



TROY

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2019

1% TAX LEVY INCREASE

PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET: \$114,174,990
1% Tax Levy Increase (Below the 1.89% Tax Cap)

INCLUDES ADDITIONAL SUPPORT & PROGRAMS

A typical homeowner will see their annual school tax bill increase \$21.73, or \$1.81 a month.

**Based on a property with an assessed value of \$100,000.*

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Poll Hours: **7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

POLLING SITES:

- SCHOOL 2 – 470 Tenth Street
- SCHOOL 12 – 475 First Street
- SCHOOL 14 – 1700 Tibbits Avenue
- SCHOOL 16 – 40 Collins Avenue
- SCHOOL 18 – 412 Hoosick Street
- CARROLL HILL – 112 Delaware Avenue

Unsure of where to vote?

Visit www.troycsd.org or call 518-328-5070.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Increased Mental Health support.**
- **Increased Elementary Instructional supports.**
- **Additional programs including: Math/STEM/Coding at TMS; internship program expansion; modified lacrosse, additional nurse support and more.**
- **Continuous review of enrollment for class section reduction; no layoffs.**

TOWN HALL MEETING & BUDGET PRESENTATION: **Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.** Troy Middle School, 1976 Burdett Avenue

District adds supports and programs with limited tax impact

The Troy City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$114,174,990. With this plan, the tax levy will increase 1%, which is \$326,455 below the allowable tax cap of 1.89%. This is the seventh consecutive year the District has proposed a budget at or below the tax cap, which means STAR eligible taxpayers will once again receive the New York State issued rebate check.

"It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and we were mindful of that during the budget development process," said Superintendent John Carmello. "We decided to propose a budget that is below the allowable tax cap, and allows us to enhance the supports and programs for our students."

This year, while still drastically underfunded, the District will receive enough State Aid to not only maintain its current



Troy High School's 2018 graduation rate is at 88 percent, up 15 percentage points in the past five years. Troy High School is also five percentage points above the statewide graduation rate, and 15 percentage points above the statewide average for urban-suburban high needs districts. Visit www.troycsd.org/graduation for additional figures.

programs and staff but add necessary supports. This includes mental health supports as well as program expansion in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Each year, the budget development process includes the identification of areas in which the District can save. This year some of our savings were found by reducing the number of elementary sections due to fluctuations in enrollment. Class sizes will remain low. There are also several teacher retirements which will result in savings for the District.

"We are proud to offer a high-quality and comprehensive education to all of our students beginning in Pre-K all the way through graduation. Our students are excelling both academically and in extracurricular activities," said Carmello.

"While we still have work to do, we are looking forward to continuing our success in the 2019-2020 school year."

Area districts look to Troy CSD for best practice

The Troy City School District is on the forefront of best practices in instruction and cutting-edge technology. With a relentless commitment to student achievement and a steadily climbing graduation rate, other educators in the area are looking to Troy as a leader in education and a model for success. Recently, the District welcomed visitors from other districts in the following areas:

- **Graduation Rates** – A team from the Greater Amsterdam School District met with THS Principal Joseph Mariano to discuss Troy High’s rising graduation rates to see how they could improve in their own schools.

- **STEM Day** – South Glens Falls educators visited Carroll Hill School to learn more about the STEM Days. They first heard about these days at NERIC’s Technology Awareness Day where Troy CSD staff and School 18 students presented to a room filled with area educators from throughout the region. STEM Days include hands-on, student-driven instruction with the latest in technology and embedded staff development.



Carroll Hill School 5th Grade student Caeden Hudson shows Glens Falls CSD Technology Director Paul Streicher the project he created on a Google Chromebook during a recent STEM Day.

- **Project Schools** – School 14, School 18 and Carroll Hill School are the only schools in the region to partner with the Teachers College of Columbia University as Project Schools. They receive embedded professional development from their staff on the Lucy Calkins Units of Study for reading and writing. This is a widely accepted best practice in the education industry and has been adopted throughout the District. Representatives from Guilderland and Green Island school districts visited School 14 and Carroll Hill School to witness the training in action.

- **Social Emotional Programs** – School 2 welcomed visitors from Cocksackie-Athens CSD and the Lasalle Institute interested in learning about the Second Step Program.

- **Community Schools** – School 2’s newly renovated Community Schools Wing drew in visitors from the Albany City School District interested in setting up their own community spaces.

- **English Language Learning** – Educators from Brunswick-Brittonkill, North Colonie and Niskayuna school districts attended training sessions led by Troy CSD English as a New Language (ENL) staff. Clarkson University and Lansingburgh CSD sent observers to Troy.

“We are intensely focused on improving teaching and learning and will continue our mission until our graduation rate reaches 100 percent,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Donna Watson, “Our classrooms have become observatories for best practices in the industry and that is due to our unwavering commitment and investment in the professional growth of our staff.”

Capital Projects Update:

The Troy City School District has some of the oldest schools in the area; with that comes the need for continuous maintenance and renovations to ensure safe and modern learning environments for our students. We thank you for your continued approval of the various projects we’ve already completed and for those still in progress. We are currently in the process of discussing projects for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. Be on the lookout for exciting changes to come.



School 16 5th Grade students enjoying the playground on a sunny spring day. This playground, and four others, were included in Phase 1 of the 2016 Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project.



The Troy High School Basketball Team claimed the 2019 Section 2 Class A Championship, pictured here, as well as the 2019 NYSPHSAA Class A Regional East Championship.

PHOTO CREDIT: STAN HUDY, TROY RECORD



Twenty-four students from all five elementary schools and Troy Middle School competed in the annual District Wide Spelling Bee. Congratulations to repeat winner Elisabeth McDonald, center, and runners up, Inari Sohn (2nd Place), left, and Michael Leonard (3rd Place) – all of Troy Middle School. These students also advanced to the regional competition at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady.



Troy High School College and Career Transition Liaisons provide additional exploratory programs available to every student to assist in our mission of graduating all students college and career ready. Pictured here, Troy High School students take a trip to The College of Saint Rose campus.

School 2 opened its newly renovated Community Schools Wing this year. The space serves as a hub for support services for both children and their families. It includes private spaces for medical and dental screenings, family support, career resources and meeting spaces.



The School 18 Odyssey of the Mind team won first place at the state tournament held in Binghamton. The team advances to the World Finals to be held May 22 – May 25 at Michigan State University. This is their third appearance at the state tournament, and the first time the team has qualified for the World Finals.

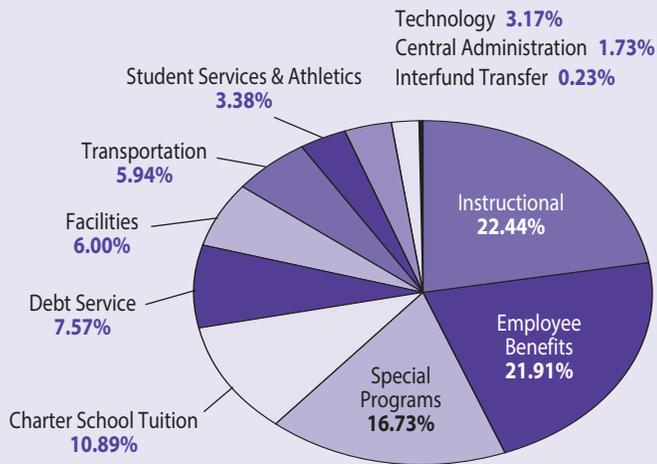


School 14 celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday in March with green eggs and ham. During their writer's workshop, they wrote tutorial books on how to make the colorful breakfast.

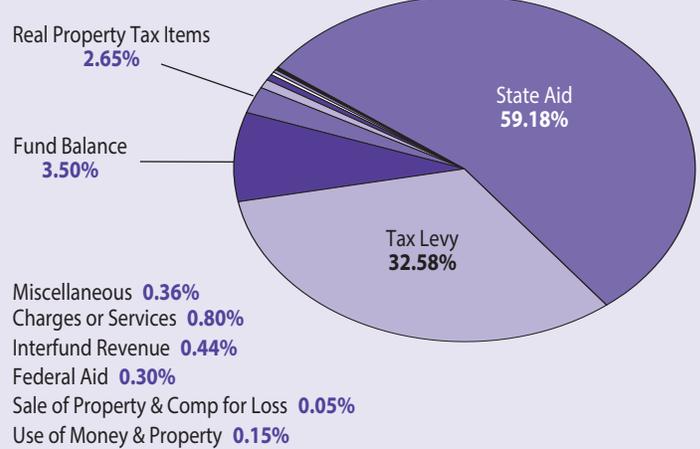
Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$25,217,139	\$25,620,316	\$403,177	1.60%
Employee Benefits	\$24,702,920	\$25,017,247	\$314,327	1.27%
Special Programs	\$18,446,428	\$19,102,833	\$656,405	3.56%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,367,200	\$12,433,600	\$66,400	0.54%
Debt Service	\$8,065,530	\$8,639,065	\$33,535	0.39%
Facilities	\$6,726,295	\$6,853,175	\$126,880	1.89%
Transportation	\$6,785,888	\$6,787,237	\$1,349	0.02%
Student Services and Athletics	\$3,523,398	\$3,857,739	\$334,341	9.49%
Technology	\$3,358,102	\$3,618,379	\$260,277	7.75%
Central Administration	\$1,925,488	\$1,980,399	\$54,911	2.85%
Interfund Transfer	\$235,000	\$265,000	\$30,000	12.77%
Total General Fund Budget	\$111,893,389	\$114,174,990	\$2,281,601	2.04%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$64,678,916	\$67,565,859	\$2,886,943	4.46%
Tax Levy	\$36,832,473	\$37,200,798	\$368,325	1.00%
Fund Balance	\$5,450,000	\$4,000,000	-\$1,450,000	-26.61%
Real Property Tax Items	\$2,725,000	\$3,025,000	\$300,000	11.01%
Miscellaneous	\$715,000	\$410,000	-\$305,000	-42.66%
Charges or Services	\$709,000	\$910,000	\$201,000	28.35%
Interfund Revenue	\$300,000	\$500,000	\$200,000	66.67%
Federal Aid	\$390,000	\$345,333	-\$44,667	-11.45%
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$0	0.00%
Use of Money & Property	\$41,000	\$166,000	\$125,000	304.88%
Total General Fund Budget	\$111,893,389	\$114,174,990	\$2,281,601	2.04%

Thank you to the Citizens Advisory Committee for their input on the proposed budget!

TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 111,893,389	\$114,174,990	\$113,213,940										
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$2,281,601	\$1,320,551										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.04 %	1.18%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 36,832,473	\$ 37,200,798											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable													
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **													
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy													
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 36,832,473	\$ 37,200,798	\$ 36,832,473										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 747,689	\$ 887,823											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 36,208,066	\$ 36,639,430											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 36,084,784	\$ 36,312,975											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 123,282	\$ 326,455											
Administrative Component	\$ 8,997,341	\$ 9,165,854	\$ 9,083,291										
Program Component	\$ 88,695,126	\$ 90,652,703	\$ 90,064,216										
Capital Component	\$ 14,200,922	\$ 14,356,433	\$ 14,066,433										
<p>* Under a contingency budget the District may not raise the tax levy over the prior year. In addition, the District cannot purchase any equipment, transfer funds to the Capital fund, allow buildings and grounds to be used by the public, or provide salary increases to non-contractual personnel</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="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	Amount									
Description	Amount												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 635

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at all elementary schools and District Office in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7:30am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in PS2, PS12, PS14, PS16, PS18, and Carroll Hill schools, 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.



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Kristen Miaski, *Director of Human Resources*

District Office: (518) 328-5052

www.troycsd.org

**BUDGET
VOTE**
BOE Election
**TUESDAY
MAY 21**

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 1% for the 2019-20 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners is \$635.
- The tax rates will be established upon receiving the equalization rates from the New York State Office of Real Property Services and the final assessments from the City of Troy and Town of Brunswick.

Voter Eligibility:

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Troy City School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date. You must be registered before you are permitted to vote.

Absentee Ballot Information:

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Please contact the Board of Education Office at 518-328-5070. If you want a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received seven days before the vote. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received one day prior to vote. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 21, the day of the vote.

School Tax Relief Program:

STAR is New York State's School Tax Relief Program that includes a school property tax rebate program and a partial property tax exemption from school taxes. All New Yorkers who own and live in their one-, two-, or three-family home, condominium, cooperative apartment, manufactured home, or farm dwelling are eligible for STAR on their primary residence. For information about the STAR rebate program, please visit the website of the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance or call 518-457-2036.

Understanding the Tax Cap Laws:

The law does allow for tax levy increases greater than 2% despite how it has been described. The law requires districts to calculate their own tax levy limit based on the law which includes exemptions for voter-approved local capital expenditures, increases in pension rates that exceed two points; and court order judgments. The Troy City School District's maximum allowable tax levy increase is 1.89%. The District is proposing going below this figure with the budget at 1%.

BALLOT FOR THE MAY 21 VOTE:

Budget:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2019-20 school year in the amount of \$114,174,990 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by the law.

YES

NO

Board of Education Election:

The School Board election will be held on May 21 to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: three members to three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2022. Three candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast will be elected to the three-year terms. Deadline for nominating petitions was May 1. Candidate information is available at: www.troycsd.org/board-candidates.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: The District can either put the same budget up for a re-vote OR adopt a contingency budget. If the proposed budget is defeated by voters twice, the District must adopt a contingency budget. This requires a 0% tax levy increase and would reduce the currently proposed budget by \$961,050. In addition, contingency budgets prohibit public use of buildings for non-District related events. It would also prohibit the purchase of student supplies and equipment, including computers and technology equipment.