

"An override? Why now?"

Hubbardston needs to pass an override to enable the Hubbardston Center School, Quabbin Middle School, and Quabbin High to offer students the same level of education and services they've received in the past.

Why an override?

State funding to regional school systems has dropped off greatly over the past five years. At the same time, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has issued a number of unfunded mandates, including transportation, special education, and implementation of anti-bullying laws. While these mandates benefit our students, they cost a lot of money. We're also experiencing a period of lower enrollment, so our district is receiving less Chapter 70 state aid for education.

For the past couple of years we were able to use Federal stimulus funds to maintain services. But this money has run out, so the Quabbin Regional School District's 2012–2013 budget requires an additional \$1.8 million from the member towns of Hubbardston, Barre, Oakham, New Braintree, and Hardwick to maintain the same level of services we had last year.

Don't all towns have to approve an override?

In order to keep the Middle and High Schools level funded, four out of the five district towns need to approve overrides. However, member towns that vote for overrides can use the funds for their own elementary schools if four towns don't pass overrides.

Even if you don't have kids in school...

Many people choose to buy homes based on the quality of the schools. If we have a bare-bones curriculum, how attractive will that be to potential homebuyers? How much will your home be worth when you try to sell?

What will it cost?

- The average homeowner's tax bill will increase by about \$200–300. That's just 55–82¢ a day!

What you can do

- We need your support twice: at Town Meeting and at the Town Election. **You must vote twice for this to pass!**
- Attend Town Meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 5, in the HCS gym and vote in favor of Article 8. Complementary childcare will be offered at the school for parents unable to get a babysitter on their own.
- Vote for an override at the June 12 Town Election, held from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm in the HCS gym.
- **Ask all of your friends and neighbors to vote for this override to support our schools!**



If we don't pass this override...

- We risk losing vital programs for our students in the arts, music, and HCS "specials."
- Hubbardston Center School could open an hour later.
- Sixth-graders could be moved up to the Quabbin Middle School.
- Extracurricular athletics in the Middle and High Schools could be cancelled: No more football, baseball, soccer, wrestling, track, etc.
- School choice (when kids from outside the QRSD attend our schools) is a valuable source of income for our district. How many school choice students will we lose if we start cutting programs?
- If four out of five member towns do not pass overrides, then the State will step in to set a mandatory budget. That means that each town will be required by law to find the money somewhere in their budgets, usually by cutting services.

*Support our Children
Make Their Future Bright
We Need Your HELP*

**Vote for the Override to
Fund Our Schools**

*For more information on the Quabbin Regional School District 2012–2013 budget, visit www.qrsd.org.
This flyer was designed by volunteers and printed at no cost to taxpayers or the Quabbin Regional School District.*