

Board of Education Meeting

May 3, 2021



FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 3, 2021

[Click here to view all public attachments for this meeting.](#)

VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION/REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING 2021-2022 BUDGET - 7:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://frsd.zoom.us/j/82602206704>

Passcode: 034608

Or One tap mobile :

US: +19292056099,,82602206704#,,,,*034608# or +13017158592,,82602206704#,,,,*034608#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

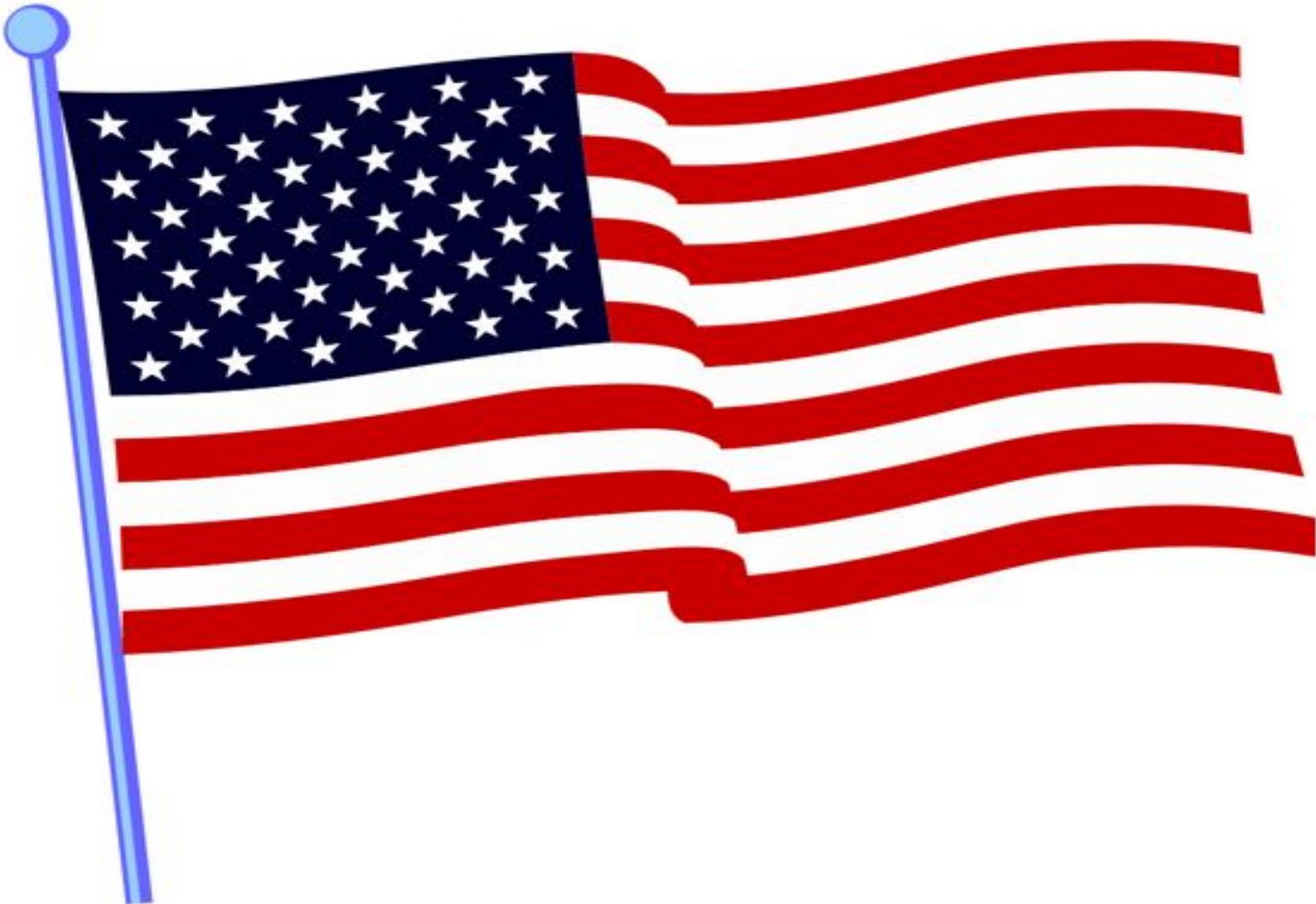
US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 826 0220 6704

Passcode: 034608

International numbers available: <https://frsd.zoom.us/j/82602206704>

- I. Call to Order by the Board President.



Board of Education Members

Raritan Township

- **Pamela Baker**
- **Tim Bart, President**
- **Valerie Bart**
- **Dr. Marianne Kenny**
- **Laurie Markowski**
- **Susan Mitcheltree**
- **Melanie Rosengarden**

Flemington-Borough

- **Jessica Abbott, Vice President**
- **Jeffrey Cain**

District Mission Statement



The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District values children. Together, **WE:**

- **Foster** social, emotional, and academic growth in a safe and nurturing environment;
- **Respect** values and traditions within our families and schools;
- **Strive** to respond to the needs of our diverse and changing communities;
- **Develop** the curiosity and creativity of critical thinkers to become collaborative problem solvers who meet the challenges of a globally competitive society.

Every student ~ Every day ~ Every opportunity.

Superintendent's Report: District Enrollment



J.P. Case Middle School:	710	7 th & 8 th grade students (same number of students as the last report)
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School:	647	5 th & 6 th grade students (same number of students as the last report)
Francis A. Desmares Elementary School:	473	K - grade 4 students (two more students as the last report)
Copper Hill Elementary:	422	Pre-K-grade 4 students (same number of students as the last report)
Robert Hunter Elementary:	395	K - grade 4 students (same number of students as the last report)
Barley Sheaf Elementary Schools:	352	K - grade 4 students (same number of students as the last report)
Out of district students:	14	Students (same number of students as the last report)
Total enrollment:	3,013	Pre-K - 8th grade students (two more students than the last report)

* Data gathered on 5.2.2021

REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL TO BEGIN BASELINE CONDITIONS	FULL REMOTE MODEL SCHOOL RETURN WITH NO CONTACT	LIMITED MODEL SCHOOLS OPEN FOR STAFF	LIMITED MODEL REMOTE LEARNING & BLEND OF IN-PERSON FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS	HYBRID MODEL BLEND OF IN-PERSON & REMOTE LEARNING	REGULAR MODEL ALL STUDENTS & STAFF IN SCHOOL
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Full Remote Model
(all students virtual remote academy every week)

Restrictions: Schools Closed only essential personnel on site

Health & Safety: Schools Closed

Activities: Only Remote Options

Full Remote learning (preparing for all students virtual remote academy every week)

Restrictions: Schools closed to visitors, optionally open for limited staff.

Health & Safety: Social distancing
Health screenings
Masks required at all times
Quarantine protocols
Sanitization and disinfection regulations

Activities: Only Remote Options (exceptions include legal requirements.)

Full Remote Model (preparing for all students virtual remote academy every week)

Restrictions: Schools closed to visitors, open for greater number of staff members. Building offices fully staffed.

Health & Safety: Social distancing
Health screenings
Masks required at all times
Quarantine protocols
Sanitization and disinfection regulations

Activities: Only Remote Options (exceptions include legal requirements.)

Hybrid A/B Model (students in-person one week and virtual the next week, **except for neediest students who will attend each week in person.**)

Restrictions: Schools closed to visitors. Open for all staff.

Health & Safety: Social distancing
Health screenings
Masks required at all times
Quarantine protocols
Sanitization and disinfection regulations

Activities: All Pre-K and neediest Special Ed students and neediest ESL students in district building(s). Childcare at Copper Hill with YMCA.

Hybrid A/B Model (students in-person one week and virtual the next week)

Restrictions: Limited indoor gatherings. Open for all staff.

Health & Safety: Social distancing
Health screenings
Masks required at all times
Quarantine protocols
Sanitization and disinfection regulations

Activities: Same as Tier Three and Remote options for sports and clubs. Sports and clubs may be offered in accordance with health department rules. New guidance provides guidelines for in-person sports.

Regular Model: All students & staff in school, full days, full in-person instruction

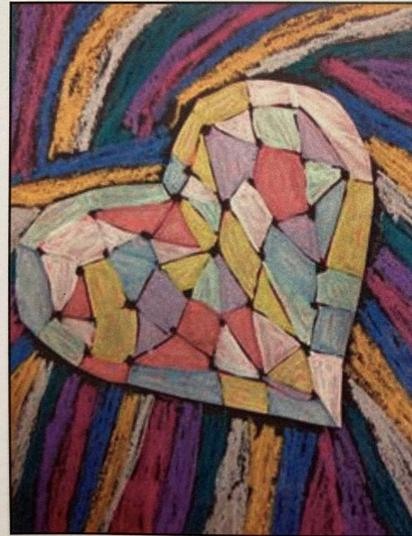
Restrictions: None

Health & Safety: Sanitization and disinfection regulations
Quarantine protocols

Activities: All sports/athletics & clubs open

Teacher Appreciation WEEK

May 3-7, 2021



*"Metallic Heart" by Mason Celmer, Grade 2 (2019-2020)
Metallic Oil Pastels with Laura McConnell, Art Teacher, Francis A. Desmares School*

Dear FRSD Faculty and Staff,

Your dedication to the students and families of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is truly admired and greatly appreciated. Thank you for all that you do to support every student, every day at every opportunity. We wish you a Happy Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week!

Sincerely,

FRSD Board of Education &
Dr. Kari McGann, Superintendent



*"The Tiger Inside of Us" by Erich Nunez, Grade 8 (2020-2021)
Mixed Media with Cate Sewall, Art Teacher, J.P. Case Middle School*

The Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kari McGann wish all FRSD faculty and staff a very Happy Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week!

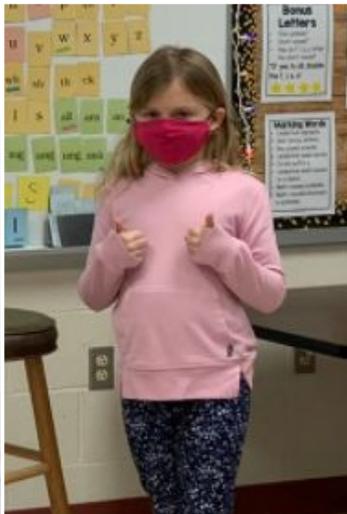
Thank you for all that you do to nurture, guide and support every student, every day at every opportunity. We are grateful for your dedication to our students and schools.



May 12, 2021



Academic Year 2021-2022 Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Public Hearing on the Budget



Board of Education Meeting
Monday, May 3, 2021

Dr. Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools
kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us (908) 284-7569

Mrs. Stephanie Voorhees, Business Administrator
svoorhees@frsd.k12.nj.us (908) 284-7570





Francis A. Desmares
Elementary School Grades
K-4



Barley Sheaf Elementary
School Grades K-4



Copper Hill Elementary
School Grades Pre-K - 4



Reading-Fleming
Intermediate School Grades
5-6



Robert Hunter Elementary
School Grades K-4



J.P. Case Middle School
Grades 7-8

This budget makes an investment in Flemington-Raritan Regional School District students. We are focused on fostering the social, emotional, and academic growth for every student. Students need opportunities to successfully learn in a safe, positive, and supportive environment with every student graduating, and every student becoming a helpful, productive citizen.

“We must work for every student, every day, at every opportunity and we must be united in both our focus and in our determination. Unity is essential to reaching our goals.”

— Dr. Kari McGann, Superintendent of Flemington-Regional School District

“What is a school budget?”

- **A Planning Tool**
- **Budget Considers Contingencies**
- **Manages Risks**
- **Is Fiscally Responsible**
- **A Reflection of our Values**
- **Safeguards and Buffers**





“What are the big picture budget topics?”

- **Contractual Staff Salary Increases**
- **School budgets**
- **Special Services**
- **Student Mental Health**
- **Health Care Costs**
- **Curriculum**
- **Facilities**



Federal Year 2021-22 District Priorities

1. Security, Health, and Safety through support for mental health for students through broader partnership with Effective Schools Solutions
2. Continuation of the curriculum cycle with work in K-2 Literacy and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)
3. Compliance with Special Education
4. Mandated Professional Learning
 - a. "Safe Schools"
 - b. Professional Learning Initiatives
 - c. Articulation- Vertical and Horizontal
5. Continuation of support for educational technology
6. Continue to strengthen districtwide environment that promotes stability and leadership
7. Support for our students with specific needs (i.e., English as a Second Language, Mental Health, Economically Disadvantaged Students)



Funding for High Quality Education Continued

- **Support in student emotional health.** Effective School Solution expansion into J.P. Case Middle School from Robert Hunter Elementary School and Reading-Fleming Intermediate School.
- **Curriculum** balanced literacy with K-2 classroom libraries and support with curriculum materials, instructional multi-year licenses, Columbia University Teachers College Readers and Writers Workshop Institutes.
- **School operating budgets remained overall flat** (Salaries, not included).

FY 2021-22 Budget Themes

Helps ensure every child has the opportunity to receive a high quality education meeting **Goal Area #1- Academics/Curriculum** in the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan

Maintains strong support for the District's most vulnerable students to achieve **Goal Area #2- Special Services** in the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan

Provides funding for each school in a fiscally responsible manner to achieve **Goal Area #3- Resource Management** in the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan

Provides funding for each school in a fiscally responsible manner to achieve **Goal Area #4- Communications and Leadership** in the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan

Supporting student academic, mental, physical, and emotional health.

FY 2021-22 Budget Themes

Helps ensure every child has the opportunity to receive a high quality education meeting

Goal Area #1- Academics/Curriculum

- Addition of two 5th grade teachers at RFIS;
- Addition of one 2nd grade teacher at Copper Hill Elementary School;
- Addition of one vice-principal position at Barley Sheaf Elementary School;
- Revisioning of K-2 computer teacher positions;
- Increased literacy curriculum support in grades Pre-K to 2;
- Technology advancements in grades Pre-K to grade 8;
- Possibly additional tech support.

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal Area #1 – Academics/ Curriculum

Objectives

- The district will monitor and adjust the multi-year plan as needed
- The district will conduct data-driven needs assessments and evaluations to ensure the efficacy of the implementation process for new curriculum materials and professional development
- The district will continue to utilize a classroom-based professional development program focused on collaboration, demonstration lessons, and reflective dialogue

FY 2021-22 Budget Themes

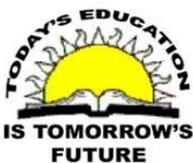
Maintains strong support for the District’s most vulnerable students to achieve
Goal Area #2- Special Services

- Lead Nurse position continues in the 2021-2022 academic school year;
- Expand Effective Schools Solutions from Robert Hunter Elementary School and Reading-Fleming Intermediate School to also include J.P. Case Middle School;
- Support for summer supplemental services, in addition to Extended School Year Programming;
- Possibly an additional guidance counselor to support student mental health needs.

Goal Area #2- Special Services

Objectives:

- Align staffing and programs based on students needs
- Improve and enhance early intervention and transitional programs
- Identify student/faculty mental health issues and implement a systemic approach of support
- Utilize both functional and discrepancy student information when determining eligibility



FY 2021-22 Budget Themes

Provides funding for each school in a fiscally responsible manner to achieve **Goal Area #3- Resource Management**

- Addition of Operations and Management HVAC support personnel; and
- Addition of one part-time Business Office/Personnel Office Secretary to support Health Benefits and Personnel Human Resources.

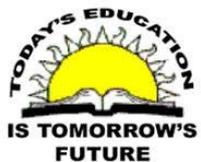
Strategic Plan Goals

Goal Area #3 – Resource Management

Goal: Ensure that fiscal, facility and human resources are allocated to meet district needs

Objectives:

- Identify and analyze community demographics
- Assess impact of demographic trends on district operations
- Identify district priorities
- Plan and implement consistent and effective processes
- Review department procedures and modify practices for efficiencies



FY 2021-22 Budget Themes

Provides funding for each school in a fiscally responsible manner to achieve **Goal Area #4- Communications and Leadership**

- Partnership with Niche.com (big reveal at the May 17 BOE meeting).

People visit the site to compare schools, look at school rankings, and review schools. It highlights the best schools and offers reviews for people to share their personal experiences. We will use Niche for digital marketing, to find a wider source of applicants, and recruit top-notch applicants. Niche will showcase our schools and motivate next steps for those that visit the Niche website to buy in Flemington-Raritan and send their children to our schools.

Niche touts over 50 million users to their site and 5 million visits per month from students and families.

In addition to families, teachers also use Niche as a resource to find their next job. We are able to use Niche as a way of recruiting talent for open positions throughout the district.



[Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Reference](#)

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal Area #4 – Communications and Leadership

Goal: Cultivate relationships that build trust and respect with all stakeholders

Objectives:

- Engage others with inclusivity and hear all perspectives
- Communicate with transparency to ensure understanding through humility
- Provide consistent leadership to maintain civility to move the district forward

2021 Rankings on line through niche.com*

	Readington	Flemington-Raritan Regional School District	East Amwell	Delaware Township
Overall Niche Grade	B+	B+	A	B+
Academics Based on State Assessments	A-	A-	A	B+
Diversity	C	B	B	B
Health & Safety	A-	A-	no grade	no grade
Resources & Facilities	B	B	no grade	no grade

Reference: www.niche.com Niche claims “grades and rankings are calculated using dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews. Data scientists and user researchers rigorously analyze data and user opinions to assess the key aspects of K-12 Schools, Colleges, and Places to Live.”

Kindergarten Enrollment:

2016-2017: 311 students

2017-2018: 307 students

2018-2019: 314 students

2019-2020: 309 students

BS: 61 CH: 76 FAD: 93 RH: 79

2020-2021: 206 students registered by early May

BS: 50 CH: 37 FAD: 63 RH: 56

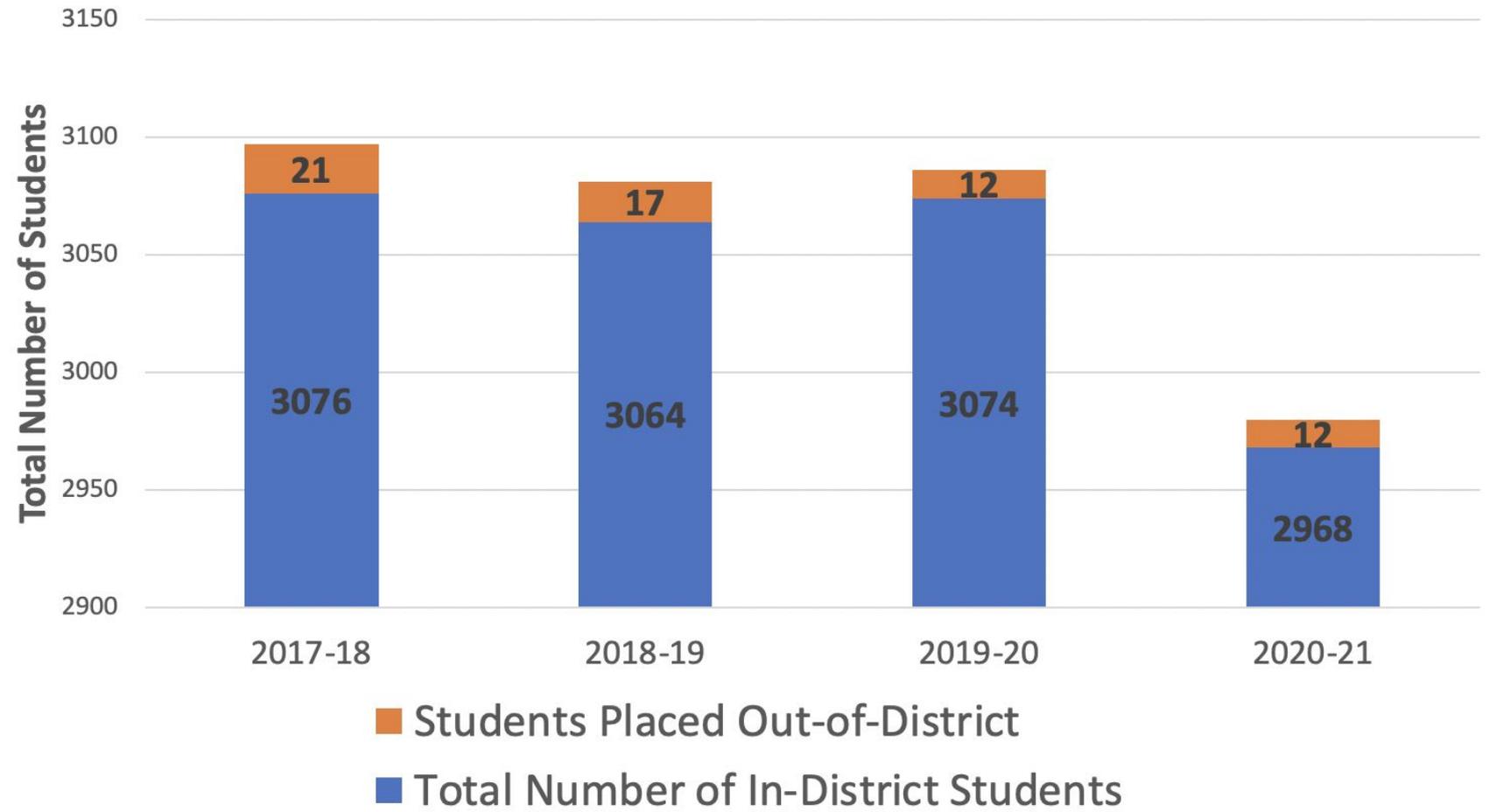
2021-2022: 259 students registered so far

BS: 61 CH: 69 FAD: 65 RH: 64



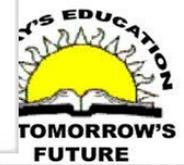
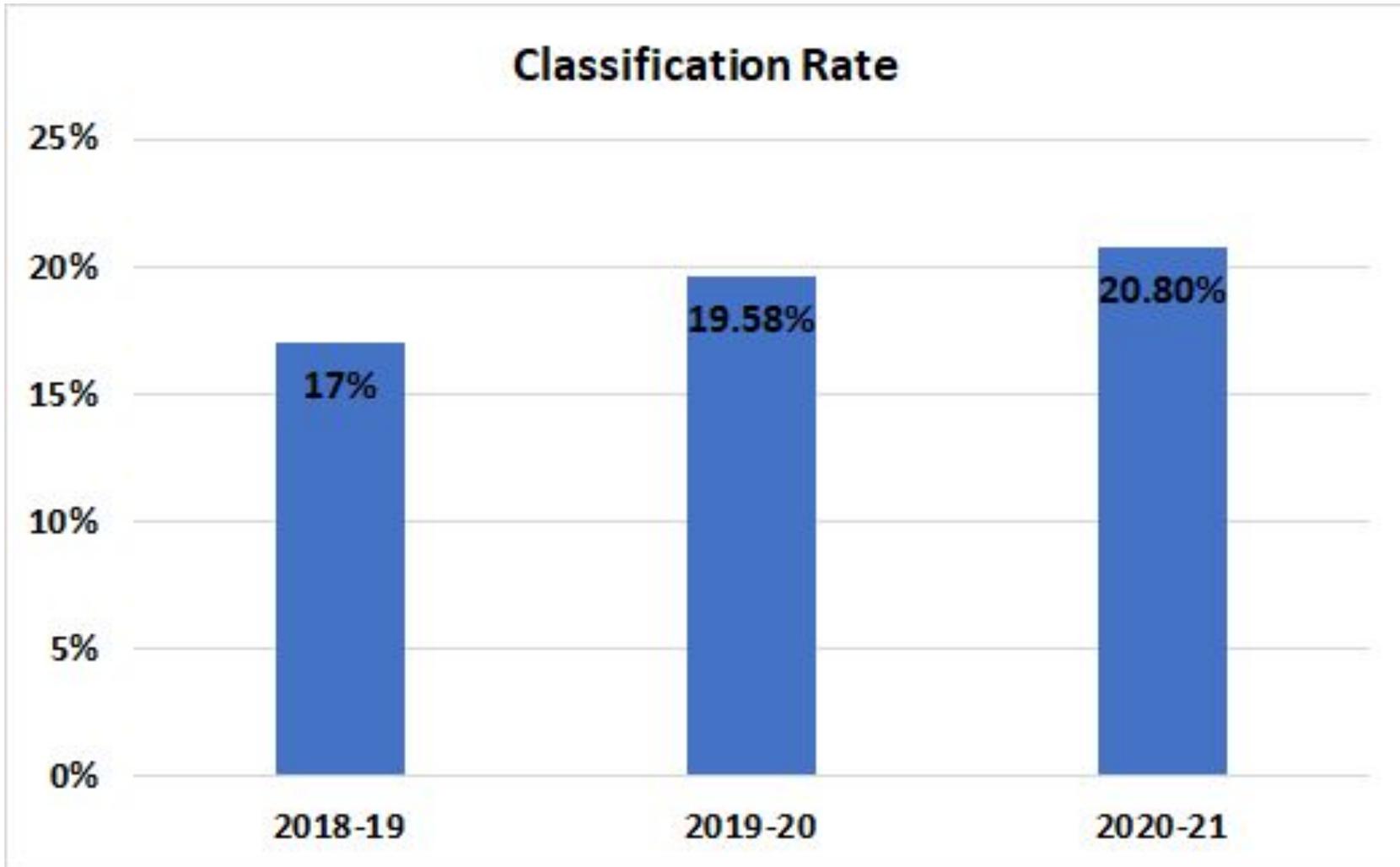
District Enrollment

2017-2021 District Enrollment

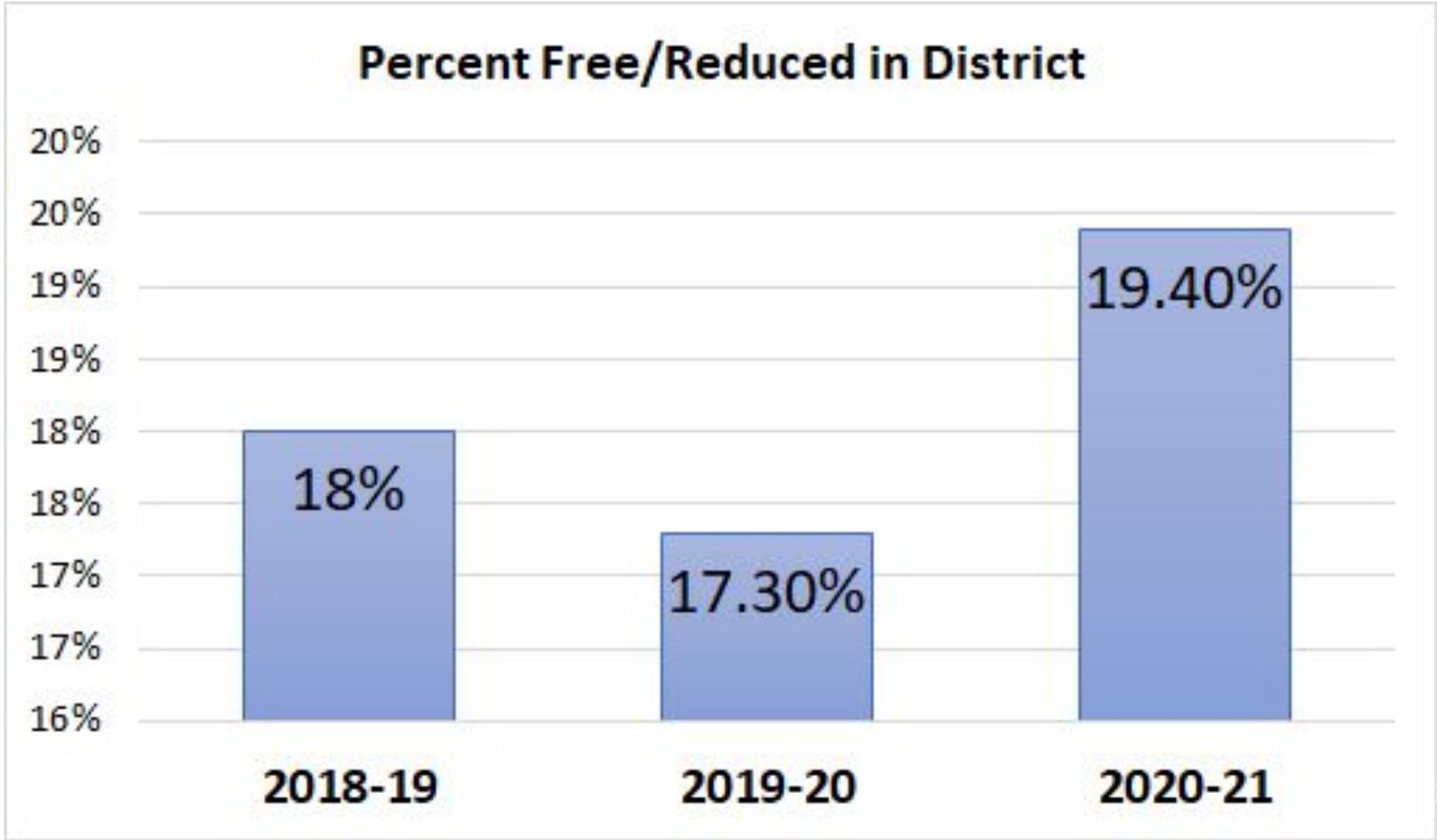


• Data represents October 15th enrollment. We've had thirty-one students enroll since October 15, 2020.

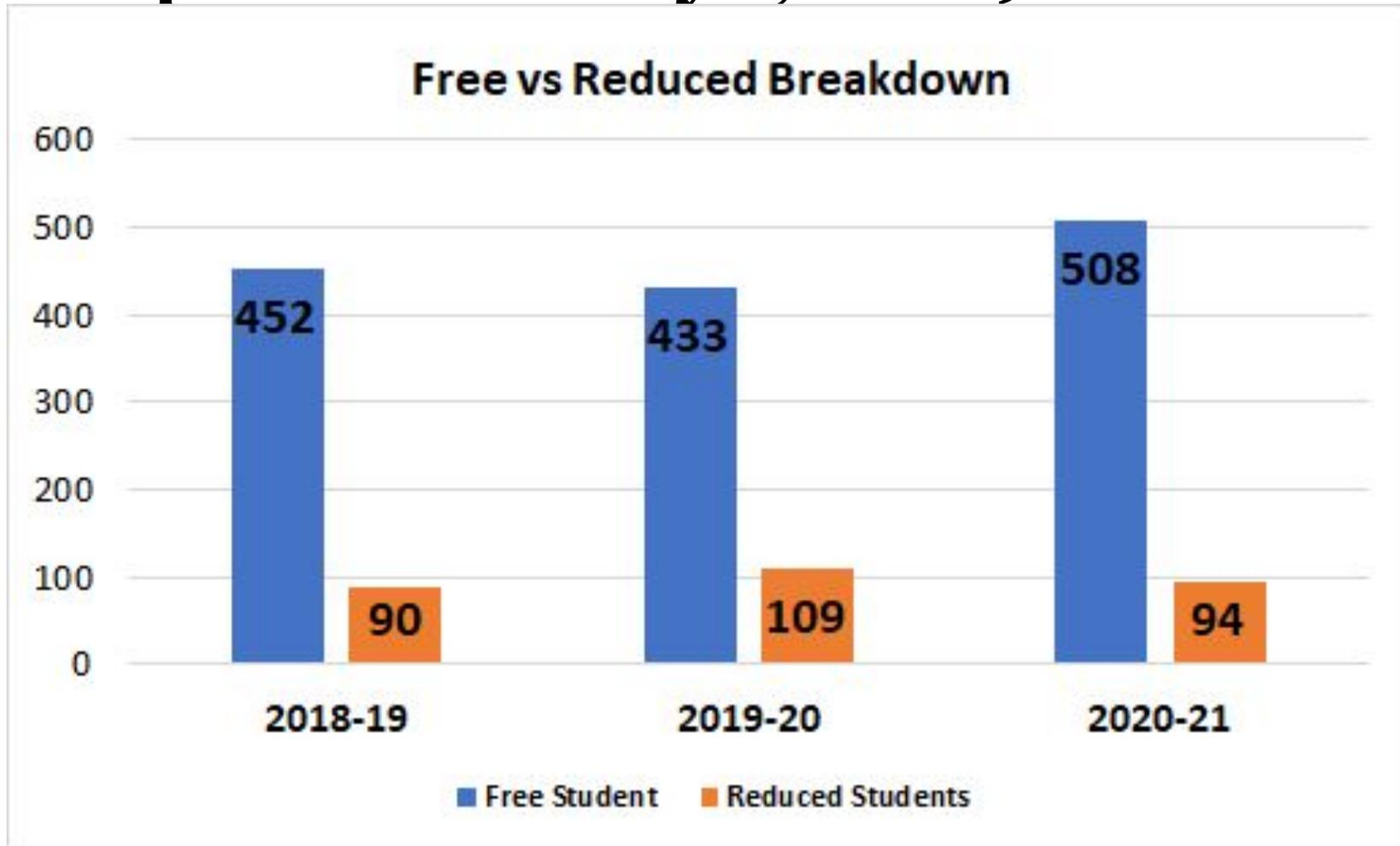
District Overview (As of May 1, 2021 comparison to May 1, 2018)



District Overview (As of May 1, 2021 comparison to May 1, 2018)



District Overview (As of May 1, 2021 comparison to May 1, 2018)



Moving Forward: Building Evidence to Focus on Educational Innovation



HSMC Tri-County STEM Ecosystem (Hunterdon, Somerset, Mercer counties) for continued support of research, evaluation, and statistics that help educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders improve outcomes for all students

During the 2019-2020 school year we focused on Pre-School Coding through in partnership with LEGO students are engaged in early coding concepts such as sequencing, looping, and conditional coding while developing problem solving skills, critical thinking, collaboration, curiosity, and social and emotional skills.

During the 2020-2021 school year we focused on receiving support with the Green Car Initiative (We hope to move this forward this year.)

During the 2021-2022 school year we will broaden partnerships with foundations and corporations to move towards elementary school STEM labs.



Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Finance Honor

- Audit without Recommendations
- AA Bond Rating
- Safety Award for Safety Incentive Program
- Success with 42M Referendum facility work



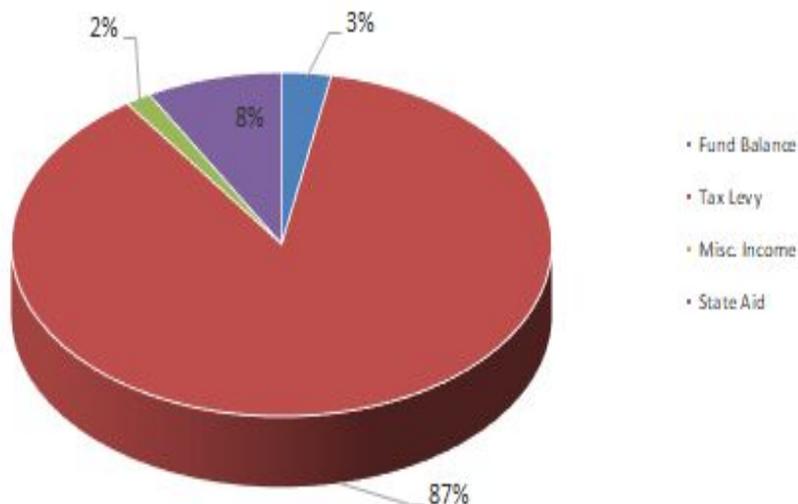
The FY 2021-2022 District budget provides:

\$62.7 million in the General Fund Budget (\$62,718,470) These costs are predominantly instruction, providing services and transporting students in grades pre-kindergarten through grade eight.

The budget also includes **administrative and business expenses for the costs** such as NJSMART data management program, My Learning Plan teacher evaluation tool, curriculum writing, personnel/human resource advertisements, maintenance of facilities and communications technology.

2021-2022 Revenue Sources- Fund 10

Revenue Sources



Operating Budget- Fund 10	2021-2022
Fund Balance - Excess from 19-20	\$1,855,523
Tax Levy - 2% Inc. Allowed	\$54,774,236
Preschool Tuition	\$101,000
Misc. Income - Interest and Facility Use	\$280,000
SEMI	\$94,211
Extraordinary Aid	\$500,000
State Aid	\$5,113,500
Total	\$62,718,470

FRSD State Aid History

Year	State Aid	% of Budget
2010-11	\$4,584,624	9%
2011-12	\$5,611,128	11%
2012-13	\$6,061,419	12%
2013-14	\$6,061,420	11%
2014-15	\$6,126,350	11%
2015-16	\$6,126,350	11%
2016-17	\$6,159,367	11%
2017-18	\$6,159,367	10%
2018-19	\$6,047,258	10%
2019-20	\$5,821,687	10%
2020-21	\$5,560,650	9%
2021-22	\$5,113,500	8%

2021-2022 Expenditures Fund 10

Salaries include all PK-8 teachers, media specialists, nurses, guidance counselors, secretaries and administration.

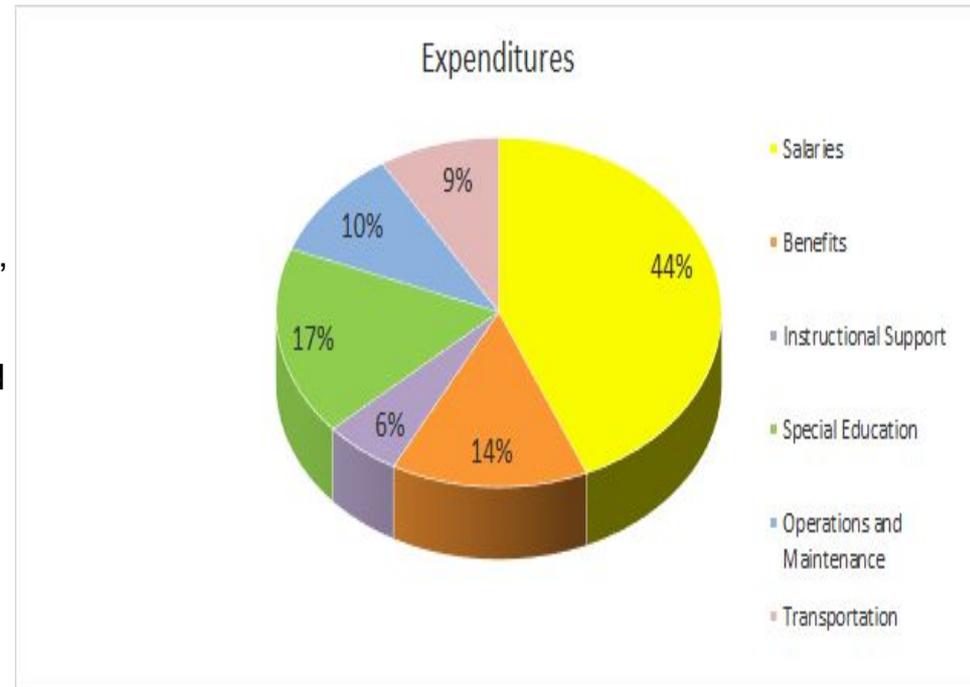
Benefits include medical, dental, prescription, workers comp, pension, social security, tuition reimbursement and additional employee benefits.

Instructional Support includes all instructional supplies, professional development and technology.

Special Education includes all salaries of staff involved with in-district students, plus tuition for out-of-district placements.

Operations and Maintenance includes salaries for maintenance personnel, contracted services for custodians, utilities, property insurance, general building supplies and maintenance and repair.

Transportation includes regular/special education to/from school, athletics and non-public student aid in lieu.



FRSD 2021-2022 Budget Adjustments

Decrease Revenue State Aid	-\$447,150
Increase Budgeted Fund Balance	\$1,292,224
Increase Revenue Extraordinary Aid	\$171,766
Decrease Misc. Revenue - Facility Use	-\$35,000
Increase Staffing - 3 New Teachers, VP at BS, HVAC Technician, .5 HR/Benefits Secy	5.5 Positions
Increase Special Education - Mental Health Support, Summer Support and 1:1 Nurse	\$128,333
Decrease Curriculum	-\$360,062
Increase Technology	\$208,647
Increase Energy Costs and Maint. Projects and supplies (RH Water Tank and HVAC Filters)	\$513,304

2021-2022 Budget Revenues & Expenses

Expenditures		Revenue (Fund 10)	
General Current Expense	\$62,262,237	Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 1,855,523
Capital Outlay	\$ 456,233	Local Tax Levy	\$54,774,236
		Tuition	\$ 101,000
		Misc. Revenue	\$ 280,000
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 872,645		
		SEMI	\$ 94,211
Repayment of Debt	\$ 5,828,050	State Aid	\$ 5,113,500
		Extraordinary Aid	\$ 500,000
		Fund 20	
		Est. Special Revenue	\$ 872,645
		Fund 40	
		Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 337,515
		Local Tax Levy	\$ 4,608,379
		Debt Service Aid	\$ 882,156
Total Expenditures	\$69,419,165	Total Revenue	\$69,419,165

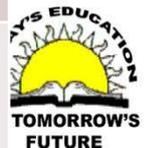


The FY 2021-2022 District Tax Levy:

Tax Levy on Fund 10 increased by 2%

(includes annual debt)

Percent Share	Borough	Township
2021-2022	0.098477323	0.901522677
Change	-\$0.0158	\$0.0298
Change for \$100,000 Borough Home	-\$15.80	n/a
Change for \$200,000 Borough Home	-\$31.60	n/a
Change for \$100,000 Township Home	n/a	\$29.80
Change for \$200,000 Township Home	n/a	\$59.60
Tax for \$100,000 Borough Home	\$1,288.30	n/a
Tax for \$100,000 Township Home	n/a	\$1,264.80



2021-2022 Looking Ahead: Budgeting Strategies for Challenging Times

Continued Loss of State Funding Will Require:

- Increasing Effectiveness
 - Defining and prioritizing funding allocations
- Increasing Efficiency
 - Streamlining processes
 - Reducing Costs for required expenses
- Using high-leverage strategies
 - Carefully considering resources for special education
 - Ensuring highest-quality teaching to meet student needs
- Focusing on communication and collaboration
 - Ensuring stakeholders are well-informed about financial decision-making
 - Inclusive budget development process by establishing trusting, productive relationships with stakeholders.



2021-2022 Looking Ahead: Anticipated Estimated Reduction in State Funding



Proposed Loss of State Funding

Estimated cuts based on Senate Bill 2 language and data from the FY18 State Aid notices from the NJDOE

District	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY 23	FY24	FY 25	Expected Cumulative Cut
Flemington-Raritan Regional School District	\$99,392	\$159,028	\$198,785	\$278,298	\$357,812	\$417,447	\$477,083	\$1,987,845

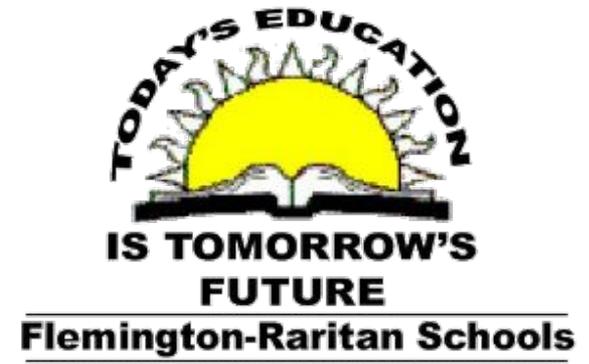
The District is collaborating with the [Support Our Students coalition](#) to work with the governor and legislatures to develop strategies to provide long-term solutions.

Reference:

- <https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-leader/november-december-2018-vol-49-no-3/sate-aid-for-schools-explained/>
- <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/press/2019/April10-LanzaSchoolAidPetition.pdf>



Questions? Comments?



Thank you!



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Mrs. Stephanie Voorhees, Business Administrator
svoorhees@frsd.k12.nj.us (908) 284-7570