

Dear Hoosic Valley Community,

As your Board of Education, our primary mission is to provide every student with a high-quality education while acting as responsible stewards of your tax dollars. Finding the right balance between these two goals has always been important, but it is becoming increasingly difficult as the cost of running a school district rises faster than the support we receive from the state.

For the upcoming 2026-2027 school year, we are proposing a 8.5% tax levy increase. We want to be very clear about what this means for your household:

- The Math: This translates to approximately \$0.92 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.
- Example: For a home with an assessed value of \$100,000, the estimated impact would be \$92 per year.

Why Now?

Over the last decade, the district worked hard to keep tax increases at or near **0%**. While this provided long-term relief to our residents, it also meant the district's revenue stayed flat while the world around us became more expensive.

Today, we are facing a "perfect storm" of rising costs:

- Fixed Costs: Significant increases in health insurance rates and contractual salary obligations.
- Inflation: The rising cost of supplies, utilities, and services.
- State Funding: While our costs are rising exponentially, we expect state funding to grow by only 1%, creating a continued and substantial gap between income and expenses in the coming years.

Tax Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL INCREASE
Tax Levy	0.00	0.00	-1.13	-1.14	-1.00	-1.08	0.00	0.50	2.98	1.58	2.00	2.71%

Where did 8.5% come from?

For the past few years, the district has balanced the school budget by dipping into our reserve funds. To put that in household terms: we have been using our emergency savings account to pay our regular, monthly bills. Reserve funds are meant for unexpected emergencies like roof collapsing or a sudden loss of state funding. Continuing to pull from them for our yearly operating budget is simply not sustainable. If we do not act now to align our revenue with our actual expenses, we risk draining our safety net entirely. This tax levy will allow us to start moving away from using reserves to fund daily operations, protecting our long term financial health and the quality of our education for our students.

Protecting Our Future

Over the last several years, we have made cuts to staffing and programs everywhere possible in an effort to control costs. To bridge the remaining gap without making even deeper, more painful cuts to the programs and services our students rely on, the Board has approved this proposal. Even with this change, Hoosic Valley is expected to remain one of the lowest-taxed districts in our region.

This budget isn't just about maintaining the status quo; it's about protecting our schools from significant future cuts and ensuring our students have the foundation they need to succeed.

We understand the financial pressures facing our families, and we do not make this request lightly. We believe this plan is a responsible way to prioritize our children while remaining mindful of our taxpayers.

Please join us for the following important dates:

Budget Hearing: May 7th, 2026

Budget Vote: May 19th, 2026

Sincerely,

The Hoosic Valley Board of Education and Superintendent Buhrmaster