

PARAMUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-2026 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

SEAN ADAMS

Superintendent of Schools

TIMOTHY DONOHUE

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

BROOKE BARTLEY

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

May 5, 2025





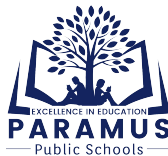
The Paramus Public School system consists of eight schools that serve grades kindergarten through twelfth, with special programming for preschool age up to age 21, and with a total student enrollment of 3,553. Each year, the school's administration is tasked with developing a budget that will maintain our excellent programming and enhance areas as needed.

5
Elementary

2
Middle

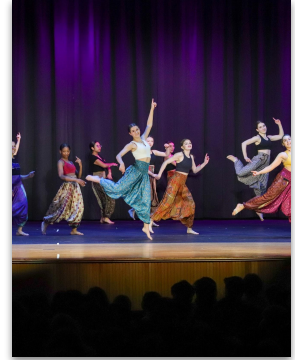
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HS

In Paramus, the Schools ARE the Community.



WHAT DOES THE BUDGET SUPPORT?

- At the High School, we offer 239 course offerings, 29 AP courses across 26 subjects, 78 clubs and 25 team sports
- At the Middle School, we offer advanced courses, remedial courses, 24 clubs, and 4 sports clubs
- Students have the option to participate in orchestra, chorus, string ensemble, flute ensemble, symphonic band, jazz band, and marching band offered across various grade levels
- Students participate in the arts with pottery, photography, graphic design, fashion design, dance, theater, and culinary arts
- Technology advancements such as 1:1 devices for grades 2-12, interactive panels in grades K-12
- State-of-the-art security cameras, visitor monitoring systems, and trained armed security in all schools
- Transporting 2,401 students daily through 104 routes per day, supported by 24 staff members and contracted vendors
- Buildings and Grounds covers 761,050 square feet and 170+ acres
- 1,039 staff members across five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school



BUDGETARY CHALLENGES

Along with other school districts in New Jersey, we face similar challenges:

- Cap on increases to the tax levy base (has not been revisited since 2011)
- Rising insurance costs (17%)
- Staffing shortages
- Rising tuition costs
- Rising costs of supplies, utilities, and construction

THE DETAILS

The district is facing significant increases in areas outside of the district's control. Just as inflation has impacted household spending, the district has also been impacted in similar ways.

In order to balance the 2025-26 budget the district has reduced spending by \$1.4 million while maintaining staff and programs.

- Utilization of district reserve accounts to fund the budget \$950,000
- Utilization of Tax Levy Adjustments \$1,889,663
- Enhancing efficiencies to reconfigure staffing (e.g., lunch supervision, community relations program, delivery services, etc.)
- Adjusting various departmental and supplies accounts districtwide while maintaining quality programming and access to learning materials for students

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY MAINTAINING OUR INVESTMENTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Although there are no new Capital Improvements in this year's budget we will be focusing our efforts on the ROD Grants for HVAC improvements that were accounted for in last year's budget. The work will take place over the next few years. The State funds 40% of the approved project costs. These projects address the aging HVAC systems in the district. This summer we will replace HVAC systems at West Brook and East Brook

MAINTENANCE RESERVES & SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

Maintenance Reserves have been utilized to continue addressing building issues such as electrical, plumbing, HVAC, painting, and carpentry.

COMPLIANCE

AED Refresh-Janet's Law, Lead Testing, and S-1221 Menstrual Products



REVENUES

COMPARISON

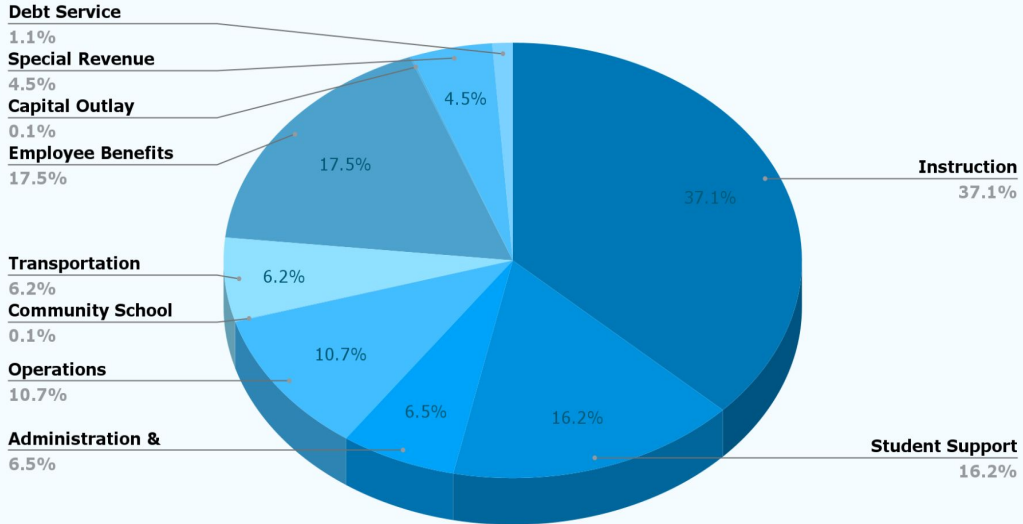
Fund	2024-2025 \$122,505,048	2025-2026 \$107,690,713	24-25 vs 25-26	
			\$Diff	%Diff
Total School Tax Levy	88,316,265	91,972,253	\$3,655,988.00	4.14%
State Aid	5,643,805	5,982,433	\$338,628.00	6.00%
Debt Service	1,281,019	1,226,081	(\$54,938.00)	-4.29%
Special Revenue	4,670,000	4,892,050	\$222,050.00	4.75%
Additional Rev. including Cap. Outlay	22,593,959	3,617,896	\$18,976,063	-83.98%



APPROPRIATIONS

Budget Category	2025-2026
Instruction	\$39,905,598.00
Student Support Services	\$17,494,356.00
Administration & Technology	\$6,975,026.00
Operations	\$11,488,738.00
Community School	\$60,500.00
Transportation	\$6,653,190.00
Employee Benefits	\$18,873,861.00
Capital Outlay	\$121,313.00
Special Revenue	\$4,892,050.00
Debt Service	\$1,226,081.00

2025-2026 Appropriations Budget, \$107,690,713



2025-2026 Appropriations Budget, \$107,690,713

Debt Service

1.1%

Special Revenue

4.5%

Capital Outlay

0.1%

Employee Benefits

17.5%

Transportation

6.2%

Community School

0.1%

Operations

10.7%

Administration &

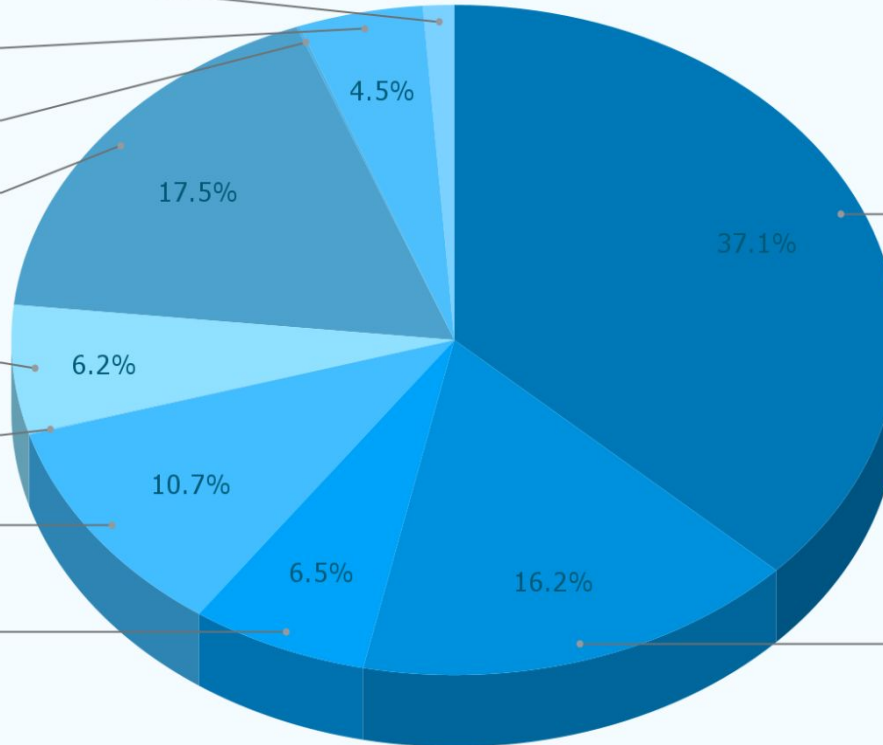
6.5%

Instruction

37.1%

Student Support

16.2%



TAX LEVY

A DETAILED LOOK AT THE 4.14% INCREASE	AMOUNTS
2% standard tax cap levy amount	\$1,766,325
Health insurance adjustment	\$1,409,948
Banked cap for going below 2% in prior years	\$479,714
Total tax levy increase	\$3,655,988
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This year's 2% increase was \$43,124 more than last year's tax increase• The State has provided a waiver for health insurance due to the double digit increases districts have faced over the last two years.• The Banked Cap allows us to save our tax levy increases for future use because we did not go up to Max 2% in prior years.• These allowable adjustments serve as relief valves for districts to ensure minimal disruption to programs when faced with extraordinary increases.	

TAX IMPACT

School Tax 2025-2026 (Split-Year)	Proposed Rate 3.29%
Rate per \$100 of Valuation:	\$0.709
Rate decreased over FY 24/25	-\$0.008
\$100,000 Assessed Value	\$709.00
Impact on Home Assessed at \$500,000	<u>Decrease</u> of \$42.00 Per Year
Impact on Home Assessed at \$704,275	<u>Decrease</u> of \$59.17 Per Year
Impact on Home Assessed at \$871,335	<u>Decrease</u> of \$73.19 Per Year
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rates Rounded• Inclusive of Debt Service• Calculation was based on 2025 Net Valuation: \$12,886,241,620• Compared to 2024, the Net Valuation has increased by \$554,584,200	

BUDGET PERCENTAGE HISTORY

2020/2021	2.00%
2021/2022	1.90%
2022/2023	1.99%
2023/2024	2.13%
2024/2025	1.99%
2025/2026	4.14%

Historical Context (2020-2025)

Our tax levy increases have remained consistent.

Current Year (2025-2026)

This year's increase of 4.14% represents a significant change from our historical pattern.

Understanding the Increase

The larger increase addresses rising costs in insurance, special education services, and infrastructure maintenance.



Thank You for Your Support



Excellence in Education

Continuing our tradition of academic achievement



Community Partnership

Working together for student success



Future Innovation

Investing in tomorrow's educational needs

We appreciate your participation in this budget hearing.

Your engagement helps maintain Paramus Public Schools as the heart of our community.



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS AND
COMMENTS

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