

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution
Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index
2025-2026 School Year**

Act 1 § 311(a), 53 P.S. § 6926.311(a), requires an accelerated budget adoption timeline and procedure unless a school district, no later than 110 days before the primary election, adopts a Resolution containing the certifications incorporated in this Resolution. After adoption of a Resolution containing such certifications, § 311(d) authorizes a school district to comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules as set forth in School Code § 687, 24 P.S. § 6-687. The School Board has reviewed the school district preliminary budget or has other information sufficient to determine that the budget for the next fiscal year can be funded based on increasing taxes by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index. In lieu of the Act 1 budget adoption timeline and procedure, the School Board wishes to make the required certifications and comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules.

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Bethlehem Area School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

1. The school district's various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year by increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the school district's Act 1 index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education ("the Department"). This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
2. The applicable index for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is 4.8%.
3. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to seek or use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.
4. The School Board has to date and, in the future, will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.
5. The School Board certifies that the District will submit this Resolution along with information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of its public schools to the Department on a uniform form prepared by the Department no later than five (5) days after the adoption of this Resolution.
6. The School Board will not for the 2025-2026 fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index of 4.8%.

ADOPTED by the Bethlehem Area School District Board of School Directors at their Regular Board Meeting on November 18, 2024.



Michael E. Faccinnetto, Board President



Harry Aristakesian, Board Secretary