

Little Compton School Department FY2024 Budget Message

We are pleased to report on the status of the schools to the Citizens of Little Compton. The proposed PreK through Grade 12 school budget for Fiscal Year 2024 shows an increase in total expenditures of \$214,625 over last year's budget. The town appropriation requested to support the Fiscal Year 2024 budget is \$7,815,947 — which represents a 2.32% increase over the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation.

The Little Compton School Department and Wilbur and McMahan Schools offer a vibrant, rigorous yet nurturing learning experience for all PreK through grade 8 Little Compton students. The town's strong support of the school department affords administration and staff ready access to ample resources that serve the school quite well — i.e. optimal class-sizes, beautiful green spaces, a well-kept facility with filtering and purification systems, appropriate staffing, and continuous investment in high-quality curriculum materials and state-of-the-art instructional technology.

Offering the town's children a world-class education is our shared commitment, and the proof is in the pudding when it comes to academic excellence: recently, six Wilbur McMahan 8th graders were recognized for their brilliant work at the 2023 Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair. RISEF saw their highest number of participants ever, and three of our scientists finished in the top tier of well over 100 students from private and public middle schools throughout the state. Kudos to all Wilbur students who participated at the school and state levels — and to their teachers who are instrumental in managing, organizing and overseeing this annual event. Well done!

Recently, one of Wilbur McMahan's gifted writers was recognized, for the second year in a row, alongside other *Write Rhode Island* competition winners, and will be published in a special anthology. In addition, five of our vocalists were selected for the prestigious All-State Chorus, performing at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in March, and the entire chorus was selected to perform at the annual holiday celebration/tree lighting at the State House in December. Our students, with the support of the adults around them, are surely making a name for themselves in the arts and sciences!

More evidence of Wilbur McMahan School's excel-

lence includes RIDE's recognizing the school for two years running as a "RICAS Super Star" — with 2021 and 2022 achievement data exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Though it is true that state tests are but one data point, these objective measures tell us how our students are performing relative to the rest of the state, and our young scholars are the cream of the crop! Overall (as a district) Little Compton students are #4 in ELA achievement in the state and #7 in Math. By grade, our Grade-4 students are #1 in both Math and ELA (out of 170 elementary schools!), with grades 3 and 6 ranking in the Top 5 in both ELA and Math; grade 8 is in the top 5 for science and top 10 for ELA!

In addition, Wilbur McMahan is in the final stages of International Baccalaureate authorization, poised to be the only public middle school in the state to achieve IB MYP Programme status — a most prestigious designation.

Surely, external factors impact every sector of society, but, true to form, all members of the Little Compton School Department and the greater community continue to work together to offer our students an enriching and vibrant education within safe and healthy spaces. Thank you for your continued support of our most precious resource — the children of the Town of Little Compton.

Scholastic Highlights

- ◆ Rhode Island Science + Engineering Fair (Grade 8)
- ◆ First-Tech Challenge (STEM competition)
- ◆ Competitive sports: Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Track, and Lacrosse
- ◆ Award-Winning Band + Chorus Programs
- ◆ Summer Enrichment Camp/High-Dosage tutoring
- ◆ Major musical production staged each year (Shrek, Jr. this year)
- ◆ Upgraded one-to-one Chromebooks/iPads
- ◆ International Baccalaureate candidacy
- ◆ Pre-School Program (ages 3, 4 and 5)
- ◆ After-school Library/Media Center access
- ◆ National Geographic "Geo" Bee
- ◆ Scripps Spelling Bee (statewide)
- ◆ i-Ready (interim assessments in literacy/math)
- ◆ SEL: Open Circle, Advisory, Restorative Practices

Wilbur McMahan School Staff

- ◆ Full-time: 44
- ◆ Part-time: 5

For more detailed information, please link to the "Finances" section of the web site: <https://www.lcsd.k12.ri.us/finances>



Little Compton Student Population

- ◆ Students at Wilbur McMahan School: 220— PreK-8: 218 / Early Intervention: 2
- ◆ Students at Portsmouth High School: 76
- ◆ Students in CTE/MET Placements: 5
- ◆ Students in specialized placements: 3

Total Student Population: 304