

Tuckerton Borough School District

April 27, 2026
2026-2027

Budget Hearing Presentation



Our Duty to the Tuckerton Community



2026-2027 BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Maintain strong Pre-K–6 instructional programs
- Ensure fiscal responsibility amid rising costs
- Support student services and safety
- Plan for long-term sustainability

Key Budget Drivers – 2026–2027 Planning

Personnel (70–80% of budget):

- Salaries, benefits > than 25%+ increase for health benefits
 - 3.65% increase per CBA for 2026-2027 SY

Special Education:

- Related services, Out-of-district placements (tuition & transportation),

Transportation:

- Contractual costs, TES provides courtesy bussing & Choice Program bussing, special education transportation per IEP

Facilities & Operations:

- Utilities, maintenance, safety upgrades

Curriculum & Instructional Programs:

- Pre-k- 6 Instructional materials, technology, professional development
 - K-6 MTSS Interventions (W.I.N.), GATE Enrichment, Title I Basic Skills, Multi-language learners

Governance & Compliance

- 2% Tax Levy Cap (P.L. 2010, c.44) \$78,338.

Plus, Health Care Adjustment of \$106,489. & Banked Cap Adjustment of \$699.

(Total Local Levy \$185,526.00)

- N.J.A.C. 6A:23A requirements
- Audit findings & corrective action (N/A)
- Board goals alignment

**Many costs increase faster than 2%, such as:*

- Health insurance
- Special education services
- Utilities and transportation

** This creates a gap between what it costs to run schools and what can be raised locally.**

Budget Impacts

- Elimination of Courtesy Busing (non-mandated)
 - Aligned with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5
 - Applies to students within 2-mile radius
 - Significant cost savings to offset rising expenses
 - Prioritizes instructional staffing for all students, maintains instructional programs for all students, and protects a healthy, safe learning environment
- Elimination of (7) F.T. special education paraprofessional positions and (1) K/floater position
 - All eligible for P.T. employment for 26-27 SY
 - District moved to F.T. positions beginning with the 2020-2021 school year
 - Paras hired for the 24-25 and 25-26 school year were hired with P.T. hours
 - Preschool paras will remain full time
- Speech Services
 - The district employs a full time SLP & currently utilizes an independent service provider for a 2- person SLP model
 - The case load and services align to a 1 SLP model for the 2026-2027 SY utilizing only the district's FT SLP

Revenue Comparison Dollar Difference

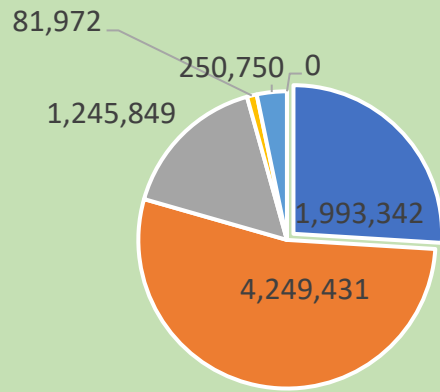
<i>Revenue Category</i>	<i>2025-2026 Budget</i>	<i>2026-2027 Budget</i>	<i>Dollar Change</i>
State Aid	\$ 1,885,069.00	\$ 1,993,342.00	\$ 108,273.00
Total Local Taxes	\$ 3,916,879.00	\$ 4,102,405.00	\$ 185,526.00
Budget Fund Bal Debt	\$ -	\$ 17,922.00	\$ 17,922.00
Pre-school Aid	\$ 812,263.00	\$ 874,260.00	\$ 61,997.00
Operating Budget Pre-s	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pre-school CarryOver	\$ 189,766.00	\$ 274,449.00	\$ 84,683.00
GF Pre-S Contrib.	\$ 78,155.00	\$ 97,140.00	\$ 18,985.00
Debt Service Aid	\$ 232,906.00	\$ 232,828.00	\$ (78.00)
Surplus	\$ 172,147.00	\$ 22,281.00	\$ (149,866.00)
Extra Aid	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Misc. Revenue	\$ -	\$ 70,500.00	\$ 70,500.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ -	\$ 105,819.00	\$ 105,819.00
Adj. Prior Year Encumb	\$ 11,437.00	\$ -	\$ (11,437.00)
Unassigned Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Title I	\$ 51,988.00	\$ 38,991.00	\$ (12,997.00)
Title II	\$ 4,548.00	\$ 3,411.00	\$ (1,137.00)
Title IV	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)
IDEA	\$ 46,760.00	\$ 35,070.00	\$ (11,690.00)
TOTAL	\$ 7,407,918.00	\$ 7,897,918.00	\$ 490,000.00

Tuckerton Borough School District Budget 2026-2027

Local Tax Levy Gen. Fund	\$4,102,405
Local Tax Levy Debt	\$147,026
Net Program State Aid	\$1,993,342
NJ State Debt Aid	\$85,802
Debt Fund Balance	\$17,922
Surplus (Fund Balance)	\$22,281
Misc. Revenue	\$70,500
Extraordinary Aid	\$25,000
Maintenance Reserve	\$105,819
Pre-School	\$874,260
PEA-Carry Over	\$274,449
Transfer from local	\$97,140
Federal Grants	\$81,972
Total Revenue	\$7,897,918
<i>TOTAL BUDGET 2026-2027</i>	\$7,897,918

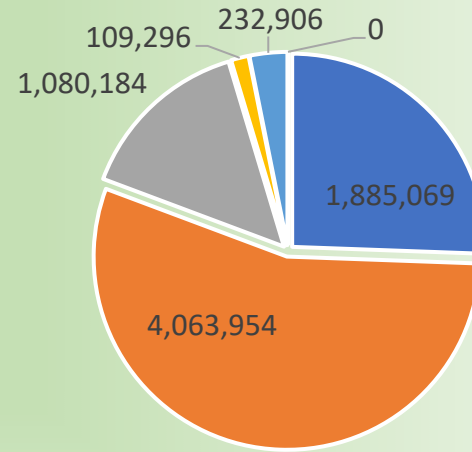
Revenue Comparison

2026-2027



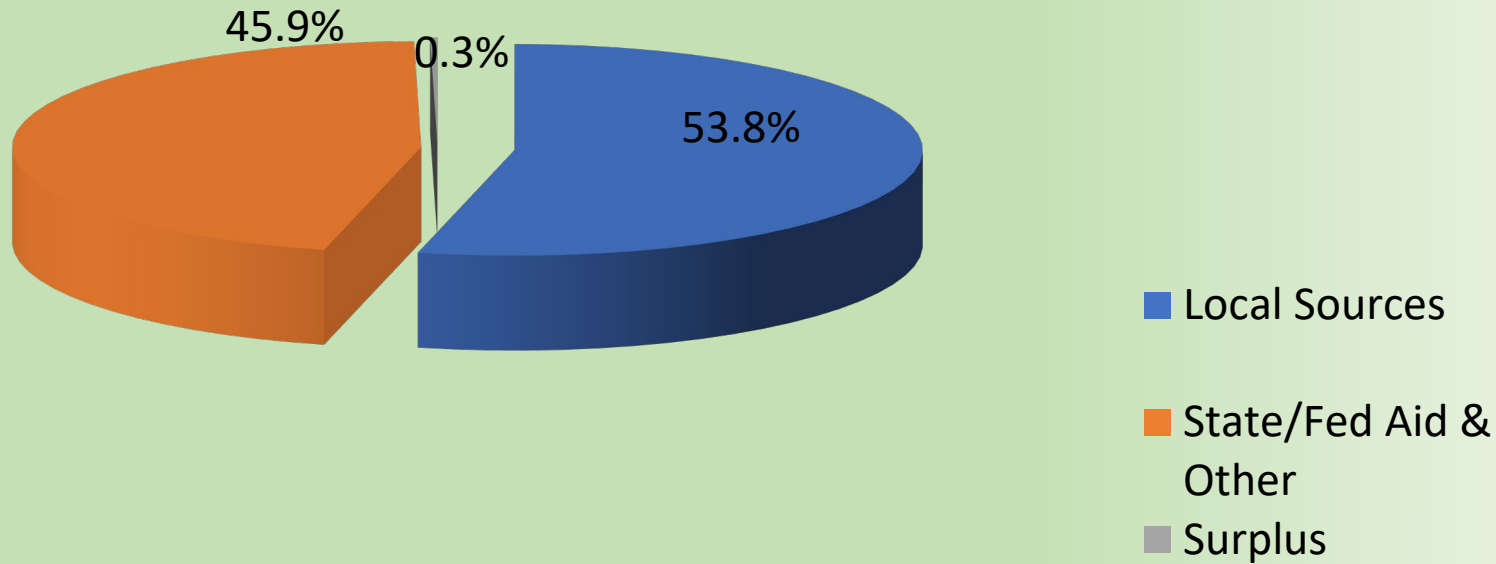
- State Aid
- Local Taxes
- Pre-K Aid
- Fed Grants
- Debt Serv.
- Other Sources

2025-2026



- State Aid
- Local Taxes
- Pre-K Aid
- Fed Grants
- Debt Serv.
- Other Sources

2026-2027 Budget Breakdown



- \$ 22,281. in Surplus & Reserve applied to the 2026-2027 Budget
- \$ 3,626,206. in Federal, State Aid & Other
- \$ 4,249,431. =Total Local Tax Levy
- Total budget of \$7,897,918.

Tax Levy Overview

	2025-2026	2026-2027	Increase/Decrease	Increase/Decrease
Local Levy	\$ 3,916,879.00	\$ 4,102,405.00	\$ 185,526.00	4.74%
Debt	\$ 147,075.00	\$ 147,026.00	\$ (49.00)	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ 4,063,954.00	\$ 4,249,431.00	\$ 185,477.00	4.56%

State Aid Comparison (With School Choice & Pre-School)



Average Medium Home Price Assessed at \$402,000.00



• 2026-27

\$3,813.35

PROPERTY TAX ESTIMATE

Average Homeowner Statistics

- Assessed Value – \$402,000.00
- 2026 Calendar Year Local Tax Bill: \$3,813.35
- Current Budget – Local Tax Rate: .948593839

Note: Reassessments may not have been completed.

Student Enrollment Changes



Who Do We Service?

- A full-day, FREE Preschool 3- & 4-year-old Program
- A full-day Kindergarten Program
- An inclusive special education program
- Special Education Resource Room pull out for ELA/Math grades 3-6
- 2 Multiple Disability classrooms
- 1 full-day PSD Program
- GATE pull out program for grades 3-6
- STEAM instruction for grades K-6 (2015-2026 referendum)
- A Multi-Tiered System of Support (W.I.N. Blocks)
- K-6 MLL/ELL push in/pull out program
- Interdistrict Public Choice Program (40 Seats K-6)
- Targeted Title I (Basic Skills) push in/pull out program grades 1-6

Instructional Programming

***CKLA/Amplify** Reading/ELA program

***Wilson Reading** – research-based foundational, multi-sensory reading intervention

***Read 180 & The Code** - evidence-based, adaptive reading and language program for intervention Reading/Language Arts support

***i-Ready** – Math instruction program

***i-xl** - Personalized learning for ELA/Math. With a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, individualized guidance, and real-time analytics, IXL meets the unique needs of each learner.

***NWEA/MAP Reading and Math** - diagnostic assessments

***Dibels** - ([Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills](#)) Identifies students at risk for reading failure and monitors the effectiveness of reading interventions. , these assessments screen for reading difficulties, including dyslexia, and help teachers monitor progress.

***ARIS** – Special education curriculum (MD classes)

***Touch Math** – Supplemental tactile Math curriculum for SE

***Times the Fun Way** – Supplemental Math curriculum for SE

continued...

*Special Education Extended School Year 4 week program

*After School Clubs: (Stipends using ESEA Federal Grant Awards)

Sports

Reading Support

Friendship bracelet (SEL)

Writing

Newspaper

Academic Support

Mock Trial

Facilities Improvements for 2026-27

- *LED Lighting upgrades*
- *Expanding Early Childhood outdoor learning space with equipment(PEA)*
- *Development of Outside Learning*
- *School Garden Relocation Planning*
- *Sale of school properties*
- *Long-Range Facilities Plan Review*
- *Painting Classrooms/Hallways*
- *Updating bathrooms*
- *Ongoing security upgrades - cameras, doors , and windows*
- *HVAC & Controls Upgrades & Replacement*

Shared Services for 2026-2027

- CASA - Information Technology Center Payroll Services
- ACES Energy Services
- Special Education Transportation Services with LEHSD
- Tuckerton Borough-Snow removal, Trash pick up, water rate, land lease
- Tuckerton Police S.R.O. (School Resource Officer)
- Competitive Health Benefits Plan
- CCESC Instructional Coach & Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist for Preschool Program (PEA)
- Shared services with PRSD – School Media Specialist (no cost)
- Food Service, Nutri-serve with PRSD
- PT services w/LEH SD

Administrative Functions

- Superintendent/Principal Prek-6
 - Governance (compliance w/state & federal laws)
 - Policy & regulation
 - Fiscal & Operational management
 - Personnel management
 - District Operations
 - Community & public relations (crisis & non-crisis)
 - School culture & climate
 - Attendance/Truancy
 - McKinney Vento Liaison
 - School Safety Specialist
 - Student Achievement & interventions
 - ESEA Coordinator
 - State reporting
- Assistant Principal/Director of Instruction Prek-6
 - School climate
 - School Safety Specialist
 - Student Discipline
 - Anti-Bullying Coordinator
 - I&RS Chair
 - District Testing Coordinator/Student assessments
 - Title I Coordinator
 - PLC Coordinator (Instructional support)
 - Curriculum implementation & oversight
 - Student Achievement & intervention
 - Professional development
- Supervisor of Special Services Prek-6
- School Business Administrator/Board Secretary (PT)

Thank you for your support for
the benefit of our Children &
the TERRAPINS Community!

*Presented by the Tuckerton Borough
Board of Education with:

Mrs. Siobhan Grayson, CSA/Principal

Mr. John Failla, BA/Board Secretary

