

Swasey Central School: 10-year trends (enrollment, class size, finances, and academic outcomes)

To: Brentwood Town Budget Committee (Chair: Jim)
From: SAU / School District (prepared for budget discussion)
Date: December 30, 2025
Subject: Response to request for multi-year school finance and achievement history

This memo compiles the metrics requested in the Budget Committee email (attached state summary report) and adds inflation-adjusted figures to support apples-to-apples comparisons over time. Where the state report provides charts but not an exportable numeric table, values are either shown directly from the chart or (when needed for calculations) estimated from the chart and flagged as such.

Key takeaways

- Enrollment (Total PreK-5) declined from 318 (2015-2016) to 283 (2024-2025), a change of -11.0%.
- After adjusting for inflation (Boston-Cambridge-Newton CPI-U), total appropriations declined about -2.3% from FY17 to FY24, and actual expenditures increased slightly (1.0% in constant 2024 dollars).
- In 2024 dollars, cost per pupil rose from FY17 to FY24 (about 5.0%), largely reflecting enrollment change and fixed/required costs.
- Average teacher salary increased in nominal dollars but decreased about -8.3% in inflation-adjusted (2024-2025 School year \$) terms from 2015 to 2024 (Boston-Cambridge-Newton CPI-U).
- Achievement and growth results are shown in the attached state report tables; assessment reporting is interrupted in the COVID period.

A. Enrollment and class size

Enrollment totals below are derived from the state report chart titled “Total PreK-5 vs. Swasey Enrollment.” Class size values below are approximate and derived from the “Class size” clusters in the same report chart; official class size distributions can also be provided directly from the master schedule.

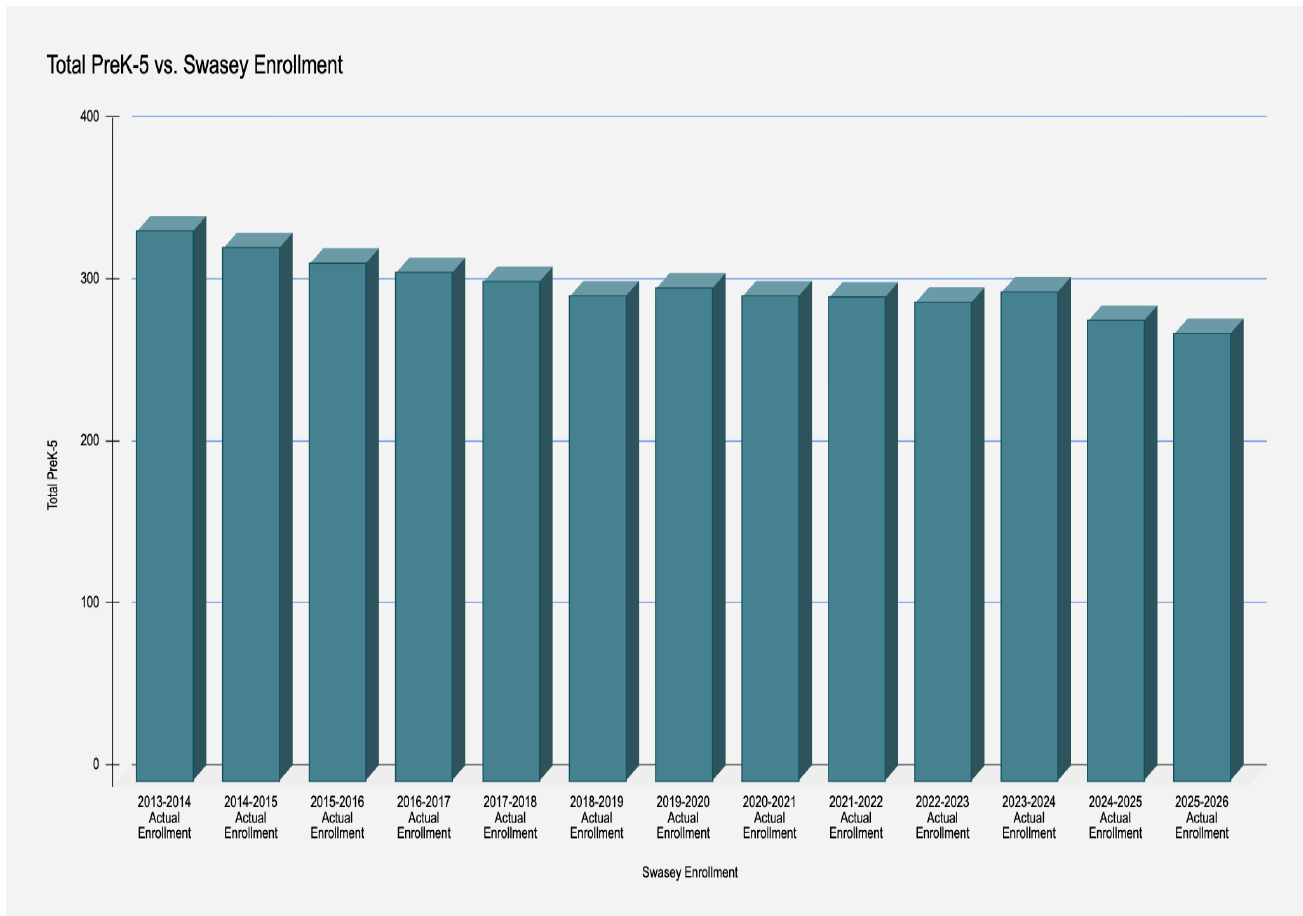
Enrollment (Total PreK-5): last 10 school years

School Year	Total PreK-5 Enrollment
2015-2016	318
2016-2017	313
2017-2018	307
2018-2019	298
2019-2020	303
2020-2021	298
2021-2022	297
2022-2023	295
2023-2024	301
2024-2025	283

Class size (approx., from state report chart): last 10 school years

School Year	Avg class size	Smallest	Largest
2015-2016	17.7	17.3	18.0
2016-2017	16.2	13.0	19.4
2017-2018	14.9	11.6	18.7
2018-2019	14.4	13.0	17.3
2019-2020	14.6	13.0	17.3
2020-2021	13.3	13.0	13.7
2021-2022	13.0	12.3	13.7
2022-2023	14.2	11.6	17.3
2023-2024	12.8	12.3	13.0
2024-2025	12.8	10.9	14.4

Total PreK-5 Swasey Enrollment



B. Financial metrics (appropriation, actual expenditures, and cost per pupil)

Financial figures come from the district’s “SCS Actual vs Budget” workbook. Inflation-adjusted values are shown in 2024 dollars using CPI-U annual averages for Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH (BLS). FY25 includes a bond appropriation; operating comparisons should separate the operating appropriation from one-time items.

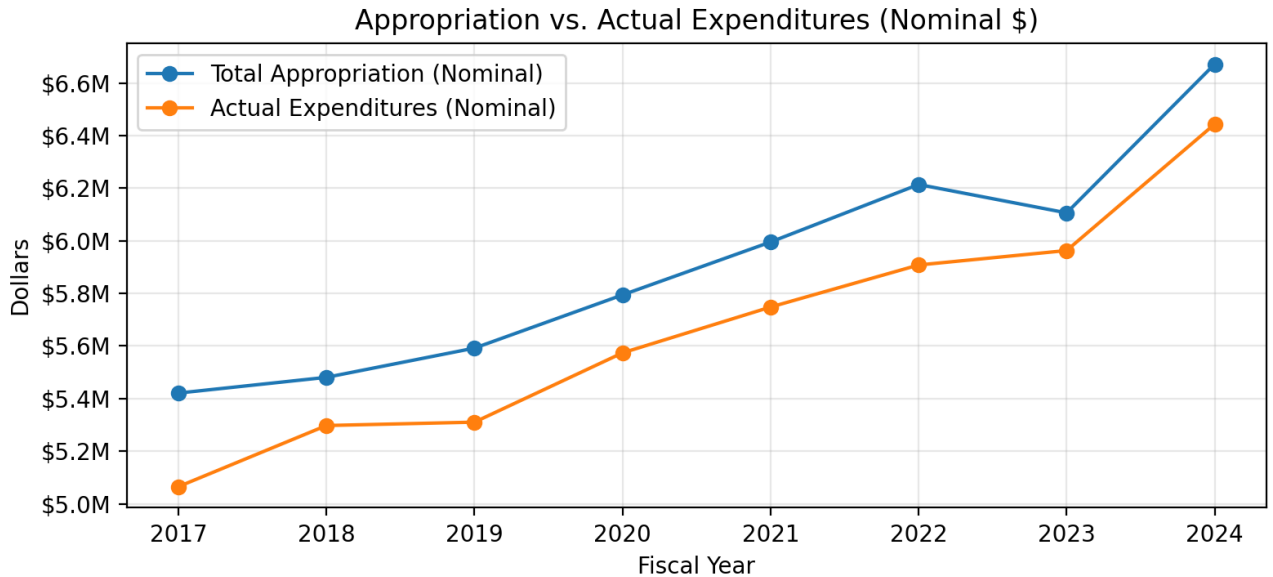
Operating and total appropriation vs. actual expenditures (FY17-FY25)

FY	School Year	Enroll.	Operating Approp.	Total Approp.	Actual Exp.	Cost per Pupil
FY17	2016-2017	313	\$5,130,925	\$5,420,975	\$5,065,193	\$16,183
FY18	2017-2018	307	\$5,450,822	\$5,480,822	\$5,297,606	\$17,256
FY19	2018-2019	298	\$5,482,954	\$5,591,924	\$5,310,402	\$17,820
FY20	2019-2020	303	\$5,744,220	\$5,794,220	\$5,573,862	\$18,396
FY21	2020-2021	298	\$5,955,301	\$5,995,301	\$5,748,039	\$19,289
FY22	2021-2022	297	\$6,118,709	\$6,214,022	\$5,907,956	\$19,892
FY23	2022-2023	295	\$5,919,914	\$6,106,114	\$5,962,938	\$20,213
FY24	2023-2024	301	\$6,460,080	\$6,671,682	\$6,443,673	\$21,408
FY25	2024-2025	283	\$7,057,382	\$7,958,632	\$6,737,500	\$23,807

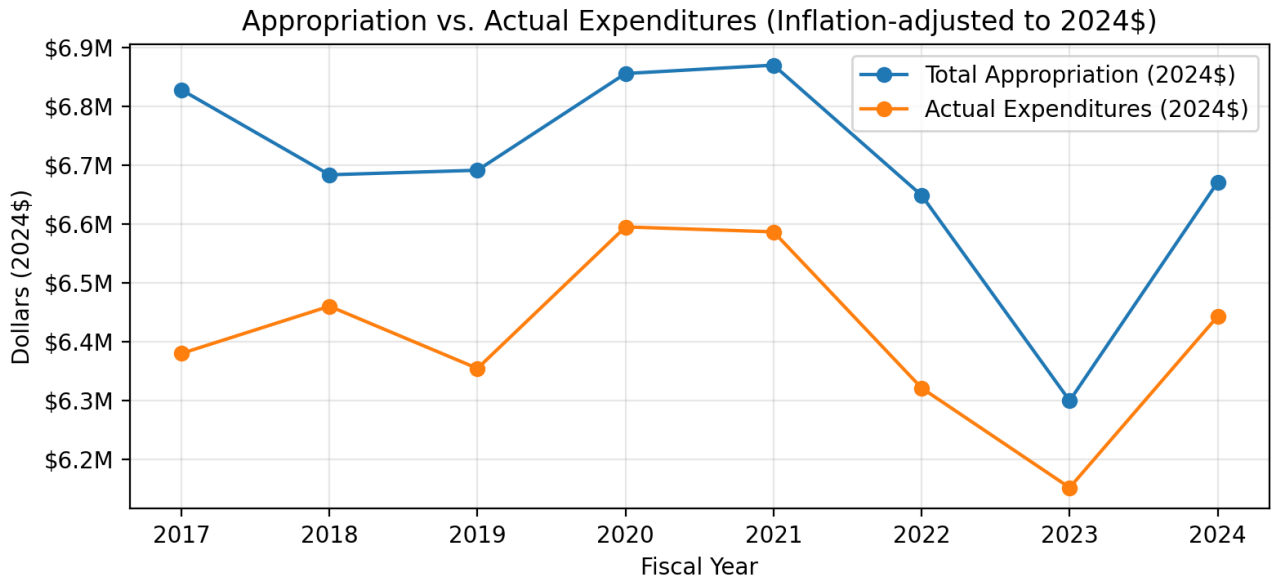
Inflation-adjusted (2024\$) view (FY17-FY24)

FY	Operating (2024\$)	Total (2024\$)	Actual (2024\$)	\$/Pupil (2024\$) today's dollars
FY17	\$6,463,321	\$6,828,691	\$6,380,520	\$20,385
FY18	\$6,647,665	\$6,684,252	\$6,460,807	\$21,045
FY19	\$6,561,552	\$6,691,958	\$6,355,055	\$21,326
FY20	\$6,797,217	\$6,856,383	\$6,595,630	\$21,768
FY21	\$6,824,794	\$6,870,634	\$6,587,270	\$22,105
FY22	\$6,547,312	\$6,649,302	\$6,321,797	\$21,286
FY23	\$6,108,035	\$6,300,152	\$6,152,426	\$20,856
FY24	\$6,460,080	\$6,671,682	\$6,443,673	\$21,408

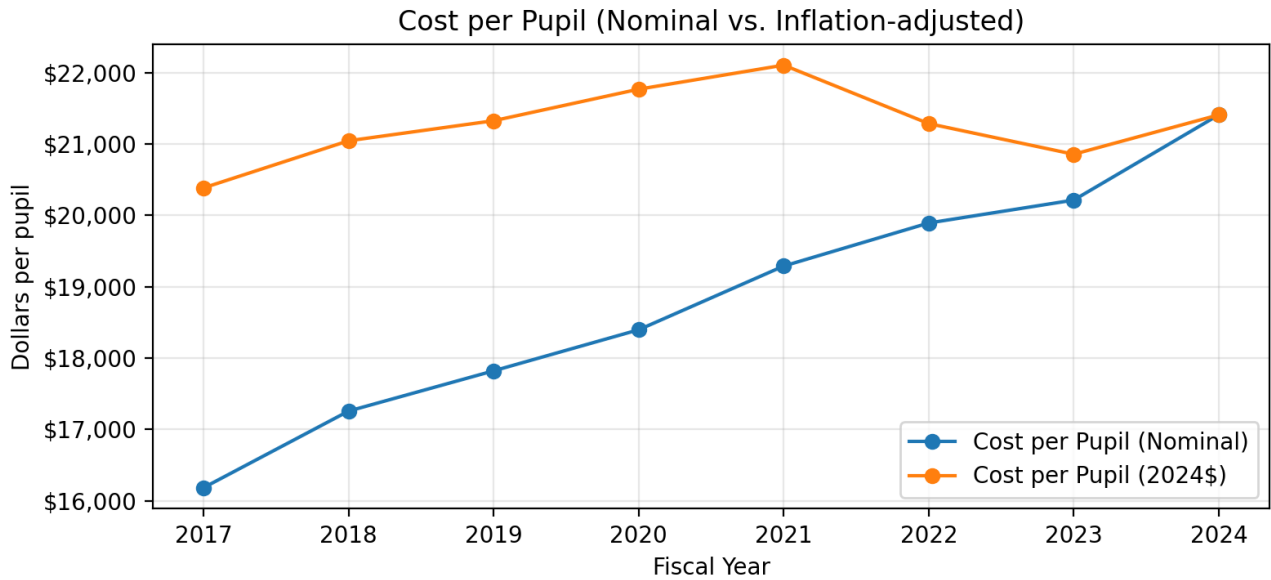
Appropriation vs. actual expenditures (nominal dollars)



Appropriation vs. actual expenditures (inflation-adjusted to 2024\$)



Cost per pupil (nominal vs. inflation-adjusted)



Notes on methodology

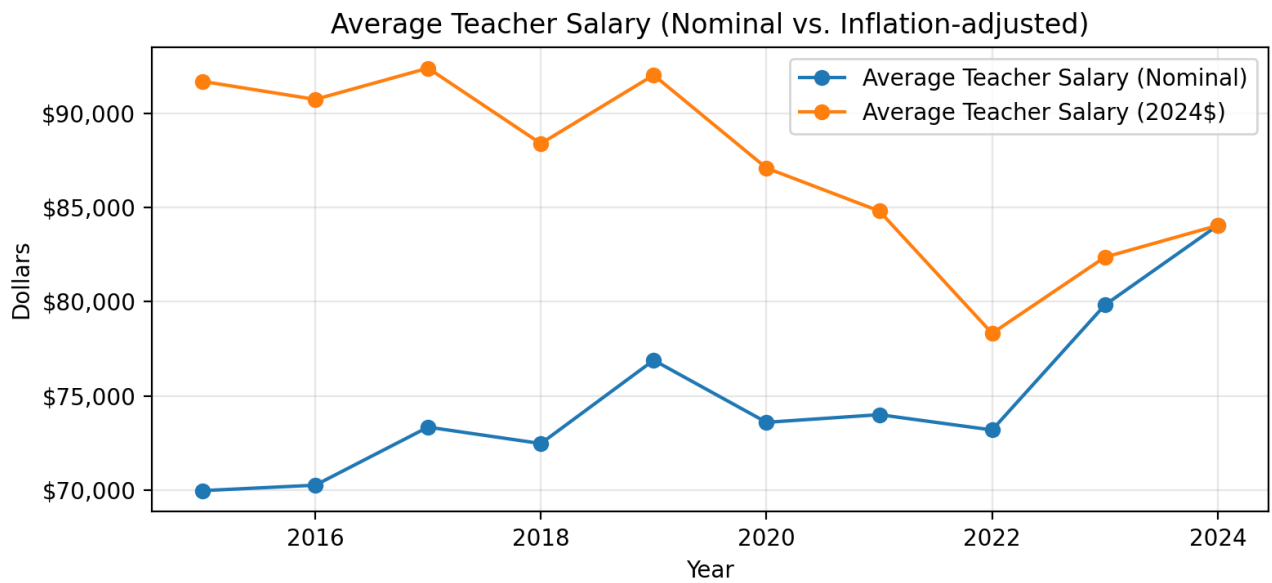
- Inflation adjustment uses CPI-U annual average for Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH with 2024 as the base year.
- Cost per pupil is calculated as total actual expenditures divided by Total PreK-5 enrollment; enrollment totals are from the state report chart.
- Because enrollment totals were extracted from a chart (not an exported table), values should be treated as estimates; the district can provide the official enrollment table if desired.

C. Average teacher salary

Average teacher salary values below are taken directly from the attached state summary report chart/table.

Year	Avg teacher salary (nominal)	Avg teacher salary (inflation-adjusted 2024\$) today's dollars
2015	\$69,970	\$91,682
2016	\$70,259	\$90,725
2017	\$73,339	\$92,384
2018	\$72,469	\$88,381
2019	\$76,889	\$92,014
2020	\$73,594	\$87,085
2021	\$74,000	\$84,804
2022	\$73,188	\$78,315
2023	\$79,820	\$82,356
2024	\$84,038	\$84,038

Teacher salary trend (nominal vs. inflation-adjusted)



D. Academic achievement and growth (state assessments)

The tables below are from the NH iReport/iAchieve summary included with the Budget Committee request. Where “COVID” is shown, statewide assessment reporting was disrupted.

Assessment proficiency (ELA, Math, Science) - All students, all grades

Assessment Proficiency measures the percent of students proficient (i.e. assessed at either Levels 3 or 4) in each of the three assessed subject areas. NH-set targets for Math and ELA are included for reference (where applicable).

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ELA			72%	78%	COVID	73%	83%	74%	75%	74%
<i>NH Avg.</i>			57%	55%	X	52%	50%	50%	53%	55%
Math			69%	70%	COVID	53%	69%	65%	70%	74%
<i>NH Avg.</i>			51%	51%	X	40%	46%	47%	41%	42%
Science			55%	67%	COVID	62%	76%	63%	52%	63%
<i>NH Avg.</i>			41%	39%	X	35%	38%	36%	36%	38%

Academic growth (Mean Growth Percentile) - Grades 4-8

All Students, All Grades

The Mean Growth Percentile (MGP) is a measure of academic growth that compares students' growth with that of their peers. MGP is used only for students in grades 4-8 in ELA and Math and requires two consecutive years of assessment results.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ELA			48	57	COVID	COVID	68	48	52	43
Math			49	57	COVID	COVID	56	55	46	52

E. Public availability / how to obtain the same data

For anyone wishing to pull the state-published numbers directly, the NH Department of Education publishes financial reports and provides an iReport/iAchieve portal for assessment and related metrics.

- NHDOE Financial Reports: <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-and-analytic-resources/bureau-of-education-statistics/financial-reports>
- NH iReport portal: https://jwt.nh.gov/?src_route=iReport/FrontPage&debug_session=false&toolbar=Hidden&Width=1300px&Height=1600px

- NH iAchieve portal (assessment participation):
https://jwt.nh.gov/?src_route=iAchieve/AssessmentParticipation&debug_session=false&toolbar=Hidden&Width=1300px&Height=1600px

If the Committee would like the underlying numeric tables (rather than chart-based values), the district can provide exports of enrollment and class-size data directly from its student information and scheduling systems.

Notes on definitions and comparability

- School-year measures (enrollment, class size, assessment results) do not align perfectly with fiscal-year measures (appropriations and expenditures).
- Appropriation and expenditures are reported at the district level; building-level (Swasey-only) financial totals are not typically reported as a separate public line item.
- FY2025 appropriation includes a bond component; operating comparisons should exclude one-time capital/bond items when evaluating year-over-year operating trends.

Operational context: expanding requirements and responsibilities

Budget trends should also be interpreted in the context of expanding expectations on schools. Over the last decade, districts have had to implement new and evolving requirements and guidance across multiple domains. Even when well-intended, these requirements add time, training, documentation, staffing complexity, and contracted-service needs.

- Student services and compliance: special education services, evaluations, IEP documentation, and related service delivery requirements.
- Student well-being: increasing needs for social-emotional and behavioral supports, crisis response, and coordination with external agencies.
- Safety and security: mandated drills, updated plans/procedures, facility safety improvements, and coordination with first responders.
- Assessment and reporting: testing windows, accommodations, data submissions, and public reporting requirements.
- Operational complexity: transportation staffing, substitute coverage, nursing/health services, and increased contracted-service costs.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Renee Beauregard-Bennett
Assistant Superintendent for SAU16
Superintendent Designee for Brentwood School Board.

CC: Brentwood School Board