



MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
423 Buckelew Avenue
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831
www.monroe.k12.nj.us

DR. CHARI ROBYNNE CHANLEY
Superintendent of Schools
DR. ADAM M. LAYMAN
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
LAURA ALLEN, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Tel: 732-521-1500
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October 2, 2024

VIA EMAIL ONLY: opra+request-67326-5e1ec705@requests.opramachine.com

Anonymous

RE: OPRA Request dated September 30, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam:

As custodian of records for the Monroe Township Board of Education ("Board" and/or "District"), I am writing this letter in response to your request pursuant to the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) submitted via email September 30, 2024 and received on September 30, 2024.

More specifically, the Board responds to your request below:

"Copy of the Budget Philosophy Presentation made at the September 25, 2024 meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education."

Enclosed please find a copy of the records responsive to your request.

This correspondence and the foregoing information constitute the Board's full and complete response to your OPRA request and therefore, your OPRA request is closed.

Sincerely,

Lisa Goldstein
OPRA Secretary

SUCCESS IS ALWAYS A TEAM EFFORT!!

2025/2026 BUDGET PHILOSOPHY

**Dr. Chari Chanley,
Superintendent of Schools**

**Dr. Adam Layman,
Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

**Ms. Laura Allen, CPA,
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Katie Fabiano, Board President

Ms. Carmen Alvarez, Board Vice President

Ms. Gazala Bohra

Ms. Gail DiPane

Mr. Peter Piro

Ms. Kate Rattner

Ms. Usha Sharma

Mr. Peter Tufano

Mr. Charles Zeichner

Dr. Amanda Peck, Jamesburg Representative

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Ms. Sehaj Chadha

Ms. Siyona Patel

A BUDGET PHILOSOPHY ...

- The philosophy of establishing the annual school budget should entail the creation of a framework for a budget that supports a democratic plan of appropriate funding for the implementation of educational programs so that students may develop and learn from quality experiences based on educationally sound and fiscally prudent planning.
- A solid financial base is paramount to ensuring that the school district will be able to meet the responsibility of preparing our students for an increasingly competitive environment.
- The budget philosophy stage should be macro-focused rather than micro-focused, as much more refinement will be required and implemented in the future through the rigorous budget process.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER IN BUDGETING

**Educational programs
and district vision/mission/
goals.**

**Enrollment projections for
district, buildings and courses.**

**Staffing levels for classrooms,
support and administrative
staff.**

**Class size at varying grade
levels.**

**Negotiated salaries/benefits for
negotiating units and non-unit
personnel.**

**Inflation as well as known
increases in fixed costs.**

**Equipment replacement
schedules and needs.**

Transportation.

**Maintenance/upgrade of
buildings/LRFP.**

**Unanticipated General Fund
Balance (surplus).**

**Evaluation of projected
revenues (tuitions, building use
rental fees, grants, etc.) and
projected local property tax
impact.**

Long Range Technology Plan.

Special Education Costs.

**Professional Development
Costs.**

- **PRIORITIES:**

- **Student and Staff safety**
- **Maintain current programs and staff**
- **Address capital improvement needs**

PRELIMINARY PROJECTED INCREASES/(DECREASES)
IN 2025-26 GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOURCES

<u>GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUE CATEGORY</u>	<u>2024-25 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025-26 PRELIMINARY PROJECTED BUDGET</u>	<u>PRELIMINARY PROJECTED INCREASE/(DECREASE)</u>
General Fund Tax Levy	\$ 120,217,578	\$125,447,307	\$5,229,729
General Fund State Aid-Categorical	12,672,071	12,672,071	-
Tuition-Jamesburg	4,262,500	4,262,500	-
Transportation Fees-Jamesburg	256,523	256,523	-
Federal Aid	83,539	83,539	-
Miscellaneous	850,500	850,500	-
Transfers from Other Funds	400,000	275,000	(125,000)
Summer School/ After School Enrichment	135,000	135,000	-
Excess Surplus (unaudited)	1,436,316	2,846,495	1,410,179
Additional Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>1,750,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,750,388)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 142,064,415</u>	<u>\$146,828,935</u>	<u>\$4,764,520</u>

Projections based on estimates

2025/26 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET
PRELIMINARY PROJECTED TAX LEVY REVENUE

	<u>Amount</u>
Prebudget Year Adjusted Tax Levy Inflated by 2%	\$122,621,930
Other Preliminary Projected Adjustments	2,825,377
Preliminary Projected Tax Levy 25/26	<u>\$125,447,307</u>
Preliminary Projected Increase in General Tax Levy from 24-25	<u>5,229,729</u>

PRELIMINARY PROJECTED GENERAL FUND STATE AID REVENUES

	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u> (preliminary projected)	<u>Increase</u> (preliminary projected)
Equalization Aid	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Categorical Aid:			
Special Education Aid	\$7,593,810	\$7,593,810	0
Security Aid	681,073	681,073	0
Transportation Aid	3,999,704	3,999,704	0
Extraordinary Aid	397,484	397,484	
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>\$12,672,071</u>	<u>\$12,672,071</u>	<u>0</u>

Anticipated Increase in General Fund State Aid 0

Projections based on estimates