

PROPOSED REVISIONS: REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT 2025

IMPACTS FOR FY26 FRRSD BUDGET

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



FRRSD BACKGROUND



- PRIOR TO 1992: Each town operates its own town school, administered as part of distinct superintendency unions.
- 1992: Two towns regionalize into new district with a common budget and superintendent.



Farmington River Regional School

FRRSD BACKGROUND

- New school 1998
- 30 years of collaboration

\$6 million school 'beats the odds'

Massachusetts ranks 46th among the states for money spent building new schools and renovating existing facilities.

By BETH CONOVAN

OTIS - The more than 100 people attending the grand opening ceremony yesterday at the \$2.7-million Farmington River Regional Elementary School were told to expect their feelings to be overwhelmed by the state-of-the-art facilities.

"Here in Otis, you've been the odds," said Christopher J. Hoagins, 33, the father of a child with Down Syndrome, as they gathered on the driveway and front lawn of the new school off Route 8.

Hoagins said Massachusetts ranks 46th out of 50 states for money spent building new schools and renovating existing facilities.

He urged the adult members of the audience to remember that when they look people in Braintree Hill looking down the new walkway.

State Sen. Andrew F. Napolitano, D-Farmington, presented the school community with a Senate resolution yesterday. The new school replaced the Otis Consolidated School and the abandoned Farmington Elementary School. It opened its doors to 170 students in preschool to grade 6 two weeks ago, and will add 12 children from Braintree Hill in the district this year through School Choice.

Norman J. and Dolores A. Minery came all the way from their home in Van, N.C., to attend the ceremony. Norman Minery carries a large framed photograph of his daughter, Sabrina, when he comes out from the crowd to address his friends and former neighbors. The 19-year-old girl, though paralyzed from the waist down on her T-shirt and a single hand holding her book, has not

Please see School, Page A11

School: Opening beats the odds in Otis

Continued from Page A11

In place died two years ago after a battle with cancer.

A state memorial to Sabrina is being erected on the grounds of the school. Yesterday, Barbara Minery said that her daughter was "born happy."

Toward the end of her life, Sabrina was a wheelchair and had difficulty getting around the non-union Otis Consolidated School, where she was a student in the 5th grade. With wide handicapped access ramps and railings along the main entrance, built into the new school, Sabina can now get to her classes in the entire facility.

The two-story school has a pitched roof that also projects a skylight above the entrance. It also has separate art and music rooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria and an 8,800-square-foot library media center.

Farmington River Regional District Superintendent and School Principal Gail E. Stary said the 35,000-square-foot facility boasts 50 new IBM personal computers that are part of a local area network used for "remote access" through provider Logical Net of Albany, N.Y. The school includes separate art and music rooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria and an 8,800-square-foot library media center.

Dedication Ceremony
FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 Saturday, September 12, 1998
 10:00 a.m.

RDA REVISIONS:RATIONALE



Request of the Town of Sandisfield to consider sustainability issues related to cost apportionment.



Subsequent vote and request of Sandisfield to amend the agreement to identify terms and conditions of withdrawal.

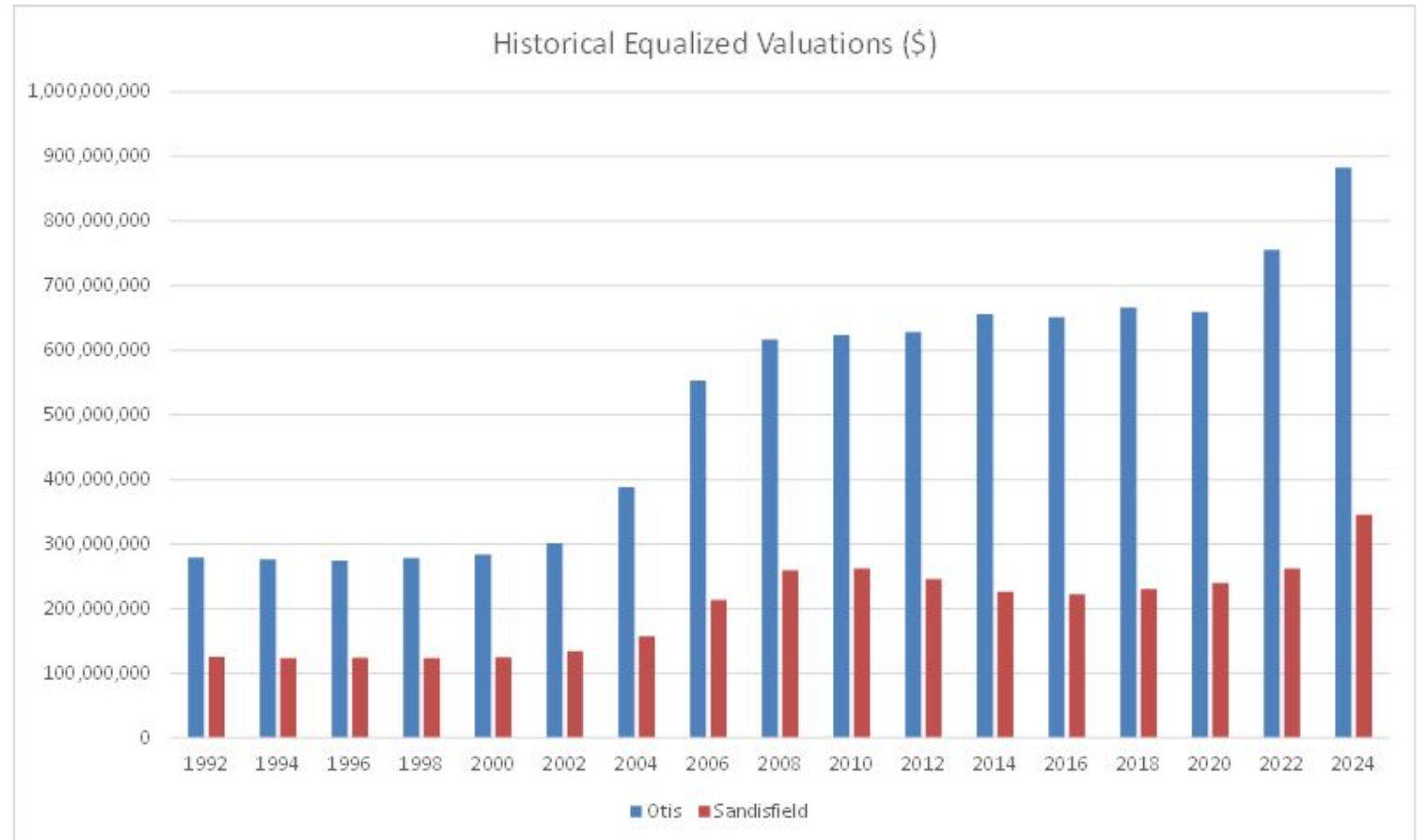


Program and statutory changes indicated updates to some of the RDA's sections.

FRRSD ASSESSMENTS

YEAR	Total Assessment	OTIS share	SANDISFIELD share	Percentage split
1998-1999	\$1,845,233	\$1,224,128	\$621,105	66/34
2001-2002	\$1,956,353	\$1,290,108	\$666,245	66/34
2004-2005	\$2,187,417	\$1,429,001	\$758,416	65/35
2010-2011	\$3,252,308	\$2,073,871	\$1,178,437	64/36
2015-2016	\$3,711,685	\$2,337,787	\$1,373,898	63/37
2023-2024	\$3,849,071	\$2,301,992	\$1,547,079	60/40

TOWN DATA BY YEAR:EQV





DLS

DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES
MA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Data Analytics and Resources Bureau

DOR Income per Capita
Data current as of 01/23/2025

Municipality(ies): Fiscal Year(s):

1

DOR Code	Municipality	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
225	Otis	23,230	23,477	23,933	27,266	28,600	35,607	21,065	24,037	24,341	26,603	28,847	28,670	29,326	29,168	33,141	35,153	35,226	41,157	50,272
260	Sandisfield	14,055	15,070	15,901	17,215	18,173	18,051	14,776	16,435	16,267	16,211	20,012	20,953	20,129	19,531	25,675	22,113	19,338	23,596	29,501

TOWN DATA BY YEAR:

INCOME PER CAPITA

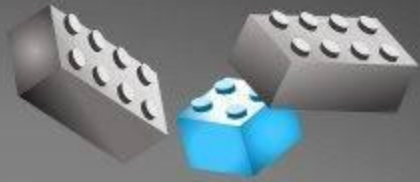
FY 24 Basis	OTIS	SANDISFIELD
FRRSD Cost as % of tax levy	40.99%	47.03%
FRRSD Portion of ASFTB	\$1225	\$1783
FRRSD Cost as % of IPC	2.98%	7.56%

FY 25 Basis	OTIS	SANDISFIELD
FRRSD Cost as % of tax levy	38.18%	46.43%
FRRSD Portion of ASFTB	\$1278	\$1685
FRRSD Cost as % of IPC	2.54%	5.71%

TOWN DATA: SCHOOL COSTS AS % OF TAX
 LEVY,ASFT,IPC
 (CURRENT RDA)

COMBINED EFFORT YIELD (CEY)

In the Massachusetts Chapter 70 school funding formula, "Combined Effort Yield" refers to the calculated sum of a municipality's equalized property valuation (multiplied by a uniform property percentage) and its municipal income (multiplied by a uniform income percentage). CEY is a measure of a town's overall ability to fund education based on its wealth level.



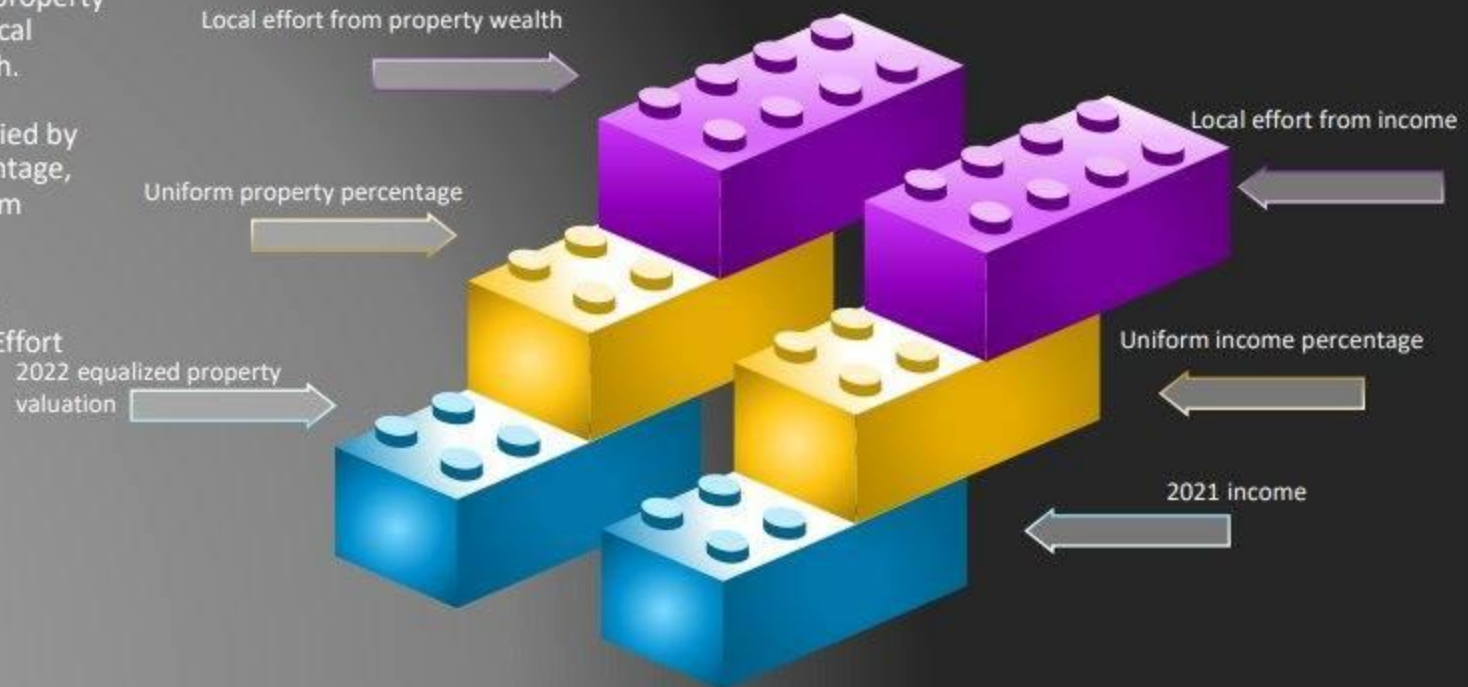
Combined Effort Yield

How much can the town afford to contribute?

The local property valuation is multiplied by the uniform property percentage, yielding the local effort from property wealth.

The local income is multiplied by the uniform income percentage, yielding the local effort from income.

Those two products added together is the Combined Effort Yield.



masc

	Otis			Sandisfield			A % of CEY Difference
	CEY	Total Assessment (A)	A % of CEY	CEY	Total Assessment (A)	A % of CEY	
FY19	\$3,055,021	\$2,421,150	79.25%	\$1,078,573	\$1,443,802	133.86%	54.61%
FY20	\$2,991,542	\$2,389,710	79.88%	\$926,306	\$1,553,966	167.76%	87.88%
FY21	\$3,151,253	\$2,352,330	74.65%	\$1,164,387	\$1,652,728	141.94%	67.29%
FY22	\$2,960,227	\$1,988,757	67.18%	\$1,077,416	\$1,453,014	134.86%	67.68%
FY23	\$3,265,803	\$2,141,357	65.57%	\$1,160,614	\$1,426,042	122.87%	57.30%
FY24	\$3,698,113	\$2,302,460	62.26%	\$1,281,171	\$1,547,355	120.78%	58.52%
FY25	\$4,117,067	\$2,385,519	57.94%	\$1,436,564	\$1,580,296	110.01%	52.06%

FY23 MA average A% of CEY Difference across all 33 of its 2 town regional districts is 21.89%, with a median of 15.85%

TOWN DATA: ASSESSMENTS AS % OF CEY

SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET

CAPITAL

OPERATING

TRANSPORTATION

ADJUSTED
OPERATING

PROPOSED
APPORTIONMENT REVISION:
TRANSPORTATION
FY26 Preliminary

CURRENT RDA:

Transportation assessed to towns based on three-year average enrollment. FY 26: Otis 58.26%, Sandisfield 41.74%

PROPOSED REVISED RDA:

**Transportation assessed to towns based on their required minimum local contribution fraction.
FY 26: Otis 61.70%, Sandisfield 38.30%**

CURRENT RDA:

Capital costs are assessed using an average of EQV percentage and the three-year average enrollment percentage. FY 26 basis: Otis 65%, Sandisfield 35 %

PROPOSED REVISED RDA:

Capital Costs are assessed using the EQV percentage. FY 26 basis: Otis 71.89%, Sandisfield 28.11 % (*DLS 2024)

PROPOSED
APPORTIONMENT REVISION:
OPERATING COSTS
FY26 Preliminary

CURRENT RDA:

Adjusted operating costs assessed to towns based on three-year average enrollment. FY 26 basis: Otis 58.26%, Sandisfield 41.74%

PROPOSED REVISED RDA:

- 1. Adjusted operating costs are assessed by first applying the required minimum local contribution fraction. (FY 26 basis: Otis 61.5%, Sandisfield 38.5%)**
- 2. After preliminary operating assessments are determined (above), these amounts are calculated as a percent of Combined Effort Yield.**
- 3. If the preliminary operating assessment amounts vary by more than 20 percentage points, incremental adjustment will be made up or down until the difference in percent does not exceed 20%.**

Assessment, Preliminary FY26: Otis 66%, Sandisfield 34%

Benchmark Analysis Summary

	D	E	P	V	X
1					
2		Two Town Regional District (FY23 Data)		AO % CEY Difference	
3					
4		Acton-Boxborough		20.66%	
6		Hoosac Valley		9.07%	
12		Ashburnham-Westminster		4.36%	
14		Athol-Royalston		11.50%	
16		Ayer Shirley		4.65%	
21		Berlin-Boylston		15.85%	
23		Blackstone-Millville		1.13%	
25		Bridgewater-Raynham		6.47%	
27		Chesterfield-Goshen		19.42%	
36		Concord-Carlisle		8.30%	
38		Dennis-Yarmouth		48.39%	
40		Dighton-Rehoboth		6.79%	
42		Dover-Sherborn		12.94%	
44		Dudley-Charlton		1.61%	
50		Farmington River		55.87%	
52		Freetown-Lakeville		7.49%	
64		Groton-Dunstable		1.40%	
66		Gill-Montague		28.18%	
68		Hamilton-Wenham		17.61%	
70		Hampden-Wilbraham		13.20%	
77		Hawlemont		27.21%	
82		Lincoln-Sudbury		34.13%	
84		Manchester Essex		58.14%	
95		Mendon-Upton		2.33%	
97		Monomoy		54.90%	
99		Mount Greylock		42.43%	
109		Narragansett		7.76%	
114		New Salem-Wendell		84.45%	
116		Northboro-Southboro		19.20%	
143		Somerset Berkley		3.09%	
153		Spencer-E Brookfield		5.62%	
171		Quaboag		17.72%	
173		Whitman-Hanson		2.18%	
408					
409		MEAN		19.82%	
410		MEDIAN		12.94%	
411					

Considers All 33
MA 2-Town Regional
Districts,

FY23 data provided by
DESE

KEY SUMMARY
DATA

All differences GREATER than those for FRRSD indicated in red

Total Expenditures: \$5,416,273

Increase over FY25: 8.8%

Offsets applied FY26

*Grants:	\$103,123 - salaries & cont serv
*Sch. Choice Rev.	\$225,000 - salaries
*Rural Aid:	\$50,000 - maint
*Circuit Breaker	\$28,025 - SN Tuition

Increase over FY25 after offsets: **-.43%**

FY26 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Additional offsets to reduce assessments:

- *Excess and Deficiency: \$200,000
- *Regional Transportation Aid: \$204,765
- *Reg. Transportation Reserve: \$202,000

FY26 Preliminary: Assessments to Towns

	CURRENT RDA/ Change from FY25	Proposed RDA/ Change from FY25
Otis	\$2,259,296 -5.29%	\$2,452,199 +2.80%
Sandisfield	\$1,454,901 -7.93%	\$1,261,997 -20.1%

FY26 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

FY25 CEY's	Otis	Sandisfield
EQV	\$755,586,300	\$262,006,000
DESE Weighting	0.3902%	0.3902%
CEY Contribution	\$2,948,264	\$1,022,336
DOR Income	\$81,743,000	\$28,970,000
DESE Weighting	1.4299%	1.4299%
CEY Contribution	\$1,168,803	\$414,228
CEY	\$4,117,067	\$1,436,564
CEY Difference (O-S)	\$2,680,504	

FY26 CEY's	Otis	Sandisfield
EQV	\$882,749,000	\$345,228,600
DESE Weighting	0.3243%	0.3243%
CEY Contribution	\$2,862,518	\$1,119,484
DOR Income	\$75,208,000	\$28,351,000
DESE Weighting	1.5699%	1.5699%
CEY Contribution	\$1,180,669	\$445,074
CEY	\$4,043,186	\$1,564,558
Delta from FY25 (\$)	-\$73,881	\$127,994
Delta from FY25 (%)	-1.79%	8.91%
CEY Difference (O-S)	\$2,478,629	
Delta from FY25 (\$)	-\$201,875	
Delta from FY25 (%)	-7.53%	

CEY is codified in MA General Law (MGL)

CEY is computed, updated and published each year by DESE

CEY has been used by DESE for decades to apportion state aid amongst MA towns & school districts

CEY is determined from DOR Income (from MA resident state tax returns) & EQV, and each is a "responsible parameter"

The weightings are computed by DESE each year to achieve equal contributions from EQV & DOR Income for MA in aggregate

Conclusion: CEY is inarguably a "responsible parameter"

	Current RDA	Proposed RDA
%Apportionment Change, Otis	-5.92%	+2.80%
%Apportionment Change, Sandisfield	-7.93%	-20.14%
ASFTB Change, Otis	-\$68	*+\$36
ASFTB Change, Sandisfield	-\$134	*-\$339
FRRSD Apportionment Share, Otis	60.8%	66.02%
FRRSD Apportionment Share, Sandisfield	39.2%	33.98%
Assessment as %of CEY, Otis	51.3%	60.6%
Assessment as %of CEY, Sandisfield	92.9%	80.6%

PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT REVISIONS: IMPACTS (FY26 Preliminary Budget)

OTHER PROPOSED RDA CHANGES

Section I	Section II	Section IX	Section XIII
Section I: Clarification of PreK Program	Section II: Composition of School Committee	Section IX: Withdrawal and Termination	Section XIII: Periodic Review

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES



Proposed RDA approved by towns and DESE Commissioner.



Proposed RDA rejected by one or both towns, current RDA remains in effect.



Proposed RDA rejected by one or both towns, current RDA remains in effect. SC returns to the drawing board.



Sandisfield re-issues request for terms of withdrawal.

QUESTIONS?



FY25 DATA	FRRSD	LPS	SBRSD	BHRSD
Total Assessment to Member Towns	\$3,965,815	\$11,179,867	\$15,609,561	\$28,561,241
Total Member Town Pupils	224	619	625	880
Assessment Per Member Town Pupil	\$17,705	\$18,061	\$24,975	\$32,456
\$ Increase over FRRSD		\$357	\$7,271	\$14,751
% Increase over FRRSD		2%	41%	83%

FRRSD - Farmington River Regional School District
LPS - Lee Public School District
SBRSD - Southern Berkshire Regional School District
BHRSD - Berkshire Hills Regional School District