



2026-2027 Budget Presentation

Board of Education Meeting
April 28, 2026





The Ocean Township School District is committed to implementing an outstanding, comprehensive educational program designed to meet the needs of every student today and for their tomorrow.



Academic Highlights and Goals



Early Childhood

In six years time, the district has developed a thriving Early Childhood program for every 3 and 4 year old residing in Ocean Township.





Preschool Parent Workshop Fostering Social Emotional Skills in Preschool Students

Topics to be covered:

- What Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is
- Why SEL is an important part of your child's growth
- How young children develop SEL skills
- Simple strategies parents can use at home to support these skills

Wednesday, December 10, 2025
6:00 pm – Scan to Log-In



Preschool Family Engagement

Township of Ocean School District

New Podcast Alert!

The Preschool
Podcast

**Watch
Now!**

Welcome to our podcast channel, where we share conversations and updates focused on preschool enrollment, social-emotional learning (SEL), and family engagement. Our goal is to keep families informed, supported, and connected every step of the way.



www.oceanschools.org

Special Services

In an effort to promote all students' success in the least restrictive environment, our Special Services Department builds strong, trusting relationships , creates calm, sensory-friendly learning environments, and tailors approaches to the individual needs of our students.





Commitment to Inclusion

- ✓ **Administrators immersed in inclusive practices**
- ✓ **PD framed around supporting all learners**
- ✓ **Focus on calm & connection in classrooms**
- ✓ **Data-driven decisions for student outcomes**





Department of Special Services

Unified Club



- ✓ Part of the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program run by Special Olympics New Jersey.
- ✓ Goal: To build socially inclusive school communities where students of all abilities participate, lead, and belong.
- ✓ Unified Club brings together students of different abilities in a supportive, collaborative environment.



ESL Initiatives

The district has committed to redesigning the way we deliver instruction for our Multilingual Learners. We continue to collaborate and make adjustments to our district in order to better serve all students and families.



K-12 ESL & Bilingual Programs:



- ★ Increase participation in Seal of Biliteracy
- ★ Extend collaborative partnerships to all content areas
- ★ Build community awareness and family engagement

Elementary

Academic initiatives in Early Literacy and Mathematics are changing outcomes for students. Ocean Township teachers, interventionists, and instructional coaches have become highly trained in the science of reading and are closing literacy gaps for our Spartans.



SPARTAN

PARENT
UNIVERSITY



Early Literacy Skills

A **Spartan Legacy** begins with **Spartan Literacy**, and we want to partner with you to support your child in becoming a lifelong reader and writer. Follow along as we highlight the critical reading skills at each grade level and how you can practice these skills with your child at home.

Let's start with **PHONEMIC AWARENESS!**

Phonemic awareness refers to your child's ability to hear and manipulate sounds in spoken words. If you have a kindergarten or 1st grade student, this skill is an important predictor of future reading success! Scroll to the next page for activities you can do at home to practice this important skill.



Rhyming

Say a word (cat). Ask your child to think of words that rhyme with that word (bat, hat). Say two words and ask if they rhyme.

I Spy & Sound Hunts!

I spy something that starts with the sound /m/. Can you find items that start with that sound?

Clap, Tap, or Jump!

Say a word (nap). Have your child clap, tap, or jump as they say each sound in the word (n-a-p).

#SpartanLegacy

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Early Literacy Skills

Phonics refers to the way children learn the connection between letters and sounds. Instead of memorizing words, children learn that letters and letter patterns make sounds that come together to form words. Phonics helps children become stronger and more confident readers by giving them the ability to sound out new and unfamiliar words. Here are some activities you can do at home to help your child practice phonics skills:

Letter-Sound Match

Write letters on small pieces of paper. Say a sound and have your child point to or pick up the matching letter.

Stretch & Read

When reading together, pause at an unfamiliar word and encourage your child to "stretch" the sounds and blend them.

Rainbow Writing

Write a letter or word and trace it using different color crayons while saying the sounds aloud.

Alphabet Magnet Play

Use magnetic letters on the fridge or a sheet pan to:

- Build simple words (cat, dog, sun)
- Change one letter to make a new word (cat → hat → hot)



#SpartanLegacy

The Spartan Early Literacy Journey



Secondary

The primary mission of TOIS and OTHS is to build on the strong foundation established in elementary school and help students develop their strengths and explore their interests. The vertical articulation between TOIS and OTHS grows stronger every year. Learning pathways such as Computer Science, Cyber Security, Business, Finance, Visual & Performing Arts, and Esports are introduced at TOIS and more deeply explored at OTHS. Our High School does an outstanding job of preparing and graduating highly skilled, marketable students ready to thrive in their future endeavors.



Are you Spartan Ready?



A red rectangular poster with a blue border. At the top left is a "BIG RED" logo. To its right, the text "Spartan Ready Clinic – Field Hockey & Lax!" is written in white. A baseball is in the top right corner. Below the text, a calendar icon is next to "1/18", a clock icon is next to "9-11 AM", and a group photo of girls' sports teams is to the right. Below these, "Who?" is next to "TOIS Girls", "Where?" is next to "Ocean Twp. HS", and the hashtag "#getspartanready" is at the bottom. A lacrosse stick is on the right side, and a faint Spartan helmet logo is in the background.

This campaign has our OTHS Spartans coaching and mentoring our elementary and intermediate school Spartan athletes to prepare them for HS athletics. It is a wonderful example of student mentoring and building our Spartan pipeline of athletes!

#SpartanLegacy





AP[®] School Honor Roll

2025



Awards and Recognition



OTHS is so close to GOLD!

Honor Roll Criteria

Congratulations! Ocean Township High School has earned Silver recognition on the 2025 AP School Honor Roll.

Class of 2025

AP School Honor Roll Metrics	Bronze Criteria	Silver Criteria	Gold Criteria	Platinum Criteria	Your School	
					 SILVER Your school achieved all Silver criteria!	
College Culture	40%	50%	65%	80%	52% (126/242)	Silver
College Credit	25%	30%	35%	50%	36% (86/242)	Gold
College Optimization	2%	5%	10%	15%	12% (29/242)	Gold

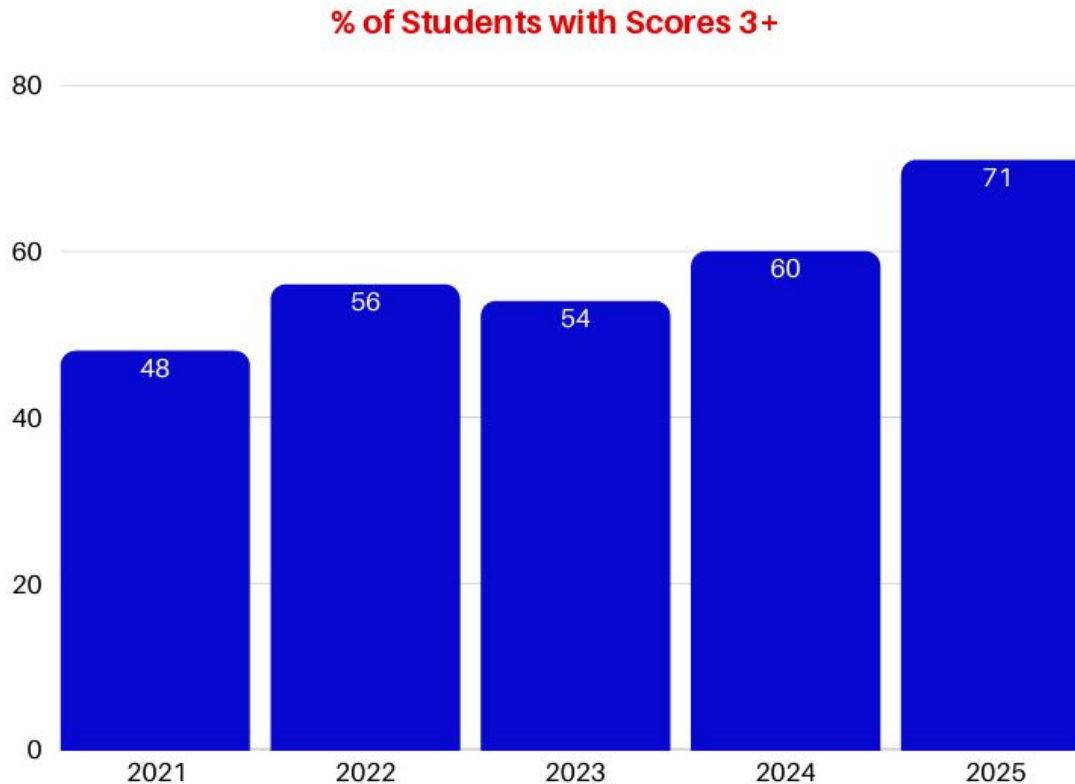
To qualify for the 2025 AP School Honor Roll, schools must meet or exceed the criteria for a given recognition level for all three metrics. This report always reflects the most recent data for your organization. Additional information about the AP School Honor Roll can be found on [AP Central](#).



OTHS AP Scores on the Rise

264 Students
593 AP Exams

Participation is
increasing AND
scores are on the
RISE!



Community



Spartan Parent University

Leveraging the power of social media, our district uses Instagram and Facebook to recognize student and staff accomplishments and engage with our parent community.



Launching Now

In an effort to share important information with our **Spartan Families**, we are launching **Spartan Parent University** on social media.

Follow us for important updates, helpful information, and useful tools to help our **Spartan Students** succeed in school. Some posts will be for all families and some will be for specific grades or groups.

We hope you find this informative and useful. If you have a suggestion for a topic, please let us know by emailing **Dr. Kalisha Morgan, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning** at kmorgan@oceanschools.org.

#SpartanLegacy





Message from the Superintendent

Spartan Legacies in progress!



April 2026

www.oceanschools.org



Parent/Community Engagement



Recognition



Increased Student & Staff Recognition



Our Spartans are READY and creating their Spartan Legacies!
They have excelled in the classroom, on the field, and in
extracurricular competitions at every level. **#SpartanLegacy**

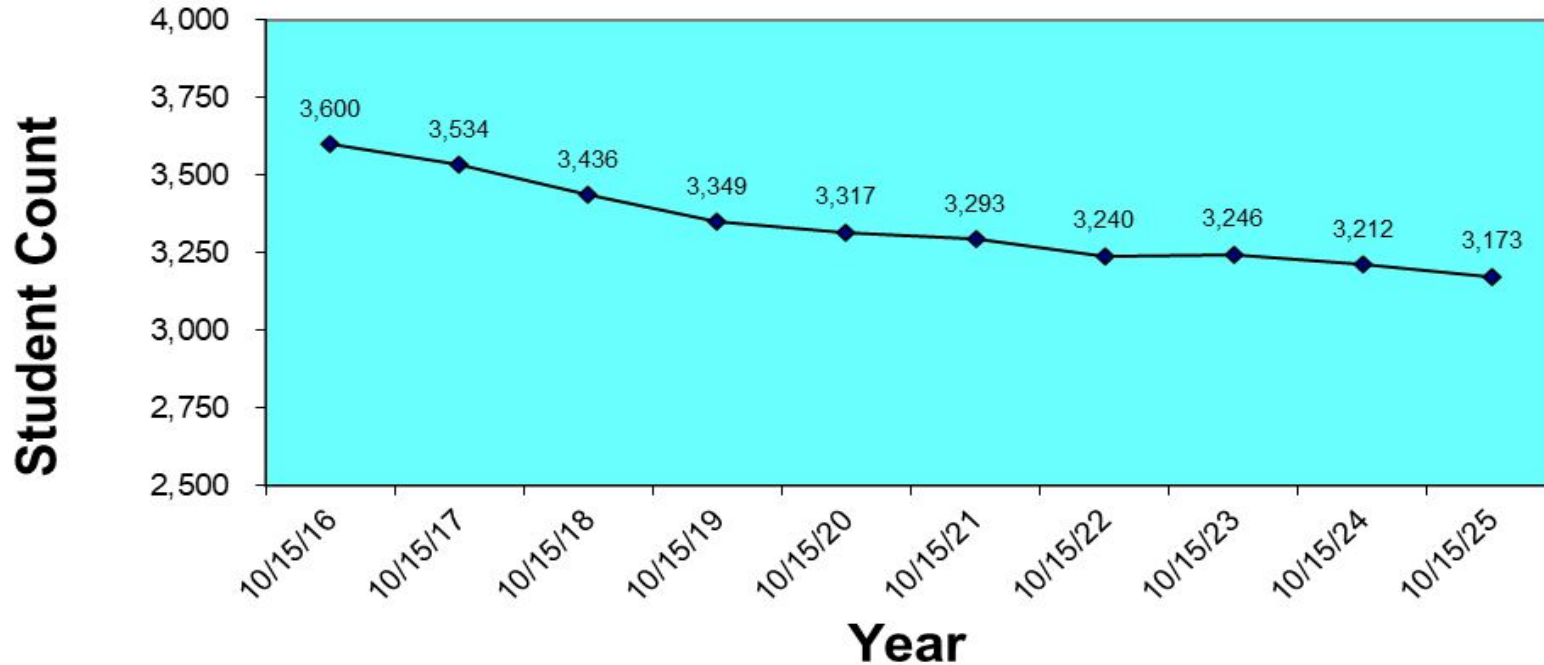


Enrollment Trends

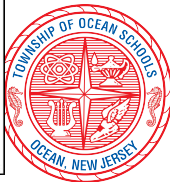
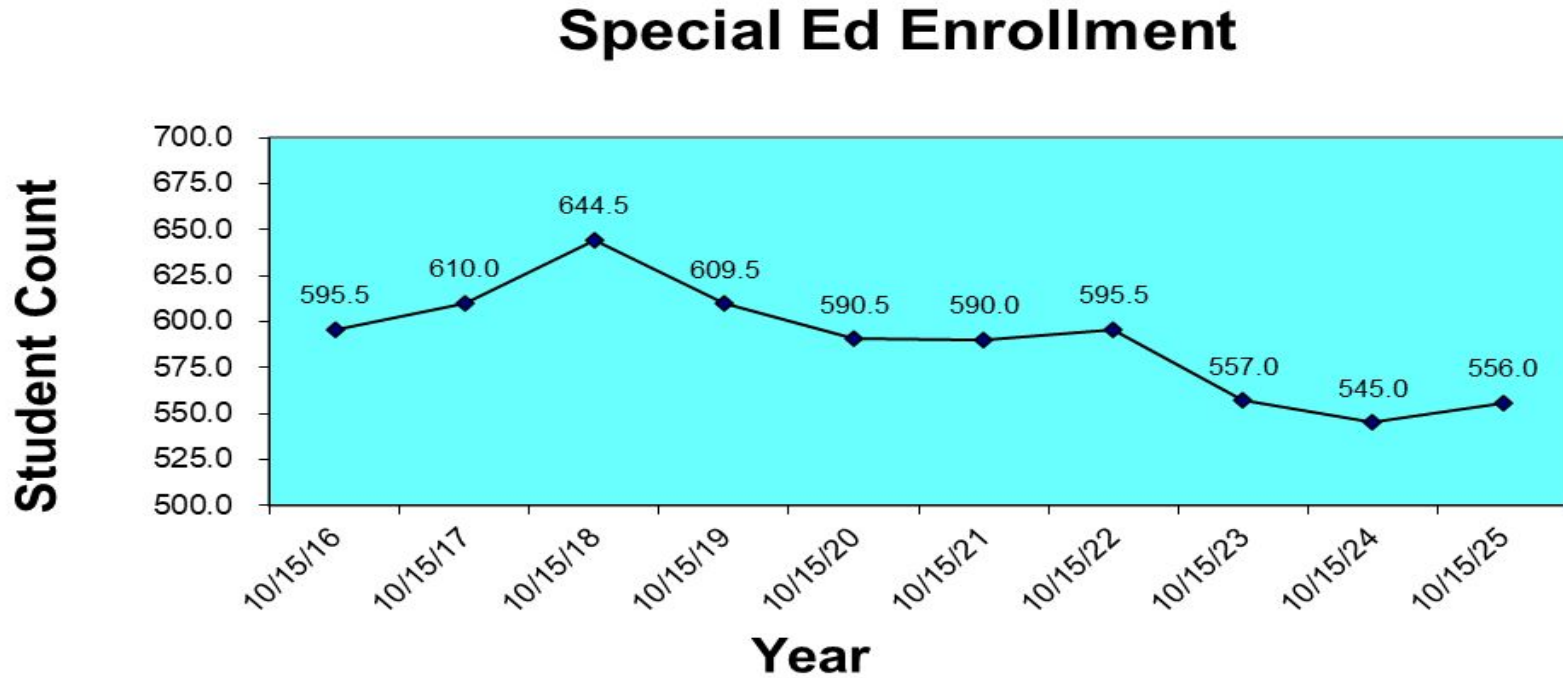


2016-2025 Total Enrollment

Total Enrollment

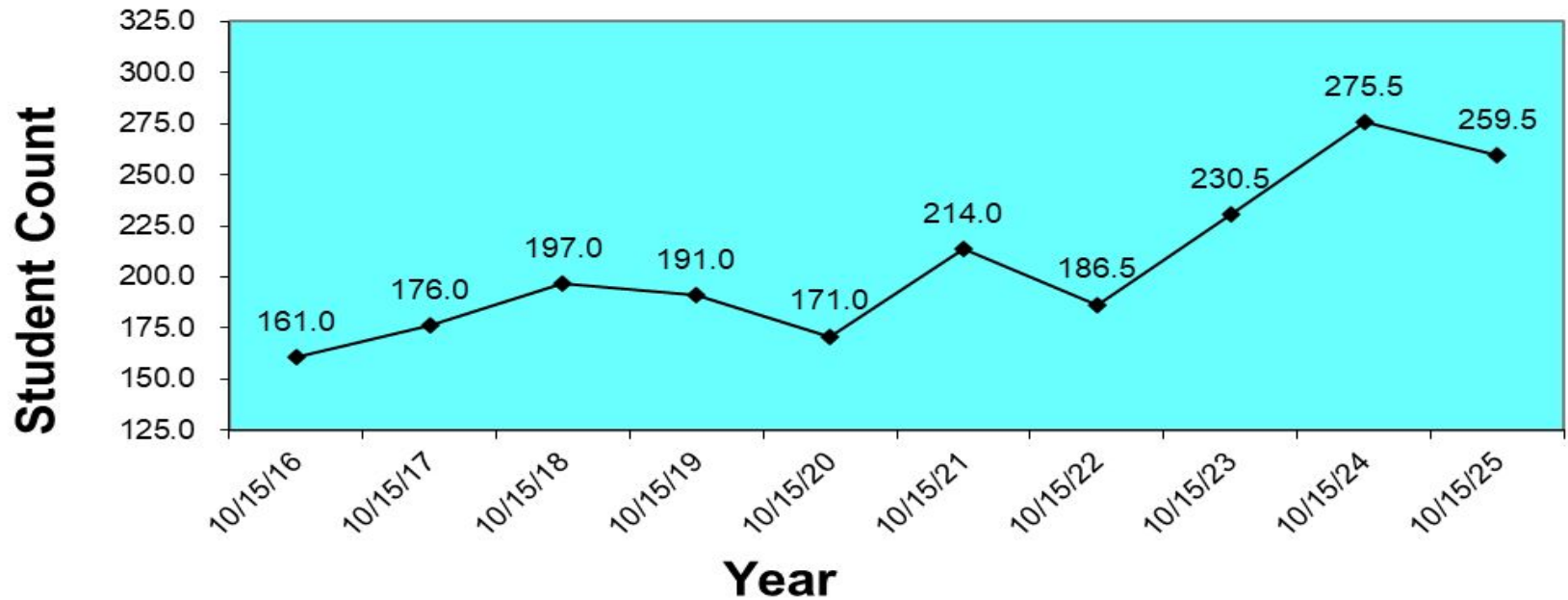


2016-2025 Special Education Enrollment

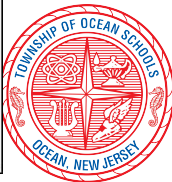
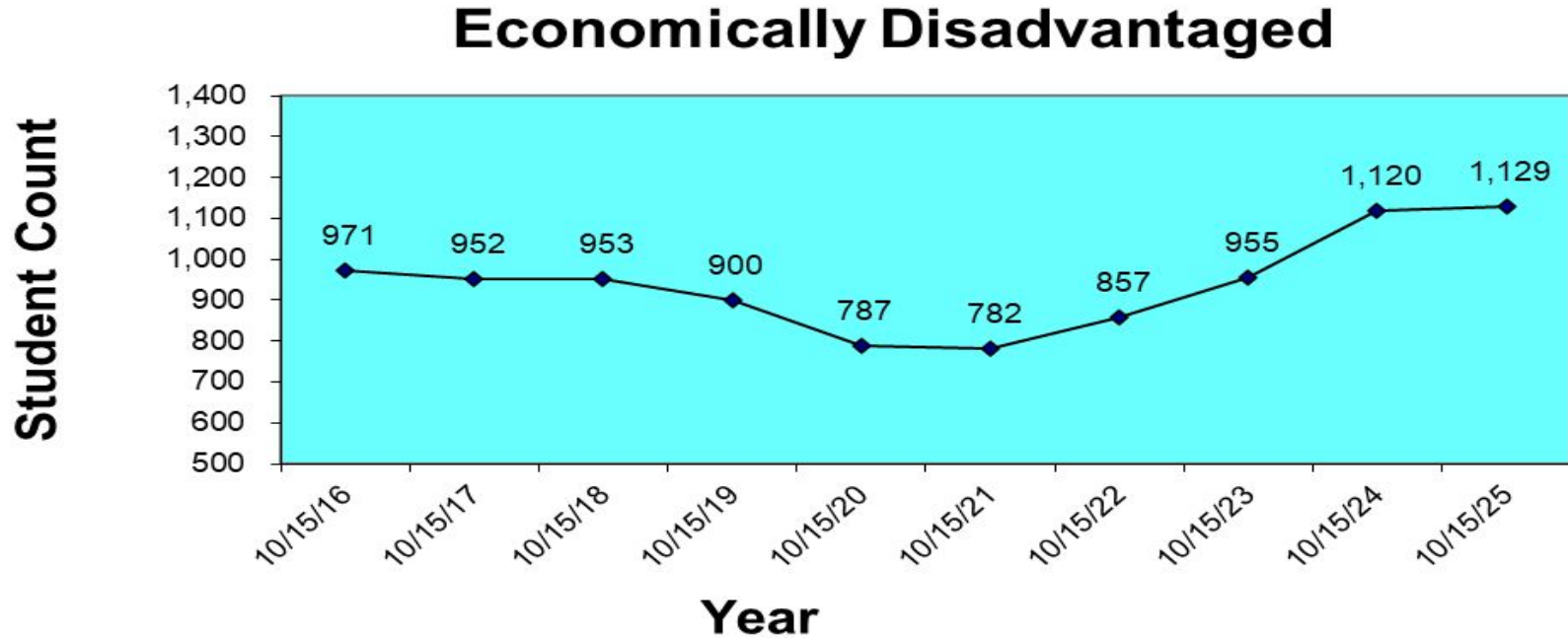


2016-2025 Multilingual Learner Enrollment

Multilingual Learners



2016-2025 Economically Disadvantaged Enrollment



Staffing Ratios - 2024-2025 Data

The data listed below compares Ocean Township to other K-12 school districts in New Jersey with a student population like ours, 1800-3500 students. There are 72 school districts in that group, and the data below shows where we rank within that group.

Ratios	Ocean	Group Avg.	Ocean's Rank
Students : Teachers	9:1	11:1	71 out of 71
Students : Support Staff	57:1	61:1	48 out of 72
Students : Administrators	126:1	130:1	47 out of 72
Faculty : Administrators	16:1	14:1	12 out of 72

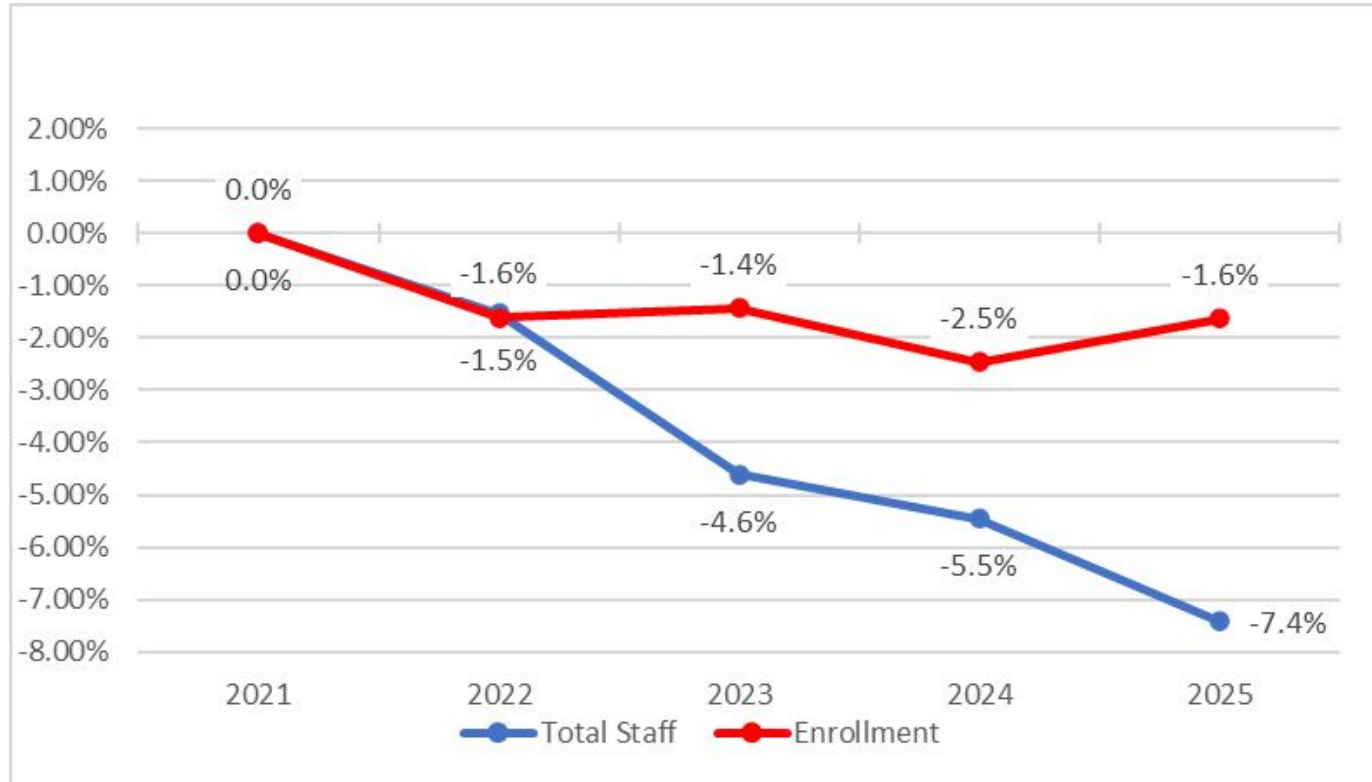


Elementary Class Size Comparisons

	2025-2026	2026-2027
	Class Size Ranges	
OTES	12-23	18-24
WAN	16-24	17-23
WAY	14-26	19-23
TOIS	19-26	24-25



2021-2025 Change in Staff vs Change in Enrollment



Budget Planning

2026-2027 School Year

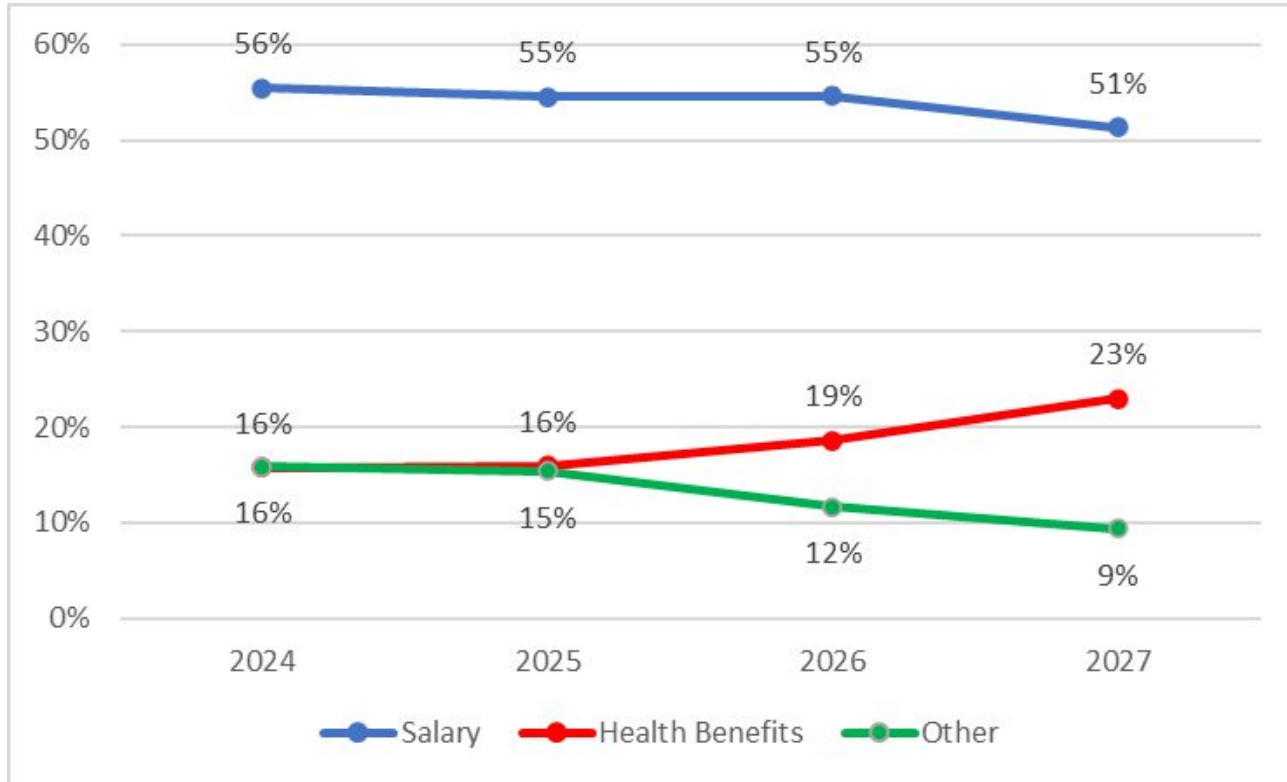


Budget Challenges

- Significant Increase in Health Care/Prescription Costs
- 13.5% Annual Increase in Energy Costs
- Consumer Price Index (March 2026), Northeast Region up 3.6 % from a year ago
- Out of District Placement Costs – Tuition and Transportation
- Aging Facilities and Equipment
- Uncertainty in Federal Grant Funding per Guidance from the Office of Grants Management



Operating Budget Over Time



Budget Reductions

- Capital and Technology Requests: Requests not included in the operating budget. Priority projects will be funded through the current budget or reserve accounts
- Personnel:
 - 12 positions have been eliminated via retirement/resignation
 - 9 professional - admin, elementary & secondary teaching, counseling
 - 3 support - instructional assistant, secretary

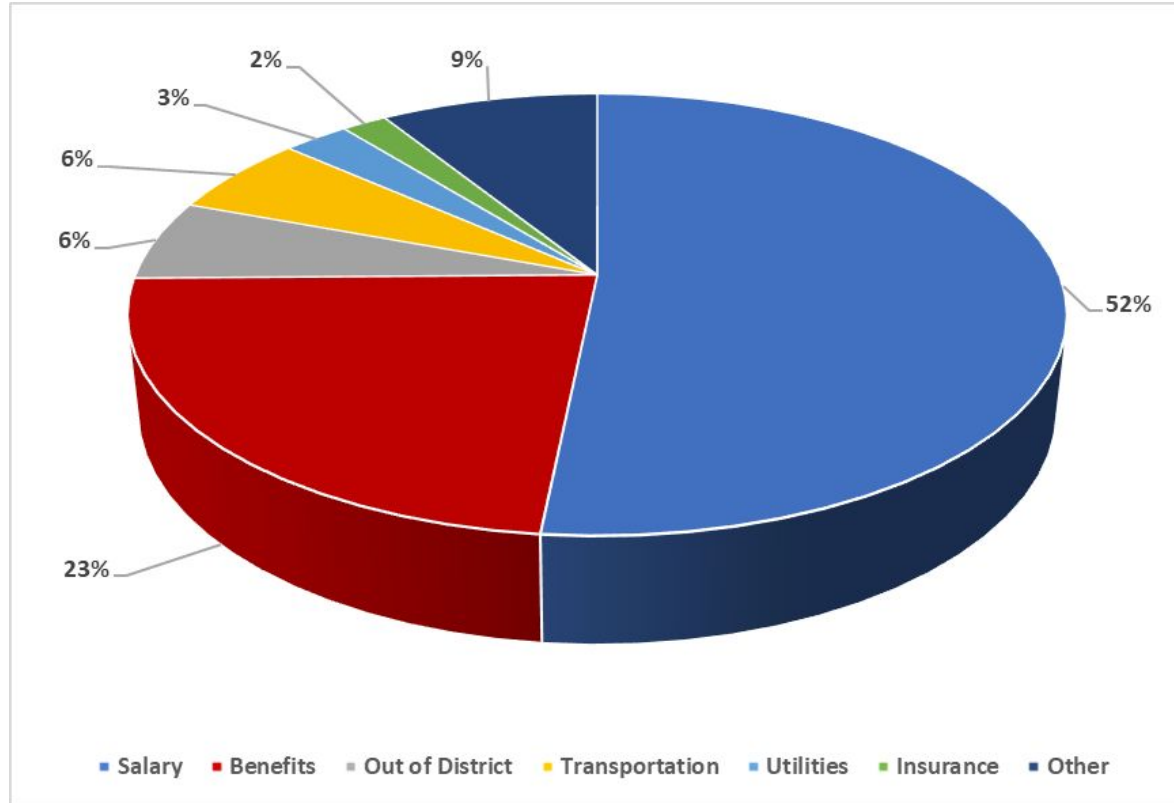


Continuing to Grow

- Capital: Administration will review roofing, HVAC, and other infrastructure improvements for possible approval.
- Technology: New district-wide firewall hardware installation.
- Additional Academic Programs
 - *CommonLit 360* (TOIS) is a comprehensive, standards-aligned ELA curriculum built around engaging, diverse texts and essential questions that promote critical thinking and student discussion
 - *Building Thinking Classrooms* (TOIS & OTHS Math) - focuses on rich, problem-based tasks rather than rote procedures. This program shifts math from students watching teachers to students actively doing the thinking
 - Additional Special Education section to meet needs at the elementary level



2027 Operating Budget Expenditures (\$93,935,406)



2027 Budget - Tax Levy

2.00% Increase	\$1,530,735	2.00%
Healthcare Waiver (\$4,715,224)	\$3,444,154	4.50%
 Total 2027 Tax Levy	 \$4,974,889	 6.50%

	Annual Increase	Monthly	Daily
Average Assessment \$1,008,047	360.70	30.06	0.99



Questions

