



Harrison Twp. Board of Education
April 27, 2026
Public Hearing
2026-2027 School Budget

Board Finance Committee Report

- ◉ Walter Bright, Chairperson
- ◉ Jennifer Bowen
- ◉ John Cavanaugh
- ◉ Shannon Williams
- ◉ Chris DeSanto, Business Administrator
- ◉ Missy Peretti, Superintendent

District Goals

1. Improving Student Achievement: The Harrison Township School District will focus expenditures on academic programs, student achievement, and effective staff.

2. Improving District Operations: The Harrison Township School District will provide an environment that maximizes learning for all staff and students. This will include developing clean, safe, and well-maintained facilities

State Aid

- Finance Committee Meetings occurred from December 2025 through February 2026
- Governor Sherrill's Public Budget Address occurred on March 10, 2026 after the press released that residents should expect "historic funding for public schools".
- On Thursday, March 12, 2026, The Harrison Township School District, along with only 93 other of the 574 districts in NJ, were notified that we were ONCE AGAIN CUT the maximum 3% in aid (\$158,040.00)

State Aid Statistics

- 400 of the 574 or 70% of school districts in the state of NJ received an INCREASE in state aid funding for the 26-27 budget.
- Only 94 of the 574 or 6% of school districts received the MAXIMUM 3% **DECREASE** in state aid. BOTH Harrison and Clearview are included in that 6%.
- The remaining 80 of the 574 or 14% of school districts received flat funding in 2026-2027.

2025-2026 Student Enrollment

1,296 Total Children

As reported by the NJ Homeroom budget software and based on the October 15, 2025 Report

General Education Students	
Kindergarten	148
Grades 1-5	854
Grades 6	178
Special Education Students	
Elementary (k-5)	93
Grade 6	21
ODP	2

Shared Services

- ◉ Diesel Gasoline (Clearview)
- ◉ Regular Gasoline (Clearview)
- ◉ Transportation Maintenance (Kingsway)
- ◉ Utilities (electrical and natural gas) - ACES
- ◉ Trash Removal (Harrison Township)
- ◉ Salt (Harrison Township)
- ◉ Liability and Workmans Comp (EIRC South)
- ◉ Health Benefits (School Health Insurance Fund)

Admin Costs

Harrison Township Administrative Costs are reported at **\$1,714 per pupil**. Harrison Township remains one of the lowest in the county in admin costs (**18% lower than the county average of \$2,078**)

Notable Changes for the 2026-2027 School Budget

Staffing

- > UNFILLED positions on the position control roster have been eliminated.
- > These are NOT staff members, but rather primary support positions that have been held previously, but are no longer needed (or staffed)

Technology - The \$250,000 yearly budget that was built in to our base with the tax levy adjustment in 2025, has been cut significantly in order to balance this budget. However, due to extreme fiscal responsibility during the 25-26 academic year, we have been able to purchase a portion of these needs at the current (lower) pricing.

Cost Per Pupil -

2025-2026	2026-2027
\$16,751	\$16,881

2026-2027 Net Valuation Taxable

2024	2025
\$1,580,600,700	\$1,578,644,900

This represents a **DECREASE** of \$1,955,800.

** The net valuation taxable is the total assessed value of all taxable property in our community. This is the value used to calculate property tax rates and determine how much revenue a town can raise. Generally, a higher NVT means the tax burden can be spread over more property value.

Tax Levy Explanation

○ Total New School Tax Rate

- > **\$1,200.10** per year per \$100,000 of assessed value
- > This equates to **\$4,200.35** per year for the AVERAGE home in Harrison Township assessed at \$350,000.
- > This represents a total **INCREASE of \$171.60 per year per \$100,000** of assessed value or a \$600.60 increase for the average home in our community.
- > It is important to note that this current 2026-2027 is responsible for **\$126.90 of that \$171.60** increase per \$100,000 of assessed value or \$444.15 of that \$600.60 yearly increase for the AVERAGE home in Harrison Township.
- > A total \$706,363 will be collected in the coming year from the 25-26 TAX LEVY INCREASE as approved by the state late in the 25-26 budget development . Therefore that previous increase is responsible for the remaining **\$44.70 of the \$171.60** increase per \$100,000 of assessed value.

A Look Ahead

November 2026 – Referendum

Scope of Work –

1. Upgrades in security cameras at HTS and PVS
2. Replacement of the PVS Roof
3. Replacement of HVAC systems in both schools
4. Replacement of the boiler/chiller at PVS
5. Replacement of the chiller at HTS
6. Replacement of fire alarm in both buildings
7. Replacement of public address systems in both buildings
8. Miscellaneous classroom upgrades throughout the district

Proposed School Security Upgrades

Property	Current Number of Cameras	Proposed Number of Cameras
HTS	23	41
PVS	20	27

****The referendum scope of work not only includes an increase in the number of cameras but a total replacement of the current camera system to introduce cameras that have 3 or 4 way view capability****

Roof Replacement

- Pleasant Valley School was built in 2001.
- The life expectancy of the roof was approximately 20 year.
- Normal wear and tear over 26 years has led to multiple shingles missing, soft spots, and some leaks throughout the building. While these repairs are expected over time, a new roof is requirement to protect our property and ensure the students continue to learn in a safe environment.

Fire Alarm and Public Address Systems in both HTS and PVS

The fire alarm and the public address (PA) systems are original to both buildings. While clocks were replaced and lights were added to large group instruction areas, the systems remain original. While they have been well maintained, parts are getting increasingly more difficult to get. Therefore, the systems are in need of a replacement with current technology.

Real Time Updates on the November Referendum

- ◉ District Social Media
- ◉ Township Social Media
- ◉ <https://www.harrisantwp.k12.nj.us/referendum-updates>

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