2026-2027 Budget

26-27 Budget

District Mission:

The Mission of the Scotch Plains - Fanwood Public Schools is to educate every student to become a confident and caring life-long learner who can communicate and contribute positively to the rapidly changing world. The district, in cooperation with the community, will provide an academic environment which values excellence, initiative and diversity.







26-27 Budget

Budget Goals:

- Use all funding efficiently to maximize the community's investment in education.
- Respond to challenging economic climate without impacting instructional programs or services.
- Ensure that our schools are secure, well-run and well-maintained.







26-27 Budget

District Enrollment Trend

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Elementary School	2,648	2,628	2,281	2,261	2,056	2,183	2,288	2,367	2,386	2,472
Middle School	1,306	1,308	1,701	1,746	1,744	1,713	1,741	1,742	1,725	1,711
High School	1,487	1,524	1,541	1,502	1,517	1,515	1,495	1,535	1,546	1,535
Total	**5,441**	**5,460**	**5,523**	**5,509**	**5,317**	**5,411**	**5,524**	**5,644**	**5,657**	**5,718**
+/(-)		19	63	(14)	(192)	94	113	120	13	61

26-27 Budget

Curriculum and Instruction:



- **Launching the Raider Business Academy**
  - Dual Enrollment
  - AP Business with Personal Finance
- **Expanding Dual Enrollment Opportunities**

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ

KEAN UNIVERSITY

TCNJ THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

26-27 Budget

General Fund Budget Overview - Expenses

- Health insurance is major challenge

- Transportation under budget in 25-26 but 26-27 we need a new route

- Utility expenses expected to increase

- Pension costs under budget

- Salaries contractually mandated

	Budget	Proposed	Change	
	2025-2026	2026-2027	$	%
Salaries	65,364,178	67,791,793	2,427,615	3.70%
Health Benefits	25,252,339	29,060,819	3,808,480	15.10%
Transportation	6,601,668	6,601,668	-	0.00%
PERS Pension	2,126,436	1,900,000	-226,436	-10.60%
Utilities/Insurance	2,494,557	2,981,757	487,200	19.50%
Other Expenses	23,515,325	23,772,114	256,789	1.10%
General Fund Exp	**125,354,503**	**132,108,151**	**6,753,648**	**5.40%**

26-27 Budget

Other Impacts

- **State aid cap**
  - $618K impact

- **Extraordinary Aid Full Funding**
  - 50% funded - $2M impact

- **Federal Aid cuts**
  - IDEA $96K impact
  - ESEA $68K impact

- **Legal Changes**
  - New Sick Leave: $120K impact
  - Sp. Ed. Law (7/1/26): unknown impact
  - Construction Law: unknown impact

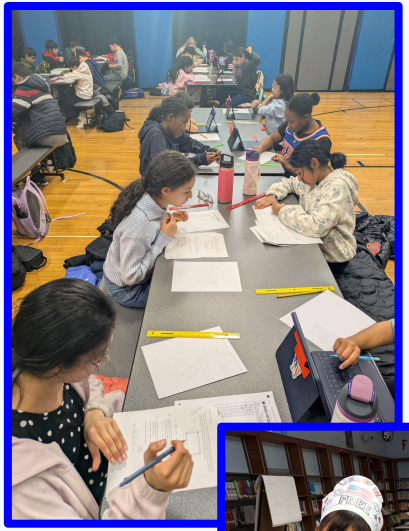
Salary Savings

- Over $1M in reductions over the last 24 months
  - IT Administration
  - HR Restructuring
  - Social Studies Supervisor (K-12)
  - Math Supervisor (6-12)
  - Arts Integration Specialist (K-12)
  - Director of Operations
  - Elementary Spanish Teacher

Structural Challenges - 4 year trend

- Enrollment up 6%, Employee FTEs up less than 1%
- Medical enrollment up 8% despite essentially flat headcount
- Employer Medical contributions increased from 85% to 88% of the total medical cost
- Average net cost of medical care per employee is up 44%

26-27 Budget





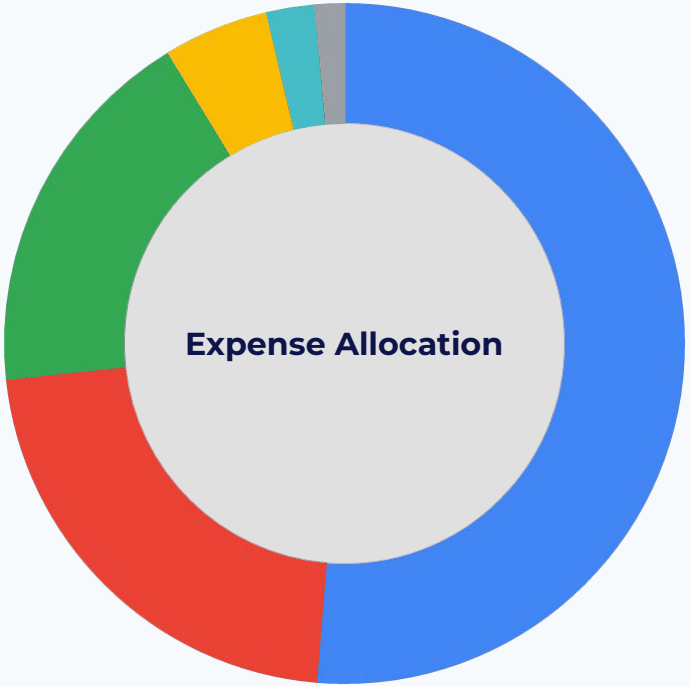
- FY27 Increase capped due to prior year negotiation
- Major risk for next year's budget - expected 20% increase
- Higher percentage of employees enrolled
- Due to Chapter 44 regulation, employer contribution has increased



26-27 Budget

General Fund Budget Overview - Expenses

Salaries	51.3%
Health Benefits	22.0%
Other Expenses	18.0%
Transportation	5.0%
Utilities & Insurance	2.3%
PERS Pension	1.4%







26-27 Budget

General Fund Budget Overview - Expenses - Other Expenses

- All other expenses up a little over 1%

- Property insurance is always put out to bid

- Legal cost increases

- Audit cost increase due to new state requirements



	Budget 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027	Change $
OOD Tuition	8,066,493	8,095,709	29,216
Sp Ed Services	4,008,315	4,011,351	3,036
Curriculum/Supplies/Copiers	1,208,900	1,212,900	4,000
Maint/Custod/Grounds	1,582,991	1,574,805	-8,186
Maintenance Reserve	205,000	205,000	-
Security	604,273	663,850	59,577
Workman's Comp/SS Contr	2,256,031	2,309,717	53,686
Technology	2,193,449	2,234,874	41,425
Administrative-Legal, etc	574,933	624,719	49,786
Other - Votech/Rent	2,814,943	2,839,189	24,246
Total Other Expenses	**23,515,325**	**23,772,114**	**256,789**

26-27 Budget

General Fund Budget Overview - **Revenue**

- Tax Levy increase is 6.1%
  - $2.22M 2% Base Budget
  - $0.16M Enrollment Adj
  - $3.29M Medical Adj
  - $1.06M Banked Cap

- $542K increase in state funding

- Extraordinary Aid expected to be reduced

- Interest Income expected to be reduced

	Budget	Proposed	Change	
	2025-2026	2026-2027	$	%
Local Tax Levy	110,851,366	117,588,480	6,737,114	6.10%
Fund Balance	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	0.00%
Other Local Sources	834,993	775,000	(59,993)	-7.20%
State Aid	9,034,869	9,576,961	542,092	6.00%
Maintenance Reserve	205,000	205,000	-	0.00%
Preschool Tuition	344,284	344,284	-	
Extraordinary Aid	2,065,426	1,584,231	(481,195)	-23.30%
Federal Medicaid	18,565	34,195	15,630	84.20%
General Fund Rev	**125,354,503**	**132,108,151**	**6,753,648**	**5.40%**

26-27 Budget

Estimated Taxes

	Scotch Plains			Fanwood		
Year	Equalized Value	Est Mthly Tax Increase Avg Home		Equalized Value	Est Mthly Tax Increase Avg Home	
26-27	**0.77234**	**5.70%**	**$50.05**	**0.22766**	**7.27%**	**$56.01**
25-26	0.77883	3.88%	32.52	0.22117	3.29%	24.59
24-25	0.77856	4.23%	34.29	0.22144	3.07%	22.40
23-24	0.77669	2.62%	20.76	0.22331	1.97%	13.92
22-23	0.77478	1.43%	11.08	0.22522	1.04%	6.99
21-22	0.77378	1.92%	14.45	0.22622	4.89%	31.41
20-21	0.77910	2.07%	15.16	0.22090	1.13%	7.19
19-20	0.77740	2.51%	17.95	0.22260	1.68%	10.53
18-19	0.77690	2.92%	20.38	0.22310	2.84%	17.86
17-18	0.77588	2.09%	14.20	0.22412	3.25%	19.15

26-27 Budget


WELCOME


McGinn News
6/17 4TH GRADE PICNIC
6/20 STUDENT COUNC. CARNIVAL


HERITAGE
MONTH
TUSKEGEE AIRMAN
CHALLENGE