



HUDSON Highlights

VOTE

**TUESDAY
MAY 16**

12 – 9 P.M.

**Polling locations
on page 6**

What am I voting on?

Voters will decide on the following items:

- A **\$46,566,172** budget for the 2017-18 school year
- Selection of one Board of Education member
- Donation of land to the City of Hudson

Budget Improves Student Supports and Programming

On Tuesday, May 16, the Hudson City School District community will vote on a proposed spending plan for the 2017-18 school year, as well as two other propositions.

The \$46,566,172 proposed budget not only maintains all current programs, but provides increased student supports, enrichment activities and enhancements to programs. The proposed budget increases spending by \$655,801, which is a 1.43% increase from the 2016-17 budget. The District would be able to continue the wide variety of student supports and programs without a large increase in the general budget due in part to utilizing grant funding to offset expenses whenever available.

The estimated tax levy increase is 2.19 percent. This increase is below the District's allowable tax levy limit calculated under New York State's tax cap guidelines. As a result, qualifying residents would receive a property tax refund from NYS.

The District faces rising costs in the areas of contractual obligations and special education services to meet increased student needs. Staffing and program expenses make up for approximately 70% of the District's operating costs. Therefore, each year administrators are asked to carefully evaluate

specific student needs and building necessities.

"This budget was developed with the intent to maintain and improve all programs within our schools," said Dr. Maria Lagana Suttmeier, Superintendent of Schools. "We remain strongly committed to our Destination Graduation goals and, in partnership with our community, our main focus is on preparing all students for college, career and citizenship through multiple academic, extra-curricular and civic opportunities."

In an effort to better provide our students with a balanced academic and co-curricular education, the budget includes the addition of several key staff.

To preserve recommended class sizes in accordance with the Hudson Teachers' Association contract, the budget would add one Grade 5 teacher and one Grade 6 teacher. A secondary-level math coach would be hired for additional student support in mathematics. The proposed budget would also add a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and a Behavior Specialist to work with all students throughout the district.

Last year's budget added a part-time music position to accommodate the growing student interest in the arts, however student interest continues to swell. Therefore, the proposed budget includes increasing the music position from part-time to full-time.

"Enrollment in band, in particular, has nearly quadrupled in the past three years and it continues to grow," said Hudson Senior High School Principal Antonio Abitabile. "With new musical groups gaining popularity, such as drumline and jazz ensemble, there is a need to add staff."

"This year, we are looking to add an art educator for a similar reason," continued Mr. Abitabile. "Routinely, many of the students who select an art class are not enrolled because the classes are at capacity already."

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, residents will also elect one member to the Board of Education and consider a proposition to donate a parcel of land behind John L. Edwards Primary School to the City of Hudson.



Hudson Senior High School students attended the CASDA College Fair at Hudson Valley Community College where they gained valuable information and insight from over 160 college and military representatives.

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WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION 1: Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Hudson City School District, Columbia County, New York be authorized to expend the total amount of \$46,566,172 during the school year 2017-2018 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

PROPOSITION 2: Donation of Land to the City of Hudson

Shall the donation to the City of Hudson of an area encompassing 1521 square feet (0.035 acre) as depicted on a drawing made by Crawford & Associates dated January 23, 2014 entitled: "Non-motorized Path Encroachment Pedestrian & Bike Connections to Charles Williams Park City of Hudson, Columbia County P.I.N. 8780.14" pursuant to the terms of the Statement of Donation and drawing attached thereto and for the public use set forth therein be approved?

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

To elect one (1) member to the Board of Education. The seat is a three-year, non-paid term effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. To learn more about the BOE candidate, visit: www.hudsoncity-schools.org/budget

MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION 2: Land Donation

In 2014, the City of Hudson was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant to build additional sidewalks so that city children would have safe places to walk to and from school. In order to install sidewalks in this area, voter approval is needed to authorize the school district to donate a small corner of land behind JLE to the City. The land touches the Dugway Road bike path (visit www.hudsoncity-schools.org/budget to see a map). The City would maintain the sidewalks and the school district would implement a pedestrian safety curriculum.

ENSURING COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Whether college or career is the next step after high school, it is essential that all students have the skills they need to obtain and maintain a job. The District offers a variety of opportunities and programs in grades K-12 to help students develop the skills they need to succeed as college students, working professionals and active citizens.

An interconnected curriculum, extracurricular activities and opportunities to partner with community-based organizations form the basis of a well-rounded education in grades K-8. At Hudson High School (HHS), students are able to choose from a variety of course offerings, including courses that allow them to pursue career skills or earn college credits before graduation. The challenging nature of Advanced Placement or college-level classes in high school can better prepare students for rigorous college coursework and can save on tuition costs.

This year, the District introduced a new life skills program for special education students at HHS. The Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES Lab) is a national hands-on assessment program that systematically develops entry-level job skills, work interests and abilities.

Additionally, PAES Lab training includes basic career and vocational skills that meet Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) criteria. This is noteworthy due to changes in the state



graduation requirements that may allow for alternative pathways to graduation. Specifically, some general education students may be eligible to receive high school diplomas by accumulating a sufficient number of CDOS hours in addition to some Regents exams. The future possibilities of the PAES Lab can provide opportunities for all of our students to graduate with career readiness.

EXAMPLES OF ELECTIVES

Science — Engineering; Forensic Science; Marine Science; Physics; Food & Nutrition; Technology I (Production Systems & Transportation Systems); Technology II (Architectural Drawing & Principles of Engineering)

Art — Studio Art; Pottery & Sculpture; Drawing/Painting; Digital Photography; Digital Animation

Other — Participation in Government; Self Help & Personal Enrichment

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

AP Biology
AP Environmental Science
AP World History 9 & 10
AP American History

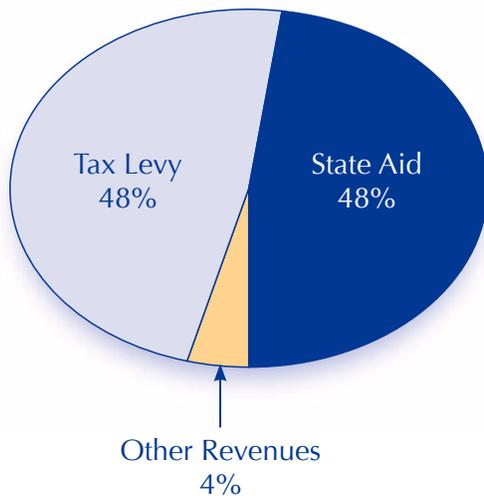
COLLEGE-CREDIT COURSES

Calculus
English Composition
English Composition & Literature
Critical Issues in Health
Pre-Calculus
Psychology
Italian 4
Sociology
Spanish 4 & 5

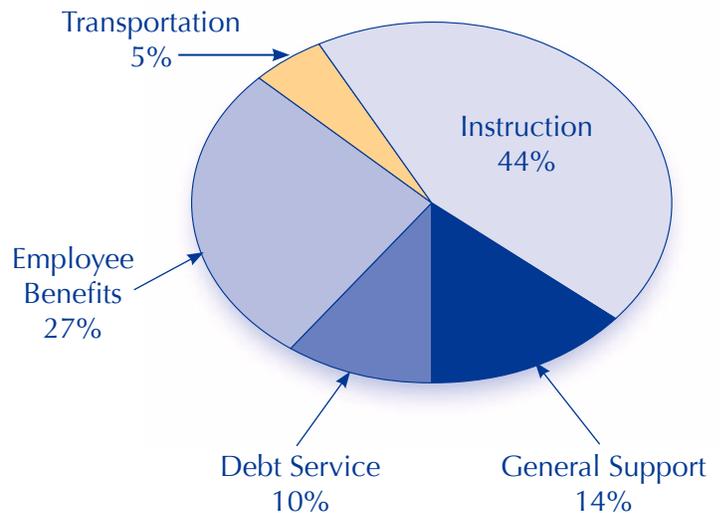
REVENUES: Where money comes from to pay for Hudson City Schools

Revenue Source	2016-17	2017-18 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy	\$21,930,871	\$22,411,833	\$480,962	2.19%
Projected State Aid	21,922,420	22,314,339	391,919	1.79%
Other: Rents, Tuitions, Misc.	2,057,080	1,840,000	-217,080	-10.55%
Grand Totals	\$45,910,371	\$46,566,172	\$655,801	1.43%

Revenues



Expenses



EXPENSES: How money is spent at Hudson City Schools

Expense Category	2016-17	2017-18 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$6,551,932	\$6,774,836	\$222,904	3.40%
Instruction	20,116,522	20,599,142	482,620	2.40%
Transportation	2,108,915	2,184,685	75,770	3.59%
Employee Benefits	12,594,614	12,380,335	-214,279	-1.70%
Debt Service	4,538,388	4,627,174	88,786	1.96%
Grand Totals	\$45,910,371	\$46,566,172	\$655,801	1.43%

Board of Education Candidate...

The Hudson City School District has one (1) Board vacancy on the May 2017 budget ballot. It is a three-year, non-paid term effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. To learn more about the BOE candidate, visit: <http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget/>

THREE-PART BUDGET

By law, school districts must divide their budget into three components—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to amounts from the previous year. Hudson City School District’s three-part budget breaks down as follows:

Program	2016-17	2017-18
Amount	33,228,711	33,771,196
% of total	72.38%	72.52%

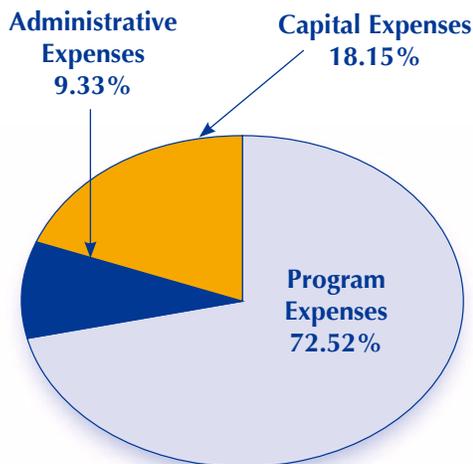
Program costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (such as library, guidance, health, social work, speech therapy and athletics); also textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs, and transportation costs.

Administrative	2016-17	2017-18
Amount	4,233,082	4,343,903
% of total	9.22%	9.33%

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; insurance costs; legal and auditing expenses; and Board of Education expenses.

Capital	2016-17	2017-18
Amount	8,448,579	8,451,073
% of total	18.40%	18.15%

Capital costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff; plus debt service, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, operation and maintenance costs, and utilities.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why is a 2.19% 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 be an even 2 percent. Very few school districts actually have a 2% tax cap because the formula causes the cap to vary from district to district.

This year, the maximum tax levy calculated for the Hudson City School District was 2.81 percent. However, the Board of Education decided to reduce the tax levy for taxpayers and propose a budget with a smaller increase of 2.19 percent. 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 eight-step calculation.

Is there a property tax freeze credit this year?

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 rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019. Because the District is tax cap compliant, some taxpayers are eligible for the rebate. Taxpayers who receive the STAR exemption and make less than \$200,000 a year should receive a rebate check from New York State.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the budget is not approved on May 16, the District may submit the original budget or submit a revised budget to the voters on June 20, or adopt a contingency budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year (0 percent increase in tax levy). If the resubmitted/revised budget proposal is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education must adopt the contingency budget. In that case, the district would not be allowed to increase the tax levy to the extent necessary to fund items of expenditure excluded from the tax cap.

What if I have questions?

Additional information about the budget is posted on the district’s website, www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com. For further information, please call the District Office at 828-4360, Ext. 2100.

Literacy Programs and Resources

Early childhood literacy is vital for student success in secondary coursework and beyond. There are several programs and initiatives in the District aimed at strengthening literacy and reading skills such as:

- Read Across America and TumbleBooks at John L. Edwards Primary School
- Hudson Reads and Read-a-thon at M.C. Smith Intermediate School
- Hudson Children’s Book Festival, which hosts children’s and young adult authors/illustrators
- Extended learning time and enrichment activities with literacy specialists (K-8)
- Access to digital libraries

School Culture

We continually strive to promote a positive school culture that focuses on diversity, inclusion and community. Since Hudson and the surrounding area is home to a diverse population, including many families who speak languages other than English, the District encourages cultural inclusion.

A recent example is the annual first grade play. This year, first graders at John L. Edwards Primary School performed their school play in English as well as Bengali.

Furthermore, we are proud to offer a diverse cafeteria menu that includes both hot and cold food items that are halal, kosher and vegetarian. At times, the menus are supplemented with fresh produce grown in a school garden by students at the Junior High School (as part of a farm-to-school program).

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$45,910,937	\$46,566,172	\$46,085,210
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$665,801	\$174,839
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.43%	0.38%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$21,930,871	\$22,411,833	
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 Tax Year Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$21,930,871	\$22,411,833	\$21,930,871
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$540,675	\$565,434	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$21,390,196	\$21,981,399	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E – B – F + D).	\$21,390,196	\$21,846,399	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$135,000	
Administrative Component	\$4,233,082	\$4,343,903	\$4,233,082
Program Component	\$33,228,711	\$33,771,196	\$33,401,055
Capital Component	\$8,448,579	\$8,451,073	\$8,451,073

Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated, the Board may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly, a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. Using the required formula the proposed budget is below the allowable tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$480,962.

Under a contingent budget the District would have to consider program reductions, including staff layoffs in both instructional and non-instructional areas, and reductions in extracurricular activities and after school programs. No equipment could be purchased as well, and the district would have to charge for the use of its facilities and grounds areas.

School districts are required by law to mail this information to all voters of the District after the date of the Budget Hearing on May 8, 2017, but no later than six days prior to the budget vote and election.

**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
N/A	N/A

	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$506

The annual Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Hudson City School District, Columbia County, New York, will be held at the John L. Edwards School, Greenport Pumper Company #1 and Claverack Fire House in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open 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.



Hudson City School District
 215 Harry Howard Avenue
 Hudson, New York 12534

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www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com

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AVERAGE TAX IMPACT (NO STAR EXEMPTION)

Town	Assessed Home Value	Tax Paid (2016-17)	2.19% Levy Increase*	Annual Difference
Hudson	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,717.95	\$ 1,755.57	\$ 37.62
Claverack	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,734.48	\$ 1,772.47	\$ 37.99
Ghent	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,734.47	\$ 1,772.45	\$ 37.98
Greenport	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,734.47	\$ 1,772.45	\$ 37.98
Livingston	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,865.02	\$ 1,905.86	\$ 40.84
Stockport	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,927.19	\$ 1,969.40	\$ 42.21
Taghkanic	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,545.18	\$ 1,579.02	\$ 33.84

NOTE: to determine the annual tax difference based on a home value of \$150,000, multiply the amount in the "Difference" column by 1.5. For an assessed home value of \$200,000, multiply the amount in the "Difference" column by 2, and so on.

**Based on the NYS Property Tax Cap formula, HCSD is considered "tax cap compliant." See page 4 for further explanation and details about the property tax rebate.*

POLLING LOCATIONS

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)

Please note that polling locations have been consolidated at the request of the Board of Elections.

VOTER INFORMATION

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS: All voters must be U.S. citizens, and age 18 or older on Election Day. Voters must be residents of Hudson CSD for at least 30 days immediately prior to Election Day, and registered to vote.

VOTER REGISTRATION: Voter registration is required. Voters can register to vote with the Columbia County Board of Elections. You are registered to vote if you have voted in the Hudson CSD election in the past four years.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Residents who will be unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You can obtain an absentee ballot by completing an absentee ballot application in the Board Clerk's office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The application deadline is May 5 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered. Call the Board Clerk at 518-828-4360, extension 2100 for more information.