

Understanding the 2026-27 Tax Increase

Franklin Borough School District
Board of Education

A factual guide to the final budget, taxpayer relief, and constructive
state-level advocacy



The increase is real, and residents deserve a straight answer

We hear the concern

A sharp increase affects household budgets.

The district should explain the final numbers plainly, identify what it controlled, and show where state policy shaped the result.

The communication standard

Explain the “why” behind each decision so the Board and the public understand what was approved and why.

One property-tax bill reflects several separate public budgets

Direct each question to the public body that set that portion of the levy.

01 **Franklin Borough K-8 schools**
Local elementary/middle-school levy

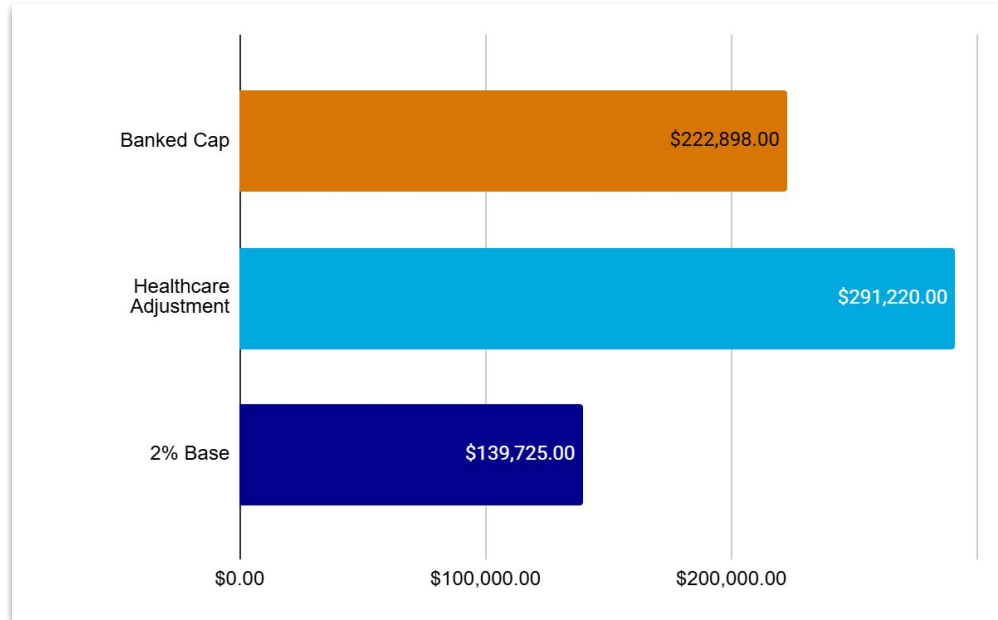
02 **Wallkill Valley Regional**
Separate regional high-school levy and debt

03 **Borough, County and other purposes**
Municipal, county, and other tax components

The school district can explain its levy, but it cannot set the Borough, County, or Wallkill Valley portions.

The final K-8 levy rose 9.36%—here is the full reconciliation

The 2% cap is only the base; State law also permits specific adjustments and banked cap.



\$653,843

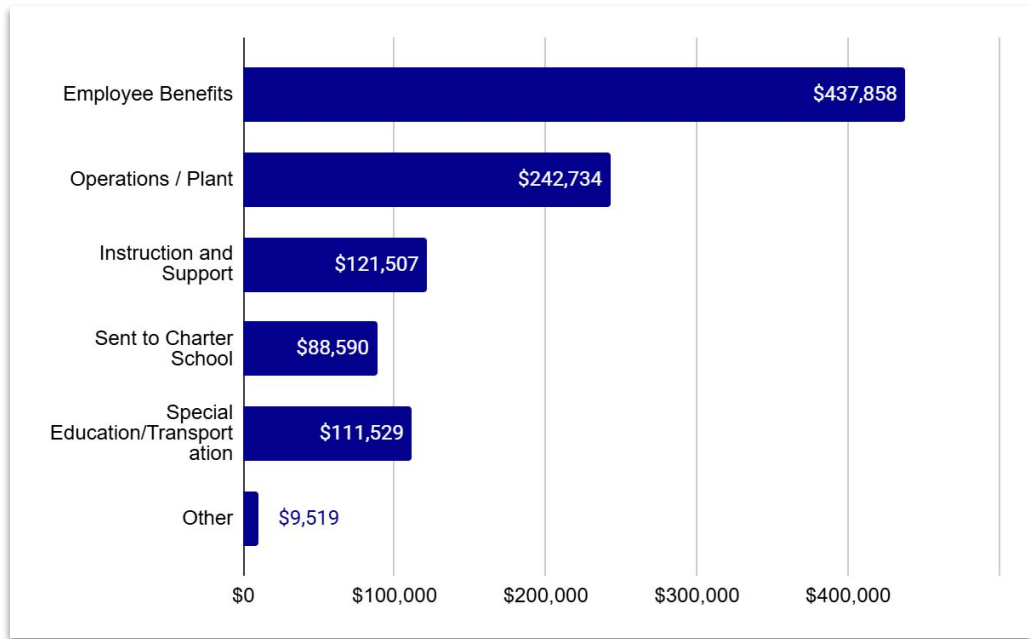
TOTAL LEVY INCREASE

\$6,986,246 → \$7,640,089

The Board used \$291,220 for the healthcare adjustment and \$222,898 of banked cap for salaries and out-of-district tuition.

Benefits and building operations drove two-thirds of the increase

The largest changes were not new administrative layers.



67%

of the \$1.012M Operating Budget increase came from benefits plus operations and maintenance

Benefits rose 18.5%; operations and maintenance rose 19.5%.

The district also used non-tax revenues to support our budget

Franklin's budget is supported by a combination of local taxes, State aid, federal grants, and other district resources.

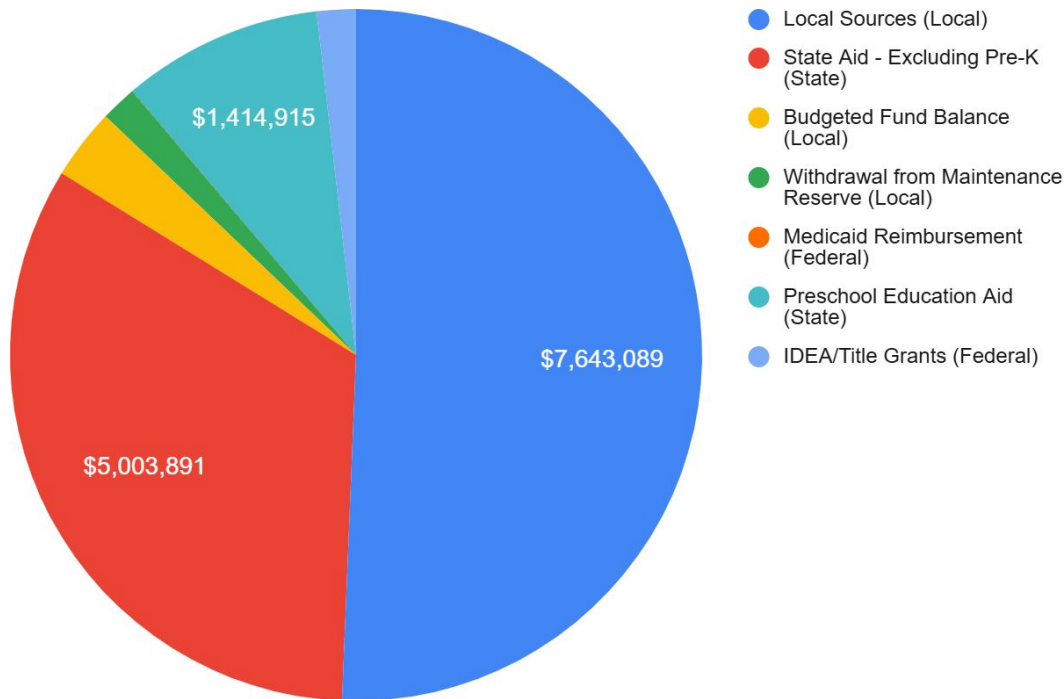
56%

Local Taxes

Share of the 2026–27 total revenues

State Aid Cap Loss

Temporary State legislation capped Franklin's annual State aid increase at just 6%, reducing the district's funding by a cumulative **\$1,683,125** over two years.



Cuts/Cost Savings Measures for the 26/27 School Year

Cuts

- One (1) Full-Time Teacher ~\$105K
- Three (3) Part-Time Paraprofessionals ~\$60K

Cost Saving Considerations

- Insurance Broker (through Brown & Brown)
- Shared Services
 - Supervisor of Building & Grounds (\$25K)
 - Administrative Staff
- Completing projects in-house when possible
 - Refinish Gym Floor
 - Trophy Case
 - Wall padding in Zoom Room

The budget protects learning and essential services

Taxpayers should be able to connect dollars to services students actually receive.

LEARNING

- 95% Phonics in kindergarten through grade 5
- HMH Into Math (1 year contract)
- Chromebooks for grades 1 and 5
- Math & Language Arts Interventionist
- Reading Specialist
- District Behavioral Programs
- Data Assessments (iReady, Dibels, Otus PS Screener & Assessment)
- Gifted & Talented (G&T) Program
- Extended School Year (ESY) Program

SAFETY & FACILITIES

- Server-closet rewiring and incident-response planning
- Annex Hallway flooring (Maintenance Res.)
- Fence and equipment needs (Maintenance Res.)
- Paving of East Parking Lot/Courtyard (Capital Res.)
- Gym Floor (Internal- Operating Budget)
- Trophy Case (Internal- Operating Budget)
- Pads in the Zoom Room (Internal- Operating Budget)

Every major cost should connect to a student or operational need.

Cost pressure extends beyond the school budget

State-administered plan governance

SEHBP rate setting is a State-level policy issue that directly affects local education budgets.

[NJ health-benefit rate reports](#)

\$437,858

>

\$291,220

Franklin's budgeted employee-benefit increase

Healthcare adjustment taken for 26-27

Property-tax relief is available; check eligibility before November 2

New Jersey now uses a coordinated process for ANCHOR, Senior Freeze and Stay NJ.

ANCHOR

Homeowners and renters who meet income and residency rules

[Program details](#)

SENIOR FREEZE

Reimburses eligible seniors and disabled residents for qualifying tax increases

[Program details](#)

STAY NJ

Benefits for eligible homeowners age 65+ with income up to \$200,000

[Program details](#)

NOVEMBER 2, 2026

Deadline for the 2025 property-tax relief application. Senior and qualifying disabled applicants use the combined application.

[Apply / check filing status](#)

Contact New Jersey's 24th Legislative District

School funding, SEHBP governance and statewide tax relief are Trenton issues, not federal congressional issues.

State Leadership

[Senator Vin Gopal](#)

[Senator M. Teresa Ruiz](#)

District 24 Leadership

[Senator Parker Space](#)

[Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia](#)

[Assemblyman Michael Inganamort](#)

Shared office number: (973) 300-0200

[Official District 24 page](#)

Ask for specific action

- Stabilize and make SEHBP costs more transparent
- Make school-aid estimates predictable across multiple years
- Reduce State-controlled cost shifts onto local property taxpayers
- Fully fund effective, accessible property-tax relief

Nonpartisan policy request, not an endorsement campaign.

A message residents can send today

Personalize it with your own tax bill and household impact.

SUBJECT: Structural property-tax relief for Franklin Borough

Dear [State Legislator Name]:

I am a Franklin Borough resident. Our 2026-27 K-8 school levy rose 9.36%. The increase includes a \$291,220 health-care cost adjustment and \$222,898 of banked cap permitted by State law.

Please pursue reforms that stabilize SEHBP costs, make school aid predictable, reduce State-controlled cost shifts to local taxpayers, and fully fund effective property-tax relief. Please tell Franklin residents what specific actions you will support.

Sincerely,

[Name] • [Franklin address]

[Open the official District 24 contact page](#)



FACTS FIRST.
RELIEF NOW.
REFORM NEXT.

Franklin Borough School District will keep explaining the numbers, protecting students, and giving residents clear paths to information and action.