

BCSD Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE BEDFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 | 7 AM - 9 PM

AT YOUR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Budget Facts:

Total Proposed 2023-2024 Budget	\$152,538,000
Budget-to-Budget Increase	3.04%
Tax Levy % Increase	2.19%

Budget Priorities:

- Stay within the 2% tax cap limit
- Manage the phase out of federal COVID funding
- Maintain sustainable class size and staffing levels

We are committed to carrying forward our Success Plan goals:

- Strengthen literacy instruction
 - Elementary Reading Committee will recommend a comprehensive reading/literacy curriculum(s) informed by the science of reading
 - Continued phonics coaching support, LETRS training and professional development; continuing the Heggerty phonological awareness assessment and intervention program
- Maintaining Math Coach position and moving to Phase II of K-5 Bridges Math implementation
- Maintaining AVID & RULER programs
- Maintaining Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology Coordinators
- Maintaining counseling and social work staffing levels
- Replace security consultant with a School Resource Officer
- Maintaining commitment to our Communications Plan
- Maintaining Panorama survey to benchmark culture and climate



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Dear BCSD Community,

I am pleased to present in this newsletter our proposed budget for 2023-24. The budget process began well before January and since that time the Board and administration have engaged in consistent, transparent, data-informed discussions during our public meetings. This newsletter is yet another key component of the communication process, which also includes public forums and website publication of key information, culminating with a districtwide budget vote on May 16. I wholeheartedly ask you to mark your calendar and participate in the democratic process.

Every budget year is unique and this year was certainly no exception. With experienced professionals new to BCSD's roles of chief business official and superintendent, it took a few extra months to fully assess and verify the current reality that we would be grappling with some significant budget challenges. With this knowledge fully verified, we engaged our broader team in a value-focused process that we believe yields a sustainable pathway toward our mission.

To unpack this a little more, let's start with the bad news before proceeding to the better news: Make no mistake, we fully understand that any budget that includes budget and staffing reductions will have some undesirable impacts; whether they be quantitative, qualitative, or interpersonal. That said, the reductions listed in this budget had to be made in the interest of fiscal responsibility and sustainability, and we tried to spread them across the system with an eye toward minimal direct impact to the classroom. Further, we were able to strategically employ some fund reserves to smooth out the impact as we continue modest right-sizing over the next year or two.

That said, the good news about this budget is that it:

- Stays within the 2% tax cap limit
- Manages a responsible and necessary phase out of federal COVID funding
- Provides outstanding average class sizes:
 - Elementary: 18
 - FLMS 6th grade: 19; 7th Grade: 16; 8th Grade: 24
 - FLHS core academic courses: 20
- Sustains our mission, Success Plan and programs
- Bolsters safety and security
- Maintains student choice and opportunity
- Commits to sustained realignment and rightsizing

Whether you have been watching this process for months or are a relative newcomer, school budgeting is complex. In order for each individual in our community to have as much information as possible prior to the May 16 budget vote, we have placed a great deal of valuable information on the budget page of our website, which can be accessed by scanning the QR code on this page. Once there, I recommend you first open the document titled 3-22-23 Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed Budget.

Thank you for your engagement during this important time. I firmly believe our proposed budget for 2023-24 will put us on a sustainable pathway toward a bright future!

With gratitude for your partnership,

Dr. Rob Glass, Superintendent



Learn more about the budget



**Aprenda más y lea este
boletín en español**

**Learn more about our
Success Plan**



School District 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	\$148,032,191	\$152,538,000	\$151,095,177
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$4,505,809	\$3,062,986
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.04%	2.07%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$134,440,264	\$137,383,087	
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)	\$134,440,264	\$137,383,087	\$134,440,264
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$9,024,997	\$8,623,056	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$125,415,267	\$128,760,060	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$125,415,267	\$128,760,031	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **		\$29	
Administrative Component	\$13,615,350	\$14,125,932	\$13,961,131
Program Component	\$113,987,023	\$117,939,420	\$116,901,398
Capital Component	\$20,429,818	\$20,472,648	\$20,232,648

* In the event of a contingent budget, the District is required to maintain the 2022-23 tax levy. The expense budget would require a decrease of \$1,442,823. This would necessitate elimination of proposed certified and classified staff positions, professional development, curriculum enhancements, co-curricular and athletic program enhancements. Additional deductions would be required in general education teaching positions, supplies and contingent expenses, such as instructional and operating equipment.

The budget to budget increase would be 2.07%. This statement of assumptions is projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-2024 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law.

** 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 \$1,225

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Bedford Central School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Bedford Hills, Bedford Village, Mt. Kisco, Pound Ridge & West Patent Elem. school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time, 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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Aviso del Presupuesto del Distrito Escolar

Propuesta de presupuesto general	Presupuesto aprobado para el año escolar 2022-23	Presupuesto propuesto para el año escolar 23-24	Presupuesto de contingencia para el año escolar 2023-24*
Monto total presupuestado, sin incluir propuestas separadas	\$148,032,191	\$152,538,000	\$151,095,177
Aumento/Disminucion para el año escolar 2023-24		\$4,505,809	\$3,062,986
Porcentaje de aumento/disminucion del Presupuesto Propuesto		3.04%	2.07%
Variacion del indice de precios al consumidor		8.0%	
A. Gravamen propuesto para apoyar el monto total presupuestado	\$134,440,264	\$137,383,087	
B. Gravamen para apoyar la deuda de la biblioteca, si corresponde			
C. Gravamen por proposiciones no exclubles, si procede**			
D. Monto total de la reserva del tope impositivo utilizado para reducir la tasa impositiva actual			
E. Total propuesto de gravamen fiscal para el año escolar (A + B + C - D)	\$134,440,264	\$137,383,087	\$134,440,264
F. Total de exclusiones permitidas	\$9,024,997	\$8,623,056	
G. Limite de gravamen de impuestos escolares, excluyendo el gravamen para exclusiones permisibles.	\$125,415,267	\$128,760,060	
H. Total propuesto gravamen tributario para el año escolar excluyendo el gravamen para apoyar la deuda de la biblioteca y/o exclusiones permisibles (E-B-F+D) Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$125,415,267	\$128,760,031	
I. Diferencia: G-H (El valor negativo requiere 60.0% de aprobacion del votante - vea la nota a continuacion con respecto a las proposiciones separadas)**		\$29	
Componente administrativo	\$13,615,350	\$14,125,932	\$13,961,131
Componente del programa	\$113,987,023	\$117,939,420	\$116,901,398
Componente de capital	\$20,429,818	\$20,472,648	\$20,232,648

* En caso de un presupuesto contingente, se requiere que el distrito mantenga la recaudacion de impuestos del 2022-23. El presupuesto de gastos requeriria una reduccion de \$1,442,823. Esto requeriria la eliminacion de personal certificado y clasificado, desarrollo profesional, mejoras en el plan de estudios, mejoras en el programas de educacion y de deportes. Adicionalmente, se requeriria reduccion en puestos docentes de educacion general, suministros y materiales, reduccion de servicios de BOCES, eliminar gastos relacionados con el arrendamiento de tecnologia y equipo de capital, eliminacion de gastos no contingentes tales como los equipos de instruccion y operacion.

Los aumentos de presupuesto a presupuesto serian de 2.07%. Esta declaracion de suposiciones proyecta un prusupesto de contingencia para el año escolar del 2023-24, en caso de que el presupuesto propuesto no sea aprobado de conformidad con la seccion 2023 de la ley de educacion.

** Enumera las Proposiciones Separadas que no estan incluidos en el Monto Total Presupuestado: (El Impuesto Tributario asociado con las propuestas de servicios educativos o de transporte no son elegibles para la exclusion y pueden afectar los requisitos de aprobacion de los votantes.)

Description	Amount

Bajo el presupuesto propues to para el año escolar 23-24

Ahorros estimados en la exencion basica de star ¹

\$1,225

La votacion del presupuesto anual para el año fiscal 2023-24 por parte votantes calificados del Distrito Central Escolar de Bedford, Condado de Westchester, NY, se llevara a cabo en las escuelas elementales de Bedford Hills, Mount Kisco, Pound Ridge, West Patent, el martes, 16 de mayo del 2023, entre las 7 am y las 9 pm, momento en que se abriran las urnas para votar mediante papeleta o maquina de votacion.

1. La exencion de la desgravacion fiscal escolar basica (STAR) esta autorizada por la seccion 425 de la Ley del Impuesto a la Propiedad Inmobiliaria.

Summary Appropriation Budget

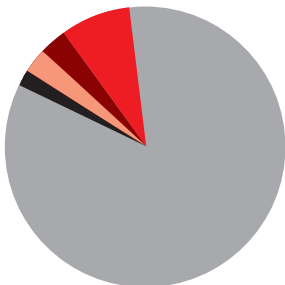
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget 2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-24
Board of Education	\$57,917	\$71,115
Central Administration	\$392,313	\$398,405
Finance	\$1,034,770	\$1,125,020
Human Resources	\$1,199,757	\$1,180,475
Operations & Maintenance	\$7,968,756	\$8,944,180
Central Services	\$820,614	\$832,095
Special Items	\$1,900,129	\$1,744,670
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$13,374,256	\$14,295,960
Curriculum & Development	\$5,122,742	\$5,294,520
Teaching Regular School	\$41,427,051	\$42,163,925
Special Apportionment	\$16,673,819	\$18,589,680
ESL Programs	\$2,945,745	\$3,292,765
Instructional Media	\$3,142,694	\$3,374,580
Guidance	\$2,092,746	\$2,019,105
Health Services/PPS	\$1,245,792	\$1,214,310
Pupil Services (Psych/Soc. Work.)	\$2,249,356	\$2,342,875
Co-Curricular/Athletics	\$1,190,341	\$1,143,290
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$76,090,286	\$79,435,050
Total - Transportation	\$9,545,256	\$9,587,505
Total - Employee Benefits	\$38,896,418	\$39,499,150
Total - Debt Service	\$9,405,975	\$9,000,335
Total - Interfund Transfers	\$720,000	\$720,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS 3.04%	\$148,032,191	\$152,538,000

What happens if the budget doesn't pass?

Should the proposed budget be defeated, \$1,442,823 in non-contingent expenditures would need to be removed in a contingent budget. These may include equipment purchases and repairs, unreimbursed community use of facilities, extra-curricular clubs, athletics, electives and advanced placement courses, certain student supplies and staffing reductions, which may lead to increased class sizes.

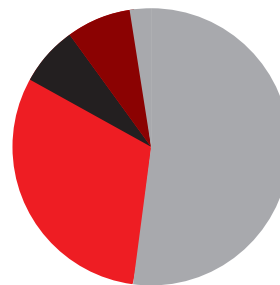


Where will the money come from?



- 90.06% Tax Levy \$137,383,087
- 5.78% State Aid \$8,823,903
- 1.87% Sales Tax \$2,850,000
- 1.32% Non-Tax Sources \$2,014,010
- 0.96% Fund Balance \$1,467,000

Where will the money be spent?



- 52.08% Instruction \$79,435,050
- 32.27% Undistributed \$49,219,485
- 9.37% General Support \$14,295,960
- 6.29% Transportation \$9,587,505



#FOXESUP: Points of Pride



BEDFORD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- BHES students and staff helped create two new murals this year. The first mural, hands that form the shape of an eagle, represents what makes students and staff special. It serves as a constant reminder that "Together, We Soar." The second mural, created by fifth graders, is titled "In A World Where You Can Be Anything, Be Kind." Each student designed a portion of the mural, keeping the theme of kindness in mind. We hope these will be the first of many student-created murals at BHES!
- Teachers and staff have also been partnering to provide coding opportunities for students. Mrs. Russell, our library media specialist, read the book "Ava In Code Land" and challenged students to become coders on a life-size floor grid. The whole-body approach taught the importance of specific directions during coding. Students shared that having to move and follow the directions that were given to them prepared them for the second part of the activity. During the following session, students joined Mr. Alspach in the BHES Makerspace Lab where they had the opportunity to code BeeBots to travel through "Code Land."

BEDFORD VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- BVES students are enjoying creative all-school enrichment opportunities this year. Thanks to our tiered support teachers, library media specialist, PE teacher, music teacher and art teacher, students have accessed a variety of enrichment selections. These mini-courses have included mixed music exploration, yoga, American Sign Language, STEM challenges and large scale weaving, felting, and more. We are thrilled to provide this enriching education experience that extends students' learning beyond the classroom.
- BVES has remained dedicated to social-emotional learning this year through RULER. In addition, we have extended our efforts to include community outreach initiatives. Our fifth-grade leaders have been instrumental in organizing and leading several important events, including the Trick-or-Trash sustainability project, Veterans Day

Assembly and the 914 Cares Mitten and Hat Drive. We are proud of their leadership and our school's commitment to making a difference in our community.

FOX LANE HIGH SCHOOL

- FLHS hosted the JCK Foundation at student assemblies as well as a parents' night. With a focus on mental health and resilience, the presenters made a powerful and measurable impact on our community, reminding us that we are never alone in our journey towards positive mental health for ourselves and our loved ones.
- Our Science Olympiad Team made it to States once again, with eight students placing in the top 10 in six different categories. In addition, our Science Research program produced a Regeneron Top 300 finalist, regional finalists in the JSHS competition, and top placements in the WESEF and NYYSEF competitions.
- Our graduates this year include 10 students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program, including one semifinalist. Colleges such as Yale, Cornell, Brown, Harvard, Duke, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have invited Fox Lane students to be a part of their learning communities in the fall.
- More than 50 eligible seniors recently completed their culminating presentations and interviews for The New York State Seal of Biliteracy. We are proud of the number of students who were eager to demonstrate their linguistic skills in English, Spanish, French, and Italian in the hopes of receiving this prestigious honor.

FOX LANE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- FLMS students have been engaged in active and connected learning in all subject areas. In technology, they built robots and cars. In science, they tapped our campus maple trees and released trout into the Kisco River. There were exciting Pi Day activities run by the math department and a social studies and ELA-run Mythfest that explored the connections between Greek and Roman myths and ancient

#FOXESUP: Points of Pride



world history. In PE, music and art, students created a new game called flasketball, played and sang both old and new rhythms and melodies, and built sculptures using recycled materials.

- This is our second year in the implementation phase of our Social Emotional Curriculum: RULER from the Yale Institute and we are proud of our schoolwide RULER implementation during homebase. Lessons focused on the meta moment and the idea of always striving to be your "best self" during stressful academic or social situations. We also have students writing weekly in their RULER journals, reflecting upon their middle school journeys.

MOUNT KISCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- The garden at MKES is a huge source of pride. Once a week in the warm weather, students spend 40 minutes in the garden with their teachers. Bilingual science lessons include learning how to maintain a garden, grow and harvest food. Last spring, more than 400 pounds of fruits and vegetables were gathered and donated to local food pantries in response to food insecurity in our community. A pollinator pop-up tent donated by the Westchester Land Trust also taught students about the life cycles of butterflies and bumblebees, both essential to pollinate plants. Our parent volunteer and garden coordinator has initiated two winters of seed planting in milk jugs. This year, as part of its civic beautification program, Katonah's Hop Ground Garden Club donated \$2,500 to create a musical component in the garden. Inspired by the Princess Diana Memorial Playground at Kensington Gardens in London, Mrs. Rowan, our music teacher, is looking to finish the musical section of the garden by this spring. Recycled PVC piping will create an outdoor xylophone and various rain barrels will be drums. Sounds will come from students walking along a pathway made out of recycled wood from the garden.

POUND RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- PRES established a student council where our fourth and fifth graders took over the leadership reins and initiated many exciting and meaningful projects. From safety patrol, to recycling, donating

to an animal shelter and promoting pride in our school, our student council has been a tremendous success.

- New enrichment programming this year has led to collaborative interdisciplinary opportunities for students. Some highlights include a fifth-grade study extended into art through designing luminaries using the principles of light and shadows. The luminaries became an exhibit for the whole school with the fifth graders as docents. Another highlight of the enrichment program was the collaboration of the second graders and the art and music departments, to create a fabulous second grade musical performance for the whole school titled, "The Unity Tree."

WEST PATENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Jacey, our new resident facility dog, is working with every student throughout our school in a variety of ways. Jacey helps our students and staff by: providing emotional support, joy and stress relief; improving social skills and increasing interaction and connection; reducing anxiety; and helping regulate emotions. Jacey has been an amazing addition to our school community and brings smiles each and every day!
- Our new math program, Bridges, has already had a positive impact on students at WPES. Students are exposed to complex topics in a highly engaging manner through partner work, small-group and whole-class instruction. Our K-2 classes have implemented both components of the new math program. In Number Corner, students are looking for mathematical patterns, measuring, persevering, and solving complex problems. In Bridges, they are engaged in complex story problems that ask them to model their thinking through pictorial representation, physical models and words. They have shown great flexibility in their various approaches to solving problems. Students love the hands-on activities. Teachers have already noticed increased engagement, improved fluency and number sense, a more positive mathematical mindset and an improved flexibility toward problem solving.



BCSD BULLETIN

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Bedford Central School District

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BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 | 7 AM - 9 PM

AT YOUR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Voter Registration

To vote in school elections, you must be a registered voter for either school elections or general elections. To be eligible to register, you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age by the election date and a resident of the district for at least 30 days before the election. The last day for registration with the district is May 11, 2023.

Absentee Ballots

An application must be submitted before an absentee ballot can be provided to a voter. Applications for absentee ballots must be completed and received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter.

Absentee ballot applications are available from Sandra Speyer, District Clerk, at the Administration Building on the Fox Lane Campus during regular business hours (8 am - 4 pm) or by downloading the application: bcsdny.org/domain/715.

School Board Candidates

There are two open seats for trustees. The candidates for those seats are:
Liz Goldman-Sider, Rica Mendes, Betsy Sharma and Kristine Stoker.