

D. General Education

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General Education

The Monroe Public Schools educate students PreK-12 inclusively, providing a comprehensive educational program that meets or exceeds all state requirements. However, in this competitive global marketplace for access to post-secondary education and career paths, the students of Monroe must be prepared to thrive in a dynamic and demanding environment that is housed within a worldwide perspective. Meeting the minimum requirements set forth by the state of Connecticut will not ensure that students of this community have the necessary knowledge and skill sets for success in the 21st Century. Academic excellence is the primary goal of the district, but not the only goal. Students must also learn how to support teamwork, develop leadership skills, navigate technologies, and know how to access information. For these reasons, embedded learning activities that allow our students to stretch and grow in these areas are critical to all content areas of curriculum. Beyond this, the co-curricular activities extend the formal learning of the structured school day to contribute to the personal and academic journey of each student.

Program Descriptions

ADULT EDUCATION

The adult education program services the town's entire adult population with a variety of programs.

1. The Town of Monroe is affiliated with Valley Regional Adult Education and provides classes for individuals who are interested in the GED High School Equivalency Program, Credit Diploma Program, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, Literacy Volunteer Program, Citizenship Classes and Life Skills. Counseling and Career Searching for students is offered.
2. Courses such as CPR, computer courses, world languages, arts and craft classes, health classes, SAT Math and Verbal preparation, and various types of informative classes that service young adults to senior citizens are offered. These classes are self-supporting. The Monroe Board of Education does provide in-kind services in the form of space, heat, and electricity.

ART

Studio art class extends the concepts learned from the K-8 art experience into meaningful works of art. Skills are further developed using art tools, materials, and media at a more advanced level. In referencing important artists and art styles, students analyze and respond to both historical and cultural works of art as well as reflect upon their own work. Within the 2-D and 3-D studio classes, problems need to be solved, aesthetic judgment discussed and higher order thinking skills promoted. It is through the understanding of the art elements and principles of design, that the visual arts program fosters artistic talent and creativity which will allow students to become enriched life long learners in the arts.

BUSINESS EDUCATION

Business education provides students with an understanding of the business and economic principles underlying the free enterprise system as well as skills that can be applied to business, personal and post-secondary education. A planned sequence of business education courses prepares students for office, business, and marketing careers upon graduation. The courses benefit college-bound students by providing career exploration and the development of foundations necessary for higher education and business. The program includes business foundational skills such as accounting and entrepreneurship and basic technology skills such as keyboarding, word processing, and spreadsheet applications.

BUSINESS OFFICE

These services include the following: the development of the annual school budget proposal; management of all accounting operations; preparation, analysis and reporting on the condition of all funds through financial statements; management of student activity funds; preparation of all financial and related reports to state and federal agencies as required; management of budget, spending controls, grants, and special programs; work with an independent auditing firm; management and budget activities for the health/medical program risk management fund; fixed asset management; purchasing, authorization and payment of invoices; payroll preparation; and management of the food services accounting.

CENTRAL OFFICE

This program includes those expenditures required for the operation of the Monroe Public Schools' Central Office, with the salaries of administrators and support staff making up the majority of the program's expenditures, the activities / duties performed by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum / Instruction / Assessment in directing and managing all affairs of the school district. This program includes all personnel and materials in the Central Office.

CONTRACT BENEFITS

This program provides funding for the benefits for certified and classified staff in all components of the budget. Benefits include health insurance, unemployment benefits and workers' compensation benefits. Additionally, life insurance, disability insurance, social security, Medicare, retirement and pension benefits are included in the program for all salaried staff.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Family and Consumer Science is an elective program in grades 9-12. The program provides students with courses, which assist them in functioning in the adult world as informed consumers, family members and employees, and provides opportunities for exploring career and post-secondary education options. The program includes Foods and Nutrition, Consumer Science and Early Childhood Development. Culinary Arts: Students learn basic, classic cooking techniques in the context of a professional kitchen. Students learn aspects of food preparation and presentation as well as restaurant management, safety and sanitation, menu design and the principles of consumer service.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The guidance and counseling department provides personal, career and educational guidance and counseling to students, as well as consultative services to parents, teachers, and administrators. Counselors are student advocates and intervene, mediate, and negotiate when appropriate for the well-being of students. They help students to become aware of their skills, interests, and potential in making personal, academic, and career decisions. Counselors in the middle school jointly teach three developmental guidance classes per day. Monroe's counseling program is predicated on the understanding that each student is a unique, developing capable individual who will learn from experience and grow personally, socially and educationally throughout their school years.

Designed to promote a sense of personal responsibility and respect for individual differences, our comprehensive school counseling program is essential for helping young people to become successful adults.

In addition to disseminating essential educational information, school counseling services assist students to develop self-awareness, positive interpersonal relations and decision making skills.

THE HEALTH AND FAMILY LIFE

The Health and Family Life program emphasis is on the concept of personal wellness. Program topics include dealing with stress, fitness, nutrition, environmental and body pollutants (drugs, alcohol and tobacco), sex education, family life, basic first aid and disease prevention including HIV/AIDS education. Students learn to assess their lifestyle and learn how to redefine ways that they can improve their personal wellness.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Monroe uses a balanced literacy approach to teaching the language arts. The elementary emphasis is on literature-rich classrooms using scientifically researched approaches that include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension. The middle level includes read-aloud, guided reading, and independent reading. Reading is also included in the content area with an emphasis on non-fiction reading. Writing is integrated into all areas of the curriculum using a variety of forms to communicate ideas, opinions, and information. The study of literature with critical analysis begins in grade 7. The high school continues with an emphasis on accuracy in written and oral expression, the development of critical judgment through the study of various literary forms, and an appreciation of literature and language.

LIBRARY AND MEDIA CENTERS

Each school library / media center contains print and non-print materials selected to support and enhance curricula. Through core classes and other classes scheduled into the library media center, students receive instruction in library and media skills and assistance in the selection and use of materials and technology. Mandated classes for the 8th grade students with the media teacher require three (3) periods a day.

MATHEMATICS

The elementary school Mathematics program fosters the growth of children's knowledge and application of basic skills. The secondary school program extends development of skills and applications through a variety of instructional strategies that include hands- on learning and the use of technology. All students experience learning in several domains of mathematics, including algebra and geometry, with emphasis on problem solving and reasoning as the central focus of mathematics instruction.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Music Education is a required program in Grades K- 6 and an elective program in Grades 7-12. It focuses on developing the skills and attitudes essential to musical knowledge and performance. These skills are acquired sequentially through a planned program that includes a variety of performance experiences.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Grade K-12 Physical Education program provides opportunities for development of motor skills, positive personal and social relationships, and awareness of physiological development and appreciation of the aesthetic aspects of movement. The high school Physical Education curriculum expands upon the skills and knowledge developed at the elementary and middle school levels. Emphasis is placed on physical fitness for healthy living and lifetime sports and recreation.

PHOTOCOPYING

This program provides funding for all photocopying expenditures related to student instruction including equipment purchase and equivalent repair and maintenance agreements.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Central to the district's mission is the development of world class curricula that can best serve Monroe students in the era of globalization. The board of education budget is a multi-million dollar investment in the education of the community; professional development is a form of insurance that protects that investment. It insures that the district's educators are able to maintain the most current knowledge of research-based instruction and assessment practices for use in Monroe classrooms. Training includes the integration of technology in classrooms, and the use of technology to improve communications with parents and the Monroe community. Training also includes best practices in the areas of mathematics, science and language arts. A commitment to best practices requires training in differentiating instruction, balanced literacy, writer's workshop, inquiry-

based science and math enrichment. The rigor of mandates relating to NCLB requires teachers to maintain the most current understanding of content-related student performance standards and to prepare students for Generation 4 CMT and CAPT assessments. No Child Left Behind demands that every child receive instruction by a "highly qualified" teacher in each content area. Professional development is essential to the district's ability to continuously improve the knowledge and skill of educators entrusted with teaching Monroe's students. Professional development provides school leaders with a futurist's view and understanding of changes in the real world of work, and the skills and understandings that will be needed for today's students to be successful in tomorrow's workforce. The district has established administrative guidelines for the use of professional development funds. The guidelines are designed for equity and efficiency, and to maximize the return on Monroe's education investment.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

This Program includes school-based administrators and the related administrative services provided in each school. Principals are responsible for the overall operation of their school. General responsibilities include the oversight of the instructional program, parent and community relations, instructional leadership, staff supervision and evaluation, budget planning and scheduling of classes.

SCHOOL NURSES

School nurses are responsible for the promotion of wellness, the prevention and control of disease, and care and treatment of students who suffer from injuries and/ or physical ailments. School medical services staff assists with student admission and exclusion, based upon compliance with immunization and physical assessment regulations, or upon health inspection. They provide first aid, do vision, hearing, and postural screenings; assist with physical assessments for certain grades and for sports; interpret medical or physical conditions of students to staff; administer and/or supervise the administration of medication in school under a physician's order; maintain health records and comprehensive health histories.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

By state law, transportation must be provided to any school-age resident who attends a Monroe public or private school and who resides a certain distance from school depending on the student's age and grade.

SCIENCE EDUCATION

The K-4 elementary science program integrates standards based instruction with inquiry so the students learn scientific processes and concepts. This is based upon the belief that children learn through active involvement. The secondary school Science program integrates life science, physical science, chemistry and environmental science to develop scientifically literate students who understand and use the knowledge and processes of science. The program facilitates problem solving and fosters intellectual curiosity as a means of understanding and appreciating the impact of science and technology in the natural world. The program in Grades 5-12 consists of courses in the life, physical, and environmental sciences designed to prepare students for state, and national assessments such as the science CMT, CAPT, SAT II, and Advanced Placement examinations, as well as to meet personal, academic, and career goals for students of all abilities.

SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

The elementary social studies program fosters an understanding of the concepts of culture and citizenship as well as how people create rules to protect individual rights to meet societal needs. Students also apply geographic knowledge, skills, and concepts to understand human behavior in the physical environment. The secondary school program consists of courses in history and the social sciences designed to help students recognize their role as participants in a democratic society and a global community and to act responsibly to improve the human condition. Students learn to understand themselves as individuals, family members, consumers, producers and citizens through the social studies.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The student activities program consists of a variety of before-school and after-school activities for all students. These activities provide students with opportunities to participate in self-selected areas of interest and to participate in community service activities. Included are such activities as yearbook, newspaper, drama, student government, subject-related clubs and activities, and a wide variety of school-to-career options and service clubs tailored to the current needs and interests of the students.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

This program provides funding for the total cost of ownership of technology in our schools. Specifically funds allocated to this program support the technology curriculum in Masuk and Jockey Hollow and the computer labs in the elementary schools. This includes the costs for connectivity charges, retrofitting of the school infrastructure, purchase of replacement equipment, purchase of software and technology staff support services.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Technology Education, as an elective program in Grades 9-12 and a related arts, exploratory program in Grades 7-8, offers career exploration and foundations in technology theory. Skills and technical knowledge are acquired through the practical use of tools, machines, computers, and materials. Technology Education provides learning experiences and helps students develop a firm foundation for further education in technical fields. The program includes graphic communication, computer-aided drafting/design, electronics, and scientific principals of technology. Additionally, this program includes courses in computer programming and web site design on foundation and advanced level.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The World Language program provides students with an understanding of other world cultures while preparing them to communicate in other world languages. Students also gain insight into their own language and culture in preparation for living and working in a global society. The world language offerings at the high school level include French, German, Spanish and Latin.

Program Descriptions

EXTERNAL REGULAR EDUCATION PLACEMENTS AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The Monroe Public Schools participates in a number of magnet, VoTech and VoAg schools. The VoTech and VoAg schools are mandated by law. The Monroe Board of Education receives a Transportation grant equal to \$ 1,300 per student per year for transportation to qualifying VoTech, VoAg and Magnet Schools. We combine transportation with the Trumbull Public Schools because the transportation grant does not cover the true costs of student transportation. The magnet schools are either full day or part day programs. In a few rare cases our students attend host Magnet Schools. We pay no tuition and the parents provide full transportation.

Changes in State Law could have a negative impact on Magnet School Tuition.

2009-2010 Projected Enrollments

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>MAX</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Actual Cost to BOE</u>
<u>STATE VOTECH HIGH SCHOOLS</u>				
Bullard Havens Technical High School		0 student	0	only transportation
Henry Abbott Technical High School		7 students	0	only transportation
Platt Technical High Schools		0 students	0	only transportation
<u>STATE VOAG HIGH SCHOOL</u>				
Trumbull Agriscience		6 students	\$ 7,650	\$ 45,900
<u>MAGNET SCHOOLS</u>				
*Bridgeport Aquaculture		11 students	\$ 3,786	\$ 42,895
*RCA (Regional Center for the Arts)	6	6 students	\$ 2,250	\$ 13,500
6 TO 6		27 students	\$ 5,500	\$148,500
<u>HOST MAGNET SCHOOL</u>				
Center for Global Studies (Norwalk, CT)		1 student	0	no costs
International Environmental Magnet School (Stamford, CT)		5 students	0	no costs

*Half-day program

Program Descriptions

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

This program supports the hiring of substitute teachers for Grades PreK-12 programming in the event that a classroom / staff member must be absent from his or her duties. In the first ten days that a teacher is absent, a substitute is employed at \$75.00 a day. After ten days, on the eleventh day substituting for the same teacher, a substitute is employed at \$80.00 a day. Interns and permanent substitutes are employed by the Board of Education. Interns and permanent substitutes are assigned before a substitute is called. If no substitute is needed the intern and/or permanent substitute is assigned to classes within the building. Interns and permanent substitutes also cover Planning and Placement Team Meetings and staff emergencies. Additional permanent substitutes cost \$85.00 per day (long-term).

	Interns	Perm Subs	Cost	Interns	Perm Subs
Fawn Hollow	3		\$39,000		
Monroe El	2		\$26,000		
Stepney	2		\$26,000		
Chalk Hill	2		\$26,000		
Jockey Hollow	4		\$52,000		
Masuk	4	3	\$52,000		\$46,410