



Mountain Lakes Board of Education

2019-2020 Budget

Mountain Lakes School District Budget Goals

- We are committed to providing the resources that allow us to build upon the successful educational partnership that exists among our students, staff, families, community and administration.
- We provide a dynamic and continuously evolving curriculum with a focus on rigorous academic preparation, developing personal resiliency and promoting life-long learning skills for all learners.
- MLHS graduates earn admission to the most competitive colleges, universities and military academies around the world. Achieving our goals enables each student to actualize his or her unique potential.

Objectives

- Discuss Proposed 2019-2020 Budget
 - ∞ Expense reductions to support student achievement and district curriculum goals:
 - Salary increases from the current MLEA contract continue to be offset by changes in teaching staff composition (retirements) and other savings from the contract
 - By changing our healthcare benefits provider to NJSHEP from Cigna as of 1/1/19, we reduced our annual premium cost by \$118,071. Changes in long-term substitute teacher compensation structure
 - ∞ Maintain manageable tax increase to provide a thorough and efficient education
 - Budgets for the past 5 years included tax levy increases at an average of 2.16%
 - ∞ Maximize alternate revenue sources
 - Before and after-care program at Wildwood continues to be well-received and well-attended, estimated revenue \$200,000
 - Biotech Academy, estimated revenue \$385,840
- Engage in a Community Dialogue

Revenue Sources – 2 Yr. Period

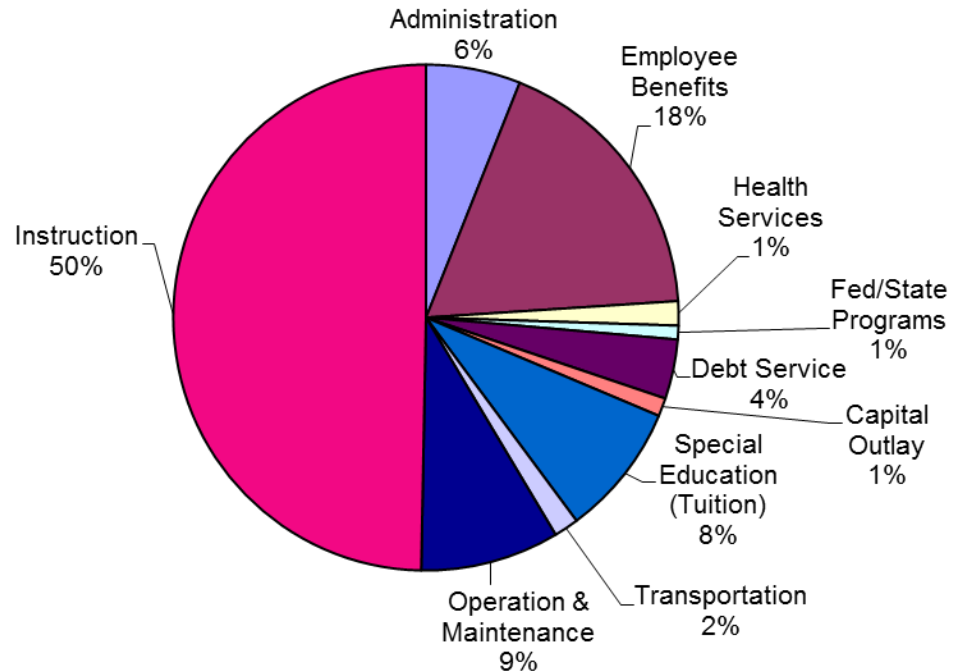
	2018-2019	2019-2020	Difference
Local Taxes	\$20,872,466	\$21,394,278	\$521,812
State Aid	\$837,405	\$887,953	\$50,548
Tuition	\$13,362,325	\$13,676,296	\$313,971
Miscellaneous	\$207,229	\$224,000	\$16,771
Capital Reserve	\$300,000	\$296,000	-\$4,000
Fund Balance	\$549,171	\$500,000	-\$49,171
Extraordinary Aid	\$135,805	-	-\$135,805
Prior Years Encumbrances	\$354,780	-	-\$345,780
Total Revenue	\$36,619,181	\$36,978,527	\$359,346

2019-20 Budget Analysis

Current Expenses: \$36,978,527

2019-20 vs. 2018-19⁽¹⁾:

- Special Ed (Incl. Tuition) – down 2%
- Instruction – up 3%
- Maintains budget goals
- Maintains class sizes:
 - K-3 - 18
 - 4-5 - 18
 - 6-8 - 20
 - 9-12 - 21 (core academic content)



(1) Percentage change from 2018-2019

Questions: Contact Ron Smith; rsmith@mlschools.org; 973-334-8280

Capital Projects: \$296,000

High School: \$23,691

Repair Circular Hallway \$6,974
Install Alertus Security System \$16,717
Heat System Repairs \$10,500.00

Briarcliff School: \$34,355

Roof Repairs \$20,535
Gym Floor Repair \$1,582
Replace Volleyball Setup \$7,038
Install Air Conditioning Phase 3 \$5,200

Wildwood School: \$42,356

Relocate Natural Gas \$21,000
Install Alertus Security System \$4,556
Window Repairs \$16,800

Lake Drive School: \$32,100

Chimney Repairs \$32,100

District: \$163,498

District Wide Repair/Replace Belgium Block Lots \$5,200
Asbestos Abatement / Repairs \$30,000
Replace Grooming System \$30,000
Lease Payment \$50,000
High School Fence \$48,298

Tax Impact for Mountain Lakes Homeowner

	2018-2019	2019-2020	Impact	% (+/-)
General Fund	\$20,872,466	\$21,394,278	\$521,812	2.50%
Debt Service	\$1,048,384	\$1,026,848	(\$21,536)	(2.05%)
Total	\$21,920,850	\$22,421,126	\$500,276	2.28%

- Tax increase of approximately \$323 on the average home assessed at \$775,700
- Tax levy attributable to Schools represents ~68% of Homeowners' local taxes, with balance going to Borough, County, and Open Space

Our \$29.6 Million Budget Is Hard to Find in State and News Reporting

- **\$38.5 million overall 2019-20 school budget**
 - Per state reports and news reporting
 - Including debt service and all forms of federal/state aid
- **\$8.7 million attributable to Lake Drive**
 - Fully charged back to sending districts
 - Absorb some overhead/other expenses (Approx. \$1.0 million)
- **\$29.6 million “Mountain Lakes” 2019-20 budget**
 - \$28.5 million projected spending
 - \$1.1 million debt service (previously approved via referendums)

Additional Future Budget Considerations

- Long-term capital expenditure plan independent of the referendum.
- Continued increases in healthcare costs.
- Ongoing efforts to find alternative revenue sources and/or operating expense savings.