

# BCSD Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE BEDFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 | 7 AM - 9 PM

AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN YOUR ATTENDANCE AREA

### Budget Facts:

Total Proposed 2024-2025 Budget	\$155,825,000
Budget-to-Budget Increase	2.15 %
Tax Levy % Increase	2.95%

### Budget Priorities:

- Staying within the 2% tax cap limit
- A responsibly managed phase-out of federal COVID funding
- Maintaining outstanding class sizes
- Sustaining mission-focused Literacy and Mathematics
- Maintaining student support, opportunity and choice

### Did You Know?

- BCSD school gardens donate hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to our local community each year
- In 2023, Fox Lane High School had 62% of seniors taking at least one AP exam during high school
- 42 Fox Lane seniors earned the NYS Seal of Biliteracy in 2023
- BCSD has received the Best Communities for Music Education award from the NAMM Foundation for the last two years
- Mount Kisco Elementary School students performed the first-ever elementary school dual-language production of Aladdin, receiving international media coverage

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



**Dear BCSD Community,**

I am pleased to report that on April 24, our Board of Education approved the proposed 2024-25 School Budget. Please mark your calendar to participate in the budget vote to be held on May 21.

Following deliberation sessions and fueled by the anticipated restoration of nearly \$1.6 million in Foundation Aid, the Board's Proposed Budget adopted the Superintendent's Budget of \$155,825,000. The Board also directed maintaining five Elementary Coordinators, which had initially been proposed for reduction, at a net cost of about \$380,000, a figure that the administration can work with in managing the \$155,825,000 budget number over the course of the next year.

I want to thank every single person who joined legislators in imploring the governor to restore our Foundation Aid on behalf of BCSD students. Your advocacy was successful! For more complete budget details, I invite you to explore our website: [www.bcsdny.org/Page/3007](http://www.bcsdny.org/Page/3007)

Thank you for your ongoing engagement. By continuing to work together we will realize great things ahead!

*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**



## Bond Updates

This spring, we reached one of our first major milestones in the bond construction process: dedicating our new softball and baseball fields with ribbon-cutting festivities. We are grateful to our generous taxpayers and are excited to see these bond-funded improvements take shape and move to completion.



## Class of '63 Reunion

In September, Fox Lane's Class of 1963 celebrated their 60th reunion with a weekend full of on and off-campus events

# School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$152,538,000	\$155,825,000	\$151,771,620
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$3,287,000	(\$766,380)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.15 %	.50%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$137,383,087	\$141,436,467	
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)	\$137,383,087	\$141,436,467	\$137,383,087
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$8,623,056	\$8,699,928	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$128,760,060	\$132,736,539	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$128,760,031	\$132,736,539	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$29	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$14,125,932	\$14,796,030	\$14,054,961
Program Component	\$117,939,420	\$120,677,529	\$117,450,218
Capital Component	\$20,472,648	\$20,351,441	\$20,266,441

\* In the event of a contingent budget, the District is required to maintain the 2023-24 tax levy. The expense budget would require a decrease of \$4,053,380. 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 0.50%. This statement of assumptions is projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-2025 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

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
	\$1,219 Town Bedford
	\$1,224 Town Mt. Kisco
	\$1,212 Town New Castle
	\$1,225 Town North Castle
	\$1,175 Town Pound Ridge

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

# Aviso del Presupuesto del Distrito Escolar

Propuesta de presupuesto general	Presupuesto aprobado para el año escolar 2023-24	Presupuesto propuesto para el año escolar 24-25	Presupuesto de contingencia para el año escolar 2024-25
Monto total presupuestado, sin incluir propuestas separadas	\$152,538,000	\$155,825,000	\$151,771,620
Aumento/Disminucion para el año escolar 2023-24		\$3,287,000	(\$766,380)
Porcentaje de aumento/disminucion del Presupuesto Propuesto		2.15%	.50%
Variacion del indice de precios al consumidor		4.1%	
A. Gravamen propuesto para apoyar el monto total presupuestado	\$137,383,087	\$141,436,467	
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)	\$137,383,087	\$141,436,467	\$137,383,087
F. Total de exclusiones permitidas	\$8,623,056	\$8,699,928	
G. Limite de gravamen de impuestos escolares, excluyendo el gravamen para exclusiones permisibles.	\$128,760,060	\$132,736,539	
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)	\$128,760,031	\$132,736,539	
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	\$0	
Componente administrativo	\$14,125,932	\$14,796,030	\$14,054,961
Componente del programa	\$117,939,420	\$120,677,529	\$117,450,218
Componente de capital	\$20,472,648	\$20,351,441	\$20,266,441

En caso de un presupuesto contingente, se requiere que el distrito mantenga la recaudacion de impuestos del 2023-24. El presupuesto de gastos requeriria una reduccion de \$4,053,380. 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, tales como los equipos de instruccion y operacion.

Los aumentos de presupuesto a presupuesto serian de 0.50%. .Esta declaracion de suposiciones proyecta un prusupuesto de contingencia para el año escolar del 2024-25, 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

## Ahorros estimados en la exencion basica de star 1

## Bajo el presupuesto propues to para el año escolar 24-25

La votacion del presupuesto anual para el año fiscal 2024-25 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, Bedford Village, Mount Kisco, Pound Ridge, West Patent, el martes, 21 de mayo del 2024, entre las 7 am y las 9 pm, momento en que se abriran las urnas para votar mediante papeleta o maquina de votacion

\$1,219 Town Bedford
\$1,224 Town Mt. Kisco
\$1,212 Town New Castle
\$1,225 Town North Castle
\$1,175 Town Pound Ridge

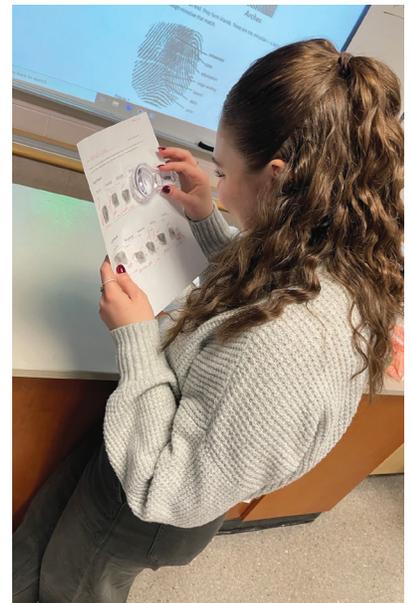
1. La exencion de la desgravacion fiscal escolar basica (STAR) esta autorizada por la seccion 425 de la Ley del Impuesto a la Propiedad Inmobiliaria.

# Summary Appropriation Budget

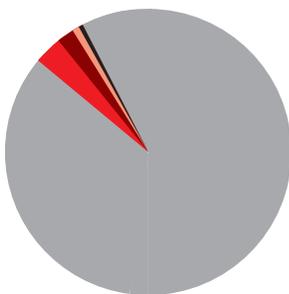
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget 2023-24	Proposed Budget 2024-25
Board of Education	\$71,115	\$74,990
Chief School Administrator	\$398,405	\$400,300
Finance	\$1,125,020	\$1,208,190
Human Resources	\$1,180,475	\$1,185,230
Operations & Maintenance	\$8,944,180	\$8,970,955
Central Services	\$832,095	\$861,160
Special Items	\$1,744,670	\$1,816,310
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$14,295,960</b>	<b>14,517,135</b>
Curriculum & Development	\$5,294,520	\$5,375,360
Teaching Regular School	\$42,163,925	\$42,481,195
Special Apportionment	\$18,589,680	\$18,837,190
ESL Programs	\$3,292,765	\$3,288,005
Instructional Media	\$3,374,580	\$3,616,515
Guidance	\$2,019,105	\$1,855,045
Health Services/PPS	\$1,214,310	\$1,406,445
Pupil Services (Psych/Soc. Work.)	\$2,342,875	\$2,424,050
Co-Curricular/Athletics	\$1,143,290	\$1,247,125
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$79,435,050</b>	<b>\$80,530,930</b>
Total - Transportation	\$9,587,505	\$9,552,150
Total - Employee Benefits	\$39,499,150	\$41,480,985
Total - Debt Service	\$9,000,335	\$9,023,800
Total - Interfund Transfers	\$720,000	\$720,000
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS 2.15%</b>	<b>\$152,538,000</b>	<b>\$155,825,000</b>

## What happens if the budget doesn't pass?

Should the proposed budget be defeated, \$4,053,380 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.

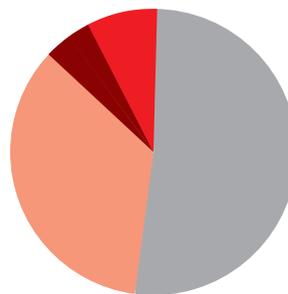


### Where will the money come from?



- 90.77% Tax Levy \$141,436,467
- 4.54% State Aid \$7,080,818
- 1.89% Sales Tax \$2,950,000
- 1.68% Non-Tax Sources \$2,611,050
- 1.12% Fund Balance \$1,746,665

### Where will the money be spent?



- 51.68% Instruction \$80,530,930
- 9.32% General Support \$14,517,135
- 6.13% Transportation \$9,552,150
- 32.87% Undistributed \$51,224,785



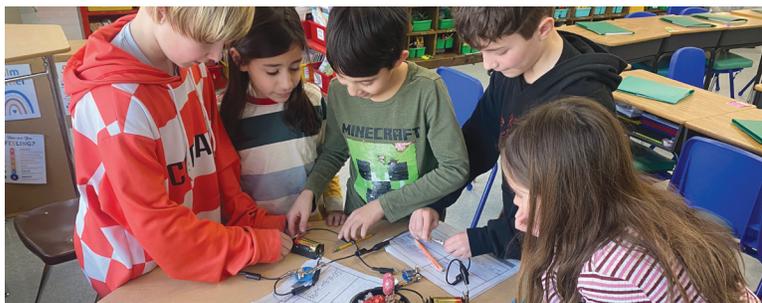
# Student Success

## Literacy

Bedford Central School District is deep into the work of aligning our literacy instruction to the Science of Reading and selecting a new literacy curriculum. This process has included examining, rethinking and improving some critical areas.

- **Professional Development:** BCSD is full-steam ahead to support the full implementation of literacy curriculum, instruction and professional development aligned to research on the reading brain. Professional development includes training in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) and work with outside consultants like Dr. Molly Ness, the Windward Institute and Haskins Global Literacy Hub to ensure our teachers are empowered to hit the ground running with our new curriculum.
- **Making Shifts in Instructional Practice:** Our teachers are also being empowered to make instructional shifts aligned to reading research. Dr. Ness has begun working with staff this year to support those instructional shifts in the classroom. The proposed budget includes hiring a literacy coach to support ongoing professional learning in the area of literacy.
- **Curriculum Resources:** The Literacy Committee has been involved in a two-year process to select new resources aligned with the Science of Reading. The group will make a recommendation for the new curriculum in the spring to be adopted in the fall of 2024 for grades K-5.

"BCSD's approach has been intentional, well-researched, and thoughtful — even though it's been a relatively speedy process," said Dr. Ness, a nationally recognized literacy researcher, writer, educator and speaker. "The school and district leadership understand the need for change, understand brain-based reading instruction, and respect the commitment and knowledge of their teachers. It's also exciting to see a district honoring the linguistic richness of the population at Mount Kisco, a school that truly understands the complexities of biliteracy."



## Bridges in Mathematics

BCSD is in year two of implementing the new elementary math program, Bridges in Mathematics, in grades K-5, as well as the Bridges intervention program. We are thrilled to be seeing a high level of student engagement. Teachers report that students are demonstrating a stronger understanding of math concepts, flexibility with numbers, and recognizing complex patterns in numbers. The way we hear students talk about math, numbers, and concepts (referred to as "math talk") has also improved tremendously.

Elementary Math Coach, Michelle Grier, continues to support teachers immensely. The district has also brought in Bridges trainers who have done professional development to support classroom teachers, tiered support and learning specialists. We are now beginning to explore math curriculum and instruction at the middle school level as our middle school teachers are readying themselves for the students who have received math instruction with the new Bridges curriculum.

## Safety & Security

There have been a few major changes in safety and security this year. One of the biggest is that Fox Lane became a closed campus. Visitors can no longer drive onto campus during the school day without a reason. A safety monitor in an electric vehicle vets all visitors at the entrance before allowing anyone on campus.

Other important changes include adding automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to all athletic fields, incremental upgrades with security cameras (which will continue to be added to our elementary schools), consulting with BOCES on our safety plans and proposing an extra Community Resource Officer for next year.

# Student Well-Being

The district has continued to advance inclusive systems of student support that strengthen culture and climate and create personalized pathways to success. Just a couple of examples include:

## The Accessibility Team

The Accessibility Team is a multidisciplinary team composed of BCSD staff members with diverse expertise and experience, who strive to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment for all individuals. The group works to proactively remove barriers and create equitable access to school events, ensuring that every member of our community can participate in a meaningful way. Sometimes this means considering physical barriers for students at certain events. Other times, it's providing headphones, fidget toys and a quiet place to regulate. Another key component is making sure school events are communicated clearly and effectively to all parties who are involved.

"We aspire to be a model of inclusivity, where diversity is embraced, and everyone has an opportunity to engage in events and experiences."

## Multi-Tiered System of Supports

The district has begun to make intentional shifts toward ensuring all students have the tools necessary to become successful adults. Our vision for the BCSD Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a systemic commitment to high-quality education and

evidence-based instruction that supports students' academic, social-emotional and behavioral needs, leading to higher student engagement, a sense of belonging and stronger achievement.

MTSS work started in Curriculum Council with a self-study of the systems already in place and identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement.

RULER lessons and strategies continue to be regular parts of our classroom communities, where students learn how to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate their emotions.

## Inclusivity

Communication boards were installed at West Patent and Bedford Village elementary schools. The communications boards are a tool posted on playgrounds that aims to prioritize communication for every student. One side of the board includes letters and icons that help promote social language and interactions. The other side has a RULER meter, something students are very familiar with, as a way to identify, communicate and express their feelings.

In addition, our district continues to move forward with inclusive education with districtwide celebrations of events such as National Inclusion Week and Neurodiversity Week, during which students learned about the different ways people think and how we can honor and celebrate our unique brains.





## BCSD BULLETIN

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Bedford Central School District

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### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Robert Glass



# BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 | 7 AM - 9 PM

AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN YOUR ATTENDANCE AREA

### 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 16, 2024.

### Absentee/Early Mail Ballots

An application must be submitted before an absentee/early mail ballot can be provided to a voter. Applications for absentee/early mail 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/early mail ballot applications are available from Sandra Speyer, District Clerk, at the Administration Building on the Fox Lane Campus during regular business hours (8:30 am – 3:30 pm) or by downloading the application: [bcsdny.org/Page/3016](https://www.bcsdny.org/Page/3016).

### School Board Candidates

There are two open seats for trustees. The candidates for those seats are: Steven Matlin and Lisa Mitchell.