

JTPS Budget Presentation

SY 2025-2026

**Presented by: Jeanne Howe, Superintendent
Rita Oroho Giacchi, Business Administrator**

District Vision & Mission Drive All Budgetary Decisions

VISION

The district will be a leader in academic excellence while developing healthy, well-rounded, resourceful students who are positive, contributing members of local and global communities.

MISSION

We strive to foster academic excellence by engaging students in meaningful learning experiences that meet the highest educational and ethical standards, while supporting every learning style – in a caring, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment, supported by the greater community.

2025-2026 Budget Goals

- Minimize the impact of state aid funding loss on student achievement and program offerings
- Maintain reasonable class sizes
- Continued support for internal academies
 - Multimedia, Broadcasting and Journalism Academy, STEM Academy & Business and Finance Academy
- Maintain district operations, sound facilities & safe transportation
 - Utilize Capital Reserve funds to begin sewage treatment plant upgrades at the HS/MS campus
 - Continue necessary purchasing to maintain district technology and transportation fleet
- Effectively leverage other available funding sources

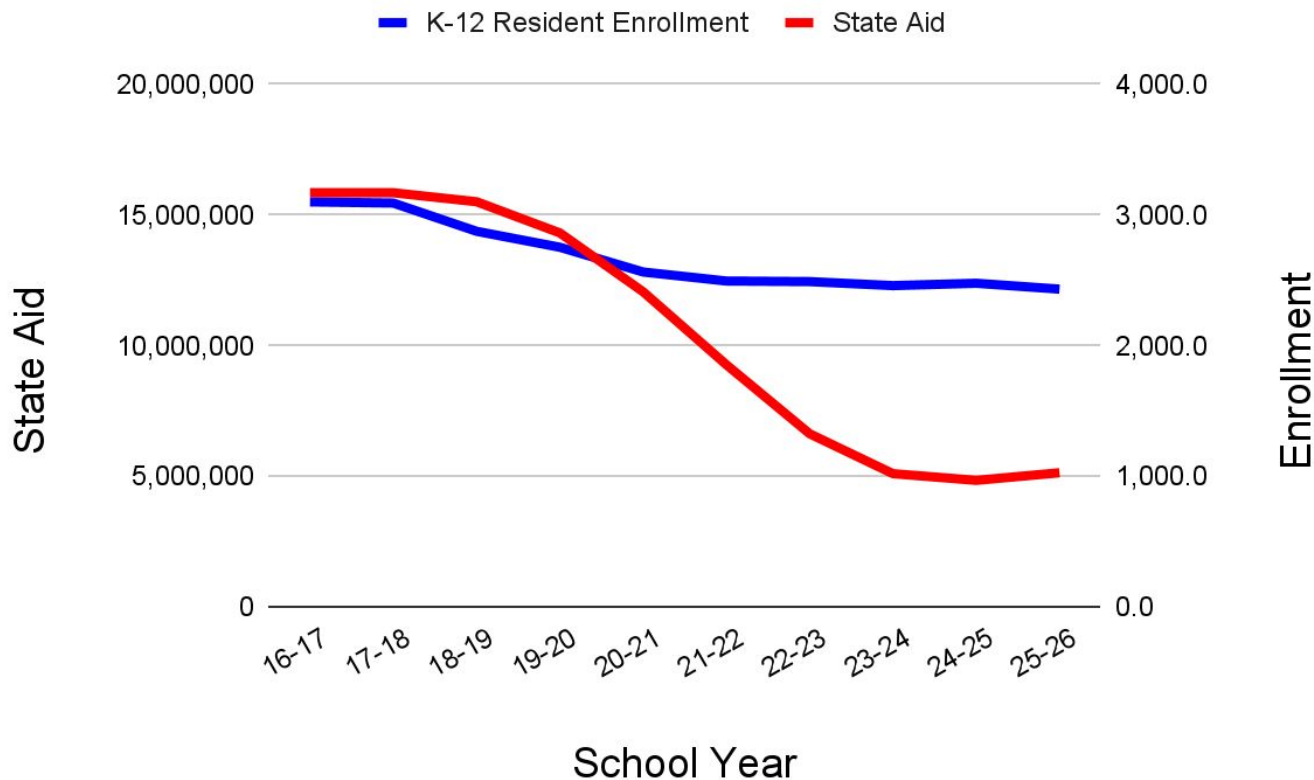
How has S-2 Impacted JTPS over the Past 7 Years?

****Not inclusive of non-recurring Supplemental Stabilization Aid**

BUDGET YEAR	GENERAL FUND STATE AID	CURRENT YEAR INCREMENTAL LOSS	CURRENT YEAR LOSS VS. 17-18 SY
18-19	15,508,649	-554,620	-554,620
19-20	14,315,347	-1,193,302	-1,747,922
20-21	12,063,605	-2,251,742	-3,999,664
21-22	9,272,081	-2,791,524	-6,791,188
22-23	6,631,798	-2,640,283	-9,431,471
23-24	5,105,647	-1,526,151**	-10,957,622
24-25	4,849,657	-255,990**	-11,213,612

7 YEAR CUMULATIVE LOSSES = 44,696,099

10 Year History of Enrollment vs. State Aid



Highest Enrollment in Each Building

School	Highest Enrollment	25-26 Anticipated Enrollment
Briggs	338	260
Stanlick	398	252
White Rock	479	463
Middle School	922	879
High School	1,125	767

What about State Aid for the 2025-2026 School Year?

Aid Category	24-25 Aid Received	Uncapped 25-26 Aid	Capped Aid Based on 6% Limit	Aid Denied Based on Arbitrary Limits
Equalization	\$1,772,561	\$0	N/A	N/A
Special Education	\$2,137,733	\$4,127,686	\$3,351,738	\$775,948
Security	\$303,337	\$404,346	\$328,335	\$76,011
Transportation	\$636,026	\$1,798,692	\$1,460,563	\$338,129
TOTAL	\$4,849,657	\$6,330,724	\$5,140,636	\$1,190,088

JEFFERSON IS DENIED CRITICAL FUNDING AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF UNCAPPED LOSSES

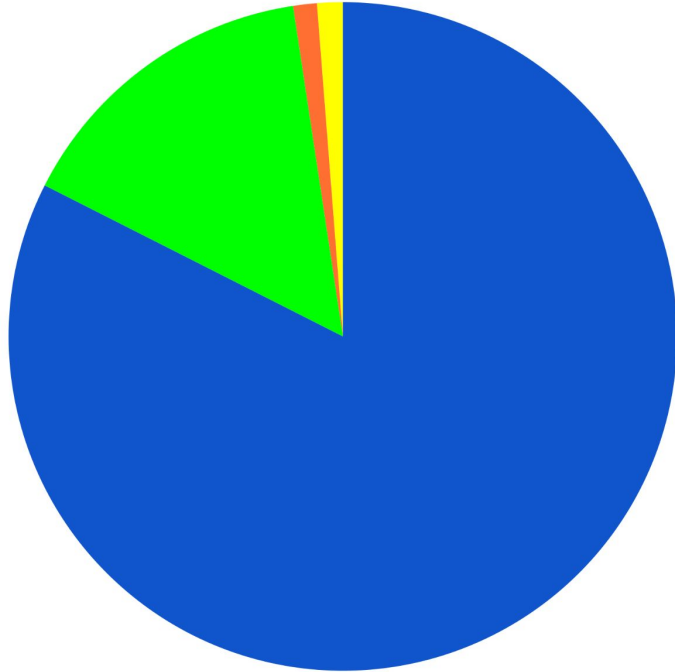
Budgetary Response: 2018 to Present

- Introduced a referendum to address most critical facilities needs
- Reduced staff: administration, instructional, and support
- Closed two buildings (Milton and Cozy Lake)
- Anticipated sale of Central Office building
- Applied for all available grant funding and additional aid, including Preschool Education Aid
- Added participation fees
- Moved into, out of, and back into the State Health Benefits Plan to achieve savings
- Used all capital and maintenance reserve
- Shared testimony at Senate & Assembly Budget meetings and NJDOE Public Comment Hearings pleading for fair funding beginning in February 2020
- Engaged community in multiple letter-writing campaigns to local- and state-level legislators

Key 2025-2026 Funding Challenges

- \$1,190,088 million loss in State Aid due to arbitrary funding limit
- \$493,601 increase in expenditures
- \$2,700,000 in budgeted use of fund balance/current year savings
 - Down from \$2,900,000 for 24-25 budget
- \$0 in Excess Surplus from the SY ended 6/30/24
 - Down from \$891,188 for 24-25 budget
- \$500,000 withdrawal from Capital Reserve Account expected to fully deplete balance
- \$92,430 increase in preschool state funding, full implementation reached in 24-25 school year

2025-2026 Budget Funding



- Local
- State
- Federal
- Other

Funding Source	25-26 Estimate	% of Total Revenues
Local*	56,050,206	83.2%
State**	10,300,159	14.4%
Federal	777,982	1.2%
Other	843,151	1.3%
Total	67,971,498	

*includes debt repayment

** includes Preschool Expansion Aid

Preschool Education Aid



- \$4,060,680 in Preschool Education Aid to be received continue offering preschool to all eligible three- and four-year-olds
- Approximately 250 General Education Preschool Students will be enrolled in the program
- Preschool classrooms will be housed in Briggs & White Rock Schools
- All Preschool Disabled classrooms will be located in Briggs School
- Transportation is included for all preschool students
- Savings to the general fund from PEA is approximately \$1.5 million
 - In other words, without PEA funds, our general budget would be short by that amount

2025-2026 Budgeted Expenditures

Category	24-25 Budget	25-26 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Instructional Programs	26,809,874	27,384,907	575,033	2.14%
Employee Benefits	11,134,531	11,763,793	629,262	5.65%
Facilities	6,097,492	5,984,119	-113,373	-1.86%
Student Services	5,883,074	5,883,905	831	0.01%
Transportation	4,660,523	4,476,882	-183,641	-3.94%
Tuition	2,763,460	3,725,173	961,713	34.80%
Capital	1,479,862	609,542	-870,320	-58.81%
Debt Service	2,405,954	2,400,029	-5,925	-0.25%
Centralized Support & Admin	2,815,934	2,708,256	-107,678	-3.82%
School Administration	2,309,288	2,103,455	-205,833	-8.91%
Curriculum & Instruction	1,117,905	931,437	-186,468	-16.68%
Total	67,477.898	67,971,498	493,601	

Budgetary Staff Reductions

Category	Proposed Reductions in Preliminary Budget	Total Full-Time Equivalent before Reduction	Percent Reduction
Certificated Staff - Principal	1	6	16.67%
Certificated Staff - Counselor	2	13	15.38%
Certificated Staff - Nurse	1	7.19	13.91%
Certificated Staff - Instruction	21.5	257	8.37%
Non-certificated - Armed Security	1	6	16.67%
Non-certificated - Secretary	1.5	25	6.00%
Non-certificated - Custodial	2	22	9.09%
Total	30		

Impact of Budget on Class Size

Grade Band	Average Class Size
Preschool	State-mandated cap of 15
K-3	22
4-6	25
7-8	25
9-12	25

Estimated Savings in Each Category

Category	Description	Estimated Savings
Closing/Sale of Central Office	Utilities Salary savings for one part-time custodian	\$49,976
Enrollment-Based	Salary & benefits savings for: - HS Counselor - Instructional positions	\$752,907
Miscellaneous	Reduction in HS Substitute Coverage Removal of printers from classrooms	\$87,000

Estimated Savings in Each Category

Category	Description	Estimated Savings
Reconfiguration-Based	Transportation Savings Salary & benefits savings for: - Better utilization of shared staff with the elimination of travel time in their schedule - Reduction of instructional positions - Reduction in secretarial support	\$1,138,649
Closing of Cozy Lake	Salary & benefits savings for: - Elimination of building-based staff (principal, secretary, nurse, counselor, two custodians, security)	\$681,596

Other Budgetary Responses

****Reflected in preliminary budget submission**

- Fund PSATs in one grade level at JTHS
- Professional development account reductions
- Limit repairs of the physical plant to critical need only
- Overnight field trips at cost of parents (students can fundraise)
- Media program at elementary schools (students can still check out books)
- Elimination of G&T teacher in grades 1-3 (teacher differentiation in classrooms)
- Reduction of Basic Skills Instruction
- Increase in Pay to Participate fees

Tax Levy Incentive Aid

The NJDOE and legislators have proposed a Tax Levy Incentive Aid program for districts that are not taxing at the community's local fair share.

The maximum additional available levy for Jefferson Township Public Schools equals \$1,119,915 with the State contributing \$55,996 for a total increase to the budget of \$1,175,911. This provision also requires the use of available banked cap of \$154,313, as determined by the NJDOE.

The Board of Education carefully considered this provision since the district is out of options for planning for future budgets. Absent a sustainable and fair funding commitment from the State, the Board is left with few viable options to fill the growing gap between revenues and expenses. This additional levy will raise the base budget so the funds will be available next year as well as the subsequent budgets.

2025-2026 Budget Approval Process

- March 2025: The district received approval from the Morris County Office of the preliminary budget presented at March BOE meeting.
- April 28, 2025: Budget presentation outlining two possible funding scenarios.
- April 30, 2025: User-Friendly Budget will be posted on the district website.
- May 12, 2025: Final budget will be adopted by the Board and submitted to the Morris County Office and NJDOE for approval (if required).
 - Additional approval steps may required related to the Tax Levy Incentive Aid. Detailed procedures have yet to be provided by the DOE.
 - Any Department approval of the application, including the district's authority to increase the general fund tax levy and the award of tax levy incentive aid, is subject to the approval of the FY 2026 State appropriations act.
- May 14, 2025: A revised User-Friendly Budget will be posted on the district website (if required).

Funding Scenarios - Option A

Option A mirrors the preliminary budget submitted for approval following the March meeting.

Description	Amount	Percent Increase
24-25 Tax Levy	48,940,863	N/A
2% Increase over prior year	978,817	2.00%
Healthcare Waiver Adjustment	676,924	1.38%
Total	50,596,604	3.38%

Funding Scenarios - Option B

Option B utilizes the proposed additional tax levy increase and incentive aid in addition to the 2% cap and healthcare waiver adjustment.

Description	Amount	Percent Increase
24-25 Tax Levy	48,940,863	N/A
2% Increase over prior year	978,817	2.00%
Healthcare Waiver Adjustment	676,924	1.38%
Required Use of Banked Cap	154,313	0.32%
Tax Levy Incentive Aid - Local Share	965,000	1.97%
Total	51,715,917	5.67%

Proposed Uses of Tax Levy Incentive Aid

If the Tax Levy Incentive Aid application is approved by the DOE, in whole or in part, the following will be restored to the budget (listed in order of priority):

- Fully fund the cost of repairs to the sewage treatment plant upgrades at the HS/MS campus
- Add lunch and recess aides to ensure proper coverage and student safety
- Restore basic skills teacher
- Nursing coverage to address increased student medical needs for all district approved functions and provide for sufficient coverage for the length of time students are present at the HS/MS campus
- Restore one school counselor
- Continue to provide late bus runs
- Maintain extracurricular and athletic activities without increasing participation fees
- Purchase chromebooks required for online assessments to mitigate years of deferred replacement

Tax impact - What will it cost?

**Average Home
Assessed
Value =
\$331,160**

**OPTION A:
Annual Increase = \$170.09
Monthly Increase = \$14.17**

**OPTION B:
Annual Increase = \$233.94
Monthly Increase = \$19.50**

Legislators' Contact Information

Should you choose to contact your legislators to discuss how the ineffective funding formula continues to have a negative impact on our students; the devastating impact of the Highlands Act on our schools; and the unjust new limit to growth in the funding formula, they can be reached at:

Senator Bucco: 973-627-9700 or [Email](#)

Assemblyman Barranco: 973-810-2695 or [Email](#)

Assemblywoman Dunn: 973-206-1876 or [Email](#)

Governor Murphy: [Text](#) to 732-605-5455 or [Email](#)