



Rockaway Borough Board of Education

2026-2027

School Budget Public Hearing

**Dr. Anthony Grieco
Superintendent**





Budget Priorities for 2026-2027

- Maintain small class sizes and personalized learning
- Enhance technology integration
- Continue academic programs
- Support student and staff wellness and safety
- Expand opportunities beyond the classroom
- Expand day to day efficiency throughout all departments





Budget Development Process



- Collaborative input from staff, finance committee, board, and other stakeholders
- Review of student needs and district priorities
- Alignment with NJ mandates and requirements
- Submission to County Office and Board review
- Public hearing and final adoption



2025-2026 Highlights

Rockaway Borough School District

Staff Development & Student Support

- Staff professional development on IEP compliance
- Continued support for inclusive preschool programming
- Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) parent-driven, district-level committee to advise school district on special education policies, programs, and services

Family Engagement & Communication

- English classes for parents
- Parent portal/RealTime app access and support
- Digital attendance reporting

Community Outreach

- Local library outreach and field trip connections
- HSA-supported programming and events





2025-2026 Highlights

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

Arts, Academics & Enrichment

- Musical - The Wizard of Oz
- Talent Show
- Winter & Spring Concerts
- Beginner, Concert, and Jazz Bands
- Select Choir
- Night of the Arts
- School Spirit Dances
- Homework Help/Intervention

Leadership, Service & Character

- Student Government
- Community Service Club - birthday kits and food pantry donations
- Students of the Month Program
- Unsung Hero recognition
- LEAD program with Rockaway Borough Police Department
- Leadership Summit - Championship Culture Team

Athletics, Wellness & Student Life

- Boys & Girls Basketball
- Cross Country
- Boys & Girls Soccer
- Baseball
- Softball
- Club Volleyball
- Spring Run Club
- Morning Movement Club
- Clubs: Lego, Art, Cube, Newspaper, Table Top Games, Talking Sports, and Yearbook

TJ offers **SEVEN INTERSCHOLASTIC** sports teams, during three seasons, that have a proud tradition of competing as a Member School of the Greater Morris County Junior School Coaches Association (GMCJSCA).





2025-2026 Highlights

Lincoln Elementary School

Family Engagement, Literacy & Early Learning

- WIN Night – for families of students receiving Tier 2 instruction
- Family Literacy Night with 45 students supported by Future Educators from Morris County Vocational School District
- Read Across America with community readers and an HSA-sponsored guest author
- BookSmiles book giveaways – nonprofit organization that promotes literacy
- Lincoln partnered with the HSA to encourage reading through the Scholastic Book Fair
- Summer kindergarten screening

Inclusion, Student Support & Wellness

- RAMS Buddies connecting 3rd graders with the multiple disabilities class
- Yoga Club
- Continued support for inclusive preschool programming

Arts, Community & School Pride

- Veterans Day activities
- Flag fundraiser donation to Rotary of the Rockaways
- RAMS Parade
- Fall/Spring Concerts
- School-wide Talent Show
- English classes for parents





Maintenance Priorities



Preventative maintenance, upgrades, & repairs, including, but not limited to:

- HVAC, roofing, plumbing, and electrical systems
- Safety systems and fire alarms
- Playgrounds and facilities upkeep
- Grounds, landscaping, and preventative maintenance
- Roof Inspections and Repairs
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Flooring
- Exterior Maintenance
- Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance
- Inventory and Replacement Planning



Technology & Infrastructure

- **Managed Services Partnership**

- 24/7 support and security
- Help desk for staff

- **Included Infrastructure & Licensing**

- Network, Wi-Fi, and servers
- Security, backup, and cloud systems
- Devices and system management

- **Cost Control & Efficiency**

- Lower internal staffing costs
- Predictable yearly cost

- **Supports Instruction**

- Reliable classroom technology
- Secure systems for students and staff



Operating Budget Revenue

- Local Tax Levy
- Other Local Sources
- State Aid
- Budgeted Fund Balance

Local Tax Levy (Property Taxes):

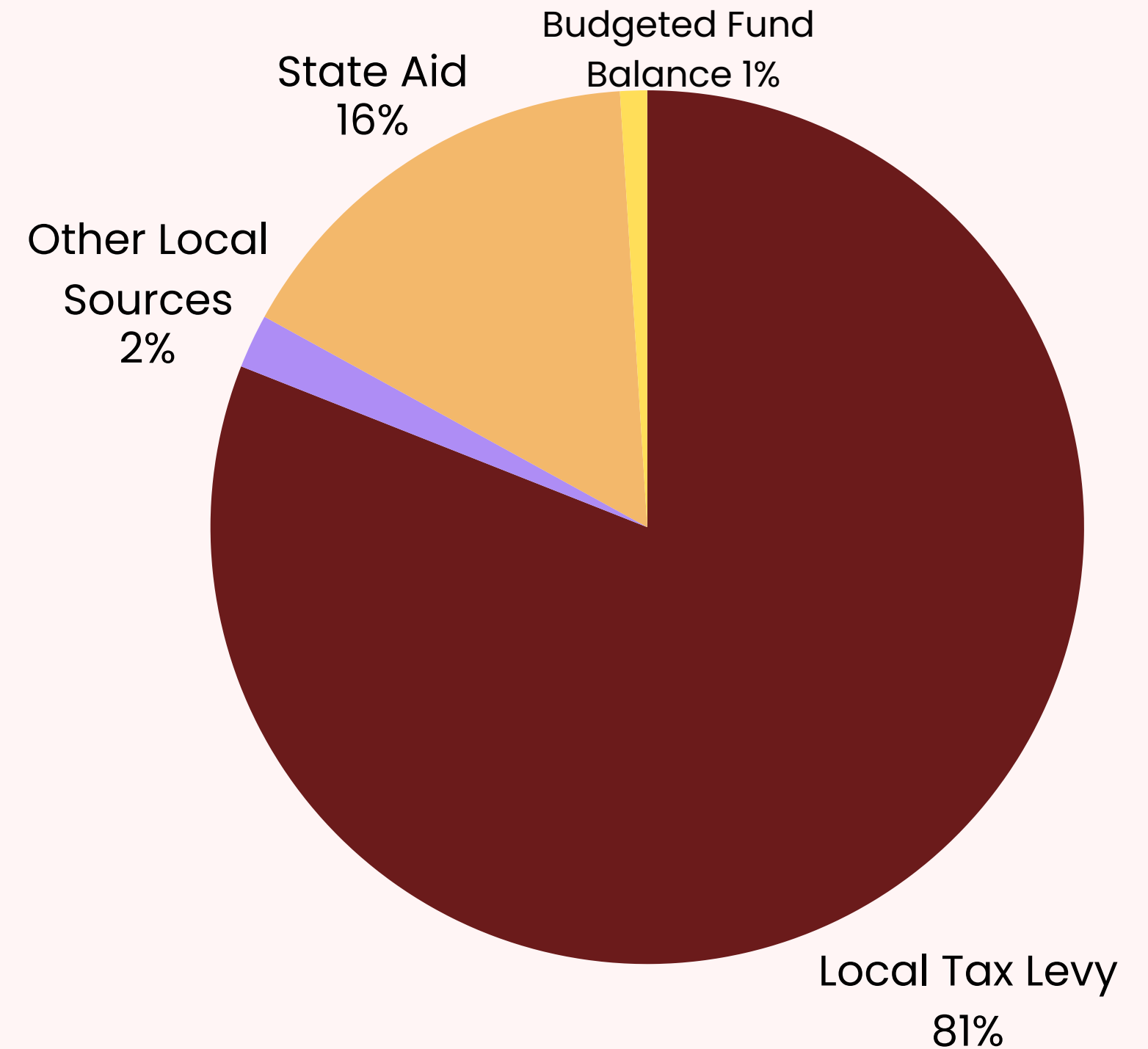
\$11,825,552

Other Local Sources (Misc. Revenue, Interest, Refunds, Tuition): \$230,000

State Aid: \$2,321,150

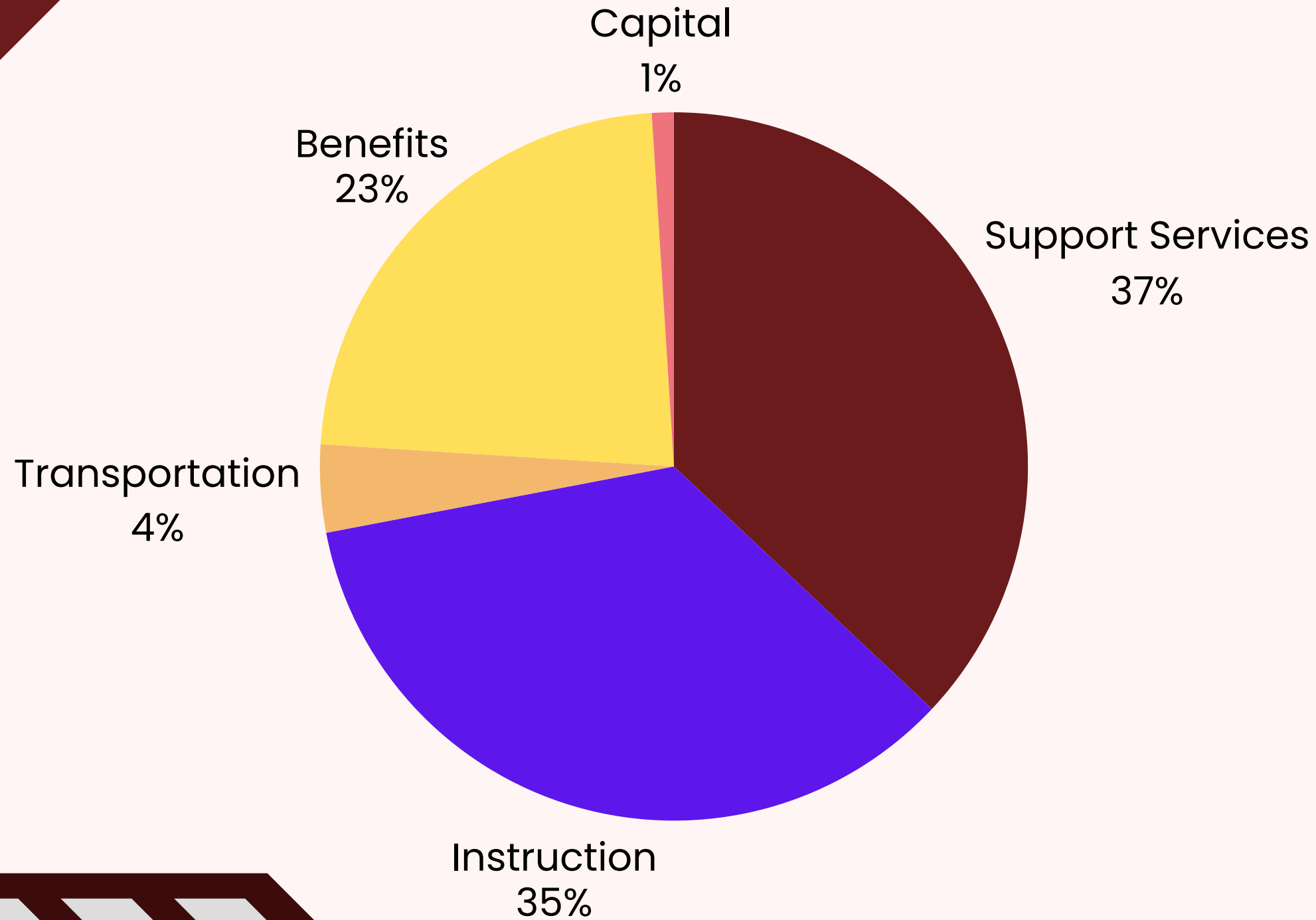
Budgeted Fund Balance: \$200,000

Rockaway Borough has one of the lower taxable property bases in Morris County, ranking approximately **6th lowest out of 39** municipalities in available ratables.





- Support Services
- Instruction
- Transportation
- Benefits
- Capital



Operating Budget Appropriations

Instruction: \$5,105,352

Support Services: \$5,373,116

Transportation: \$577,400

Benefits: \$3,317,354

Capital Outlay: \$203,480

Total Budget: \$14,576,702



Adequacy Budget

Equalization Aid Calculation

Adequacy Budget- \$13,443,297

Local Fair Share- \$11,208,161

The calculation is **Adequacy Budget** subtracted by Local Fair Share, which gives you the number below:

Equalization Aid Max- \$2,235,136

THIS IS THE AMOUNT THAT WE ARE UNDER ADEQUACY



Local Tax Impact

Local Taxes to be Levied

\$10,789,745 to \$11,825,552

Tax increase= 9.65%

The annual local tax on the average house assessment of \$305,000 will increase by \$381.00, or \$95.25 per quarter, or \$31.75 per month.



Impact for 2026-2027

- No staff or program cuts
- Maintains strong academic and extracurricular programming
- Addresses rising costs (healthcare, transportation, services)
- Balances fiscal responsibility with student needs
- Continues investment in students and facilities
- Positions district for long-term stability
- Maintain for 26-27 and Rebuild in 27-28
- Capital Reserve deposit
- Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to improve athletic fields



Rockaway Borough Board of Education



THANK YOU

Dr. Anthony Grieco
Superintendent
agrieco@rockboro.org

