

MARCH 2016 “BUDGET” SPOTLIGHT

LITTLE SILVER SCHOOL DISTRICT High Performing... Low Spending... Under-funded!

WHERE DOES MY TAX MONEY GO?

- The Media indicates that Little Silver has one of the highest property taxes ([here: Patch 1/11/16](#))
- You may have viewed New Jersey Property Taxes 2015 data ([here: Asbury Park Press - Data Universe](#))
- Tax bills are not only Little Silver school taxes, they are comprised of the following:
 - * Local Municipal Taxes
 - * County Taxes
 - * County Library Taxes
 - * County Open Space Taxes
 - * Little Silver School District Taxes
 - * Red Bank Regional High School Taxes
 - * Municipal Open Space Taxes(Items in red are the largest percentages)

HOW DOES THE LITTLE SILVER SCHOOL DISTRICT STACK UP?

School Funding

- The New Jersey School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) allocates state aid based on need, or a local community's ability to pay for its own education as measured by two wealth indicators: property value and income.
- **Little Silver is essentially self-funded!**

School Spending

- The New Jersey Department of Education provides data regarding Per Pupil Costs ([here: TGES](#))
- The *Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending* groups districts by enrollment and grade configuration for comparability purposes – Little Silver's group is *kindergarten through eighth grade, 751+ students* or (K-8/751+).
- To make a fair comparison with other “like” districts, the NJDOE provides socioeconomic classification in its District Factor Group for School Districts (DFG) ([here: District Factor Groups](#))
- Little Silver is a Group J district (the highest ranking DFG) along with four other K-8/751+ districts. The attached analysis also includes districts from Group I (the second highest DFG ranking) to provide additional comparative data.
- **Little Silver was the 3rd lowest in Per Pupil Spending based on the 2015 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending!**

Return on Investment

- Despite relatively low spending, LS has maintained high levels of student achievement for years
- Based on the 2015 PARCC results, the percent of students who met or exceeded expectations in mathematics and ELA far exceeded the percent of students who met or exceeded expectations in both the PARCC consortium and in the State of NJ.
- Little Silver was listed among “NJ's Top School Districts” (See articles: [NJ's top school districts](#) and [PARCC scores](#))
- The Little Silver Arts Department is thriving as evidenced by: 1. Student acceptance into All Shore Band; 2. Admissions into the Visual and Performing Arts program at RBR, 3. Art exhibition winners at TCNJ, 4. Musical awards from competitions, to name a few.
- **Little Silver is a high-performing district!**

K-8 DISTRICTS WITH SIMILAR SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

No.	District	Enrollment	DFG	Per Pupil Cost
1	Franklin Lakes Boro	1,283	I	19,653
2	Colts Neck Township	1,004	I	18,940
3	Warren Township	1,931	I	17,656
4	Wyckoff Township	1,940	I	16,529
5	Rockaway Township	2,407	I	16,437
6	Rivervale Township	1,161	I	15,585
7	Woodcliff Lake Boro	769	J	15,335
8	Long Hill Township	851	I	15,246
9	Millstone Township	1,282	I	14,975
10	Clinton Township	1,543	I	14,738
11	Branchburg Township	1,626	I	14,714
12	Upper Saddle River Boro	1,298	J	14,682
13	Washington Township	2,338	I	14,652
14	Florham Park Boro	1,003	I	14,588
15	Chester Township	1,199	J	14,467
16	Hanover Township	1,483	I	14,448
17	Readington Township	1,778	I	14,360
18	Closter Boro	1,124	I	14,283
19	Byram Township	885	I	14,215
20	Oakland Boro	1,604	I	14,143
21	Flemington-Raritan Regional	3,403	I	13,712
22	Denville Township	1,725	I	13,703
23	Allendale Boro	906	I	13,679
24	Voorhees Township	3,010	I	13,658
25	Evesham Township	4,586	I	13,513
26	Medford Township	2,802	I	13,335
27	Marlboro Township	5,264	I	13,225
28	Mount Laurel Township	4,175	I	13,184
29	Rumson Boro	979	J	12,960
30	Montvale Boro	1,047	I	12,788
31	Little Silver Boro	866	J	12,637
32	Fair Haven Boro	1,016	I	12,141
33	Greenwich Township	851	I	9,952

Source: Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending 2015 (2013-14 Actual Costs)

CAN WE SUSTAIN OUR CURRENT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE?

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- On July 13, 2010 a law was passed that limits property tax levy increases to only 2%. We cannot maintain our current educational experience by sticking to a strict 2% tax levy increase.
- Our current educational experience is not sustainable without consequences such as:
 - Increasing taxes beyond 2%
 - Increasing revenue generation
 - Making decisions that may require parent contribution beyond paying taxes