



TROY

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2023

0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGET: \$131,898,112
0% Tax Levy Increase

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

See page 6 for additional voting info.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Many Troy election districts have recently changed. Please verify your voting location on our website at www.troycsd.org.

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, EDUCATIONALLY SOUND

A typical homeowner will see their annual school tax bill increase **\$0**

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Expanded student supports
- No reduction in staff or programs
- Continued emphasis on social-emotional health

FOR BUDGET PRESENTATIONS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE BIOS, VISIT WWW.TROYCSD.ORG.

DISTRICT PROPOSES 0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

Budget maintains all staffing and programs; adds supports without raising taxes

The Troy City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$131,898,112 on April 19, 2023. Thanks in large part to New York State's commitment to fully funding the Foundation Aid formula, we are pleased to be able to present a budget that is \$934,270 below our allowable tax cap. This marks 11 consecutive years at or below our allowable tax cap and our third consecutive year with a 0% tax increase. Because of our long-term planning and commitment to fiscal responsibility, school taxes have increased by a total of less than five percent in the last eight years.

This year, residents will vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 16. They will also vote for candidates running for three open seats on the Board of Education.

"This year's budget once again highlights our priority to meet the needs of our students and our commitment to being responsible stewards of our taxpayers' money," said Superintendent of Schools John Carmello. "We are confident that with this budget, we will continue to provide the excellent school experiences our students deserve and that our families have come to expect from Troy."

This budget adds two new elementary teachers, one each at School 2 and School 18. Most of our elementary classes have less than 20 students, and we are pleased to be able to make staff additions to support small class sizes and reduce our largest cohorts in those buildings.



Troy High School graduated 237 seniors at the ceremony on June 24, 2022.

We are also continually working to strengthen student safety and security, and this year, we are proposing the addition of three new security monitors at TMS/THS. Our security staff, along with our School Resource Officers and partnership with the Troy Police Department, are essential to keeping our students safe when they come to school each day.

"We are committed to doing what is necessary to build on our successes and ensure that we meet the needs of all of our students," said Carmello. "This budget will allow us to do just that."

Looking ahead...



Elementary students studied all aspects of coding in the library during Computer Science Month in December.

As we have said over the past several years, the federal stimulus funding we've received since 2020 through the American Rescue Plan will end after the 2023-2024 school year. However, thanks to our long-term, strategic financial planning, we are prepared for these funds to be discontinued. The 2023-2024 school year is also the third and final year of New York State's Foundation Aid phase-in, so while we have seen significant increases in Aid each year since 2021-2022, these increases will likely not continue at the same rate beginning in 2024-2025. The Troy City School District remains committed to providing its students with a high-quality education that prepares them for success in the future.

Masterminds team undefeated in league play

This year, the Troy High School Masterminds team finished first in their league with a record of 11-0. Ninth-grader Demetrios Skordas led the entire league in scoring with 730 points. The team was one of only 300 high school teams across the nation to qualify for the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) High School National Tournament in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend.



This year, the Troy High School Masterminds Team qualified for the National Tournament in Atlanta in May.

Social-Emotional Health

Social-emotional learning supports students in developing skills such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. These skills enable students to better navigate their emotions and relationships, handle stress and challenges, and make responsible choices. By prioritizing social-emotional health, we create a safe and supportive learning environment that fosters positive student behavior, academic achievement, and long-term success in life.

The social and emotional health of our students remains a priority in each of our schools. The District has continued to expand the social-emotional and mental health support available for every student, and we are pleased to have at least one social worker in each of our schools.

Visual/Performing Arts



Over spring break, Troy High School art club students and Ms. Duchnycz worked together with graffiti artist Lady Pink's team to paint a wall on the first level of the school.

Our student performers and artists once again displayed their many talents this school year. Dozens of Troy students had artwork showcased in various displays throughout the City of Troy and in statewide galleries, including the Troy Victorian Stroll, the 33rd Annual Legislative Student Art Exhibit, the New York State Art Teachers Association exhibit at the NYS School Boards Association Convention, High School Regional Juried Exhibit at the Albany Center Gallery, Capital District Urban School Invitational Art Show and more.

This spring, Troy High School Art Club students worked with well-known muralist and graffiti artist Lady Pink to design and paint a mural in the hallway outside the cafeteria, representing the many clubs and other opportunities available to Troy High School students.

The Troy High School Drama club put on excellent productions of "You Can't Take It With You" in November and "The Addams Family" in April, and our young musicians performed several concerts throughout the year. Thank you to all who came out and supported our performers at the many performances throughout the district.

Athletics Update



Last season, Varsity Softball made it to the NYS Final Four with a record of 22-3.

This time last year, Troy's Varsity Softball team was in the middle of a season that would see them advance all the way to the State semifinal on Long Island. The loss to Vestal in that game broke a 19-game win streak, during which pitcher Olivia DeCitise surpassed 300 strikeouts on the season, tied a state record for most strikeouts in a single game, and ended her Junior season with 475 for her career.

In March, Boys Varsity Basketball claimed the Section 2 Class A title with a win over Amsterdam in Glens Falls, fighting a tough schedule to make it to the championship, including defeating the #1 and #2 seeds in postseason play. Eighth Grader Stetson Merritt was named Class A Tournament MVP.

The Bowling Team rolled an impressive season as well, also earning a spot in Sectionals. Senior Olivia DeCitise was named the Suburban Council Bowler of the Year with a season average of 221.

This spring, we are excited to have Section 2's first Varsity Girls Flag Football team. After a pilot program in 2022, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) announced earlier this year that varsity flag football would be a sanctioned sport across the state, with the first state championship tournament being held in 2024. We've seen a great response from our students and there is a great deal of excitement around the team.

We are proud this year to have nine sports teams named Scholar-Athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association - Golf, Football, Girls Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Bowling and Girls Indoor Track. We also had 117 students named individual Scholar-Athletes for the fall and winter seasons. Last spring, Varsity Baseball, Softball and Girls Outdoor Track were named scholar-athlete teams, and we had 36 students named individual Scholar-Athletes.



Varsity Basketball claimed the Section 2 Class A title over #1 seed Amsterdam in March.

Building Modernization Project Update

In December 2019, Troy CSD residents voted in favor of the \$56 million Building Modernization Project. This Capital Project was funded without increasing the tax levy and included necessary upgrades and the purchase of an additional building. The tentative timeline can be found on our website.

We have successfully completed the first two phases, and are currently in Phase Three, which has focused on the renovation of School 18. As part of Phase Four, which is scheduled to begin this summer, School 18 will move back to its newly reconstructed building on Hoosick Street, and School 16 will temporarily move to School 12 for the 2023-2024 school year. This will allow construction crews ample time to complete the large renovation project at School 16. We are still finalizing the logistics of this move, and families will receive all the information they need prior to the start of school.

In this year's proposed budget, we are recommending a Transfer to Capital of \$5 million. This will help offset rising construction costs due to inflation and enable the projects to be completed on time. This will also allow for a Small City Capital Outlay Project. This project allows us to address some immediate needs throughout the district with no tax impact. The District will also receive all State Aid on this project back in the following school year. We plan to use this funding to address the dire need for elevator repairs in several buildings, upgrades to lighting, water service and replacing boilers. In addition, this project would allow us to replace the worn turf skin on the football field, and add turf to the varsity baseball and softball fields, alleviating significant drainage issues that have left these surfaces largely unusable for several years. For more details on this project, please visit our website at troycsd.org/budget.

TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 126,903,272	\$131,898,112	\$125,724,469
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$4,994,836	(\$1,178,803)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.94 %	(0.93)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$821,620	\$845,791	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$37,565,655	\$38,029,573	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$37,119,474	\$37,095,303	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$446,181	\$934,270	
Administrative Component	\$11,308,399	\$11,959,082	\$11,808,384
Program Component	\$92,179,926	\$95,832,860	\$95,184,915
Capital Component	\$23,414,951	\$24,106,170	\$18,731,170

* 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

** 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)

Description	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 571

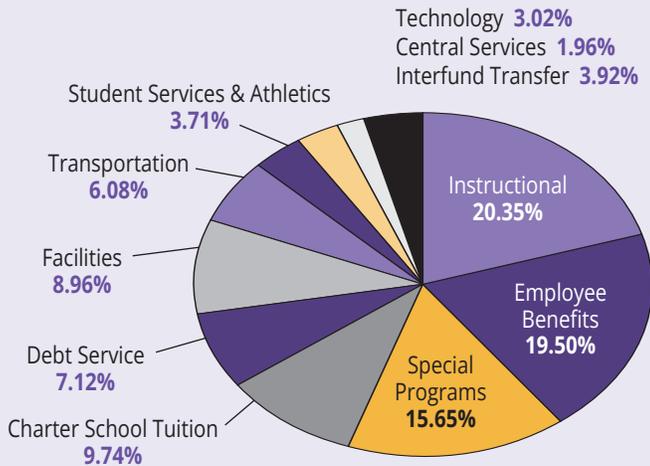
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 16 2023 between the hours of 7:30am and 8:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. The polling locations will be PS2, PS12, PS14, PS16, Brunswick No. 1 Fire House (in lieu of PS 18 due to construction) and Carroll Hill School.

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

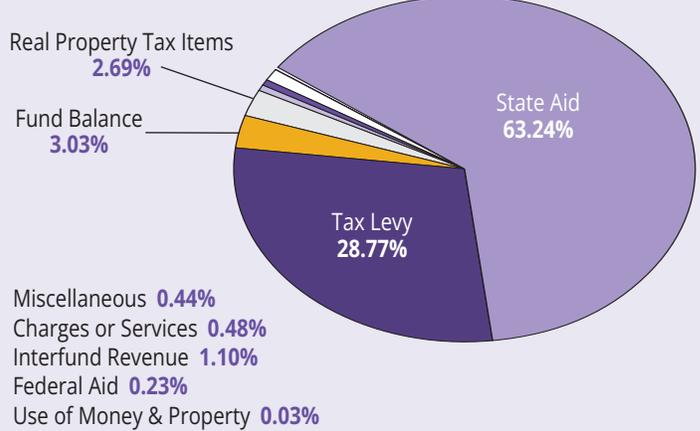
Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2023-2024	2022-2023	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$26,845,985	\$24,737,726	\$2,108,259	8.52%
Employee Benefits	\$25,718,241	\$26,025,012	-\$306,771	-1.18%
Special Programs	\$20,637,864	\$20,305,188	\$332,676	1.64%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,841,720	\$12,192,325	\$649,395	5.33%
Debt Service	\$9,389,510	\$9,095,956	\$293,554	3.23%
Facilities	\$11,823,017	\$9,234,245	\$2,588,772	28.03%
Transportation	\$8,020,430	\$7,654,407	\$366,023	4.78%
Student Services & Athletics	\$4,893,105	\$4,395,349	\$497,756	11.32%
Technology	\$3,980,702	\$3,632,544	\$348,158	9.58%
Central Services	\$2,582,538	\$2,465,524	\$117,014	4.75%
Interfund Transfer	\$5,165,000	\$7,165,000	-\$2,000,000	-27.91%
Total General Fund Budget	\$131,898,112	\$126,903,276	\$4,994,836	3.94%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2023-2024	2022-2023	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$83,409,505	\$75,087,182	\$8,322,323	11.08%
Tax Levy	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$4,000,000	\$8,550,000	-\$4,500,000	-52.94%
Real Property Tax Items	\$3,550,000	\$3,550,000	\$0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	\$575,000	\$725,000	-\$150,000	-20.69%
Charges or Services	\$631,500	\$670,000	-\$38,500	-5.75%
Interfund Revenue	\$1,450,000	\$150,000	\$1,300,000	866.67%
Federal Aid	\$307,946	\$250,000	\$57,946	23.18%
Use of Money & Property	\$33,067	\$30,000	\$3,067	10.22%
Total General Fund Budget	\$131,898,112	\$126,903,276	\$4,994,836	3.94%

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



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District Office: (518) 328-5052

www.troycsd.org

BUDGET VOTE
BOE ELECTION
Tuesday, May 16

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

POLLING SITES:

Poll Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

- School 2 - 470 Tenth Street
- School 12 - 475 First Street
- School 14 - 1700 Tibbits Avenue
- School 16 - 40 Collins Avenue
- Carroll Hill - 112 Delaware Avenue
- *Brunswick No. 1 Fire House – 566 Hoosick Rd

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*in lieu of School 18 due to construction.

BALLOT FOR THE MAY 16 VOTE:

Budget: RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$131,898,112 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

Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 0% for the 2023-24 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the City of Troy is \$571.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the Town of Brunswick is \$573.
- 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 at School 12 by 5 p.m. on May 16, the day of the vote.

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 2.46%. The District is proposing going below this figure with the budget at 0%.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the District will adopt a contingency budget. This requires a 0% tax levy increase which is the same figure the district is currently proposing. 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.