

# NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL SYSTEM

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To: Narragansett Town Council  
From: Peter J. Cummings, Ed.D  
Re: Fiscal 2019 Budget  
Date: March 26, 2018

This evening, I will present the Fiscal 2019 Budget for your consideration and we will engage in the annual process of determining the application of available financial resources to the education of the children of Narragansett. Work on this budget began in the Fall of 2017, and represents the cumulative work of the Narragansett School Committee, school administrators, central office staff, and school and district support staff. In all, the budget details the recommendations of the Narragansett School Committee, our leadership team, and our school community regarding the maintenance and growth of the Narragansett School System.

The Fiscal 2019 budget is focused on supporting the core mission of our schools, which is *to enable every student to develop the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind necessary to be a life-long learner and productive citizen*. Additionally, this budget incorporates resources to ensure the safety of our students, capital investment in our facilities, and thoughtful planning for children with special needs. Staffing levels are designed to provide rigorous instruction, timely interventions for those who need extra support, and solid relationships with caring adults for the children we serve.

Several initiatives are incorporated into the budget this year, including the introduction of a full-day Integrated Preschool program, the development of a Plumbing and Pipefitting program in partnership with the RI Plumbers Union Local 51, and enhanced offerings in Computer Science as well as additional AP and college credit classes. Funding for these innovative practices are embedded in the budgets of the district and each school, and merit the continued support of the Town Council and Narragansett community.

There is also a respectful understanding of the financial constraints our cities and towns face. The overall requested increase to the Property Tax Transfer in this proposed budget is 1.5%, \$384,830. To keep this budget at a responsible level, we have aligned programs, reduced staff where appropriate, and reallocated resources. We have prioritized capital spending in areas of greatest need, and continue to regularly assess the needs of our students and target resources to where they are most effective.

In sum, I believe the Fiscal 2019 budget is deserving of funding as proposed. Our staff is innovative and committed to all students, and our families believe that our schools help children develop the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind that lead to life-long success. This budget builds on that foundation to further develop our schools as a community resource which benefits all residents of Narragansett.