

Blackhawk Fiscal
Update:
Preliminary Budget
June 13, 2024



Mission

To empower every student to achieve
his/her best every day.



Vision

To prepare, educate,
challenge, and inspire students.



2024-2025 Proposed Budget



Project Description	Period	Original Amount
Title I Improving Basic Programs	8/29/2022-9/30/2023	\$ 268,556.00
Title I Improving Basic Programs	7/1/2023-9/30/2024	\$ 314,723.00
Title II Improving Teacher Quality	8/29/2022-9/30/2023	\$ 48,153.00
Title II Improving Teacher Quality	7/1/2023-9/30/2024	\$ 54,694.00
Medical Assistance-Access	-	
Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichme	8/29/2022-9/30/2023	\$ 21,362.00
Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichme	7/1/2023-9/30/2024	\$ 21,024.00
CARES Act - ESSER Fund Local	3/13/2020-9/30/2023	\$ 1,015,920.00
ARP ESSER	3/13/2020-9/30/2024	\$ 2,054,912.00
ARP ESSER 7%	3/13/2020-9/30/2024	\$ 159,712.00
		\$ 3,959,056.00

2024-2025 Grant Update



- Through the budgeting process, the District continually evaluates and re-evaluates budgetary requests to provide a balanced budget
- Meetings with Budget Managers
- Review personnel
- Analysis of every line item
- Analysis of salaries and benefits
- This process usually begins in October of the current school year, so for the 2024-2025 budget it would have been fall of 2023

Budgeting Process



- WHERAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education informed the Blackhawk School District (“School District”) that its property tax reduction allocation under Act 1 for 2024-2025 is \$1,302,033.85
- Homestead and Farmstead exclusion for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$272.45 for 4,779 properties (4,759 Homesteads and 20 Farmsteads).

Homestead Farmstead Act



Act 1 established in 2006: Limited the amount school districts can raise millage to within a certain “index”.

Act 1 has played an important role in slowing property tax growth since 2006, limiting the growth to the Act 1 index, a factor calculated based on the annual increase in the statewide average weekly wage for the prior year, the increase in the Employment Cost Index for Elementary and Secondary Schools for the prior year and a school district’s local wealth. The Act 1 index is calculated each year by the PA Department of Education (PDE).

School Districts may apply to PDE for exceptions to go beyond the state set Act 1 index, these exceptions are for special education and pension relief.

In January of 2024 the district voted to not apply for exceptions and stay within the set allowable Act 1 Index.

Act 1 Index



County/Township	Pre-Reassessment Millage	Post Reassessment Millage	Act 1 Index used	Millage to Index
Beaver/Blackhawk	69	9.6521	5.1	10.1444
Lawrence/Enon	21.43	21.43	7.1	22.9944

Millage Rates & Act 1 Index



During a County Reassessment School Districts are required to utilize the former years Act 1 Index Rate:

- Blackhawk 2024-2025 7.1% (Due to reassessment the District is required to use the 2023-2024 Act 1 Index Rate: 5.1%)
- Resulting in a potential revenue loss for \$(325,156.00)

Beaver County/Blackhawk Index of 5.1 %

- Yields=\$931,624.40

Enon Valley Index of 7.1%

- Yields=\$11,357.44

Total Amount of Act 1 Index

- **Yields=\$ 942,981.84**

2024-25 Act 1 Index



Revenue Source	Amount per year
Local	\$21,032,326.42
State	\$19,845,742.44
Federal	\$1,889,628.55

Total Revenues To Act 1 Index **\$ 42,767,697.41**

Total Projected Expenditures **\$43,753,024.00**

Shortfall (To Act 1 Index) **(\$956,556.33)**

Shortfall (w/o Act 1 Index) **(\$1,899,538.17)**

2024-2025 Projected Revenues and Expenditures



Impact on homeowners:

Reassessed Millage Rate 9.6521% -

\$206,000 (newly assessed median home value in Blackhawk) x .0096521 =
\$1988.33 in household school taxes

Millage with allowable PDE Act 1 Index to 5.1%= 10.1444 –
\$206,000 (newly assessed median home value in Blackhawk) x .0101444 =
\$2089.74 in household school taxes

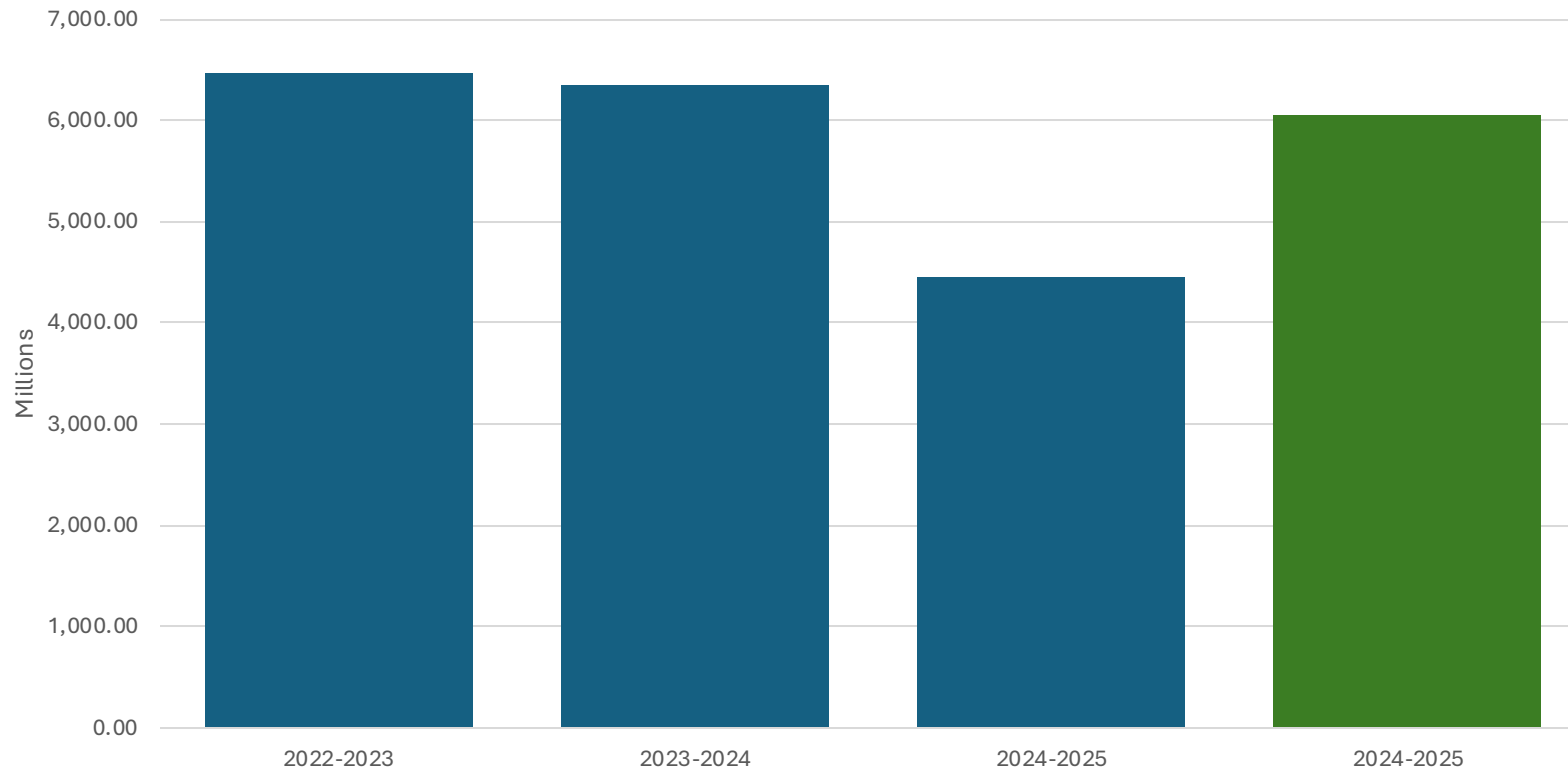
Monthly Difference to the Act Index: \$8.45

* the reassessed millage rates may fluctuate after the 100th percentiles.

2024-2025 Act 1 Index on Homeowners



Assigned and Unassigned Fund Balance



*2024-2025 ending balance shows a transfer of 1.6 mill Health Fund into Fund Balance

General Fund Balance Projections



Total Revenues to Act 1 Index	\$42,767,697.41	Total Revenues w/o Act 1 Index	\$41,824,715.57		
Total Projected Expenditures	\$43,753,024.00	Total Projected Expenditures	\$43,753,024.00		
Shortfall (to Act 1 Index)	(\$956,556.33)	Shortfall (w/o Act 1 Index)	(\$1,899,538.17)		

2024-25 Preliminary Budget Detail



2024-2025 Preliminary Budget Options

Balance with Index and General Fund		Balance w/o Index and General Fund	
Total Revenues to Act 1 Index	\$42,767,697.41	Total Revenues w/o Act 1 Index	\$41,824,715.57
Total Projected Expenditures	\$43,753,024.00	Total Projected Expenditures	\$43,753,024.00
Shortfall (to Act 1 Index)	(\$956,556.33)	Shortfall (w/o Act 1 Index)	(\$1,899,538.17)
Projected Fund Balance	\$ 5,102,869.67	Projected Fund Balance	\$4,159,887.83



2024-2025 Tax Exemptions Options

Pennsylvania provides tax relief to senior citizens and to veterans.

To access these opportunities:

[Property Tax Relief for those 65 and older](#)

[Disabled Veterans Relief](#)



2023-2024 County Preassessment Millage Comparison

School District	Millage Rates
Beaver Area	97.17
Hopewell Area	89.00
Ambridge Area	83.47
Rochester Area	74.25
New Brighton Area	73.96
Riverside Beaver Co.	73.10
Freedom Area	72.90
Rochester Area	74.25
Big Beaver Falls Area	71.00
Central Valley	70.85
Blackhawk	69.00
Western Beaver Co.	66.00
South Side Area	65.10
Aliquippa	43.50

Broad Take Aways

What we know:

- We are looking at annual systemic deficits
- General Fund depleted to 2 million over the past two years
- Annually salaries and benefits increase annually and without increasing revenues the district will have no choice, but re-evaluate department and personnel budgets
- District is in a rebuilding and resetting

What we don't know:

- **Eligibility for additional State funding through BEF, Special Education, Adequacy Funding**
- **Contractual Aspects**
- **Reassessment values and challenges, we are being told to expect a reduction in revenues**

Budget Timeline

Finance Presentation: Budget
update 23-24 and Preliminary
Budget 24-25

April
13

Newspaper Advertisement:
Proposed Budget Adoption
Notice and Vote

May
16

Adoption of Final Budget 2024-25

June
20

May
9

Finance Presentation: Budget
update 23-24 and Preliminary
Budget 24-25

June
13

**Finance Presentation:
Budget update 23-24 and
Preliminary Budget 24-25**

