



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 24, 2026
To: Chief School Administrators
Route To: School Business Administrators/Board Secretaries
From: Thomas McMahan, Director
Office of Fiscal Policy and Planning
Division of Finance and Business Services

Revisions to 2026 School Election and Budget Procedures Calendar

The 2026 School Election and Budget Procedures Calendar that was originally posted by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on December 24, 2025, has been revised. This revision is necessary to accommodate the provisions of a recent state law (P.L. 2026, c.1), which changed the date of this year's Governor's Budget Address from February 24 to March 10. The change in the date of the budget address and the subsequent notification of state aid figures will affect a number of local district deadlines.

The NJDOE's School Finance webpage contains the revised [2026 School Election and Budget Procedures Calendar](#). The revised 2026 calendar supersedes all previous versions.

The NJDOE has changed several key dates pursuant to P.L. 2026, c.1, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5c, N.J.S.A. 19:60-1, N.J.S.A. 19:60-2 and N.J.S.A. 19:11-1, in order to provide local boards of education and boards of school estimate sufficient time to prepare and submit an itemized budget to the executive county superintendent of schools. Most importantly, the following revisions to the budget due date may have resulted in additional changes to the date that your district's budget is due to the [County Offices of Education](#):

- Type II districts with an April election (including regional school districts) moved from March 6, 2026, to March 18, 2026 (reference Table 1 in the revised election calendar).
- Type II districts with a November election (including regional school districts) moved from March 19, 2026, to March 27, 2026 (reference Table 2 in the revised election calendar).
- Type I districts moved from March 6, 2026, to March 18, 2026 (reference Table 3 in the revised election calendar).
- School districts under state intervention moved from March 6, 2026, to March 18, 2026 (reference Table 4 in the revised election calendar).
- County vocational districts moved from March 6, 2026, to March 18, 2026 (reference Table 5 in the revised election calendar).
- County special services school districts moved from March 6, 2026, to March 18, 2026 (reference Table 6 in the revised election calendar).
- Educational services commissions moved from March 9, 2026, to March 18, 2026 (reference Table 7 in the revised election calendar).

For April election districts, Type I districts, and state-operated districts, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.1 and due to the compressed budget timeline, Commissioner approval has been granted to advertise the budget for the public hearing prior to receiving executive county superintendent approval. The advertisement must include a statement that the budget is being advertised prior to executive county superintendent approval. The approval must be completed prior to holding the public hearing, and the approved budget must be discussed at the public hearing.

For November election districts, executive county superintendent approval must be obtained prior to the advertisement of the budget.

The above represents a summary of a key revision for each district type. However, the NJDOE strongly suggests a careful review of the entire table of dates that applies to your district type.

Contact Information

Please email questions regarding this change to: budget@doe.nj.gov.