

Colts Neck Township Board of Education



**2025-2026 Budget Presentation:
“A Statement of Priorities”**

May 7, 2025

District Mission Statement



“Our Mission is to empower and inspire students to be confident, creative, self-sufficient learners who maximize their strengths and talents and contribute as responsible participants in their ever-expanding world.”

Colts Neck Township Board of Education

Angelique Volpe - President

Phyllis Camera - Vice President

Sara Horowitz, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez,
Vincent Rugnetta, Robert Scales, Brian Scarpa, &
Kevin Walsh



AD-HOC FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Board Chair: Jason Orrico

Members:

Phyllis Camera, Brian Scarpa, & Kevin Walsh

The Annual School Budget

Board of Education

Policy 6220 – BUDGET PREPARATION:

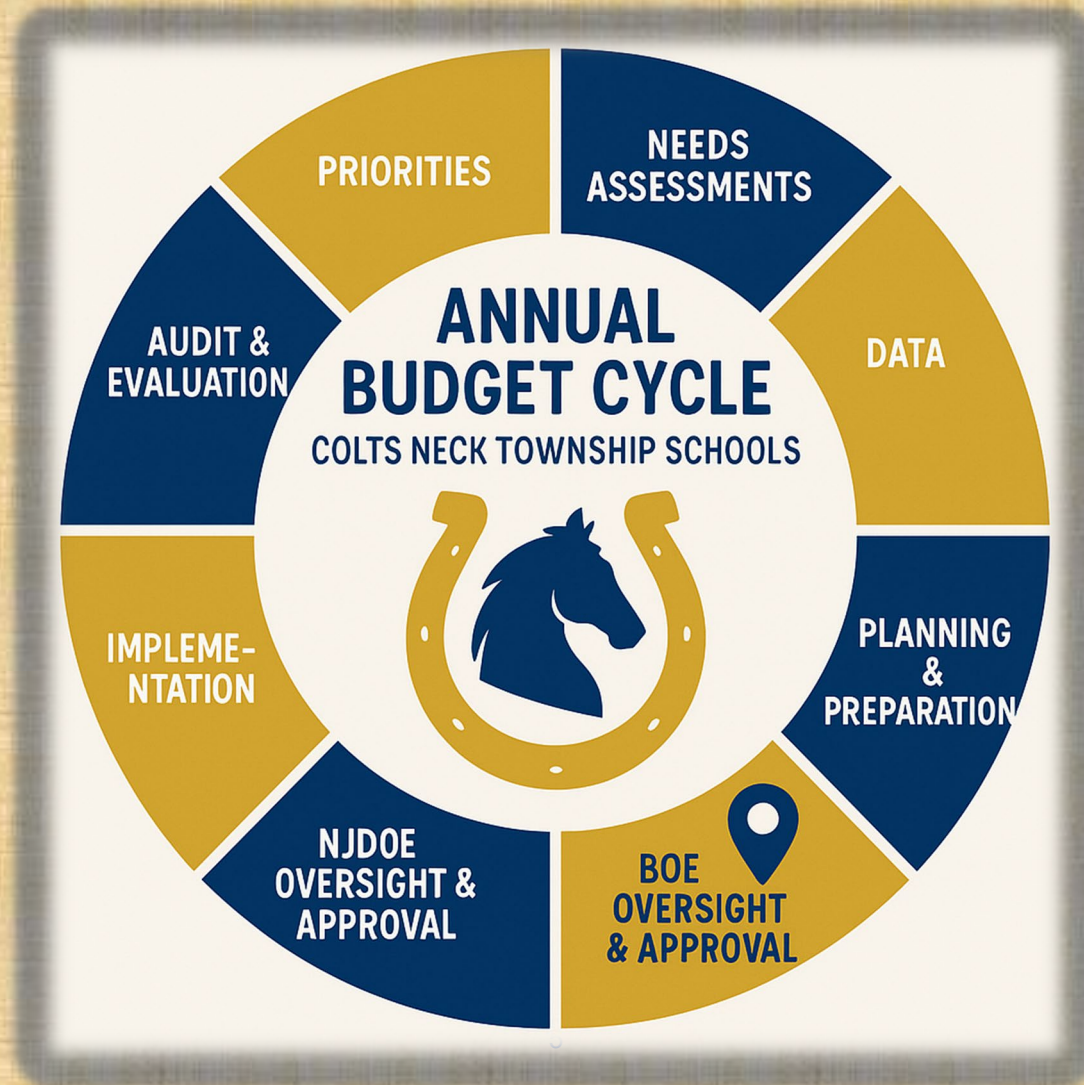
“The budget is the financial reflection of the educational plan for the district. The budget shall be designed to carry out that plan in a thorough and efficient manner and to maintain the facilities and honor the obligations of the district.”



- The 2025-2026 school budget is designed to support the thorough and efficient education of our students
 - The fiscal plan for the operations of the public school district
 - Detailed outline for how a school district allocates its financial resources to support education and operations
 - Reflects goals and how those goals will be funded
 - Regulated by the New Jersey Department of Education, oversight from the Board of Education

For more information about the work, mission, and vision of the Board of Education, visit www.coltsneckschools.org

Colts Neck Township Schools Annual Budget Preparation Cycle



Annual Budget Development:

TIME + COMMUNICATION + COLLABORATION

TIME:

- to identify determine priority needs that support student learning and operations related to the learning environment
- to determine staff for academic programs, support and related services, and operations
- to analyze budgetary allocations / trends in costs and spending adjustments

COMMUNICATION:

- to maintain transparency throughout the process
- to set expectations and parameters
- to solicit feedback
- to facilitate productive dialogue that aligns needs and budgetary priorities

COLLABORATION:

- to evaluate and determine the value, effectiveness, and efficiencies of programs, services, and operations
- to foster productive decision making and fiscal adjustments
- to ensure the annual school budget provides resources, services, and programs for every child

Student Enrollment

	24-25 (10/15/24) Enrollment	25-26 (10/15/25) Projected Enrollment
PreK (tuition based)	38	35
Kindergarten	88	120
Grades 1-5	466	446
Grades 6-8	257	257
Special Education (PreK-8)	158	179
Out-of-District Placement (Special Education)	8	9
Charter School	3	1
Total	1,018	1,047 (Advertised enrollments do not include PreK).

Aligning Goals & Fiscal Plan

Board of Education Goals:

- **FACILITIES:** Develop and implement a funding strategy to support capital improvement projects outlined in the Long-Range Facilities Plan, prioritizing safety and security features while ensuring the facilities meet the evolving needs of students and staff.
- **COMMUNICATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY:** Enhance transparent and consistent communication by fostering strong relationships with the stakeholders, students, families, teachers, and community members. Actively seek input, address concerns, and collaborate on solutions to improve district-wide outcomes. Participate in NJSBA training and discussions to continuously improve board effectiveness.
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Evaluate student success and curriculum standards by increasing the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations. Recognize and celebrate diverse forms of achievement, including academic performance, interpersonal development, athletic & art success, and contributions to the school community and culture.
- **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Ensure fiscal responsibility by developing and monitoring fiscally conservative budgets that align with district goals, maximizing efficiency and transparency. Additionally, explore shared service agreements to optimize resources and reduce costs .

Aligning Goals & Fiscal Plan, continued

District Goals:

- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** (Strategic Plan Goal Area #1 - Student Learning Outcomes): As part of a long-term goal to become a National Blue Ribbon School, the district will increase student academic performance and participation rates measured by 2025 NJSLA across key subject areas (ELA, Math, Science) in grade levels / subjects where 2024 NJSLA student performance data fell below 2023 NJSLA.
- **GOVERNANCE:** By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, Colts Neck Township Board of Education will have a fully updated and compliant draft Board Policy Manual with NJSBA, ensuring a streamlined and efficient approach to policy governance that reflects both legal requirements and the values of the community
- **STAKEHOLDER/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** (Strategic Plan Goal Area #3– Communication & Partnerships & Goal Area #5 – Engaging Staff): Establish a standing advisory committee that will engage Colts Neck Township Schools' staff in a collaborative, advisory capacity, fostering a culture of shared decision making and continuous improvement.

Aligning Goals & Fiscal Plan, continued

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN



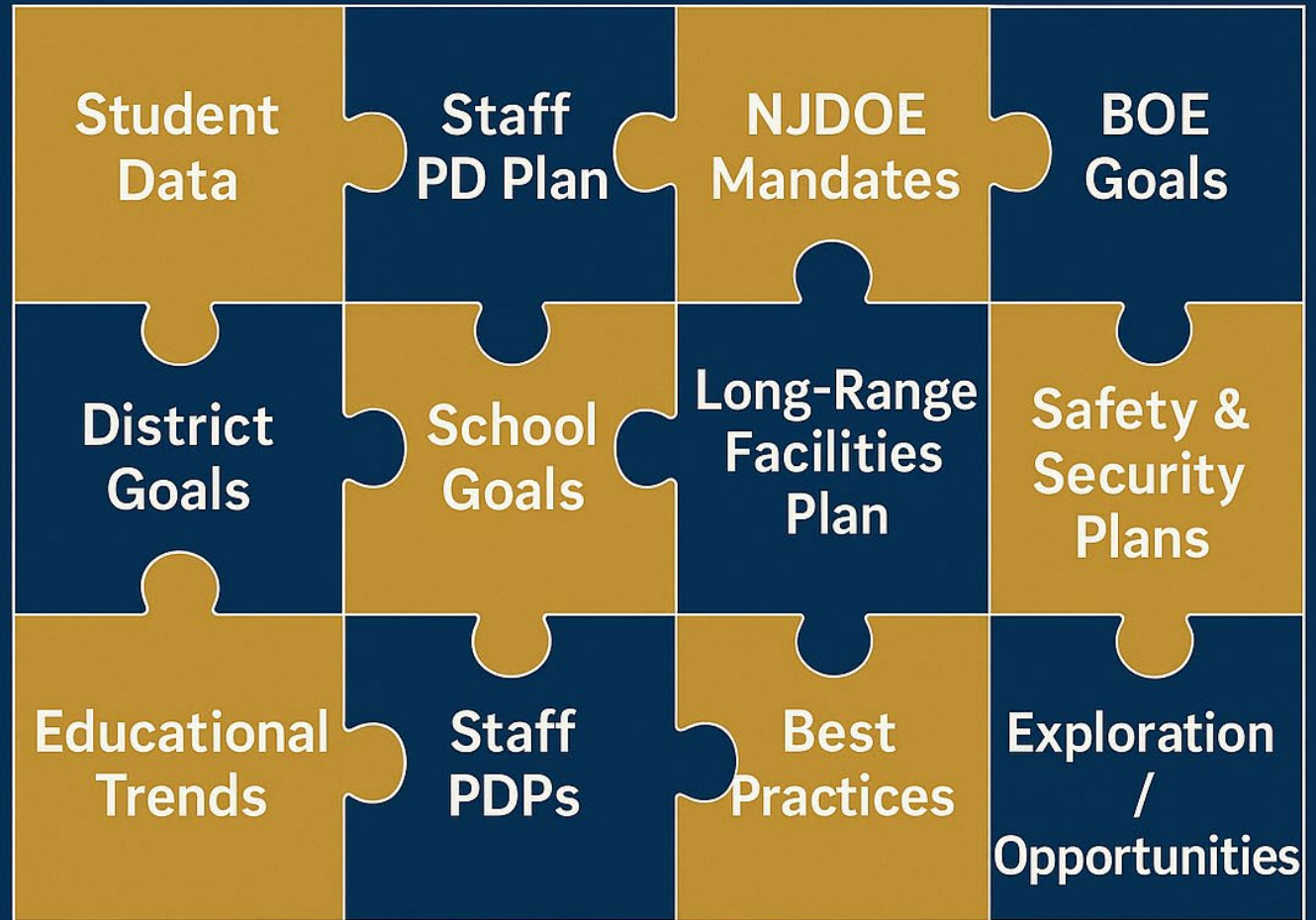
Goal #1 – Student Learning Outcomes

Goal #2 – Finance and Facilities

Goal #3 – Communications
and Partnerships

Goal #4 – Whole Child and Wellness

Goal #5 – Engaging Staff



Key Components of the 25-26 School Budget

25-26 Fiscal Plan Allocates Funds To:

- Maintain all current academic, social & emotional, & extracurricular programs
 - Targeted Intervention Program (TIP)
 - Targeted Enrichment Program (TEP)
 - ELL Services for ML learners
- Add “Being a Writer” new, research-based writing program, K-5
- Provide all programs and related services to students with IEPs and 504 plans
- Continue to offer a high-quality summer program – Summer Bridge (previously grant funded)
- Engage with the NWSE community and support our military-affiliated students and families
- Add printed enVision Mathematics Workbooks to resources available to all students, 3-5
- Explore / pilot new supplemental mathematics resources
- Initiate a new extracurricular program at CDMS designed to promote leadership and life skills in alignment with JROTC programs
- Add one classroom teacher at CRES in grade 4 to account for student enrollment to maintain low class sizes, K-8
- Provide quality, sustained professional development and training opportunities for staff
- Supply district-owned & operated transportation to students
- Maintain facilities, implement preventative maintenance, and address capital projects
- Upgrade and enhance communications with a new website and communications platform
- Implement a new Board of Education Policy Manual and digital platform
- Serve quality food that aligns with the district’s wellness goals

2025-2026 District Staffing Plan / FTE

Category	24-25	25-26	+/-
Certificated Staff / CNTEA	143	144	+1
Instructional Assistants / Kindergarten Assistants / Library Assistants	42	39	-3
Lunch/Recess Aides	7	7	
Building-based Secretaries	4	4	
School Security Monitors	4	4	
Administrators (District & Building-Based)	10	10	
Central Office Support: (Accounting / Payroll / Clerical / Registrar)	9	8	-1
Facilities: (Facilities Manager / Maintenance / Custodians/ Secretary)	15.5	15.5	
Technology: (IT Manager / Computer Support Specialists)	4	4	
Transportation: (Coordinator / Assistant Coordinator/Mechanic / Drivers / Bus Aides)	21	21	
TOTAL	259.5	256.5	-3

Revenues vs. Appropriations

\$ Budgeted Revenues =		\$ Budgeted Appropriations
Local Tax Levy		General Education
State Aid		Special Education
Budgeted Fund Balance		Support Services
Transportation Fees		Administration
Miscellaneous Revenues		Operations & Maintenance Of Facilities
Interest on Reserves		Employee Benefits
		Transportation
		Capital Outlay

25-26 Budget Factors

- Healthcare premiums up over 14%; collecting less employee contributions from Ch.44
- Commercial lines insurance premiums up 7.4%
- 2nd year of ESIP (19yr) Lease payment \$379,126 budgeted; offset in reducing energy budget by 36%.
- PERS employer contribution budgeted at \$602k.
- Budget includes capital expenditure for replacement of school bus radio communication equip and on-going required maintenance district-wide.
- Budget includes local funding of Summer Bridge program: \$57k
- Charter School estimated tuition decreased from \$62,017 to \$29,056.
- Enrollment remains mostly static; impacts Cost Per Pupil in inflationary, rising cost environment. CPI for budget per DOE is 3.57%

Efficiencies & Shared Services: Strategies to Reduce Tax Impact

- Utilizing Impact Aid Reserves: \$250,000
- Utilizing Fund Balance / Surplus totaling \$749,931
- Transportation jointures / tiered bussing
- Competitive bidding & leasing
- Energy Cooperatives - ACES (Nat'l Gas & Elect.)
- Joint Insurance Funds – health benefits and commercial insurance
- Monmouth County Curriculum Consortia (MC3)
- Instructional Coaches / In-house professional development
- Purchasing Cooperatives – ESCNJ, HCESC, Ed Data, State Contracts
- Township – shared services for Class III SLEOs; assist with snow services and equipment rentals
- In-house maintenance personnel
- Electronic notifications / virtual network servers

General Fund Revenues

Category	Budget 2024-2025	Proposed 2025 - 2026	Dollar Change	% Change
Local Tax Levy	\$ 24,627,041	\$ 24,627,041	-0-	0.00%
NJ State Aid	\$ 3,633,598	\$ 3,453,984	(\$179,614)	(4.94%)
Fund Balance- 'Unassigned'	\$ -0-	\$ 204,257	\$204,257	100%
Fund Balance- Audit / Surplus	\$1,033,919	\$ 545,674	(\$ 488,245)	(47.2)%
Fund Balance- Reserves	\$ 375,000	\$ 250,000	(\$ 125,000)	(33.3)%
Other (Transportation Fees, Miscell. Revenues)	\$ 589,756	\$ 945,882	\$ 356,126	60.3%
Total General Fund	\$ 30,259,314	\$ 30,026,838	(\$232,476)	(0.76%)



N.J. State Aid

Categorical Aid	Budget 2024-2025	Proposed 2025 - 2026	Dollar Change	% Change
Transport. Aid	\$ 652,097	\$ 594,824	(\$ 57,273)	(8.78%)
Special Ed.	\$ 1,076,175	\$ 1,204,415	\$ 128,240	11.92%
Security	\$ 92,798	\$ 131,095	\$ 38,297	41.27%
Military Impact	\$ 1,812,528	\$ 1,523,650	(\$ 288,878)	(15.9%)
Total State Aid Revenue	\$ 3,633,598	\$ 3,453,984	(\$ 179,614)	(4.94%)

General Fund Appropriations

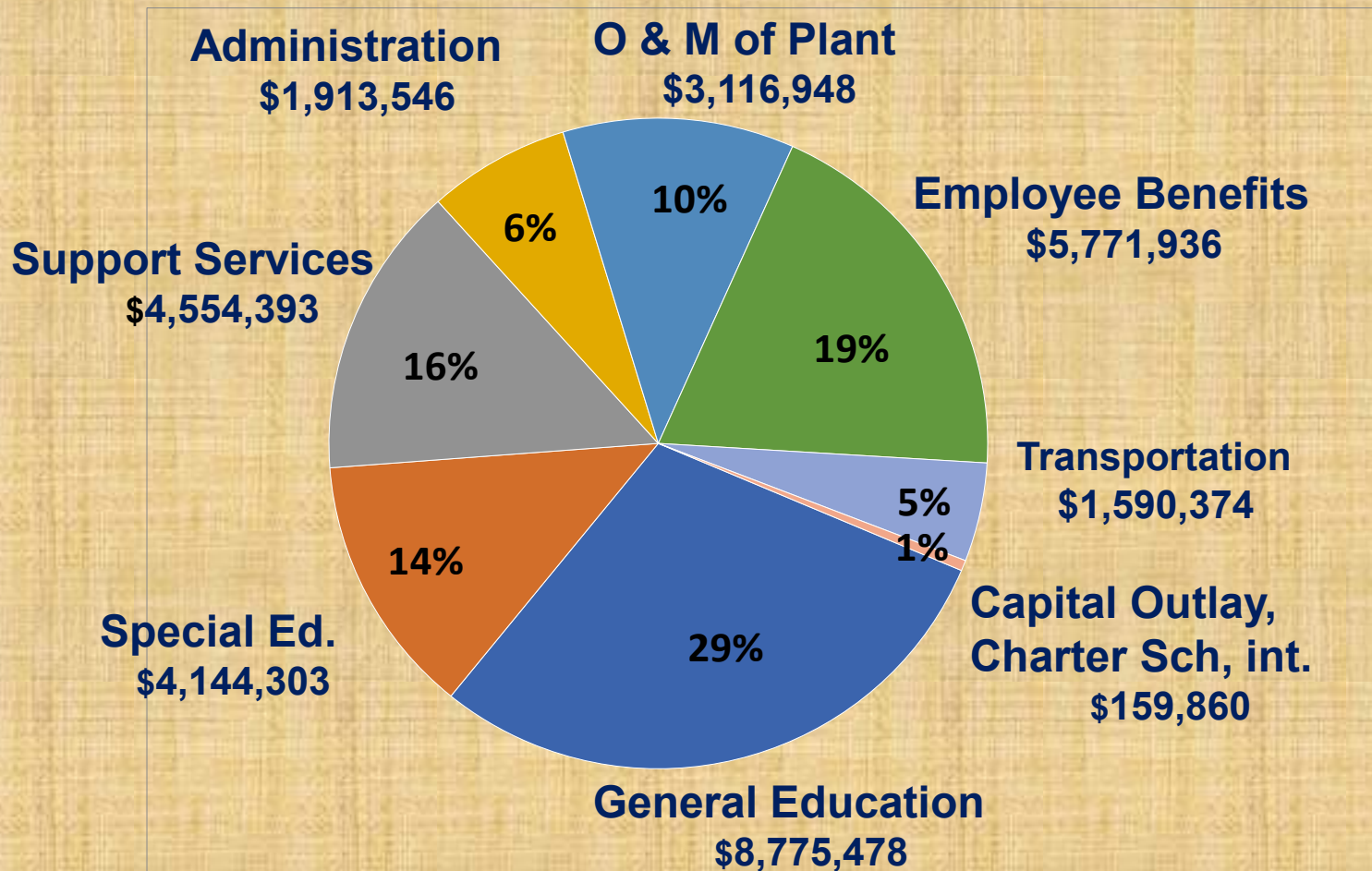
Category	Budget 2024-2025	Proposed 2025 - 2026	Dollar Change	% Change
Instruction (General Ed, Basic Skills, Bilingual, Co- curricular /Athletics, Summer)	\$ 8,631,339	\$ 8,775,478	\$ 144,139	1.7%
Special Ed (Out of District Tuition, IEP Instruction)	\$ 3,824,666	\$ 4,144,303	\$ 319,637	8.4%
Student Support Services (Health services, Speech, OT/PT, Related Services, CST, Guidance, Media/Library services, staff PD)	\$ 4,572,398	\$ 4,554,393	(\$ 18,005)	(0.40%)
Operations and Maintenance of Plant (Security, Insurances)	\$ 3,520,659	\$ 3,116,948	(\$ 403,711)	(11.5%)
School & Central Administrative Costs (salaries, legal fees, business /central operations, etc.)	\$ 1,930,019	\$ 1,913,546	(\$ 16,473)	(0.90%)

General Fund Appropriations (cont'd)

Category	Budget 2024-2025	Proposed 2025 - 2026	Dollar Change	% Change
Employee Benefits (Health, FICA, PERS Pension, Workers Comp, Tuition Reimb.)	\$ 5,907,829	\$ 5,771,936	(\$ 135,893)	(2.30%)
Transportation (Bus fleet, Drivers/aides, Aid in Lieu, Special Ed routes, Insur.)	\$ 1,677,018	\$ 1,590,374	(\$ 86,644)	(5.20%)
Capital Outlay (Equipment, Facility Acquisition & Construction Srvcs, SDA Debt Service) – Fund 12	\$ 132,369	\$ 128,804	(\$ 3,565)	(2.70%)
Charter School	\$ 62,017	\$ 29,056	(\$ 32,961)	(53.1%)
Interest – Maint.& Cap. Reserve	\$1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 30,259,314	\$ 30,026,838	(\$232,476)	(0.768)%



2025 - 2026 General Fund Appropriations



Tax Levy Comparison

	2024-25	2025 - 26	\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$ 24,627,041	\$ 24,627,041	\$ -0-	0.0%
Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,673,389	\$ 1,676,600	\$ 3,211	0.192%
Total	\$ 26,300,430	\$ 26,303,641	\$ 3,211	0.012%

Tax Impact

Tax Levy	Tax Rate per \$100 of Assessed Value	Tax Rate Increase (Decrease)	Tax Impact (Tax rate x home value)
General Fund	0.5438	(0.0698)	\$ 8.43
Debt Service	0.0370	(0.0047)	\$ 1.47
Total	0.5809	(0.0745)	\$9.90
Annual Net Tax Increase/(Decrease)			\$9.90
Monthly tax impact:			\$0.83
(based on <i>average assessed</i> home valuation of \$1,264,807)			

2020-21 Net Valuation Taxable (in 100s) = \$30,058,875

2021-22 Net Valuation Taxable (in 100s) = \$30,846,063

2022-23 Net Valuation Taxable (in 100s) = \$33,056,323

2023-24 Net Valuation Taxable (in 100s) = \$36,993,532

2024-25 Net Valuation Taxable (in 100s) = \$40,131,113

2025-26 Net Valuation Taxable (in 100s) = \$45,284,563

THANK YOU

For additional information regarding the 2025-2026 Budget and other district matters, please visit the district website:

www.coltsneckschools.org

Superintendent contact: Garibay@coltsneckschools.org

Business Administrator contact: Marasco@coltsneckschools.org

