



# HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

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## **BUDGET GUIDELINES** **2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

- Continue to ensure that the budget and financial planning process is integrated and aligned with district priorities and includes planning objectives based on statewide assessments and the 2019-2024 HTS Strategic Plan.
- Maintain staffing configuration and curriculum programs for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Allocate funds for all leased equipment, and for Capital Improvements, as detailed in the Long-Range Facilities Plan and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, and as recommended by the Facilities and Finance Committee.
- Maintain district's fund balance at a maximum level permitted by State law.
- Develop a prudent budget that is aligned with the district's instructional priorities, addresses the needs of all our students and allocates sufficient funds to ensure professional development for staff.
- Continue to be value-oriented and conservative in the expenditure of public moneys, respecting its effect on local taxpayers.
- Continue to provide financial support for the revision of curriculum as per the Curriculum Review Cycle.
- Derive budget expenditures from competitive supplier quotations, whenever appropriate, official data and actual expenditures from previous years. The concept of zero-based budgeting shall be followed.
- Continue to fund all programs and services and foster educational excellence, working within the confines of the 2% property tax cap, as per State law.
- The 2023-2024 budget will reflect the inflationary pressures placed on the district. Some of these pressures include transportation, health insurance premiums, and fuel (heating) costs.