



# HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I would like to update you on a significant development regarding school funding, along with other updates from around the district. We have received information from the New Jersey Department of Education about the **Tax Levy Incentive Program**, which presents us with a **one-time opportunity** to exceed the **2% tax levy cap—without a formal vote**. Under this program, the state will contribute **5% of any additional funds raised**, but **only after we have fully exhausted all of our reserves**. This puts us in a challenging position as we work to determine the best path forward. We must carefully weigh the **long-term implications** of our choices—**both for taxpayers and for the future of our schools**.

### The Difficult Questions We Face

- **Do we raise taxes significantly now to protect future budgets?**
- **Or do we limit the increase and risk deeper financial challenges in the years ahead?**

This is **uncharted territory**, and we have never faced a situation quite like this before. That said, I firmly believe that a **balanced approach**—one that considers both the immediate and long-term impact on our schools and community—is the best path forward. I will keep you informed throughout this process, and as always, we value your input and support as we navigate these difficult decisions together. If you have not had the opportunity to view our community forum, which describes our situation, the link is below for your access. The accompanying slides can be found on the front page of our website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJ1LtxiXOYE>

### Community Engagement Meeting

Please mark your calendars for a **Community Engagement Meeting on April 29th at 10:00 AM** at the **Linda Rohrer Library**.

The topic of discussion will be **school district safety**, including important conversations around **internet and phone safety**. A few members of the **Board of Education** and the **administrative team** will likely be joining me for this discussion. An RSVP flyer will be coming soon, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars, and I hope that you can join us.

### Junior Police Academy

We are excited to partner with the **Haddon Township Police Department** to introduce the **first-ever Junior Police Academy**. This unique summer program offers an exciting opportunity for rising **6th–8th graders** to engage in **hands-on law enforcement experiences** while building strong relationships with local officers. A flyer is attached for your review. This is a **fantastic opportunity** for students to learn about law enforcement in a fun and engaging way. **Space is limited**, so don't wait to apply.

### High School Elevator

I am pleased to report that our **high school elevator has been fully repaired and is now up and running**. This has been one of the most frustrating challenges in recent years, with repeated delays attributed to COVID-related supply chain issues. Nevertheless, this issue is now **officially behind us**, and I sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding throughout the process. Thank you for your support as we worked to resolve it.

### J-1 Exchange Students 2025-2026

We are beginning to receive requests from international agencies for **exchange student placements** for the upcoming school year. Currently, we have requests from students in **Spain, Italy, and France**, with **one student already placed**. This program has been successful in recent years, not only by **supporting our enrollment** but also by **bringing valuable cultural diversity** to our schools. Hosting an exchange student is a rewarding experience that provides a unique opportunity to build lifelong connections while sharing our community with a student from another part of the world. If you or someone you know has an extra bedroom and is interested in **becoming a host family**, please contact my assistant, **Mrs. Amy Ruta**, at [aruta@htsd](mailto:aruta@htsd), and we will be happy to send you student profiles for consideration.!

### Haddon Township Summer Recreation

We are also preparing for our **Annual Summer Recreation Program**. Registration will be open from **May 5 through May 12, 2025**. This year, the registration process is starting later than usual as we transition to a new system that will be **more efficient and cost-effective**. We appreciate your patience during this change and are confident it will improve the experience for families moving forward. I understand that some parents are concerned that a later registration period might limit options if other camps in the area fill up. **Please rest assured that we have never turned a student away from our Summer Recreation Program, and I am confident that all students who register on time will be accommodated**. However, we cannot guarantee placement for students who try to register after **May 12**, as we will need final enrollment numbers to determine appropriate staffing and resources.

## **Additional Area Summer Programs**

I am pleased to share with you that **All-Star Karate** is renting space and will be running an **All-Sports Camp** at **Strawbridge School** throughout the summer. Additionally, the **Haddonfield School District** is offering programs that are open to non-resident students. These programs are located in close proximity and provide **reasonable tuition rates** for families to consider. Links are below, and flyers with more details are attached. I'd like you to please stay tuned for more information regarding our HTSD Summer Enrichment Program, which is forthcoming in mid-April.

<https://www.southjerseysummercamps.com/sales-page1733343086066>

<https://sites.google.com/haddonfield.k12.nj.us/summerenrichment2025/home>

**Thank you very much for your continued support and partnership, and have a great day.**

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent