



# School Year 2024-2025

# DISTRICT BUDGET

# Cluster Board of Education

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Superintendent of Schools

Floro M. Villanueva Jr.

School Business Administrator

# SY 2023 - 2024

## Our Successes....

- ▶ The district has ensured ample technology devices to meet the needs of every student and has provided cases for our middle school students
- ▶ NAMM has again acknowledged Closter Public Schools as a distinguished Best Music Community award recipient
- ▶ Use of LinkIt! and Aimsweb for benchmarks in ELA and Math
- ▶ Provide students with after-school enrichment in ELA and Mathematics
- ▶ Initiated the process of securing the modular classrooms, ensuring that the spaces are prepared for the 2024-2025 school year

# SY 2023 - 2024

## Our Successes....

- ▶ Hillside Hello Program welcomed new students and their families for a guided tour of Hillside School and an overview presentation of Hillside School
- ▶ Kindergarten Kickstart afforded incoming kindergarten students the opportunity to meet their teacher and visit their kindergarten classrooms days before the official first day of school.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Closter Police, fourth-grade students participated in the LEAD program
- ▶ Hillside Helpers gave fourth-grade students leadership opportunities to assist visitors with school-wide events (Back to School Night, Parent/Teacher Conferences, music performances)
- ▶ Additional PD opportunities offered within the district to the teachers throughout the 2023-24 SY in Conquer Math and District Partnership with Raritan Valley Community College for Science

# SY 2023 – 2024

## Our Successes....

- ▶ TEP students participated in the NPR Student Podcast Challenge
- ▶ Provided our TMS I&RS Committee with more days to work on providing support and interventions for our students and staff
- ▶ Criterion-Referenced Assessments in TMS Math, Grade 6 Health, Grade 7 Science, and Algebra
- ▶ We collaborated with the Closter Shade Tree Commission to obtain a \$47,940 grant through the Trees for Schools Program
- ▶ The District has been awarded \$67,680 for High-Impact Tutoring for Grades 3 and 4 from Winter to Spring 2024 and July

# Budgetary Goals

- ✓ Maintain class sizes
- ✓ Investment in educational resources
- ✓ Expand student support services
- ✓ Sustainability practices and initiatives
- ✓ Maintain and invest in technology and infrastructure
- ✓ Continue to upgrade facilities
- ✓ Ensure financial stability and reserve funds
- ✓ Maintain fund balance at 2% for FY25

# Budget Highlights

- ✓ Additional Positions
  - ELL Teacher in HES and District School Psychologist
  - Additional 3.30 FTE Paraprofessionals, TMS lunch paras
- ✓ Grant Funded Positions/Programs in Operating Budget
  - Academic Support Program; West Bergen Purchased Services
- ✓ Plan to continue with Go Math for Kindergarten-Grade 4
- ✓ Science Dimensions for Grade 5
- ✓ Big Ideas Math Program for Grades 5-8
- ✓ Funding for Web-based Programs
- ✓ Phase-in Replacement of Teacher and Student Laptops
- ✓ Implement Various Capital Projects using Capital Reserve Fund

# Budget Challenges

- Increasing Costs
  - 6.58% Consumer Price Index
  - Expenses surpassing the 2% tax levy cap
  - Worker's Compensation and Property Insurance
  - Health Benefits
  - Cost of Goods and Services
- Special Education Costs
  - Out-of-District special education placements
  - Transportation
  - Additional required staffing and services



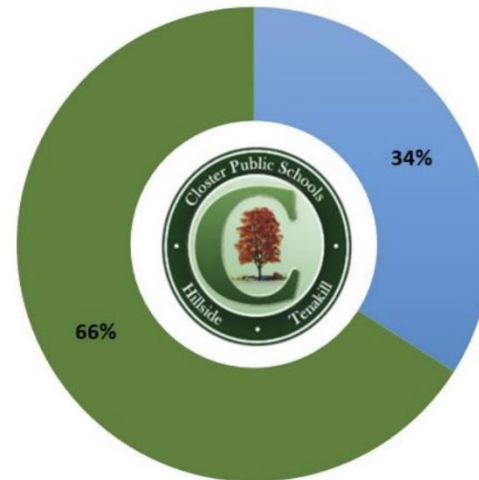
# Budget Development Process

- ✓ Review demographics to project enrollment
- ✓ Budget input by stakeholders, assess fiscal needs of the district
- ✓ Identify capital improvements
- ✓ Discuss budget scenarios with Finance Committee before introduction of tentative budget
- ✓ Receive State Aid notice (February 29, 2024)
- ✓ Board approves the Preliminary Budget (March 5, 2024)
- ✓ Submit Preliminary Budget to the County Office (March 8, 2024)
- ✓ Approval from the County Office (March 15, 2024)
- ✓ Advertise approved budget for Public Hearing (March 28, 2024)
- ✓ Public Hearing and Adoption of the SY 2024-2025 Budget

# September 2023 Bond Referendum

The Closter Community overwhelmingly approved the \$6.5M bond referendum.

## Maximizing State Aid



**Project Costs** - estimated at \$6,489,700. That includes construction and renovation work, professional services, and contingency costs due to inflation.

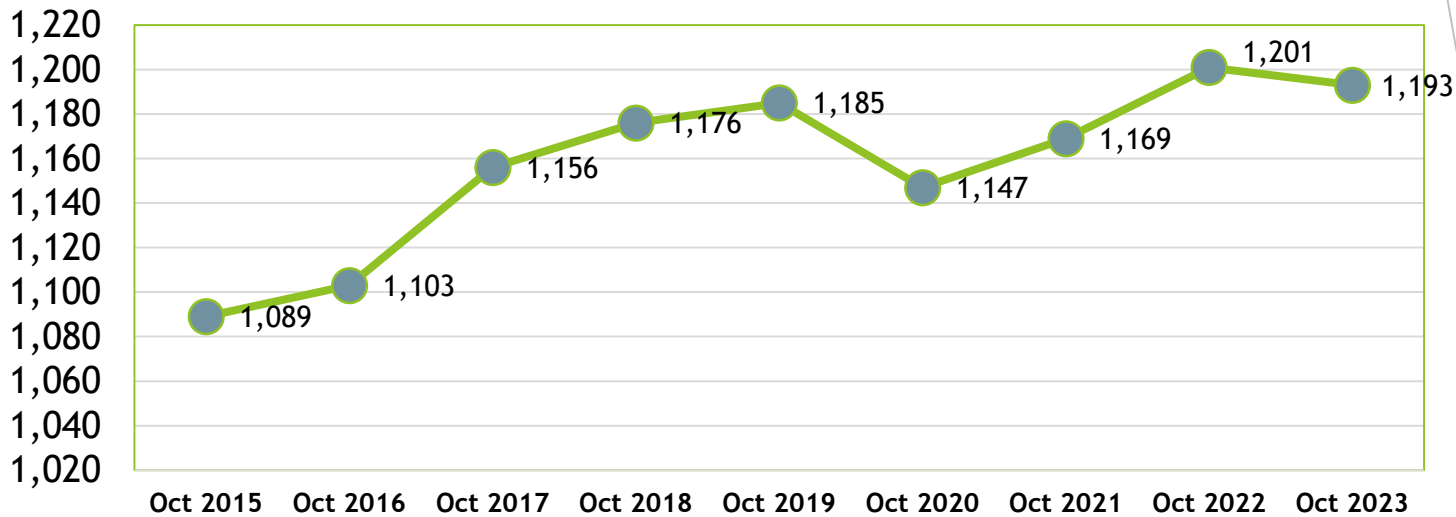
**Debt Service Aid** - estimated at \$2,206,498. All projects submitted are eligible for aid. This is an annual amount provided by the state to make payments.

# September 2023 Bond Referendum

## Projects Update:

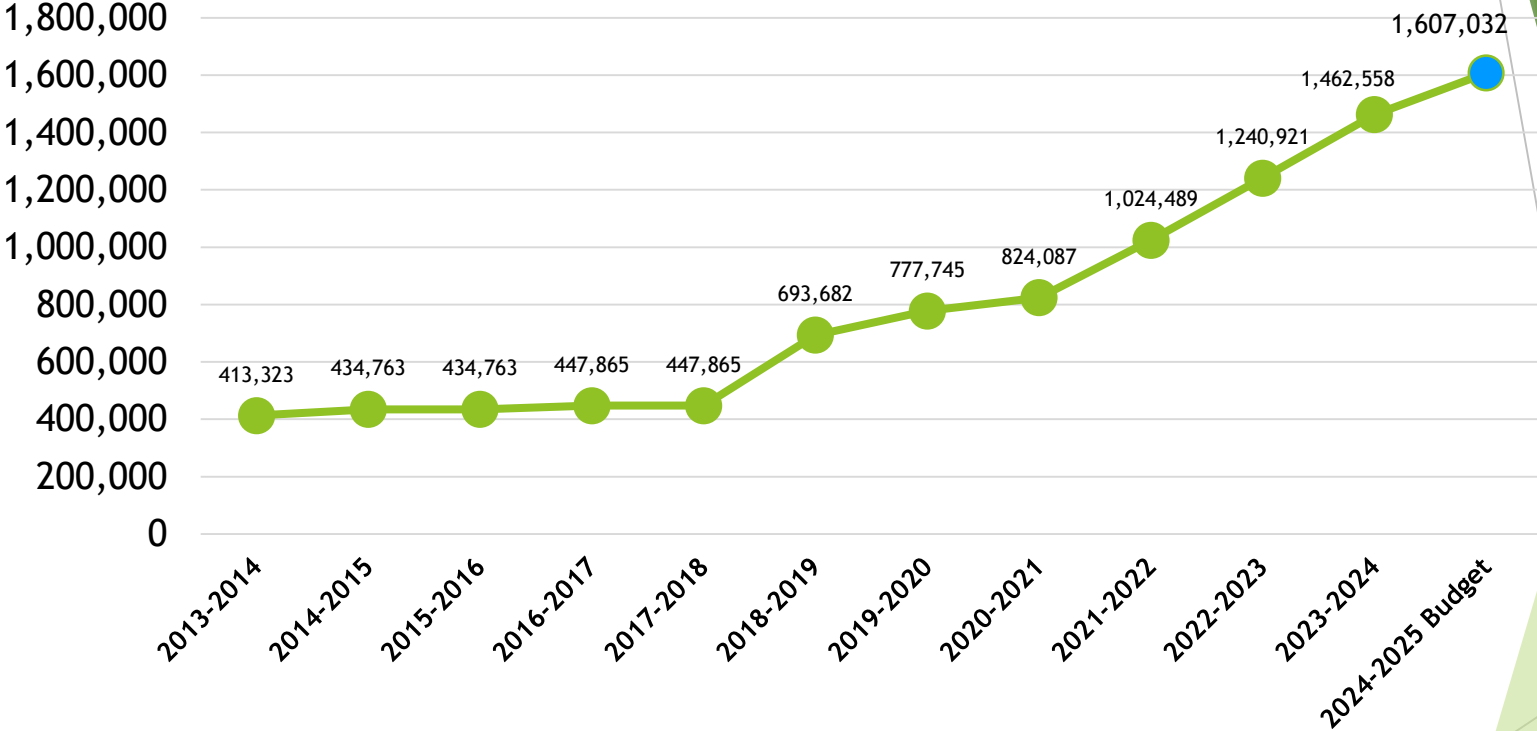
- TMS Window Replacements - bid opened on January 30, 2024, with Panoramic Windows securing the contract for \$454,000.
- HES & TMS Roof Repair - bid opened on February 15, 2024, and Duga Construction was awarded the contract for \$1,239,000
- HES & TMS Boiler Replacements— bid opened on March 27, 2024, with CJ Vanderbeck as the lowest bidder for \$930,000.
- TMS HVAC Installation – bid opening scheduled on May 30, 2024, at 11 AM.

# District Enrollment History



*The enrollment count includes resident students in other placements, but it does not account for Pre-K students enrolled through tuition-based program.*

# State School Aid



*An increase of \$144,474 in State Aid from SY 2023-24*

# Shared Services

- ✓ Northeast Bergen Insurance Group (NESBIG)
- ✓ Educational Data Services (School Supplies)
- ✓ Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (Natural Gas)
- ✓ Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (Apple)
- ✓ Educational Services Commission of NJ (Promethean Boards)
- ✓ Region III (Special Education Services)
- ✓ Northern Valley Curriculum Center
- ✓ Northern Valley Regional High School
- ✓ Borough of Closter

# Capital Projects

## *Hillside Elementary School*

- Network Infrastructure Replacement (Phase 2)
- Security Swipe-System Replacement
- Seal, Paint, and Line Striping of Parking Lot

## *Tenakill Middle School*

- VCT Flooring Replacement
- Security Swipe-System Replacement
- Seal, Paint, and Line Striping of Parking Lot



# Revenues

Local Tax Levy	\$ 22,967,866
Tuition & Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 502,480
State Aid	\$ 1,607,032
Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 700,000
Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal	\$ 340,000
Capital Reserve Withdrawal	\$ 350,000
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 26,467,378</b>

Title I	\$ 53,500
IDEA (Basic and Preschool)	\$ 203,000
Other Federal & Local Grants	\$ 128,500
<b>Total Grants and Entitlements</b>	<b>\$ 385,000</b>

Local Taxes for Debt Service	\$ 301,848
State Aid for Debt Service	\$ 155,472
<b>Total Repayment of Debt</b>	<b>\$ 457,320</b>

## TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES

**\$ 27,309,698**



# Appropriations

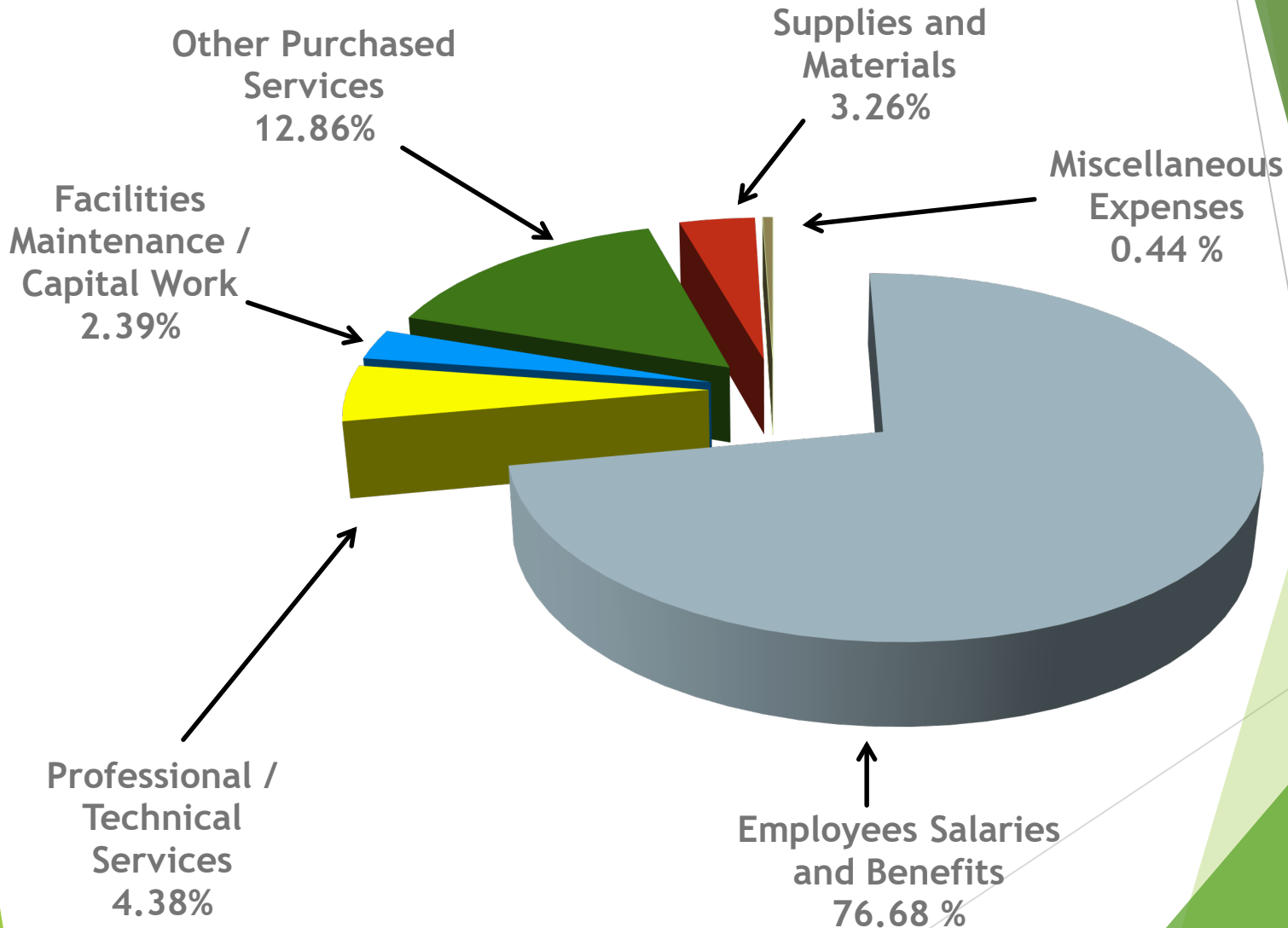
<u>Current Expense (Fund 10)</u>	2023-2024		2024-2025	\$ Increase	% Increase
	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Modified Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>\$(Decrease)</u>	<u>% (Decrease)</u>
Regular Programs - Instruction	7,372,094.00	7,385,377.00	7,249,230.00	(136,147.00)	-1.84%
Special Education - Instruction	2,364,170.00	2,577,237.00	2,621,748.00	44,511.00	1.73%
Basic Skills/Remedial - Instruction	488,413.00	353,413.00	511,636.00	158,223.00	44.77%
Bilingual Education - Instruction	378,445.00	378,154.00	457,348.00	79,194.00	20.94%
School Sponsored Co/Extra Curricular Activities	73,931.00	73,931.00	76,339.00	2,408.00	3.26%
School Sponsored Athletic Activities	33,644.00	33,644.00	37,819.00	4,175.00	12.41%
After School Programs	-	-	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Summer Program	44,500.00	44,515.00	40,500.00	(4,015.00)	-9.02%
Special Education Out of District Tuition	2,022,142.00	2,204,355.00	2,050,804.00	(153,551.00)	-6.97%
Attendance & Social Work	101,713.00	101,713.00	103,925.00	2,212.00	2.17%
Health Services	222,957.00	228,928.00	211,699.00	(17,229.00)	-7.53%
Speech, OT, PT & Related Services	441,787.00	493,087.00	497,297.00	4,210.00	0.85%
Other Support Services-Students, Extra Services	1,376,807.00	1,414,507.00	1,534,505.00	119,998.00	8.48%
Guidance	359,910.00	359,910.00	393,936.00	34,026.00	9.45%
Child Study Team	593,843.00	603,815.00	709,292.00	105,477.00	17.47%
Improvement of Instructional Services	166,531.00	172,531.00	165,820.00	(6,711.00)	-3.89%
Media Services- School Library	212,576.00	215,776.00	211,108.00	(4,668.00)	-2.16%
Instructional Staff Training Services	67,300.00	74,350.00	72,500.00	(1,850.00)	-2.49%
Support Services- General Admin	524,263.00	633,453.00	521,296.00	(112,157.00)	-17.71%
Support Services- School Admin	859,474.00	926,596.00	880,546.00	(46,050.00)	-4.97%
Central Services & Admin Info Technology	583,747.00	634,587.00	589,926.00	(44,661.00)	-7.04%
Operation & Maintenance of Plant Services	2,023,041.00	2,193,665.00	2,048,145.00	(145,520.00)	-6.63%
Student Transportation	716,299.00	741,599.00	721,302.00	(20,297.00)	-2.74%
Personal Services- Employee Benefits	4,129,135.00	4,021,620.00	4,350,716.00	329,096.00	8.18%
Capital Outlay (F12)	1,669,941.00	2,125,634.00	389,941.00	(1,735,693.00)	-81.66%
<b>Total General Fund Expense (Fund 10)</b>	<b>\$ 26,826,663.00</b>	<b>\$ 27,992,397.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,467,378.00</b>	<b>\$ (1,525,019.00)</b>	<b>-5.45%</b>
<b>Total Operating Budget Excluding Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$ 25,201,663.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,982,397.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,117,378.00</b>	<b>\$ 134,981.00</b>	<b>0.52%</b>
				<b>\$ 915,715.00</b>	<b>3.63%</b>

# Appropriations

	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025	\$ Increase	% Increase
<u>Special Revenue Fund - Fund 20</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Modified Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>\$(Decrease)</u>	<u>% (Decrease)</u>
Title I	20,500.00	106,761.00	53,500.00	(53,261.00)	-49.89%
IDEA - Basic and PreSchool	203,000.00	302,550.00	203,000.00	(99,550.00)	-32.90%
American Rescue Plan Grant	45,000.00	363,636.00	40,000.00	(323,636.00)	-89.00%
Non-Public Aid	7,500.00	42,274.00	13,500.00	(28,774.00)	-68.07%
Other Local Sources / Grants		104,161.00	75,000.00	(29,161.00)	-28.00%
<b>Total Special Revenue Fund (Fund 20)</b>	<b>\$ 276,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 919,382.00</b>	<b>\$ 385,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (534,382.00)</b>	<b>-58.12%</b>

	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025	\$ Increase	% Increase
<u>Debt Service Fund - Fund 40</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Modified Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>\$(Decrease)</u>	<u>% (Decrease)</u>
Debt Payment - Principal	270,000.00	270,000.00	346,845.00	76,845.00	28.46%
Debt Payment - Interest	6,345.00	6,345.00	110,475.00	104,130.00	1641.13%
<b>Total Debt Service Fund (Fund 40)</b>	<b>\$ 276,345.00</b>	<b>\$ 276,345.00</b>	<b>\$ 457,320.00</b>	<b>\$ 180,975.00</b>	<b>65.49%</b>

# Budget Breakdown



# 2024-2025 Federal Grants

## Use of Title I and IDEA Grants

### American Rescue Plan - ESSER Grant (Summer of 2024)

- *Summer Professional Development Programs*
- *Academic Support Programs*

# School Tax Levy

## School Year Basis (July-June) Total Levy

Tax Levy:	2023-2024	2024-2025	\$ Difference	% Change
General Fund	22,382,979	22,967,866	584,887	2.61%
Debt Service	276,345	301,848	25,503	9.23%
<b>School Tax Levy</b>	<b>22,659,324</b>	<b>23,269,714</b>	<b>610,390</b>	<b>2.69%</b>

## Municipal Tax Year Basis (Calendar Year) Total Levy

Category	2023	2024	Difference	Change
General Fund	\$ 21,931,868.00	\$ 22,675,418.00	\$ 743,550.00	
Debt Service	\$ 279,518.00	\$ 384,829.00	\$ 105,311.00	
<b>Total Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$ 22,211,386.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,060,247.00</b>	<b>\$ 848,861.00</b>	<b>3.82%</b>



# Estimated Cost to Taxpayers

Average Home Value

**\$823,190**

School Tax Levy Increase (includes Debt Service)

**2.69%**

Estimated Tax Impact (School Year)

**- \$394.51 (tax reduction)**

Estimated Tax Impact (Calendar Year 2024)

**- \$307.32 (tax reduction)**

# IN CLOSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WE BELIEVE:

- all students can learn and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally with support from staff, parents, and peers;
- skilled, caring teachers are the most important variable in the classroom and we should consistently provide resources to assist them in life-long learning;
- instruction should be differentiated and culturally responsive to address students' learning styles;
- in a strong home-school-community connection and respect Closter's diversity;
- open and honest communication is vital to creating a positive environment for all;
- in the value of diversity and pledge to create a positive culture that safeguards equity, inclusion, dignity, and respect for all.



*Thank You for your continued  
support of the children of  
Closter Public Schools!*

Questions:

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