



HUDSON Highlights

Budget Proposal Preserves Programs

VOTE

**TUESDAY
MAY 18
12-9 p.m.**

Poll Locations on Back

ON THE BALLOT

- Budget Proposal
- Board of Education Election (page 2)

BUDGET SUMMARY

- Proposed budget of \$52,244,404 for 2021-22 school year
- Estimated tax levy increase 1.35% (below tax cap)

The proposal maintains the current level of programming and services for students. There would be no cuts to programs or staffing.

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On Tuesday, May 18, Hudson City School District voters will be asked to decide on a \$52,244,404 spending plan for the 2021-22 school year. The budget proposal would preserve educational opportunities, student supports and services, and school health and safety initiatives.

The proposed budget has a tax levy increase of 1.35%, which is below the District's maximum allowable increase of 1.56% calculated under New York State's property tax cap law. This is the fifth year in a row the District proposes a tax levy increase below the tax cap to save taxpayer dollars.

Examples of educational opportunities, school initiatives and positions that would be maintained include:

- Full-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten (including 2-year kindergarten)
- 30+ high school electives
- 17 college credit-bearing courses
- AVID (K-12 college/career-readiness)
- Career & Technical Education, New Visions and Career Development & Occupational Studies
- 3 guidance counselors, 5 social workers and 6 school psychologists to support student academics and social-emotional well-being
- School Gate Guardian visitor management system

“Our goal is to continue providing our students with diverse learning opportunities and a

support system to help them grow and succeed, with hopefully a more ‘normal’ schedule and model for teaching and learning next year,” said Dr. Maria Lagana Suttmeier, Superintendent of Schools.

The District aims to continue strengthening its IT infrastructure with technology equipment upgrades that support student instruction and daily operations. Hundreds of Chromebooks used by students and staff need to be replaced because they are 6-7 years old (the average “lifespan” is 3-5 years). Newer Chromebooks provide better learning opportunities through the use of touchscreens and faster processing for more efficient learning. Aging servers would also be replaced to further improve network security and infrastructure.

The increase is mostly a result of Special Education mandates, transportation needs and contractual obligations such as pension contributions. To help save costs, some staffing positions were reduced through retirements and will not be filled.

“The goal for every budget is to give our students the best education possible while being fiscally responsible for our taxpayers,” said Jesse Boehme, School Business Administrator. “We’re planning for the future and looking at how we can stretch our reserves and fund balance so we can be prepared for possible decreases in state aid in the coming years.”

In addition to the budget proposal, voters will be asked to elect three (3) candidates to the Board of Education.

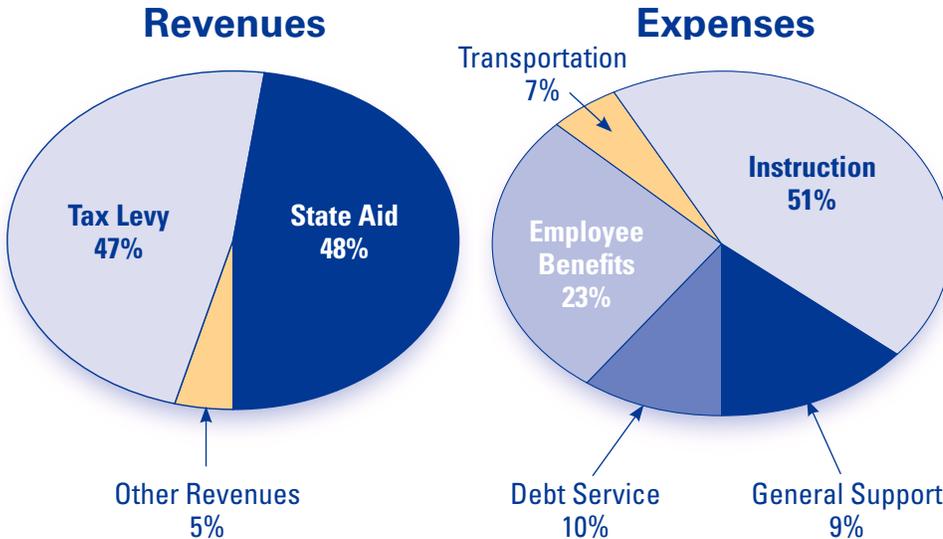


Career-readiness continues to be a primary focus throughout the District. Seventh grade students in the AVID elective class used the Xello career program to help identify careers that match their goals and interests (AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination). After researching their desired careers to learn about degree requirements, college programs, salaries and job descriptions, students created job flyers to present at a mock career fair. The Xello career program is purchased through NERIC and used by secondary students to track their career interests, build a resume and explore career options.

REVENUES: Where money comes from to pay for Hudson City Schools

Revenue Source	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy	\$24,143,525	\$24,469,462	\$325,937	1.35%
Projected State Aid	24,052,213	25,285,942	1,233,729	5.13%
Utility Tax*	600,000	600,000	—	0.00%
Reimbursements & Misc.	1,109,000	1,100,000	(9,000)	-0.81%
Rents, Tuition, PILOTS	280,000	289,000	9,000	3.21%
Assigned Fund Balance	500,000	500,000	—	0.00%
Grand Totals	\$50,684,738	\$52,244,404	\$1,559,666	3.08%

*Small City School Districts are eligible to receive a percentage of telephone, gas & heating fuel costs collected by the utilities.



EXPENSES: How money is spent at Hudson City Schools

Expense Category	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$ 4,560,722	\$ 4,618,130	\$ 57,408	1.26%
Instruction	26,107,440	26,841,754	734,314	2.81%
Transportation	3,059,100	3,430,200	371,100	12.13%*
Employee Benefits	11,767,316	12,187,065	419,749	3.57%
Debt Service	5,190,160	5,167,255	(22,905)	-0.44%
Grand Totals	\$50,684,738	\$52,244,404	\$1,559,666	3.08%

*This is due to increased transportation needs for students in out-of-district placements.

ON THE BALLOT

NOTE: The ballot has two sides, a front and a back. When at the polls, please remember to complete both sides and select board candidates on the back of the ballot before casting your vote.

BUDGET PROPOSAL: Voters will decide on a 2021-22 school budget in the amount of \$52,244,404, and for the Board of Education to be authorized to raise such portion thereof as may be necessary by taxes levied on taxable property of said school district.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION: Voters will elect candidates to fill three (3) open seats on the Board of Education. Two seats are full three-year terms ending in 2024. The third seat is the remaining term of BOE member Justin Elliott, who resigned for personal reasons earlier this year. The candidate who receives the fewest votes will fill Mr. Elliott's vacated seat for the remainder of the term (effective May 18, 2021 through June 30, 2022).

Learn more about the candidates at www.hudsoncsd.org/budget. (Due to the NYSED legal timeline for Small City School Districts, a complete list of candidates was unavailable at the time of printing.)

THREE-PART BUDGET

By law, school districts must divide their budget into three components—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to amounts from the previous year. Hudson's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

Program	2020-21	2021-22
Amount	\$37,531,602	\$38,971,672
% of total	74.05%	74.60%

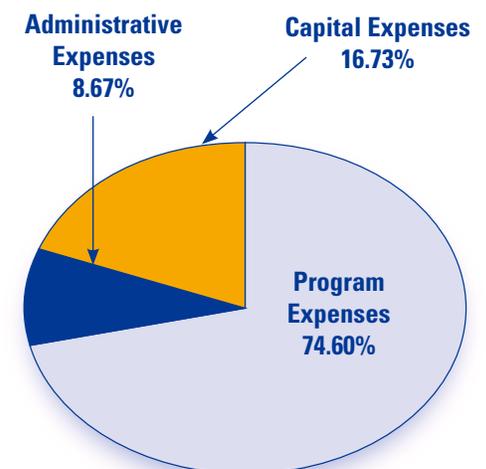
Program costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (including library, guidance, health, social work, speech therapy and athletics); also textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs, and transportation costs.

Administrative	2020-21	2021-22
Amount	\$4,391,973	\$4,531,984
% of total	8.66%	8.67%

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; insurance costs; legal and auditing expenses; and Board of Education expenses.

Capital	2020-21	2021-22
Amount	\$8,761,163	\$8,740,748
% of total	17.29%	16.73%

Capital costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff; plus debt service, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, operation and maintenance costs, and utilities.



HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *						
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 50,684,738	\$52,244,404	\$ 52,109,873						
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 1,559,666	\$ 1,425,135						
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.08 %	2.81%						
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%							
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$24,143,525	\$ 24,469,462							
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	N/A	N/A							
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	N/A	N/A							
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	N/A	N/A							
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$24,143,525	\$24,469,462	\$24,143,525						
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$598,513	\$547,961							
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$23,649,264	\$23,972,202							
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$23,545,012	\$23,921,501							
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$104,252	\$50,701							
Administrative Component	\$4,391,973	\$ 4,531,984	\$ 4,416,452						
Program Component	\$37,531,602	\$ 38,971,673	\$ 38,967,673						
Capital Component	\$8,761,163	\$ 8,740,747	\$ 8,725,748						
<p>* A contingency budget would result in a reduction of \$325,937 from the current proposal. No equipment would be purchased except where concerning safety. We would reduce the rental of office equipment and the District would have to charge for the use of its facilities and grounds areas. A contingency budget could require reductions in staff and larger class sizes. Finally, each program and department would be under review to potentially eliminate non-mandated expenses for the 2021-22 school year (e.g., extracurricular activities, field trips, sports, and non-mandated academic programs or electives).</p> <p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount		\$		\$
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	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 478

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Hudson City School District, Columbia County, New York, will be held at Hudson Central Fire Station, Greenport Community Center and A.B. Shaw Fire House in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12 p.m. and 9 p.m. prevailing time in the Hudson City School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Where can I get more details about the budget?

The 2021-22 Budget Book contains more line-by-line details of the proposal. It can be found on our website at www.hudsoncsd.org/budget. For more information, please call the Business Office at 518-828-4360, ext. 2100.

Why levy taxes if HCSD received extra state and federal aid this year?

It is a best practice to keep the tax levy close to the tax cap each year so that a future tax spike can be avoided. Since the tax cap is based on the actual taxes levied in the previous year, the District does not want to find itself in a financial position where it must ask for more than the maximum allowable levy to offset expenses. Furthermore, the federal funds are one-time only funds intended to help districts recover from the pandemic. For long-term financial planning purposes, it would be unwise to drastically reduce the tax levy based on a one-time influx of federal funds.



Hudson City School District
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ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT – This table shows the estimated tax impact of the proposed budget based on an assessed home value of \$100,000. To determine the annual tax difference based on a home value of \$150,000, multiply the amount in the “Difference” column by 1.5. For an assessed home value of \$200,000, multiply the “Difference” amount by 2, and so on.

Town	Annual Taxes (2020-21)	Annual Taxes (2021-22)*	Annual Difference*
Claverack	\$1,503.82	\$1,524.12	\$20.30
Ghent	\$1,476.47	\$1,496.40	\$19.93
Greenport	\$1,323.37	\$1,341.23	\$17.87
Hudson	\$1,323.36	\$1,341.23	\$17.87
Livingston	\$1,764.48	\$1,788.30	\$23.82
Stockport	\$1,718.65	\$1,741.85	\$23.20
Taghkanic	\$1,323.36	\$1,341.23	\$17.87

* Based on the proposed 1.35% tax levy increase. Figures are estimates and subject to change based on STAR exemptions, changes in assessed and full values, and equalization rates.



In-person students worked with remote students in Chemistry class to construct three dimensional models of covalent bonds such as oxygen, hydrogen and water.

Due to the unique circumstances of this school year, many students have a synchronous learning model in which they follow regular class schedules at home and log into virtual classes at designated times during the school day.

VOTER INFORMATION

Registered voters can cast ballots at their designated polling location between 12-9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Visit www.hudsoncsd.org/budget for information about voter eligibility, voter registration and absentee ballots.

POLLING LOCATIONS:

District 1: City of Hudson – Hudson Central Fire Station (77 North Seventh Street, Hudson)

District 2: Greenport, Stottville/Stockport, Ghent – Greenport Community Center (500 Town Hall Drive, Hudson)

District 3: Claverack, Livingston, Taghkanic – A.B. Shaw Fire House (67 NY-23, Claverack)