of officials!

FY 26: \$680,899
FY 27: \$737,414
% increase: +8.30%

Why is it up? Stipend increases along with \$115,000 in supply and equipment needs.

Article 6: System Administration - Funding for expenses related to running the District Office, Office of Technology (district needs), and the Board of Directors.

What's in it? Eleven positions (5 admin and 6 office staff), legal fees & costs, district-wide tech licenses, and district office costs.

FY 26: \$1,526,092
FY 27: \$1,613,903
% increase: +5.75%

Why is it up? District technology licenses have increased substantially and are the sources of the entire increase.

Article 7: School Administration - Funding for school principals and other office administrative staff.

What's in it? Twenty-four positions (8 admin and 16 admin assistants) office supplies, etc.

FY 26: \$1,987,612
FY 27: \$2,128,267
% increase: +7.08%

Why is it up? Negotiated salary & benefit increases, along with coursework and professional development funds (\$15,000) moved from another account.

Article 8: Transportation and Buses - Funding for student transportation.

What's in it? Includes all transportation costs, equipment, repairs, & extracurricular trip mileage.

FY 26: \$3,158,545
FY 27: \$3,205,387
% increase: +1.48%

Why is it up? Parts and supply inventories have been refilled in the late winter because of 26-27 cost concerns. Negotiated salary & benefit increases.

Article 9: Facilities Maintenance - Funding for the operations and maintenance of RSU 9 physical plants.

What's in it? Includes wages and benefits of all positions along with utilities (oil, propane, electricity, wood, internet, phone), insurance, non-student supplies used in the district, and purchased services from outside companies (plumbing, electrical, trash, mowing etc.).

FY 26: \$5,116,855
FY 27: \$5,087,918
% decrease: -0.57%

Why is it down? We moved some work projects being considered under the ten-year maintenance plan from 26-27 to this spring. A planned reduction of one position, and we will be using \$250,000 from the Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Article 10: Debt Service and Other Commitments - Funding on our debt for Mallett and MBC school building projects.

What's in it? State funding for these two projects

FY 26: \$3,873,186
FY 27: \$3,804,646
% decrease: -1.77%

Why is it down? Each year the debt payment decreases as the overall remaining debt owed decreases. Of the \$3,804,646 to be paid in 26-27, due to state reimbursement on the total cost, only \$191,815 comes from local taxes.

Article 11: All Other Expenditures - Funding for School Nutrition Program when needed. *This will not be voted on at the Budget Mtg. as there are no additional expenditures needed this coming year.*

Article 12: State/Local EPS Funding Allocation - Funding towns must provide based on the Essential Programs & Schools (EPS) allocation formula.

What's in it? Each year, Maine calculates school funding through the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula. Based on a three-year average, the EPS determines the minimum cost required to support student services and programming. To fund this, the state adjusts its contribution based on the governor's education budget, while using local property valuations to determine the required local financial match for each School Administrative Unit (SAU)

Why is it different for each town? Each town's size, state property valuation, tax base, and number of students are different.

Article 13: Non-State Funded School Construction Debt Service - RSU 9's % of the total debt payment (Mallett School & Mt. Blue Campus).

FY 26: \$194,779
FY 27: \$191,815
% decrease: -1.52%

Why is it down? Each year the debt payment decreases as the overall remaining debt owed decreases.

Article 14: Additional Local Funds - Funding to be raised beyond the State/local EPS funding allocation and other receipts to fund our school budget (this article will be voted on by secret ballot at the RSU 9 Budget Meeting).

What is it? These are tax dollars that RSU 9 asks our townspeople to pay above the required local contribution, determined by the state's EPS formula, to fully support RSU 9's 26-27 programming.

FY 26: Each town is different.
FY 27: Each town is different.

Please go to the RSU 9 District webpage and click on **FY27 Budget Information** for listing by town.

FY 26: \$4,231,899
FY 27: \$3,716,313
% decrease: -12.18%

Why does it change year-to-year? Maine's funding formula adjusts annually based on the governor's state budget and changing local property values. This year, because local property valuations rose, the state's formula required RSU 9 to increase our local funding share in order to qualify for our state allocation. Consequently, state aid for this specific portion went down.

Article 15: Summary Article - Authorizes the district to spend the money appropriated in Articles 1 - 14.

FY 26: \$45,548,396
FY 27: \$46,229,943
% increase: +1.50%

Article 16: Adult Education - Funds the RSU 9 Adult Education Program.

What's in it? Includes costs for teacher, admin, and support staff salaries & benefits, along with curriculum, supplies, & books. Programs provided to students of all ages including HS/HiSet, and enrichment courses.

FY 26: \$590,378
FY 27: \$723,868
% increase: +22.60%

Why is it up? \$125,000.00 from the fund balance that was not expended in prior years is to be used for the addition of heat pumps in the portables and start-up costs for our CDL programming. Negotiated salary & benefit increases are up approximately 2.08%, after the reduction of one part-time position, and some organizational adjustments.

Article 17: Other Grants and Other Receipts Authorizes the district to expend state, federal and other aid grants it may receive during the fiscal year provided these funds do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated.

What does this mean? This allows RSU 9 communities to save local tax dollars by accepting grant funding to help pay for district student needs.

Article 18: Cost Center Transfers – Authorizes the School Board to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation among cost centers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year provided they do not increase the authorized total of the school budget.

What does this mean? If there were unforeseen costs which came up in a cost center during the coming year this would allow the RSU 9 Board to transfer funds from one part of the budget to meet the need in another.

Article 19: Additional State Subsidy Funds - Authorizes the School Board to use additional State subsidy.

What does this mean? If RSU 9 were to receive additional State funding this would allow the School Board to direct their use during 2026-2027.

Article 20: Transfer from Available Fund Balances - Authorizes the School Board to transfer up to \$100,000 to the Technology Reserve Fund from available fund balances, including revenues from sales of RSU-purchased electronic devices, at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed at the discretion of the School Board.

What does this mean? This authorizes the RSU 9 School Board to move and use funds collected from the sale of older equipment to purchase new equipment in the RSU 9 Tech Plan.

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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2026 – 2027

**Proposed
School Budget**

Articles Pamphlet

Budget Hearing:
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Bjorn Auditorium
7:00 PM

District Referendum Vote:
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
(Please check your town's polling hours)