

LRHSD Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Budget

April 30, 2025



LRHSD Highlights

- Pursue academic tracks that meet their individual needs.
 - *278 Course Offerings*
 - *26 Advanced Placement Courses*
 - *77 College Acceleration Programs (CAP), partnering with Rowan College at Burlington County and Rowan University*
 - *High Quality In-District Special Education Programs*
 - *Option Two*
- During the 2023-2024 school year, 947 LRHSD students took CAP courses earning **7,276 college credits**, in addition to completing state required coursework for a high school diploma, at no additional cost to the district or taxpayers.



LRHSD Highlights

- Average graduation rate of 96.2% among its four high schools
- Career Pathways for all LRHSD students: Automotive, Carpentry & Construction, Metal Working
- SAT scores at all four high schools are consistently above state and national averages and among the highest in the region
- State and national awards for achievement in areas ranging from Television Broadcasting and Special Education to Performing Arts, Robotics, Fine Arts, Athletics and Community Service



LRHSD FY26 Outlook

- **State Aid reduction :**
 - The district faces a **\$567,953 cut in calculated state aid** , along with the **loss of \$2,111,448 in Stabilization Aid** , resulting in a **total reduction of \$2,679,401**
- Projected enrollment decrease of 74 students.
- **No reductions to student programs or staff** as a result of the budget.
- *No additions to student programs or staff because of the budget.*



A Look-back to May/June 2024

FY25 and Beyond Needs

1. Short-term relief

Recoup state aid now, to ensure repairable harm does not occur in over 140 school districts this year.



2. Long-term stability

Fix the flaws in SFRA by implementing guardrails, to ensure ALL school districts can continue to provide equitable services without burdening tax payers.



A Look-back to May/June 2024

45% of State Aid reduction returned to LRHSD, LRHSD raised taxes an additional

5.7%

2. Long-term stability

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A Look-back to May/June 2024

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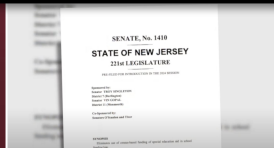
Fix the flaws in SFRA by implementing guardrails, to ensure ALL school districts can continue to provide equitable services without burdening tax payers.

GUARDRAILS !



Advocating for Change

Testifying Before the NJ Senate & Assembly



January 25, 2024
Senate Hearing on Bill
S1410 in Trenton



March 11, 2024
Assembly Budget
Hearing in Trenton



March 19, 2024
Senate Budget Hearing at
NJIT in Newark





March 14, 2024
Senate Education
Committee in Trenton



April 11, 2024
Assembly Hearing on
Bill A4161 in Trenton

2024 - 2025

Services.	Services.
 <p>Request for a Fair and Predictable School Funding Formula</p> <p>LRHSD BOE President Charles Roseboro's letter to the New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Finance and Business Services.</p>	 <p>A Path Forward: School Funding Solutions</p> <p>Originally developed by the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, the report was tailored by LRHSD Business Administrator & Board Secretary Kara Huber to focus specifically on the district.</p>
2024	
+ 4-15-24 Action Needed Now	
+ 3-19-24 Students Join Superintendent in Appeal to State Senate Over Cuts in State Funding	

Prior Years

Advocating for Change...Continues!



Dr. Carol Birnbohm and David Stow presented testimony to the New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Finance and Business Services.

**January 14, 2025
NJDOE Testimony**



BOE President Charles Roseboro pens "*Request for a Fair and Predictable School Funding Formula*"



Kara Huber submits "*A Path Forward: School Funding Solutions*"



Dr. Birnbohm presents *Understanding School Funding* at NJASA/NJSBA in October 2024

Advocating for Change...Federal Funding Too!



Transition to Adult Program students, staff, and Cherokee alumni attended Capitol Hill Day on February 3–4 in Washington, D.C. where they met with NJ legislators, including Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim.



Barry Fitzgerald attended the National School Boards Association Advocacy and Equity Institute Convention on February 4, where he advocated for increased federal funding to support public education. During the event, he also met with NJ Congressman Herb Conaway.



Advocating for Change...Continues!



Lenape Principal Tony Cattani and LRHSD Board of Ed. representative Nicole Samson attend the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association Conference



Tony Cattani speaks with NJ Dept. of Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer about the school funding formula



Dr. Birnbohm attends the NJ Governor's budget address in Trenton



Kara Huber submits testimony to the NJ Budget Committees on April 1, 2025

What did we advocate for improvement?

- ★ Fix Volatile Local Fair Share (LFS)
- ★ Improve Adequacy Formula (Security, Mental Health, Transportation, etc.)
- ★ Fund ALL Special Education Students (versus State average)
- ★ Allow Districts to Save (expand allowable surplus to account for loss of aid)
- ★ Place Certain Expenses outside the 2% Cap Levy
- ★ Place Guardrails on Aid Increases and Decreases

...and MORE!

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LFS: New Three-Year Average

Local Share calculation - Regular District

Equalized Valuation (10/1/2022)	7,159,760,476
Equalized Valuation (10/1/2023)	7,820,811,127
Equalized Valuation (10/1/2024)	8,631,169,699
Equalized Valuation 3 - year average	7,870,580,434
District Income	2,389,879,677
District Income	2,676,947,187
District Income	2,697,841,282
District Income 3 - year average	2,588,222,715.33

Goal:
Smooth out
the potential
year-to-year
changes

Outcome of Changing Multipliers: Loss of \$20.9 Million

Equalized Val. X	0.014949314 /2	58,829,889.14
District Income x	0.059963161 /2	77,599,008
Local Fair Share: Item (p-1) + Item (p-2)		136,428,897

Local Share - County Vocational School District

Equalization Aid Calculation	
Adequacy budget [Item (M)]	136,349,447
Local Fair Share [Item (P) or (T)]	136,428,897

Equalization Aid	
[Items (U) less Item (V)]	(79,450)

Equalization Aid FY26

\$0

Equalized Val. X	0.012707978 /2	50,009,581.50
District Income x	0.050601493 /2	65,483,967
Local Fair Share: Item (p-1) + Item (p-2)		115,493,548

Local Share - County Vocational School District

Equalization Aid Calculation	
Adequacy budget [Item (M)]	136,349,447
Local Fair Share [Item (P) or (T)]	115,493,548

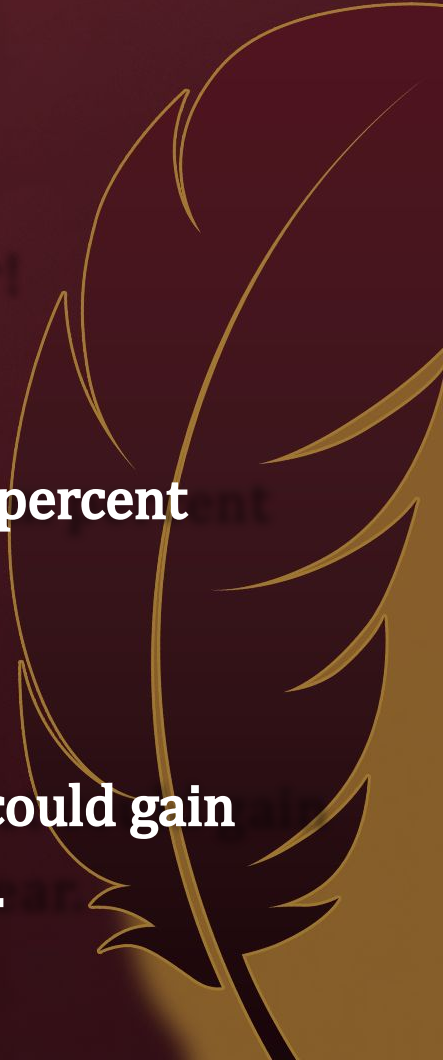
Equalization Aid	
[Items (U) less Item (V)]	20,855,899

Equalization Aid FY 25

\$20,855,899

LFS increased 16% from last year!

Guardrails!

- Last year we lost 20% of our State Aid in one year!
 - This year, NJDOE created a minimum and maximum percent increase or decrease.
 - No district could lose more than 3% and no district could gain more than 6% in State Aid from last year to this year.
- 

Guardrails!

LRHSD State Aid Calculation Fiscal Year 2026

Equalization Aid + *Special Education Aid* + *Security Aid* + *Transportation Aid*
\$0 + \$9,036,635 + \$1,082,72 + \$4,305,866 = \$14,425,224

LRHSD State Aid Calculation Fiscal Year 2026:

\$14,425,224

LRHSD Previous Year (2025) State Aid:

\$18,931,779

\$ -4,506,555

*****GUARDRAIL*****

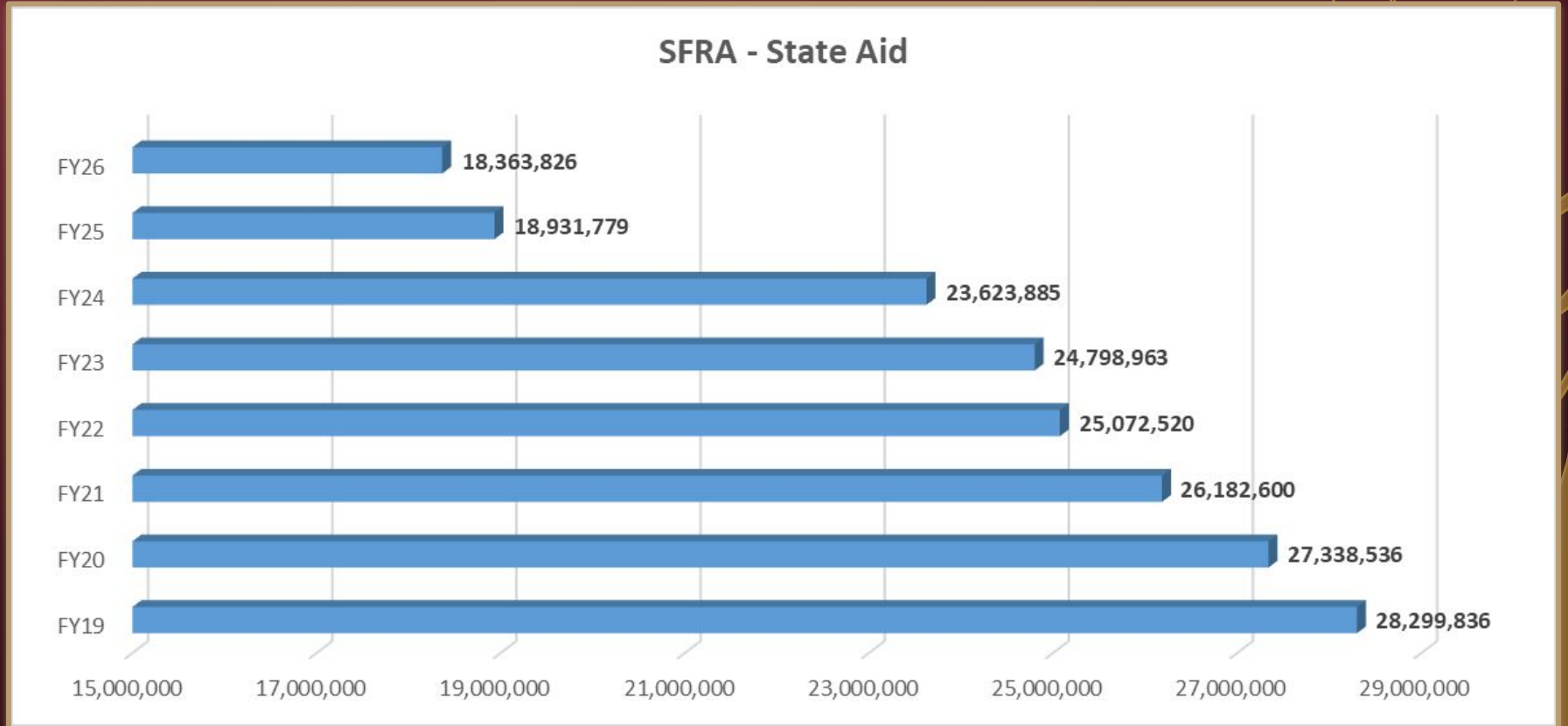
Maximum Reduction (3% of Previous Yr. State Aid) = \$-567,953

**Outcome:
\$3.9
Million!**

State Aid Summary - 8 years of reductions

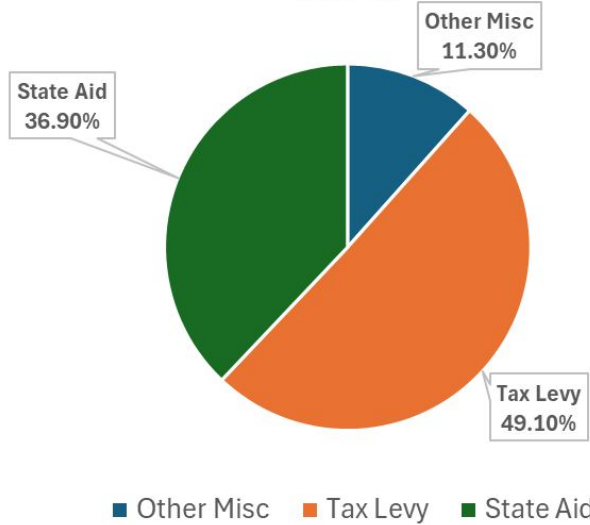
	State Aid	Decrease	% Increase/(Decrease)	S2 cuts	Total Operating Budget	% of state aid to Operating Budget
FY19	28,299,836	961,456.00		Year 1	\$ 153,950,719.00	18.38%
FY20	27,338,536	961,300.00	-3.40%	Year 2	\$ 154,014,361.00	17.75%
FY21	26,182,600	1,155,936.00	-4.23%	Year 3	\$ 155,389,085.00	16.85%
FY22	25,072,520	1,110,080.00	-4.24%	Year 4	\$ 159,193,783.00	15.75%
FY23	24,798,963	273,557.00	-1.09%	Year 5	\$ 163,111,554.00	15.20%
FY24	23,623,885	1,175,078.00	-4.74%	Year 6	\$ 167,084,852.00	14.14%
FY25	18,931,779	4,692,106.00	-19.86%	Year 7	\$ 175,018,286.94	10.82%
FY26	18,363,826	567,953.00	-3.00%	Year 1	\$ 178,382,939.08	10.29%
	Net reductions	\$ 10,897,466.00				

State Aid Summary - 8 years of reductions

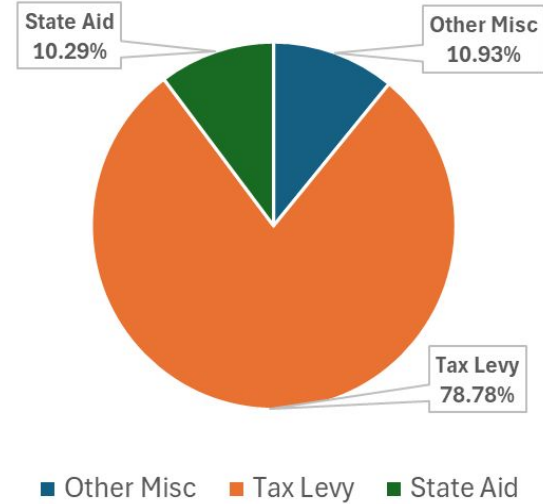


What does New Jersey provide LRHSD?

1994-95



2025-26



The Budget at a Glance

LRHSD Total Budget FY26

General Fund	\$ 178,382,939
Debt Service	\$ 7,856,135
Total	\$ 186,239,074

The Budget at a Glance

2025-2026 TAX LEVY

General Fund	\$140,525,407	+2.00%
Debt Service From 2005 & 2021 referendums	\$6,376,962	+0.00%
Total Tax Levy	\$146,902,369	+1.91%

Health Benefit Costs

Total Cost (Medical/RX/Dental)	\$28,322,014
Increase	\$3,489,892
Total Premium Percentage Increase*	14.05%
Estimated Employee Contribution	\$4,546,000

***Increase generates a tax levy adjustment to be used in future years of \$2,326,561**

Administrative Costs

NJDOE's Taxpayers' Guide to Education

LRHSD's RANKINGS		
	Per Pupil	Rank
Faculty to Admin.	16 :1	1/46
Students to Admin.	158.3 : 1	1/46
Total Budgeted Admin. Costs	\$1,982/pupil	11/46



Fiscal Year '26 Administrative Costs

STATE MANDATED REGIONAL PER PUPIL LIMIT IS:

\$2,667

LRHSD BUDGETED ADMINISTRATIVE COST PER
PUPIL IS:

\$1,884

LRHSD is \$783 or 29.3% **BELOW** the Regional Limit

Summary: Tax Impact

Regional Apportionment
Formula is set by New
Jersey Statute 18A:13-23
and **NOT** by LRHSD BOE

Municipality	Tax Levy Increase/Decrease in Cents	Impact on Average Home
Evesham	\$1.80	\$46.03
Medford	(\$1.42)	-\$51.33
Medford Lakes	\$7.24	\$219.93
Mt. Laurel	\$3.24	\$88.27
Shamong	\$3.58	\$115.88
Southampton	(\$2.97)	-\$54.08
Tabernacle	\$0.51	\$11.61
Woodland	(\$0.65)	-\$19.85

Summary

<u>Decrease</u> in State Aid	-3%
General Fund Tax Levy	2%
Debt Service Tax Levy	0%
Total Tax Levy Increase	1.91%
Taxes Increase in 5 of 8 Municipalities	

Summary

- No reductions to student programs or staff as a result of the budget.
- No additions to student programs or staff because of the budget.




Imagine a District with Spending Committees? That Should be Us!

Collaboration - How Does LRHSD Determine Cuts?
Five Committees formed in October 2020 with representatives from:

- Academic Programs
- Athletic Programs
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Student Support Services
- General Support Services

Goal: Reduce Spending and Preserve Quality of Education

A photograph showing a group of approximately ten people, including men and women of various ages, sitting around a large conference table. They appear to be in a meeting, with papers, pens, and water bottles on the table. The setting is a professional office or meeting room.

What Could We Add?

- Add more Programs (Unified Sports, for example)
- Career Pathway at Shawnee
- New World Language
- More AP Classes
- Programs to support students for “unknown” careers in AI