

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

2011 Edition

School Budget Vote/Election *Wednesday, April 27, 2011*

On **Wednesday, April 27, 2011**, Cranbury voters will be asked to vote on the proposed school budget for the 2011-2012 school year. The following discussion is intended to address questions you may have about the budget and provide residents with the facts of the proposed budget so they may make an informed decision at the polls.

What is the purpose of the election?

The purpose of the election is to vote on taxes to be raised in support of the proposed school budget and to elect three members to the Board of Education for three-year terms.

What is provided for in this budget?

The 2011-12 proposed school district budget provides the necessary funds to support the educational programs for students in grades PreK-12. The total proposed budget expenditures of \$15,482,513 enables the school district to maintain the educational programs currently offered to students in grades PreK-8, while providing the necessary funds to support tuition payments to Princeton Regional School District and other schools attended by some of our special education students.

This year's budget is slightly **below** the 2% cap permitted by state law and reflects a careful analysis of all spending. Over the last several months, the board has cautiously and judiciously analyzed each line of the budget. In addition to current programs and services, this proposed budget contains an **additional section of first grade** to accommo-

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For additional information about the proposed 2011-2012 school budget or about Cranbury Township School District, visit www.cranburyschool.org or call (609) 395-1700.

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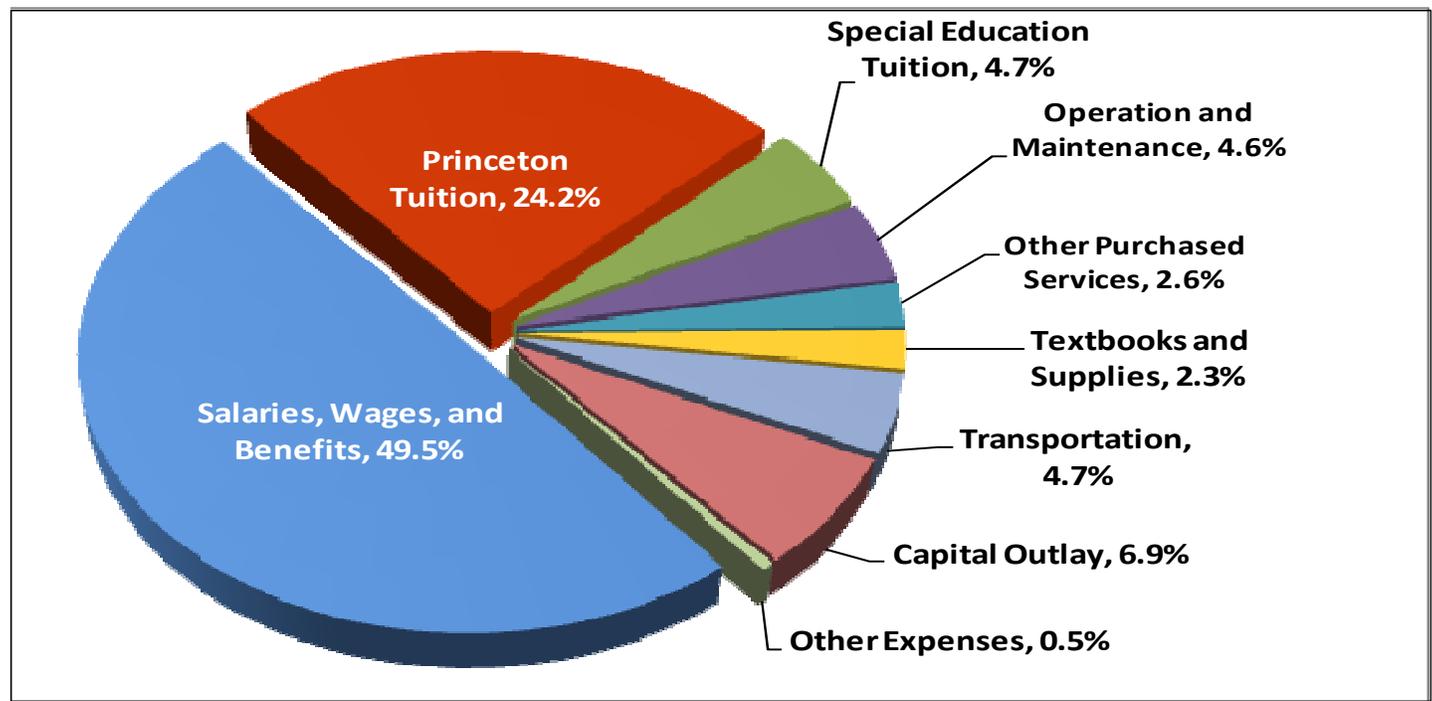
date increased class size, restores weekly Art and Industrial Arts instruction, and French classes in kindergarten and first grades, and includes appropriations for class trips, stipends for the upper grade musical set design, book clubs and the literary magazine - items that were previously cut from last year's budget, but were generously funded by the PTO and Cranbury Education Foundation.

In addition, this proposed budget includes funds necessary to cover increases in contractual salaries, employee benefit costs, and utility expenses. Spending on such items as classroom supplies, cleaning and maintenance have been reduced again. Capital outlays projects will address the exterior windows in the 1967 section of the building. Funding for this project was budgeted from capitol reserves and will have no impact on the tax levy. The completion of this project should reduce future operational costs.

What are the components of the proposed expenditures in the budget?

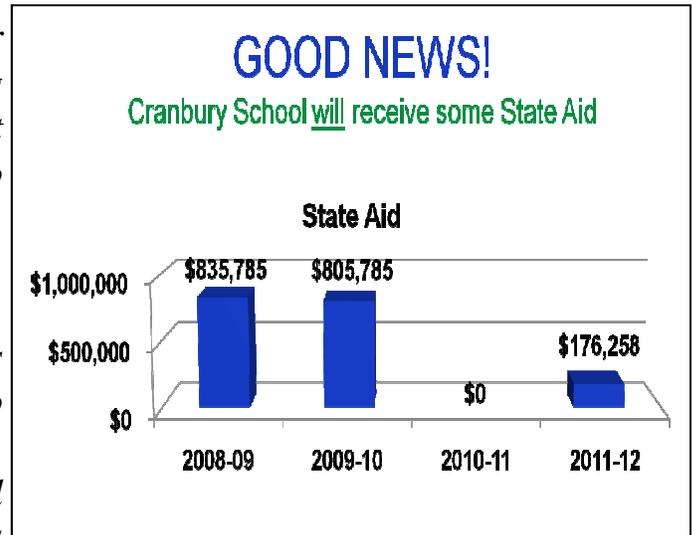
Approximately three-quarters (75%) of the proposed 2011-2012 budget is comprised of salaries, wages, benefits and Princeton High School tuition.

The remaining 25% of our spending includes: special education out-of-district tuition, capital outlay, operations and maintenance expense, classroom supplies, transportation, and other purchased and miscellaneous expenses. The capital outlay project to replace the 1967 single-pane windows is fully funded through the district's capital reserve and will provide future savings in operational expense.



How is the budget funded?

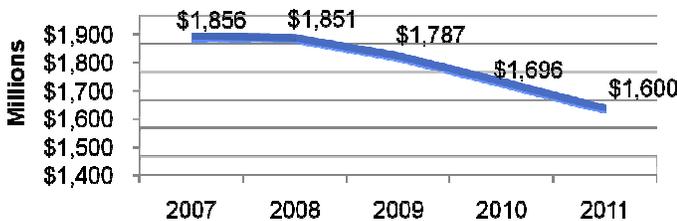
Local taxes provide for 89% or \$14,941,270, of the revenue for supporting the education of Cranbury students. Last year, the district had its state aid reduced to \$0. However, for the 2011-2012 budget, Cranbury is allocated to receive \$176,258, which amounts to less than 1% of our budget. At less than one percent of our budget, this additional, unanticipated funding will help keep the tax levy below the allowable 2% cap. Additional funding comes from the federal government, building usage fees and interest earned on accounts.



Cranbury Township Assessment Values

UNFORTUNATE TREND!

The aggregate assessed property value has declined by over 14% in the last four years.



How will this budget impact my taxes?

The voters will be asked to approve a total tax levy of \$14,941,270, which represents a 1.9% increase over the 2010-11 tax levy and is below the state cap. The tax rate will increase to \$.9809 from the 2010-11 budget of \$.9421, an increase of \$.0387. The aggregate value of Cranbury Township has **decreased** more than 14% in the last three years. This is a contributing

factor for the increase in the tax rate. The table below illustrates the tax impact per assessed house value. The average home in Cranbury Township is valued at \$608,331.

Assessed Value	2011-12 Tax Increase	Quarterly Increase	Monthly Increase
\$ 300,000	\$ 114.72	\$ 28.68	\$ 9.56
\$ 500,000	\$ 191.19	\$ 47.80	\$ 15.93
\$ 608,331	\$ 235.66	\$ 59.92	\$ 19.64
\$ 700,000	\$ 267.67	\$66.92	\$ 22.31
\$ 900,000	\$ 344.15	\$86.04	\$ 28.68

Additional Information

If you have any questions regarding the proposed 2011-2012 school district budget, or about any other information presented in this newsletter, please contact the administration or any member of the Cranbury Board of Education.

School Board Candidates

Vote for Three (3-Year Terms)

Jennifer K. Cooke
Pramod N. Chivate
Kevin G. Fox
M. Evelyn Spann

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 27, 2011

Vote At Town Hall
2:00—9:00 P.M.

Mail-In Ballots

*Please remember to vote on **Wednesday, April 27th**. If you are voting by mail-in ballot, please complete the application and return it to the Middlesex County Board of Elections. A ballot will be mailed to your home. You must mail or deliver the ballot directly to the Middlesex County Board of Elections. Please do not return it to the school or to our municipal offices.*

The Cranbury School

Budget Newsletter, 2011

Annual School Elections ***Wednesday, April 27, 2011***

Township of Cranbury Board of Education

23 North Main Street
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(609)395-1700 ~ Phone
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www.cranburyschool.org

Administration

Mrs. Carol J. Malouf, Interim Chief School Administrator/Principal
Mrs. Joyce Picariello, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mrs. Michele A. Waldron, Vice Principal