

BUDGET ADOPTION PROCEDURES

The annual North Middlesex Regional School District budget as adopted by two-thirds vote of the North Middlesex Regional School District School Committee shall require the approval of two-thirds of the local appropriating authorities of the member municipalities.

(a) If the budget is not approved by two-thirds of the members, the North Middlesex Regional School Committee shall have 30 days from the date of disapproval by more than one-third of the members to reconsider, amend, and adopt a revised budget. With the approval of the Commissioner, this 30-day period may be extended an additional 15 days. Where the local appropriating authority is a town meeting and the annual town meeting is dissolved prior to voting on the budget, the budget shall be deemed disapproved by that member as of the date of such dissolution.

(b) The revised budget adopted by the regional school committee and the assessments corresponding to such budget may be less than, equal to, or greater than the amounts in the previously adopted budget.

(c) Within seven days following the regional school committee's adoption of a revised budget, the treasurer of the regional school district shall calculate and certify the assessment of each member and shall transmit the assessments and a copy of the revised budget to the members. Each member's local appropriating authority shall have 45 days from the date of the regional school committee's vote to meet and consider the revised budget.

(d) If two-thirds of the members vote to approve a revised budget based on the statutory assessment method, or if all of the members vote to approve a revised budget based on the alternative assessment method, the budget shall be deemed approved. If a local appropriating authority does not vote on the revised budget within the 45-day period and that local appropriating authority has previously appropriated funds for its assessment in an amount greater than or equal to the member's assessment for the revised budget, that member shall be deemed to have approved the revised budget.

(e) A regional school committee may reconsider, amend, and adopt a revised budget at any time prior to the approval of a previously adopted budget.

(i) If a local appropriating authority votes to approve an adopted budget subsequent to the required date for such action but prior to the regional school committee's revision of the budget, such vote shall be deemed valid.

(j) Whenever a member's assessment is reduced to a smaller amount than previously appropriated by the local appropriating authority, that appropriation shall automatically be reduced to the lesser amount.

SOURCE: MASC LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. Ch. 71:16B