



# TROY

## CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2020

# 1.99% TAX LEVY INCREASE

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, EDUCATIONALLY SOUND

## PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET: \$113,651,375

### 1.99% Tax Levy Increase (Below the 2.13% Tax Cap)

A typical homeowner will see their annual school tax bill increase \$44.34, or \$3.70 a month.

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

## BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**  
**By Absentee Ballot Only**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, votes will be cast by absentee ballot only. Absentee ballots must be received to the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, to be counted.

**Unsure of how to vote?**

Visit [www.troycsd.org](http://www.troycsd.org) or call 518-328-5070.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Maintains small class sizes
- No reductions to mental health support
- Continued professional development opportunities for staff
- Staff reductions due to COVID-19 crisis, but with limited impact to student learning.

FOR BUDGET PRESENTATIONS AND VIDEOS, AND BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE BIOS, VISIT [WWW.TROYCSD.ORG](http://WWW.TROYCSD.ORG).

## COVID-19 forces tough budget decisions, district confident in continued success

On May 20, the Troy City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$113,651,375. With this plan, the tax levy will increase 1.99%, which is \$53,357 below the allowable tax cap of 2.13%. This is the eighth consecutive year the District has proposed a budget at or below the tax cap.

This year, the District was faced with the task to close a \$2.9 million gap created by the COVID-19 crisis and its effect on the State Budget and subsequent State Aid for school districts. The District was able to develop a plan that contains spending but one that still ensures all children have access to programs and supports needed to be successful.

Given the size of the budget gap, the district had no choice but to reduce staff. The biggest savings were found by eliminating a total of 25 positions. This includes 23 instructional positions, one clerical position and one laborer. Additional savings came from retirements as well as a pay freeze and health care change for administrators.

According to Superintendent John Carmello, the proposed cuts followed a comprehensive and extensive analysis of all district programs. "It is unfortunate that we have to recommend any positions for elimination at this time," he said. "However, the recommended cuts allow us to close the budget gap while maintaining strong programs and services for our students and families."

"Our goal is to have the least possible impact on our students and their learning," said Carmello. "We needed to find a way to cut \$3 million, while keeping the positive momentum going in

the district and still be able to help every student reach their full potential and achieve success."

The District continues to see rising graduation rates, well above the statewide average for high needs districts. The proposed budget will maintain small class sizes and the District will continue to provide extra supports for those who need it. This includes the mental health supports added last year as well as the expanded STEM programs.

"This has no doubt been the most difficult budget to develop since I've been superintendent, but I am confident in our caring and dedicated staff and the district's ability to provide a quality and comprehensive education to all students in Grades Pre-K through 12. We will get through this together and I thank the community for their support, especially during difficult times like these."



School 16 students proudly display the signs they made for the staff car parade during the COVID-19 closure. "We Can. We Will. End of Story."



[facebook.com/TroyCSD](https://facebook.com/TroyCSD)

[www.troycsd.org](http://www.troycsd.org)

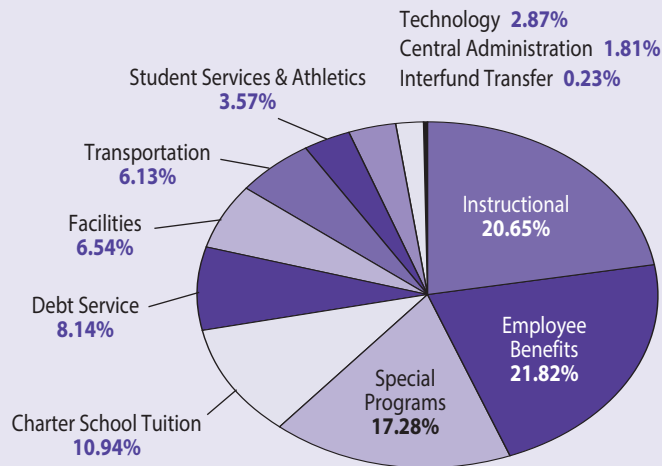


[twitter.com/TCSD](https://twitter.com/TCSD)

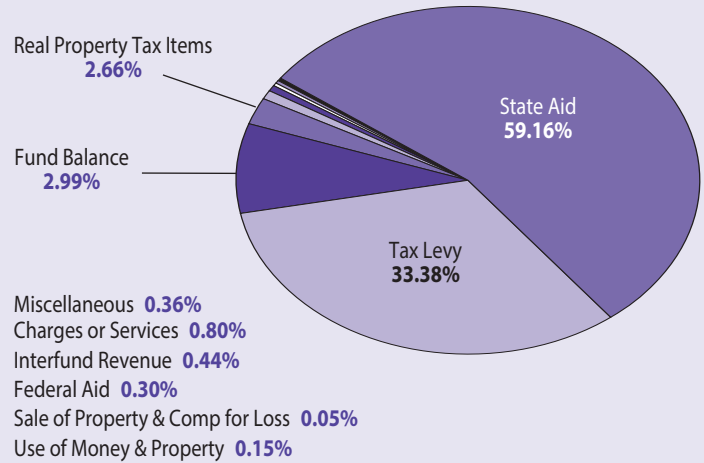
# Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2020-2021	2019-2020	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$23,473,991	\$25,620,316	-\$2,146,325	-8.38%
Employee Benefits	\$24,801,569	\$25,017,247	\$215,678	-0.86%
Special Programs	\$19,642,319	\$19,102,833	\$539,486	2.82%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,433,600	\$12,433,600	\$0	0.00%
Debt Service	\$9,253,726	\$8,639,065	\$614,661	7.11%
Facilities	\$7,436,927	\$6,853,175	\$583,752	8.52%
Transportation	\$6,966,389	\$6,787,237	\$179,152	2.64%
Student Services and Athletics	\$4,062,937	\$3,857,739	\$205,198	5.32%
Technology	\$3,261,789	\$3,618,379	-\$356,590	-9.85%
Central Administration	\$2,053,128	\$1,980,399	\$72,729	3.67%
Interfund Transfer	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$113,651,375</b>	<b>\$114,174,990</b>	<b>-\$523,615</b>	<b>-0.46%</b>

## Expenditures



## Revenues



# Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2020-2021	2019-2020	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$67,239,810	\$67,565,859	-\$326,049	-0.48%
Tax Levy	\$37,941,094	\$37,200,798	\$740,296	1.99%
Fund Balance	\$3,400,000	\$4,000,000	-\$600,000	-15.00%
Real Property Tax Items	\$3,025,000	\$3,025,000	\$0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	\$420,000	\$410,000	\$10,000	-2.44%
Charges or Services	\$730,000	\$910,000	-\$180,000	19.78%
Interfund Revenue	\$350,000	\$500,000	-\$150,000	30.00%
Federal Aid	\$383,471	\$345,333	\$38,138	11.04%
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$51,000	\$52,000	-\$1,000	-1.92%
Use of Money & Property	\$111,000	\$166,000	\$55,000	-33.13%
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$113,651,375</b>	<b>\$114,174,990</b>	<b>-\$523,615</b>	<b>-0.46%</b>

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

# TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 114,174,990	\$ 113,651,375	\$ 112,911,079
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		(\$ 523,615)	(\$ 1,263,911)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		(0.46%)	(1.11%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 37,200,798	\$ 37,941,094	
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)	\$ 37,200,798	\$ 37,941,094	\$ 37,200,798
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 961,611	\$ 988,862	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 36,639,430	\$ 37,005,589	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 36,239,187	\$ 36,952,232	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 400,243	\$ 53,357	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,165,854	\$ 9,828,843	\$ 9,763,611
Program Component	\$ 90,652,703	\$ 88,806,850	\$ 88,421,786
Capital Component	\$ 14,356,433	\$ 15,015,682	\$ 14,725,682
* 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

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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$ 635

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held by absentee ballot only on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Absentee ballots are due to the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on June 9, 2020 to be counted.

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



475 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

#### Board of Education 2019-20

Tom Mayo, *President*  
Anne Wager-Rounds, *Vice President*  
Ann Apicella  
Stephanie Fitch  
Matthew Flowers, Jr.  
Carol Harvin  
Elizabeth Poletto  
Ebony Pompey-Conway  
Theresa Kaniff, *District Clerk*

#### District Administration

John Carmello, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Donna Watson, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*  
Adam Hotaling, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*  
Kristen Miaski, *Director of Human Resources*

District Office: (518) 328-5052

[www.troycsd.org](http://www.troycsd.org)

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**BUDGET VOTE**  
**BOE Election**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 9**  
**BY ABSENTEE**  
**BALLOT ONLY**

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

### Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 1.99% for the 2020-21 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:

Qualified Voters who have voted in any of the last five district votes will be sent an absentee ballot and a postage-paid return envelope in the mail the week of June 1. Anyone who meets the definition of a qualified voter and does not believe they will be on this list may request a ballot by contacting the District Clerk at [boe@troycsd.org](mailto:boe@troycsd.org). To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

### 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 2.13%. The District is proposing going below this figure with the budget at 1.99%.

### BALLOT FOR THE JUNE 9 VOTE:

#### Budget:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$113,651,375 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 June 9 by absentee ballot to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: three members to three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2023. 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](http://www.troycsd.org/board-candidates).

#### 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 and would reduce the proposed budget by \$740,296. 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.