

POSTAL PATRON
ANDOVER CT 06232

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Andover Taxpayers,

I want to provide some background on myself and my family, so residents understand the perspective from which I am speaking.

I have lived in Andover for 25 years. I graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in accounting and later obtained my CPA certification. My wife was a public-school teacher for 24 years and also served on the Andover Board of Education. Both of our children attended Andover Elementary School and later graduated from RHAM Middle School and High School.

Over the past 25 years, I have participated in approximately 25 town budget referendums. Prior to last year, I had voted against only one school budget. I voted NO last year and intend to vote NO again this year because I believe the current rate of budget growth is unreasonable and unsustainable for taxpayers.

My focus has been on the Pre-K program because the Superintendent has repeatedly stated that the program is funded 100% through tuition and grants. If that statement is accurate, then the town-funded portion of the AES Board of Education budget should be dedicated entirely to K-6 education.

That distinction matters because the proposed budget increase cannot simply be dismissed as "normal growth." Taxpayers deserve a clear understanding of exactly what is driving these costs and whether all programs are truly paying for themselves as represented.

The financial reality is straightforward:

FY 2026-2027 AES Proposed Budget	\$ 5,013,651
FY 2023-2024 AES Expenses per Town Audit	<u>3,789,152</u>
Dollar Increase	<u>\$ 1,224,499</u>
K - 6 th Grade Enrollment May 1, 2026	189
K - 6 th Grade Enrollment June 30, 2024	<u>174</u>
Student Enrollment Increase	<u>15</u>
Per Student Increase	<u>\$ 81,633</u>

The current proposal reflects an increase that equates to approximately \$81,833 for every additional student. That is not sustainable for a small town like Andover.

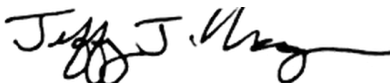
I recognize that developing a school budget is not easy. However, the process becomes significantly more difficult when the information provided to the Board of Finance and the public is incomplete and lacks transparency. No one expects perfection, but taxpayers do deserve detailed financial information and meaningful scrutiny of proposed spending.

A reduction of only \$50,000 in total AES expenses does not represent the level of review that this budget requires.

Voting NO is not a vote against education. It is a vote for accountability, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. A NO vote on Tuesday, May 26th will require a more detailed review of proposed expenses and help ensure that every effort is made to minimize the tax burden placed on the residents of Andover.

I respectfully encourage residents to vote NO on May 26th.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J Maguire