

School Board
FY27 School Budget Workshop
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
6:30 PM
CEHS Library
345 Ocean House Rd

Meeting will be recorded, technology permitting.

The FY 2027 Cape Elizabeth School Board Budget Goals (Adopted 1/13/2026)

1. Meets the academic, social-emotional, and health needs of all students.
2. Supports recruitment and retention of high-quality personnel.
3. Supports appropriate and ongoing building maintenance and repair.
4. Supports the advancement of instructional skills of our staff.
5. Reflects a careful consideration of the effectiveness and efficiency of each line item and position.
6. Strives for clear, transparent, and regular communication with the public throughout the budget process.

Christopher Boniakowski

Lee Schroeder

P. Joy Engel

Caitlin Sweet

Jennifer McVeigh

Andrew Patten
Cynthia Voltz

Agenda

- a. Public Comment (*per Policy [BEDH](#)*)
- b. Review School Board Budget Q & A Document
- c. Review of Grants
- d. Fund Balance Review
- e. FY27 Budget DLT Plan

Adjourn



Open Minds and Open Doors
CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Federal Grants for FY 2025-2026

Local Entitlement	\$422,743.26
Local Entitlement Pre-School	\$ 10,837.14
Title I	\$ 38,153.79
Title II	\$ 40,844.60

National School Lunch Program: Maine schools that participate in the Federal Child Nutrition Program

FY 25	\$764,126.64
FY 26 as of 2.28.2026	\$386,497.43

Local Entitlement funds support are used in six areas: Instruction, Out-of-District, Psychological Services, Visual Impairment, Parental Placed/Child Find activities and Special Administrative. These six categories pay educational technician salaries, fund out-of-district placements, pay contracted psychological service providers and visual impairment providers, pay the salary for the Special Services Office manager and fund the purchasing of instructional materials.

Title IA funds support high-quality instruction for all students, with a focus on those who need additional support and increased instructional time to meet rigorous academic standards. Title IA funds provide access to research-based literacy instruction through a 0.3 FTE reading literacy interventionist at Pond Cove.

Title IIA funds are used to enhance teacher and principal effectiveness through professional development and staff retention efforts. These funds ensure that educators have access to high-quality professional learning opportunities that support research-based instruction within our multi-tiered system of support (MTSS)



Open Minds and Open Doors

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

FUND BALANCE 101

MARCH 31, 2026

Budgeted Fund Balance: Amount a school intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be to balance the budget after all revenues have been budgeted. This additional funding source decreases the property tax impact on taxpayers.

Unassigned Fund Balance: This represents amounts that are not assigned, and is prohibited from being expended during the school year outside the adopted budget.

Projected Carryover: The amount of an unspent appropriation beyond the time period for which it was originally granted. This carryover is also determined by revenue collected over the amount planned. The combination of unspent appropriations, and excess revenue is transferred to the next accounting period to be added to the existing fund balance.

State Allowance: The state is allowing schools to retain unallocated balances up to 9% of the previous fiscal year's school budget. The state permits schools to implement a three-year plan to align their fund balance with the 9% requirement.

Auditor's Recommendation: Our auditor and town financial advisor recommend 3-9% as a minimum amount of unreserved fund balance. This aligns with the recommendation of the Government Finance Officers Association. This range equals \$1,089,553 - \$3,268,661.

Current Proposed Budget: The projected remaining fund balance for 6.30.2026 would be at 5.47%

Source: GASB Fact Sheet about Fund Balance Reporting



AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT AS OF 6.30.2025
Still Estimated - Waiting on Final Audit

Total Fund Balance as of 6.30.2024	\$3,636,950
Budgeted Fund Balance for FY 25	-650,000
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6.30.2025	\$2,986,950

State Legal Limit for Unassigned Fund Balance: 9% of budget	\$3,268,661
The state permits schools to implement a three-year plan to align their fund balance with the 9% requirement.	

Proposal for FY 25-26 Budget

Projected Total Fund Balance for FY 25	\$2,986,950
Less Proposed use of 1,000,000	-1,000,000
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance Remaining	\$1,986,950

Proposal for FY 26-27 Budget

Projected Total Fund Balance for FY 26	\$1,986,950
Less Proposed use of 1,000,000 for FY 27	-650,000
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance Remaining	\$1,336,950

Estimated % for Unallocated Fund Balance 3.68%

**Cape Elizabeth School Department
Fund Balance Analysis
Three Year Projection Use of Fund Balance**

FY 23

Total Fund Balance as of 6.30.2022	\$2,847,915
Budgeted Fund Balance for FY 23	-750,000
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6.30.2023	\$2,097,915

FY 24

Total Fund Balance as of 6.30.2023	\$3,201,365
Budgeted Fund Balance for FY 24	-500,000
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6.30.2024	\$2,701,365

FY 25

Total Fund Balance as of 6.30.2024	\$3,636,950
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FY 26

Total Projected Fund Balance as of 6.30.2025	\$2,986,950
Budgeted Fund Balance for FY 26	-1,000,000
Projected Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6.30.2026	\$1,986,950

FY 27

Total Projected Fund Balance as of 6.30.2026	\$1,986,950
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Projected Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6.30.2027	\$1,336,950

* Any unspent appropriation is added to the unassigned fund balance.

Updated March 2026

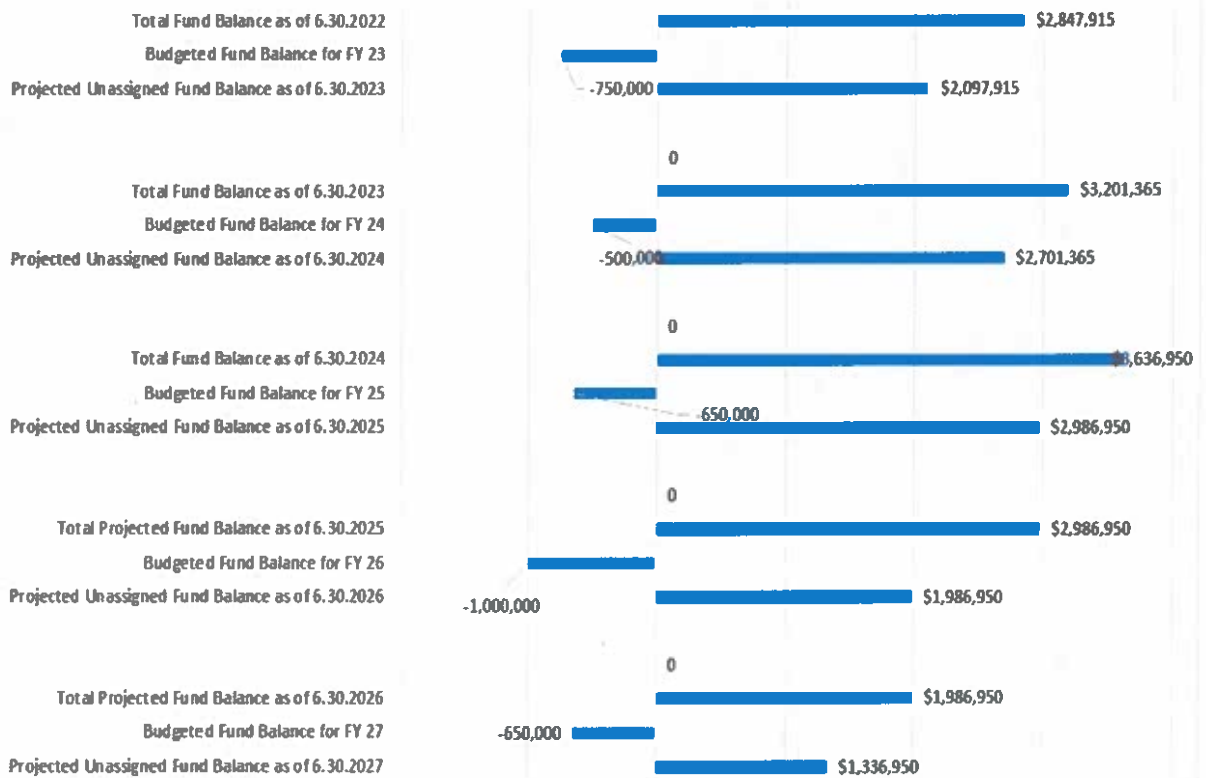


Open Minds and Open Doors
CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Projected Use of Fund Balance

Fiscal Year 2027
March 31, 2026

Projected Use of Fund Balance FY 27





Open Minds and Open Doors
CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

State Valuation Information - March 31, 2026

Source: Stephen Sullivan, Property Tax Division of Maine Revenue Services

Stephen.M.Sullivan@maine.gov

The state valuation for Cape Elizabeth, like other towns and cities in Maine, is determined by the real estate market. In recent years, Cape Elizabeth has experienced significant growth in real estate, which directly impacts the ratio used to calculate state valuation.

As property sales prices have increased, so has the town's state valuation. The following increases have been calculated by the state:

- 2023: 15% increase
- 2024: 28% increase
- 2025: 8% increase
- 2026: 11% increase

The current three-year average used for the state valuation in the ED279 report is based on the 2024 data submitted for certification. As a result, Cape Elizabeth will see substantial increases in state valuation in the coming years.

Stephen Sullivan is available to answer any questions or provide a presentation as needed.

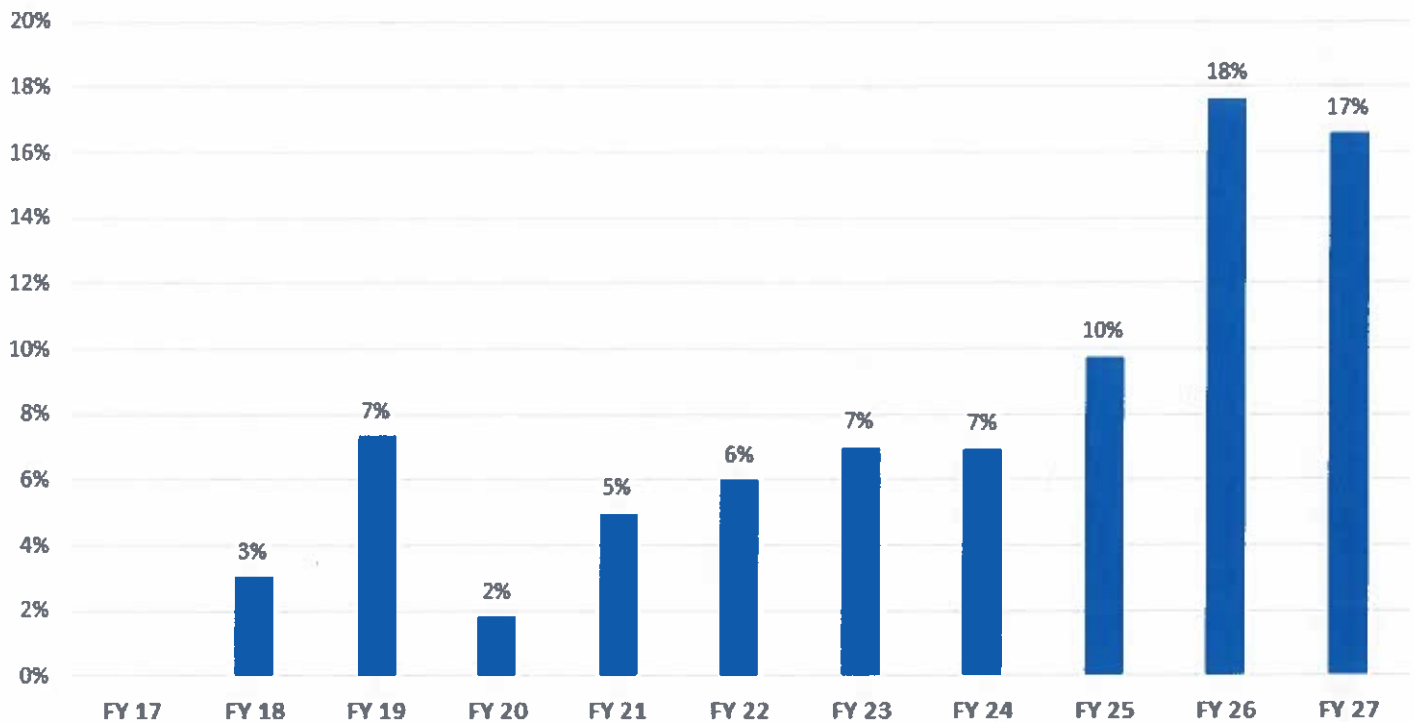


Open Minds and Open Doors
CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

11 Year History of State 3-Year State Valuation on ED279

Fiscal Year	3-Yr Avg State Valuation	% Increase
FY 17	1,697,983,333	
FY 18	1,749,783,333	3%
FY 19	1,878,125,000	7%
FY 20	1,912,366,667	2%
FY 21	2,007,166,667	5%
FY 22	2,127,216,667	6%
FY 23	2,276,183,333	7%
FY 24	2,433,800,000	7%
FY 25	2,671,350,000	10%
FY 26	3,142,683,333	18%
FY 27	3,663,200,000	17%

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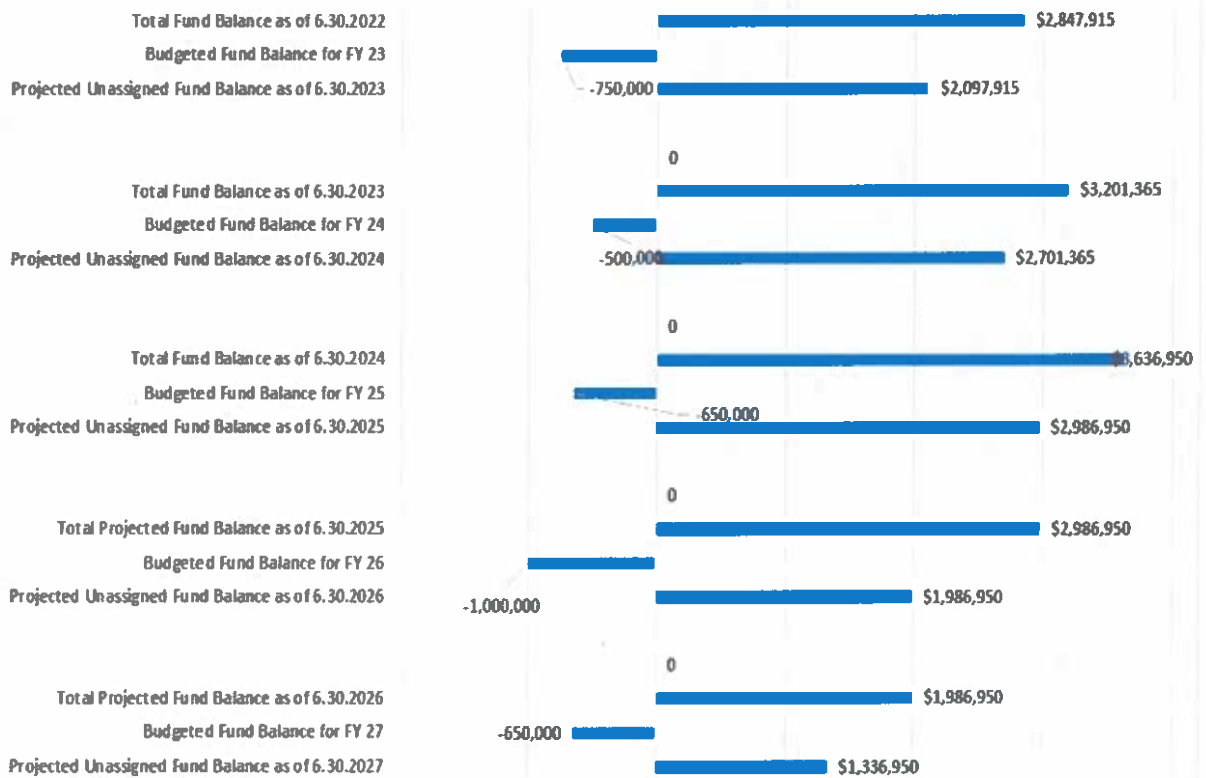


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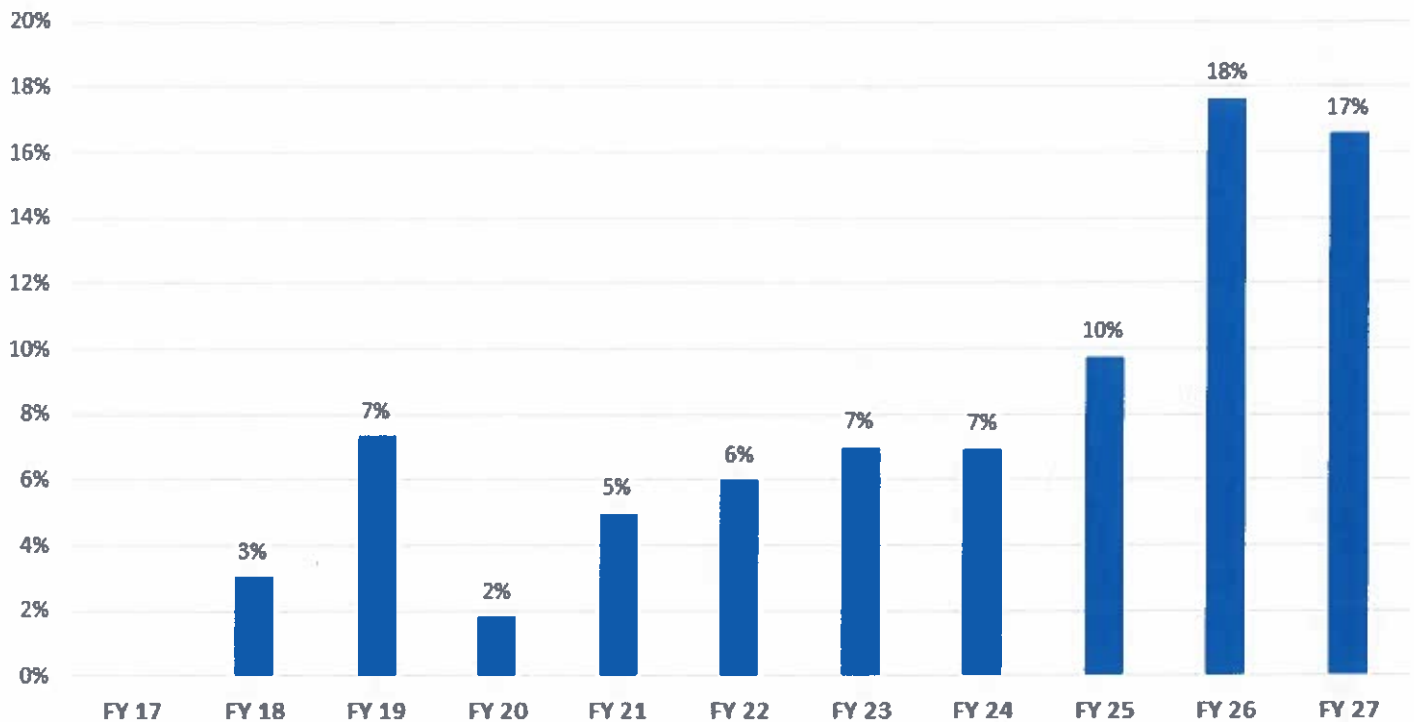


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**CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS
STRUCTURE FOR
TRANSITION OF SERVICES FROM CDS TO CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS**

Position		
Program Coordinator		
Administrative Assistant		
Special Education Teacher		
Occupational Therapy Specialist		
Speech and Language Pathologists		

Total Estimated Program Structure as of 3.31.2026		320,288
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Estimate for funds provided by the state: \$433,000		
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Additional costs will be transportation and tuition		
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**CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS
IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND**

Position	Savings
Program Coordinator	
Increasing current .5 FTE to 1 FTE Speech & Language Pathologist	
Special Education Teacher	
Occupational Therapy Specialist	
Speech and Language Pathologist	
Net Savings to General Fund	17,796