



# OWEN J. ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FAST FAQs

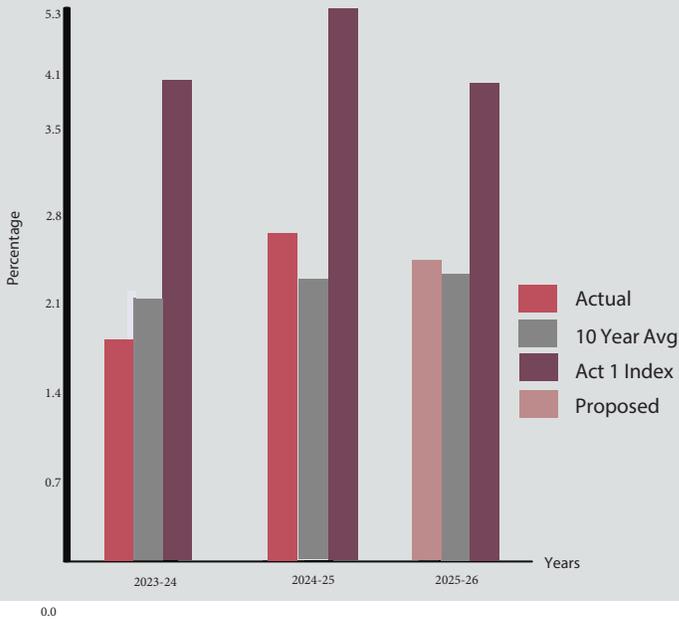


## 1 WHAT IS THE TAX INCREASE FOR OWEN J. ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT (OJRS) THIS YEAR AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

The proposed tax increase for OJRS is 2.50%, which falls below our state mandated taxing authority (4.00%). For the average taxpayer (average assessed value of \$186,691\*), taxes will increase by \$165 this year, amounting to approximately \$14 per month.

On May 1, 2024, the Commonwealth's Budget Secretary certified that OJRS was allocated \$2,289,266 in PA State Gaming Funds (a 22% increase from the 2023-24 allocation) which allows the District to reduce taxpayers' burden in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years. Approved Homestead/Farmstead properties will each receive a maximum of \$247.40 reduction to the property's tax bill, lowering their effective tax rate to 2.00%.

\* Amount based on current (1998) assessment values



## 2 WHAT NEEDS ARE WE FUNDING?

The majority of the budget increase directly supports student educational programs, in addition to implementing a full-day kindergarten program beginning with the 2025-26 school year. Additional support for student services include a high school guidance counselor, mental health and emotional support for students at all levels, special education, and student tuition costs for CCIU Technical College High School (TCHS) and charter schools. The budget also includes transportation services and funding a new 5 year contract, which will provide for 43 new vehicles to replace the current aging fleet. Moving forward, we will continue to phase in required debt service to fund the Secondary Campus Long Term Facilities Plan. Overall, costs are minimized by aggressively controlling costs in other areas, such as reducing the facilities maintenance budget over the long term via initiatives that include guaranteed energy savings projects, obtaining a \$1.2 Million grant for infrastructure improvements, and minimizing the impact of inflation by participating in highly competitive purchasing cooperatives for commodities, such as fuel, electricity, and supplies. The District develops a fiscally responsible budget, which avoids wide tax impact swings year over year.

### Scan for More Info



## 3 WHEN DOES OJRS BEGIN DEVELOPING THE BUDGET AND HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS?

The budget development process begins in November and extends through April. Several working sessions and public meetings are held to share information and gather input. The final budget is voted on in either May or June. The meeting calendar, community resources and information from every meeting is posted on the district's website.

For more information visit [www.ojrsd.com/domain/186](http://www.ojrsd.com/domain/186) or scan the QR code above.

### Did You Know?

Senior Citizens may qualify for a property tax/rent rebate! Visit [www.ojrsd.com/tax-rebate](http://www.ojrsd.com/tax-rebate) for more information.



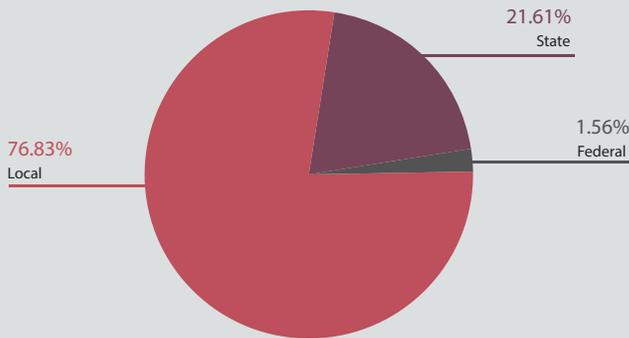
# OWEN J. ROBERTS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FAST FAQS

## WHAT ARE OJRSD'S SOURCES OF REVENUE?

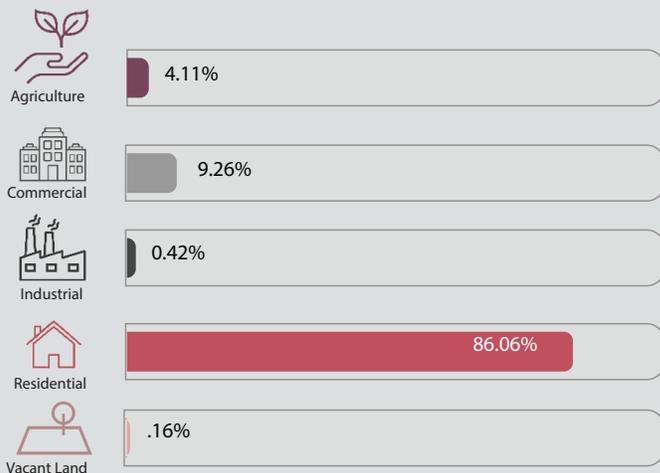
OJRSD only receives 22% of its total revenue and funding from the state government and a mere 2% from the federal government. Our local community is required to support 77% of our District's budget. Within the existing seven townships that comprise OJRSD, commercial business properties are only 9.3% of the tax base and the remainder is primarily residential homeowners.

# 4

OJRSD REVENUE SOURCES



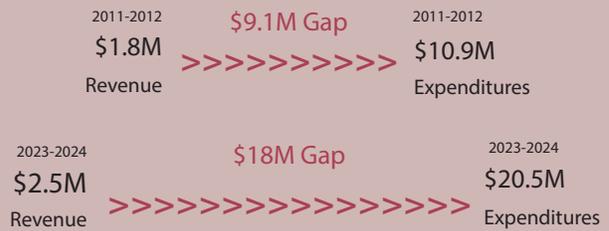
OJRSD PROPERTY TAX REVENUE



## WHAT IN THE BUDGET IS MANDATORY VS. NON MANDATORY?

88% of the budget is mandated by either state or federal regulations, or based on contractual obligations. These are items such as charter school tuition costs, special education, student transportation, and employment contracts. The incremental costs of unfunded state mandates are required to be funded locally. Non-mandated costs represent 12% of the budget, such as facility maintenance, technology, security, supplies, and student athletics and activities, which are critical to providing a safe school environment and enrichment opportunities for our students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION - THE WIDENING STATE FUNDING GAP



# 5

## WHY DOES OJRSD INVEST IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS?

This year, OJRSD completed the West Vincent Elementary School traffic pattern improvements project. In addition, the French Creek Elementary School traffic pattern improvements and playground relocation project were designed and in the process of obtaining required agency and township land development approvals. The anticipated bid date is fall 2025, with a construction start date of Spring 2026 and completion prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year.

OJRSD also hired Schrader Group Architects to begin design of the Secondary Campus Long Term Facilities Plan, which can be viewed online at <https://a753.short.gy/8XnGMz> or by scanning the QR code.

# 6

