

2025-2026 Budget Draft Overview



Investing in Students, Strengthening Our Future

March 2025

Mission



The mission of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Schools is to provide enriching, safe and meaningful educational experiences that builds a strong foundation for our diverse student body.

Vision



The HFFMCSD is a school community focused on developing students as lifelong learners equipped with critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to navigate and shape the future.

Core Beliefs



We will consistently and effectively achieve our vision and accomplish our mission if in all of our work we demonstrate the following core beliefs:

- Focus on the needs of each student and create opportunities to ensure equity
- Foster engagement, collaboration and a sense of belonging for all school community members
- Take collective responsibility and make thoughtful decisions based on best practices
- Uplifting all student voices is fundamental to creating a welcoming and nurturing environment
- Promote safety, health and wellness for the developmental growth of our community
- Consistently prioritize efficiency and affordability, while also striving for excellence
- Embrace curiosity, connection and critical thinking

Context for 25-26 Budget Planning



- In line with the district's core beliefs, budget planning is done in a fiscally responsible manner
- Factors outside of our control have present unique challenges
 - High rate of inflation
 - Inability to tax more than 7% of district land
 - Federal Funding Flat over the last 10+ years → Not keeping up with inflation
 - Tuition based revenue has decreased in the last 4 years
- These factors continue to lead to budget constraints across the district.



Budget Overview

Budget Development Process



- November - February
 - Develop expenditure budgets with Building & Departmental Teams
 - Governor's Executive Budget projection is released
- March
 - Budget Presentations
 - Refinement of the budget
- April
 - NYS Enacted Budget is due by April 1st
 - Board of Education adopts the proposed 2025-2026 budget
 - Deadline is April 25, 2025 → Target is the April 24th Board Meeting
- May
 - Adopted Budget details are shared with the community
 - 2025-2026 Budget Vote on May 20, 2025



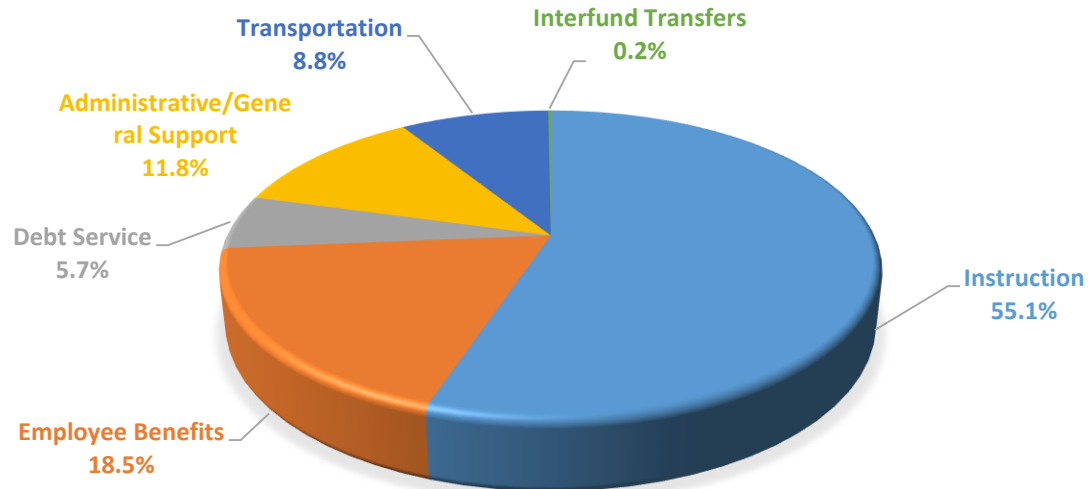
Expenditure Assumptions

- **Known Inputs:**
 - Settled contractual expenses
 - Retirement system rates
 - Health insurance cost increases
- **Anticipated Budgetary Increase Drivers:**
 - New contract costs
 - Facility maintenance & operations costs
- **Unknowns:**
 - Open contracts



DRAFT Expenditure Chart

2025-2026 DRAFT EXPENDITURES





DRAFT Expenditure Detail

Expenses	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Instruction	\$21,584,483	\$22,764,032	\$1,179,549	5.46%
Employee Benefits	\$7,826,101	\$7,650,356	(\$175,745)	-2.25%
Debt Service	\$2,225,859	\$2,335,859	\$110,000	4.94%
Administrative/General Support	\$4,728,961	\$4,850,914	\$121,953	2.58%
Transportation	\$3,567,735	\$3,619,862	\$52,127	1.46%
Interfund Transfers	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL	\$39,995,139	\$41,283,023	\$1,287,884	3.22%



Historical Budget to Budget Changes

Budget Year	Adopted Budget	% Change
2024-2025	\$39,995,141	2.46%
2023-2024	\$39,036,276	8.57%
2022-2023	\$35,953,900	3.99%
2021-2022	\$34,573,467	3.97%
2020-2021	\$33,251,722	3.63%
2019-2020	\$32,087,219	4.84%
2018-2019	\$30,606,772	2.15%
2017-2018	\$29,759,008	4.23%
2016-2017	\$28,550,987	1.31%
2015-2016	\$28,181,395	2.43%

- Over the last 10 years, the average budget to budget increase = 3.76%



Revenue Assumptions

- Uncertainty Remains with Revenue
 - Only a preliminary view available at this time
- State Aid:
 - Foundation Aid: District is on formula => 2% increase vs. PY
 - Legislative Budget due April 1st, but this is not a set date
- Tuition paying student enrollment is not final:
 - West Point enrollment
- Impact Aid will be estimated conservatively as in prior years



Tax Levy Limit Calculation

- Tax Base Growth Factor = 0.08%
- Allowable Levy Growth capped at 2%
- Tax Levy Limit = 1.92%**
- Final Tax Levy TBD - not final

A. Total Real Property Tax Levy for Base Year (2024/25)	\$ 11,688,233
B. Excess Levy in Reserve	-
C. Tax Levy subtotal (A - B)	\$ 11,688,233
D. Tax Base Growth Factor (Minimum of 1.0)	1.0008
E. Adjusted Tax Levy subtotal (C x D)	\$ 11,697,584
F. Base Year PILOTS	-
G. Base Year Levy plus PILOTS	\$ 11,697,584
H. Base year Torts and Judgements > 5%	-
I. Base year Capital Expenditures (Net of Aid)	\$ 872,694
J. Total base year Torts and Capital Expenditures	\$ 872,694
K. Levy less base year Torts and Capital Expenditures (G - J)	\$ 10,824,890
L. Allowable Levy Growth Factor based on CPI (3.0% for L12 mths*)	1.02
M. Levy including levy Growth Factor	\$ 11,041,387
N. Budget year PILOT receivables	-
O. Levy less budget year PILOTS (M - N)	\$ 11,041,387
P. Eligible Carryover from base year budget	-
Q. Tax Levy Limit - before Exclusions (O + P)	\$ 11,041,387
U. Total Budget Year Exclusions	\$ 870,691
Total Tax Levy including Exclusions (Q + U)	\$ 11,912,078
Tax Levy % Increase Cap	1.92% **
Tax Levy \$ Increase Cap	\$223,845

*CPI is as of January 2025, driven by increase in Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages (+3.3%), Housing (+2.1%), Alcohol & Tobacco (+6.1%) and Energy Index (+1.0%)

**Levy increase up to this amount would require only a simple majority vote



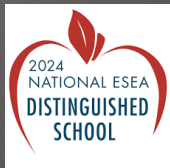
Building Specific Overview

2024 - 2025 Highlights

Fort Montgomery Elementary School



- 2024 National Distinguished School Award for Title 1 Schools that close achievement gaps.
- Collaboration among teachers on how to best support students and each other
- Transition to new math program aligned to next generation learning standards



**EUREKA
MATH²**

2024 - 2025 Highlights Highland Falls Intermediate School



- Best Middle Schools recognition by U.S. News & World Report
- HFIS recognized students through various unique events:
 - Sweet Step Up
 - Scoops of Excellence
 - Snowball Attendance Challenge

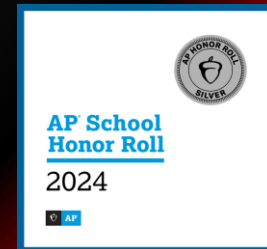


2024 - 2025 Highlights

James I. O'Neill High School



- US News and World Report (this year 24/25)
 - #3 in Orange County
 - #7 in the Poughkeepsie/Metro NY Area
- Earned Silver Distinction by the College Board's AP School Honor Roll
 - 10th-12th Grade students completed a total of 219 AP exams



Looking Ahead to 2025-2026



- Continue implementation of the Eureka² math program
- Enhancing science instruction
- Continue to prepare students for college and career experiences
- Partnerships & Parent Engagement

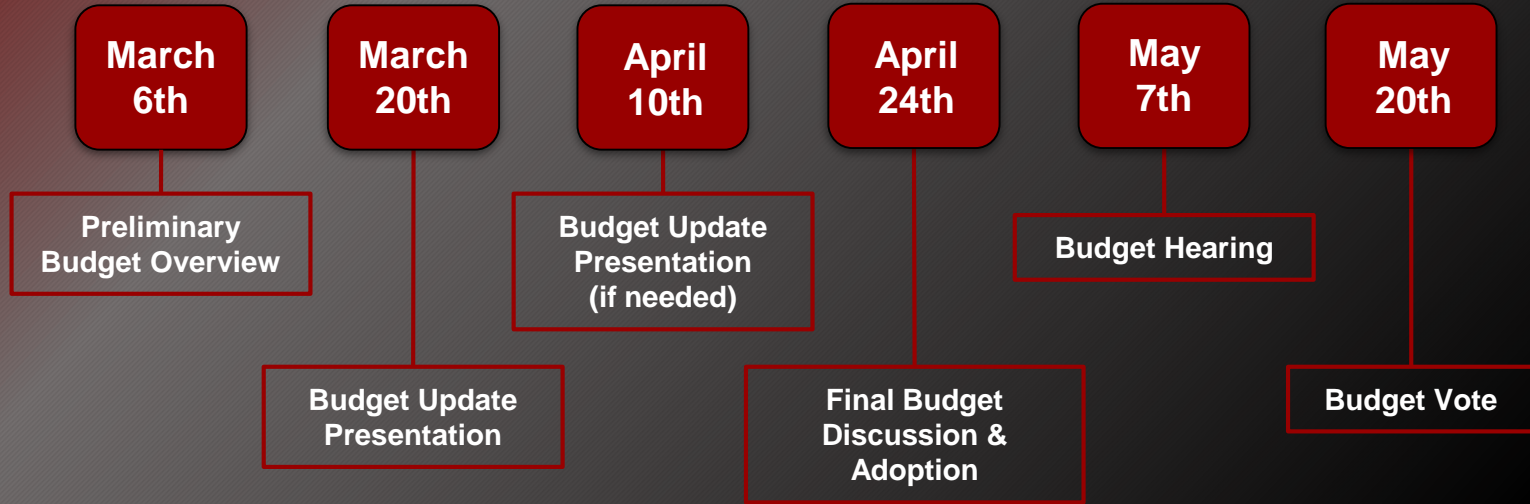


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Budget Development Calendar



Board of Education candidate petitions can be obtained from the District Clerk in the Superintendent's Office at James I. O'Neill High School starting March 11, 2025. They will be due back to the District Clerk on April 21, 2025.