

School Article 2 – School District Operating Budget

This article will raise \$25,902,672 to fund the School District Operating Budget, or, if the article fails, will raise \$25,674,781 to fund the School District Default Budget. The amounts above do not include other money warrant articles on this year's ballot. If the Operating Budget fails and the Default Budget is in place, the School Board may revisit the Operating Budget and call one special meeting so voters can vote on the revision. (1)

The proposed budget is an increase of \$526,174 (2.1%) over the current year's Operating Budget and is \$227,891 more than the Default Budget. The proposed budget includes funds for program initiatives for implementation of the first phase of a schoolwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program focusing on computer science; Part-time Human Resources Assistant to strengthen and support the workforce and in particular induction of new employees; and a new Technology Integration/Data Manager position to support the Strategic Plan (e.g. competency based grading, use of data to inform improvements, teacher access to improve instruction/learning). (2) Also, in support of the Strategic Plan, there is an increase of \$5,560 for school software to reinforce a safe and secure school environment for students and staff for all schools.

The proposed budget includes decreases through staffing adjustments (eliminating one IHGMS Music Teacher), property/liability insurance (as a member of the Primex risk pool), equipment/furniture, and supplies.

Tax cost for the School Operating Budget is estimated at \$17.06 per thousand of valuation or \$3,412 for a house valued at \$200,000. Tax cost for the School Default Operating Budget is estimated at \$16.37 per thousand of valuation or \$3,274 on a house valued at \$200,000.

A YES vote raises \$25,902,672 to fund the School District Operating Budget.

A NO vote raises \$25,674,781 to fund the School District Default Budget and gives the School Board the option of revising the Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To fund the School District's Operating Budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To fund the School District's Default Budget.
- To allow the School Board the option of revising its Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

References:

1. As defined by state law, the School District's Default Budget is the current year's budget plus or minus any contractual obligations or required increases and less one-time expenditures. Eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under recruitment or positions redefined in the proposed operating budget, as per RSA 40:14-b, if adopted. The Default Budget is automatically in place if the proposed Operating Budget fails

(RSA 40:13 1Xb) and if the School Board opts not to revise its proposed budget and call a special meeting (RSA 40:13 X and XVI).

2. Raymond School District Proposed Operating Budget and Other Warrant Articles Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Presented at the Budget Committee Public Hearing, 1/9/20.
<https://www.sau33.com/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=2539&dataid=8689&FileName=1.9.20%20Public%20Hearing%20Presentation.pdf>