

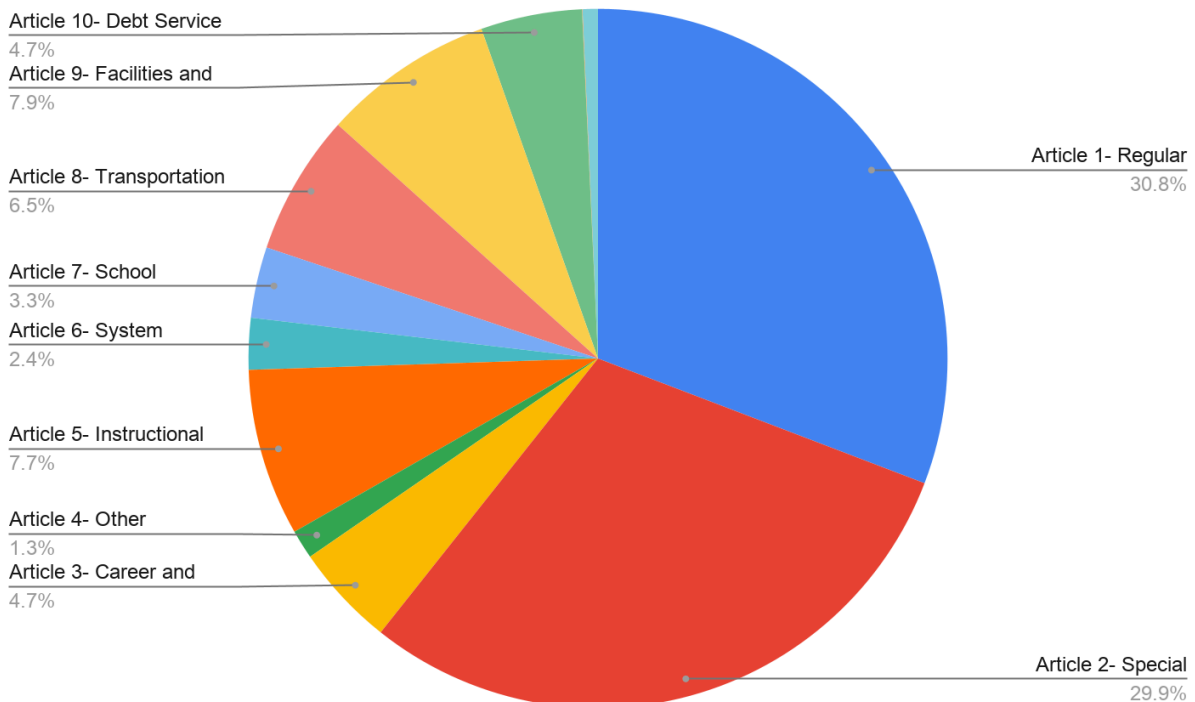
# LEWISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY 27 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

Hello Lewiston,

We wanted to share some updates with you. We have been working hard to minimize increases on property taxes in Lewiston. Recently, the School Committee approved an 8.06% increase from last year's local funding request. Please note that wages and benefits account for 70% of our budget. That's people working with and for our kids everyday - **26 positions kids need have been cut** to reach where we are.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Why?</u>
Special Education	\$5,047,775	14.8%	Program growth at our schools that deflects millions more if we paid tuition to other schools.
Transportation	\$2,539,161	43%	Increase in needs and new contract after a competitive bid process.
Utilities/Power	\$742,500	95%	The last contract expired. This is a multi-year agreement after a competitive bid process.
Workers Compensation	\$892,980	112%	Sharp increase and we are seeking alternatives.
Salaries	\$4,142,192	6.5%	Contractual obligations.

The chart below shows each article and what percent of the budget they are.



Our overall budget is up 10.22% at 129,710,257 with \$89,823,486 coming to Lewiston from **State subsidy**, over \$6.1 million from other funding sources, and \$34,054,176 locally which is an increase of \$2,541,175.

The approval process for us is unique. The School Committee and the City Council must approve the school budget for it to go to referendum. **You need to vote on MAY 12, 2025.** If you need to vote early, you can do so at City Hall May 6 & 7. Additional cuts do not help staff morale, our kids, staffing, or community. We have heard in the past that people support our schools but thought they were voting on the city budget. The City budget approval process is the City Council alone. There are no other approvals or referendums for the city portion of the budget.

Articles	FY 27	PCT of Budget
Article 1- Regular Instruction	\$39,956,414.00	30.80%
Article 2- Special Education	\$38,751,052.00	29.88%
Article 3- Career and Technical Education	\$6,130,389.00	4.73%
Article 4- Other Instruction	\$1,741,474.00	1.34%
Article 5- Instructional Support	\$10,030,691.00	7.73%
Article 6- System Administration	\$3,089,177.00	2.38%
Article 7- School Administration	\$4,252,264.00	3.28%
Article 8- Transportation	\$8,440,523.00	6.51%
Article 9- Facilities and Operations	\$10,294,238.00	7.94%
Article 10- Debt Service	\$6,077,021.00	4.69%
Article 11- All Other Functions	\$29,000.00	0.02%
Adult Education	\$918,014.00	0.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,710,257.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Here are some numbers:

Since we are fortunate to have over \$89 million in state subsidy, the ask locally is \$34 million.

Financial strategy to reduce the amount of fund balance in use annually is good practice. This budget avoids a \$3.5 million dollar gap next year.

Some Comparisons from other cities:

City	Budget	Enrollment
Portland	179 million	Higher
Lewiston	129 million	Over 5,200 kids
Bangor	66.3million	2000 less kids than Lewiston

**Voters wishing to cast an absentee ballot may do so in person at the City Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor of City Hall, on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, and Thursday, May 7, 2026.**

**Referendum is May 12, 2026. Please vote!**