

Collingswood Public Schools

SUSTAIN OUR SCHOOLS

Operational Referendum | November 3, 2026

Board of Education Community Roundtable

September 24, 2026

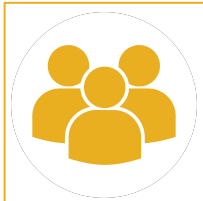
Topics

1. **Overview:** What is an Operational Referendum?
2. **Scope of Spending:** What Will It Cover?
3. **Context & Timing:** Why Now?
4. **Impact Analysis:** What's at Stake If Voters Reject the Ballot Question?
5. **Discussion & QA**

Overview

Following a **unanimous vote** by the **Board of Education on August 19** to proceed with an operational referendum, Collingswood voters will consider a **$4.56 million** ballot question on **November 3, 2026**.

What is an operational referendum?



OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

- People
- Services
- Operations



FACILITIES REFERENDUM

- Buildings
- Maintenance
- Construction

Where will the funds go?

If approved by voters, this referendum will invest an estimated $4.56 million into the school district operating budget.

These funds will be directly dedicated to:

- Maintaining Existing School Staff
- Sustaining Student Support Services
- Providing Essential Operations for Schools
- Preserving Core Programming for Students

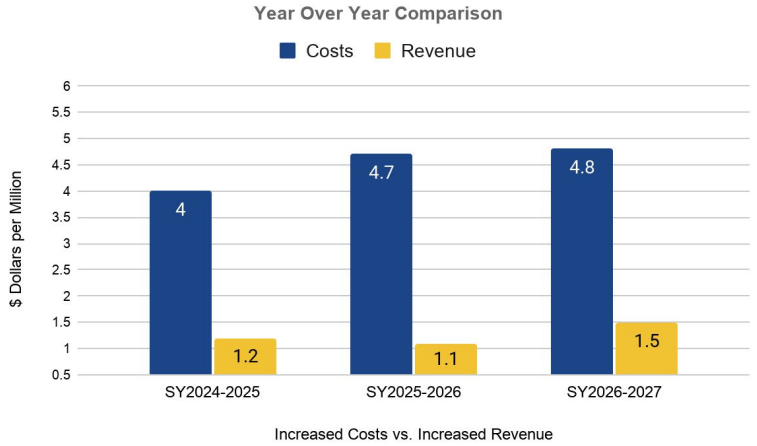


Why now?

Since 2013, we have made prudent financial adjustments to stretch every available dollar. Local efficiency alone cannot bridge the gap.

Rising operational costs driven by:

- **Persistent inflation**
- **Escalating health insurance**
- **Utility expenses**
- **Reduced state aid**



NOTE



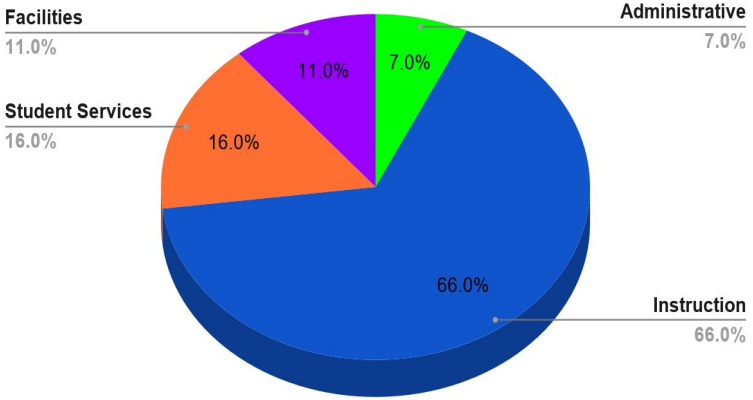
These financial pressures reflect a widespread challenge impacting school districts across New Jersey as fixed costs outpace local revenue constraints.

How are funds used now?

For years, the district has used proven fiscal management strategies to maximize every taxpayer dollar and reduce operational expenses.

Student-centered budgeting:

- **Instruction - 66%**
- **Student Services - 16%**
- **Facilities - 11%**
- **Administrative - 7%**



Not required

Under NJ law, items not required for a "thorough and efficient" (T&E) education include athletic facilities beyond core physical education needs, specialized elective and performance spaces, non-instructional staff, and etc.

School Nurses	Co-Curricular Activities/ Clubs
Social Workers	Theater Production/Auditorium
Elementary Instrumental Lessons	Chromebooks
Elementary After School Music	Professional Development
Athletics/ Athletics Transportation	PAWS-TV Studio

Impact

If voters reject the ballot question, all options will be considered to close the projected budget gap.

Potential options include:

- **Additional staff layoffs**
- **Academic program closures and course reductions**
- **Co-curricular program reductions**
- **Extra-curricular program reductions**
- **Fee-based athletics for Middle and High School**

Stay Informed

- **Visit our Info Hub @**
  www.collsk12.org/page/operational-referendum-nov-3-2026

- **Questions & Answers**