



**Proposed Member Town Assessments
2016-2017**

**3/1/2016
V2.0**

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Blue Hills Regional Community Members:

This booklet is designed to present our member communities with an understanding of the district's assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016. The booklet is also intended to provide a historical perspective of assessments, as well as an examination of the factors contributing to the assessment calculation.

The district's fiscal goal for community assessments is to continue to reduce the amount of Excess and Deficiency Account funds (E & D) that are returned to the towns and applied to the assessment each year. The long-term goal is to have is very little or no surplus E & D to apply to the assessments each year.

In 2017, we continue the step down process, as the applied excess E & D for FY 2017 has been reduced to \$312,883 a reduction of \$270,288 from FY 2016. In FY 2018, the district anticipates not returning any E & D to the member communities, as the district plans to use the majority of its E & D account to fund a feasibility study once the MA School Building Assistance (MSBA) program gives its final approval for a project in March. The district received preliminary notification in January that its proposed renovation project had been accepted into the MSBA's Core Program. The district has no plans in FY 2017 for an additional assessment request from member communities as a result of moving forward with this project.

The assessment numbers in this book are built of the governor's budget numbers and are subject to change should there be significant changes to Required Local Contributions and or the district's Chapter 70 Aid.

In 2017, the per-pupil cost for each community's required contribution drop in 7 of the 8 communities. Blue Hills Regional is scheduled to receive an increase of \$336,589 in Chapter 70 Aide, due primarily to increased enrollment. These two factors helped keep assessment growth low for most of our member communities.

Should you have any questions regarding the material contained in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Quaglia
Superintendent – Director

Steven Moore
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel

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The following four items are key factors in calculating the 2017 assessment for each town

- I. Increased enrollment at Blue Hills*
- II. Increase in the school's operating budget of 2.9% (\$543,840)*
- III. Decreased surplus E & D*
- IV. Increased percentage of member towns' enrolled students*

I. Increased Enrollment at Blue Hills

In the current school year, the district for the second year in a row experienced an enrollment increase. Twenty-six new students enrolled in the district with the largest increases in enrollment coming from Randolph (20) and Braintree (5). Randolph and Braintree's increased enrollment contributed significantly to their assessment increases for FY 2017. Of the remaining seven communities 4 experienced a decline in enrollment with no district's enrollment declining by more than 2 students.

In 2018, the district anticipates accepting another 20 to 30 new students into the school. The increase will push enrollment up over 900 students, with a target enrollment of just over 900 students. In Fiscal Year 2019, Member towns should begin to see stabilization in the school's enrollment and the impact of increasing enrollment removed as a factor in assessment growth.

Blue Hills Foundation Enrollment History

	FY 17	FY 16	FY 15	FY 14	FY 13	FY12	FY 11
Avon	49	51	45	40	32	39	33
Braintree	164	159	139	139	123	118	112
Canton	66	63	59	58	70	79	87
Dedham	80	79	77	56	50	46	39
Holbrook	149	150	133	132	133	135	144
Milton	51	52	49	49	48	48	39
Norwood	53	50	59	64	69	64	57
Randolph	277	257	272	272	306	311	320
Westwood	7	9	7	6	3	9	11
	896	870	840	816	834	849	842

II. Increase in the school's operating budget of 2.9% (\$543,840)

A. For fiscal year 2017, Blue Hills is requesting a 2.9% increase (\$543,840) in its operating budget. Key factors driving this increase are:

- 1. Instructional Staffing increases (1.0 FTE) (\$54,082)
- 2. Wage increases (2.2%) (\$227,118)
- 3. Instructional Program Expense increase (16%) (\$97,884)
- 4. Technology Improvements (27.9%) (\$48,430)

B. Actions to reduce impact of the increase:

1. Reduction in administrative staffing (-\$34,783)
2. Reduction in transportation costs (-\$79,235)
3. Aggressive budgeting for employee fringe

1. Staffing Increase – 1.0 Social Studies Teacher

The addition of a social studies teacher will reduce class sizes in the social studies classroom, but more importantly the addition also significantly impacts class sizes in mathematics, science and English, as the social studies addition will move elective classes from these other subject areas, thus allowing for more core sections and smaller class sizes in math, science and English.

Currently, social studies class sizes are the highest in the school, with many sections reaching 28 and 29 students. With increased numbers of students projected for next year in 3 of the 4 grades, class sizes in all subjects will continue to rise. The additional social studies teacher creates the greatest leverage in reducing all academic class sizes.

This addition directly addresses the District's Focused Strategic Goals of Student Achievement and Program Improvement.

2. Wage Increases

The impact of wage increases including all step and lane changes is 2.2% of the overall salary budget increase. In calculating this amount the district took advantage of the staff exchange created by the one known retirement in June. Because of the size of the contractual salary increases in FY 2017 and the addition of 5 staff members last year the district was extremely hesitant to add new staff.

3. Instructional Program Expenses

Imbedded within the district's strategic goals is a shift toward 21st Century learning expectations for students and teachers. 21st Century expectations can be found in all four of the District's Focused Strategic Goals.

Few if any 21st Century objectives can be accomplished through the use of a decade's old or single modern textbook. Add to the lofty goal of 21st century expectations, the changes initiated by the Common Core and a real need is created to change the materials and methods used for instruction. To that end, the Blue Hills 2017 budget focuses on updating printed curriculum materials and a shift to increase use of electronic and online resources for both teaching and learning in academic and vocational classrooms. These changes not only require funding for materials and license fees the changes also require increased professional development for

teachers, for tools without training will not provide the desired achievement levels for our students.

4. Technology Improvements

The Blue Hills one-to-one Chromebook initiative is key to the continued growth of our students both academically and vocationally. The first generation of Chromebooks used by the students are nearing the end of their useful life. Additionally, increased enrollment creates the need for additional Chromebooks. Funds have been set aside in the FY 17 Budget to purchase sufficient Chromebooks to meet student needs in 2017.

Beyond the need for Chromebooks is the need to continually upgrade the district's infrastructure. In response, the district has added funding for improvements to wireless access points, network switches, and servers.

Actions to reduce impact of needed additions

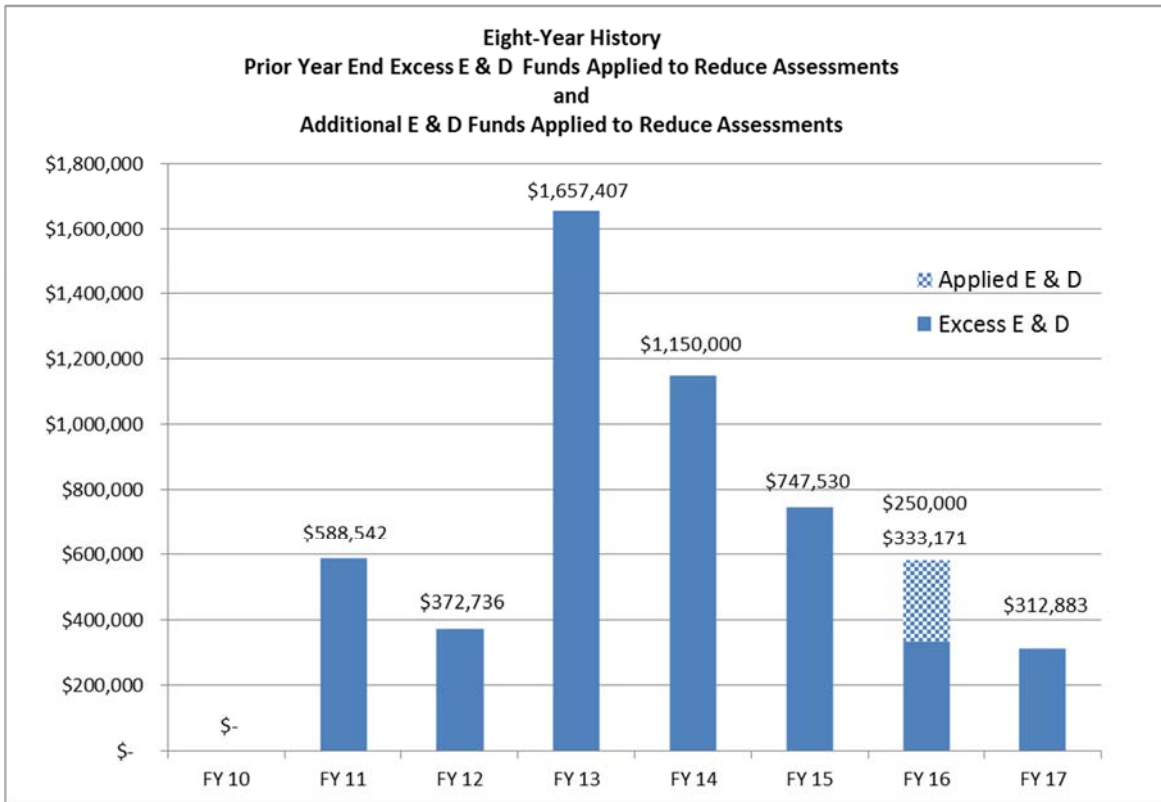
The district has created plans to reorganize the business operations of the district. The reorganization calls for the elimination of a 0.5 FTE position in the finance office.

Last May, the district entered into a new transportation contract. The new contract cost significantly less than the district budgeted for in Fiscal Year 2016. Therefore, a significant reduction can be made to the budget in Fiscal Year 2017.

Through more aggressive budgeting, the district was able to reduce several benefit lines in the budget. This action, along with budgeting a modest increase for health insurance, helped keep these budget lines from interfering with the need for increased funding for academic and vocational programs.

III. Decreased surplus E & D

- a. Continual reliance on excess E & D to supplement the budget leads to structural deficits when that same level of excess E & D is not available the following year. As you can see by the chart below, since FY 13, the district has been working toward reducing its reliance on excess E & D as a budget management tool.



- b. The district is on track toward its goal of eliminating the unnecessary requesting and subsequent returning of member community funds by FY 2018
- c. The district plans on using the bulk of its E & D funds in 2017 to fund an MSBA project feasibility study for a recently approved MA School Building Authority project

IV. Increased percentage of member towns' enrolled students

- a. A less obvious factor in determining each member town's assessment is the town's required contribution calculation. For 2017, the required contribution level dropped for all but one member community. The member town's required contribution comprises about 75% of each town's total assessment. (See chart on page 13).

Required contribution % of Municipality's Total Foundation

	<u>FY17 Projected</u>	<u>FY16 Actual</u>	<u>FY 15 Actual</u>
Avon	12.09%	13.04%	11.89%
Braintree	4.51%	4.43%	4.10%
Canton	3.25%	3.11%	3.25%
Dedham	4.55%	4.45%	4.36%
Holbrook	15.86%	15.97%	14.30%
Milton	2.16%	2.25%	2.21%
Norwood	2.31%	2.18%	2.73%
Randolph	11.01%	10.20%	10.77%
Westwood	0.38%	0.49%	0.33%

- b. One factor driving the required contribution increase is the number of students attending Blue Hills as a percent of the town's total enrolled population. An increase in the percent of students attending Blue Hills versus the total of all attending students drives more of a town's Chapter 70 funding to the required regional contribution. This factor along with increasing enrollment in Blue Hills from all but four towns is one driving force behind increased assessments. The arrows in the chart below show the trends in enrollment percentages.

	2017 % of total enrolled students (all schools) enrolled at Blue Hills	2016 % of total enrolled students (all schools) enrolled at Blue Hills	2015 % of total enrolled students (all schools) enrolled at Blue Hills
Avon	8.99%	9.60%	7.73%
Braintree	2.92%	2.86%	2.54%
Canton	2.05%	1.95%	1.98%
Dedham	3.02%	2.95%	2.78%
Holbrook	12.72%	12.84%	9.84%
Milton	1.30%	1.35%	1.31%
Norwood	1.53%	1.43%	1.77%
Randolph	8.49%	7.80%	7.58%
Westwood	0.23%	0.29%	0.19%

A 5 year applicant and acceptance history can be found on the chart on page 15.

FY16-17 Budget Summary

2/3/2016

Blue Hills Regional Technical High School Budget (Operating and Maintenance)		18,383,805	
Capital Improvement		685,568	
Total Blue Hills RTHS Budget 2.9% increase		19,069,373	
State funding			
Projected Chapter 70 Aid @ Level Funding	4,573,716		
Projected Transportation Aid	561,328		
state funding subtotal		5,135,044	
Local funding			
2016 Required Reduction - Surplus E & D	312,883		
Additional E & D	0		
local funding subtotal		312,883	
Regional funding			
Required Contribution	9,927,931		
Non-Reimbursable Costs	3,007,947		
Capital Costs	685,568		
Blue Hills HS Assessments to Member Towns		13,621,446	
Total Blue Hills HS Funding Sources		19,069,373	
Blue Hills Regional - School to Careers Budget			
		174,665	
Local sources (grants, business contributions, reserve)		12,241	
Regional funding (assessments to 8 towns)		162,424	
Total Blue Hills RTHS Budget		19,069,373	
Total Blue Hills STC Funding Sources		174,665	
Total Blue Hills Regional Vocational School District Budget		19,244,038	
Analysis of operating budget line items			
	FY 16	FY 17	Change
Salaries (all employees)	10,382,632	10,663,832	281,200
Fuel Oil, Natural Gas, Electricity, Water & Telph.	832,000	827,000	-5,000
Capital Improvements	650,000	685,568	35,568
Day Transportation	1,033,000	953,765	-79,235
Health, Life Insurance,	2,990,199	3,171,020	180,821
Non-Employee Insurance, Other	142,500	142,375	-125
Non-Instructional Retirement Contribution, Medicare	612,170	632,580	20,410
Workers Comp, School Accident, Unemployment	187,500	172,500	-15,000
All Other Lines	1,697,532	1,820,733	123,201
Debt Service Principal and Interest	-	-	-
TOTAL	18,527,533	19,069,373	541,840
Total BH Operating Budget Increase / Decrease	17,875,533	18,383,805	508,272
Total Capital Budget Increase / Decrease	650,000	685,568	35,568
Total BH Operating Budget Increase/Decrease	18,525,533	19,069,373	543,840
School to Careers	150,130	150,130	0
Total All Programs - Increase / Decrease	18,675,663	19,219,503	543,840

FY16-17 School and District Assessments Blue Hills #806

3/1/16

Towns	2015 Foundation Enrollment	% of students by town	2016 Foundation Enrollment	% of students by town	change in # of students, 14 to 15	% increase/decrease 14 to 15	(EST) FY17 Required Contribution Gov. Budget	Non-Reimb Transp. & Other Costs	Debt Service & Capital Costs	School to Careers FY15 assessment	Total Requested FY17 assessment	Total Requested FY16 assessment	Assessment Inc./(Decr.)
Avon	51	5.9%	49	5.5%	-2	-3.9%	608,489	\$164,497	37,492	14,035	824,513	883,308	(58,795)
Braintree	159	18.3%	164	18.3%	5	3.1%	1,885,752	\$550,562	125,483	0	2,561,797	2,461,467	100,330
Canton	63	7.2%	66	7.4%	3	4.8%	896,718	\$221,568	50,499	26,571	1,195,356	1,117,954	77,402
Dedham	79	9.1%	80	8.9%	1	1.3%	1,113,432	\$268,567	61,211	26,571	1,469,781	1,456,857	12,924
Holbrook	150	17.2%	149	16.6%	-1	-0.7%	1,348,703	\$500,205	114,006	14,035	1,976,950	1,957,160	19,790
Milton	52	6.0%	51	5.7%	-1	-1.9%	685,715	\$171,211	39,022	14,035	909,984	912,182	(2,198)
Norwood	50	5.7%	53	5.9%	3	6.0%	729,500	\$177,925	40,553	26,571	974,549	917,496	57,053
Randolph	257	29.5%	277	30.9%	20	7.8%	2,563,746	\$929,912	211,945	26,571	3,732,174	3,417,307	314,867
Westwood	9	1.0%	7	0.8%	-2	-22.2%	95,876	\$23,500	5,356	0	124,732	158,075	(33,343)
Totals	870	100.0%	896	100.0%	26	3.0%	\$9,927,931	\$3,007,947	685,568	\$148,389	13,769,835	\$13,281,806	\$488,029

Assessment less STC \$13,621,446
\$13,621,446

	2016	2017		Required Contribution Calculations as a % of municipality's total FY 17 Foundation			
				FY 17 Projected	FY16 Actual	FY 15 Actual	
Budget	18,525,533	19,069,373	2.9%				13,621,446 Assessments
Required Cont.	9,857,721	9,927,931	0.7%	Avon	12.09%	13.04%	4,573,716 Chpt. 70
Ch.70	4,237,127	4,573,716	7.9%	Braintree	4.51%	4.43%	561,328 Transportation
Transportation	561,328	561,328	64%	Canton	3.25%	3.11%	312,883 Excess E & D
Surplus E&D	333,171	312,883		Dedham	4.55%	4.45%	0 Addl. E & D
Additional E & D	250,000	0		Holbrook	15.86%	15.97%	19,069,373 BH Operating Budget
Capital	650,000	685,568		Milton	2.16%	2.25%	\$148,389 S 2 C Assessment
Non Reimb and other	2,636,186	3,007,947		Norwood	2.31%	2.18%	12,241 S 2 C grants
Total BH Assessment	3,286,186	3,693,515		Randolph	11.01%	10.20%	19,230,003 Total Budget
Total Assessment	12,224,205	13,621,446		Westwood	0.38%	0.49%	\$13,769,835 Total Assessment

Assessment History

	Proposed FY 17	FY 16	FY 15	FY 14	FY 13	FY12	FY 11	FY 10
Avon	824,513	883,308	800,023	708,548	570,722	669,746	583,786	714,663
Braintree	2,561,797	2,461,467	2,143,378	2,130,748	1,801,174	1,759,902	1,629,239	1,557,980
Canton	1,195,356	1,117,954	1,098,642	1,059,042	1,173,074	1,337,865	1,460,438	1,321,631
Dedham	1,469,781	1,456,857	1,410,353	973,390	910,376	842,648	700,877	676,824
Holbrook	1,976,950	1,957,160	1,695,568	1,727,408	1,691,174	1,748,022	1,862,511	1,813,861
Milton	909,984	912,182	855,492	842,454	790,275	799,513	634,905	698,307
Norwood	974,549	917,496	1,118,435	1,134,802	1,210,598	1,139,808	979,698	884,091
Randolph	3,732,174	3,417,307	3,506,777	3,546,167	3,897,390	4,126,068	4,223,398	3,903,264
Westwood	138,767	158,075	105,640	101,646	49,358	151,228	183,964	185,683
	13,783,870	13,281,806	12,734,308	12,224,205	12,094,141	12,574,800	12,258,816	11,756,304

Dollar Change in Year-to-Year Assessments

	Proposed FY 17	FY 16	FY 15	FY 14	FY13	FY 12	FY 11	7 year net change
Avon	(58,795)	83,285	91,475	137,826	(99,024)	85,960	(130,877)	109,850
Braintree	100,330	318,089	12,630	329,574	41,272	130,663	71,259	1,003,817
Canton	77,402	19,312	39,600	(114,032)	(164,791)	(122,573)	138,807	(126,275)
Dedham	12,924	46,504	436,963	63,014	67,728	141,771	24,053	792,957
Holbrook	19,790	261,592	(31,840)	36,234	(56,848)	(114,489)	48,650	163,089
Milton	(2,198)	56,690	13,038	52,179	(9,238)	164,608	(63,402)	211,677
Norwood	57,053	(200,939)	(16,367)	(75,796)	70,790	160,110	95,607	90,458
Randolph	314,867	(89,470)	(39,390)	(351,223)	(228,678)	(97,330)	320,134	(171,090)
Westwood	(19,308)	52,435	3,994	52,288	(101,870)	(32,736)	(1,719)	(46,916)
	\$ 502,064	\$ 547,498	\$ 510,103	\$ 130,064	\$ (480,659)	\$ 315,984	\$ 502,512	\$ 2,027,566

Percent Change in Year-to-Year Assessments

	Proposed FY 17	FY 16	FY 15	FY 14	FY13	FY 12	FY 11	7 year net change
Avon	-6.7%	10.4%	12.9%	24.1%	-14.8%	14.7%	-18.3%	15.4%
Braintree	4.1%	14.8%	0.6%	18.3%	2.3%	8.0%	4.6%	64.4%
Canton	6.9%	1.8%	3.7%	-9.7%	-12.3%	-8.4%	10.5%	-9.6%
Dedham	0.9%	3.3%	44.9%	6.9%	8.0%	20.2%	3.6%	117.2%
Holbrook	1.0%	15.4%	-1.8%	2.1%	-3.3%	-6.1%	2.7%	9.0%
Milton	-0.2%	6.6%	1.5%	6.6%	-1.2%	25.9%	-9.1%	30.3%
Norwood	6.2%	-18.0%	-1.4%	-6.3%	6.2%	16.3%	10.8%	10.2%
Randolph	9.2%	-2.6%	-1.1%	-9.0%	-5.5%	-2.3%	8.2%	-4.4%
Westwood	-12.2%	49.6%	3.9%	105.9%	-67.4%	-17.8%	-0.9%	-25.3%
			Seven-Year Average Change			2.5%		17%

The green boxes represent years where the \$ or % amounts were higher than the projected FY 16 assessment

Per-Pupil Costs Three-Year History

Towns	2017			2016			2015		
	<u>A</u> Per Pupil FY Required Contribution	<u>B</u> Total Blue Hills Per Pupil Assessment	<u>A+B=</u> Total Per Pupil Assessment (Not Incl STC)	<u>A</u> Per Pupil Required Contribution	<u>B</u> Total Blue Hills Per Pupil Assessment	<u>A+B=</u> Total Per Pupil Assessment (Not Incl STC)	<u>A</u> Per Pupil Required Contribution	<u>B</u> Total Blue Hills Per Pupil Assessment	<u>A+B=</u> Total Per Pupil Assessment (Not Incl STC)
Avon	\$ 12,418	\$ 4,122	\$ 16,540	\$ 13,297	\$3,777	\$ 17,074	\$ 14,037	\$ 3,462	\$ 17,500
Braintree	\$ 11,498	\$ 4,122	\$ 15,621	\$ 11,704	\$3,777	\$ 15,481	\$ 11,958	\$ 3,462	\$ 15,420
Canton	\$ 13,587	\$ 4,122	\$ 17,709	\$ 13,570	\$3,777	\$ 17,347	\$ 14,734	\$ 3,462	\$ 18,196
Dedham	\$ 13,918	\$ 4,122	\$ 18,040	\$ 14,347	\$3,777	\$ 18,124	\$ 14,528	\$ 3,462	\$ 17,991
Holbrook	\$ 9,052	\$ 4,122	\$ 13,174	\$ 9,187	\$3,777	\$ 12,964	\$ 9,192	\$ 3,462	\$ 12,654
Milton	\$ 13,445	\$ 4,122	\$ 17,568	\$ 13,524	\$3,777	\$ 17,301	\$ 13,741	\$ 3,462	\$ 17,203
Norwood	\$ 13,764	\$ 4,122	\$ 17,886	\$ 14,071	\$3,777	\$ 17,849	\$ 15,069	\$ 3,462	\$ 18,532
Randolph	\$ 9,255	\$ 4,122	\$ 13,378	\$ 9,422	\$3,777	\$ 13,199	\$ 9,338	\$ 3,462	\$ 12,800
Westwood	\$ 13,697	\$ 4,122	\$ 17,819	\$ 13,787	\$3,777	\$ 17,564	\$ 11,629	\$ 3,462	\$ 15,091
Average	\$ 12,293	\$ 4,122	\$ 16,415	\$ 12,545	\$3,777	\$ 16,323	\$ 12,692	\$ 3,462	\$ 16,154

Changes in Enrollment and Assessment

	Change over Last 3 Years	% Change over Last 3 Years	Change over Last 5 Years	% Change over Last 5 Years	Change over Last 7 Years	% Change over Last 7 Years
Avon						
Enrollment	4	9%	17	53%	16	48%
Assessment	\$ 115,965	16%	\$ 154,767	23%	\$ 109,850	15%
Braintree						
Enrollment	25	18%	41	33%	52	46%
Assessment	\$ 431,049	20%	\$ 801,895	46%	\$ 1,003,817	64%
Canton						
Enrollment	7	12%	(4)	-6%	(21)	-24%
Assessment	\$ 136,314	13%	\$ (142,509)	-11%	\$ (126,275)	-10%
Dedham						
Enrollment	3	4%	30	60%	41	105%
Assessment	\$ 496,391	51%	\$ 627,133	74%	\$ 792,957	117%
Holbrook						
Enrollment	16	12%	16	12%	5	3%
Assessment	\$ 249,542	14%	\$ 228,928	13%	\$ 163,089	9%
Milton						
Enrollment	2	4%	3	6%	12	31%
Assessment	\$ 67,530	8%	\$ 110,471	14%	\$ 211,677	30%
Norwood						
Enrollment	(6)	-10%	(16)	-23%	(4)	-7%
Assessment	\$ (160,253)	-14%	\$ (165,259)	-14%	\$ 90,458	10%
Randolph						
Enrollment	5	2%	(29)	-9%	(43)	-13%
Assessment	\$ 186,007	5%	\$ (393,894)	-10%	\$ (171,090)	-4%
Westwood						
Enrollment	-	0%	4	133%	(4)	-36%
Assessment	\$ 37,121	37%	\$ (12,461)	-8%	\$ (46,916)	-25%

Blue Hills Applicant to Enrollment by Community 5-Year History

The chart below shows the number of students from each community that applied to Blue Hills for each of the last 5 years. The chart also shows the percent accepted and the percent of those that applied who actually enrolled. Each community is also provided a ranking of 1-9 for each of the categories.

	School Year					5-Year Avg.	Rank
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		
AVON							
Applicants	20	18	20	21	14	19	8
% Accepted	65%	94%	95%	95%	79%	86%	1
% Actually Enrolled	55%	89%	90%	86%	64%	77%	1
BRAINTREE							
Applicants	78	77	70	89	70	77	2
% Accepted	76%	90%	79%	90%	86%	84%	2
% Actually Enrolled	46%	56%	51%	56%	57%	53%	5
CANTON							
Applicants	16	20	37	47	49	34	6
% Accepted	100%	70%	81%	53%	78%	76%	6
% Actually Enrolled	94%	50%	59%	34%	37%	55%	3
DEDHAM							
Applicants	33	32	48	44	42	40	5
% Accepted	55%	66%	83%	68%	67%	68%	7
% Actually Enrolled	30%	47%	60%	57%	43%	47%	7
HOLBROOK							
Applicants	59	63	46	62	44	55	3
% Accepted	73%	84%	70%	76%	86%	78%	4
% Actually Enrolled	63%	67%	65%	61%	84%	68%	2
MILTON							
Applicants	27	28	22	37	30	29	7
% Accepted	100%	79%	77%	78%	77%	82%	3
% Actually Enrolled	59%	46%	55%	51%	50%	52%	6
NORWOOD							
Applicants	46	48	47	40	39	44	4
% Accepted	70%	56%	45%	55%	59%	57%	9
% Actually Enrolled	41%	40%	30%	23%	44%	36%	8
RANDOLPH							
Applicants	100	127	146	128	123	125	1
% Accepted	69%	58%	62%	63%	70%	64%	8
% Actually Enrolled	59%	50%	55%	45%	59%	54%	4
WESTWOOD							
Applicants	8	9	4	6	5	6	9
% Accepted	13%	89%	100%	83%	100%	77%	5
% Actually Enrolled	0%	33%	75%	67%	20%	39%	9