



GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026 Budget Presentation

May 1, 2025

Michael Mai - Superintendent

Samantha Westberg - School Business Administrator

2025-26 Budget Presentation

- ❖ Tonight's GMRSD Budget presentation includes the Tax Levy Incentive Aid (TLIA) approved by the GMRSD BOE on April 10.
- ❖ The New Jersey Department of Education has not issued approvals for all Districts' applications for TLIA, including Great Meadows' application.
- ❖ The Board's vote this evening will be to approve the 2025-2026 budget "pending NJDOE Approval."
- ❖ If approved, the district will then need to hold another meeting to officially adopt the budget, with the NJDOE-approved TLIA, on or before May 14, 2025.

Initiatives for the 2025-26 Budget

General Budget:

- ❖ Tax Levy Incentive Aid = positions added; cuts avoided
- ❖ EduTech for all District technology needs
- ❖ Facility Projects (ROD grant)
 - GMMS HVAC Phase I
 - Liberty
- ❖ Planning for Referendum projects
- ❖ Achievement of Strategic Plan goals

What's New for 2025-26?

- ❖ **Preschool Expansion**
 - All six (6) classes on GMRSD campus at Central School
- ❖ **General Education Teaching Staff (x 6)**
 - Additional sections in grades K, 2, & 4
 - PE teacher for GMMS
 - Interventionist for GMMS
 - MS Science
- ❖ **Special Education Teaching Staff (x 0.5)**
 - P/T Speech Therapist
 - LLD maintains 2 sections
- ❖ **School Counselor (x 1)**
- ❖ **School Secretary**
 - Remains F/T
- ❖ **Security**
 - Class III added
 - Security Guard Remains F/T

Instructional Impact

Additional Position	Students Impacted	Benefits to the Building	
4th Grade Teacher	79	Current schedule has 3 teachers which would be 26 students per teacher. With the increase to 4 teachers, class sizes would be 19-20 students.	Class Size, Behavior Needs, Interventions
PE Teacher	368	<p>4th grade with 2 teachers 39-40 each with 3 teachers- 26-27</p> <p>5th grade with 2 teachers 33-34 each with 3 teachers- 22-23 each</p> <p>6th Grade with 2 teachers 38-39 each with 3 teachers- 25-26</p> <p>7th grade with 2 teachers 26 each with 3 teachers- 24 each</p> <p>8th grade with 2 teachers 36-37 each with 3 teachers 24-25</p>	Class Size and Behavior Needs
Additional School Counselor	368	Currently we have 1.5 school counselors for the total number of students. One counselor only for Tuesday and Thursday. When the second counselor is not in the building, the one counselor is there for 368 students. With 2 counselors, we can meet with more students consistently addressing, social, emotional, and academic needs.	Behavioral Needs, MTSS, Interventions
RTI Teacher	146	In the middle school we only have Tier 2 interventions after school and limited Tier 3 interventions during SMART. With the addition of a staff member for Tier 2 and 3 interventions for 4th and 5th grade, we are addressing the needs of the students at a younger level to benefit the older levels in the future. These intervention will take place in SMART in small groups that deliver materials on the level and based on the needs of the students. The teacher will also push into classes and assist students supporting the skills students are learning during their small group instructions.	Interventions and Tier 2/3 MTSS needs
Retention of the Teaching Position	11	Retention of the staff member would continue the LLD teacher's position and have the two LLD settings maintain 2 grade level settings (4th/5th and the second setting 6th/7th) If this position was unable to be maintained we would have a classroom of 11 students with a four grade level range.	Class Size, Intervention, and Behavior Needs

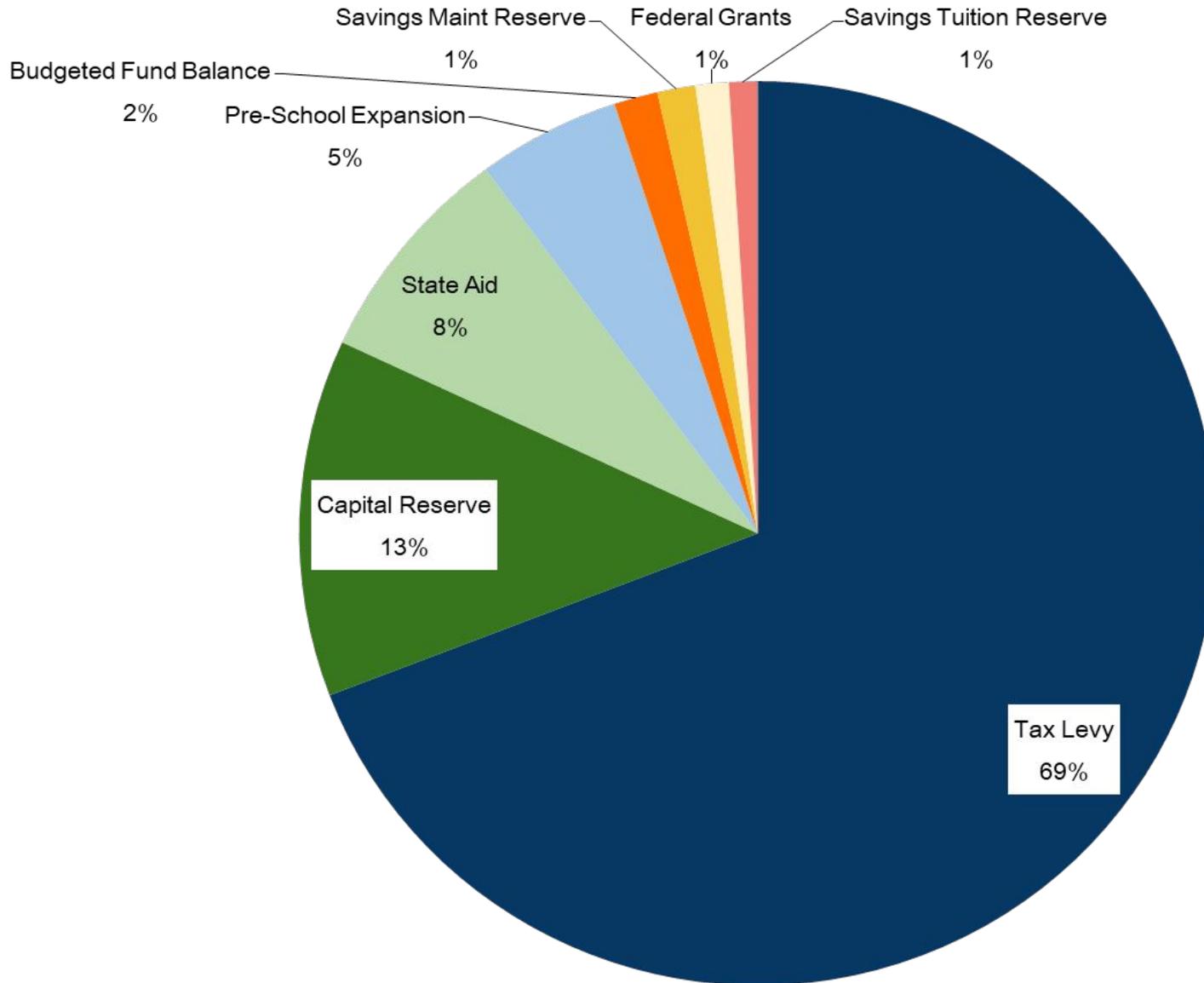
Instructional Impact, cont.

Kindergarten Teacher	72	Adding a kindergarten teacher will allow us to reduce class sizes, from 24 students per class to 17 -18. This will create a more manageable and supportive learning environment for both students and staff. Smaller classes help minimize behavioral issues, allow for more individualized attention, and make it easier to implement targeted interventions to support each child's academic and social-emotional development.	Class Size, Intervention, and Behavior Needs
2nd Grade Teacher	74	Adding a 2nd grade teacher will allow us to reduce class sizes, from 25 students per class to 18. This will create a more manageable and supportive learning environment for both students and staff. Smaller classes help minimize behavioral issues, allow for more individualized attention, and make it easier to implement targeted interventions to support each child's academic and social-emotional development.	Class Size, Intervention, and Behavior Needs
Additional School Counselor	354	Having a full-time guidance counselor five days a week instead of three will allow us to build a more consistent and well-developed character education program across all grade levels. With increased availability, the counselor can run regular SEL lunch groups, provide more support for students in crisis, and help address behavioral concerns more effectively through ongoing guidance and intervention.	Behavioral, Character Education Implementation, MTSS Interventions
Part Time Speech Teacher	approx. 55	Adding a part-time speech teacher is necessary to meet the growing needs of our students. Speech referrals are on the rise, and our current staff is stretched thin—making it difficult to complete evaluations, attend IEP meetings, and most importantly, provide consistent services to all students. With the addition of preschool and new state guidelines allowing speech-only preschool IEPs, this support is more critical than ever. Bringing in additional staff will ensure we can effectively serve our expanding population and provide timely, high-quality support.	Special Education

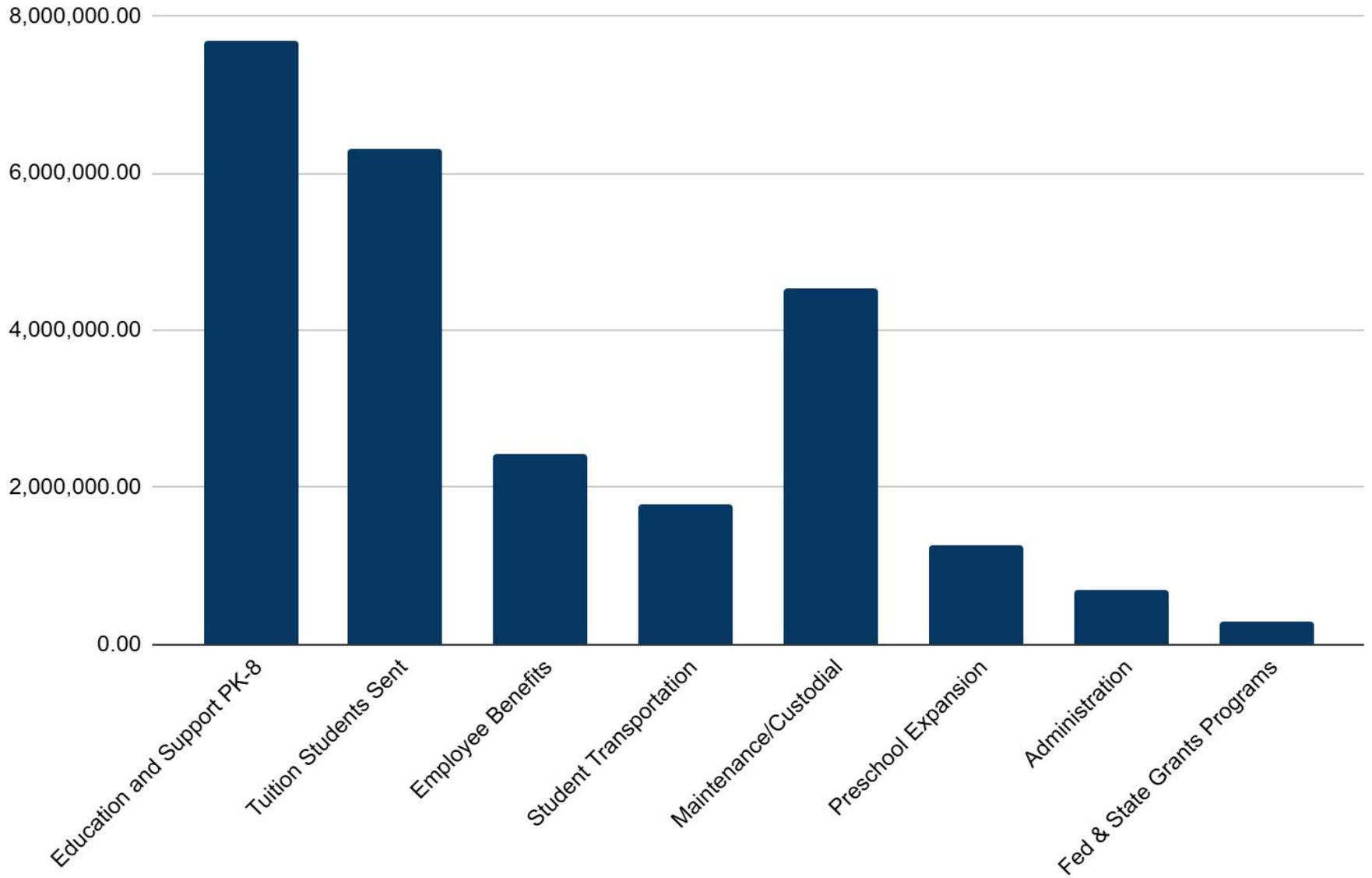
The End of our S2 Era

- ❖ Slight State Aid increase (\$110,000 or 6%)
- ❖ Tax Levy Incentive Aid provides resources
- ❖ Class sizes will decrease at three grade levels
- ❖ GMMS PE classes no longer at 35-40
- ❖ More support for academics
- ❖ More resources for students' mental health and well-being
- ❖ After-school programs will continue
- ❖ Better schools for our students

2025-26 Budget Revenue



2025-26 Budget Expenses



6.5% Tax Levy Impact Based on Enrollment

Independence:

\$ 231,000 Average Home Approximate Increase:

\$ 216.94 Annual Increase

\$ 18.08 Monthly Increase or \$ 0.59 Daily Increase

Liberty Township:

\$228,560 Average Home Approximate Increase:

\$ 403.82 Annual Increase

\$ 33.65 Monthly Increase or \$ 1.11 Daily Increase

