

East Haddam TRI-BOARD MEETING Education ★ Finance ★ Selectmen



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Monday, December 9, 2019, 7:00 pm

Municipal Office Complex

BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Education	Board of Finance	Board of Selectmen
Marc Piscioti, Chairman	William DiCristofaro, Chairman	Robert Smith, First Selectman
Karin Blaschik, Secretary	Bruce Dutch, Secretary	Theresa Govert
Erik Anderson	Joseph Corbett	Carleen Quinn
Tracy Delventhal	Todd Gelston	
Nicole Hendry	Tracey Gionta	
Bryan Perry	Harvey Thomas	
Patricia Stricker		
Michael Werner		
Laurel White		
Brian Reas, Superintendent of Schools		
Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Director		

Board of Finance Overview

- Introductions
- Review of Meeting Purpose and Process
- Key Points, the Board of Finance:
 - Communications Subcommittee has published several articles in the *East Haddam News* that provide insight into financial terminology, processes and general financial information. Beginning with fiscal year 2020, we will be publishing in the *East Haddam News* quarterly budget reports for our citizens. The first report will be in this Thursday's issue.
 - Financial Policies Subcommittee continues their work of preparing formal financial policies. Formal Financial Policies are key in our goal of obtaining the highest credit rating for a municipality—AAA credit rating with Standard and Poor's (we have the second highest rating now). In the past year we have completed policies for Investments, Debt Management, Budget and Capital. We are testing and implementing the Budget and Capital Policies with the 2020-2021 budget cycle.
 - Maintains its goal of presenting a budget that passes at the first referendum, and we strive to do the same for the 2020-2021 budget.
 - Strives to maintain a strong operating framework and in 2020 we will be taking our annual audit process to a higher level by implementing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and we will submit this Report to the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) for their award and feedback program.
 - We are mindful of all of our needs and as such want to stabilize the mill rate through growth of our Grand List.
 - **The Board of Finance looks forward to hearing from you, the citizens, during the budget process!**

Board of Selectmen

Current state of affairs



- We continue our AA+ Standard and Poor's bond rating—2nd highest credit rating.
- We continue to assess the scope of tree removal as a result of the insect infestation of oak trees and the loss of ash trees due to the invasive ash borer. The 2019-2020 budget allocated \$150,000 for tree remediation. The scope of tree removal continues to increase as more trees are dying.
- We continue to make progress on the road repairs; especially the gravel roads that were damaged with the September 2018 storm. Initial costs were estimated at \$3.7 million (with 75% FEMA grant assistance). The engineering estimate for Neptune Avenue is approximately \$700 thousand greater than anticipated. We are reviewing the proposed contract documents and design for this project.
- The Johnsonville Road Bridge project is underway (Federal grant @80%). The Bridge will be open for traffic this month with full completion targeted for June 2020.
- The Foxtown Bridge project continues and is open to traffic.
- The Town approved at a September Town Meeting the transfer of the East Haddam Free Library property to the Town.
- The District School Resource Officer is in place has been well received by the students and staff.

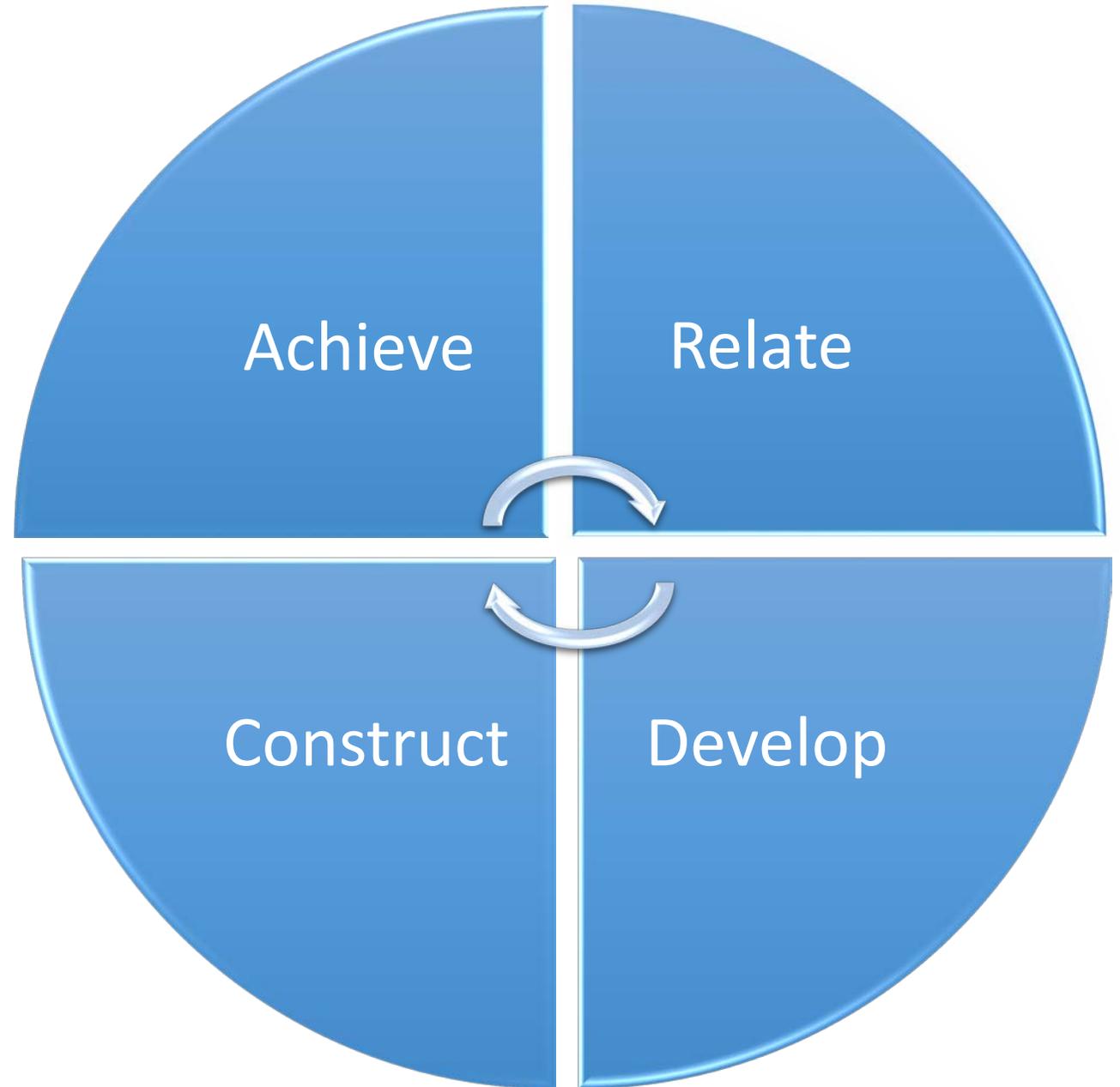
Board of Selectmen

Looking to the future

- We are poised via our Future Capital Savings Reserve to meet the costs associated with financing the four major capital projects.
- We are awaiting the Request for Proposal from selected developer for the former Town Office site in East Haddam Village.
- The Town budget process is underway, the First Selectman and Finance Director are meeting with all departments, boards and commissions reviewing their budget needs.
- The Financial Needs Roundtable Committee will be conducting a comprehensive review and analysis of capital requests for the ten-year Capital Improvement Plan Program to make recommendations to the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen.
- We continue evaluation of the long term needs of the Town for the operations of the Transfer Station.
- We will need to implement a long-term tree remediation program to address the dying trees.

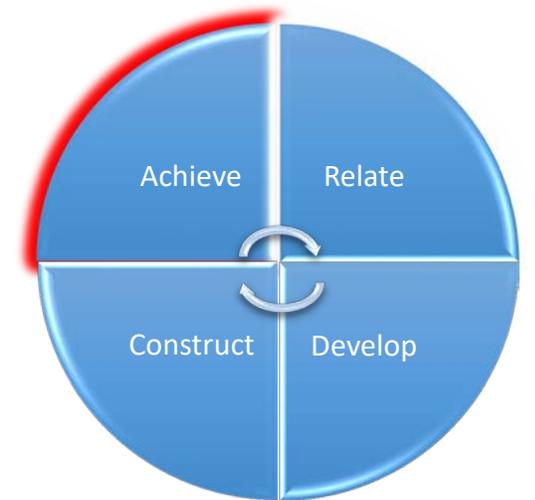


East Haddam Public
Schools Strategic Plan



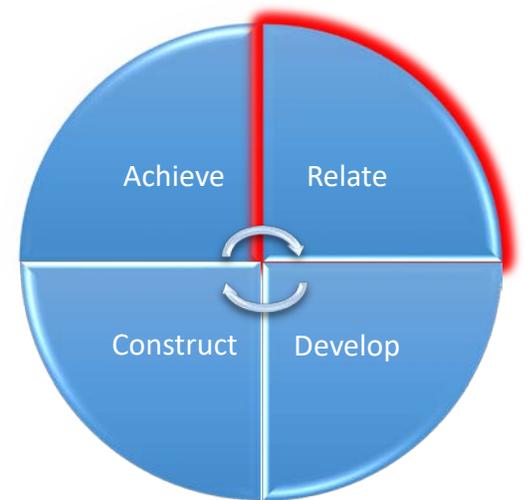
Achieve Highlights

- Longitudinal growth on Smarter Balanced Assessments for students with and without disabilities.
- Two years of Math SAT improvement
- National Participation in National History Day and Invention Convention
- Increase opportunities to learn coding



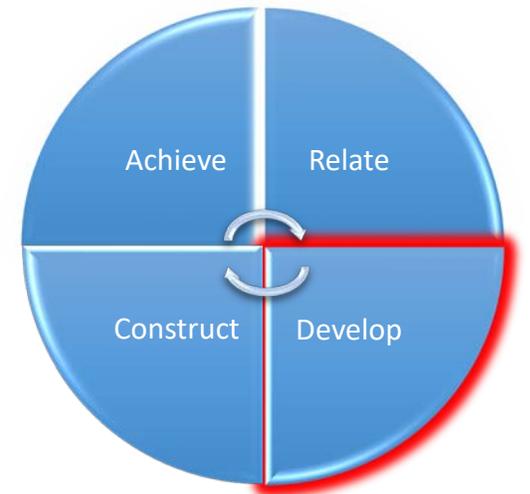
Relate Highlights

- Continuous growth of the transition program connections with local businesses
- Strategic Plan input and feedback
- Connecting with students with area student leaders



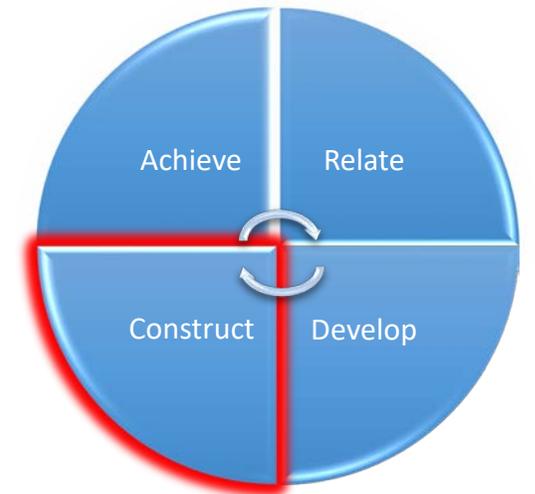
Develop Highlights

- Focused on teaching our transferable skills in the classroom
 - Effective Communicator
 - Informed Thinker
 - Problem Solver
 - Self-Directed Learner
 - Responsible Citizen
- Specialized Instruction for our students with disabilities.
- Engaging students in learning



Construct Highlights

- High School Roof and Parking
- Sensory space at EHES
- furniture for learning
- Digital lab space at the Middle School
- Mobile labs at the elementary school
- Continued expansion

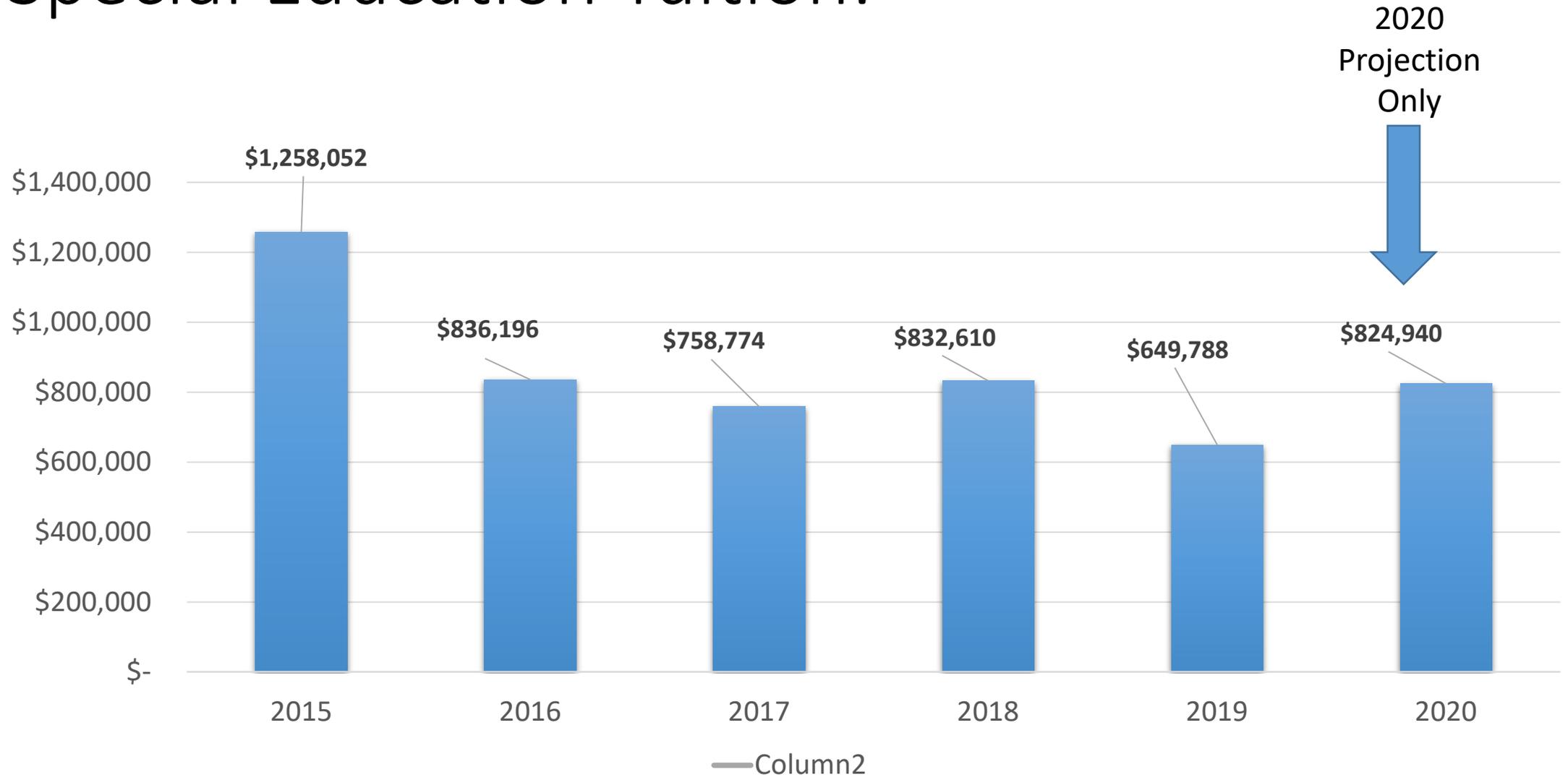


Unknowns for Fiscal Year 2021

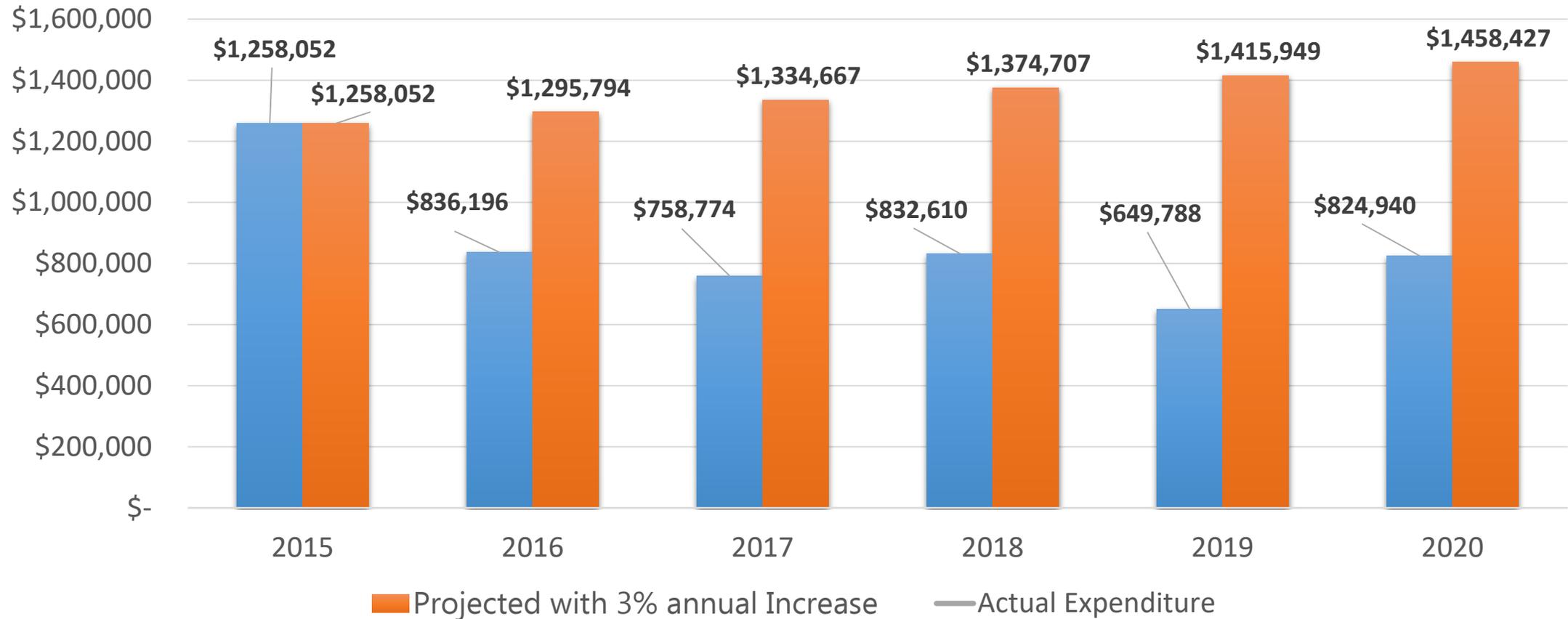


- Health Insurance Contract – Out to Bid
- Special Education Tuition

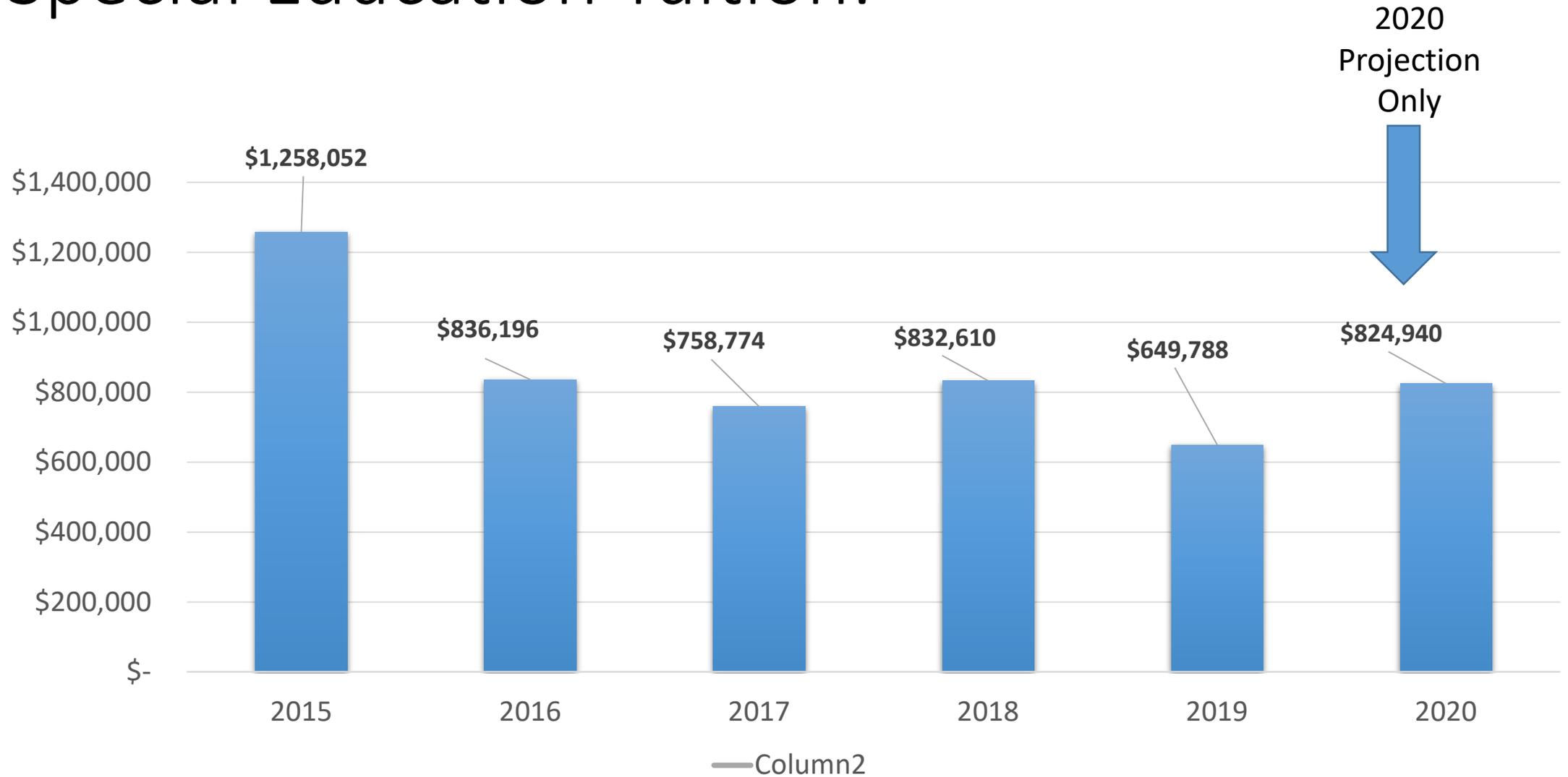
Special Education Tuition:



Special Education Tuition: Comparison Actual vs. Projection



Special Education Tuition:



Capital Priorities

1. Elementary School Envelope Project
Exterior Windows, Doors, some masonry.
2. High School Athletic Complex
(Track, Support structure, Soccer Field irrigation)
3. Air Conditioning for the schools
4. Air Conditioning for school Gymnasiums
5. Irrigation of remaining fields.



BOE Operating Budget Priorities:

Focused on the *Life Ready* East Haddam Graduate

Life Ready will be the result of opportunity!

- ARTs and STEM opportunities
- Athletic Options
- World Language and Coding
- Courses including Electives meet student goals

BOE Operating Budget Priorities:

Focused on the *Life Ready* East Haddam Graduate

Life Ready will be the result of Environment we construct!

- Continued safety enhancement
- Flexible for Learning styles
- Digital learning
- Pre-Kindergarten

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Opportunity for citizens to briefly and respectfully express their thoughts, concerns, and questions—3 minute limit
- Questions will be recorded and posted on the Town and Board of Education's websites within one week
- Questions will be answered at the next Board of Finance Meeting and will be made available on the Town and Board of Education's websites





thank you!

**We are glad you
joined us this evening.
We look forward to
hearing from you, the
citizens, during the
budget process!**