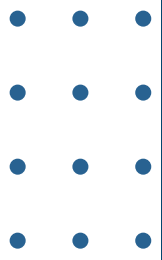




Little Egg Harbor School District



COMMUNITY CONCERNS



MARCH 24, 2026





CONCERN #1

We raised taxes 32.7% to keep jobs but we're spending it all on new buses and drivers.

- New mini buses were purchased with contracted terms beginning August 1st, which will be in the new budget for 2026-2027. No payments were made in the current year.
- Transportation is currently receiving revenue on the new mini bus routes and is expected to save approximately \$500,000 in the 2026-2027 school year by operating its own fleet.





CONCERN #2

Frog Pond's roof is leaking all over and is creating an unsafe environment.

We have had an unprecedented winter, which caused significant snowfall for our area. Due to the ongoing weather issues, leaks started occurring with our Frog Pond roof. Immediately, we contacted our roofing company who assessed the situation. After the inspection, repairs began immediately. All repairs are covered under warranty. The roof is at its end of life but a new roof is included in the solar project.





CONCERN #3

My children are in an unsafe environment because of the water damage from the roof.

Regarding the mold allegations - an air quality control test was completed on March 3, 2026, and the results indicated no danger to students or staff. A letter from the company dated March 10, 2026 was sent to the community.

To view the complete report, go to:

<https://www.lehsd.org/departments/facilities-and-maintenance/right-to-know>





CONCERN #4

81 paraprofessionals fired and will lose out on their pensions, time and health benefits.

Due to a 32.7% increase in health care costs, the BOE voted to abolish full time paraprofessional / teacher assistant positions beginning September 2026.

All staff in those roles were invited to immediately apply for the part time positions that were posted the next day for the 2026-2027 school year.

Health benefits will no longer be offered. Accumulated time will remain intact should they be appointed a part time position.





CONCERN #5

After restructuring 81 paraprofessionals, our students won't receive the services they need and will be left without a para.

Although the full time paraprofessional / teacher assistant positions were abolished, students will continue to receive the level of services they currently receive as per students IEP's.

STUDENTS REQUIRED TO HAVE A PARAPROFESSIONAL, WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A PARAPROFESSIONAL NEXT YEAR — STUDENTS WILL NOT GO WITHOUT A PARAPROFESSIONAL IF REQUIRED BY THEIR IEP.

Please be assured that the district remains fully committed to meeting all students' needs as outlined in their IEPs. These services are not optional—they are mandated by federal and state law. Specifically, we are required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., and its implementing regulations (34 CFR Part 300). Additionally, we must adhere to New Jersey's special education regulations under N.J.A.C. 6A:14. Any student whose IEP specifies paraprofessional support, including (1:1) assistance, will continue to receive those services. While staffing structures may look different; such as multiple paraprofessionals covering a student's program across the school day; we must continue to ensure that all IEP-required supports are implemented with fidelity as mandated by federal and state law. We will strive to maintain this consistency.



Little Egg Harbor School District

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

2026 - 2027 Budget Year
TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

MARCH 24, 2026





WHAT IS A SCHOOL BUDGET?

In THEORY a school budget **is about our priorities for our students.**

In REALITY a school budget **is about money, and decisions are made with finances in mind.**

TWO SIMPLE RULES NON-NEGOTIABLES

- Tax revenues must be within cap or cap plus allowances
- Revenues must be equal to expenses.





KEEP IN MIND

Expenses can and do change during the school year while the main revenues for schools (taxes and aid) **DO NOT!**

Should expenses increase during the year, we cannot request an increase in finances, instead we must spend less in other areas (reduce staff, programs, supplies, repairs, professional development, etc.).





Little Egg Harbor School District

TAX LEVY

Includes 7 New Certificated Staff Positions



2% LOCAL TAX LEVY 2026-2027 \$19,761,316

DEBT SERVICE \$1,131,390

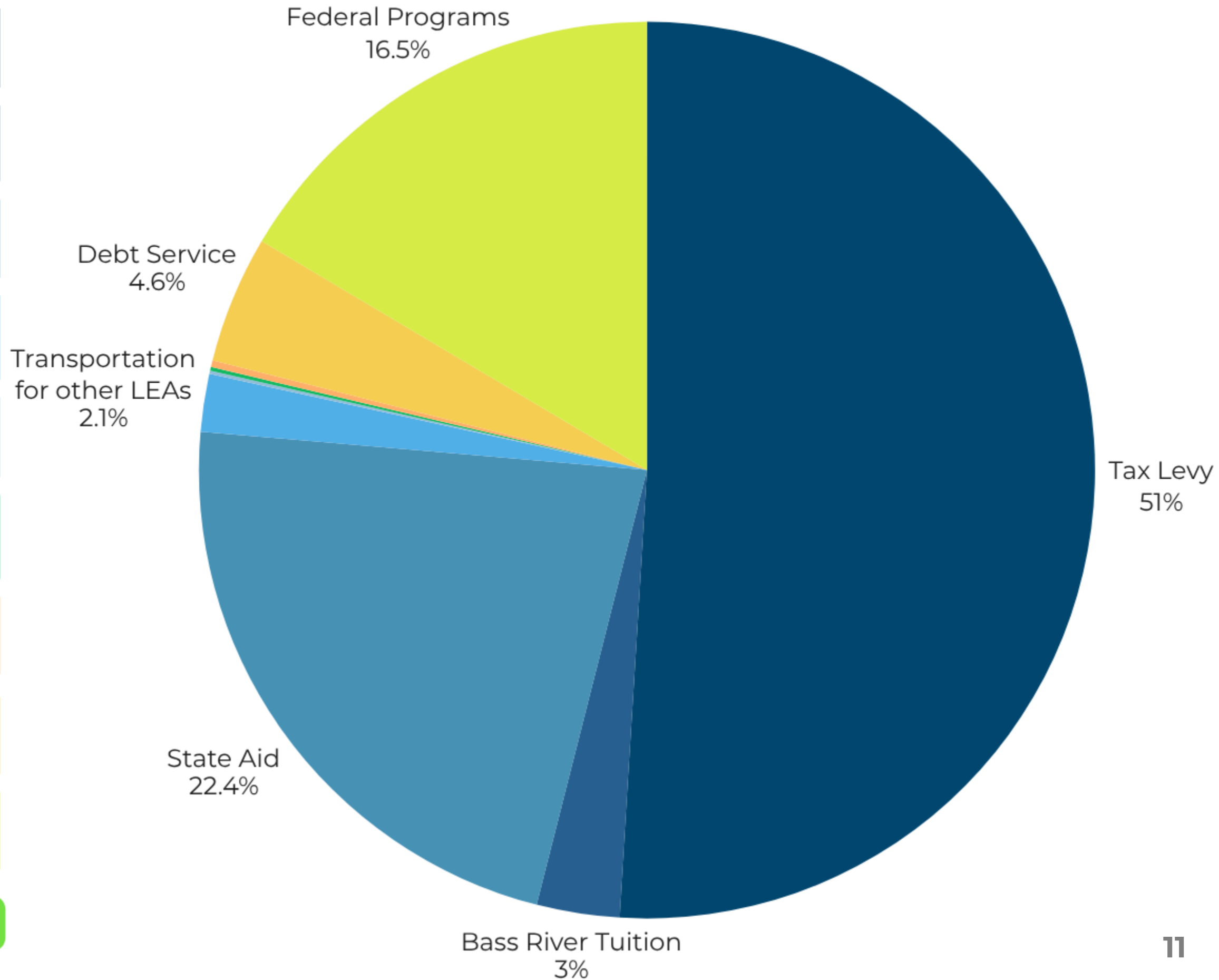
LOCAL TAX LEVY 2026-2027 \$20,892,706



REVENUE

LITTLE EGG HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

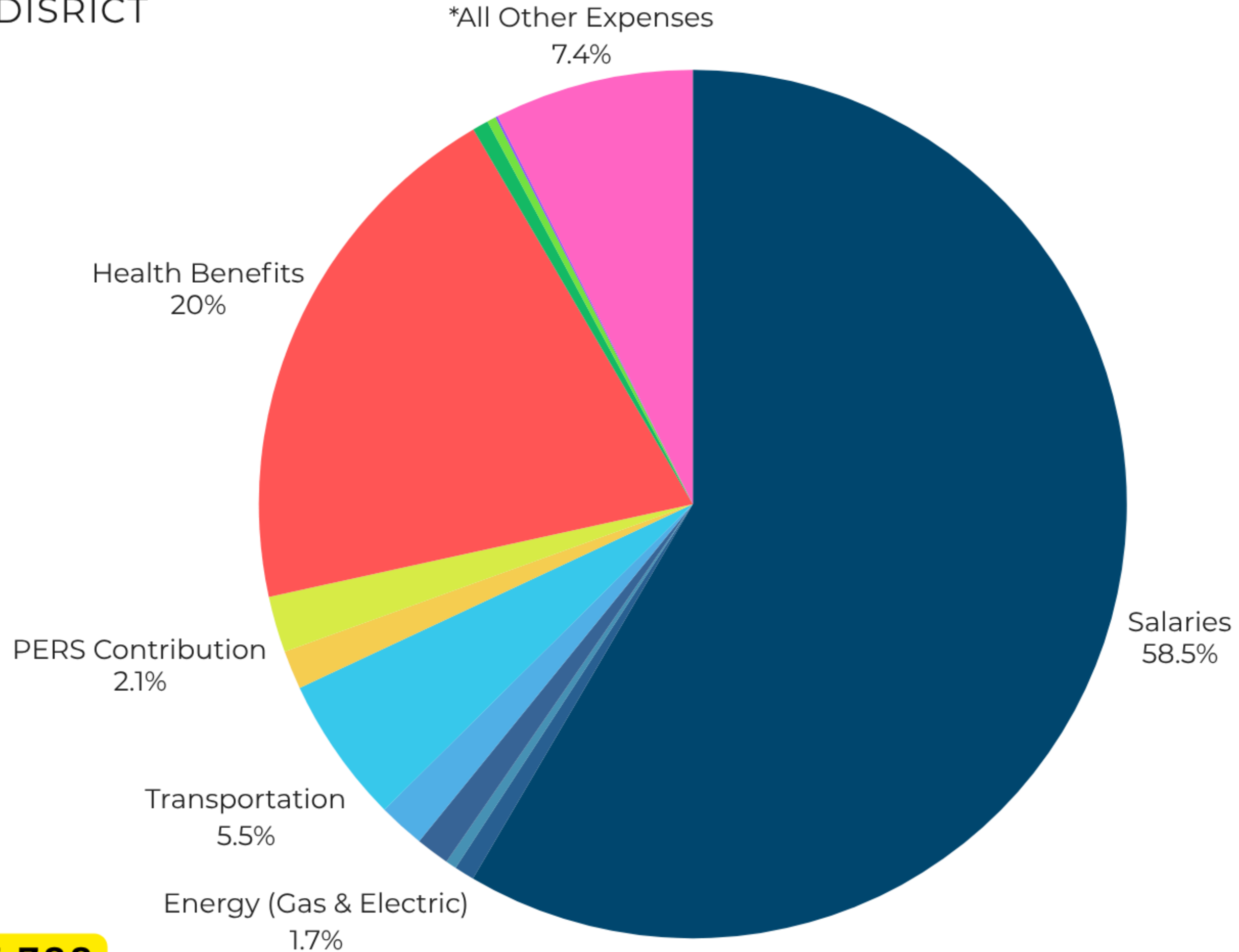
TAX LEVY	\$19,761,316	
BASS RIVER TUITION	\$1,158,206	
STATE AID	\$8,685,302	
TRANSPORTATION FOR OTHER LEAS	\$106,700	
RENTS	\$44,569	
MEDICAID	\$51,793	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	\$96,000	
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,777,872	
FEDERAL PROGRAMS	\$6,386,030	
TOTAL REVENUE: \$38,067,788		



APPROPRIATIONS

LITTLE EGG HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

SALARIES	\$22,253,525
OUT OF DISTRICT TUITION	\$284,367
ESIP LEASE PURCHASE	\$154,438
GENERAL LIABILITY INS./ WORKERS COMPENSATION INS.	\$475,000
ENERGY (GAS/ELECTRIC)	\$655,152
TRANSPORTATION	\$2,079,288
SPEC. ED. & HOMELESS MOESC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	\$0
BOARD SHARE OF FICA CONTRIBUTION	\$546,705
PERS CONTRIBUTION	\$797,862
HEALTH BENEFITS	\$7,609,374
HEALTH BENEFIT WAIVER PAYMENTS	\$225,000
SECURITY (TWO CONTRACTED OFFICERS)	\$128,500
BUDGETED UNEMPLOYMENT	\$30,000
*ALL OTHER EXPENSES	\$2,828,577



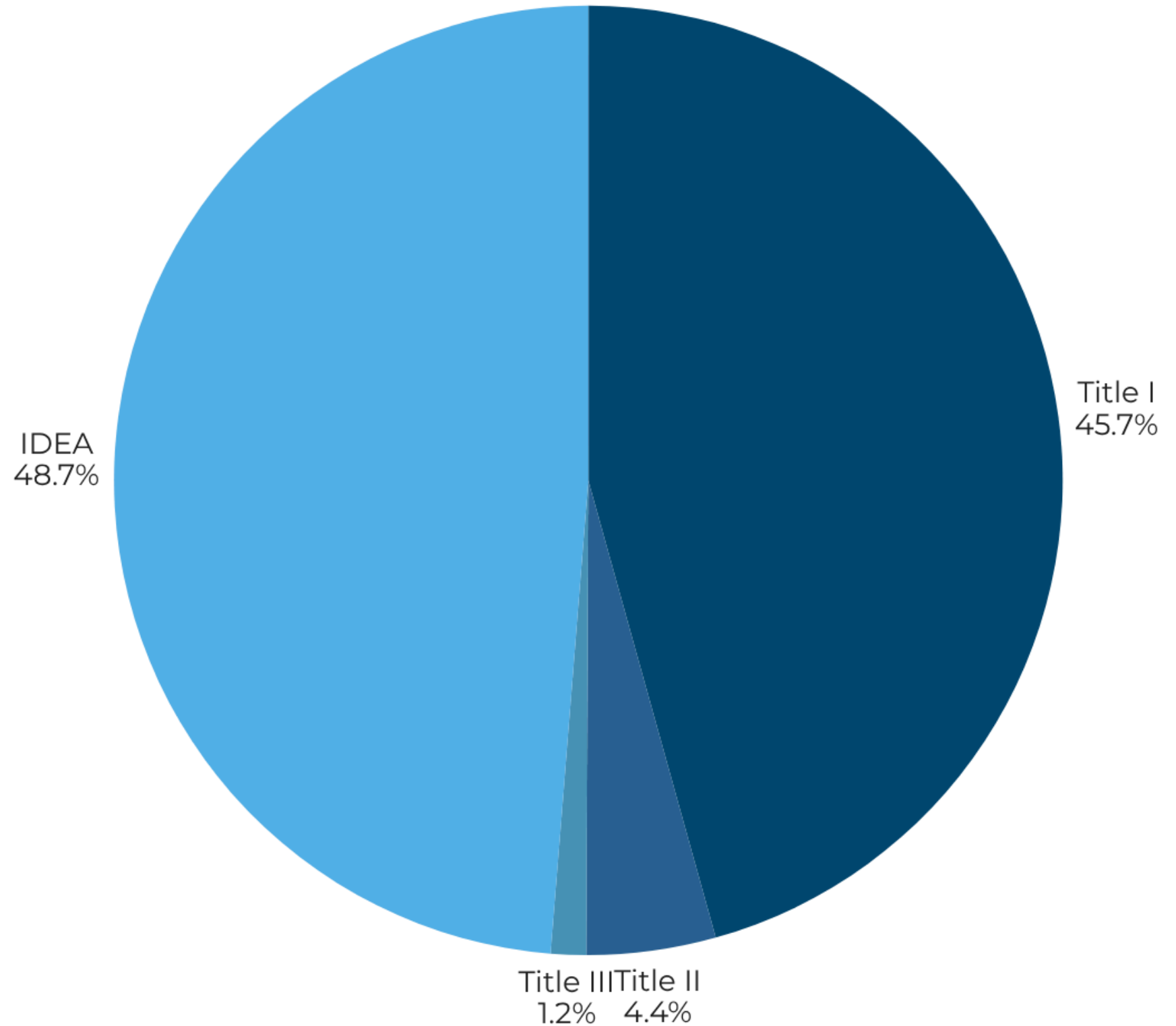
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$38,067,788



FEDERAL FUNDS PERCENTAGE OF THE BUDGET REVENUE*

TITLE I	\$342,749	
TITLE II	\$33,024	
TITLE III	\$8,996	
IDEA	\$365,711	

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS: \$750,480



*Anticipated aid for the 2026-2027 School Year





FIVE YEAR STATE AID FUNDING

STATE AID FUNDING IN 2022-2023	\$9,264,218
STATE AID FUNDING IN 2023-2024	\$8,834,762
STATE AID FUNDING IN 2024-2025	\$7,272,070
STATE AID FUNDING IN 2025-2026	\$7,708,394
STATE AID FUNDING IN 2026-2027	\$8,685,302

STATE AID LOSS OF FUNDING SINCE 2022:

\$578,916





BUDGET SUMMARY

CONSIDERATING THE 2026-2027 BUDGET?

- LOSS IN STATE AID OVER LAST FIVE YEARS
- SURGING HEALTH BENEFIT COSTS (32.7%)
- LOCAL FAIR SHARE SHORTAGE
- INCREASING ENERGY COSTS
- SALARY INCREASES
- NEW TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
- REDUCTION IN HEALTH BENEFITS (DUE TO 32.7% INCREASE)





Little Egg Harbor School District

lehsd.org

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

