

2026/27 Roxbury Township School District

# Budget Process

*Preparing the children of today for tomorrow...*



[Recording](#) of Feb 25, 2026  
Presentation

Frank Santora, Ed. D. | Superintendent of Schools

Joe Mondanaro | Business Administrator



## District Goals for 2025/2026

### 1 Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

*Foster an environment that enables all students to receive a robust, comprehensive and individualized plan for learning.*

### 2 Sustainability

*Implement innovative programs to support students' sustainability.*

### 3 Operational Efficacy

*Continue to implement policies & procedures that lead to Operational Efficacy across the district.*

### 4 Health & Wellness

*Continue to develop an economically viable, safe, collaborative atmosphere for students, staff and community members to inspire all learners and support their mental wellness to increase a readiness to be able to learn and meaningfully participate in the greater school community.*

### 5 Parent Education & Engagement

*Provide meaningful learning opportunities for parents & guardians that assist them in supporting the academic, social, emotional needs of students.*

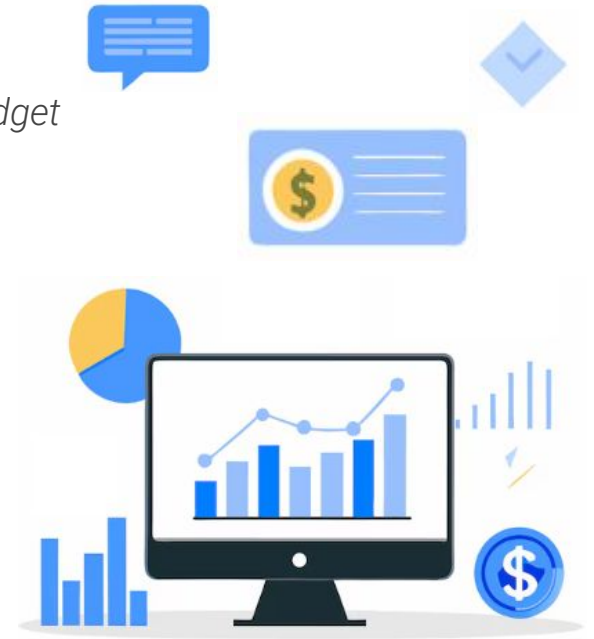




## District Goal 3- Operational Efficacy

Continue to **implement policies & procedures that lead to Operational Efficacy** across the district.

- **Model fiscal health** by:
  - *Identification and elimination of inefficiencies in the operating budget*
  - *Identification and pursuit of alternative sources of revenue*
- Increased emphasis on **streamlined processes, accountability** and **transparency**.
- Combine a **proactive approach** to building maintenance with timely response to emergent needs.





# Current Budget Highlights

## Multi-Tiered System of Support

- Continuation of the District-wide partnership with **LinkIt**
  - Intervention Manager
- Continuation of intervention block at the Elementary Level
- Enhancement of the In-Support of Learning Program at EMS
- Program Evaluation: Elementary Language Arts Literacy

## Special Services Department

- Special Class Autism Program (Elementary level)
- Special Class Autism Program at EMS (ABA-based program)

## Mental Health/Wellness

- Partnership with In-Site Health for comprehensive services
- School Resource Officer
- Alternative High School Program for 26-27 SY

# Budget Challenges



- 2% Tax Levy Cap
- Reduction in State Aid (S-2)
- Chapter 44
- Enrollment (Loss of over 500 students since 2013)
- Health Benefits Increases
- Special Education Costs
- Unfunded Mandates
- Facilities Concerns
- Cybersecurity Threats

# Solutions ➔ for the District's Deficit

- [ a ] Budgeting of **Extraordinary Aid**
- [ b ] All **School Budgets** cut a minimum of 10%
- [ c ] Reallocation of funds in the **Curriculum Budget** (changes in PD format)
- [ d ] Projected **Special Education Budget** decreased (continuation)
- [ e ] Budgeted \$1M of **IDEA**
- [ f ] Increase in **Fund Balance Transfer**
- [ g ] Utilization of **“banked cap”**
- [ h ] **Transportation** - Not purchasing buses
- [ i ] **Technology Lease** - Will not be able to refresh chromebooks next year
- [ j ] **Redesign of building schedules** to realize efficiency in staffing (inclusive of instructional and student support personnel)
- [ k ] **Reductions in staffing** via attrition (retirement and resignation) and Reduction in Force\*

# What is a Reduction in Force?

- **Board of Education can reduce staff** (including tenured certified staff) for *“reasons of economy or because a reduction in the number of pupils or of change in administrative or supervisory organization of the district”*
- **Why is it required?**
  - **Fiscal health~** maintain or establish
  - Mandated to **submit a balanced budget**; despite cuts in state aid (year after year)
  - Immense amount of consideration and review is required
- **What does the process entail?...**

# State Aid → Over the Years



| STATE AID                  | 2020              | 2021              | 2022             | 2023             | 2024             | 2025             | 2026             |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| SCHOOL CHOICE              | 309,388           | 303,840           | 319,025          | 293,629          | 347,736          | 384,648          | 449,160          |
| CATEGORICAL TRANSPORTATION | 558,875           | 558,875           | 558,875          | 558,875          | 558,875          | 558,875          | 1,901,963        |
| CATEGORICAL SPECIAL ED     | 2,433,575         | 2,433,575         | 2,433,575        | 2,433,575        | 2,433,575        | 2,433,575        | 4,300,656        |
| EQUALIZATION               | 9,572,015         | 8,017,609         | 6,362,709        | 6,074,193        | 5,333,588        | 3,436,699        | 0                |
| CATEGORICAL SECURITY       | 61,433            | 61,433            | 61,433           | 61,433           | 61,433           | 61,433           | 643,671          |
| STABILIZATION AID          | 0                 | 0                 | 0                | 0                | 488,799          | 836,990          | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>12,935,286</b> | <b>11,375,332</b> | <b>9,735,617</b> | <b>9,421,705</b> | <b>9,224,006</b> | <b>7,712,220</b> | <b>7,295,450</b> |

# State Aid ➔ Trouble Around the State...

- 1) **Wayne Public Schools:** [N.J. school district wants to lay off 40 staffers, get rid of cops in schools](#)
- 2) **Middletown Public Schools:** [N.J. district wants to close 2 elementary schools in massive restructuring](#)
- 3) **Plainfield Public Schools:** [Struggling N.J. school district wants to raise taxes 36% in 'shocking' move](#)
- 4) **Jefferson Township Public Schools:** [Advocating for Fair Funding Amid Financial Distress](#)
- 5) **Lacey Township:** [N.J. school district proposes cutting all sports to fix huge 'financial crisis'](#)
- 6) **Bordentown Regional:** [N.J. school district to slash nearly 50 jobs in 'horrific' cost-saving plan](#)
- 7) **Keyport:** [Tiny coastal N.J. school district proposes 12.5% tax hike. Residents are enraged.](#)
- 8) **Toms River Regional:** [N.J. school district facing huge budget gap might get a bailout by selling building for \\$15M](#)



# Budget Drivers for the 26-27 SY



- 2% Tax
- Salary Increment of \$1,600,000.00
- Health Benefits Increase 20%  
➔ \$3,000,000.00
- Enrollment  
➔ Loss of 40 students- \$800,000.00
- Special Education Costs  
➔ Tuition increases
- State Aid Picture

**Roxbury Township School District**



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***Thank you for attending!*** ◆ ***Questions? Please email:***

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