



Hudson
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2016-17 Proposed Budget Info Sheet

Monday, May 9 th	Tuesday, May 17 th
Public hearing for proposed budget (7:00 p.m., Hudson High School Library)	Budget vote (12 noon-9:00 p.m., see website for polling locations)

Budget Facts

The \$45,910,371 budget is a 0.95% increase from the 2015-16 budget.

Despite a 0.53% decrease in state funding (totaling \$115,902), there will be no cuts to staff or programs. Hudson CSD is the only school district in Columbia County to receive a decrease in state aid for the 2016-17 school year. Other districts in the county received state aid increases of 3-7%.

Hudson CSD will lose approximately \$200,000 in School Improvement funds as a result of no longer being identified as a “focus district” by the NYS Education Department. Being designated as a district in “good standing” is a positive and significant accomplishment, however it means there is a need to reallocate funds in the regular budget to make up for the \$200,000 loss in School Improvement funds so the District can continue to provide the services that are instrumental and previously supported by School Improvement funds.

The proposed 2016-17 budget would increase the tax levy by 2.15 percent. This increase is equal to the maximum allowable tax levy, meaning that it is within New York State’s Property Tax Cap. Therefore, qualifying residents will be eligible to receive a refund check from NYS (read more below).

Why is a 2.15% increase within the tax cap?

When New York State passed the Property Tax Cap Law, elected officials often referred to the new law as a “2% tax cap.” But the law they passed requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy, which does not always work out to 2%. Very few school districts actually have a 2% tax cap because the formula causes the cap to vary from district to district. A school district is considered “tax cap compliant” as long as it does not increase its tax levy by more than the amount determined by the 8-step calculation. (Visit <http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget/> for a short video further explaining how NYS uses the formula to determine each school district's tax cap number, which rarely works out to 2%.)

NYS Property Tax Rebate

Because Hudson CSD is tax cap compliant (i.e., within the maximum allowable tax levy increase), some taxpayers will be eligible for a NYS refund check due to the new STAR Property Tax Rebate Law. The property tax rebate replaces the more well-known property tax freeze credit that provided property tax rebate checks to eligible taxpayers in 2014 and 2015. This tax relief program reimburses qualifying homeowners for increases in local property taxes in districts that remain within the NYS Property Tax Cap and meet efficiency requirements. The new rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019.

To qualify for this tax rebate, homeowners must already receive the STAR Property Tax Exemption. Taxpayers who receive the STAR exemption and make less than \$200,000 a year should receive a rebate check for \$185 from New York State in the Fall (in accordance with the NYS Executive Budget passed in April). The property must be the homeowner's primary residence and the total household income must be \$200,000 or less.

For information about the program, please visit the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance's website (<https://www.tax.ny.gov>)

Budget Highlights

The most notable increases to the budget include contractual obligations (e.g., salaries, benefits and pension contributions) and expanding student supports and programs.

Currently, more than 70% of students at M.C. Smith Intermediate School have access to Chromebooks. The District aims to reach 100% of students at MCSIS having access to Chromebooks in the upcoming school year, and every student (Grades 3-12) having access to them in the next few years.

The proposed budget includes the addition of an English as New Language (ENL) Instructor as well as an Academic Intervention Services Reading Specialist, both of which are mandated services. The proposed budget would also add a dually certified English/Special Education teacher at the secondary level, as well as a part-time music teacher to accommodate the growing student interest in these programs.

The budget includes the addition of a certified social worker for the Hudson Jr./Sr. High School to further assist students with counseling, the transition to high school and managing various life challenges.

BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 12 noon and 9 p.m.

(See website for more information: <http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget>)

Polling Locations (*Please note that polling locations have been consolidated **at the request of the Board of Elections***):

District 1 - City of Hudson - **JLE Primary School** (360 State Street, Hudson)

District 2 - Greenport, Stottville/Stockport, Ghent - **Greenport Pumper Company No. 1 Fire House** (216 Green Street, Hudson)

District 3 - Claverack, Livingston, Taghkanic – **A.B. Shaw Fire House** (67 NY-23, Claverack)

Visit www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com for information about voter eligibility and absentee ballots.