

Toms River Regional Schools  
2022-23 Budget- Goals/Considerations

Budget goals/considerations:

1. General: Develop a budget for 2022-23 with no overall reductions in staff positions, programs or co-curricular offerings, while utilizing one-time surplus from 2020-21 (due to positive budget variances from the anomalous full Covid year) and possibly capital reserve funding to address necessary facade work at Intermediate South. Note that ESSER grant funding and now stabilization aid will help stabilize the district's finances through 2023-24, but absent a change in the state aid situation and/or allowable tax levy increase (or something else unforeseen), **we must prepare for a substantial fiscal cliff in 2024-25.**
  
2. Revenues:
  - Taxes- we are required by law (S2) to increase our tax levy 2% again for 2022-23, and every year for 2 years thereafter. For 2022-23, the 2% increase on \$164,845,442 equates to \$3,296,909.
  - State Aid- the anticipated reduction in State Aid for 2022-23 (year 5/7 of S2) is \$7.6 mil per the NJASBO calculations, but it may be substantially higher as each year NJ DOE adjusts the local fair share via the mysterious multipliers. Additionally, we were awarded \$7.6 mil in stabilization aid in 2021-22. Finally, the Extraordinary Aid budget should be increased by \$1.4 mil (from \$2 mil up to \$3.4 mil) and the non-public transportation reimbursement aid should be increased by \$145k (from \$435k up to \$580k).
  - Reserves- in 2021-22, we utilized \$1.0 mil. in maintenance reserve and \$5.04 mil. in surplus, for a total of \$6.04 mil. For 2022-23, we should plan to again budget approximately \$6 mil, or even possibly a little less, in total between surplus and maintenance reserve to replace this. In addition, we should consider budgeting one-time surplus from 2020-21 and some capital reserve funds (if needed) to address the one-time facade work required at Intermediate South.
  - Other revenues- continue to seek alternative revenue sources to help fund the budget.
  
3. Expenses:
  - Personnel- given the ESSER grant funds and stabilization aid, we should be in a budgetary situation whereby we will not have to reduce staff positions in total, although as usual, positions may be reallocated to best meet the needs of the district. Any positions established or created would be limited to those we are required to have and maintain despite the fiscal cliff projected for 2024-25.
  - Curriculum- planning to fund the most critical items in the multi-year plan, and do our best to support existing adoptions and initiatives already in place.
  - Co-curricular (including athletics, student clubs, bands, etc)- planning to fund existing sports and clubs.

- Technology- per the multi-year plan, will continue to budget for the replacement of the 7th year lease which will be paid off in 2021-22 (principal amount of 700,000). Note: 5-year bar has already been built.
  - Transportation- per the multi-year plan, will continue to budget for the replacement of the 2nd year lease which will be paid off in 2021-22 (principal amount of 1,400,000, with current plan to purchase 12 big buses and 1 mini bus). Note: 5-year bar has already been built.
  - Special education- ensure we provide for required programs and services.
  - Facilities- provide adequate funds for routine maintenance and repair needs. One-time significant capital expenditure to address the one-time facade work required at Intermediate South.
4. Debt Service Fund- there is no budget cap implication as this is not under the general fund budget, but the debt service tax levy should remain stable.