



STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

2026-2027 NORTH PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

April 29, 2026

Michelle Aquino, Superintendent of Schools
Pamela Graziano, School Business Administrator
Filipe Luis, Assistant Superintendent of C&I



East End School



Stony Brook School



West End School



Somerset School



Middle School



High School



Harrison School

MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission: North Plainfield School District is dedicated to prioritizing **student learning** through the academic experience, extracurriculars and community engagement. We are a diverse student community, guided by our core values.

Vision: We commit to setting **high expectations** for students to **meet grade level standards** in a safe and supportive learning environment, aspiring for all students to be enrolled, employed or enlisted upon graduation.





What Do You Value Most
About Our Schools?

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Driving our Work!



1- STUDENT EXPERIENCE

To create an experience that allows for the full exploration of interests, life opportunities, and careers while prioritizing well-being



2- FACILITIES & SAFETY

To create innovative, safe, and expanded learning environments in a fiscally prudent manner



3- SCHOOL CLIMATE & CULTURE

Strengthen a climate of respect and inclusion so that all have a sense of belonging



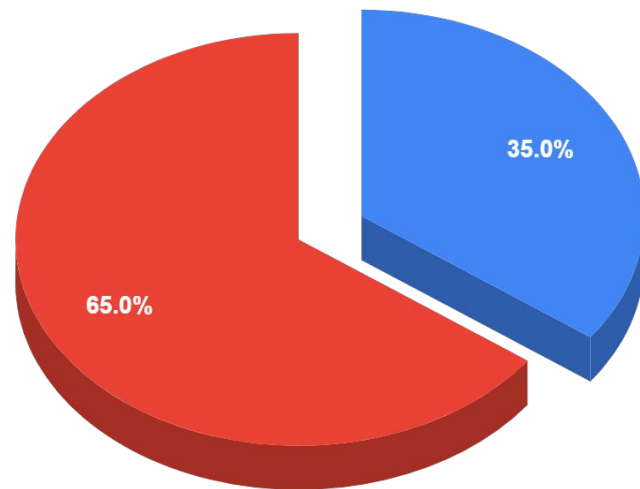
4- TEACHER RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Improve student outcomes by strengthening our professional learning practices and staff recruitment/retainment through a data-informed mindset



LOOK BACK: OUR 2025-2026 BUDGET

- 2025-2026 Total Budget of \$106,204,189
 - ◆ **68%** of Budget Relies on State Aid/Federal Aid
 - ◆ **32%** of Budget Relies on Local Tax Levy
- The general fund tax levy increase is 2.0%
- School tax levy payment is increased by \$654,532



State Aid

Local Tax Levy



KEY BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- ➔ Reviewing & Analyzing Staffing Needs
- ➔ Student Enrollment
- ➔ Recent Negotiations
- ➔ Managing Health Benefits renewals & insurance lines
- ➔ Maintaining Operational Efficiency/Aging Facilities
- ➔ Multi-year planning for sustainability of quality program & stabilization of tax impact
- ➔ Tax Impact on our Community



RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT BUDGET 2025–2026

Continued Commitments



Innovative **communication** allowing greater transparency and community engagement



Strengthening instructional practices to support student achievement



Building staff capacity through strategic professional learning



Providing a **safer** environment for students and staff



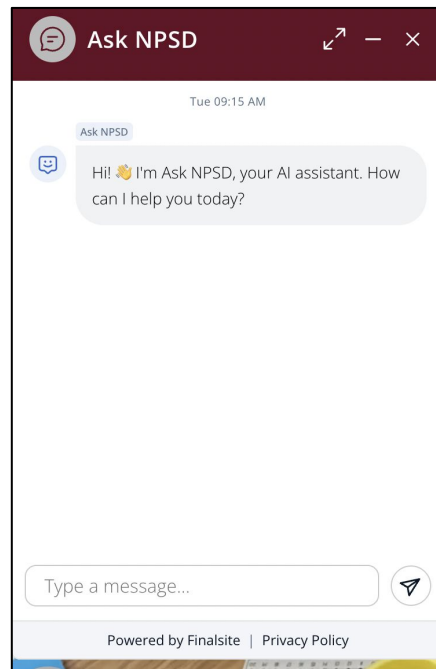
Data is utilized to identify, improve & expand academic & co-curricular opportunities

★ NJQSAC HIGH PERFORMING DISTRICT ★



COMMUNICATION, TRUST & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ◆ Implementation of website **AI chatbot “Ask NPSD”**
- ◆ **Wordly AI** translation for events and meetings
- ◆ Monthly **Digital Newsletters** District
- ◆ Monthly **Minute with Michelle** video updates
- ◆ Weekly **What's New North Plainfield** community events newsletter
- ◆ Award-winning **printed newsletter** mailed to all residents 3 times a year
- ◆ **Thought Exchange** for transparent, two-way communication



4.5%

decrease in gap between Spanish speaking students & staff

93%

of staff have rated professional learning as conducive to their professional growth

89%

of new teachers offered employment have been retained since 2019

54%

decrease in September certificated staff vacancies

OUR COLLECTIVE CELEBRATIONS:

GROWTH & SUCCESS



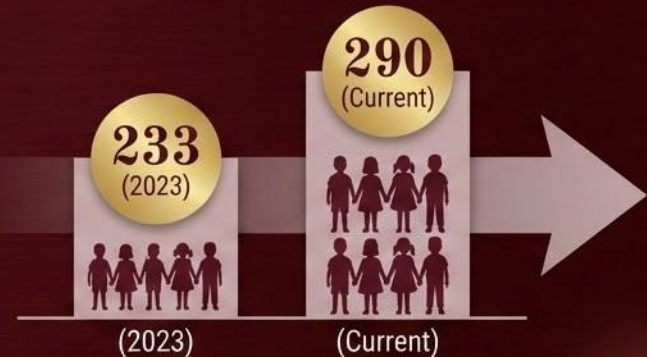
Graduation Rate Increase



Consistent Growth in
Student Achievement



Preschool Enrollment Growth



Expanding Access to
Early Education

ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

5-Year Enrollment Trends

Marching Band: **+130%**

Somerset Band: **+147%**

High School Dance: **+54%**

Zero attrition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 band – Five consecutive years!

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Added full-time staff for MS Dance & ROTC for MS programming opportunities
- Added new athletic programs & increased HS athletic recognition & accomplishments
 - ◆ **HS:** Girls Wrestling, unified Special Olympics athletic program (**grant funded**)
 - ◆ **MS:** Cheer, 2nd boys soccer team, field hockey, & adding assistant coaches



NEW HS ELECTIVES

New 2026-27

- Graphic Design
- Oceanography
- Rutgers Healthcare
- Rutgers Emergency & Care
- Unified Physical Education
- Weight Room
- Wind Ensemble

**86 Electives
5% Increase**

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS (10-12)

- **Kean University**
 - Foundations of Education
- **RVCC**
 - English 11 Honors
 - English 12 Honors
 - AP French
- **Rutgers**
 - Rutgers College Writing

Stockton University

- Precalculus Honors
- AP Precalculus
- AP Calculus AB/BC
- AP Statistics
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Honors Dance

Over the past 2 years,
enrollment increased by
132%

NJ Student Learning Assessments



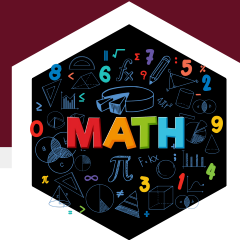
NJSLA

District Year to Year Mobility

- **+33%** of students increased a level

District Factor Groups (DFG)

- Cohort same student, consecutive grades
 - North Plainfield: 7% growth
 - DFG: 3% growth



District Year to Year Mobility

- **+29%** of students increased a level

District Factor Groups (DFG)

- Cohort same student, consecutive grades
 - North Plainfield: 3% growth
 - DFG: 2% growth

NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment

NJPGA

ELA

72% – 69%

2024 to 2025

MATH

4% Growth

2024 to 2025

ACCESS Testing – Multilingual Learners

- There was a 12% growth in the levels of developing
- There was a 40% growth in the level of expanding

SPECIAL EDITION

ND

SPECIAL EDITION

EXCITING NEWS

**EXCITING NEWS FROM
THE NJDOE**
North Plainfield School District's
K–4 Dual Language Immersion
Program is **designated a Model
Program for 2025–2028, one of
only three districts statewide** to
receive this prestigious
designation.

As a model program, NPSD will
serve as a regional resource
center where NJ educators can
witness exemplary instruction and
programmatic practices in dual
language immersion.



DUAL LANGUAGE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Classification	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Bilingual/Dual Language Programs	95.41%	95.64%	95.73%
Non-Bilingual/ Dual Language Programs	94.34%	94.50%	94.83%

NJSLA (Grade 5, 6, & 7)

- **ELA Proficiency**
 - ◆ **32%** Dual **33%** Non-Dual
- **Math Proficiency**
 - ◆ **20%** Dual **16%** Non-Dual

Dual Language SPANISH (Grade 6)

- **48%** are reading in Spanish at a level equivalent to a **College Undergraduate** who has studied language for 2-3 years.



NPHS AP COURSE ENROLLMENT & EXAM DATA



A 650% increase



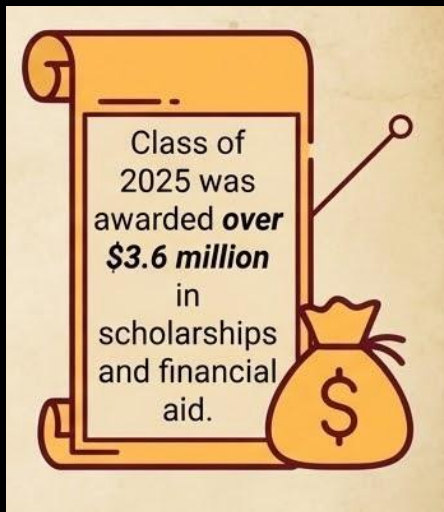
74% increase
of Total AP Students
with Scores 3+!



31% increase
in enrollment!

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Graduated Class of 2025		320
	4-year college:	41.29%
	2-year college:	28.7%
	Technical/Career School:	9.03%
	Military:	3.54%
	Employment:	11.29%
	Undecided:	4.19%



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP & VOTER CONFIDENCE

- ➔ Passed a **\$34 million Zero-Tax-Impact Referendum** with **80% voter approval**
(Only \$14.9M taxpayer funded; \$19.1M (56%) funded by the State of New Jersey)
- ➔ Four consecutive years of a \$0 school tax increase starting in 2019-20
- ➔ Awarded **over 6.8 million dollars in ROD grants** supporting classroom expansions at EES-WES, new roofs at NPHS-EES-SBS and HVAC replacements at the NPHS-NPMS-SBS

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
School Tax Levy	\$31,455,778	\$31,455,778	\$32,084,894	\$32,726,592	\$33,381,124
	Increase: 0%	Increase: 0%	Increase: 2%	Increase: 2%	Increase: 2%
General Fund Budget	\$85,56,867	\$94,064,825	\$98,562,171	\$103,418,780	\$112,858,144
	Increase: 0%	Increase: 0%	Increase: 2%	Increase: 2%	Increase: 2%

RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

FACILITIES

Safety & Security 2025–2026

- Secured door ajar systems at the MS/HS campus
- Crossing Signs
- District Wide Raptor entry
- Class 3 in every school building (NEW HS & MS!)
- 6 security officers
- School Bus Cameras



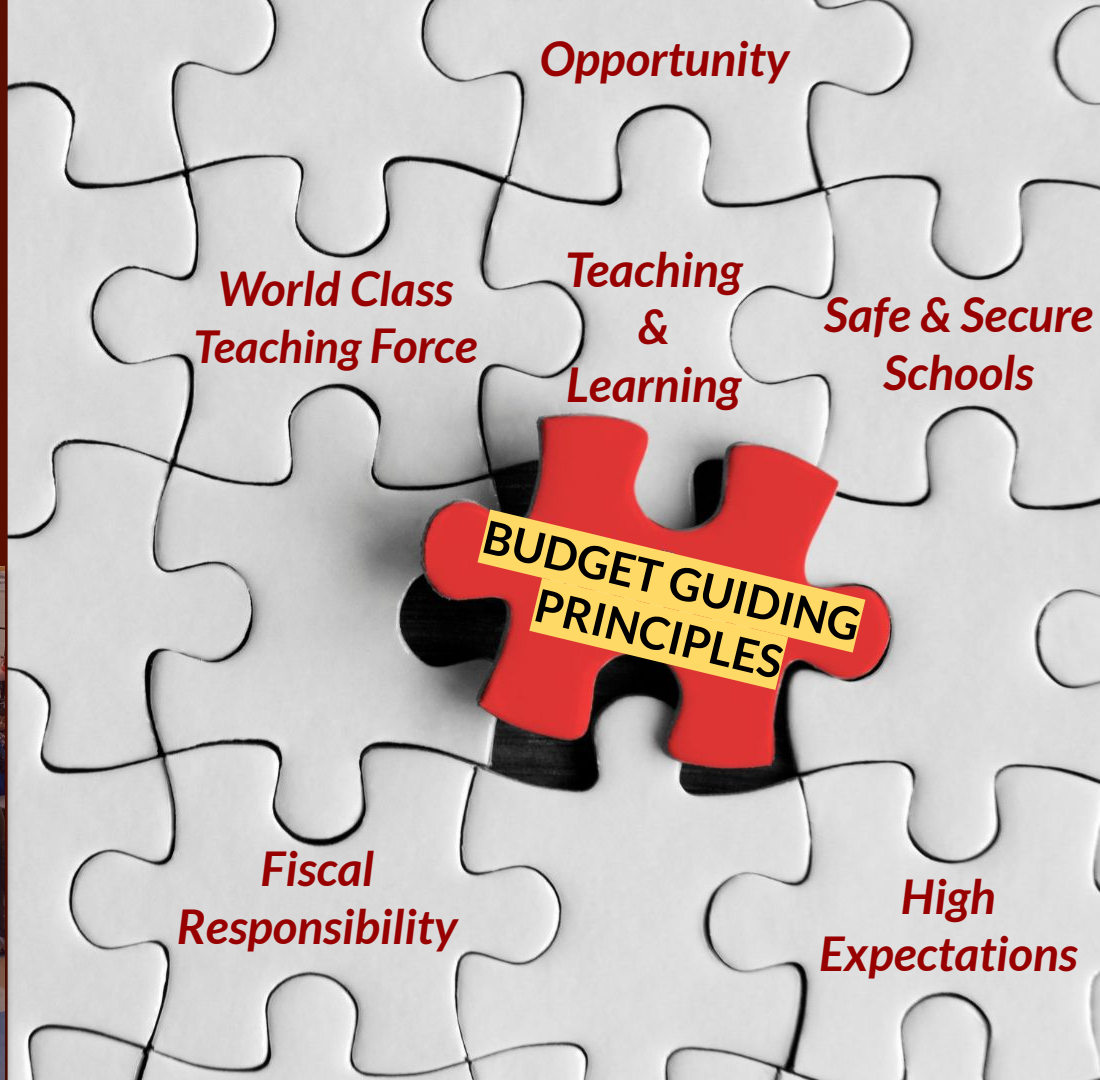
RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

FACILITIES

Capital Projects 2025–2026

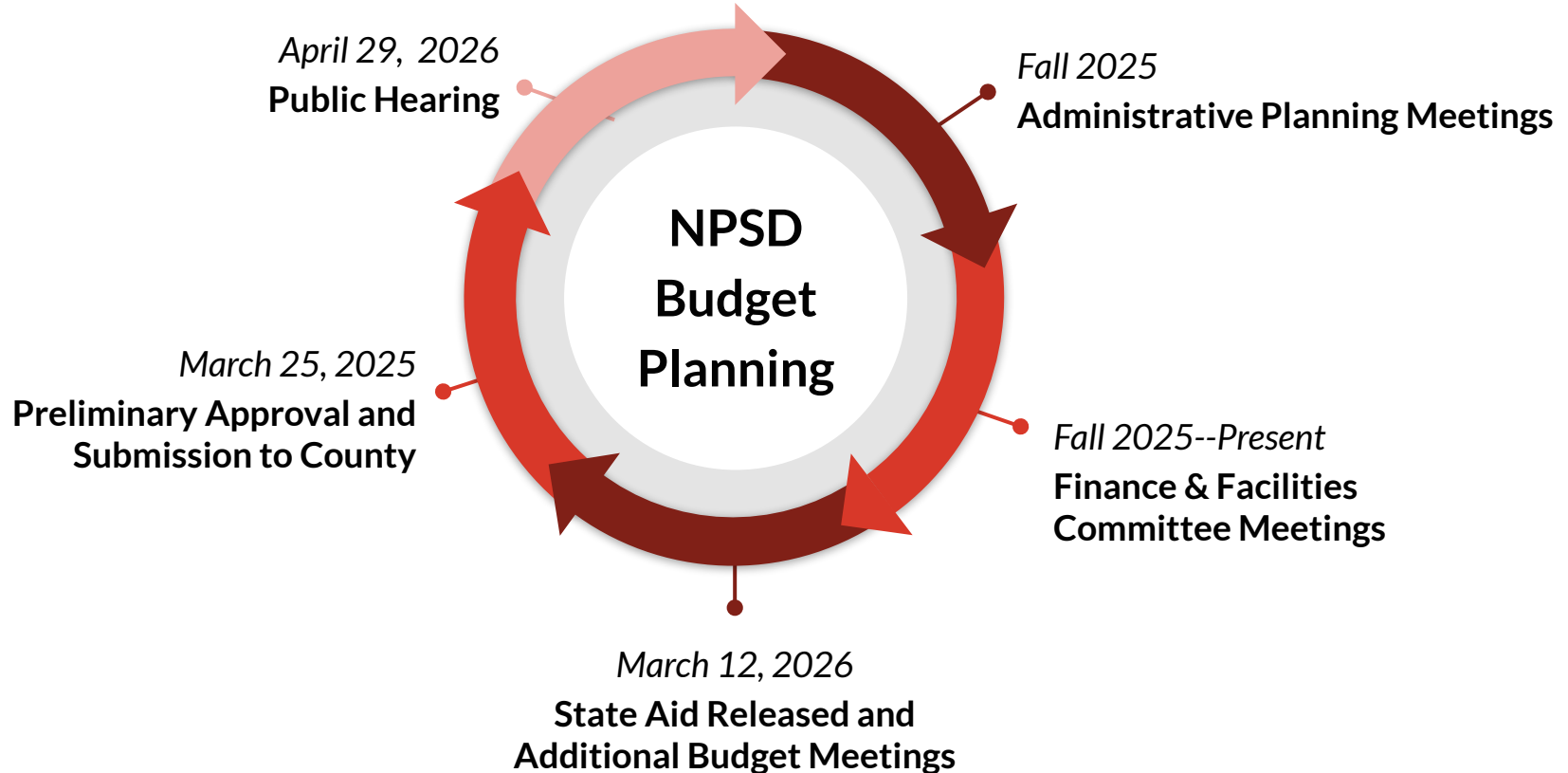
- Tennis Court Reconstruction East End
- Door Replacement Plan– Year 1
- West End Roof Replacement
- Elevator Modernization– HS
- Somerset Window Replacement
- West End Track

BUDGET PLANNING 2026–2027 CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT



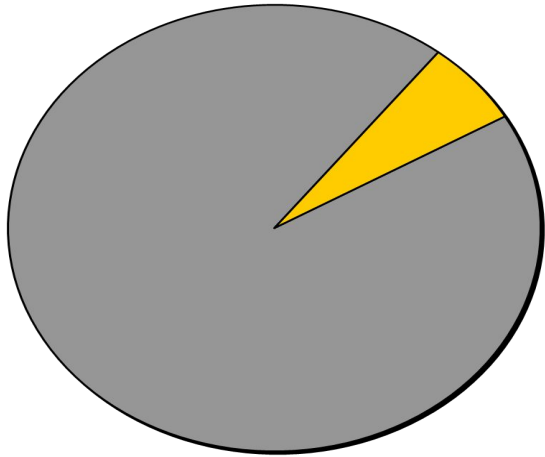


DELIBERATE, PURPOSEFUL & COLLABORATIVE



HOW DO WE BUILD YOUR BUDGET?

Required Spending Makes Up A Large Part Of The District's Budget



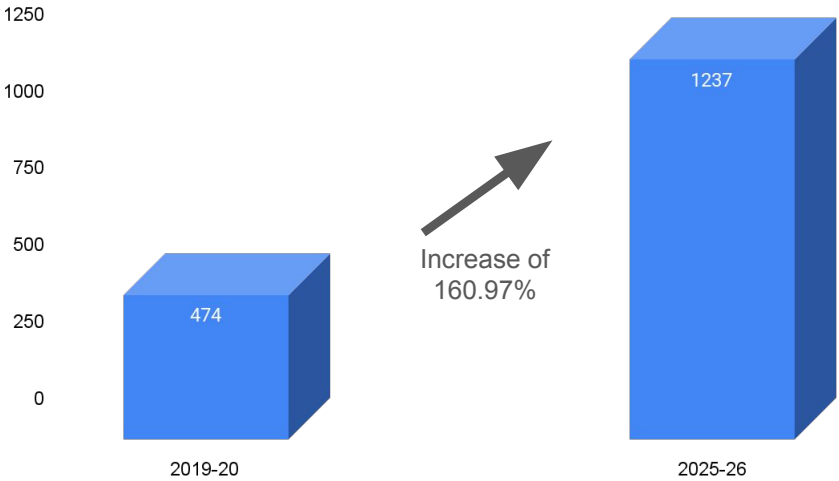
- + Contracted Salaries
- + Contracted Health Benefits
- + Mandated Special Education Spending
- + Mandated Professional Services
- + Essential Building Maintenance
- + Transportation
- + Mandated Insurances
- + Other Employee Benefits
- + State Mandated Services

ENROLLMENT DECREASED 3.9% (ASSA REPORT)

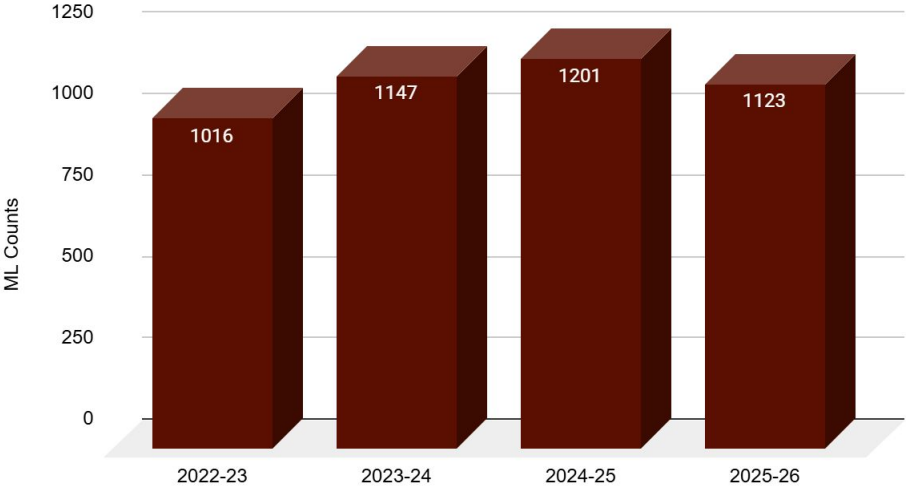
	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
NPHS	1090	1139	1195	1209
NPMS	510	538	521	487
Somerset	486	485	499	531
EES	487	451	476	485
SBS	261	272	277	250
WES	555	599	536	540
TOTAL	3365	3484	3504	3502

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS ENROLLMENT

ML Growth 2019-2025



ML Population by Year (Oct 15th Snapshots)



STAFFING ADDITIONS



1- STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Salary

- Art Teacher
- Music Teacher
- Science Teacher

Stipended Role

- Percussion Director



2- FACILITIES & SAFETY

- Maintenance Worker
- Crossing Guards
(NPHS Unit Lunch)

STAFFING REDUCTIONS

FISCAL EFFICIENCY & STAFFING OPTIMIZATION

- Director of Elementary
- Principal of Special Projects (September 2026)
- ESL Elementary Teacher (Attrition Based)

**GOAL 1:
STUDENT
EXPERIENCE**



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH SCHOOL



- **Clubs**
 - Film Club
 - Book Club
 - Math Honor Society
 - English Honor Society
 - Chess Club

SOMERSET SCHOOL



- **Clubs**
 - Expansion of Band

MIDDLE SCHOOL



- **Assistant Coaches**
 - Volleyball - Boys
 - Volleyball - Girls

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



- **Clubs**
 - Musical Theatre Club

**GOAL 4:
TEACHER
RECRUITMENT &
DEVELOPMENT**



RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

- **Mentors** for all new staff regardless of certification status
- New Teacher year long professional development
- 50% **reimbursement** for college credits
- TCNJ partnership for **ESL/Bilingual certification**

- **Increased Stipend** for paraprofessionals in self contained classrooms
- Paras Work District Calendar to Include Professional Development Days
- RBT Hiring
- **Paid summer training** and **paid after-school professional learning**
- **For NP, by NP**

GOAL 1: STUDENT EXPERIENCE



New Courses

- >>> Oceanography
- >>> Rutgers Univ. - Emergency & Clinical Care
- >>> Wind Ensemble



22 Advanced Placement Courses

- >>> Adding AP Seminar,
- >>> Adding AP Spanish Literature



Free Full Day PreK 3-4

- >>> 23 Classrooms Total
- >>> PreK-3 and PreK-4



Dual Language Immersion

- >>> PK-5
- >>> Honors Spanish 2, 3, 4, and 5

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Opportunities



34 Clubs Offered (9-12) [38 next year]

13 Clubs Offered (7-8) [15 next year]

18 Clubs Offered (5-6)

8 Clubs Offered (K-4)

21 HS Sports Offered

14 MS Sports Offered [15 next year]

GOAL 1: STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Professional Learning Continues



GOAL 4: TEACHER RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Language Arts Literacy

- Into Reading/Arriba Lectura
 - Continues (Grades K-2)
 - New (Grade 3)
 - Pilot (Grade 4)

Humanities

- Unified Writing Model continues (Grades 9-12)

Math

- Pilot Program (Grade K-4)
- New Program (Grades 5-8)

Science

- Mystery Science continues (Grades K-5)
- OpenSciEd continues (Grades 6-8)
- New Program (Grades 9-12)

High School

- Rotate and Drop Schedule

Focused Instructional Techniques continues...

- **What I Need (WIN) Period** (Grades K-4)
- **Co-teaching** (Grades 5-12)
- **Small Group Instruction** (Grades K-6)
- **Sheltered Instruction** (Grades 5-12)
- **AP Training** (Grades 9-12)



GOAL 3:
SCHOOL
CLIMATE &
CULTURE



CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

*Teacher Development
& Support*



GOAL 4:
TEACHER
RECRUITMENT &
DEVELOPMENT



Multi-year initiative including Professional Learning, planning and implementation

→ **YEAR 4**



One unified Curriculum Planning, Lesson Plan Platform

→ **YEAR 4**



Unique Learning System (ULS) provides standards-based curriculum for students with moderate to severe disabilities

→ **YEAR 3**



Continued Tier 2 & 3 identification data teams and progress monitoring

Additional training & equity in materials

→ **YEAR 6**



Data Warehouse (District)
Introduce common assessments (Gr. 6-12)

→ **YEAR 7**



Benchmark assessments (Gr. K-8)

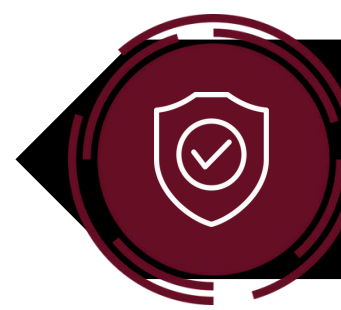
→ **YEAR 4**

GOAL 1: STUDENT EXPERIENCE



COMMITMENT TO TECHNOLOGY

GOAL 2: FACILITIES & SAFETY



Student and Parent Engagement

- **Google Workspace Suite For Education:** A collaborative platform built for teachers and students
- **Genesis Parent & Student Portal Access :** Provides families and students with real-time access to grades and schedules
- **1:1 Chromebooks** for all Students in Grades K-12



Network and Security

- **Cisco Meraki MR9176 Access Points:** Deployed across all buildings to support higher device capacity and improved wireless performance
- **Cisco Duo:** Multi-factor authentication to enhance account security
- **GoGuardian:** Internet filtering to ensure safe and appropriate online access

**GOAL 2:
FACILITIES &
SAFETY**



CAPITAL PROJECTS



Health & Safety

- Continued HVAC Replacements - Somerset School and NPHS 127
- Continued Roof Improvements
- Harrison School Vestibule
- Middle School Addition



Enrollment

1st Floor



2nd Floor



**GOAL 2:
FACILITIES &
SAFETY**



COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED FACILITIES

Continued Drop Ceiling and
Floor Replacement Plan



Continued Tile Painting



Field Maintenance Tractor



Boiler Replacement at Watchung



**GOAL 3:
SCHOOL
CLIMATE &
CULTURE**

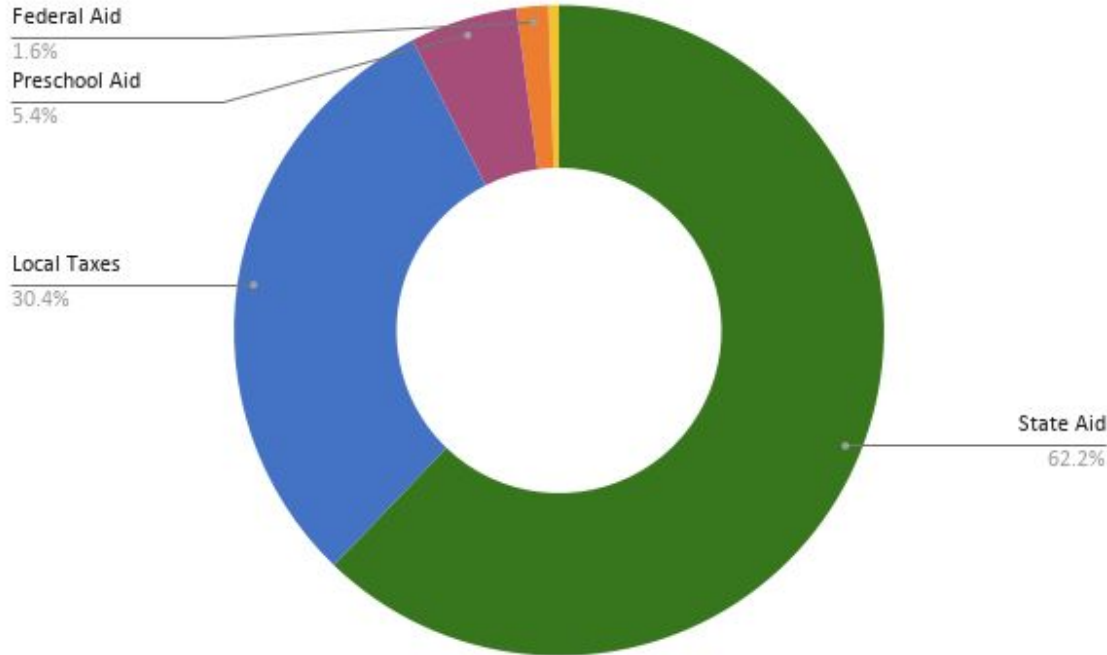


COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED HEALTH, SAFETY, & SECURITY

- Continued LED Light Pedestrian Crossing Sign
- District Wide Burglar Alarm and Camera Improvements
- New Security Camera Cloud System
- New Security Vehicle



WHERE DOES YOUR SCHOOL BUDGET REVENUE COME FROM?



STATE AID:

\$69,692,886 (62.2%)

LOCAL TAXES:

\$34,948,747 (30.4%)

PRESCHOOL AID:

\$6,001,301 (5.4%)

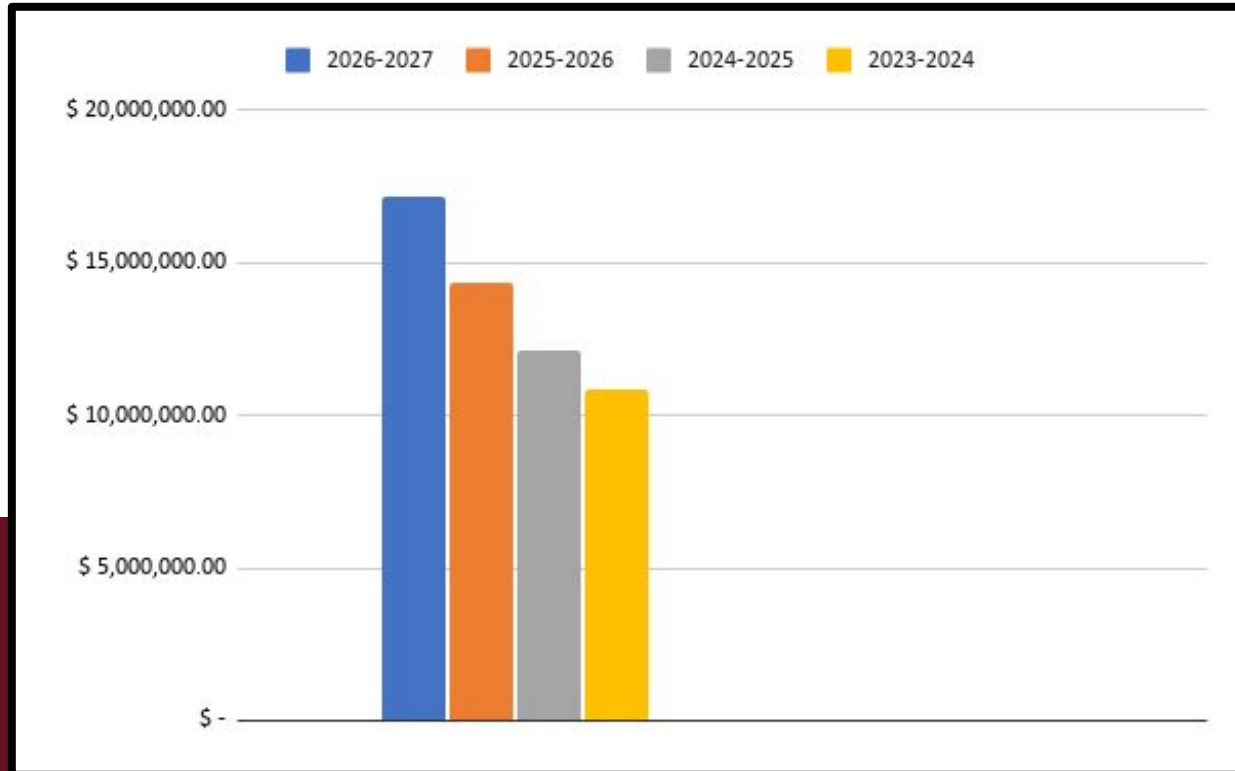
FEDERAL AID:

\$1,767,185 (1.6%)

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE:

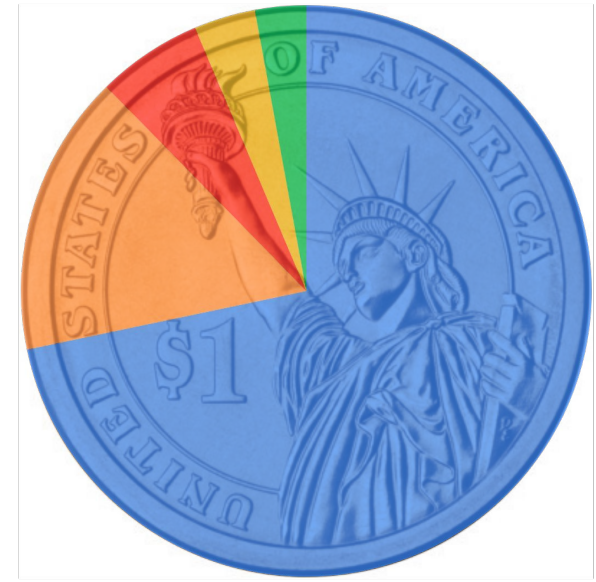
\$585,000 (<1.0%)

HEALTH BENEFITS COSTS YEAR TO YEAR





HOW ARE MONIES ALLOCATED?



72%

Salaries/
Benefits

16.1%

Supplies/Text
PD
Other/Support

5.5%

Facilities

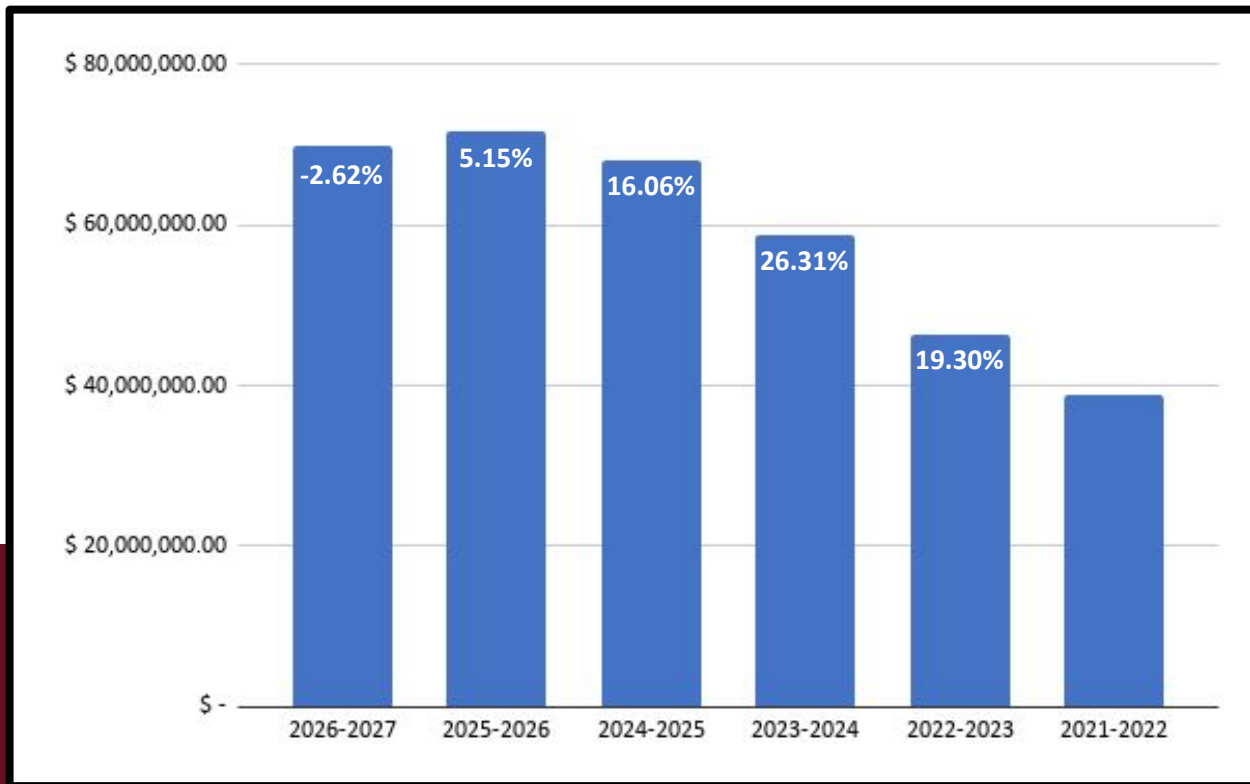
3.5%

Capital Projects

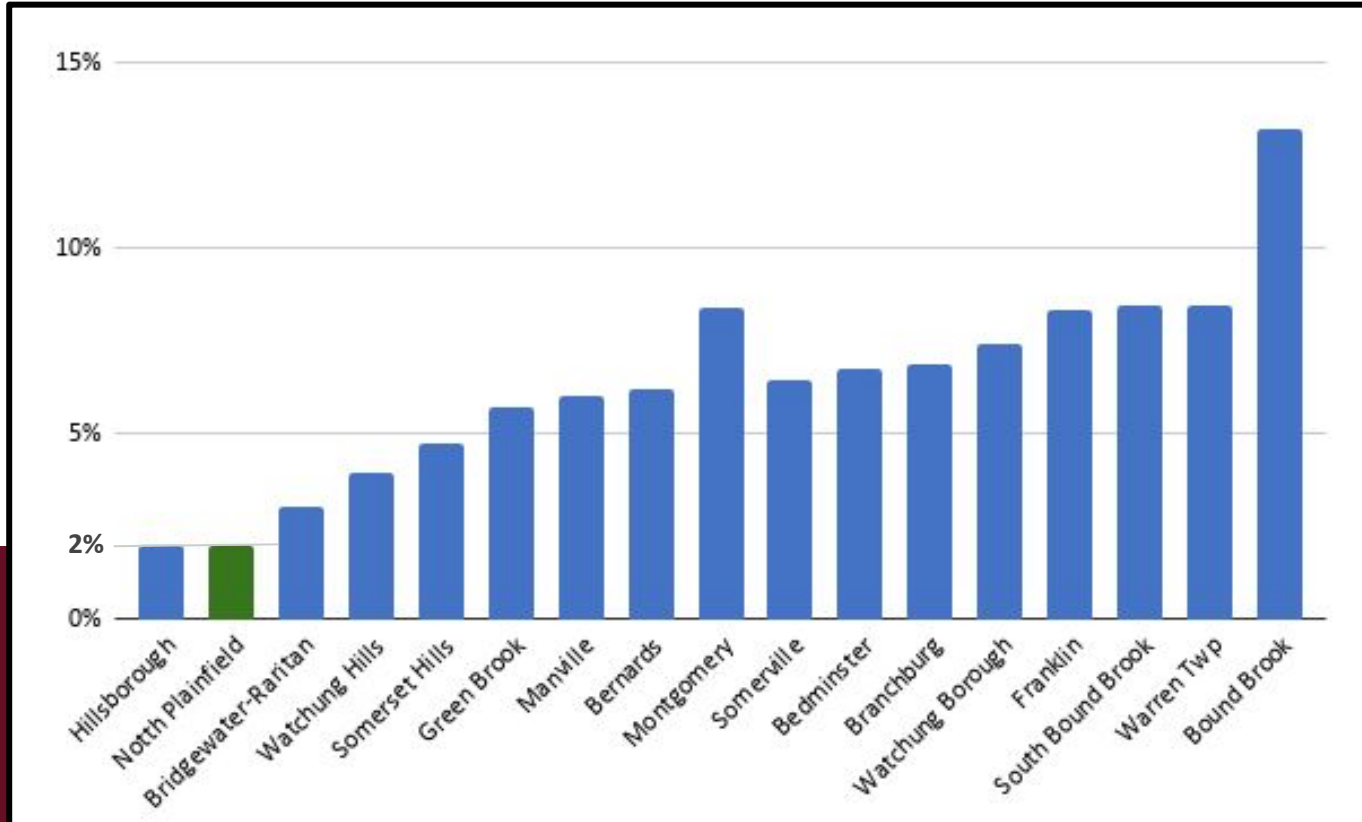
2.9%

Transportation

NORTH PLAINFIELD YEAR TO YEAR STATE AID COMPARISON



AROUND THE COUNTY TAX INCREASES FOR 2026-2027



TAX LEVY INCREASE 2% GENERAL FUND

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Total	% Change
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$121,567,440	\$7,768,486	\$907,800	\$128,428,126	
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$87,518,693	\$7,768,486	\$0	\$93,471,579	
Taxes to be Raised	\$34,048,746	\$0	\$907,800	\$34,956,546	



TAX IMPACT 2026-2027

*School Taxes increased by \$5.76/month
=\$69.12/year on the Average Household*

- 2025 North Plainfield Average Household Price \$ 224,871
 - **Down** from \$225,507 in 2024
- Rateables increased in NP
- Local Tax Levy Decrease (Taxpayer portion down)
 - Local Taxpayer Contribution (2024-2025) - 35%
 - Local Taxpayer Contribution (2025-2026) - 30%





North Plainfield School District

STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Questions?

Thank You

