CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Budget Hearing

2025-2026



Presented April 30, 2025

Mission

The Clinton-Glen Gardner School District, a community who values traditions, nurtures and cultivates each child to be a compassionate, curious, and creative thinker entrusted and empowered to build and lead the future.

Goals

- **Find out/identify what resources teachers need and provide**
- **Identify areas for cross-curricular/interdisciplinary instruction**
- **Provide opportunities for cross-grade learning**
- **Balance the use of technology and interpersonal SEL, real-world applications.**

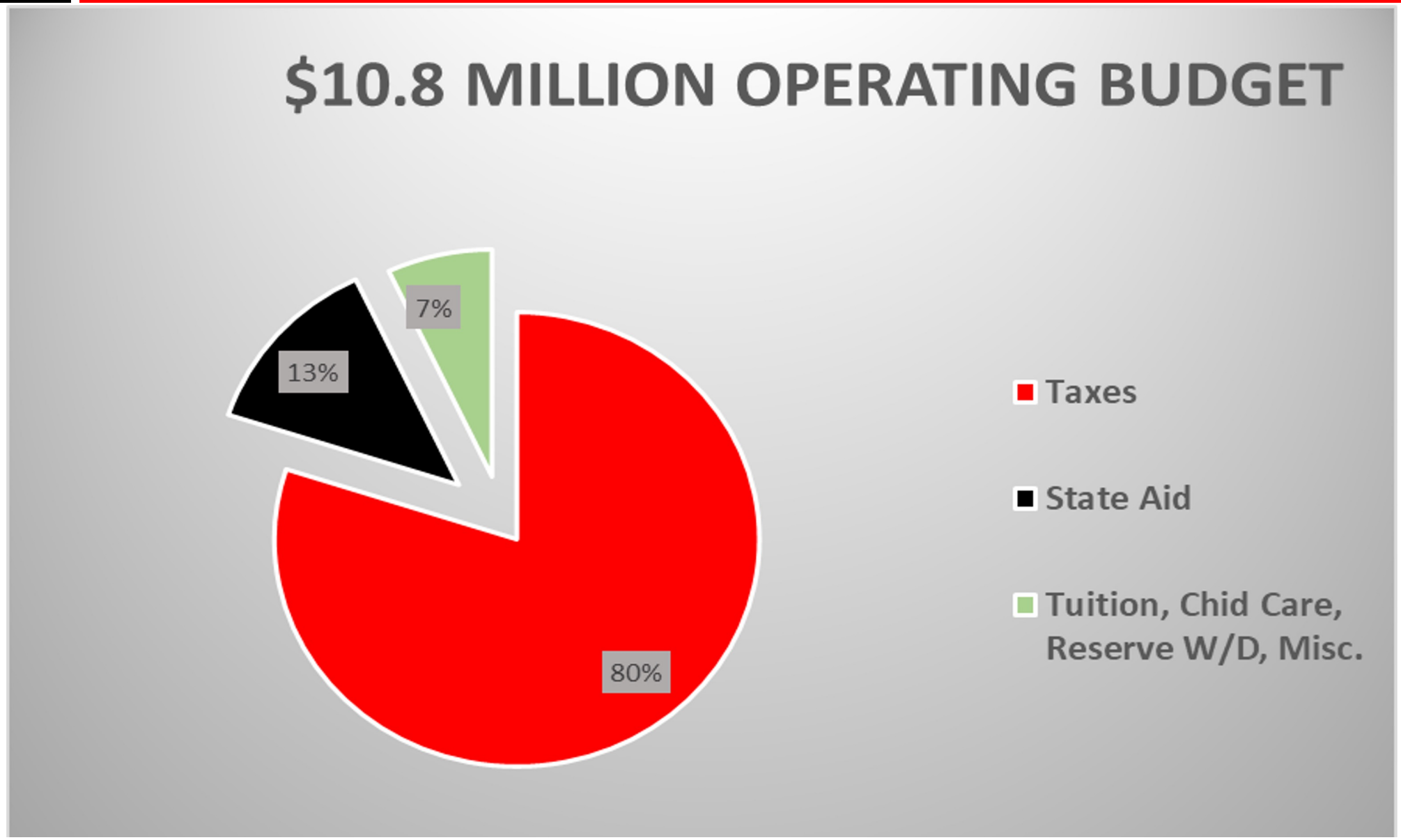
We are supporting key Educational Programs

- 1:1 Chromebooks for every K-8th grade student
- Continuation of Fundations K-3
- Wit and Wisdom for K-3 ELA & Geodes
- Curriculum updates to include Math, ELA, Science
- Literacy Supports
- 4 full sections of High Quality Preschool
- Continued two full counselors, additional nursing services, average class size of 17 in PK-4
- Additional clubs and activities

Budget Summary

- Total Operating budget increase of **4.00%** or $330,235.00
- Lebanon Borough send/received tuition of **$373,434**
- Contracted Salary second year of five year contract. **CEA 2025-26 results in a 3.7% increase**
- Estimated Health Benefit premium increase of **9.5%**
- Estimated Dental Benefit premium increase of **0.0% for 25-26** for year 2 of the negotiated contract with Horizon.

Where do we get our funding?



State Aid

- State Aid for 25-26 resulted in increase of **$13,049** for the district. Increased Special Education Categorical Aid and Security Aid helped offsetting the decrease in both Equalizaiton Aid and Transportation Aid for a slight net gain.
- First year the revised State Funding formula is implemented
- The S2 7 years cut is now completed
- **Pressure shifted to the Local Fair Share** based on wealth of the community which is reflected in the decrease of Equalization Aid for the district
- State calculates **separately** for each municipality

Managing our Budget

- Debt Interest Rates of **2.0%** and **2.1%** due to excellent market timing & **AA Bond Rating** awarded by Standard and Poor's
- **Lebanon Borough send/received arrangement** for the next 6 years
- In-House **Before and After Care Program** supporting our programs
- **Special Education Program** attracting student(s) from other school districts

Budget CAP

- **$330,235** or **4.00%** - authority to increase taxes above 2% Budget cap
- **Expanded by:**

  Use of $158,513 from the allowable health care allowance

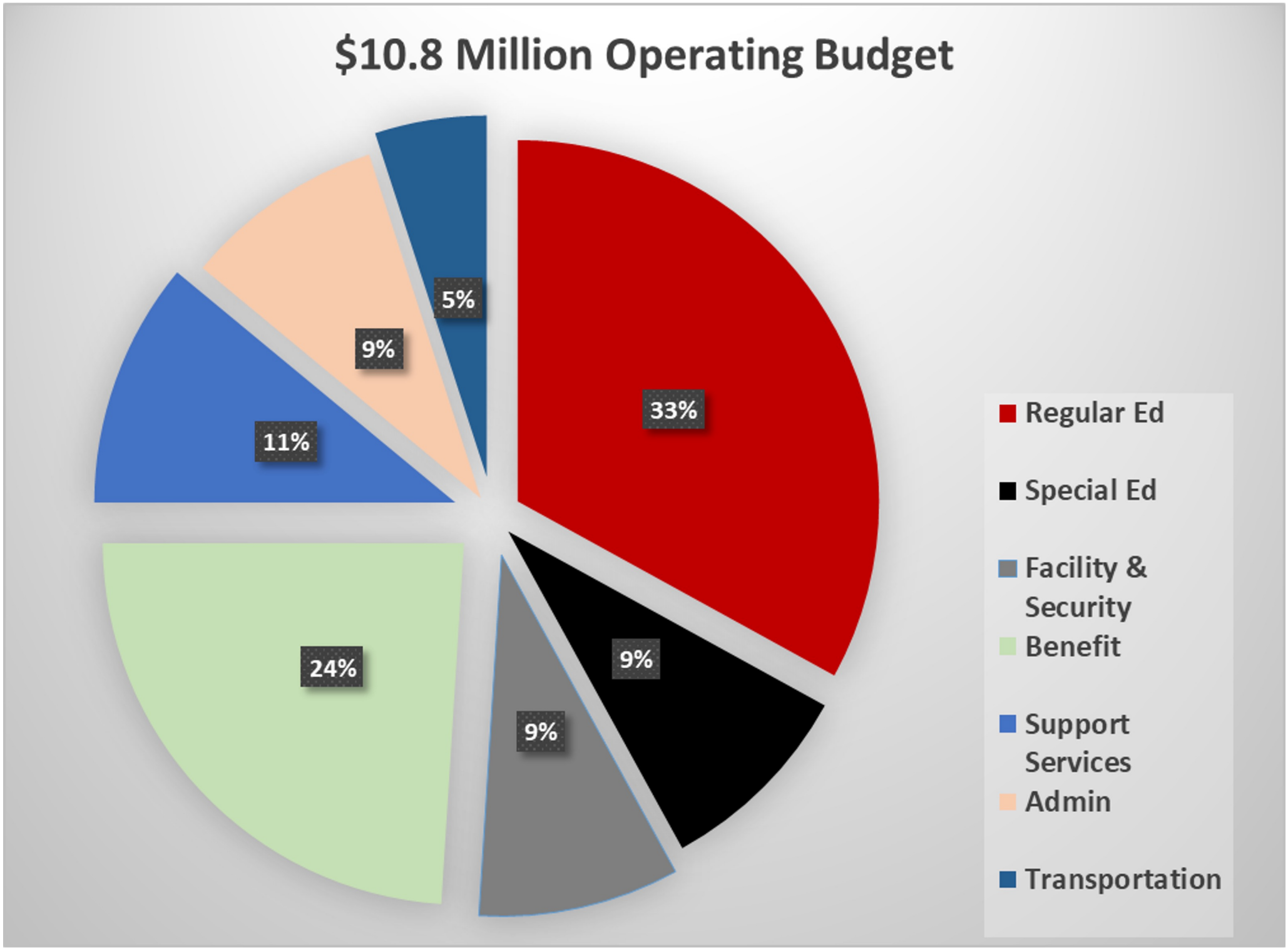
Future Challenges within a 2% CAP limitation

- **Ch. 44 Healthcare implemented January 2021 of Educator's Health Plan and roll out of Garden State Plan in 2022**
  - District to realize increase in cost with decreased staff premium contributions based on salary level rather than cost of Healthcare policy

Budget CAP

- **Continued increase of Private Provider healthcare cost**- Most likely to be closer to the double digits increase.
- **Expecting 25% increase of Utilities cost**
- **Transportation Cost** - challenge of managing cost for out of district placement and PreK program at private provider location
- No exception in CAP for **capital improvements** absence of a public referendum (unique to school districts)
- Overall increase of expenses that will be consistently above the allowable 2% Budget Cap

$10.8 Million Operating Budget



PEA

2026

- **Full year program**
- **Two classes located at CPS**
- **Two classes with private provider at the local YMCA**
- **State funding at $$920,333 for regular students**
- **CPS funding at $97,722 for inclusive students**
- **Private provider cost at $454,770**
- **We have 60 seats total of four classrooms in preschool for 25-26 school year**
- **9 students on waitlist**

Shared Services & Efficiencies

- **Banking services** provided by a county-wide consortium of schools yielding additional services for payroll and remote depositing
- **Hunterdon, County of Union & ESC NJ** – Internet Bandwidth, Paraprofessionals, Electricity, Educational & Custodial Materials, Facility Maintenance & Services
- **Educational Grants** for expanding programs
- **ACES** consortium of schools for Natural Gas
- **Town of Clinton** Snow Removal, Field Use, and many other areas of working together to share resources
- **Borough of Glen Gardner** for Snow Removal & ongoing cooperation through 2009 State merger transitions
- Hosting Shared **professional development** with in-county schools
- Developing additional **special education programs** in C.P.S
- Shared Services with Lebanon Borough School

Long Range Facility Plan

2022 Referendum Project Completions $985,000

- Playground/Outdoor Space Renovation Project

Capital Reserve Account - $1,996,909

- **25-26 Garage to Small Instructional Space Project along with Construction of Freestanding Garage on property**
- Future projects at 100% from Reserve unless project is funded by a Bond Referendum, and then the state pays 40% in state aid

Maintenance Reserve Account –$432,821

Emergency Reserve Account - $0

Allocation of General Fund Taxes

District	2024-25 % of Taxes	2024-25Tax in millions s	2025-26 % of Taxes	2025-26Tax in millions
Clinton	69.65%	$5.750	70.37%	$6.043
Glen Gardner	30.35%	$2.506	29.63%	$2.543
Total Taxes	*100%*	*$8.256*	*100%*	*$8.586*

- State of New Jersey determines allocation each year

Tax Rate Data

	Clinton	Glen Gardner
2025/26 Tax Rate	$1.2191	$0.9199
2024/2025 Rate Change	**+0.0138**	**-0.8790**
Assessed Values	$502,517,500	$273,562,200
Assessed Value Change	$ 25,490,400	$137,491,400

- Tax Rate = [$ requested (Levy) / Assessed Valuations] x $100

Estimated Tax Impact

	Clinton	Glen Gardner
2025-26 Tax Bill- per $100,000 Value	$1,219.1	$919.9
Estimated taxes increase (decrease)– per $100,000 Value	$13.80	$(87.90)

- Average Assessed Value in Clinton Town - **$502,517,500**
- Average Assessed Value in Glen Gardner Borough - **$276,562,200**

Debt Impact

District	2022 Bonds 5 year
Clinton	$84,464
Glen Gardner	$ 35,563
25-26 Total Taxes	*$120,027*
24-25 Total Taxes	*$184,670*

- District received a AA or “Stable” Rating by Standard & Poor’s

We appreciate your support

- PTO
- Booster Club
- Partners In Education (PIE) Foundation
- Parent Music Association
- Rotarians
- Town of Clinton
- Borough of Glen Gardner

Contact Us

Ask questions - Be informed

Check our website for information

Cpsnj.org