



WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 1199 • 18th Avenue

Wall, NJ 07719

Dr. Tracy Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools

May 2, 2025

Dear Wall Township Public Schools Community:

Wall Township Public Schools and the Board of Education remain steadfast in their commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experience. This includes maintaining optimal class sizes, implementing evidence-based curriculum strategies, providing extracurricular programming to support students' interests, and offering robust counseling services. In addition to a committed instructional and educational services staff, our vision of the best possible educational experience includes the dedicated efforts of our Board-employed paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, maintenance workers, security personnel, office staff, food service personnel, and other support staff. Every member of our team plays a vital role in shaping our students' learning environment, and each member of our team is deeply valued by our district.

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, we continue to evaluate the evolving needs of our district. Sometimes, this process requires us to make adjustments in response to changing priorities, driven by student needs and the financial landscape. One of our ongoing goals in developing the annual school budget is to maximize efficiency. Each year, we ask: How can we reduce costs while preserving (or enhancing) the quality of our students' educational experience and supporting our staff?

WTPS is committed to providing its students with the best academic preparation possible. During the last two years, great strides have been made to align elementary instructional strategies with evidence-based practices and to provide structured classroom opportunities to tend to individual needs. The next steps in our efforts to enhance instructional services required us to examine current elementary scheduling practices. A new, district-wide elementary schedule has been developed, which will provide increased instructional time in both language arts and mathematics. Additionally, our team was also able to identify opportunities to increase supervisory opportunities using full-time, certificated staff during lunch and recess. As a result, the realized savings of approximately \$220,000 by not including the 2.5-hour lunch paraprofessional positions in the budget were used to help close next year's budget gap. Please know this decision was not made lightly. We are deeply grateful to our part-time lunch paraprofessionals for their dedicated service to the children of Wall Township. Their contributions have made a meaningful difference, and we thank them sincerely.

I must stress that the reduction in force of the 2.5-hour lunch paraprofessionals does not impact the number of instructional paraprofessionals who support students with IEPs (during lunch and



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recess as well) or those serving in special education roles. Those positions are mandated and remain fully funded in the budget.

We have received some questions regarding elementary lunch and recess supervision. I want to assure families that without question, the students will be appropriately supervised during lunch and recess. While the supervision ratio may vary slightly depending on class sizes throughout the district, all students will continue to be supervised by Board employees, and specifically, by an increased number of certificated staff. Please note that our budget continues to support full-time elementary lunch/recess coordinators, instructional paraprofessionals, security personnel, and, to reiterate, with the restructuring of the elementary school schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, our K–5 students will also be supervised by an increased number of certificated employees.

I have also received questions about physical education instruction. Know that health and physical education are valued by this district, and as such, no health and physical education positions were cut in next year's budget. The scheduling of health and physical education instructional delivery throughout the week will be adjusted for next year. More information on instructional delivery will follow.

Information regarding the K-5 scheduling revisions for the 2025-2026 school year will be shared at the May elementary faculty meetings, at which time elementary staff will be apprised of the full scope of the new schedule. Following those meetings, communication will be sent directly to families to ensure everyone is informed during this transition.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide our students with an enriched learning environment.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools