

2025-2026 Budget Hearing



Investing in Students, Strengthening Our Future

May 8, 2025

Mission



The mission of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Schools is to provide enriching, safe and meaningful educational experiences that build 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

Budget Development Context:

Revenue Factors impacting the budget



- Taxable Land/Tax Revenue
 - 29% of our Revenue
 - NY State average: 56%
- Federal Impact Aid has remained flat the last 10 years
 - \$993,586 in additional funding to HFFMCSD if the program kept up with inflation
 - Full funding of Impact Aid would deliver \$21 Million more annually to HFFMCSD
- Tuition Revenue has declined over last 4 years
 - \$1.6 Million less in 24-25 vs. 20-21
 - Unpredictability in enrollment drives conservative budgeting

Budget Overview



Adopted Budget Key Points



- This budget continues to provide programs, support and opportunities for all students in the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery CSD
- Revenue is based on the 2026 Enacted Budget for State Aid
 - HFFMCSD received the same State Aid projection as in January's Executive budget
- Total Budget: \$40,762,582
 - Budget-to-budget % Increase = 1.92%
 - Budget-to-budget \$ increase = \$767,441
- Tax Levy: \$11,912,078
 - Increase of 1.92%
 - This is a \$8.96/month increase on a home with assessed value of \$250,000

Budget Gap Reduction Measures



- Revenue Adjustment: \$380,000
 - Fund Balance Appropriation
 - Enhanced Revenue Analysis
- Expenditure Adjustment: \$70,000
 - Enhanced expenditure analysis
 - Health Insurance & Benefits Lines
- Staffing Position Reductions: \$455,000
 - Buildings & Grounds: 1
 - Aide: 1
 - Certified Positions: 4
 - Elementary position
 - Secondary position
 - Secondary position due to retirement
 - Building Administrator position

2025-2026 Adopted Budget Expenditure “Three Part Budget”



ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	2024-2025	2025-2026
General Support	\$1,919,096.96	\$2,051,163.24
District/Building Administration	\$1,082,256.68	\$1,027,017.40
Employee Benefits	\$617,190.20	\$592,052.93
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$3,618,543.84	\$3,670,233.57
PROGRAM BUDGET		
Regular Instruction	\$8,902,015.91	\$9,231,914.00
Special Education	\$7,500,725.26	\$7,904,211.65
Instruction Support/Programs/Services	\$3,351,298.92	\$3,485,305.08
Pupil Activities	\$810,186.27	\$826,085.77
Transportation	\$3,567,735.62	\$3,619,862.45
Employee Benefits	\$6,438,984.62	\$6,176,733.80
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$30,570,946.60	\$31,244,112.75
CAPITAL BUDGET		
Operations and Maintenance	\$2,809,864.44	\$2,773,807.57
Debt Service	\$2,225,859.00	\$2,335,859.00
Employee Benefits	\$769,927.13	\$738,569.11
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET	\$5,805,650.56	\$5,848,235.68
GRAND TOTAL	\$39,995,141.00	\$40,762,582.00

Adopted Budget Revenue Estimate



Revenues	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
State Aid	\$19,146,811	\$19,293,929	\$147,118	0.77%
Local Tax Levy	\$11,688,233	\$11,912,078	\$223,845	1.92%
Other Sources (Federal, Tuition, etc.)	\$9,060,097	\$9,156,575	\$96,478	1.06%
Reserves/Fund Balance	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$300,000	300.00%
TOTAL	\$39,995,141	\$40,762,582	\$767,441	1.92%

- State Aid is based on the enacted 2026 NY State budget
- Proposed Tax Levy Increase of 1.92%
 - A \$250,000 value home will see an impact is \$107.57/year = \$8.96/month = \$0.30/day
 - Estimated 25-26 Tax Rate = \$22.8987*

**Rate is expressed as \$/\$1000 of assessed value and is based on current assessment data, which is not final until Summer.*

Contingency Budget



Contingency Budget Overview



- If the budget does not pass on May 20th, the district has two options:
 - Put the budget up for a revote
 - Go directly to a contingency budget
- Under a contingency budget, NYS Law would require the district to:
 - Keep the tax levy the same as the '24-'25 school year
 - Remove all new equipment purchases
 - Charge all organizations for use of district facilities

25-26 Contingency Budget Information



- 2025-2026 Contingency Budget = \$40,538,737
 - Reduction of \$223,845 from the '25-26 Board Adopted Budget
 - Due to the required 0% tax increase of a contingency budget
- The reductions for a Contingency Budget would result in:
 - Additional Staffing cuts
 - Elimination of one Deputy Sheriff
 - Reductions in Equipment, Maintenance, Technology and Professional Development
- The required 0% tax levy increase of the contingency budget would put at risk the \$1.2 Million “i-payment” portion of the district’s Federal Impact Aid

Voting Information



- Budget Vote & School Board Election:
 - Tuesday, May 20th, 6AM - 9PM
 - Highland Falls Intermediate School
- Voter Qualifications:
 - Citizen of the United States
 - 18 or older
 - Resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the election
 - Registered to vote with the district or the county
- Absentee/Early Voting Ballot Information:
 - Applications can be obtained from the district website or district office.
 - Due to the District Clerk no less than 7 days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed. Otherwise it is due by the day before the vote
 - The ballot itself must be received by the District Clerk by 5PM on 5/20/25

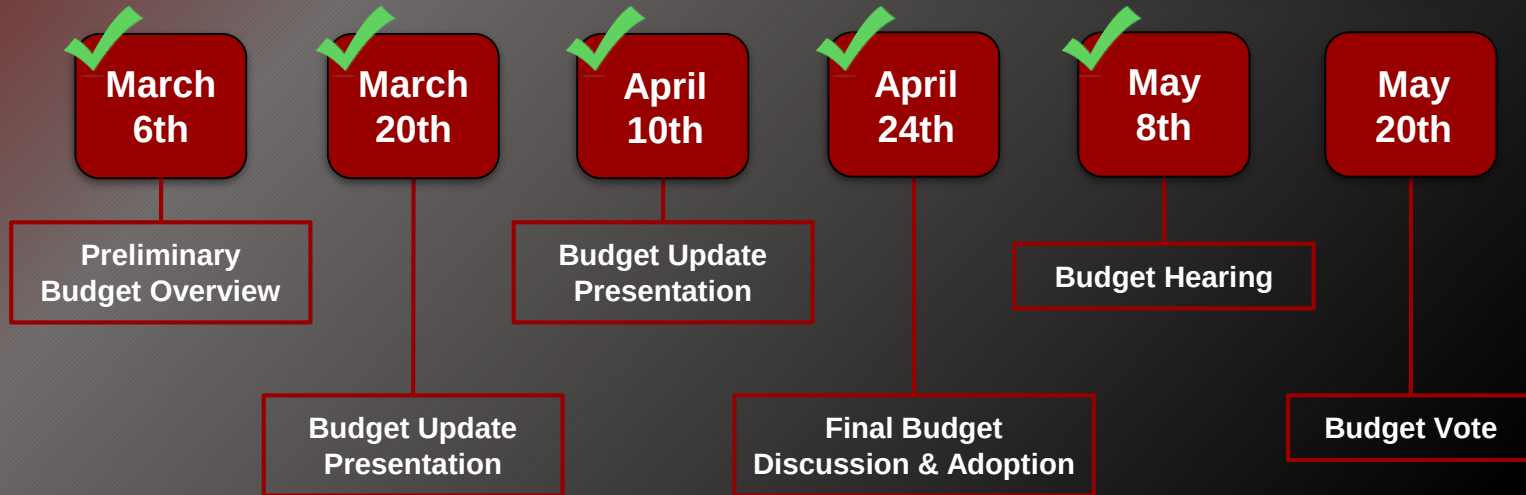
Thank you



APPENDIX



Budget Development Calendar



Budget Vote will take place at the Highland Falls Intermediate School on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 6AM - 9PM.