

Mountain Lakes School District

April 27, 2026: Official Budget Hearing



Current Status of the MLSD FY27 Budget

The Morris County Office of the NJ Department of Education approved our tentative budget. This official budget hearing in front of the Mountain Lakes community is taking place for public comment and approval by the MLSD Board of Education.



2026-27 Budget Overview

- ❑ Budget goals and objectives
- ❑ Budgeted revenues and appropriations
- ❑ Health care effect
- ❑ Capital and maintenance projects
- ❑ Tax impact



MLSD Budget Goals

1. High-quality academic, enrichment, and extracurricular programs
2. Student and staff safety
3. Facilities, infrastructure, and capital maintenance and improvements
4. Long-term fiscal health and sustainability



Budgeted Revenue = \$47,558,578

Object	FY26	FY27	\$ Difference	% Difference
Tax levy	\$24,969,752	\$26,733,470	\$1,763,718	*5.97%
Student Tuition (LD, BTN, Other)	\$15,951,838	\$16,254,871	\$303,033	1.90%
State aid	\$1,388,870	\$1,349,736	(-\$39,134)	-2.82%
Reserves	\$1,876,050	\$2,087,500	\$211,450	1.01%
Budgeted fund balance	\$799,901	\$799,901	\$0	0%
Interest and other sources	\$283,199	\$331,100	\$47,901	14.47%
General Fund Total	\$45,269,610	\$47,558,578	\$2,286,968	4.81%

*Net service debt reduction



Budgeted Revenue = \$47,558,578

MLSD FY27 Revenue

Budgeted fund

1.7%

Reserves

4.4%

State aid

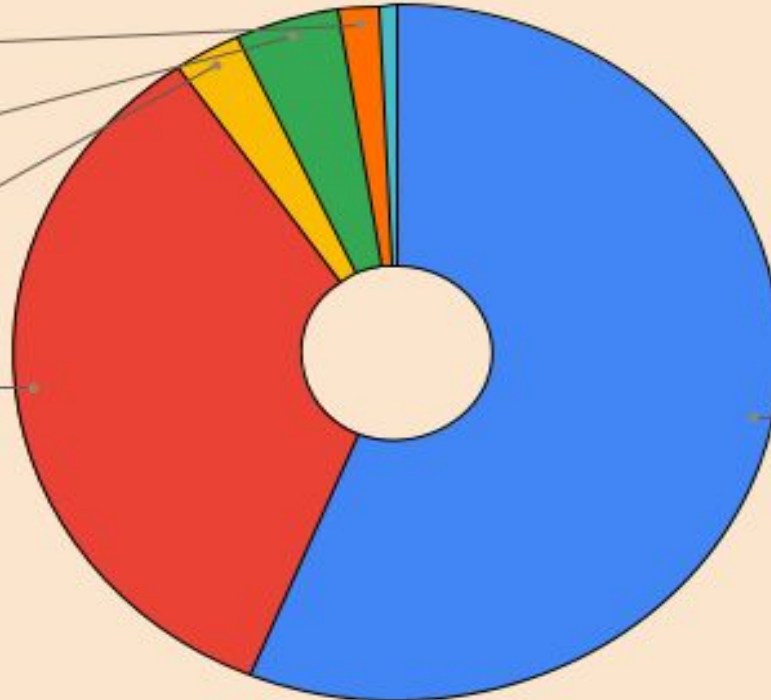
2.8%

Student Tuition (LD,

34.2%

Tax levy

56.2%



Budgeted Appropriations = \$47,558,578

Object	FY26	FY27	\$ Difference	% Difference
Salaries	\$28,934,507	\$29,066,747	\$132,240	0.5%
Benefits	\$7,661,440	\$9,727,674	\$2,066,234	21.24%
Purchased Services	\$5,881,240	\$5,928,356	\$47,116	0.8%
Supplies and Textbooks	\$2,259,570	\$2,280,805	\$21,235	0.9%
Miscellaneous	\$464,853	\$474,996	\$10,143	2.1%
Legal Services	\$68,000	\$80,000	\$12,000	15%
General Fund Total	\$45,269,610	\$47,558,578	\$2,288,968	4.81%



Budgeted Appropriations = \$47,558,578

MLSD FY27 Appropriations

Supplies and

4.8%

Purchased Services

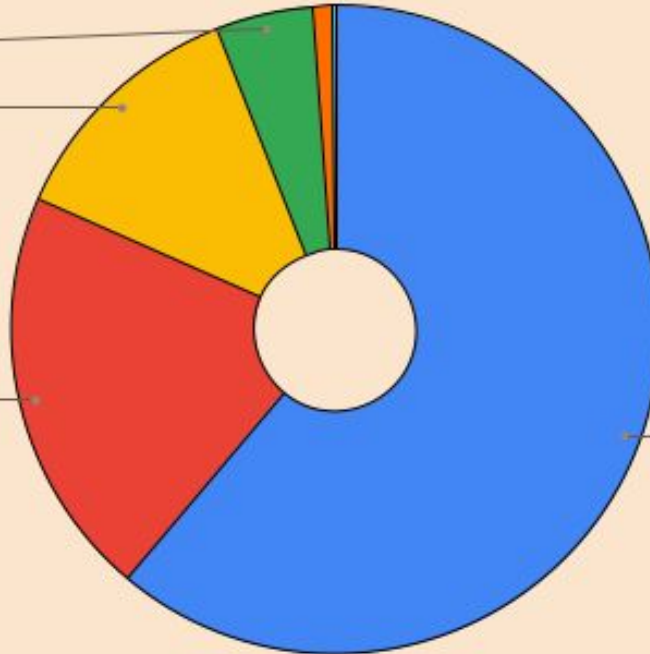
12.5%

Benefits

20.5%

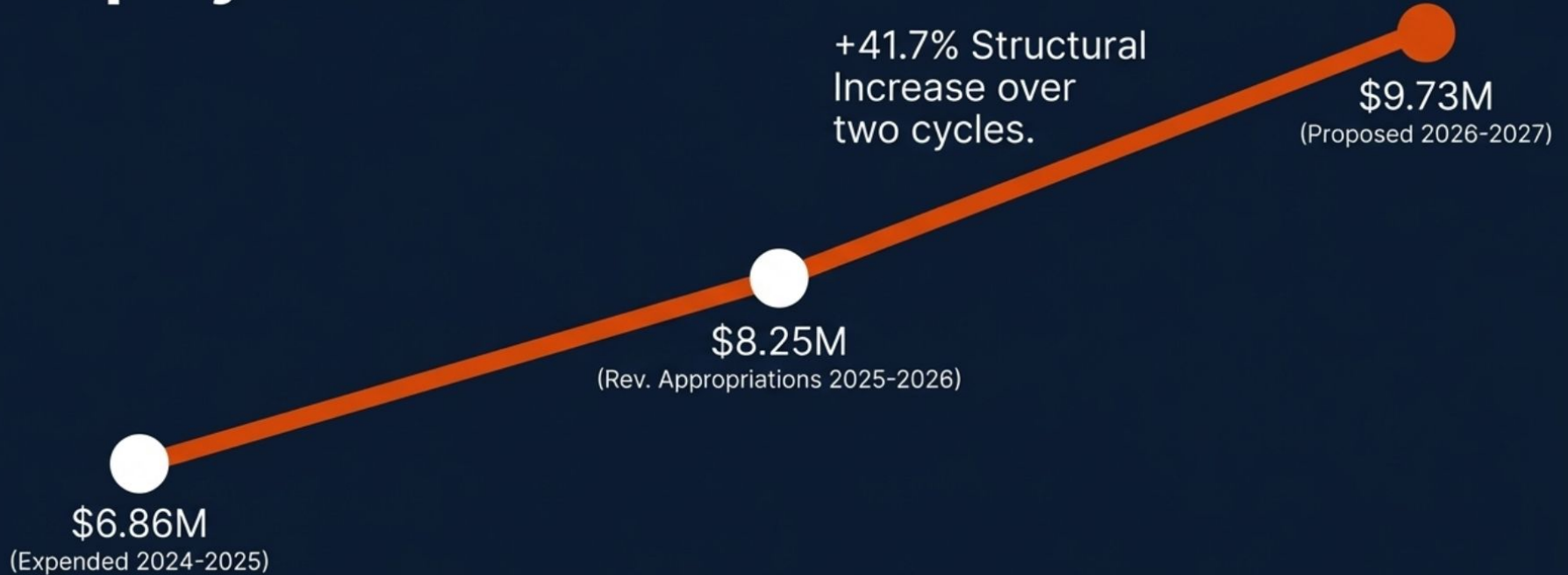
Salaries

61.1%



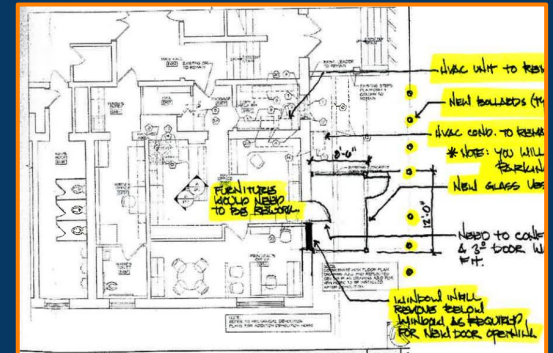


The Primary Cost Driver: Employee Benefits



Infrastructure Priorities: LR Plan & Operating Budget

1. Additional SLEO
2. Vestibule installation and reconfiguration
3. Communication system overhaul: phones and 2-way radio
4. Classroom furniture for flexible learning



School Tax Levy

Fund	FY26	FY27	\$ Difference	% Difference
General	\$24,969,752	\$26,733,470	\$1,763,718	7.09%
Debt Service	\$1,634,756	\$1,451,837	-\$182,919	-11.19%
Total	\$26,484,063	\$28,185,307	\$1,580,799	5.97%

Average assessed home price: \$1,140,500 (+\$92,400)
Average monthly tax increase: \$84/month increase



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