

Legislative Council Questions

March 12, 2015

Follow up Questions

1) Can you provide KPI on average instructional time per teacher for each grade, each School, entire district and State average?

Newtown school schedules are listed in Table 1 below. There are contractual duties that all teachers must meet during the school day. These duties vary by level, student need, and teacher assignment. By contract, teachers must be provided a lunch period of 30 minutes.

Table 1.

				Instructional Time
Level	Start Time (a.m.)	End Time (p.m.)	Length of Day	(-30 minutes lunch)
Elementary	9:05	3:37	6 hrs 32 min	6 hrs 2 min
Intermediate	8:05	2:49	6 hrs 44 min	6 hrs 14 min
Middle School	7:20	2:02	6 hrs 42 min	6 hrs 12 min
High School	7:20	2:02	6 hrs 42 min	6 hrs 12 min

The estimated instructional time for teachers at each level was determined by taking the length of the school day and subtracting the 30-minute duty-free lunch for teachers. Using the information from the table above, the district average for teacher instructional minutes would be 6 hours and 10 minutes.

School districts throughout Connecticut have varying school day lengths, schedules (rotating, block, etc.), and school years. Contractual agreements also vary from district to district. Therefore, a comparative state average of a teacher's instructional time by grade level would be inconclusive.

3) Describe/explain the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). Can you provide historical data to date and its impact on the BOE budget/taxpayer burden?

MBR Determination

2014-15 Base MBR

The 2014-15 base MBR equals the greater of the 2013-14 MBR or the 2013-14 budgeted appropriation(s) to the board of education, plus any increase in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) aid in 2014-15 relative to 2013-14.

Reduction to MBR

Under certain circumstances, legislation provides the town with the potential to reduce the MBR. If a district's October 2013 resident student count is less than the October 2012 count, its MBR may be reduced by \$3,000 for each student count. However, the maximum reduction under this provision cannot exceed one-half of 1 percent of the greater of the 2013-14 MBR or the 2013-14 budgeted appropriation(s) to the board of education.