



# TROY

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2022

## 0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE,  
EDUCATIONALLY SOUND

**PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET: \$126,903,272**  
**0% Tax Levy Increase**

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 17, 2022**

**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 all programs
- No staff reductions
- Expanded student supports
- Continued emphasis on social-emotional health

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

### DISTRICT PROPOSES 0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

## Budget adds student supports; maintains all programs and staff.

The Troy City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$126,903,272 on April 13, 2022. The District is able to present this budget with no increase to the local tax levy for the second year in a row, thanks in large part to New York State's commitment to fully funding the Foundation Aid formula. This also marks the tenth consecutive year the District has proposed a budget at or below the tax cap.



Troy High School graduated 302 seniors at the Class of 2021 Commencement.

This year, residents will vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 17. They will also vote for candidates running for three open seats on the Board of Education.

After more than a decade of advocating for equitable funding, we are pleased that New York State is fulfilling the promise to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula. This allows the District to maintain all programs and staff, as well as add numerous new positions designed to support our students in and out of the classroom, without increasing the burden on taxpayers.

"More than two years since COVID first impacted our lives, the uncertainty remains. However, we are incredibly proud of the way our school community has stepped up to numerous challenges since

March 2020. We recognize that everyone is still dealing with the fallout from the pandemic, so with the significant increase in State Aid, as well as federal funding, we feel the best course of action is to offer a 0-percent tax levy increase to our already overburdened taxpayers," said Superintendent John Carmello. "We are committed to doing what is necessary to continue building on our successes and meeting the needs of all of our students."

This year's budget will continue to allow the District to offer small class sizes, increased STEM programming and a vast selection of athletics, visual and performing arts and other extracurricular activities. Also included in this year's budget are additional teachers of English Language Learners, additional co-teachers and the expansion of the Alternative Learning Program, as well as multiple other staff additions to provide expanded social-emotional support.

Federal relief money has already made a significant impact across the district. Troy CSD will receive approximately \$22 million over the next several years. While this funding comes with specific requirements and allowable uses, we are utilizing these resources to ensure the maximum benefit to our students.

"We are excited about the future of the Troy City School District," said Carmello. "Our school community has demonstrated incredible resilience throughout the past two years, and we are grateful for our partnerships with our students, families, staff and community. We look forward to our continued work together to ensure all our students reach their full potential."



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



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

# College and Career Already

College and career readiness often conjures images of high school students visiting colleges or exploring various careers through internships, field trips, hands-on experience, volunteer work and the development of resumes.

While this is, of course, an important part of being prepared for college and/or a career, at Troy CSD, this work begins in Kindergarten and continues through high school graduation. Troy's "College and Career Already" initiative helps students identify areas they might like to pursue as a career and helps filter out areas that might not be a great fit. Beyond exploring careers, students explore and improve skills they will use to be successful students and employees.

Of course, these activities look very different in a Kindergarten classroom than in a high school lab, but the goal is the same: show every student that not only is college an option after high school, but that there are hundreds of career opportunities they simply may not be aware of.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the District added 12 grant funded College and Career Exploration Liaisons to facilitate this work with our students in each school. They work with students throughout the year to explore what options they might be interested in as they grow or drill down into specific focus areas that might be a good fit for them.



*In January, Carroll Hill School invited dozens of professionals to meet with students and discuss their career and education.*



*With an average class size of 18 at the elementary level, the district is able to better meet the needs of all students.*

## District Keeps Classes Sizes Low

Across Troy CSD, additions of several teachers and teaching assistants help keep class sizes low. With an average class size of 18 in the elementary schools, the District is able to better meet the needs of all students, providing more individualized attention as needed. Also included in this budget is the addition of four new co-teachers who will be deployed across the district based on student need. The co-teaching model has proven to be effective in the district's elementary schools, and these additional co-teachers will continue that success as co-teaching is explored in the middle school.

## Alternative Learning Program Expands

With the move to the Troy Community School, the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) is adding valuable supports and resources for this population of students. This is highlighted by an expansion to include 7th and 11th grade students. Increasing the reach of this program is expected to have a positive impact districtwide, ensuring all of our students receive more tailored support.

## Supporting Social-Emotional Needs

As expected, there has recently been an increased focus on everyone's social and emotional well being - and students at Troy CSD are no exception. The District has committed to expanding social-emotional and mental health supports for students by ensuring at least one social worker is assigned to each school, and making it easier for students to access resources and support when needed.



## Extracurriculars Return in Full Swing

Across the district, extracurricular activities have returned in full for all students. Our fall and winter sports teams played full seasons, and our spring sports are in the midst of a full season as well. Varsity Softball Senior Olivia Decitise struck out a Section 2 record 27 batters in a recent 12 inning game against Burnt Hills. She finished one strikeout shy of the state record of 28.

The Troy High School Drama Club returned to in-person performances this year, with a fall production of *James and the Giant Peach* in November and *Beauty and the Beast* in April. In per-

son concerts resumed as well in each school. All of our student performers did a wonderful job!

Several Troy students were also recognized in art exhibits throughout the Capital Region this year. Among the exhibits featuring work from Troy student artists were the Troy Victorian Stroll, The 32nd Annual Legislative Student Art Exhibit, the High School Regional Art Exhibit at the Albany Center Gallery and more. Congratulations to all of our amazing student artists!



*Olivia DeCitise, Katie Pryor and Olivia Ashline were named to the Times Union's Best of Section II for the Week of March 28. DeCitise racked up 27 strikeouts in two games.*



*The THS Drama Club returned to the stage this year with performances of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.*



*Carousel, by Junior Cecilia Dobbs was featured in the 2022 NYSATA Legislative Student Art Exhibit.*

## 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 includes necessary upgrades, as well as the purchase of an additional building. The tentative timeline (subject to change) can be found on our website.

As part of Phase III, which is scheduled to begin this summer, School 18 will temporarily move to School 12 for the 2022-2023 school year. This will allow construction crews ample time to complete the large renovation project at School 18. While the logistics of moving an entire school building to a temporary

location are still being finalized, families will receive all the information they need prior to the start of school.

The pandemic has hit every industry hard, and the construction industry is no exception. Supply chain issues, labor shortages, and inflation have significantly impacted the work in this project. In this year's budget, the District is recommending appropriating an additional \$7 million to help offset rising costs and enable the projects to be completed on time. This will also allow for improvements to critical operations that were recently identified in our Building Conditions Survey.

# TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 115,293,164	\$ 126,903,272	\$ 119,082,779
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 11,610,108	\$ 3,789,615
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.07 %	3.29 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
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	\$ 833,353	\$ 821,620	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 37,640,278	\$ 37,565,655	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 37,107,741	\$ 37,119,474	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 532,537	\$ 446,181	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,869,238	\$ 11,308,395	\$ 11,192,917
Program Component	\$ 89,680,408	\$ 92,179,926	\$ 91,824,911
Capital Component	\$ 16,305,666	\$ 23,414,951	\$ 16,064,951
<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>	Description	Amount	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 608

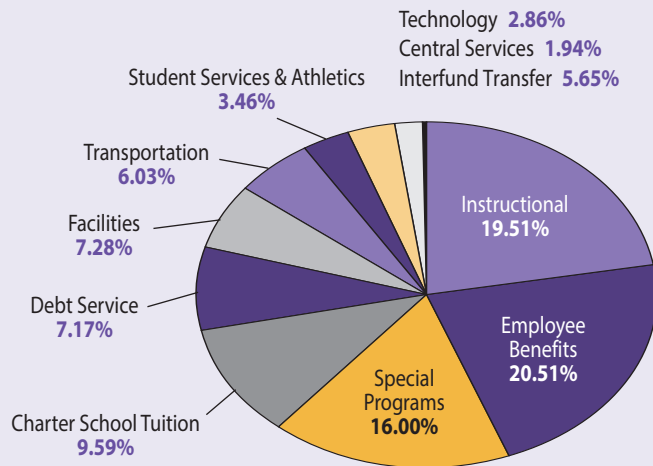
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy school district, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at all elementary schools and District Office in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:30am and 8:00pm, 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.

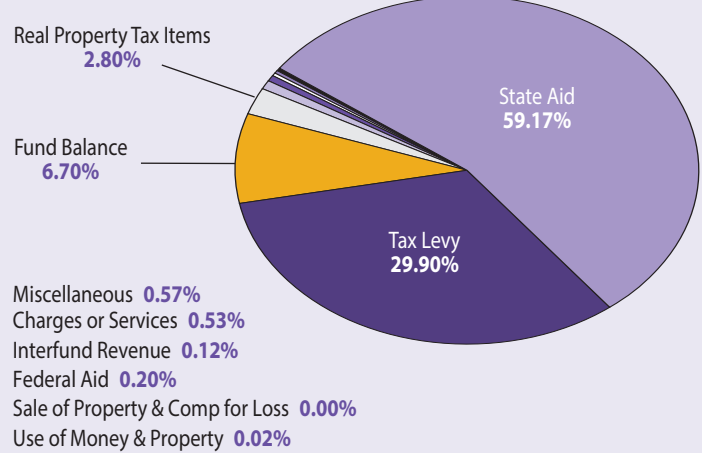
# Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2022-2023	2021-2022	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$24,759,657	\$22,821,126	\$1,938,531	8.49%
Employee Benefits	\$26,025,012	\$24,841,220	\$1,183,792	4.77%
Special Programs	\$20,305,188	\$20,673,741	-\$368,553	-1.78%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,170,394	\$12,433,600	-\$263,206	-2.12%
Debt Service	\$9,095,956	\$8,789,483	\$306,473	3.49%
Facilities	\$9,234,245	\$8,655,160	\$579,085	6.69%
Transportation	\$7,654,407	\$7,157,296	\$497,111	6.95%
Student Services and Athletics	\$4,395,349	\$4,083,101	\$312,248	7.65%
Technology	\$3,632,544	\$3,592,270	\$40,274	1.12%
Central Services	\$2,465,520	\$1,981,167	\$484,353	24.45%
Interfund Transfer	\$7,165,000	\$265,000	\$6,900,000	2603.77%
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$126,903,272</b>	<b>\$115,293,164</b>	<b>\$11,610,108</b>	<b>10.07%</b>

## Expenditures



## Revenues



# Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2022-2023	2021-2022	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$75,087,178	\$68,959,570	\$6,127,608	8.89%
Tax Levy	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$8,500,000	\$3,400,000	\$5,100,000	150.00%
Real Property Tax Items	\$3,550,000	\$3,025,000	\$525,000	17.36%
Miscellaneous	\$725,000	\$825,000	-\$100,000	-12.12%
Charges or Services	\$670,000	\$662,500	\$7,500	1.13%
Interfund Revenue	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	0.00%
Federal Aid	\$250,000	\$305,000	-\$55,000	-18.03%
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Use of Money & Property	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$5,000	20.00%
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$126,903,272</b>	<b>\$115,293,164</b>	<b>\$11,610,108</b>	<b>10.07%</b>

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



475 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

### Board of Education 2021-22

Anne Wager-Rounds, *President*  
Ebony Pompey-Conway, *Vice President*  
Ann Apicella  
Rosemary Coles  
Matthew Flowers, Jr.  
Diana Heckman  
Tom Mayo  
Donny Miller  
Elizabeth Poletto  
Theresa Kaniiff, *District Clerk*

### District Administration

John Carmello, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Donna Watson, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction*  
Adam Hotaling, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*  
Imran Abbasi, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*

District Office: (518) 328-5052

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

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**BUDGET VOTE**  
**BOE Election**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 17**

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

### Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 0% for the 2022-23 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the City of Troy is \$608.
- 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 17, 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 1.15%. The District is proposing going below this figure with a 0% tax levy increase.

### BALLOT FOR THE MAY 17 VOTE:

**Budget:** RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$126,903,272 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be 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 17 to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: three members to three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2025. Three candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast will be elected to the three-year terms. Deadline for nominating petitions was April 27. 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 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.