

The Facts About Our Schools

Upper Saddle River School District • 2026–27

HEALTH INSURANCE

The district acted as soon as an alternative became available.

We reviewed alternatives every year, but our claims experience was too poor for any carrier or program to be an option. When first-quarter 2026 claims improved slightly, we approached five carriers; only one responded. Any plan had to match the coverage in our staff contracts.

Option	Increase	Term	Notes
Stay in the state plan (SEHBP)	about 34.4%	1 year	
Self-fund	about 51%	1 year	
Contract directly with a carrier	about 21%	1 year	No guarantee of renewal
Join SHIF	about 18%	18 months	Approved unanimously Oct. 5; effective Jan. 1, 2027

SPECIAL EDUCATION

+16% special education spending this year

Protected by law, with parents' part of every decision.

- IEP and 504 services are required by law and cannot be cut for budget reasons; where one requires a dedicated aide, it is provided.
- Out-of-district placements are decided by each student's IEP team, including parents, based on need (\$1.7 million budgeted).
- Student decisions are confidential by law to protect children, not to exclude parents.

ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING

1 : 10 teachers to students, within the 20-year range

A proactive, data-driven adjustment to enrollment.

- About 1,173 students today, down from 1,355 at the 2006 peak; enrollment has since leveled off.
- We held staffing steady while watching new housing in town, in case enrollment grew.
- Our most recent demographic study (2025), one of several over the years, projects no significant growth: at most about 1,206 students by 2029–30.
- 27 positions were reduced; 7 of those staff have since returned.

ADMINISTRATION

10% of administrative positions reduced (1 of 10)

Reduced at a higher rate than teaching (8%).

- Nine remain: the Superintendent, Business Administrator, Bogert and Cavallini principals and assistant principals, the Director of Special Education, and the Curriculum and Technology Directors. Each is critical; further reductions would not be in the district's best interest.
- Staff outside the classroom (specialists, secretaries, custodians and campus aides) were reduced 18%, the highest rate of any group.

ENRICHMENT

50+ students in new grade 6 accelerated math

No academic program has been eliminated.

- Every identified enrichment student, including gifted and talented students, receives services; eligibility criteria are unchanged.
- One K–8 enrichment teacher leads pull-out sessions from grade 3.
- In grades K–2, classroom teachers provide enrichment with the enrichment teacher's guidance.

ACE (AFTER CARE EXPERIENCE)

42 → 205 students since 2020–21

Grown nearly fivefold, and now full.

- ACE revenue cannot be used for the general budget, including teacher and paraprofessional salaries. It can be used to offset facility upgrades and related costs impacted by the program.
- The program is full under its advertised ratio of one staff member per 10 students. In 2027–28, the ratio will move to 1:12 for younger grades and 1:15 for older students, opening more seats.
- Staffing limits faster growth: ACE starts at 2:45, but teachers must remain in their classrooms until 3:10.
- Safety and quality come first. ACE is an enriching program students want to attend, not simply supervision.

SCHOOL FUNDING

≈2% average yearly increase over ten years

Not cut: increased every year, at a responsible pace.

- Averaging about 2% a year, in line with the state's cap, or about 22% over ten years.
- This year's levy is about \$27.1 million, up 3.83% (about \$189 for the average assessed home of \$796,936), reflecting rising health insurance, special education and utility costs.

A PUBLIC PROCESS

3 budget meetings (March 18, 23 and the April 27 hearing) • September 14 public meeting on insurance options • October 5 public meeting approving SHIF • 13-page budget FAQ • minutes and documents at usrschoolsk8.com