

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FY 2018 BUDGET GUIDELINES DRAFT

Our Mission: *The Cambridge Public Schools will be a diverse urban school system that works with families and the community to successfully educate ALL of its students at high levels.*

Budget Guideline purpose: *Budget Guidelines are meant to provide broad, overarching themes to assist the Superintendent in development of the budget. These guidelines are not meant to identify specific programs or initiatives but rather to operate on a macro level and to express the major themes the School Committee wishes to be addressed in the development of the FY2018 budget.*

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Budget decisions regarding programming, staffing, and curriculum should be data-driven; reflect CPS's emphasis on inclusion, equity, and diversity; and tied to the goal of improving academic, career and college outcomes for all students. We ask the Superintendent to place particular emphasis on raising achievement for all students, with accelerated achievement in academic and social-emotional growth for students in certain sub-groups to reduce achievement gaps, as well as providing appropriate academic challenge for high-aptitude students. The FY2018 budget should provide adequate funding for continued improvements in programs for students with disabilities and students who are English language learners. Additionally, CPS administrators, teachers, and staff will set high expectations for all students by creating more culturally respectful learning environments and to closing opportunity gaps. CPS should develop its own measures of success, supports and accountability standards.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Adequate funding should be allocated to accommodate increased student enrollment and the continued implementation of a multi-tiered system of student assessments and interventions at each school. The School Committee requests that the Superintendent provide recommendations to increase the percentage of students who are assessed as reading at a "proficient" level by grade three, and continue support for the Arts which recognizes the integral role Arts play in supporting advancement of our STEAM initiatives.

UPPER SCHOOLS

Ongoing support for the Upper Schools is essential to building a successful program in grades 6 through 8. The School Committee requests the Superintendent continue to refine the Upper School program in order to meet the Innovation Agenda goal of a providing a superior academic and social experience for all students that prepares them for success in high school and post-secondary education. We ask the Superintendent to make recommendations to strengthen the academic program, social/emotional learning, and extracurricular opportunities.

HIGH SCHOOL

The School Committee requests the Superintendent fund Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, RSTA and the High School Extension Program in ways that builds the academic, social and extracurricular excellence we have come to expect. All students in grades 9-12 should receive the support, guidance and challenge they deserve in order to prepare them for their future endeavors post-graduation. The FY2018 Budget should support favorable class size and inclusion in all CRLS classes.

PROGRAM & CURRICULUM EVALUATION

The School Committee believes the FY2018 budget should continue to support systematic curriculum and program evaluation to ensure students receive excellent instruction and coherent, high-quality curriculum in every subject area offered JK through 12. Teaching and learning standards must be well planned, aligned with the Common Core and the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and recognize CPS's historical commitment to project-based learning where appropriate. Funding should be available to implement improvements recommended in program evaluations. Consideration should be given to development of alternative, developmentally appropriate measures of achievement.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Every CPS school should provide a safe, welcoming learning environment for all students and their families/caregivers. The School Committee requests that the Superintendent continue to strengthen efforts to effectively engage all families and the Cambridge community in support of student learning and achievement. The FY2018 Budget should support improved mechanisms for communicating CPS successes to the Cambridge community.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

We ask the Superintendent to support our mutual goal of educating students in inclusive environments based on their individual needs. Every school should provide a safe, supportive and nurturing environment that allows students and staff to focus on achievement without distraction. The FY2018 Budget should support and enhance effective programs and curriculum that produce students who are physically, mentally, emotionally and socially healthy and safe. The FY2018 Budget should support the goal of building a district-wide faculty that more closely reflects our student body's diversity.

OPERATIONS & LONG RANGE PLANNING

The School Committee requests the Superintendent develop a budget that considers staff levels for school-based and non-school based personnel, and an ongoing review and assessment of operational departments. The budget should ensure funding for continued capital projects so that our schools are safe and supportive of evolving requirements of modern teaching and learning for students, staff and families. In addition, the district should identify cost-savings through energy efficiency and sustainability in all school buildings.