



TROY

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2021

0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

FISCALLY
RESPONSIBLE,
EDUCATIONALLY SOUND

PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET: \$115,293,164
0% Tax Levy Increase (Below the 1.4% Tax Cap)

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

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

See page 6 for additional voting info.

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Maintains small class sizes.
- No reductions to programs or staff.
- Federal stimulus funds to increase and improve programs.
- Continued emphasis on social-emotional health.

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

DISTRICT PROPOSES 0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

Budget maintains all programs and staff, federal funds to boost programming

The Troy City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$115,293,164. With this plan the tax levy will increase 0%, which is \$532,537 below the allowable tax cap of 1.4%. This is the ninth consecutive year the district has proposed a budget at or below the tax cap.

This year, residents will vote in person on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 18. They will also vote for candidates running for three open seats on the Board of Education. In addition, they will vote on the establishment of a new capital reserve which will be used to help keep district facilities safe and up to date.

The New York State Budget included an increase in Foundation Aid as well as a promise to fully fund this aid over the next three years, something for which the district has been advocating for years. This allows the district to offer a 0% tax levy increase while maintaining all programs and staff.

"This has been an extraordinarily difficult year for everyone due to the pandemic. With the increase in State Aid, we feel the only right thing to do is to offer a 0-percent tax levy increase to our already overburdened taxpayers," said Superintendent John Carmello. "The future is looking bright for the district, both financially and in terms of the exceptional



Troy High School's 2020 graduation rate is at 90 percent, the highest in the recent history of the school and above the statewide average in all categories. Learn more on page 3.

programming we offer our students."

The budget will allow the district to continue to offer small class sizes, STEM programming, mental health support and a vast selection of athletics and other extracurricular activities. It will include a robust educational program for all students from Pre-Kindergarten all the way to graduation.

Separate from the district budget on which residents will vote, Troy CSD will receive roughly \$15 million from the federal government to be used over the next three years. Much like a grant, it has specific requirements and allowable uses, but will allow the district to boost its programming for students. The district will hold a public comment period and is already brainstorming ideas. More information on this will be provided in the near future.

"Looking forward, one of the district's primary objectives will be the return to normalcy as much as possible while continuing to provide resources for our students and their families," said Carmello. "While we don't yet know what next year will look

like, as we are awaiting guidance from the CDC and other entities, we look forward to developing a plan to ensure we meet the needs of all of our students and support them in reaching their full potential and achieving success."



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www.troycsd.org



twitter.com/TCSD

District Maximizes Efforts During COVID-19

After the shutdown of schools in 2020, the Troy City School District decided that it would not just survive the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year – it would thrive. While many districts canceled in-person learning for portions of their student population or cut back on programs, the Troy City School District found ways to respond to the current situation and strengthen its abilities to provide quality education now and in the future.

IN-PERSON LEARNING AVAILABLE FOR EVERY STUDENT

Troy CSD firmly believes that the best place for children to learn is in school. Therefore, the district worked to provide in-person learning for any student, at any grade level, that wanted to come to school. Studies show that elementary students and those with special needs greatly require in-person learning. The district ensured that these students had the opportunity for daily in-person instruction.

SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING MODELS

REMOTE LEARNING – All students were given the option to enroll in remote learning this school year. The Troy CSD remote learning program is largely synchronous. Students can ask questions in real time, develop connections to their teachers and peers, and are engaged in their learning. Students also have a structured schedule they must adhere to throughout the school day.

HYBRID LEARNING – Due to capacity limitations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, our Troy Middle School and Troy High School students who did not enroll in full remote learning were enrolled in a hybrid program. Students were split into two groups



School 18 3rd Grade remote student Austin Kaniff discusses a lesson with his teacher and peers from his at-home classroom.

whereby one group comes into the building for two days, while the other group learns from home for two days. Students learn from their instructor via videoconferencing technology and engage with the in-person learners and instructor from home. Hybrid learners also adhere to a structured schedule during in-person and digital learning days.



Troy High School Sophomore Delaney Morin practices percussion in Ms. McAllister's band class.

THE ARTS

This school year, Troy Middle School and Troy High School were still able to offer orchestra, band and chorus despite the new protocols for social distancing. New this year, students used computer software to learn the basics of rhythm. The music department is currently planning an outdoor spring cabaret-style show.

The visual arts department has shown no signs of slowing down. Troy High School student artwork has been featured in the New York State Art Teachers Association Legislative Exhibition as well as Albany Center Gallery's 22nd Annual High School Regional Juried Art Exhibition.

ATHLETICS

With some changes to season start dates and times due to NYSPHSAA and Section 2 guidelines, the district has offered nearly every sport this year. We expect to offer our full spring lineup as well. Some notable highlights are listed below:

- Boys soccer upset Burnt Hills with a 2-1 win in a postseason game.
- Troy High School senior Jenalyse Alarcon scored her 1,000th career point in girls basketball.
- Boys basketball had a successful season with a 12-3 finish and was a Suburban Council Championship finalist.
- Football is currently undefeated at the time of this publication.
- Bowling had one of its strongest seasons yet, finishing in 6th place out of 15 teams.



The six graduating seniors of the Girls Varsity Basketball team leave the program with a combined GPA of 95.5 and 164 earned college credits. All are members of the National Honor Society.



District Technology Coach Amy Fraser works with School 2 Kindergarten teacher Lyndsay Eddy and a student to update an iPad.

TECHNOLOGY

The district continues to be on the cutting edge of technology offering state-of-the-art video conferencing in every classroom and a near 1:1 device to student ratio. Our instructional staff continue to learn new ways of delivering lessons using technology. Our District Technology Coaches have worked tirelessly to ensure staff are up to date on the latest use of education technology. Building-level technology liaisons also ensure instant access to instructional assistance.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS

The pandemic has affected the mental well-being of many students due to elevated stress levels as well as the lack of social interaction due to social distancing. As such, the district made sure to include a focus on social-emotional health in its reopening plan. The district is fortunate to be able to employ a team of counselors, psychologists and social workers. The proposed 2021-2022 budget maintains all these positions.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

The partnership with the Teachers College Columbia University Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) continued throughout the year as staff developers from the organization joined district classrooms by video conference.

The district held its annual Tech Camp in the summer of 2020 which includes professional development on everything from Minecraft in the classroom to the Google Suite. Tech Camp is scheduled to be held once again in the summer of 2021.

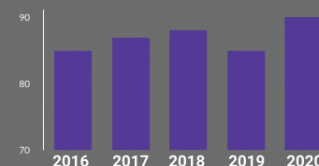
CLEANING AND SANITIZING

Our facilities have never been cleaner. Cleaning and disinfection of facilities take place daily, with special attention to high-risk and frequently touched surfaces. Additionally, the district purchased foggers for every building. As students change classes, each classroom assists with wiping down the desks.

2020 Troy High School Graduation Rates

90% Overall

Overall, the 2020 Troy High School Graduation rate is 90%. This is the highest rate in the recent history of the school.



Troy High Surpasses Statewide Rate

With a 90% graduation rate, Troy High School is 5 percentage points above the statewide rate of 85% and 13 percentage points higher for urban/suburban high needs districts.



5
percentage
points
higher



7 percentage points
higher for African
American students,
6 percentage
points higher for
Hispanic students



14 percentage
points higher
for English
Language
Learners



10 percentage
points higher
for students
with
disabilities

We Can. We Will. End of Story.



"We cannot say enough about how proud we are of this achievement, especially being a city school district. We are ahead of the statewide average in every single category. Congratulations are in order to Principal Joseph Mariano and his staff, as well as to the students themselves who have proven their perseverance during one of the most unique and challenging school years we've ever experienced."

-Superintendent John Carmello

Source : <https://data.nysed.gov/>
Data comparisons based on the 4-year outcome as of August 2020.

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. It includes necessary upgrades cited in the 2015 Building Condition Survey as well as the purchase of an additional building. Despite the pandemic, the district is moving forward with the project as originally scheduled. The tentative timeline (subject to change) can be found below:

Phase I (Through Summer 2021)

- Carroll Hill School - Windows, HVAC.

Phase II (May 2021 to September 2022)

- Troy Community School - New site and renovation.
- School 14 - Build classroom walls and repurpose pool area.
- School 12 - Repurpose pool area (pupil services).

Phase III (Summer 2022 to September 2023)

- School 18 - Heating and ventilation system/renovation.
School 18 - Instruction temporarily moves to School 12.
- Troy High School - Tech wing roof/renovation.

Phase IV (Summer 2023 to September 2024)

- School 16 - ADA compliance renovations.
School 16 - Instruction temporarily moves to School 12.



3D rendering of the classroom walls to be built at School 14.

TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL 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	\$ 113,651,375	\$ 115,293,164	\$ 114,561,590
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 1,641,789	\$ 910,215
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.44 %	0.8%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 37,941,094	\$ 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)	\$ 37,941,094	\$ 37,941,094	\$ 37,941,094
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 988,862	\$ 833,353	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 37,005,589	\$ 37,640,278	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 36,952,232	\$ 37,107,741	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 53,357	\$ 532,537	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,828,843	\$ 9,869,238	\$ 9,791,143
Program Component	\$ 87,516,866	\$ 89,680,408	\$ 89,316,929
Capital Component	\$ 16,305,666	\$ 15,743,518	\$ 15,453,518
* 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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 635

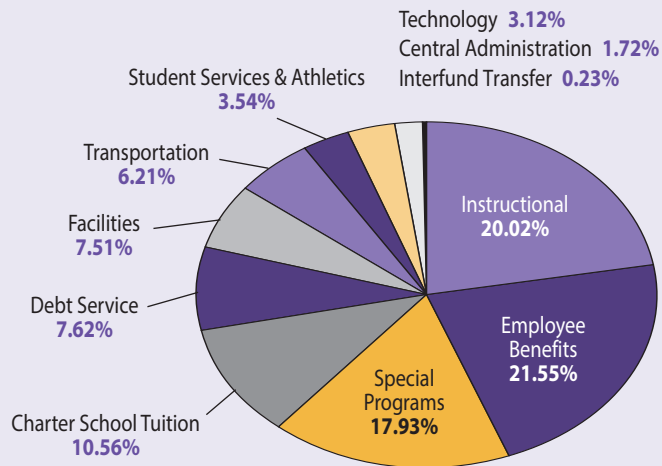
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at all elementary schools and District Office in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:30am and 8:00pm, prevailing 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.

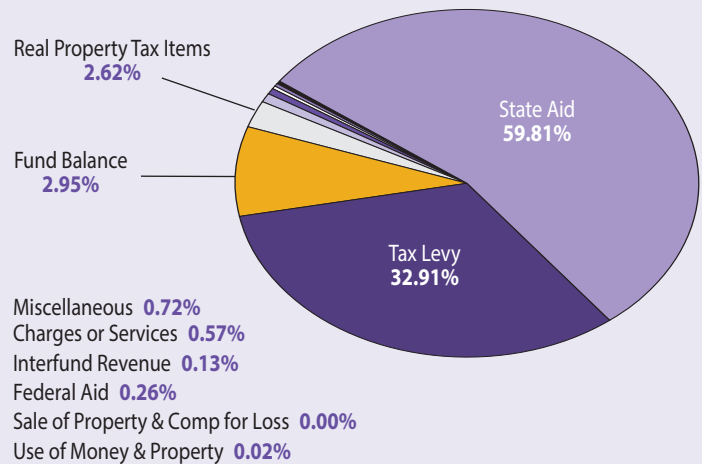
Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2021-2022	2020-2021	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$23,084,332	\$21,777,056	\$1,307,276	6.00%
Employee Benefits	\$24,841,220	\$24,801,570	\$39,650	0.16%
Special Programs	\$20,673,741	\$20,049,269	\$624,472	3.11%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,170,394	\$12,433,600	-\$263,206	-2.12%
Debt Service	\$8,789,483	\$9,253,726	-\$464,243	-5.02%
Facilities	\$8,655,160	\$8,726,911	-\$71,751	-0.82%
Transportation	\$7,157,296	\$6,966,389	\$190,907	2.74%
Student Services and Athletics	\$4,083,101	\$4,062,937	\$20,164	0.50%
Technology	\$3,592,270	\$3,261,789	\$330,481	10.13%
Central Administration	\$1,981,167	\$2,053,128	-\$71,961	-3.50%
Interfund Transfer	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$0	0.00%
Total General Fund Budget	\$115,293,164	\$113,651,375	\$1,641,789	1.44%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2021-2022	2020-2021	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$68,959,570	\$67,239,810	\$1,719,760	2.56%
Tax Levy	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$0	0.00%
Real Property Tax Items	\$3,025,000	\$3,025,000	\$0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	\$825,000	\$420,000	\$405,000	96.43%
Charges or Services	\$662,500	\$730,000	-\$67,500	-9.25%
Interfund Revenue	\$150,000	\$350,000	-\$200,000	-57.14%
Federal Aid	\$305,000	\$383,471	\$78,471	-20.46%
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$0	\$51,000	-\$51,000	-100.00%
Use of Money & Property	\$25,000	\$111,000	-\$86,000	-77.48%
Total General Fund Budget	\$115,293,164	\$113,651,375	\$1,641,789	1.44%

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



475 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

Board of Education 2020-21

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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

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BUDGET VOTE
BOE Election
TUESDAY, MAY 18

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 0% for the 2021-22 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the City of Troy is \$635.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the Town of Brunswick is \$576.
- 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 due to COVID-19 related reasons or if you are unable to attend the in-person vote, 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 18, 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 1.4%. The District is proposing going below this figure with the budget at 0%.

➔ BALLOT FOR THE MAY 18 VOTE:

Budget: RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$115,293,164 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 ☐

Proposition – Capital Reserve Fund: Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund (savings account) in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, with a probable term of ten years, for the purpose of financing the construction of additions to, and reconstruction of, various School District buildings, site work, and acquisition of land, original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, required for the purposes for which such buildings are to be used, with such Capital Reserve Fund being funded with such portion of the available funds as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Education?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Board of Education Election: The School Board election will be held on May 18 to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: three members to three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2024. Three candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast will be elected to the three-year terms. Deadline for nominating petitions was April 28. Candidate information is available at: 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 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.