

Student population is not down. There were 8,224 school age children living in Stratford in as of October 1, 2015 as report by the State Department of Education on September 22, 2016. The State will release the report for October 1, 2016 in late spring of 2017. Our unofficial student count indicates that we have 60 more students today than October 1, 2016. Thirty-three of those students are special education students. The additional special education students have resulted in an additional \$1 million dollars of unanticipated and non-budgeted expenses.

Administration salaries have gone from \$4,716,591 in actual expenditures in 2013-2014 to an estimated expenditure amount of \$5,002,228 in 2016-2017. That is a 6.056% increase in four years, not the falsely purported 37% increase.

Teacher’s salaries have gone from \$35,077,361 in actual expenditures in 2013-2014 to an estimated expenditure amount of \$37,662,742 in 2016-2017. That is a 7.371% increase in four years.

Instructional Supplies have gone from \$704,570 in actual expenditures in 2013-2014 to an estimated expenditure amount of \$768,851 in 2016-2017. That is a 9.123% increase in four years.

Accounts for Custodians, Drivers, Security Guard’s, and School Resource Police Officers have gone from \$2,781,651 in actual expenditures in 2013-2014 to an estimated expenditure amount of \$3,324,765 in 2016-2017. That is a 19.525% increase in four years.

The BOE does not budget any funds for any “unknown supplemental purchases “and does not have or maintain any surplus funds. It is illegal for any BOE to have a surplus or a deficit. An audit of the BOE occurs annually as part of the Town of Stratford audit. The State Department of Education also exercises oversight over the budgets of all school districts through the provisions of Conn. Gen. Statues 10-227. Boards of Education must report “receipts, expenditures and statistics” as required by the Commissioner of Education. The title of that report is the ED001. The BOE files the ED001 every September. There is a monetary penalty for failing to file. The Office of Policy and Management at the state audits the ED001. Thus, the Stratford Schools System has two audits each year.

State law requires all towns fund a minimum budget requirement (MBR). Any school district that fails to expend appropriated funds for educational purposes in accordance with the MBR is subject to penalties from the state. The Stratford Public Schools expenditures for the last three years are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Appropriated Funds	Expenditures	Balance Retained by Town	Percent Utilized
2013-2014	\$95,517,529.00	\$95,493,502.84	\$24,026.16	99.97%
2014-2015	\$97,952,758.00	\$97,922,830.87	\$29,927.13	99.97%
2015-2016	\$99,995,002.00	\$99,986,877.01	\$8,124.99	99.99%

The BOE has expended or encumbered 91.82% of its appropriated funds for this fiscal year as of March 17th. The BOE will use the remaining 8.18% over the remaining three and half months left in the fiscal year to fund other monthly expenses such as benefits and insurance.

The Town carries all appropriations made to the BOE as a town account. The Town transfers appropriated funds to the BOE upon written request. Those requests for funds and expenditure of requested funds are part of the Town and State audits. The BOE may not carry funds over from one year to the next. Funds that the BOE does not spend revert to the Town at the conclusion of each fiscal year.