

# Holmdel Township Public Schools



2025-2026  
Preliminary/Not to Exceed  
Budget

# Acknowledgments

- ❖ Business Administrator - Mrs. Deborah Donnelly
- ❖ Assistant Business Administrator - Mrs. Jessica DeWysockie
- ❖ Support Staff - Mrs. Theresa Zacharewich
- ❖ Budget & Finance Committee - Mrs. Alison LoPresti (Chair), Mr. John Buckley, Mr. Raymond Kim & Mr. Anthony Libecci
- ❖ District Administration



# Budget Definition and Timeline

- ❖ The Preliminary or “Not to Exceed Budget” must be submitted to the county by March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Work on this budget begins in October.
- ❖ There will be a Public Hearing on the Final Budget on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The budget can change in between but can only be decreased.



# Presentation Overview

The budget presentation will be divided into four parts:

- ❖ **District's Financial History & Costs**
- ❖ **District's Successes & Achievements**
- ❖ **Budget Investments, Efficiencies and Challenges**
- ❖ **Financial Overview & Tax Impact**





# Mission Statement

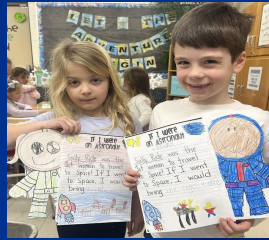
The mission of the Holmdel Township School District is to provide a well-rounded and inclusive education that empowers all students to reach their full potential and thrive. We believe that excellence comes from building strong relationships, embracing a positive attitude toward growth, overcoming challenges with determination, and celebrating our unique differences. Through teamwork and cooperation, we aim to create an environment where students can succeed academically as life-long learners and responsible global citizens.



# Holmdel Township Public Schools

As a school community, we are driven to inspire our students to excel

academically



artistically



athletically



socially and emotionally



# PART I

## District's Financial History & Costs



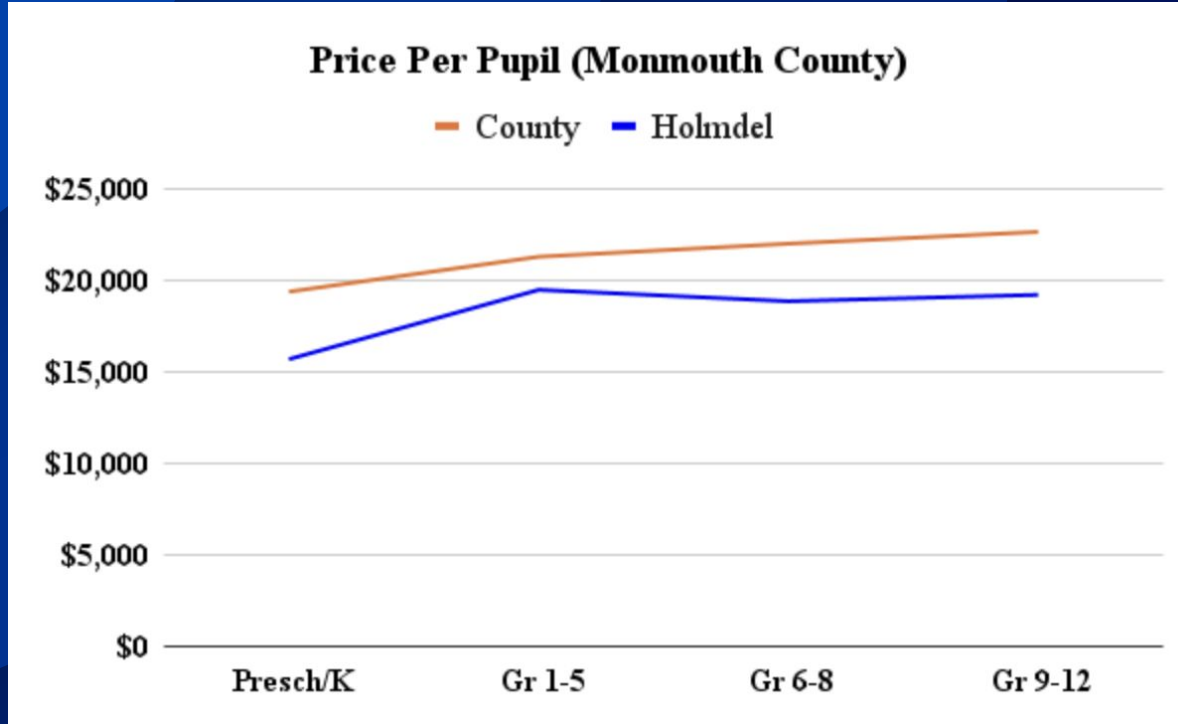
# Fiscal Responsibility Over the Years

- ❖ The District has maintained a track record of financial prudence & efficiency
- ❖ Linked: **February 26th BOE Meeting [Presentation](#) & [Video](#)**



# Staffing and Efficiency

Holmdel per pupil expenditure is **lower** than the county average for all grades.



# Staffing and Efficiency

- ❖ **Student-to-teacher ratio:** 10:1 (just above county median of 9.6)
- ❖ **Administrative staffing:** The following indicators are all below the county median
  - Student-to-administrator ratio
  - Faculty-to-administrator ratio
  - Administrative salaries and benefits



# Teacher Salaries & Contract Settlements

School Year	Holmdel	Percentage Salary Increase - State Average	Percentage Salary Increase - County Average
2024-2025	3.15	3.45	3.48
2023-2024	3.15	3.34	3.42
2022-2023	3.20	3.26	3.37
2021-2022	3.20	3.13	3.30
2020-2021	2.70	3.10	3.22
2019-2020	2.95	3.02	3.12
2018-2019	3.00	2.94	3.01
2017-2018	2.50	2.79	2.83
2016-2017	2.60	2.66	2.72
2015-2016	2.35	2.55	2.63
2014-2015	2.50	2.47	2.37
2013-2014	2.75	2.30	2.40
2012-2013	2.00	2.36	2.37
2011-2012	0.00	2.68	2.76

# Conservative Budgeting & Clean Audits

- ❖ District adopted sub-zero percent budgets in the following school years: 2022-23 (-0.29%) and 2021-22 (-0.42%).
- ❖ Over the last five years, the third-party audits have been completed with no findings





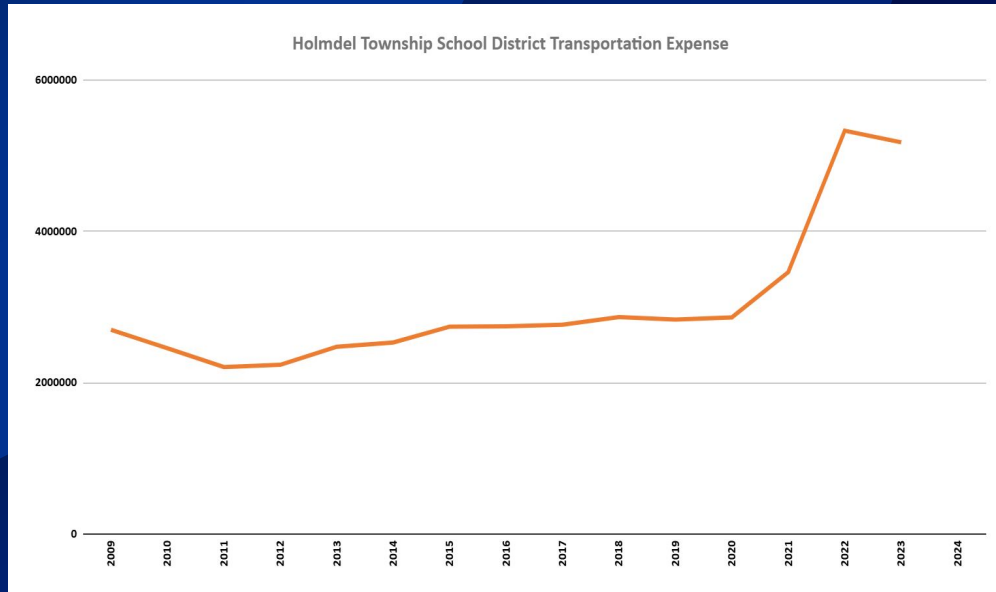
# Rising Costs and Challenges



# Skyrocketing Transportation Costs

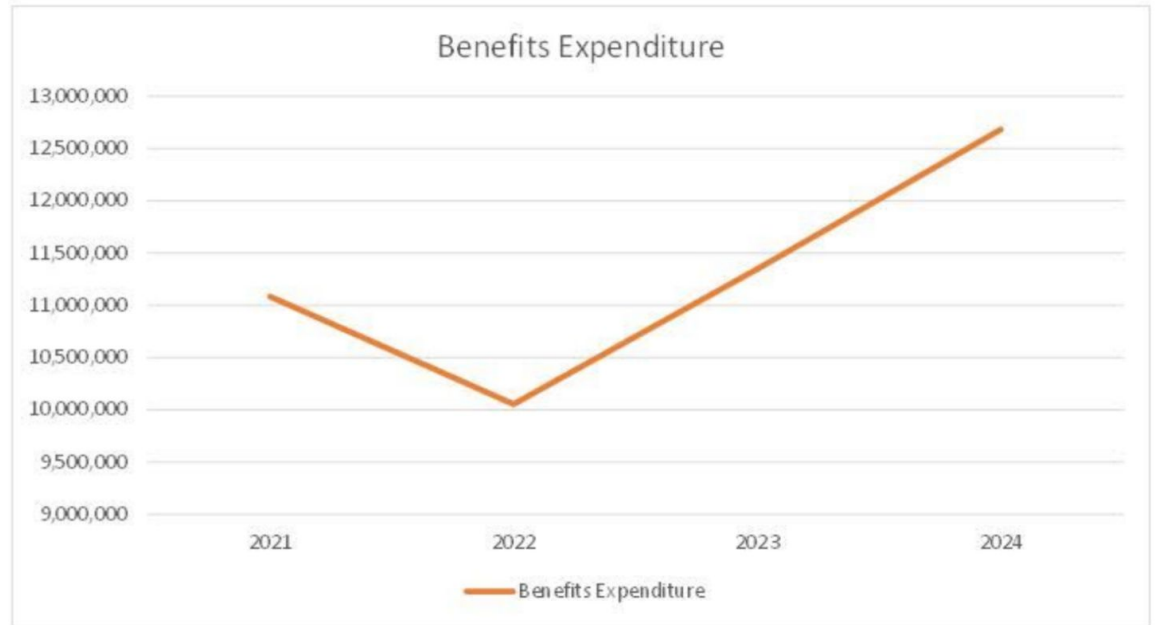
Unprecedented mid-year increase required reallocation of \$2 million

2022	3,457,943	597,164	20.87%
2023	5,325,196	1,867,253	54.00%



# Rising Benefit Costs

Year	Benefits Expenditure
2021	11,083,312
2022	10,052,772
2023	11,346,285
2024	12,683,287



# Positions Cut/Eliminated 2022-2025

<u>2024-2025</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>	
	<u>Location</u>		<u>Location</u>
Supervisor Elementary Education	Village/Indian Hill	Math Coach	Indian Hill
5th Grade Teacher	Indian Hill	Literacy Coach	Indian Hill
Media Specialist	Village School	Literacy Coach	Satz/HHS
Special Education Teacher	Satz	Math Coach	Satz/HHS
Administrative Assistant	B&G	Math Interventionist	Village School
Director C&I	Districtwide	Special Education Teacher	Indian Hill
Technology Administrator	Districtwide	Custodian	High School
<u>2022-2023</u>		4th Grade Science Teacher	Indian Hill
	<u>Location</u>	Special Education Teacher	Indian Hill
Literacy Interventionist	Village/Indian Hill	Social Studies Teacher	High School
2nd Grade Teacher	Village School		

## Part II

### Against the Wind

# District's Successes & Achievements



# Forward Momentum Amidst Global Shutdown

- ❖ **\$40M Referendum – Successful Implementation**
  - Completed in the spring and summer of 2020
  - Middle & High School modernization completed
- ❖ **Leading in Pandemic Recovery**
  - Among the **first NJ districts** to return to in-person learning
  - “Holmdel Township School District students experienced approximately half a month [growth] in math learning (.04 grade equivalents) and over one month (.14 grade equivalents) in reading learning. This was the **ONLY** district to experience positive gains in math and reading in the state.”

[Harvard/Stanford Study](#)

# Rankings and Ratings

- ❖ Holmdel High School continues to climb in **U.S. News & World Report Rankings**
- ❖ Recognized as **#1 School District in Monmouth County** according to [Niche](#)
- ❖ **Village, Indian Hill and Satz Middle School** ranked among the top schools in New Jersey

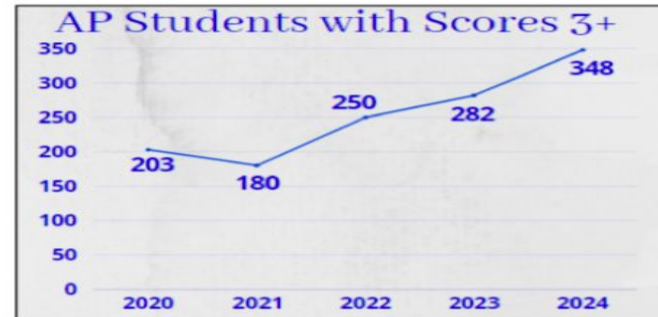


# Steady Increase & Success Rates in AP Course Enrollment



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST STATISTICS

Year	Number of Exams	Percentage of Total AP Students with Scores of 3 or Higher
2024	1,006	84.88%
2023	870	80.23%
2022	823	78.3%
2021	625	70.3%
2020	542	89.0%



During the 2023-2024 school year, 410 students in grades 9-12 were enrolled in 28 different AP courses, a 17.48% increase from the 2022-2023 school year.



# A Double-Edged Sword



- ❖ There are currently 120 Holmdel Students grades 9-12 attending Vocational Schools/High Schools.
- ❖ This equates to roughly \$890,000 in tuition costs (not including transportation).
- ❖ Last school year, there were 49 applications to the MCVSD, with 31 attending.
- ❖ This year, out of the 61 students who applied, 35 students were accepted into the MCVSD for the 2025-26 school year.
- ❖ Most districts send 2 students per school, last year we sent over 20 students to Biotechnology and Hi-Tech High School combined.

## Part III

# Budget Investments, Efficiencies and Challenges



# 2025-2026 Budget Goals

- ❖ Ensure that our schools are secure, well-run and well maintained
- ❖ Recruit and retain outstanding professionals
- ❖ Attract more students to remain in Holmdel for their high school education
- ❖ Maintain and accelerate Holmdel Township Schools upward ranking trajectory
- ❖ Support opportunities for students' intellectual, social-emotional growth and well-being
- ❖ Use funding efficiently to maximize the community's investment and achieve district goals and 5 Year Strategic Plan
- ❖ Meet the need for staffing, supplies and materials to expanding focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning in order to meet and exceed the NJ Student Learning Standards

# 2025-2026 Budget Highlights



- ❖ Maintaining class size which enables effective teaching and learning
- ❖ Maintaining investments in the operation and maintenance of safe schools
- ❖ Adding human & curricular resources to support student mental & social emotional health
- ❖ Implementation of a digital curriculum warehouse
- ❖ Implementation of a unified school district communications hub
- ❖ Ensuring access to technology for all students
- ❖ Support and expand curricular and co-curricular programs
- ❖ Augmenting instructional inclusion services for special needs students

# Proposed Investments

- ❖ Data Triangle Strategic Plan Surveys and Data Analytics Dashboard
- ❖ Parent Square Platform/White-Listed Holmdel App
- ❖ Complimentary Testing Reimbursement
- ❖ Courtesy Bussing for 740+ Students
- ❖ HIBSTER Anti-Bullying Program
- ❖ Linewize student threat and safety monitoring software
- ❖ Character Strong K-12 Curriculum Program
- ❖ PBIS Supports (staff training, program materials & data management systems/software tools)



# Academic Investments

- ❖ Installation of High School Aquaponics Lab in partnership with the HFEE
- ❖ Highly qualified staff who are credentialed to teach 18 dual-enrollment courses
- ❖ Continued expansion of Open SciEd in grades 6-8
- ❖ Updated K-3 Math Program, 2024 enVisions
- ❖ Newsela License for Middle School Social Studies
- ❖ Subsidizing of PSAT, Seal of Biliteracy and AP testing
- ❖ Updated ChromeBooks for 9th grade
- ❖ Waggle and Freckle Math & ELA assessment and practice software
- ❖ New dual enrollment Honors Genocide Studies course at Holmdel High School
- ❖ Instructional technology/platforms to promote success in Advanced Placement courses
- ❖ Atlas Curriculum Management System



# Schedule B Investments



- ❖ Continued funding of supplies, equipment, facility rentals, emergency services and supplies
- ❖ Continued funding of announcers, referees, scoreboard attendees
- ❖ Additional funding for added supports
- ❖ Wrestling Assistant Coach - 2nd due to participation growth
- ❖ Cross Country Assistant Coach - WRS - new due to participation growth
- ❖ Indian Hill Entrepreneurship Club expanded to full year

# Budget Efficiencies & Support



- ❖ Departmental and school based budgets - shared budget cuts
- ❖ Staffing efficiencies realized through attrition & Reduction in Force (3 Positions)
- ❖ Utilization of grants/additional revenue stream; security grants, Title I, IDEA, HFEE donations, etc.
- ❖ Shared Service Agreements with Holmdel Township for budget support - SLEOs (\$250,000) and Maintenance (\$600,000)



# 2025-2026 Budget Challenges and Beyond

- ❖ Managing current CBA costs (expiring contract - June 30,2025)
- ❖ Managing increase in health benefits costs (despite change in insurance carrier, over \$500K savings from 2/1/25 to 1/31/26)
- ❖ Managing increase in tuition costs for students attending schools other than Holmdel (Vocational and Special Education placements)
- ❖ Meeting existing and new state and federal mandates
- ❖ Managing anticipated increase in energy costs
- ❖ Protecting and growing our future ready infrastructure with minimal capital and maintenance reserves available
- ❖ 25-26 budget utilizes the last of any banked cap - \$1.3 million (tax levy)
- ❖ Reduction in state aid for 25-26 of \$154K (\$225K w/o 3% floor) – future years unknown
- ❖ No funds remain from American Rescue Plan (ARP - pandemic funds)

## Part IV

# Financial Overview & Tax Impact



# Breakdown of Budget Revenues

Budget Category	School Year 2025-2026	School Year 2024-2025	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Local Property Taxes-General	\$65,317,943	\$61,591,955	\$3,725,988	6.0%
State Aid-DOE	\$4,981,079	\$5,135,133	(\$154,054)	(-3.0%)
State Aid-Extraordinary Aid	\$269,058	\$269,058	\$0	0%
Federal Aid-SEMI	\$1,855	\$21,771	(\$19,916)	(91.5%)
Fund Balance	\$305,000	\$850,000	(\$545,000)	(64.12%)
Other Restricted Funds -Maintenance	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000	100%
Other Revenue	<u>\$564,170</u>	<u>\$575,000</u>	<u>(\$10,830)</u>	<u>(1.88%)</u>
Total General Fund	\$72,039,105	\$68,442,917	\$3,596,188	5.25%

# Breakdown of Tax Levy Increase

24-25 Tax Levy (excluding debt service)	\$61,591,955	
2% Allowable Increase	\$ 1,231,839	
Add: Banked Cap (22-23)	\$ 1,300,770	
Add: Healthcare Adjustment	<u>\$ 1,193,379</u>	
Tax Levy Increase 25-26	\$ 3,725,988	
25-26 Tax Levy (excluding debt service)	<u>\$65,317,943</u>	6.0%

# State Aid History

Budget Year	Aid Amount	\$ Change	% Change
2020-2021	\$2,727,367		
2021-2022	\$3,362,192	\$634,825	23.3%
2022-2023	\$4,103,461	\$741,269	22.0%
2023-2024	\$4,725,189	\$621,728	15.2%
2024-2025	\$5,135,133	\$409,944	8.7%
2025-2026	\$4,981,079	(-\$154,054)	-3.0%

# Fund Balance History

	Audited Undesignated Fund Balance	Fund Balance included in subsequent year Budget
June 30, 2021	\$2,688,948	\$2,150,000
June 30, 2022	\$3,024,684	\$2,150,000
June 30, 2023	\$ 669,948	\$1,150,000
June 30, 2024	\$ 564,515	\$ 850,000
June 30, 2025*	\$ 259,515	\$ 305,000

\*Anticipated balance if no additional funds can be added from the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

# 2025-2026 Tax Levy Impact

Budget Category	School Year 2025-2026	School Year 2024-2025	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Local Property Taxes – General	\$65,317,943	\$61,591,955	\$3,725,988	6.05%
Local Property Taxes – Debt Service	<u>\$2,450,425</u>	<u>\$2,453,774</u>	<u>(\$3,349)</u>	<u>(0.14%)</u>
Total Local Property Taxes	\$67,768,368	\$64,045,729	\$3,722,639	5.81%

Increase represents an estimated total tax rate of \$1.0626

Total tax levy increase equates to an estimated annual tax increase of \$612.94/year or \$51.08/month on the average residential assessed value of \$1,033,216

# Breakdown of Budget Expenditures

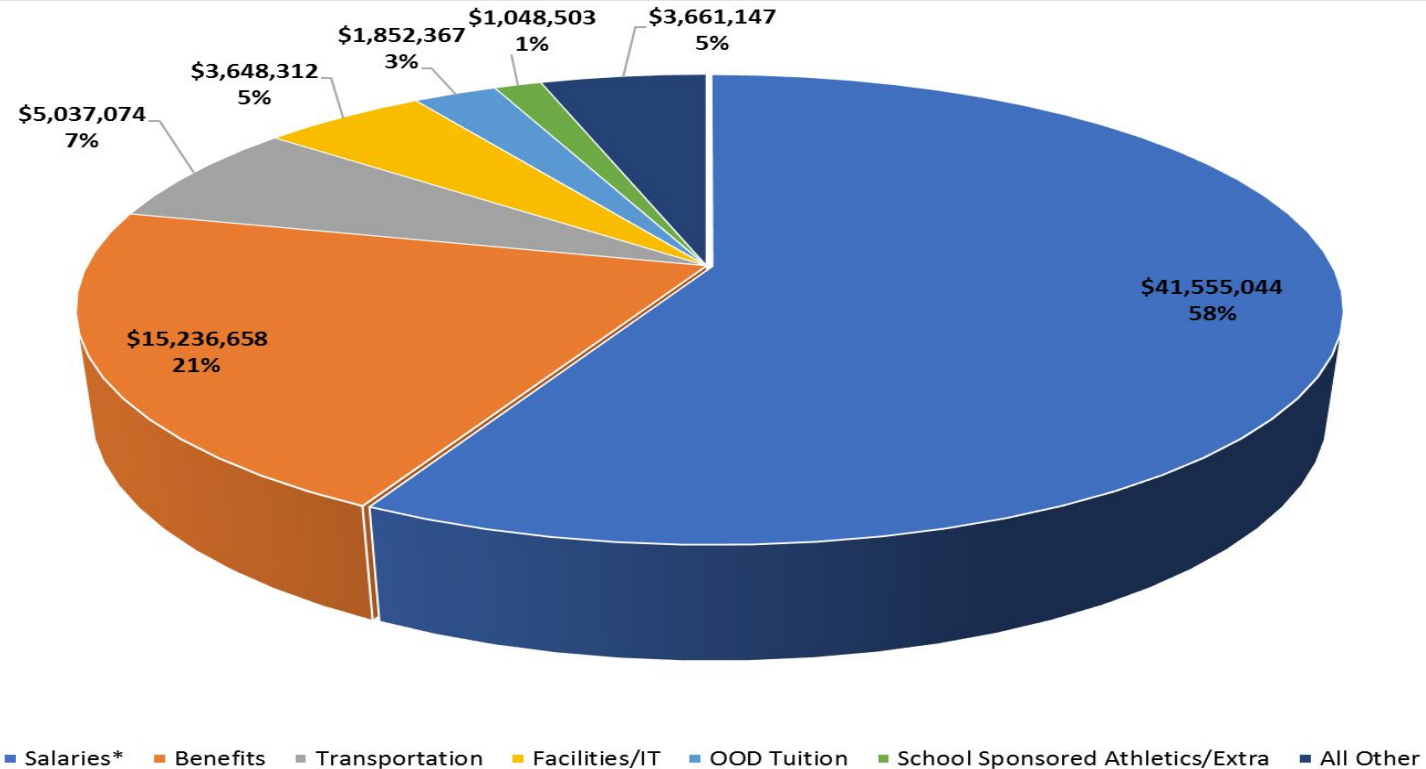
Budget Category	School Year 2025-2026	School Year 2024-2025	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Instruction (Regular Programs, Special Education, Basic Skills, Bilingual Ed, School Sponsored Co/Extra Curricular Activities and Athletics)	\$29,558,437	\$29,028,610	\$529,827	1.83%
Student Support Services (Health Services, Speech, OT/PT Related Services, CST, Guidance, Media/Library Services, Staff PD)	\$8,944,385	\$8,596,713	\$347,672	4.04%
Tuition-Out of District (General, Special Education, County Vocational Schools)	\$1,852,367	\$1,496,619	\$355,748	23.77%
School & Central Administration	\$3,552,633	\$3,590,174	(\$37,541)	-1.05%
Operation & Maintenance of Plant Services (Custodial/Maintenance/Grounds Services, Security Services, Lunch/Playground Aides, Bus Monitors)	\$7,359,621	\$6,747,130	\$612,491	9.08%
Student Transportation Services	\$5,037,074	\$4,492,208	\$544,866	12.13%
Personal Services-Employee Benefits (Health, FICA, PERS Pension, Workers Compensation, Tuition Reimbursement)	<u>\$15,272,658</u>	<u>\$13,850,148</u>	<u>\$1,422,510</u>	<u>10.27%</u>
<b>Total General Fund Current Expense</b>	<b>\$71,577,175</b>	<b>\$67,801,602</b>	<b>\$3,775,573</b>	<b>5.57%</b>



# Breakdown of Budget Expenditures (con't)

Budget Category	School Year 2025-2026	School Year 2024-2025	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total General Fund Current Expense	\$71,577,175	\$67,801,602	\$3,775,573	5.57%
Total Capital Outlay-Equipment, Facility Acquisition & Construction Services (Equipment, MCIA Lease, SDA Debt Service)	<u>\$461,930</u>	<u>\$641,315</u>	<u>(\$179,385)</u>	<u>(27.97%)</u>
General Fund Grand Total	\$72,039,105	\$68,442,917	\$3,596,188	5.25%

# Major Budget Expenditures by Category



\*Salaries excludes Athletics/Extra Curricular Stipends

# Holmdel Township Public Schools

For additional information regarding the 2025-2026 budget or other district matters, please visit the district website at: [www.holmdelschools.org](http://www.holmdelschools.org)

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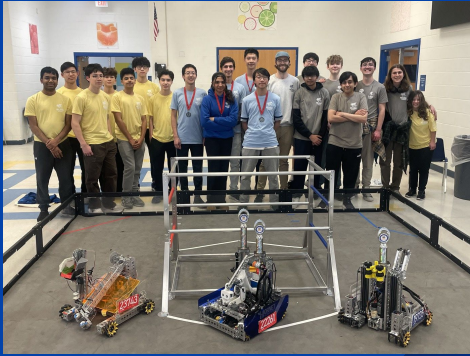
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# Thank you!

An education is the investment with the greatest returns.

Benjamin Franklin

[@quoteology](#)



#WeAreHolmdel

#LiveHolmdelBlue

#HolmdelProud