Flemington-Raritan Regional School District

TOWN HALL

2026-2027 District Budget



Presented by:

Dr. Clifford Burns, Acting Superintendent
Mrs. Tanya Dawson, Business Administrator
December 8, 2025

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FLEMINGTON-RARITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

About FRSD



The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is a Pre-K through Grade 8 school district. It encompasses 38 square miles and is the largest school district in Hunterdon County.



Our Schools

4 Elementary Schools - Grades PK-4
1 Intermediate School - Grades 5-6
1 Middle School - Grades 7-8
~ AND ~
4 Offsite Preschool Locations
(and expanding)



FRSD provides a safe and supportive learning environment to vibrant, diverse and motivated students. Our programs foster curiosity, a spirit of exploration, and ample opportunities for children to grow and thrive.

Programs & Support



Every learner is different and FRSD prides itself on offering a wide array of services and programs to meet the needs of all students. In fact, FRSD supports multilingual learners in each of our schools.



Many of our middle school students take advanced level math courses such as Algebra 1 and Geometry. Students begin learning a foreign language in elementary school and continue through 8th grade. We also offer enriching art, music and technology programs.



We provide in-class and pull-out resource, self-contained, preschool disabilities, & transition/life skills classes for special needs students. Reading specialists and child study team members (i.e. psychologists, school social workers, and LDT-Cs) support our learners.

Our Students & Staff



Current Enrollment*

3,148

Current Employees

547

Cost Per Pupil**

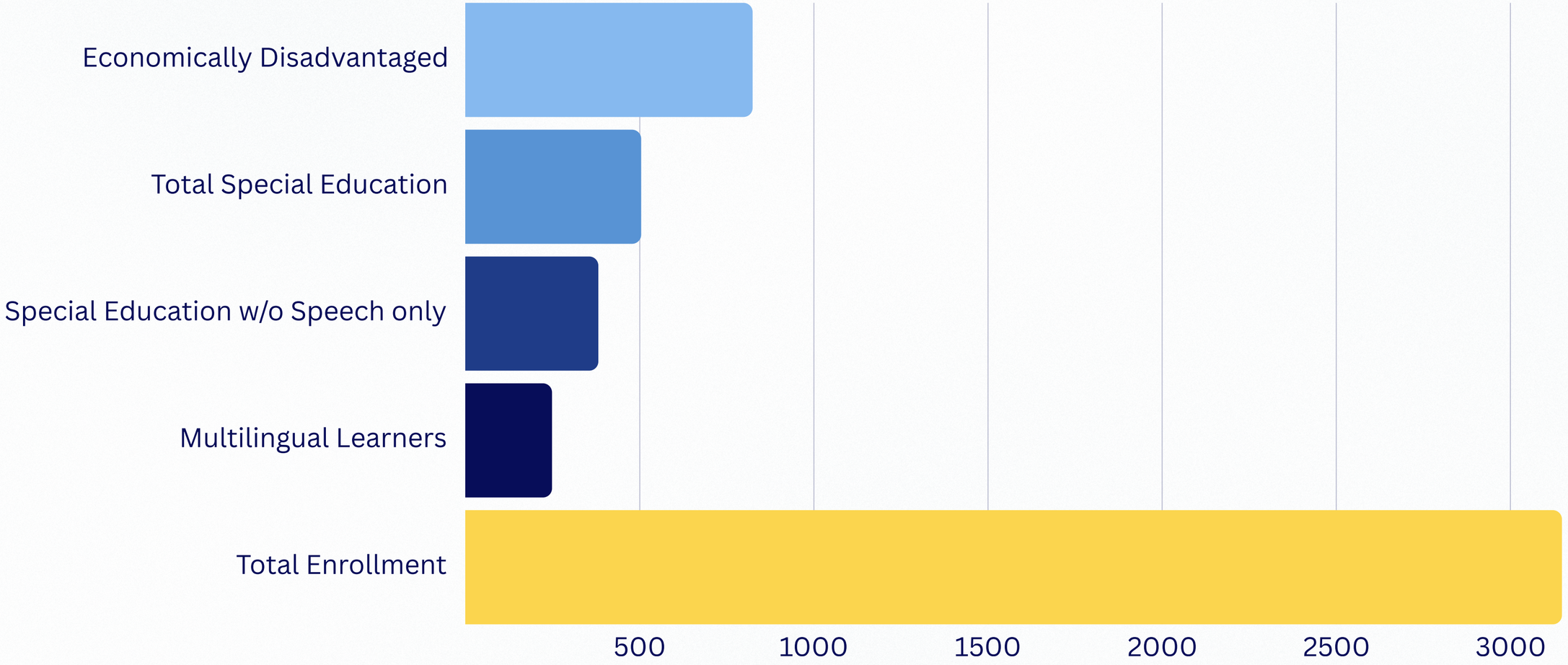
$19,574

**ASSA Report, October 15, 2025 – Does not include off-site preschool locations.*
***2025-2026 FRSD User-Friendly Budget, May 20, 2025*

Demographics

3,148 PreK-8 Students*

26.2% ED; 16% Sp.Ed.; 12.1% Sp.Ed. without Speech only; 7.9% Multilingual Learners



ASSA Report - October 15, 2025

Demographics

ASSA October 15, 2025	Total Population Oct 2025	Economically Disadvantaged Oct 2025	Total Special Education Oct 2025	Special Ed. w/o Speech-only Oct 2025	English Learners Oct 2025
BS	376	16.0%	12.0%	5.1%	5.3%
CH	535	20.2%	19.6%	13.8%	5.6%
FAD	433	44.6%	14.1%	10.6%	23.8%
RH	378	25.7%	14.0%	7.9%	11.1%
RFIS	697	25.7%	15.1%	12.5%	4.6%
JPC	729	25.7%	18.5%	17.1%	2.9%
Totals	3148	26.2%	16.0%	12.1%	7.9%

Budget Planning

1

October

Initial budget discussions held with the Board of Education's Operations Committee. A process and timeline are confirmed.

2

November

Budget planning begins with school administrators and department heads to review accounts, discuss needs, forecast projections and plan and prepare for various scenarios.

3

December 8

Town Hall Meeting held to share information and gather public input and feedback.

4

December-February

Planning continues. Projections are shared with the Operations Committee. The district awaits the Governor's Address and state aid figures.

5

March

A tentative budget is presented, reviewed and approved by the Board.

6

April

A public hearing is held and a final budget is adopted by the Board. The budget is sent to the County Office.

Budget Recap: A Look Back

2025-2026 School Budget Synopsis

- Significant Budget Shortfall Last Year
- Special Election Question Failed
- District Deemed Under Adequacy by NJDOE - New Legislation allowed the district to raise local tax levy to adequacy budget which resulted in 10% tax levy increase

Budget Outlook: A Look Ahead

2026-2027 School Budget Factors

- Revenue Impact
  - 2% Tax Levy increase = $1,314,540 budget increase for 2026-2027
  - Assumes all other revenue sources remain unchanged
- Budget Reality
  - Educating students requires significant investment
  - The primary financial responsibility falls on local taxpayers
  - Funding breakdown for FRSD:
    - 84% Local Tax Revenue
    - 8% State Aid
    - 7% Special Revenue
    - 1% Miscellaneous Revenue

How are District Dollars Spent?



Mandated vs. Non-Mandated Expenses



Facility Maintenance Priorities



Staffing Needs & Contractual Requirements



Educational Program Priorities



Reserve Account Balance

The cost of supplies, utilities, general services, facility maintenance, transportation, salaries and special education tuition costs continue to rise at rates exceeding 2%, which is the maximum increase allowed under our tax levy cap.

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Budget Categories Overview

Facilities:

- Maintenance of 6 buildings
- Annual Inspections
- Preventative Maintenance
- Supplies (e.g., cleaning, paper goods)
- Capital Improvements (one-time costs for emergent district facility projects)

Health Insurance:

- Annually, the district receives competitive quotes
- Current Claims Loss Ratio: Over 100 (should be around 78 for competitiveness)



Salaries:

- Instructional
- Support
- Administrative

Transportation

- Contracted Providers
- Bus Maintenance

Special Education

- Out of District Placements
- Extraordinary Services
- Transportation Costs

Technology:

- 1:1 Devices, Grades 2-8
- Shared iPads for Grades K-1
- Instructional Programs:
  -Support
  -Class Size
  -Curriculum Initiatives

Per Pupil Cost Calculation

from the 2025-2026 Advertised Proposed Budget

Milford Boro	$36,095
Frenchtown Boro	$32,779
Tewksbury Twp	$31,531
Lebanon Boro	$29,512
South Hunt. RHS	$29,016
Califon Boro	$28,513
Hampton Boro	$28,408
Bloomsbury	$27,665
Hunterdon Cent. RHS	$27,523
High Bridge Boro	$27,066
North Hunterdon Voor	$26,920
Franklin Twp.	$26,457
Del Val HS	$25,634
Delaware Twp.	$25,617
Lebanon Twp.	$25,536
East Amwell	$24,756
Holland Twp.	$24,163
Bethlehem Twp.	$24,055
Clinton Twp.	$23,860
Alexandria	$23,520
Kingwood Twp.	$23,420
Readinton Twp	$23,115
Union Twp	$21,431
Clinton-Glen Gard	$19,764
FRSD	**$19,574**

FRSD having the lowest advertised proposed per-pupil cost in the county means we are spending less per student than any other district in the county. While this shows we operate efficiently, it also highlights that we are underfunded compared with neighboring districts.

We are trying to stretch our resources to maintain programs, services and staff but the lower per-student spending means we have less funding available for things like classroom resources, facility upgrades and extracurricular programs.

Q&A

Our question-and-answer period offers time to address questions related to the 2026-2027 district budget.

- In-person questions, if any, will be taken first.
- Virtual questions can be submitted and will be reviewed as they are received.

Please check the District's Budget web page for the latest updates.



FLEMINGTON-RARITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thank You!

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District



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