Millstone Township School District

Budget Presentation 4

Public Hearing

April 28, 2026

Soaring with Pride & Purpose

Budget Calendar



Dec - Jan
Department and School Budget Development

Jan 27, 2026
Mid-Year Budget Review w/ County Superintendent

Jan 2026
Broker projections of Health Care rates

Feb 3, 2026
Audit Presentation (Holman, Frenia, Allison)

Feb 4, 2026
Deadline to receive UFRSD Tuition costs

Mar 3, 2026
BOE Budget & Long Range Facilities Plan

Mar 10, 2026
Governor’s Budget Address

Budget Calendar



February & March
Department/School Budget Review Meetings

March 12, 2026
State Aid Figures Released

March 24, 2026
BOE Meeting - Adopt Preliminary Budget

March 27, 2026
Deadline to submit Preliminary Budget to County Superintendent

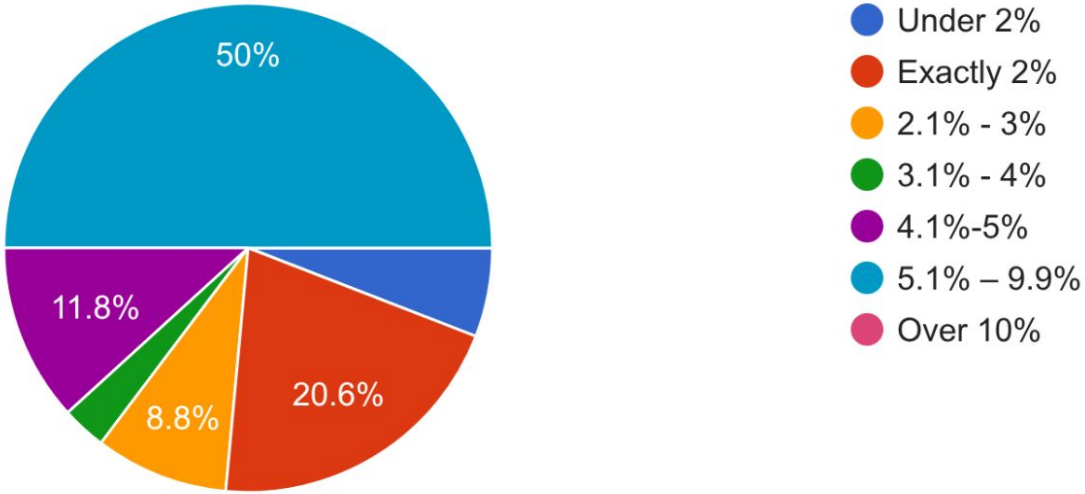
April 2026
Ongoing Department and Board Committee Budget Discussions

April 28, 2026
Public Hearing on the Budget

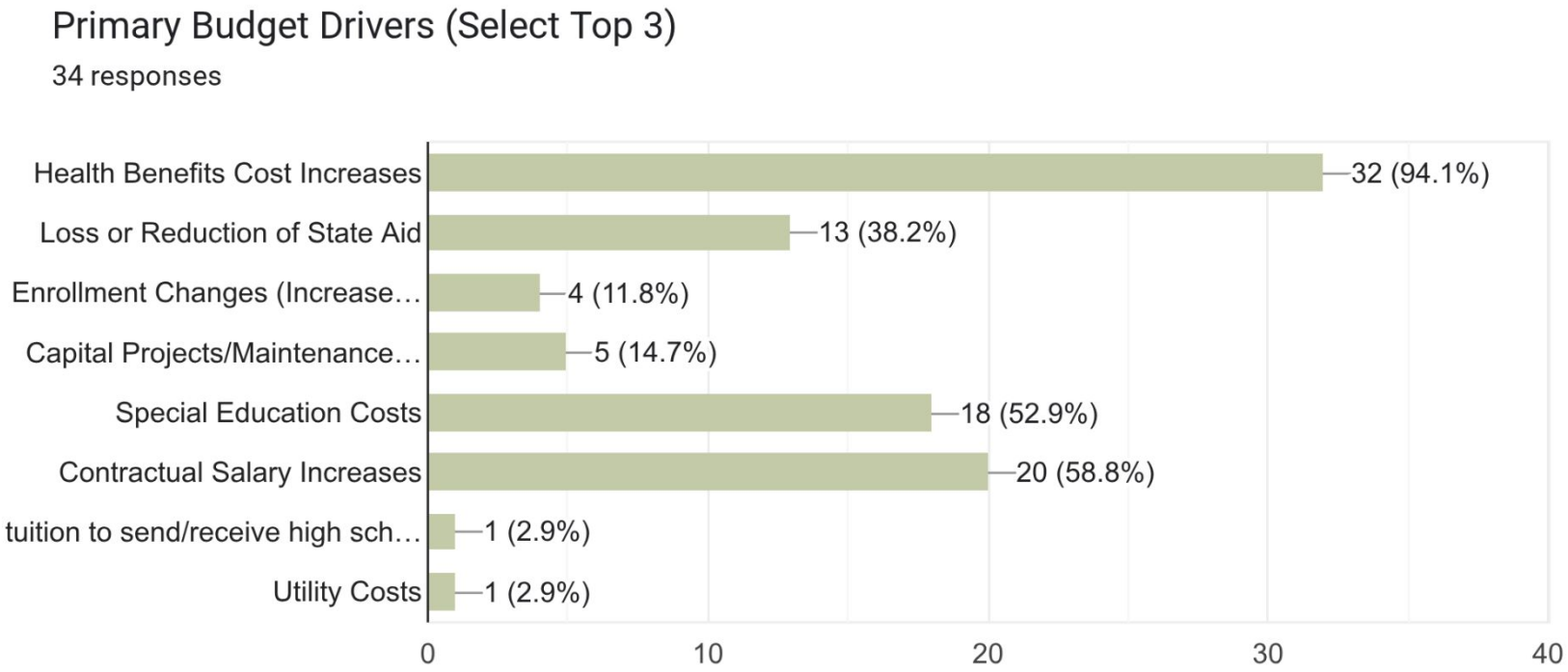
MONMOUTH COUNTY SURVEY: What is the anticipated percentage increase for your proposed 2026-2027 school tax levy?

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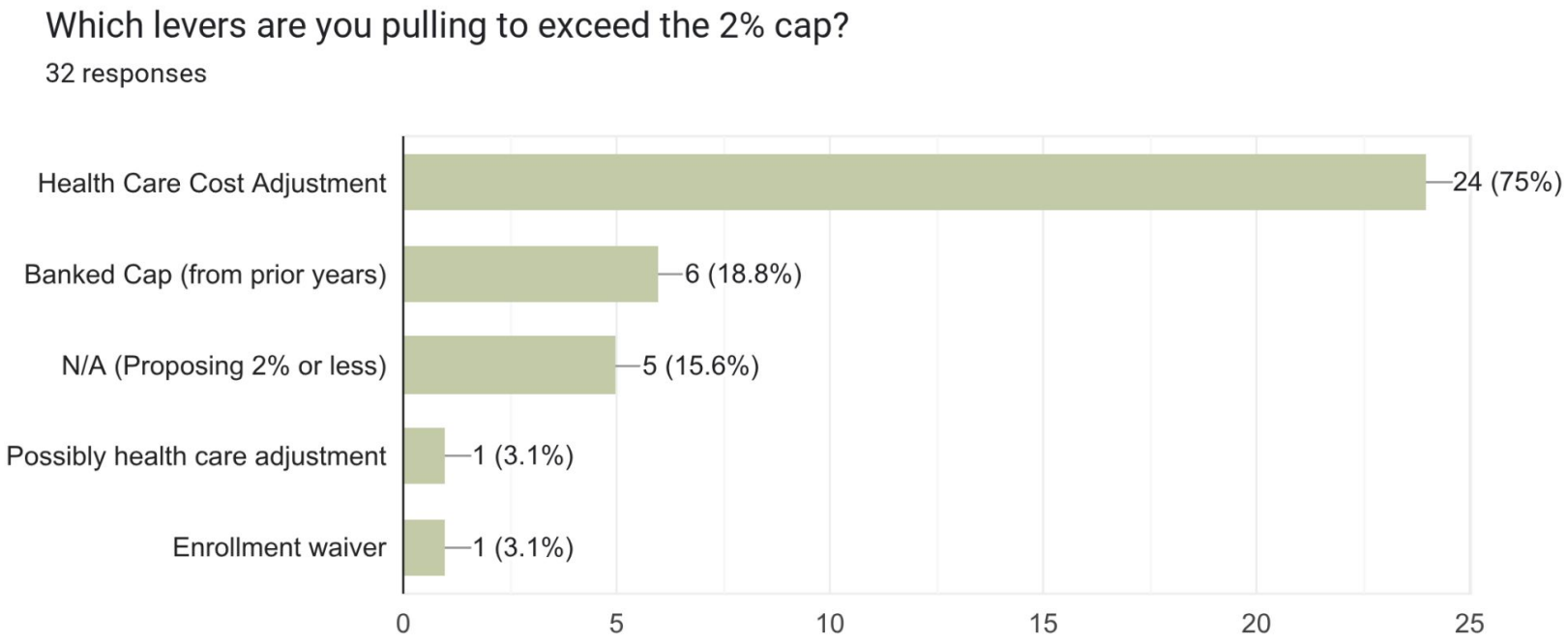
34 responses



Primary Budget Drivers (Select Top 3)



How are you able to exceed the 2% cap?



Strategic Plan Goals & Mission Alignment



Goal: Student Success & Achievement - To increase student success and achievement by providing rigorous curriculum and programming, maintaining highly qualified staff, and keeping class size low.



Goal: Social Emotional Wellness & Mental Health - To implement a schoolwide approach to social-emotional learning that builds resilience, emotional regulation, and positive relationships.



Goal: Financial Planning - To improve financial health of the district to ensure long-term fiscal stability and invest in student success.



Goal: Safety & Security - To enhance school safety by implementing measures that DETER, DETECT, & DELAY threats ensuring a secure learning environment for all.



Goal: Community, Communication & Connection - To engage with the community through informed, accessible, and multi-platformed communication that is dedicated to educational excellence.

Long Range Facilities Plan

Plan Status Update

Initial phases of plan were developed and presented at the previous BOE meeting.

Building Walkthroughs

Conducted with architect, principals, supervisor of B&G, and superintendent.

- **Primary & Middle School:**
  March 24, 2026
- **Elementary School:**
  March 26, 2026

DCO Energy

Energy Savings Improvement Program

- **Launch Meeting:**
  March 18, 2026
- **Current Status:**
  Site Visits and energy use analysis in process

Mission

Millstone Township Schools nurture an inclusive learning community built on integrity, respect, and responsibility. We inspire academic excellence through creativity and innovation while fostering a lifelong love of learning. Together, we support each child's growth into a confident, compassionate, and resilient individual prepared to thrive.

2026-2027 Budget Factors

Key Constraints & Cost Drivers

- 2% maximum tax levy
- Health care waiver allows levy > 2%
- 0% banked cap
- 3.55% salary increases
- Est. 20% energy cost increases
- Est. 20%+ health care cost increases
- Debt Service decrease
- New 5-8 Math Program

Over **80%** of the budget is tied to **fixed costs** (salaries, benefits, and tuition), significantly limiting flexibility.

Financial Pressures

Funding Gaps: Unavailable $300K MPAC Revenue & $500K Tuition Reserves

UFRSD Tuition: $8,576,685.72 (+$497,040.75)

$3,000,000 Budget Gap

Annual Review

Transportation Efficiency
Cost saving opportunities

Insurance Costs
Ongoing review of provider rates

Enrollment
Class sizes, special education, staffing, and extracurriculars

Operating Expenses
Supplies, tech platforms, and curriculum materials

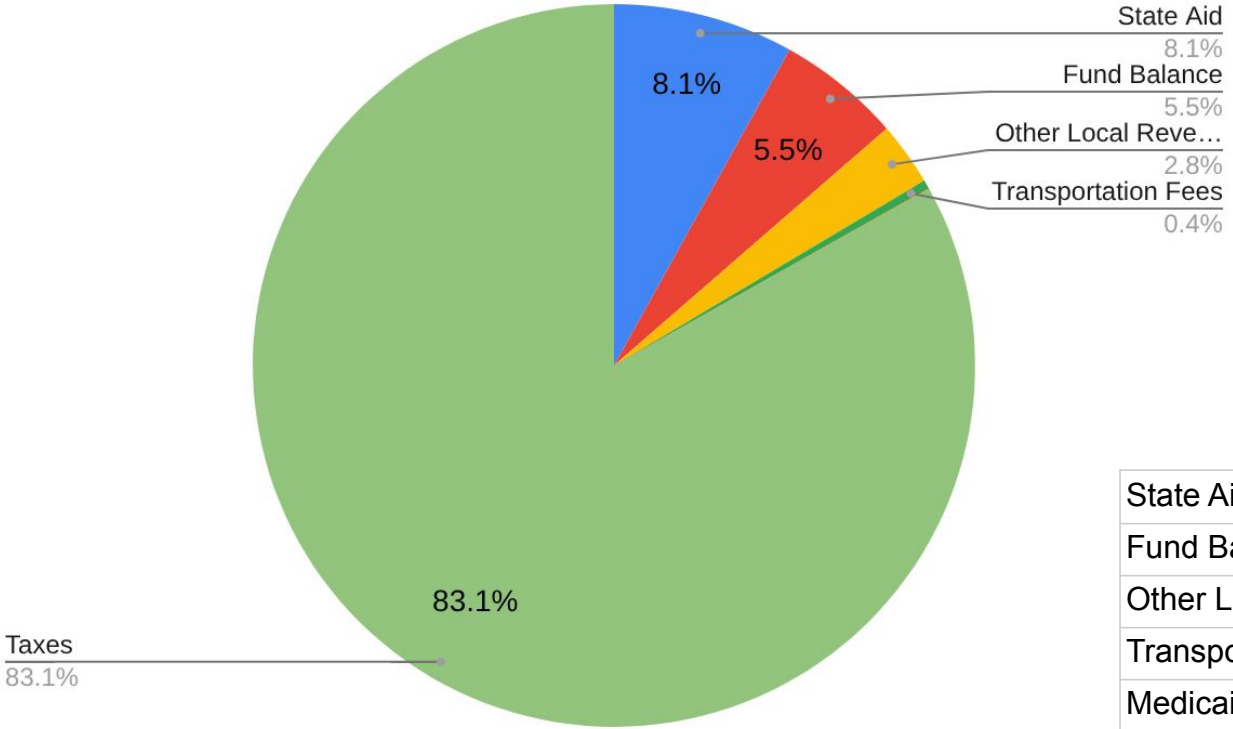
Curriculum & Prof. Dev.
Identifying instructional needs

Safety & Security
Personnel and infrastructure costs

Efficiency Goal: Systems and structures identified for optimization in scheduling, staffing, and enrollment.

REVENUE SOURCES TO SUPPORT BUDGET	
Taxes	$35,426,859
State Aid	$3,442,289
Fund Balance	$2,362,296
Misc. Revenues (Fees, Interest, etc)	$793,523
Tuition (PK)	$411,500
Transportation Fees	$165,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	$10,724

Revenues to Support the School Budget



State Aid	$3,442,289.00
Fund Balance	$2,362,296
Other Local Revenue	1,205,023
Transportation Fees	$165,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	$10,724
Taxes	$35,426,859

2025-2026 Grant Applications

Sustainable Jersey (Spring 2025)
$10,000 Esports Program

COPS School Violence Prevention (Spring 2025)
$160,000 Security Infrastructure

Sustainable Jersey (Spring 2026)
$5,700
Hydroponics Resources

Water Infrastructure (Summer 2025)
$109,543

Inventionland (Fall 2026)
60% off Design / 25% off Build

NJ Department of Community Affairs (Winter 2026)
$67,000
Playground Enhancements

Project Lead the Way (Spring 2026)
$9,100 Implementation Costs

- **Building for the Future:** Real-world construction & design solutions.
- **Flight and Space:** Engineering through design and prototyping.

What Does Our Budget Sustain?

- All current curriculum programs, resources, and services
  - Year 2 of CKLA (aligned with the Science of Reading)
  - **New** 5-8 Math program
- Dynamic learning experiences beyond state defined “thorough and efficient" education”
  - STEAM Program (K-8)
  - Elementary Science Lab Enrichment
  - **New** Project Lead the Way Middle School Electives (2 courses)*

- Gifted & Talented Programming
- Relevant Professional Development
- Tiered Math & Language Arts Interventions
- Advanced Math Scope & Sequence
- Developmentally Appropriate Class Sizes
- Courtesy bussing
- Digital Assessment Platforms
- **New** RTI Digital Management Platform

Budget Analysis & Identified Reductions

$895,000 in increased revenue & operational efficiencies

$765,000 reduction in instructional staff (11)

- 3 Retirements - 1 PS, 1 ES, 1 MS
- 1 Resignation - PS (pending)
- 5 Non-Tenured Staff - 2 PS, 1 ES, 2 MS
- 2 Paraprofessionals - 1 PS & 1 MS

$325,000 reduction in non-instructional staff (5)

$250,000 “pay to play” revenue

$793,894 Health Care Waiver Adjustment

$35,000 Additional curriculum reductions

-$90,689 State Aid reduction





$895,000 in increased revenue & operational efficiencies (rounded)

$211,500 (line 190)
Increase in tuition revenue based on confirmed enrollment

$200,000 (line 300)
Bank interest increase based on actual performance

$186,500 (lines 49200 & 49220)
Reduction in budgeted gas & electricity from consumption analysis

$184,135 (line 46020)
Correcting an overlap of fund allocation

$20,000 (line 3020)
Purchase Ed Services reduction

$27,000 (line 4660)
Specialized program cancellation (SPED needs)

$66,000 (line 45300)
General admin support services reduction

Note: Department budget reviews were also completed as part of the budget development

Why a Reduction in State Aid?

2 KEY TERMS

Adequacy Budget

The **minimum** amount needed to provide a "thorough and efficient" education, based on:

- Student enrollment
- Student needs (e.g., special ed, low-income, LEP)

Local Cost (Fair) Share

The **maximum amount** the state expects your community to contribute toward that adequacy.

Based on **property wealth and income** *(not student need).*

Budget Adequacy and Share Comparison



Enrollment Trend

2024 - 2025

Grade	# of Students
PK3 (half day)	16
PK3 (full day)	24
PK4 (half day)	18
PK4 (full day)	30
K	96
1	89
2	134
3	111
4	120
5	101
6	138
7	163
8	123
Total	**1163**

2025 - 2026

Grade	# of Students
PK3 (half day)	9
PK3 (full day)	14
PK4 (half day)	17
PK4 (full day)	37
K	98
1	99
2	91
3	134
4	110
5	119
6	106
7	138
8	160
Total	**1132**

Projected 2026 - 2027

Grade	# of Students
PK3 (half day)	10
PK3 (full day)	16
PK4 (half day)	20
PK4 (full day)	38
K	100
1	100
2	101
3	93
4	136
5	112
6	121
7	108
8	140
Total	**1095**

Allentown High School - 431

2026-2027 School Year* Class Size Projects			
Grades	**# of Students**	**Current Class Size**	**Projected Class Size**
PK*	TBD	12-15	State Max: 15
K-2	301	16.6	20.1
3-5	341	20.1	21.3
6-8	369	21.3	21.7
Total	**1011***	**Avg: 19.3**	**Avg: 21**

*Does not include PK as enrollment is ongoing

UFRSD Tuition

Tuition Category	25-26 Total Cost	26-27 Total Cost	Difference
Tuition	$6,409,000	$6,825,000	$416,000
Tuition Reconciliation Adjustment	$1,220,319.55	$1,357,812.84	$137,493.29
Resource Room Cost	$350,000	$350,000	$0.00
Resource Room Cost Reconciliation	$100,325.42	$43,872.89	-$56,452.53
Total Tuition	**$8,079,644.97**	**$8,576,685.72**	**$497,040.75**

History of the Average Millstone Township Home



2023-24
$543,249

2024-25
$544,344

2025-26
$620,021

2026-27
$635,106



**Total Residential Tax Value / Residential Units*

2026-2027 TAX LEVY DETAILS

General Fund & Debt Service

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) $	$ CHANGE IN THE AVERAGE HOME'S TAX BILL ($635,106)
Local Tax Levy 4.34%	$33,953,887	$35,426,859	**$1,472,972**	**$204**
Debt Service	$2,509,585	$2,322,213	**($187,372)**	**-$60**

TOTAL CHANGE = $144

($12 per month)

2025-2027 BUDGET DETAILS

Fund	2025-2026	2026-2027	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) $	Change (%)
Fund 10 (Operating Budget)	$41,898,888	$42,010,686	**$111,798**	**0.27%**
Fund 12 (Capital Outlay)	$413,327	$271,352	**-$141,975**	**-34.35%**
Fund 20 (Special Revenue)	$411,804	$408,854	**-$2,950**	**-0.72%**
Fund 40 (Debt Service)	$2,616,700	$2,426,800	**-$189,900**	**-7.26%**
Total	$45,340,719	$45,282,836	**-$57,883**	**-0.13%**

HOW IS "PER PUPIL COST" CALCULATED?

The Budgetary Per Pupil Cost indicator allows for a fair comparison of **the cost to educate students** across school districts by including only those costs that are common and comparable.

INCLUDED

Cost to Educate Students

- **Classroom Instruction**
  (teachers, materials, curriculum, programs)
- **Student Support Services**
  (guidance, child study team, health, social work, attendance, media/library, instructional support)
- **Administration**
  (general, school, and business administration)
- **Operations & Maintenance of Facilities**
  (utilities, custodial, repairs, maintenance)
- **High School Tuition**
  (for sending districts like ours)

EXCLUDED

Not Comparable Across Districts

- **Debt Service**
  (building loans & interest payments)
- **Capital Projects & Equipment Purchases**
  (construction, facilities acquisition, equipment)
- **Transportation Costs**
  (vary widely by district geography)
- **State-Paid Teacher Pension Costs**
  (not part of the district budget)
- **Most State & Federal Grant Programs**
  (not locally funded; *excludes Early Childhood & Preschool aid*)
- **Out-of-District Tuition, Residential Placements & Legal Judgments**

WHY THIS METHOD IS USED:
To ensure a fair, apples-to-apples comparison of the cost to educate students across school districts.

KEY POINT: Per pupil cost is **not** calculated by dividing the total district budget by enrollment.

PER PUPIL COST

Total Budgetary Comparative Per Pupil Cost

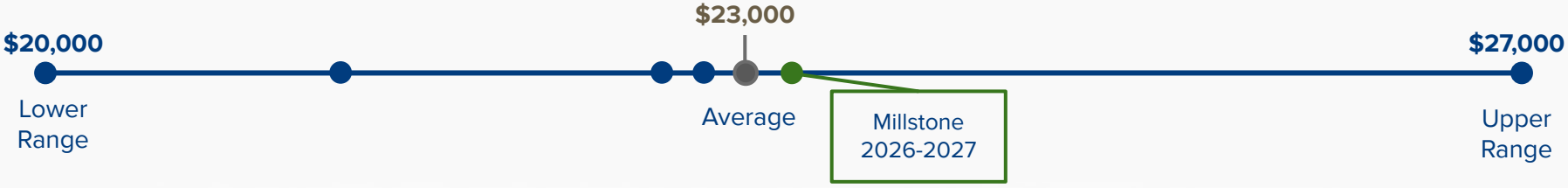
2025–2026	Proposed 2026–2027
$24,184	$23,366

Decrease of $818 (-3.4%)

THREE-YEAR TREND

2024–25	2025–26	2026–27 (Proposed)
$21,029	$24,184	$23,366

HOW WE COMPARE TO SIMILAR MONMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICTS



Our proposed per pupil cost of $23,366 is within the typical range of comparable districts and reflects a reduction from the current year.

Source: NJDOE User-Friendly Budget data for 2024–2025 and 2025–2026.
Comparable Monmouth County K–8 districts used for analysis. Very small districts excluded due to disproportionate per pupil costs.

2024-2027 TAX LEVY DETAILS (3 YEAR OVERVIEW)

General Fund

	CURRENT TAX LEVY	TAX LEVY PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) $	$ CHANGE IN THE AVERAGE HOME'S TAX BILL ($635,106)
2025 Local Tax Levy General 2.70%	**$31,664,980**	**$32,519,528**	**$854,548**	**-$557**
2026 Local Tax Levy General 4.41%	**$32,519,528**	**$33,953,887**	**$1,434,359**	**$367**
2027 Local Tax Levy General 4.34%	$33,953,887	$35,426,859	**$1,472,972**	**$204**

2024-2027 TAX LEVY DETAILS (3 YEAR OVERVIEW)

Debt Service

	CURRENT DEBT SERVICE	PROPOSED DEBT SERVICE	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) $	$ CHANGE IN THE AVERAGE HOME'S TAX BILL ($635,106)
2025 Debt Service	$2,680,737	$2,585,070	($95,667)	**-$90**
2026 Debt Service	$2,585,070	$2,509,585	($75,485)	**-$20**
2027 Debt Service	$2,509,585	$2,322,213	**($187,372)**	**-$60**

2024-2027 TAX LEVY DETAILS (3 YEAR OVERVIEW)

TAX LEVY IMPACT ON THE AVERAGE HOME (2024-2027) w/4.34% General Fund Levy Increase (Health Care Waiver 2026–2027)	**$14**
DEBT SERVICE IMPACT ON THE AVERAGE HOME (2024-2027)	**-$170**
TOTAL IMPACT ON THE AVERAGE HOME **(2024-2027)** **Combined General Fund and Debt Service**	**-$156**

THANK YOU

Dr. John Sico Jr., President
Karina Ramos, Vice President
Ronald Carr
James Cignarella
Richard Gigantino
Paula Kinsey
Christine Reese
Kathy Winecoff
Joseph Winowski
Bernard Biesiada, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Soaring with Pride & Purpose

Public Budget Presentations

- **Public Presentations: April 2026**
  - Public Forum - April 21
  - Faculty Meetings
    - March 26 (ES & MS)
    - April 15 (PS)
- **BOE Presentations**
  - March 24, 2026 Preliminary Budget Adoption
  - April 28, 2026 Public Hearing

Budget Info www.Millstone.k12.nj.us