



MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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TO: Madison Board of Selectmen & Board of Finance

FROM: Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Request for Returned 2022-2023 Funds

The Board of Education starts its budget process at the administration and staff level each September. The board receives the administration's budget in December and must then deliberate and submit an approved budget to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in February. This timeline often means the estimated cost of certain items may change or new legislation may be passed that impacts our budget. After the Board's 2023-24 budget was approved by the voters, the Connecticut General Assembly passed an unanticipated piece of legislation that has had a significant negative impact on the current operating budget.

Due to the passage of Public Act 23-137, effective this current school year, students in our transition program now remain the responsibility of the school district through the entire school year when the student turns 22. For example, a student who had a birthday in September 2023, who normally would have exited the transition program at the end of September, would now stay in the transition program through June 30, 2024. The total additional unanticipated cost for Madison Public Schools for the 2023-24 school year due to this legislation is \$135,000.

Additionally, this school year we have incurred unexpected special education costs due to outplacement of students. We have not received an equal number of students returning to the district or moving out of the district. This has resulted in a current trending negative balance of approximately \$95,000.

For these reasons, the Board of Education would request that the district funds returned to the Town at the end of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), in the amount of \$226,000, be returned to the Board of Education to cover these unanticipated costs.

We are available to answer any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools