



Hillsborough Township Public Schools

— Investing in Our Future —

March 12, 2019 Referendum Funding: Full-Day Kindergarten Long-Term Financial Stability



Full-Day Kindergarten

If approved by voters, full-day kindergarten would be implemented for the start of the 2019-2020 school year (Sept. 2019) at all 6 elementary schools .

Hillsborough is one of only 3 districts in Somerset County that does not offer a full-day kindergarten program. Approximately 90% of districts in New Jersey have a full-day kindergarten. Meeting the State Standards for kindergarten is much more challenging in a half-day versus a full-day program. More information and research of a full-day kindergarten program can be found on the district's [website](#).

A full-day kindergarten program will also support the long-term financial stability of the District. Currently, Hillsborough kindergarten students are counted as half a student in the state aid formula. A full day kindergarten student is counted as a full student using the state aid formula.

Long-Term Financial Stability

If approved by voters, the District's plan for long-term financial stability will allow the District to maintain current programs and class size.

By law, Hillsborough Schools' yearly budget is limited by a 2% tax cap. Over the last several years, the District has been forced to use a portion of its fund balance (previous year's savings) to cover costs outside of the District's control that continue to exceed this 2% limit. Financial concerns were compounded this summer when the state announced it would reduce state aid to Hillsborough by \$5.3 million over the next six years.

If not passed, the District would need to consider reducing teachers/staff, increasing class size, increasing fees for students to participate in athletics and co-curricular activities, increasing technology fees, and eliminating programs that are no longer affordable.

The cost to voters for the \$8.09 million referendum will result in a 2019 property tax increase of about \$25/month on the average Hillsborough home valued at \$389,300 home.* This is equal to approximately \$6/month for every \$100,000 of assessed home value. Millstone residents will see an increase of approximately \$30/month on the average home valued at \$314,669.* This is equal to approximately \$9/month for every \$100,000 of assessed home value. The increase in the 2020 property taxes will be impacted by the change in ratables (taxable properties) and budgetary needs for the 2020-21 school year.

**Figures are based on the 11/2018 Hillsborough and 2/2018 Millstone ratables. The referendum will be based on the February 2019 ratables which have yet to be finalized.*

Vote! Tuesday, March 12, 2019—Polls are open 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please click [here](#) to check your polling location. For more info visit www.https.us.