

# 2026-2027 Budget Hearing



Investing in Students, Strengthening Our Future

May 7, 2026

# Mission



The mission of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Schools is to provide enriching, safe and meaningful educational experiences that builds a strong foundation for our diverse student body.

# Vision



The HFFMCSD is a school community focused on developing students as lifelong learners equipped with critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to navigate and shape the future.

# Core Beliefs



*We will consistently and effectively achieve our vision and accomplish our mission if in all of our work we demonstrate the following core beliefs:*

- Focus on the needs of each student and create opportunities to ensure equity
- Foster engagement, collaboration and a sense of belonging for all school community members
- Take collective responsibility and make thoughtful decisions based on best practices
- Uplifting all student voices is fundamental to creating a welcoming and nurturing environment
- Promote safety, health and wellness for the developmental growth of our community
- Consistently prioritize efficiency and affordability, while also striving for excellence
- Embrace curiosity, connection and critical thinking

# Budget Development Context:

## Revenue Factors impacting the budget



- Taxable Land/Tax Revenue
  - 29% of our Revenue
  - NY State average: 56%
- Federal Impact Aid has remained flat the last 10 years
  - \$1.15 Million in additional funding to HFFMCSD if the program kept up with inflation
  - Full funding of Impact Aid would deliver \$22 Million more annually to HFFMCSD
- Tuition Revenue has declined over the last 5 years
  - Unpredictability in enrollment drives conservative budgeting

# Budget Overview



# Adopted Budget Key Points



- The 26-27 Proposed Expenditure Budget is fiscally responsible while maximizing resources to provide for our students' needs.
- Revenue is based on the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal for State Aid
  - NY State Government has not yet finalized their budget for next year.
- Total Budget: \$41,489,472
  - Budget-to-budget % Increase = 1.78%
  - Budget-to-budget \$ increase = \$726,889
- Tax Levy: \$12,153,460
  - Increase of 2.03%
  - This is a \$11.62/month increase on a home with assessed value of \$300,000
- Revenue budget includes a total \$950,000 appropriation from fund balance.



# Budget Gap Reduction Measures

- Revenue Adjustment: \$550,000
  - Additional Fund Balance Appropriation
- Expenditure Adjustment: \$90,000
- Staffing Position Reductions: \$600,000
  - Aide position
  - 3 Certified positions due to attrition
    - K-12 School Counselor
    - Elementary position
    - Secondary Social Studies position
  - 4 Additional Certified Positions:
    - Elementary position
    - 2 Secondary Math positions
    - Secondary ELA position

# 2026-2027 Adopted Budget Expenditure “Three Part Budget”



| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET</b>       | <b>2025-2026</b>      | <b>2026-2027</b>      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| General Support                    | \$2,051,163.24        | \$2,126,606.39        |
| District/Building Administration   | \$1,027,017.40        | \$1,007,207.27        |
| Employee Benefits                  | \$592,052.93          | \$624,631.39          |
| <b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET</b> | <b>\$3,670,233.57</b> | <b>\$3,758,445.05</b> |

| <b>PROGRAM BUDGET</b>                 |                        |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Regular Instruction                   | \$9,231,914.00         | \$9,004,452.16         |
| Special Education                     | \$7,904,211.65         | \$8,068,266.53         |
| Instruction Support/Programs/Services | \$3,485,305.08         | \$3,645,155.84         |
| Pupil Activities                      | \$826,085.77           | \$848,565.37           |
| Transportation                        | \$3,619,862.45         | \$3,557,139.94         |
| Employee Benefits                     | \$6,176,733.80         | \$6,536,571.02         |
| <b>TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET</b>           | <b>\$31,244,112.75</b> | <b>\$31,660,150.86</b> |

| <b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Operations and Maintenance  | \$2,773,807.57        | \$2,905,346.86        |
| Debt Service                | \$2,335,859.00        | \$2,385,859.00        |
| Employee Benefits           | \$738,569.11          | \$779,670.23          |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET</b> | <b>\$5,848,235.67</b> | <b>\$6,070,876.09</b> |

|                    |                        |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>\$40,762,582.00</b> | <b>\$41,489,472.00</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|



# Adopted Budget Revenue Estimate

| DRAFT Revenues                            | 2025-2026<br>Adopted Budget | 2026-2027<br>Proposed Budget | \$ Change               | % Change            |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| State Aid                                 | \$19,293,929                | \$19,720,360                 | \$426,431               | 2.21%               |
| Local Tax Levy                            | \$11,912,078                | \$12,153,460                 | \$241,382               | 2.03%               |
| Other Sources<br>(Federal, Tuition, etc.) | \$9,156,575                 | \$8,665,652                  | (\$490,923)             | -5.36%              |
| <b><i>Pre-Appropriation Total</i></b>     | <b><i>\$40,362,582</i></b>  | <b><i>\$40,539,472</i></b>   | <b><i>\$176,890</i></b> | <b><i>0.44%</i></b> |
| Reserves/Fund Balance                     | \$400,000                   | \$950,000                    | \$550,000               | 137.50%             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$40,762,582</b>         | <b>\$41,489,472</b>          | <b>\$726,890</b>        | <b>1.78%</b>        |

## Key Revenue Inclusions:

- State Aid Estimate
  - Foundation Aid - minimum 1% increase
- Tax Levy increase of 2.03%
  - A \$300,000 value home will see an impact of \$139.45/year = \$11.62/month = \$0.39/day
- Additional \$550,000 fund balance appropriation

# Contingency Budget



# Contingency Budget Overview



- If the budget does not pass on May 19th, the district has two options:
  - Put the budget up for a revote
  - Go directly to a contingency budget
- Under a contingency budget, NYS Law would require the district to:
  - Keep the tax levy the same as the '25-'26 school year
  - Remove all new equipment purchases
  - Charge all organizations for use of district facilities

# 26-27 Contingency Budget Information



- 2026-2027 Contingency Budget = \$41,248,490
  - Reduction of \$241,382 from the 26-27 Board Adopted Budget
    - Due to the required 0% tax increase of a contingency budget
- The reductions for a Contingency Budget would result in:
  - Additional Staffing cuts
  - Elimination of one Deputy Sheriff
  - Reductions in Equipment, Maintenance, Technology and Professional Development
- The required 0% tax levy increase of the contingency budget would put at risk the \$1.2 Million “i-payment” portion of the district’s Federal Impact Aid

# Voting Information



- Budget Vote & School Board Election:
  - Tuesday, May 19th, 6AM - 9PM
  - Highland Falls Intermediate School
- Voter Qualifications:
  - Citizen of the United States
  - 18 or older
  - Resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the election
  - Registered to vote with the district or the county
- Absentee/Early Voting Ballot Information:
  - Applications can be obtained from the district website or district office.
  - Due to the District Clerk no less than 7 days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed. Otherwise it is due by the day before the vote
  - The ballot itself must be received by the District Clerk by 5PM on 5/19/26

Thank you

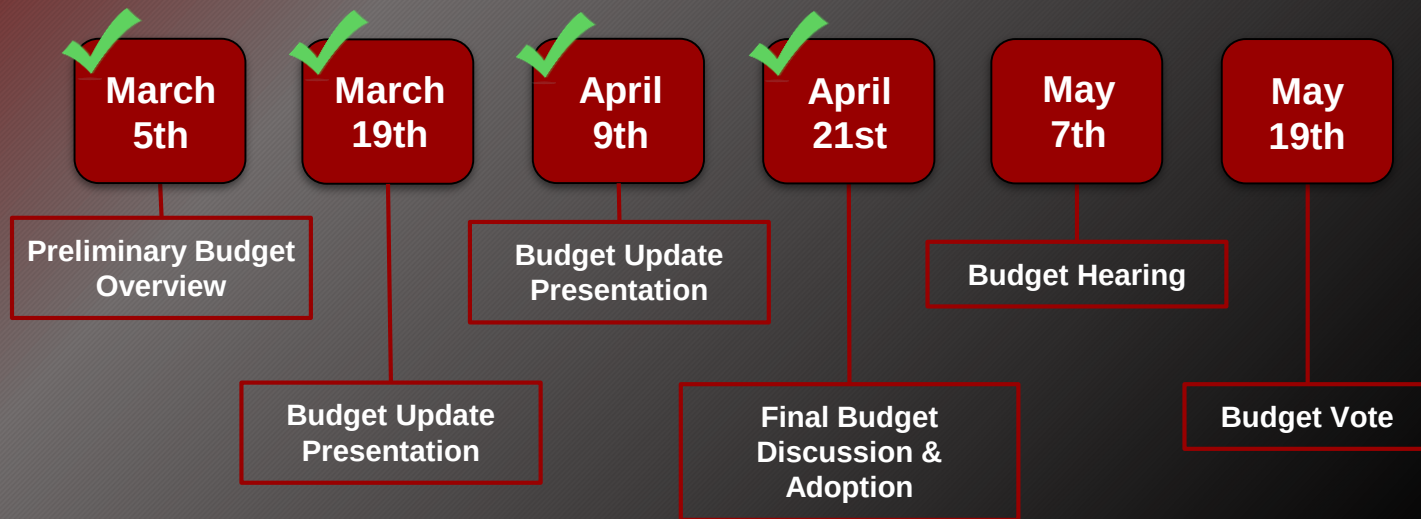


# APPENDIX





# Budget Development Calendar



Budget Vote take place at the Highland Falls Intermediate School  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 6AM - 9PM.