



# 2025-2026 Budget Presentation

May 5,

2025

**Mrs. Jennifer Aquino**, Acting Superintendent  
**Mr. Mark Kramer**, School Business Administrator

**Franklin Township Board of Education**

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Franklin Township School, in partnership with the entire community, is to educate all students to the fullest extent of their individual capabilities, to foster a desire for excellence and prepare students to succeed in future educational endeavors, in order to become responsible, respectful members in a democratic society.



# Key Operational Considerations

## Transportation

- Courtesy busing will be maintained
- Elimination determined not viable due to:
  - Student safety concerns
  - The route is considered hazardous for walking (no sidewalks)

As per the NJ DOE: Boards of education are not required to provide busing for students solely for hazardous routes. However, they have the discretion to designate hazardous routes and provide transportation accordingly, at their own discretion and expense (no state funding is provided for these students). Districts are permitted to charge the student's parents or legal guardians for this service. Municipalities may also contract with boards of education for this service and charge the parents. The term for transportation services that require a fee is called subscription busing.



# Key Operational Considerations

## School Security

- Class 3 officer position remains essential
- Security officer's critical functions:
  - Enhanced security posture
  - Threat assessment team participation
  - Assists with all lockdowns
  - Hallway monitoring
  - Communication with local law enforcement
  - Parking and traffic safety
  - School event security - both day and evening
  - Security for students while outside



# Personnel Adjustments: Teaching Staff

**4th Grade:** Reducing from two classes to one

- Currently 23 third-grade students
- Three receive resource room services
- Results in 20 students in general education classroom

**Polled 13 Hunterdon County Superintendents on average class size:**

- Grade 3 - 18.5 students
- Grade 4 - 18.25



# Personnel Adjustments: Teaching Staff

## **Gifted & Talented Program:**

- Continuing to elevate and improve the quality of our program
- Targeted professional development for one devoted G&T teacher
- Transitioning from proposed full-time to half-time position based on numbers of students
- Remaining half-time allocated to intervention/resource services



# Personnel Adjustments: Teaching Staff (continued)

## **Resource Rooms:**

- Reducing from five to four - Based on student individualized educational plans (IEPs)

## **Intervention Services:**

- Maintaining one full-time interventionist
- One part-time interventionist (Chapter 44 adjustment)

**Preschool:** Adding resources to meet enrollment growth (All funded by State Aid)

- One classroom along with full-time Preschool Relief teacher
- Full-time Preschool Coach (currently shared with Union)



# Personnel Adjustments: Support Staff

## **Paraprofessionals:**

- Transitioning from contracted services (J&B Therapy)
- Moving to in-house hiring (2)
- Provides better control of personnel selection
- Encouraging them to feel a part of the FTS family community





# Reductions in Force (RIF)

Due to budgetary constraints, implementing two reductions:

1. Part-time technology position
2. One part-time interventionist position



# Future Considerations

- Administrative team structure to be evaluated in the future
- Currently maintain more full-time administrative positions than typical for district size
- These positions necessary in short term



# Long Term Planning and Future Challenges

- Focus on Curriculum & Instruction along with curriculum writing
- Use district assessment data to align to professional development
- Revisit the writing of the strategic plan/district goals
- Assess Intervention Strategies for students to obtain grade level academic achievement. This should result in student growth and a reduction of costs to maintain and maximize student programs with budget constraints



# Long Term Planning and Future Challenges

- Explore opportunities for more in-district tuition-based programming
- Explore grant funding sources
- The possibility of creating an Education Foundation
- The possibility of participation in NHV regionalization study
- Explore transportation costs



# Numbers



Tax Levy Increase History vs. Selected Expenditures						
School Year	Tax Levy Increase	Salary Increases %	Employee Benefit Increases	Transport Increases	Special Education	Inflation Rate
2024-2025	6.67%	6.40%	24.80%	25.02%	24.40%	2.70%
2023-2024	3.00%	6.98%	7.08%	11.59%	13.14%	3.40%
2022-2023	1.99%	8.18%	7.29%	26.30%	35.51%	6.50%
2021-2022	2.00%	8.02%	7.06%	27.62%	25.65%	7.00%
2020-2021	2.00%	0.54%	6.61%	0.27%	4.61%	1.40%
2019-2020	3.53%	-6.97%	2.74%	-18.16%	18.41%	2.30%
2018-2019	2.00%	-4.83%	25.02%	14.21%	11.09%	1.90%
2017-2018	2.00%	6.94%	-5.71%	-34.56%	-8.81%	2.10%
2016-2017	1.96%	-2.12%	-0.44%	377.80%	5.29%	2.10%
2015-2016	2.00%	14.30%	-10.24%	-61.96%	-8.82%	0.70%
2014-2015	2.00%	-4.23%	2.02%	-17.92%	-13.61%	0.80%
2013-2014	2.00%	1.06%	0.34%	-6.81%	6.35%	1.50%
Average Over 12 Years	2.60%	2.86%	5.55%	28.62%	9.43%	2.70%



# Budget Development Information

- 2% tax levy equates to \$136,638
- State aid: reduced by \$106,905 - (Extraordinary Aid)
  - State's budgeting practices
- 2% increase to salaries equates to \$79,498
- 12% increase to health benefits equates to \$103,481
- 16% increase to general liability insurance equates to \$17,643
- Increase to transportation equates to \$100,473



# Budget Development Information

- Increase to utilities equates to \$37,500
- Increase to substitute daily pay equates to \$45,041
- New co-curricular activity stipends \$10,500
- Increase in Special Education costs for tuition, related services and Child Study Team \$81,040
- Increase to PERS contribution \$34,078



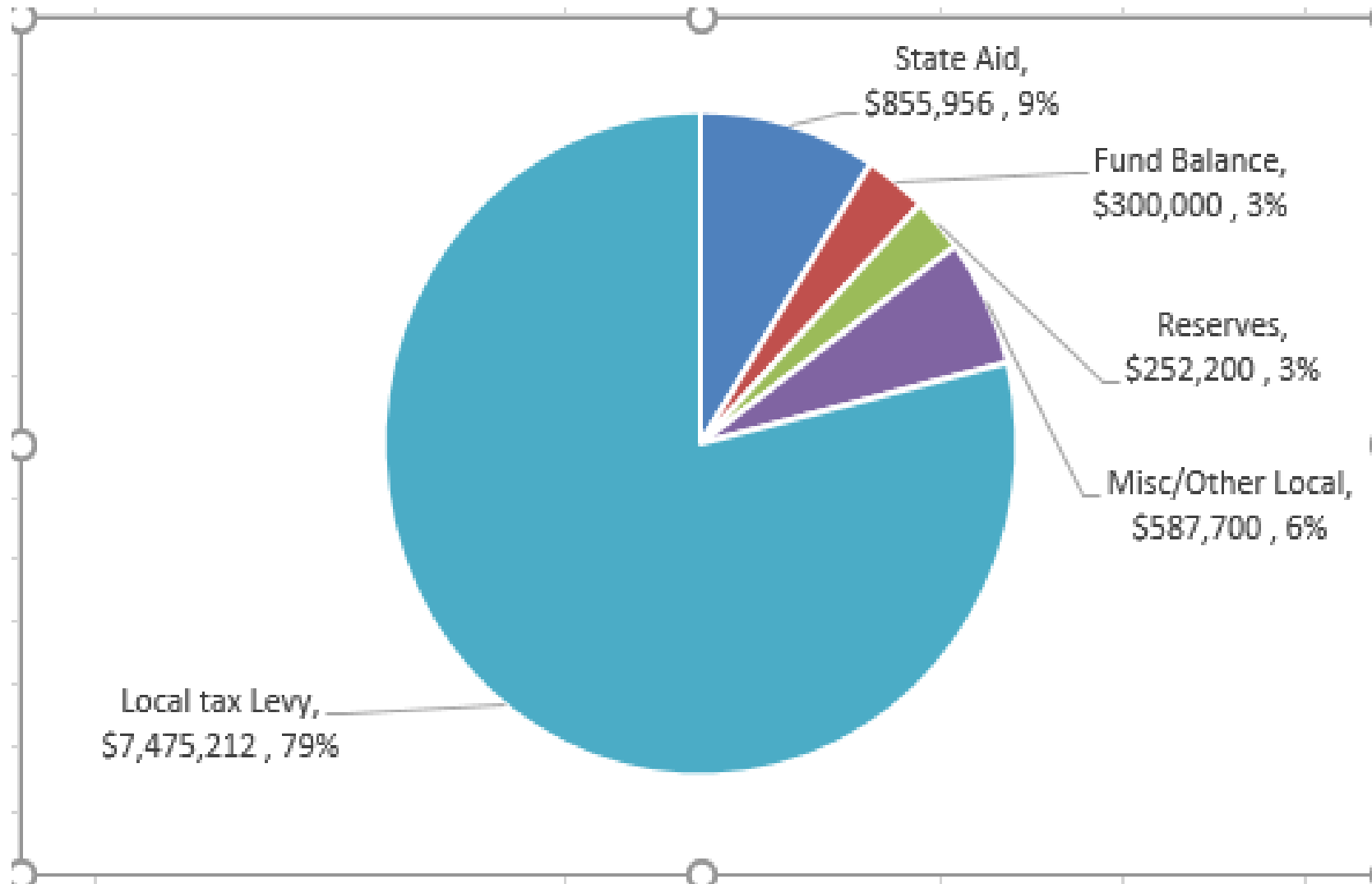


# Budget Revenues and Expenditures

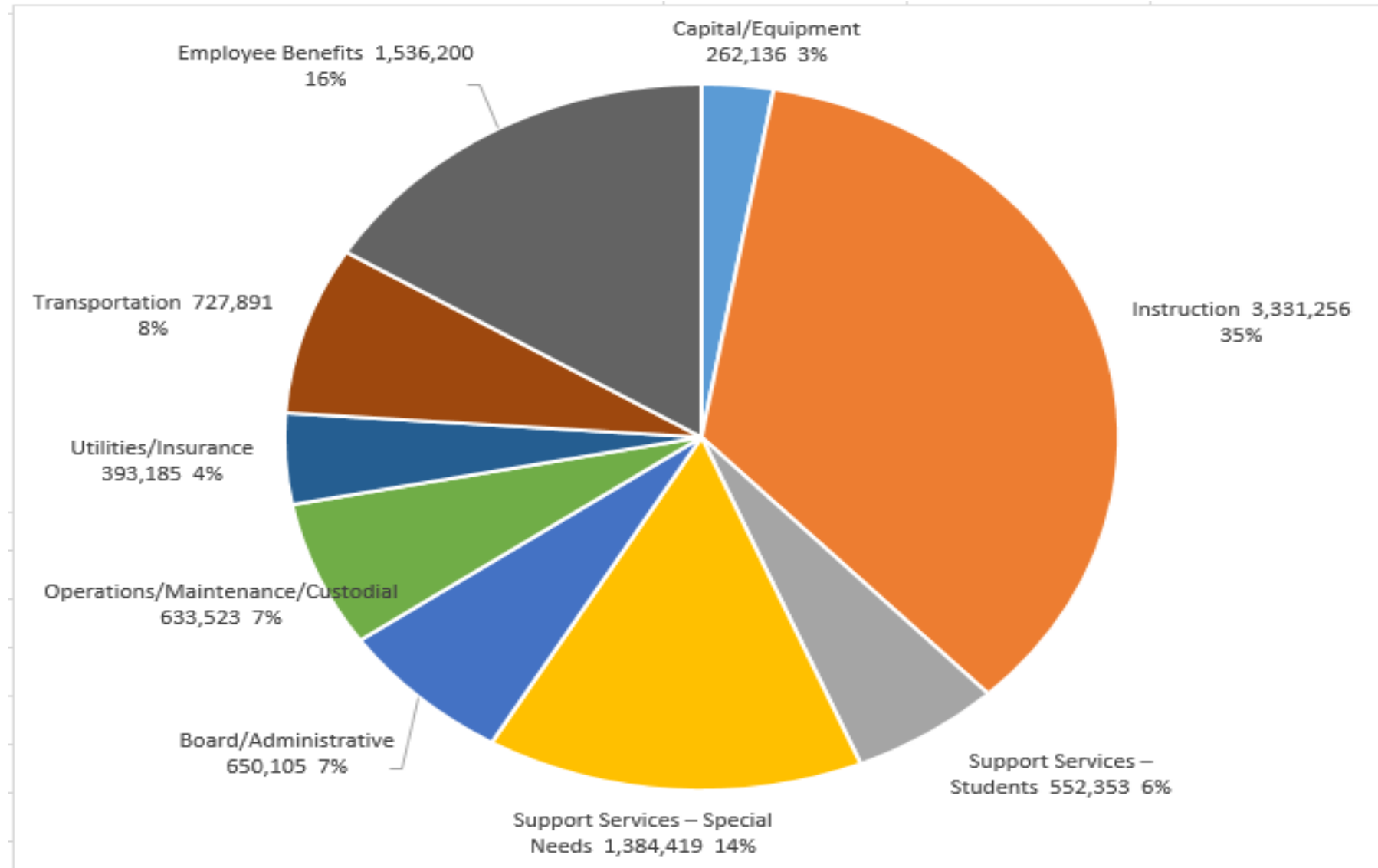
<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Revenues/Sources</u>	
<b>Fund 10</b>		<b>Fund 10</b>	
General Current Expense	\$ 9,201,232	Local Tax Levy	\$ 7,475,212
Equipment	7,700	Tuition Other LEA's	500,000
Capital Expenditures	226,000	Miscellaneous	87,700
SDA Assessment	36,136	State Sources	855,956
		Fund Balance	300,000
		Capital Reserves	225,000
		Maintenance Reserves	27,200
	<u>\$ 9,471,068</u>		<u>\$ 9,471,068</u>
<b>Fund 20</b>		<b>Fund 20</b>	
Special Revenue Expenditures	\$ 951,378	Local Sources	\$ 23,000
		Preschool	875,353
		Title Funds	11,706
		IDEA	41,319
	<u>\$ 951,378</u>		<u>\$ 951,378</u>
<b>Fund 40</b>		<b>Fund 40</b>	
Repayment of Debt	\$ 184,600	Local Tax Levy	\$ 184,600
	<u>\$ 184,600</u>		<u>\$ 184,600</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u><b>\$ 10,607,046</b></u>	<b>Total Revenues/Sources</b>	<u><b>\$ 10,607,046</b></u>



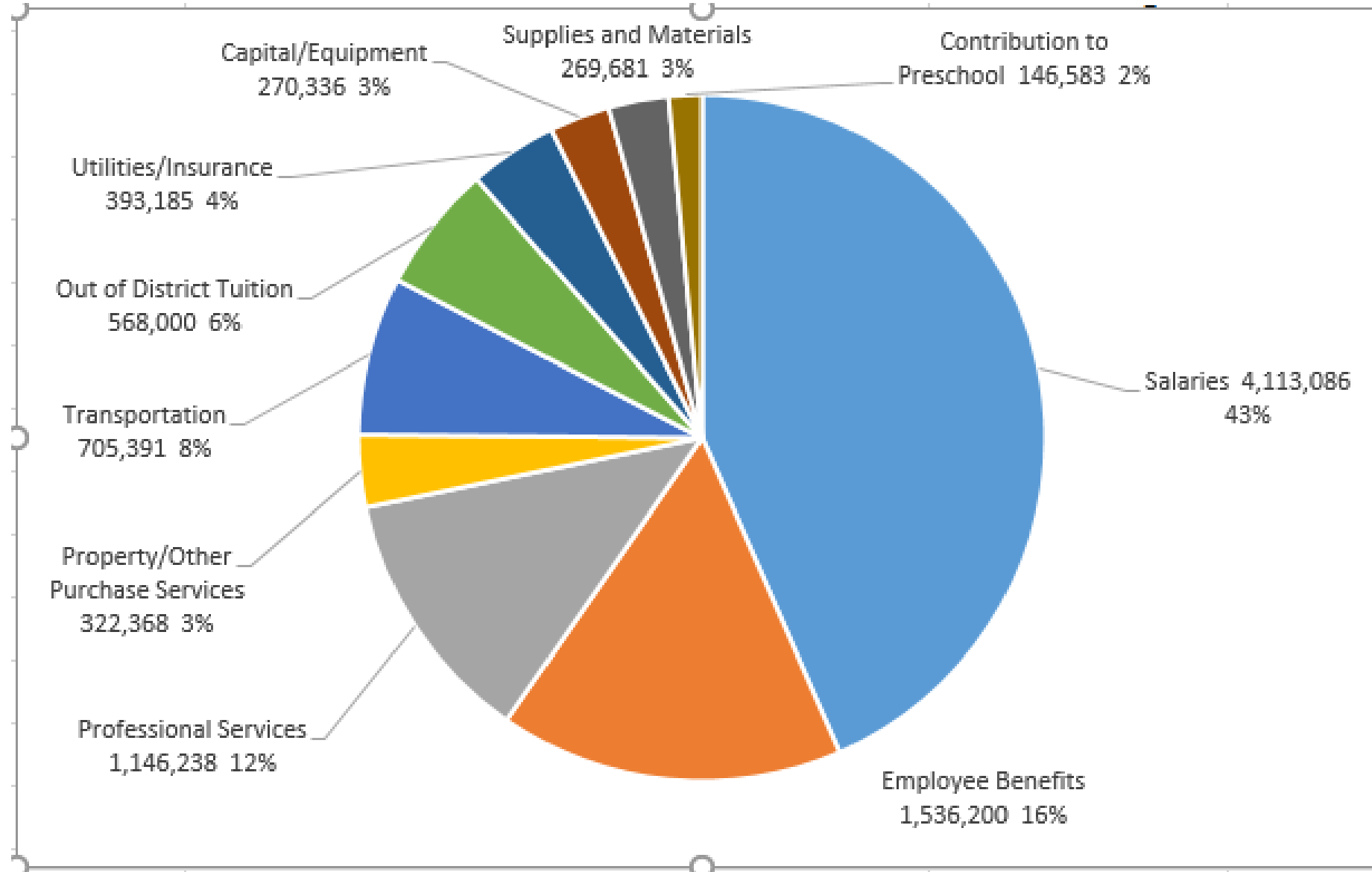
# Operating Revenue/Sources - \$9,471,068



# Operating Expenditures (Function) \$9,471,068



# Operating Expenditures (Object) \$9,471,068



## Franklin Township Board of Education

### Estimated Tax Impact

Source for yellow highlighted figures provided by Franklin Township.

	2024-2025 School Year	2025-2026 School Year	\$ Increase \$ (Decrease)	% Increase	Monthly Increase
Franklin Township Assessments	\$ 549,444,100	\$ 550,672,000			
School Taxes - General	\$ 6,831,875	\$ 7,475,212	\$ 643,337	9.42%	
School Taxes - Debt	\$ 644,800	\$ 124,334	\$ (520,466)	-80.72%	
	\$ 7,476,675	\$ 7,599,546	\$ 122,871	1.64%	
Tax Rate	\$ 0.01361	\$ 0.01380			
Average House Assessment	\$ 429,585	\$ 427,001			
Total School Taxes on Average Home	\$ 5,846	\$ 5,893	\$ 47.16	0.81%	\$ 3.93
For every \$100,000 your house is assessed			\$ 11.04		\$ 0.92

# Conclusion

2025-26 Budget includes support of:

- Small Class Sizes
- Three Preschool sections
  - Supported by the Preschool Expansion Aid Program
- Continuation of a full-time Class III officer
- Full-time In-House Supervisor of Special Services
- Full-time In-House Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction
- Providing relevant professional development
- Maintaining our building and technology infrastructure





**FTS Strong!**