

PUBLIC QUESTION TO BE VOTED UPON

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Board of Education is seeking approval from the district's legal voters to raise an additional \$2,388,749 for the 2025-2026 school year as permitted under P.L. 2024, c.60, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and -39 to keep thirty (30) teachers and staff, and a Class III Security Officer for each school in the District, specifically for the following purposes:

- Twenty-five (25) teaching staff needed to maintain small class sizes in the elementary schools including teachers to support specialized reading programs such as the reading recovery program in elementary schools and reading & mathematics support classes at the intermediate and middle school levels and instruction in all support class programs;
- Hire a Class III Security Officer for every school;
- Five (5) Gifted and Talented and/or STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) supplemental teachers;
- Avoid the elimination of junior varsity (JV) extracurricular athletics and co-curricular activities for softball, volleyball, field hockey, cross-country, soccer, lacrosse, wrestling, basketball, cheerleading, and baseball.

**Interpretive Statement:**

The Flemington Raritan Regional School District was impacted significantly by the state funding formula which has reduced school aid by over a million dollars cumulatively over the past 6 years. The district made significant reductions in the 2024-2025 and for the 2025-2026 school year.

Despite these reductions, the district again faces a significant shortfall for the 2025-26 budget year. If the district has to make reductions again to teaching staff and programs, the reductions will impact our students. Therefore, the district is seeking additional funding in the 2025-26 budget to support the maintenance of small class sizes in elementary classrooms of approximately 17 to 24 students per grade level. Class sizes, without the approval of the public question, will be over 25 students in most homerooms in grades K through 8.

Approval of the question will support evidence-based reading instruction, and supplemental academic programs such as gifted and talented programs and courses in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The question approval will also fund safety and security personnel, specifically Class III Officers in each school. After-school programming, which includes extracurricular sports, will be affected without the approval of the public question. Approval of this public question will result in a permanent increase in the district's tax levy.

YES
NO