

# **DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICIES**

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File: DB

## **ANNUAL BUDGET**

The annual budget is the financial expression of the educational program of the school department. The budget will be developed in alignment with the District Strategic Improvement Plan. The budget then is more than just a financial instrument and requires on the part of the Committee, the staff, and the community orderly and cooperative effort to ensure sound fiscal practices for achieving the educational goals and objectives of the school system.

The annual budget for each school operated by the District shall be developed with input from the School Council, and shall reflect the priorities established in the Annual School Improvement Plan.

Public school budgeting is regulated and controlled by legislation, state regulations, and local School Committee requirements. The operating budget for the school system will be prepared and presented in line with state policy and will be developed and refined in accordance with these same requirements.

The Superintendent will serve as budget officer but he/she may delegate portions of this responsibility to members of his/her staff, as he/she deems appropriate. The three general areas of responsibility for the Superintendent as budget officer will be budget preparation, budget presentation, and budget administration.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:34; 71:37 and 71:38N