

The Chester School District
Public Hearing
2020-21 Proposed School Budget

April 28, 2020



Chester School District

Committed to maintaining standards of **Excellence in Education** while improving and maintaining the schools technological and physical Infrastructures for a **21 Century Educational Experience**

#WeAreChesterNJ

School Budget

- Reflects the district's educational priorities and goals
- Balance between competing priorities (all worthy) as they represent the interests of students and the taxpayers of the district
- Provides guidance throughout the year
- Satisfies all state mandates
- Requires Department of Education Approval

Budget objectives

Invest in the future

- Protect primary resources
- Maintain all existing programs
- Increase school security
- Improve learning spaces
- Reduce overhead costs



Chester School District Points of Pride

Future Ready

Dickerson Elementary School, Bragg Elementary School, and Black River Middle School are all Future Ready Certified and prepare students to thrive in the digital age.



Sustainability

Our stakeholders are continually focused on creating and maintaining environmentally friendly learning spaces. The Chester School District is Sustainable NJ certified.



Growth

Teachers participate in professional learning communities and are committed to enhancing their effectiveness in the physical and virtual worlds.



STEM

K-8 students are enrolled in STEM courses that provide hands-on learning. Chester is home to one of the largest science fairs on the east coast.



Music

Award-winning instrumental band and choral programs highlight the diverse music offerings students can be part of from grades 3-8.



Clubs

Over 50 club offerings throughout the district provide students to engage in experiences like Kinetics, Minecraft, Abilities Awareness, and Meteorology.



Athletics

The Bulldogs have won 9 county middle school championships over a five year span in Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Cross Country, and Baseball.



Languages

Chinese, French, and Spanish classes are offered to students. Total immersion through reading, writing, and speaking is a point of pride for all students.



Technology

Our 1:1 Chromebook initiative spans grades 2 thru 8. The district has a robust infrastructure and dedicated tech coaches and technicians that support students efforts.



CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
— EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —



Literacy

Teachers throughout the district are supported by a literacy coach. Student reading levels are analyzed through an online assessment. Over the years students have won various awards for their published work.



Math

Teachers throughout the district are supported by a math coach. Advanced placement math classes, including Geometry, are offered at Bragg Elementary School and Black River Middle School.



Security

Our schools are outfitted with state of the art surveillance equipment. The district security coordinator, school safety specialist, and police continually collaborate to maintain safe learning environments.



Drama

3rd-8th grade students have performed in The Little Mermaid and the Emperor's New Clothes over the years. In middle school, all students take performing arts class. Hundreds of students participate annually.



Achievement

The School Performance Reports indicate that our students exceed state targets in math and literacy. Science scores are close to perfect and speak to the high levels of teaching and learning throughout the district.



Staff

One word: phenomenal! Teacher Experience Average 11 Years, Retention Rate is 91%, Faculty Attendance Rate is 98%. Over 30 staff members are Level 1 Google Certified Educators.



Recognition

Black River Middle School is designated as a National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform 'School to Watch' 2010-Present. Chester is home to the 2017 National Assistant Principal of the Year.



Community

The Board of Education, Chester PTO, and Educational Foundation, passionately support innovative and child-centered learning experience that our students experience on a consistent basis.



Whole Child

Dickerson Students participate in the bucket fillers program. Bragg students participate in Third Tuesday Time that emphasizes Character Education. Black River students participate in a advisory program.



Chester School District
Points of Pride

ALL 3 SCHOOLS WINNERS OF THE BRONZE
CERTIFICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE JERSEY
PROGRAM



Chester School District Points of Pride

- All three schools received Future Ready Bronze level certification.
- Future Ready Schools - New Jersey, a coalition of [New Jersey Institute of Technology's Collaborative for Leadership, Education, and Assessment Research](#), the [New Jersey School Boards Association](#), and the [New Jersey Department of Education](#), is a school certification program designed to support the organization of schools' and districts' efforts through the national Future Ready Framework and New Jersey's aligned resources to best prepare their students for success in the digital age. FRS-NJ fosters and enables collaboration both within and between schools and districts throughout the state of New Jersey, provides support, and connects educators to potential resources.



Dickerson School

- Technology benchmarks at every level
- Enrichment for All Program
- STEM Program
- 100% Student engagement in daily Social and Emotional Learning Program
- Student Clubs: Technology, Art, Chess, Kinetics, Crafts & Fitness
- Balanced Approach to Reading with Houghton Mifflin Reading Inventory Individualized



- Chester Academic Assistance Program in Reading and Math
- Strong participation in the large Science Fair in New Jersey
- All Teachers and Administrators engaged in Professional Learning Communities
- Designated as a Emerging School of Character for the state of New Jersey

Bragg school



- School-wide

- Week of Respect to build our Community of Unity
- Inclusive Schools Week
- Celebrated Red Ribbon Week
- “TREPS” Entrepreneurship program for 5th graders
- Mix-It-Up Lunches to facilitate new friendships
- Introduction and use of Second Step Emotional Learning program
- 5th Grade choice projects and robotics projects in STEM classes
- Various collections held throughout the school year including books, coats, pet supplies and wrapping toys for St. Lawrence Holiday toy drive
- Remarkable, smooth and effective transition to Virtual Learning during Covid-19 school closing

Black River Middle School

CHESTER SCHOOLS
PROUD TO BE
STIGMA-FREE

- Received 4th consecutive National Schools TO Watch recognition 2020-23
- National known teacher authors and presenters
- “Inspiration Café” to host speakers and guests
- 40th Annual Science Fair
- Award Winning Advisory Program
- One School One Book program fundraiser
- Numerous sports teams and Clubs
- Foreign language and related arts classes for all students



District Points of Pride - Technology

- Interactive Whiteboards in every classroom, laptops (including iPads and over 850 chromebooks) and 80 document cameras in the district
- 1:1 Chrome Books from 2nd to 8th grade
- Google Jamboard at BRMS and 6 iPad Pros at Bragg
- Promethean Board at BRMS and Bragg Computer Labs
- 30 new iPads and Logitech Crayons for BRMS Art Room
- LinkIt software to Analytics and Assessment reporting
- District-wide wireless access (135 access points) and district owned fiber optic network



Technology (continued)

- All students using G-Mail accounts, Google Docs and Google Drive and Google Classroom
- Technology Clubs at all three schools
- Award-winning social media presence
- Technology team presenting at State and Local conferences
- Up to date cyber security measures
- Successfully implemented a Remote Learning Plan due to COVID19 in 1 week



Facility Improvements & Equipment for 2019-20

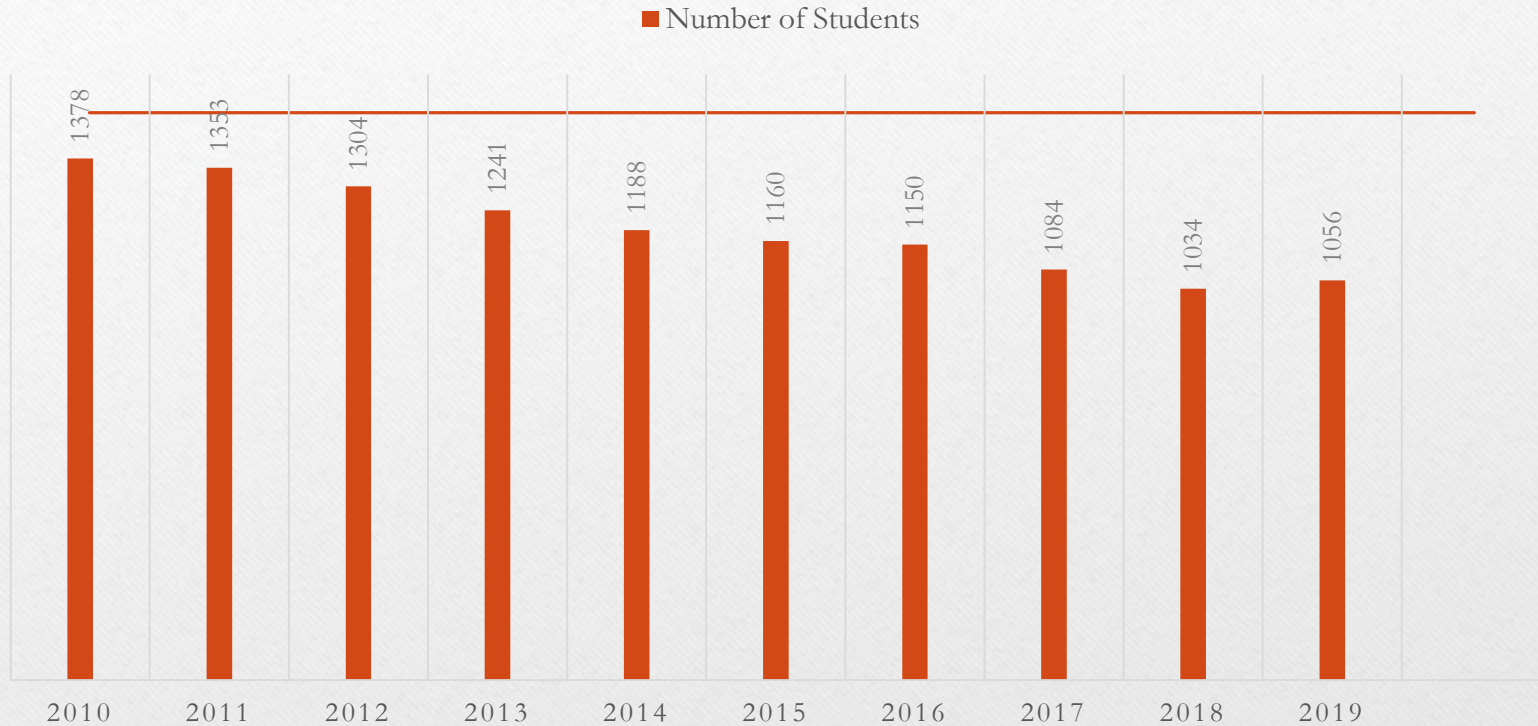


- Roof Safety Equipment Installation at each school
- BRMS Gym Padding Replacement
- Sidewalk Repair at Dickerson & BRMS



Enrollment By Year

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



*Projected Enrollment for 2020: 1,060

Tax Impact

1.00% Tax Levy Increase

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>		
General Fund	\$20,650,521	\$20,857,026	\$206,505	1.00%
Debt Service	*\$1,079,444	\$1,157,600	\$ 78,156	
Total Tax Levy	<u>\$21,729,965</u>	<u>\$22,014,626</u>	<u>\$284,661</u>	

*Tax Relief was given in 2019-20 in the amount of \$84,306 for debt service as the final project costs came in under budget by this amount (**Original 2019-20 debt service amount: \$1,163,750**).

Tax Levy Increases

School Year	Tax Levy Amount	Dollar Increase	% Inc.
2010-11	\$ 18,662,569	\$ 343,472	1.87%
2011-12	\$ 18,951,972	\$ 289,403	1.55%
2012-13	\$ 18,951,972	\$ -	0.00%
2013-14	\$ 19,255,764	\$ 303,792	1.60%
2014-15	\$ 19,609,553	\$ 353,789	1.84%
2015-16	\$ 19,781,205	\$ 171,652	0.88%
2016-17	\$ 20,083,256	\$ 302,051	1.53%
2017-18	\$ 20,284,089	\$ 200,833	1.00%
2018-19	\$ 20,385,509	\$ 101,420	.50%
2019-20	\$ 20,650,521	\$ 265,012	1.30%
*2020-21	\$ 20,857,026	\$ 206,505	1.00%

*Proposed Tax Levy

Tax Impact on Chester Borough

2020/2021 Tax Rate Calculations			
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
General	\$3,468,053	\$3,463,943	\$3,614,299
Debt	\$196,322	\$195,650	\$200,600
School Year	\$3,664,375	\$3,659,593	\$3,814,899
	Calendar Year	2019	2020
	Total Taxes	\$3,661,984	\$3,737,246
	*Ratables	\$385,406,734	\$392,740,606
	Per Dollar	\$0.0095	\$0.0095
	Per \$100	\$0.95	\$0.95
	Average Assessed	492,400	498,000
	Per \$100	\$4,679	\$4,739

*Final Equalization Table For The County Of Morris For The Year 2020

Tax Impact on Chester Township

2020/2021 Tax Rate Calculations			
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2019/2020
General	16,917,456	17,054,208	17,242,727
Debt	957,678	963,226	957,000
School Year	17,875,134	18,017,434	18,199,727
	Calendar Year	2019	2020
	Total Taxes	17,946,284	18,108,581
	*Ratables	1,914,951,572	1,873,646,901
	Per Dollar	\$0.0094	\$0.0097
	Per \$100	\$0.94	\$0.97
	Average Assessed	666,100	663,600
	Per \$100	\$6,242	\$6,414

*Final Equalization Table For The County Of Morris For The Year 2020

Thank you