



Highlights

SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

HCSD Budget-to-Budget Increase At One Percent

Dear Community Member,

The Board of Education is dedicated to providing meaningful educational opportunities for our students amid ongoing economic challenges and an increasing number of unfunded state mandates. The proposed 2014 -15 budget provides a safe, engaging, rigorous and equitable academic experience for every student while **remaining within the allowable tax levy cap**.

In 2011 the Governor and state legislators enacted a law limiting the increase of tax levies for municipalities and school districts. Simultaneously, the amount of state aid to schools was dramatically reduced to address the state's budget shortfall. **Harrison has lost \$3.8 million in state aid** over the last five years. This year **the District anticipates paying over \$1.5 million in tax certiorari settlements** as property values slowly recover.

In addition to the tax cap levy legislation and the reduction in state aid to schools, New York State continues to impose costly new unfunded mandates making it increasingly difficult to maintain our instructional programs. The latest unfunded mandates include increased expenditures for teacher evaluation, new technology to implement additional state-mandated online testing of students, and the collection and reporting of all the newly required data related to student and teacher performance. Despite these challenges, the Board remains committed to sound and strategic long-term fiscal management. For the past six years, the District tax levy has been at or below the cap, even prior to the legislation. The District budget increase has averaged 1.9% over the same time period. **The 2014-15 school budget proposes an increase in spending of 1.01%.**

The proposed budget protects current class sizes and addresses course enrollment growth at the high school. At the elementary level, highly trained expert teachers will be deployed as instructional coaches to support classroom teachers in implementing the common core curriculum and to support student learning. The budget also includes an increase to security staff for afterschool and evening activities at the high school.

Careful financial and human resource management has resulted in the protection of programs over the last several years; however, in order to address the most essential needs of our academic program, meet the many unfunded mandates, and remain within the tax levy cap, we reluctantly decided to eliminate the elementary foreign language program. In order to sustain the benefits of early exposure to a second language, we are currently exploring an alternative approach to provide enrichment opportunities to students in our elementary schools.

The strategic, long-term approach to financial management has resulted in a more sustainable cost structure and substantial budget reductions. These significant changes could not have been achieved without the full cooperation and support of our unions and their leadership. **Through collaboration with each labor group, the District has restructured employee contracts**, salary steps have been restructured and each employee group has increased their contributions for health insurance for active and retired employees. These changes have slowed salary growth and eliminated employee payouts at retirement.

For over a decade, the District has maintained a long-range strategic approach to programs and finance, and to ongoing evaluation and improvement. We consistently assess our performance using external benchmarks. The District, our teachers and students have been recognized by many organizations for achievement in academics, financial management and educational leadership.

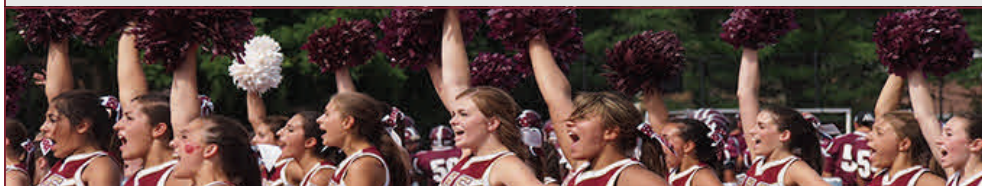
Throughout the budget development process, we have worked closely with committed members of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, and we appreciate their thoughtful feedback. As always, we remain committed to providing the highest quality education, while ensuring the responsible management of tax dollars. We are grateful for your consistent support for the education of the children of our community.

Sincerely,

Board of Education: Dennis DiLorenzo, President; Abby Mendelsohn, Vice President;
Paul Curtis; Rachel Estroff; Philip Silano; David Singer; Joan Tiburzi

Louis N. Wool, Superintendent of Schools

- ✓ The Washington Post ranked **Harrison High School among the top high schools** for preparing all of its students for college and career readiness
- ✓ **Harrison Avenue Elementary School** was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education
- ✓ **100% of Harrison High School's Varsity teams** have earned the New York State Public School Athletic Association's **Scholar-Athlete School of Distinction award** for the past two years.
- ✓ **90% of the senior class** is participating in AP, IB, or other college-level coursework and 25% are pursuing the International Baccalaureate Diploma.
- ✓ **Harrison High School Debate Team** won a school record 19 tournaments. HHS senior Danny DeBois student won the National Debate title at the Tournament of Champions
- ✓ **Harrison High School** Received the Metropolitan Theatre Award for Outstanding Overall Musical Production, Best Musical Direction, and Best Choreography





PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Program

- ✓ Maintains class sizes district-wide
- ✓ Complies with state mandated testing labs in all schools
- ✓ Provides classroom-based instructional support to all elementary school teachers
- ✓ Provides supervision for high school student center
- ✓ Increases high school staffing to support growth in course enrollment in International Baccalaureate Program, Business, and literacy support
- ✓ Provides increased security personnel at high school & middle school

Operations and Safety

- ✓ Continues safety and security system upgrade
- ✓ Completes high school science lab renovation
- ✓ District-wide field upgrades and improvements
- ✓ New multi-station server upgrades to support increased demand
- ✓ Upgrades Wi-Fi hubs at the middle school and provide additional access points at the high school
- ✓ Ongoing middle school restroom renovations
- ✓ Restroom on Parson's Elementary School third floor
- ✓ District-wide Classroom Renovations
- ✓ Ongoing district-wide asbestos abatement
- ✓ Renew three year student transportation contract
- ✓ Other repairs as necessary

2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

| PROGRAM | BUDGET 13-14 | BUDGET 14-15 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Regular Instruction | \$35,810,562 | \$36,145,316 |
| Special Education Instruction | \$10,793,942 | \$10,033,734 |
| In Service Training | \$363,250 | \$371,000 |
| Library/Audio-Visual | \$1,330,971 | \$1,364,625 |
| Computer Assisted Instruction | \$731,947 | \$794,101 |
| Guidance | \$1,233,910 | \$1,265,652 |
| Health Services | \$1,239,217 | \$1,258,839 |
| Psychological & Social Work Services | \$1,078,184 | \$1,510,147 |
| Co-Curricular Activities | \$536,410 | \$553,600 |
| Interscholastic Athletics | \$1,214,438 | \$1,270,484 |
| Pupil Transportation | \$5,784,861 | \$5,932,363 |
| Benefits | \$22,294,956 | \$23,149,775 |
| Legal | \$233,250 | \$229,000 |
| Interfund Transfer to Special Aid | \$120,000 | \$160,000 |
| PROGRAM COMPONENT | \$82,765,898 | \$84,038,636 |
| ADMINISTRATION | | |
| Board of Education | \$88,879 | \$84,979 |
| Central Administration | \$456,157 | \$465,471 |
| Business Administration | \$1,054,009 | \$1,073,105 |
| Legal | \$233,250 | \$229,000 |
| Personnel & Public Information | \$611,022 | \$609,757 |
| Central Printing & Mailing | \$196,279 | \$207,956 |
| Central Data Processing | \$762,593 | \$740,695 |
| Special Items | \$668,350 | \$709,907 |
| Curriculum Development & Supervision | \$5,514,362 | \$5,674,200 |
| Benefits | \$3,598,693 | \$3,733,845 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT | \$13,183,594 | \$13,528,915 |
| CAPITAL | | |
| Buildings Operation and Maintenance | \$7,140,623 | \$6,926,595 |
| Judgements and Claims/Assessments | \$275,000 | \$275,000 |
| Debt Service and Interfund Transfers | \$2,734,200 | \$2,387,100 |
| Benefits | \$1,919,853 | \$1,957,051 |
| CAPITAL COMPONENT | \$12,069,676 | \$11,545,746 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | \$108,019,168 | \$109,113,297 |

| GENERAL FUND BUDGET | BUDGET 13-14 \$108,019,168 | BUDGET 14-15 \$109,113,297 | % CHANGE 1.01% |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Payments in Lieu of Taxes | \$1,703,040 | \$0 | -100.00% |
| County Sales Tax | \$1,195,000 | \$1,310,000 | 9.62% |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | \$389,000 | \$506,000 | 30.08% |
| Health Services for Other Districts | \$265,000 | \$245,000 | -7.55% |
| Interest & Earnings | \$95,000 | \$112,000 | 17.89% |
| State Aid | \$3,519,184 | \$3,657,948 | 3.94% |
| Federal Aid | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | 0.00% |
| Interfund Transfer - Capital | \$0 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| TOTAL NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUES | \$7,216,224 | \$5,880,948 | -18.50% |
| APPROPRIATED RESERVE | \$549,097 | \$360,000 | -34.44% |
| APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE | \$3,890,000 | \$3,214,788 | -17.36% |
| REAL PROPERTY TAXES | \$96,363,847 | \$99,657,561 | 3.42% |
| ESTIMATED TAX RATES (per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) | | | |
| Harrison | \$707.43 | \$732.29 | 3.51% |
| Rye Town | \$12.31 | \$12.82 | 4.10% |
| North Castle | \$549.54 | \$543.01 | -1.19% |

REVENUES
AND
TAX RATES

HCSD Year In Review: Accomplishments, Accolades, and Awards



The **HHS Business Club** had 27 students qualify and compete at the New York State DECA Conference and Business Competition. Two students earned first place and will compete at the National Competition in Atlanta.

Harrison High School senior **Jenna Lefkowitz** has been named a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship program. Senior **Liliane Lindsay** was also named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Seniors **Benjamin Adler, Kiersten Colotti, Amanda Friedman, Danielle Mehlman, Julia Ng, and Michael Stella** received National Merit commendation

HHS Model Congress team won ten awards at the Princeton Model Congress Conference in Washington, D.C and snagged six awards at the University of Pennsylvania Conference.

The **HHS IB Design Technology** team was named Best in State in the Verizon Innovation App Challenge for the best community app.

The **Digital Literacy students** at LMK Middle School took part in the “Hour of Code”, an international initiative encouraging students of all ages to spend an hour learning the basics of how computer codes are developed.



LMK students raised over \$6,500 from their annual carnival to be donated toward a new playground for the students at the New York School for the Deaf. The school’s playground was damaged as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

98.6% of our Eighth-grade class successfully completed the ninth grade Regents Integrated Algebra, **79%** met the college readiness standard, and **53%** achieved mastery level.

The **Purchase Elementary School** was designated a Reward School by the New York State Education department as a “High Performing” school for a two-year period.

Parsons students participated in the Westchester County-wide program *Valentine’s for Veterans*, an initiative to connect Veterans with elementary and middle school children.

Fifth graders at **Harrison Avenue Elementary** traveled to the Ayfa Foundation in Yonkers to help sort donated surplus medical supplies that will be shipped to countries in need.

HHS LOTE (Languages Other Than English) teachers **Jennifer DeFalco, Cristina DiStasio, Olga Garcia, and Susie Michel** presented to LOTE professionals at the annual New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers event.

HHS teacher Kelly Fahmer presented her Masters of Special Education on co-teaching at the Annual Council of Exceptional Children Conference in Melville, New York.



The Harlem Wizards entertained a sold-out crowd at HHS in a successful fundraiser for **HCSD’s Elementary Enrichment Committee**. The EEC funds unique learning opportunities such as the Visiting Author program and arts related activities for the students at all four of Harrison’s Elementary schools.

Fifth grade students at **S.J. Preston** displayed work in the **Eye to I, 3000 Years of Portraits** exhibit at the Katonah Museum of Art with works that incorporated traditional portraiture drawing skills with library/media technology. Students drew self-portraits and used Adobe Photoshop Elements to create Pop Art.

Fourth grader **Matt Fortig** from Purchase Elementary, third grader **James Duffelmeyer** from Preston Elementary, and HHS junior **Jacee Cappelli** were selected as “Mayor’s Choice” award winners from work submitted during Youth Art Month. The works will be permanently on display at Harrison’s Town Hall.

The **HHS Music Department** has been selected as a GRAMMY Signature school semi-finalist for two consecutive years

The **HHS Varsity Cheerleaders** were named Grand Champions at both the Mahopac and Putnam Valley Competitions. The squad qualified

and competed at the UCA National Championships in Orlando.

For the first time in school history, the **HHS Boys Winter Track and Field team** captured the Indoor Westchester County Championships. The Boys also won the League III A Championships this winter.

HHS seniors Matt Stein and Jake Marino received the prestigious Con Edison Award for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

For the first time in nearly half a century, the **HHS Boys Varsity Basketball team** competed for the Section 1 Championships.





Harrison Central School District

Non-Profit Org.
Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit No. 28102

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dennis Di Lorenzo, *President*
Abby Mendelsohn, *Vice President*
Paul Curtis
Rachel Estroff
Philip Silano
David Singer
Joan Tiburzi

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Louis N. Wool

The **Harrison Central School District** was reevaluated in 2012 and has **maintained its AAA rating** from Standard and Poor's for excellence in long-range financial management even during this difficult economy. Our District is one of only three school districts in the state to achieve the AAA rating and one of only 27 in the nation.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Harrison Central School District has been awarded the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International's **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award** for having met or exceeded the program's high standards for financial reporting accountability and transparency.



BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. — At your neighborhood elementary school

REGISTRATION

As there is no personal registration for school elections, voting in a budget vote does not automatically entitle one to vote in a general election. Therefore, all citizens are strongly encouraged to register to vote with the Westchester County Board of Elections. Registration materials are available at www.westchestergov.com/boe or the Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY, (914) 995-5715; (Business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.);

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

There is no personal registration. At the time of the vote, voters will sign a statement affirming that they possess the following qualifications : 1.) A citizen of the United States; 2). 18 years of age; 3). A resident of the district for a period of at least 30 days. Voters must be able to produce at least one of the following proofs of residency: a driver's license; a non-driver identification card; a utility bill; or a voter registration card.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for an absentee ballot may be obtained at the office of the District Clerk, 50 Union Avenue, Harrison, or may be downloaded from the District website, www.harrisoncsd.org. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote of the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter. Completed ballots must be received in the District Clerk's office no later than 5:00pm on election day.

For more information: www.harrisoncsd.org or call 835-3300