



2017-2018

School District Budget Newsletter

Dear District Residents,

Our primary focus as board members is to provide a quality education to the 1,450+ PSD, K-6th grade students of Franklin Township. At the same time, we have an obligation to the taxpayers to provide this educational service in a cost-effective, efficient manner.

The public hearing to present our annual district budget will be held on **May 1, 2017**. This newsletter provides a summary of the proposed budget for 2017-2018. As required, this budget stays within the 2% tax levy cap. The process for constructing this budget included Board of Education work sessions with the Business Administrator and the Superintendent. During that time we reviewed budget items as compared with our district goals. As a result, we have constructed a fiscally responsible budget that maintains all previous staffing and programs. This budget also includes funds to enter into a shared service agreement with the Franklin Township Police Department for a Class III Special Officer, to serve as the district's school resource officer. Also included are funds to lease purchase an additional 200 student Chromebooks, funds to increase Internet speed and capability, and funds to complete security upgrades to all three school buildings.

The 2017-2018 school year will challenge us with curriculum and assessment alignment with the newly revised "New Jersey Student Learning Standards." This budget has positioned us to achieve our 2017-2018 district goals, continue progression within the Vision 2019 strategic plan, and provide the children of Franklin Township with a positive educational experience. Your continued dedication and support of the children of Franklin Township is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Starr

Stephanie Starr, Board of Education President

BUDGET FAST FACTS

Total Operating Budget

➤ \$23,599,603

State Assistance

➤ \$8,803,530

Local Tax Levy

➤ \$10,774,406

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Budget Q & A

Does the budget include any reductions in academic programs for our students?

No. The 2017-2018 budget should be considered mainly a maintenance budget. All current academic programs, with additional extracurricular activities are included in this budget.

Does this budget include any additional staffing positions?

Yes. This budget supports a shared service agreement with the Franklin Township Police Department for a Special Class III Officer to serve as a school resource officer.

What is the district doing to ensure fiscal efficiency?

The Township of Franklin School District makes every effort to ensure fiscal efficiency. Efforts include cooperative purchasing agreements, outsourcing of cafeteria services, shared services with other local districts, E-RATE, ACES, Sustainable Jersey for Schools program and consortium memberships. The district has just completed an LGEA energy audit and is currently exploring a Solar Power project.

How does our district compare in per pupil spending?

The annual cost to educate a pupil within the Township of Franklin Public School District is \$16,856. The annual state average (K-6 districts) per pupil cost is \$18,302. ***Our district currently spends \$1,446 LESS than the state average of per pupil costs!*** (Source: 2016 Taxpayers Guide to Educational Spending)

What is the “tax limit” and does the Township of Franklin Public School District exceed its limit?

By law, New Jersey School Districts with a November election are permitted to raise the local tax levy a maximum of 2% per year without requiring a public vote. This budget stays within the mandated 2% tax levy cap.

How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

A **tax levy** is the amount of money the school district will collect from local property owners to fund its budget. A **tax rate** is the amount home owners will be charged for every \$1,000 of their assessed property value.

Vision 2019-Strategic Plan Update 2017-2018 District Goals

Vision 2019

In June 2014, the Township of Franklin Public School District adopted a strategic plan titled Vision 2019. This collaborative planning process resulted in a five-year plan which has focused the district's efforts and resources on the mutually determined goals that support the needs of our students and the district as a whole. January 2017 marked the midway point of our strategic journey. To keep all stakeholders abreast of the progress towards our goals, periodic updates have been posted on the district's website www.franklintwpschools.org

Strategic Priorities for 2017-2018

Strategic Priority One

Goal: Reading Levels: The Township of Franklin Public School District will increase the percentage of students in grades one through six reading on or above the appropriate grade level, in conjunction with all students demonstrating growth as assessed by Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).

Strategic Priority Two

Goal: Standards Based Grading: The Township of Franklin School District will continue to support the district implementation of the Standards Based Grading initiative, focusing efforts on developing a Standards Based Report Card for grade five while analyzing the grade six standards based grading pilot program.

Strategic Priority Three

Goal: Technology Based Professional Development: The Superintendent will work with the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction to identify and support the professional development needs of the district, specifically in the area of technology based instruction.

Strategic Priority Four

Goal: District Safety: The Superintendent will work with the School Business Administrator and the district architect to develop renovation plans that will address safety/security concerns pertaining to facilities.

Strategic Priority Five

Goal: District Wide Communication: The Township of Franklin School District will improve district wide communication while increasing opportunities for staff members to provide input on building and district level initiatives.

Township of Franklin Public School District

2017-2018 Budget Highlights

REVENUE AT A GLANCE

- Revenue Highlights**

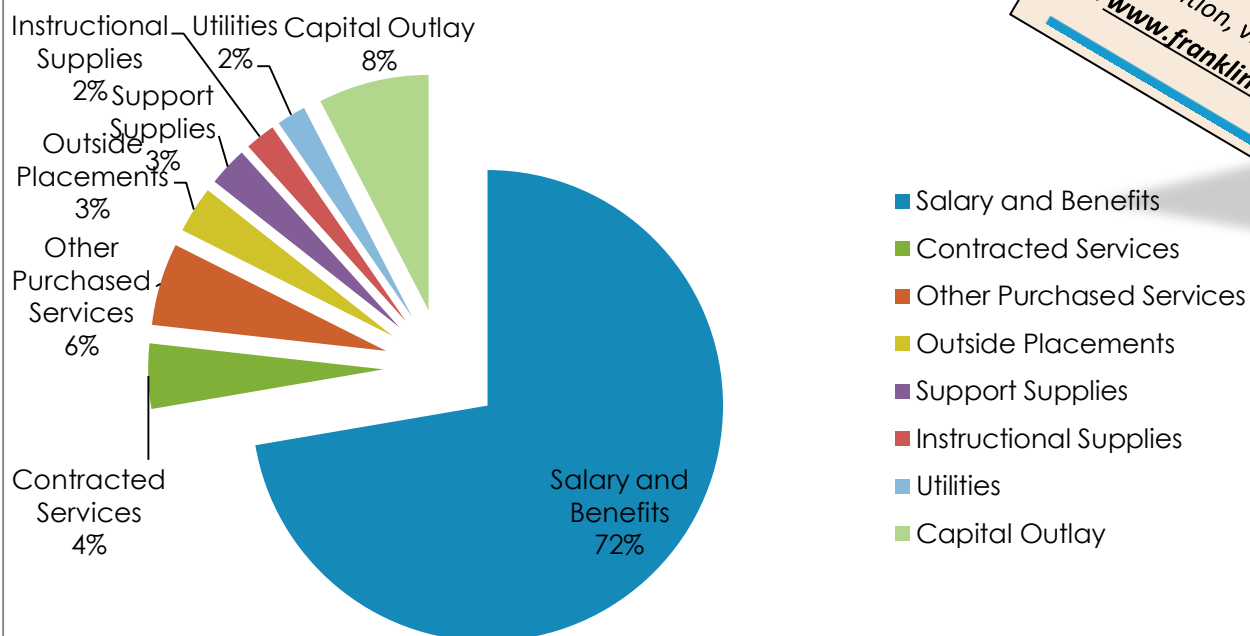
 1. Flat State Aid
 2. Projected Tuition (Newfield) Decrease
 3. Use of Capital Reserve Funds
 4. Increase the local tax levy by 2%

	2016-17		2017-18	
Category	Budget		Budget	
Fund Balance	\$	118,954	\$	189,912
State Aid		8,803,530		8,803,530
Extraordinary Aid		83,342		-0-
Tuition		1,406,952		1,239,370
Transportation		110,000		80,000
Miscellaneous		40,539		50,414
Local Tax Levy		10,563,143		10,774,406
Sub-Total Operating	\$	21,126,460	\$	21,137,632
Withdrawal - Maintenance reserve		149,800		710,506
Withdrawal - Capital reserve		848,475		1,501,465
Withdrawal- Emergency reserve		-0-		250,000
Total Operating	\$	22,124,735	\$	23,599,603

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APPROPRIATIONS AT A GLANCE



For more detailed budget information, visit us on the web at www.franklintwpschools.org

Township of Franklin Public School District
2017-2018 Budget Highlights

EXPENDITURES AT A GLANCE

	2016-17	2017-18	\$ Difference
Classroom Instruction	\$ 9,205,864	\$ 9,061,782	(144,082)
Support Services	1,947,802	2,146,561	198,759
Administrative	1,386,025	1,437,692	51,667
Operations and Plant Management	2,039,342	2,287,388	248,046
Student Transportation	1,754,701	1,942,476	187,775
Benefits	4,821,777	4,886,231	64,454
Capital Outlay	969,224	1,837,473	868,249
Total	\$ 22,124,735	\$ 23,599,603	1,474,868

TAX IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Assessed Value of Home	2016 Taxes on Home	2017 Taxes on Home	Estimated Tax Increase (yearly)	Estimated Tax Increase (monthly)
\$100,000	\$862.00	\$869.90	\$7.90	\$.66
\$150,000	\$1,293.00	\$1,304.85	\$11.85	\$.99
\$200,000	\$1,724.00	\$1,739.80	\$15.80	\$1.32
\$250,000	\$2,155.00	\$2,174.75	\$19.75	\$1.65

Expenditures Highlights

Staffing

Class III Special Officer

Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum Revisions
Professional Development
Materials to meet the Next Generation Science Standards

Technology

Lease purchase of 320 Chromebooks
Increase Internet Capability
Upgrade Internet security filtering software

School Facilities Upgrades

Painting project at C.L. Reutter
Replace cafeteria tables at both Main Road/C.L. Reutter Schools
Install Security Safety Vestibules at the entrances of all three school buildings

Extra-Curricular Activities

Maintain all after school clubs and activities

Transportation/Maintenance

(1) 54-passenger school bus
(1) 24-passenger special education school bus
(1) Maintenance Vehicle
Install stop arm security cameras on entire bus fleet

For more information please visit the NJ Department of Education's Taxpayer Guide to Education Spending website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/guide/>