

2026-2027 Budget Draft Update



Investing in Students, Strengthening Our Future

April 9, 2026

Mission



The mission of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Schools is to provide enriching, safe and meaningful educational experiences that builds a strong foundation for our diverse student body.

Vision



The HFFMCSD is a school community focused on developing students as lifelong learners equipped with critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to navigate and shape the future.

Core Beliefs



We will consistently and effectively achieve our vision and accomplish our mission if in all of our work we demonstrate the following core beliefs:

- Focus on the needs of each student and create opportunities to ensure equity
- Foster engagement, collaboration and a sense of belonging for all school community members
- Take collective responsibility and make thoughtful decisions based on best practices
- Uplifting all student voices is fundamental to creating a welcoming and nurturing environment
- Promote safety, health and wellness for the developmental growth of our community
- Consistently prioritize efficiency and affordability, while also striving for excellence
- Embrace curiosity, connection and critical thinking

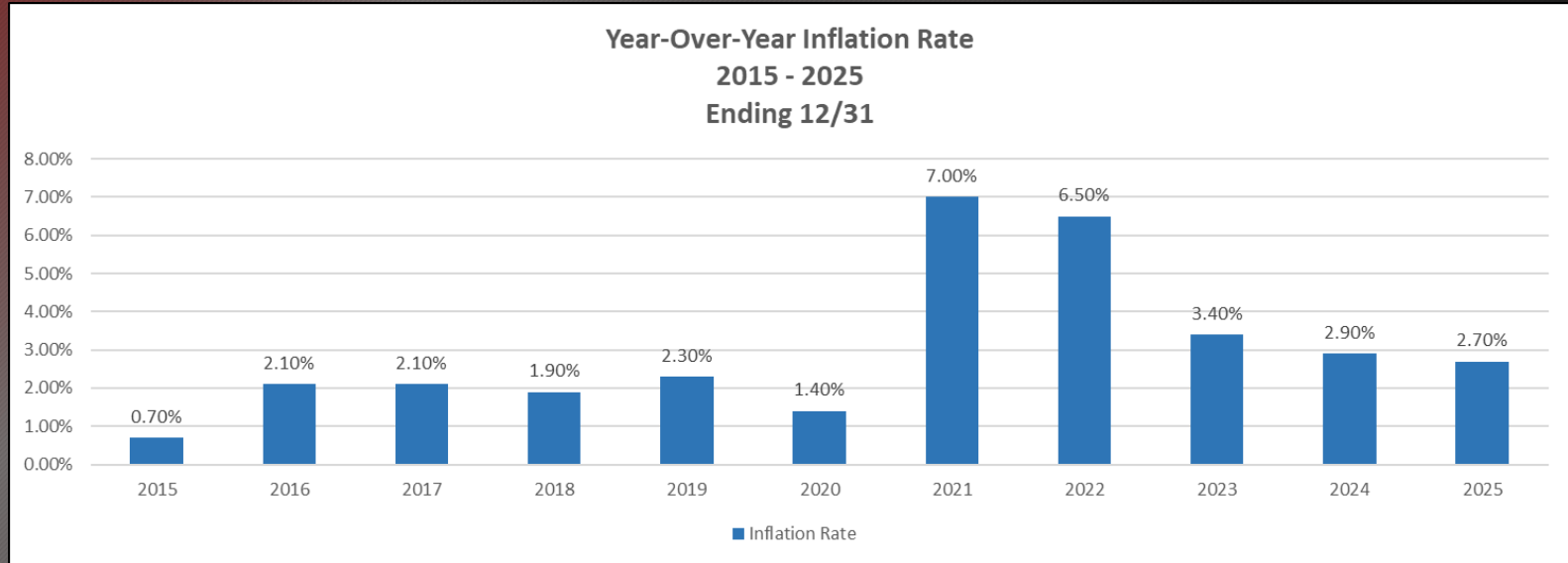
Context for 26-27 Budget Planning



- In line with the district's core beliefs, budget planning is done in a fiscally responsible manner
- Factors outside of our control present unique challenges for our district:
 - Inability to tax more than 7% of district land
 - Rate of inflation
 - Federal Funding Flat over the last 10+ years → Not keeping up with inflation
 - Tuition based revenue has decreased in the last 5 years
- These factors continue to lead to budget constraints across the district.



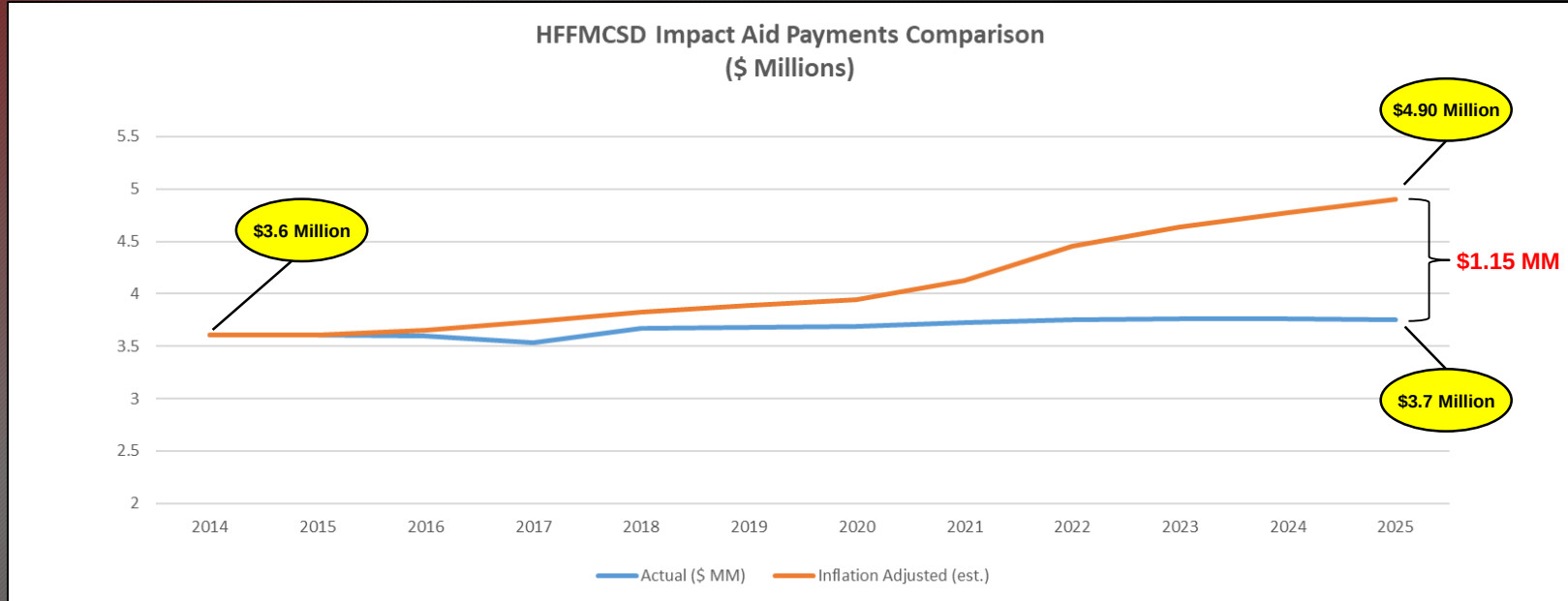
Inflation Rate - Last 10 years



- Post-pandemic, the US Inflation Rate has been at least double what it was pre-pandemic
- While trending down now, prices continue to rise on top of severe increases in 2021 and 2022.



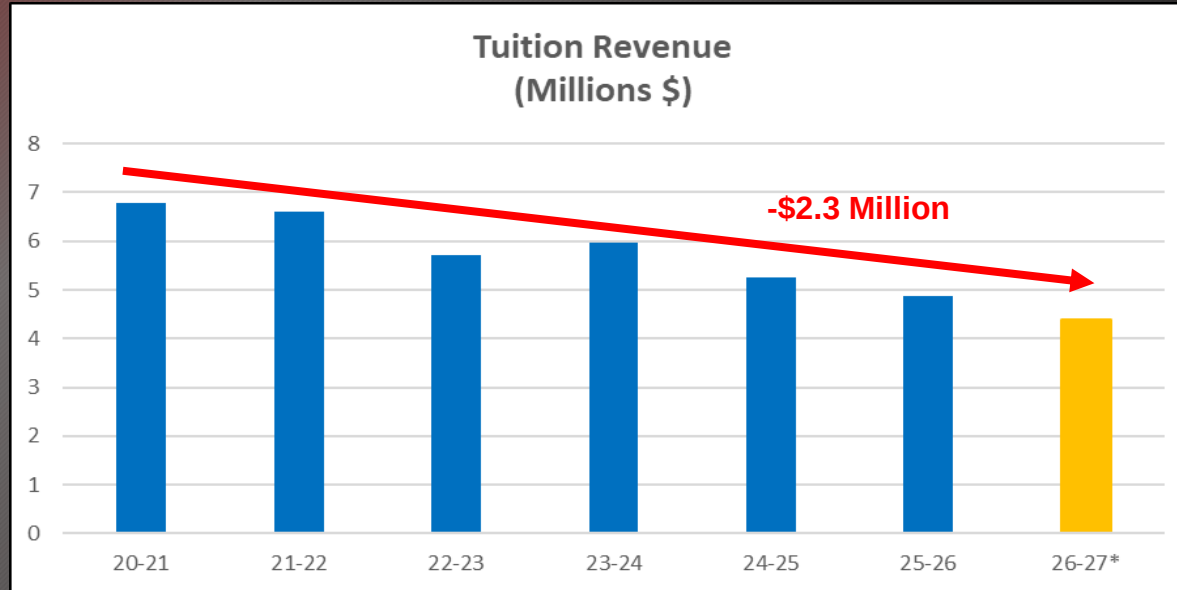
Federal Funding of Impact Aid has not kept up with Inflation



- In 2025 alone, there is a gap of approx. \$1.15 Million gap between actuals and the inflation adjusted estimate
 - Additional funds could have been realized by the district in preceding years
- This only accounts for the current Impact Aid funding level, not potential payments if it were fully funded.



Tuition Based Revenue Declining



*26-27 based on March 2026 Budget Estimate

- Contract changes and declining enrollment have driven this down in recent years



Updates Since 3/19/26 Presentation

- Revenue:
 - NYS Government has missed the April 1st Budget deadline
- Expenditure
 - Opportunities to find savings have been exhausted.
 - Staff position reductions would be the next step.



Budget Update



Expenditure Assumptions

- Known Inputs:
 - Settled contractual expenses
 - Retirement system rates
 - Transportation contract increase
 - Health insurance premium increase
- Anticipated Budgetary Increase Drivers:
 - Transportation contract increase - 3% this year
 - Facility maintenance & operations costs
 - Health Insurance premium increase - 7%
- Unknowns:
 - Contracts that will be open as of 6/30/26:
 - Town of Highlands Teachers Association
 - THTA-Aides/Monitors Unit
 - NYSIR Insurance cost increase



Expenditure Updates

- Expenditure savings opportunities have been exhausted
- Reduction of 7 - 8 Faculty & Staff positions being considered
 - Projected Savings: \$650,000
 - Includes reduction by attrition
 - Includes salary & health insurance cost



DRAFT Expenditure View

DRAFT Expenses	2025-2026 Adopted Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Instruction	\$22,412,534	\$22,486,647	\$74,113	0.33%
Employee Benefits	\$7,507,356	\$7,940,872	\$433,516	5.77%
Debt Service	\$2,335,859	\$2,385,859	\$50,000	2.14%
Administrative/General Support	\$4,824,971	\$5,031,953	\$206,982	4.29%
Transportation	\$3,619,862	\$3,557,140	(\$62,722)	-1.73%
Interfund Transfers	\$62,000	\$87,000	\$25,000	40.32%
TOTAL	\$40,762,582	\$41,489,472	\$726,889	1.78%

- Proposed Expenditure Budget down \$690,000 vs. 3/19/26 view
 - Includes Faculty & Staff position reductions



Historical Budget to Budget Changes

Budget Year	Adopted Budget	% Change
2025-2026	\$40,762,582	1.92%
2024-2025	\$39,995,141	2.46%
2023-2024	\$39,036,276	8.57%
2022-2023	\$35,953,900	3.99%
2021-2022	\$34,573,467	3.97%
2020-2021	\$33,251,722	3.63%
2019-2020	\$32,087,219	4.84%
2018-2019	\$30,606,772	2.15%
2017-2018	\$29,759,008	4.23%
2016-2017	\$28,550,987	1.31%

- Over the last 10 years, the average budget to budget increase = 3.71%



Revenue Assumptions

- Uncertainty Remains with Revenue
 - Preliminary view based on the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal
 - Tax Levy still to be finalized
- State Aid:
 - Foundation Aid: Minimum 1% increase vs. PY
 - Legislative Budget due April 1st, but this is not a set date
- Tuition paying student enrollment is not final:
 - West Point enrollment
 - Garrison enrollment
- Impact Aid will be estimated conservatively as in prior years



Revenue Updates:

- NY State Government has missed their April 1st Budget Deadline
 - Non-Education related proposals are the primary “sticking points”
 - Foundation Aid still not final (Governor = 1%, Legislature = 2% - 3%)
- Fund Balance appropriation may be necessary
 - Estimated Fund Balance, 6/30/26 = \$6.8 Million
 - Subject to change as school year closes
 - Estimated additional \$550,000 appropriation may be needed



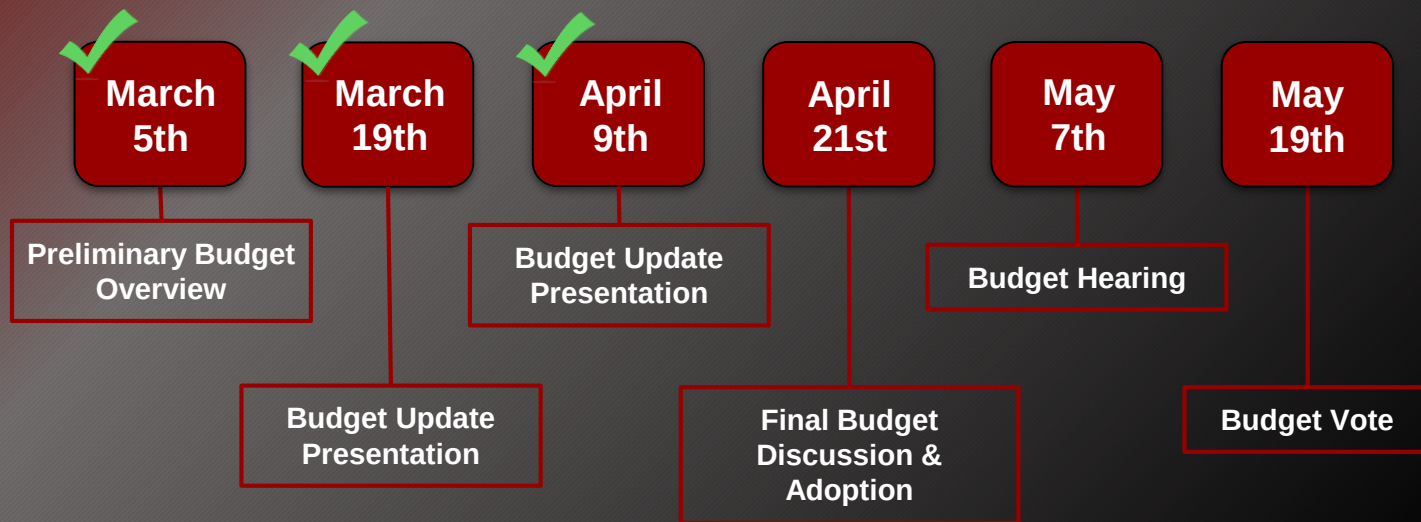
DRAFT Revenue View

DRAFT Revenues	2025-2026 Adopted Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
State Aid	\$19,293,929	\$19,720,360	\$426,431	2.21%
Local Tax Levy	\$11,912,078	\$12,153,460	\$241,382	2.03%
Other Sources (Federal, Tuition, etc.)	\$9,156,575	\$8,665,652	(\$490,923)	-5.36%
<i>Pre-Appropriation Total</i>	<i>\$40,362,582</i>	<i>\$40,539,472</i>	<i>\$176,890</i>	<i>0.44%</i>
Reserves/Fund Balance	\$400,000	\$950,000	\$550,000	137.50%
TOTAL	\$40,762,582	\$41,489,472	\$726,890	1.78%

- State Aid Estimate includes:
 - Foundation Aid minimum 1% increase
 - Increases in Cost-related aids; primarily Transportation & Building Aid
- Estimated Tax Levy increase of 2.03% included. This is NOT final
- Possible additional \$550,000 fund balance appropriation included.



Budget Development Calendar



Board of Education candidate petitions can be obtained from the District Clerk in the District Offices at James I. O'Neill High School starting March 10, 2026. They will be due back to the District Clerk on April 20, 2026.



Appendix

Budget Development Process



- November - February
 - Develop expenditure budgets with Building & Departmental Teams
 - Governor's Executive Budget projection is released
- February & March
 - Budget Presentations
 - Refinement of the budget
- April
 - NYS Enacted Budget is due by April 1st
 - Board of Education adopts the proposed 2026-2027 budget
 - Deadline is April 27, 2026 → Target is the April 21st Board Meeting
- May
 - Adopted Budget details are shared with the community
 - 2026-2027 Budget Vote on May 19, 2026

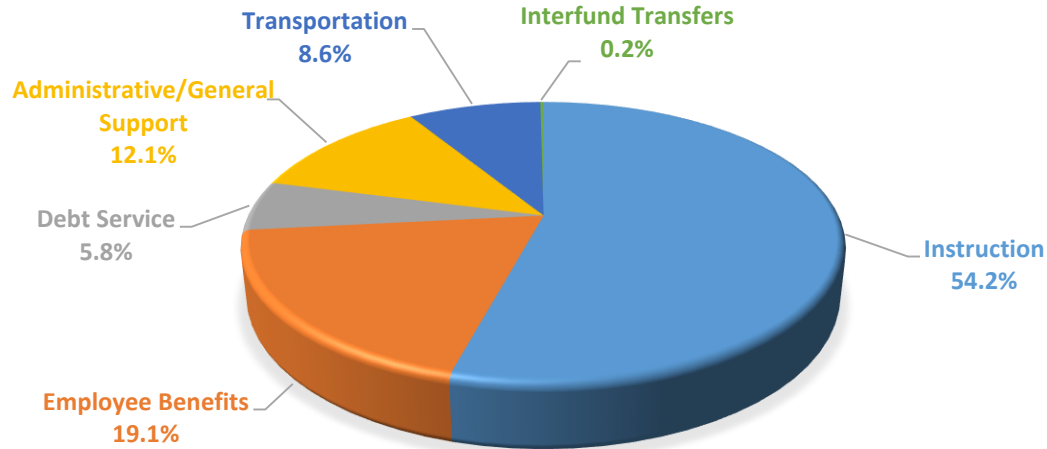


Expenditure Backup



DRAFT Expenditure Chart

2026-2027 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES



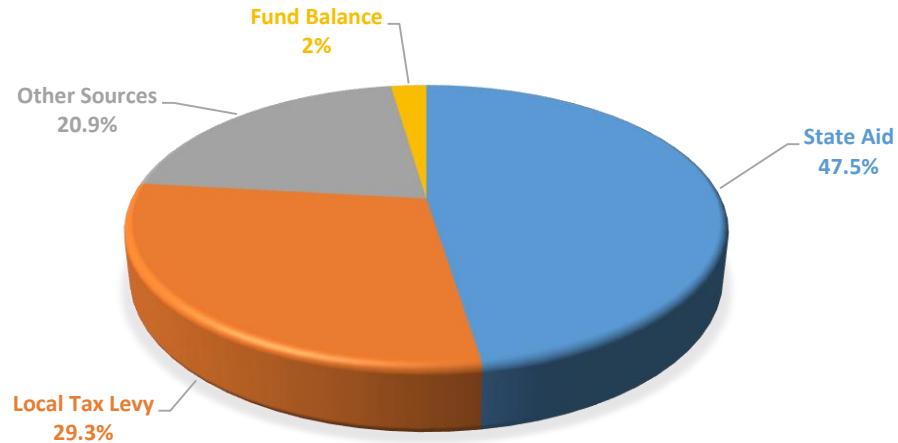


Revenue Backup



DRAFT Revenue Chart

2025-2026 ESTIMATED REVENUES





Tax Levy Limit Calculation

- Tax Base Growth Factor = 0.17%
- Allowable Levy Growth capped at 2%
- Tax Levy Limit = 2.03%**
- Final Tax Levy TBD - not final

A. Total Real Property Tax Levy for Base Year (2025/26)	\$ 11,912,078
B. Excess Levy in Reserve	\$ -
C. Tax Levy subtotal (A - B)	\$ 11,912,078
D. Tax Base Growth Factor (Minimum of 1.0)	1.0017
E. Adjusted Tax Levy subtotal (C x D)	\$ 11,932,329
F. Base Year PILOTS	\$ -
G. Base Year Levy plus PILOTS	\$ 11,932,329
H. Base year Torts and Judgements > 5%	\$ -
I. Base year Capital Expenditures (Net of Aid)	\$ 870,691
J. Total base year Torts and Capital Expenditures	\$ 870,691
K. Levy less base year Torts and Capital Expenditures (G - J)	\$ 11,061,638
L. Allowable Levy Growth Factor based on CPI (2.4% for 12 mths*)	1.02
M. Levy including levy Growth Factor	\$ 11,282,870
N. Budget year PILOT receivables	\$ -
O. Levy less budget year PILOTS (M - N)	\$ 11,282,870
P. Eligible Carryover from base year budget	\$ -
Q. Tax Levy Limit - before Exclusions (O + P)	\$ 11,282,870
U. Total Budget Year Exclusions	\$ 870,590
Total Tax Levy including Exclusions (Q + U)	\$ 12,153,460
Tax Levy % Increase Cap	2.03% **
Tax Levy \$ Increase Cap	\$241,382

*CPI is as of January 2026, driven by increase in Food (+2.9%), Electricity & Gas (7.2%), Shelter (+3.0%), and Medical Care Services (3.9%).

**Levy increase up to this amount would require only a simple majority vote