

2025/2026 BUDGET PHILOSOPHY

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A BUDGET PHILOSOPHY ...

- **The philosophy of establishing the annual school budget should entail the creation of a framework for a budget that supports a democratic plan of appropriate funding for the implementation of educational programs so that students may develop and learn from quality experiences based on educationally sound and fiscally prudent planning.**
- **A solid financial base is paramount to ensuring that the school district will be able to meet the responsibility of preparing our students for an increasingly competitive environment.**
- **The budget philosophy stage should be macro-focused rather than micro-focused, as much more refinement will be required and implemented in the future through the rigorous budget process.**

ITEMS TO CONSIDER IN BUDGETING

Educational programs and district vision/mission/goals.

Enrollment projections for district, buildings and courses.

Staffing levels for classrooms, support and administrative staff.

Class size at varying grade levels.

Negotiated salaries/benefits for negotiating units and non-unit personnel.

Inflation as well as known increases in fixed costs.

Equipment replacement schedules and needs.

Transportation.

Maintenance/upgrade of buildings/LRFP.

Unanticipated General Fund Balance (surplus).

Evaluation of projected revenues (tuitions, building use rental fees, grants, etc.) and projected local property tax impact.

Long Range Technology Plan.

Special Education Costs.

Professional Development Costs.

- **PRIORITIES:**

- **Student and Staff safety**

- **Maintain current programs and staff**

- **Address capital improvement needs**

PRELIMINARY PROJECTED INCREASES/(DECREASES)
IN 2025-26 GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOURCES

<u>GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUE CATEGORY</u>	<u>2024-25 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025-26 PRELIMINARY PROJECTED BUDGET</u>	<u>PRELIMINARY PROJECTED INCREASE/(DECREASE)</u>
General Fund Tax Levy	\$ 120,217,578	\$125,447,307	\$5,229,729
General Fund State Aid-Categorical	12,672,071	12,672,071	-
Tuition-Jamesburg	4,262,500	4,262,500	-
Transportation Fees-Jamesburg	256,523	256,523	-
Federal Aid	83,539	83,539	-
Miscellaneous	850,500	850,500	-
Transfers from Other Funds	400,000	275,000	(125,000)
Summer School/ After School Enrichment	135,000	135,000	-
Excess Surplus (unaudited)	1,436,316	2,846,495	1,410,179
Additional Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>1,750,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,750,388)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 142,064,415</u>	<u>\$146,828,935</u>	<u>\$4,764,520</u>

Projections based on estimates

2025/26 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET
PRELIMINARY PROJECTED TAX LEVY REVENUE

	<u>Amount</u>
Prebudget Year Adjusted Tax Levy Inflated by 2%	\$122,621,930
Other Preliminary Projected Adjustments	2,825,377
Preliminary Projected Tax Levy 25/26	<u>\$125,447,307</u>
Preliminary Projected Increase in General Tax Levy from 24-25	<u>5,229,729</u>

PRELIMINARY PROJECTED GENERAL FUND STATE AID REVENUES

	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u> (preliminary projected)	<u>Increase</u> (preliminary projected)
Equalization Aid	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Categorical Aid:			
Special Education Aid	\$7,593,810	\$7,593,810	0
Security Aid	681,073	681,073	0
Transportation Aid	3,999,704	3,999,704	0
Extraordinary Aid	397,484	397,484	
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	<u>\$12,672,071</u>	<u>\$12,672,071</u>	<u>0</u>

Anticipated Increase in General Fund State Aid 0

Projections based on estimates