



Frequently Asked Questions about a Contingency Budget

A failed budget puts district programs and services at risk. For years, the district has enhanced and developed new programs to meet the academic and social emotional needs of our students. As described below, a failed budget would force the district to make \$2.6 million in reductions. A vast majority of those reductions would derive from staff layoffs.

Q: What happens if the budget fails?

A: The district will have to go into contingency budget

Q: What does contingency budget mean?

A: A contingency budget limits expenditures to ordinary contingent expenses— expenses directly tied to safe, legal, day-to-day operation of the district and the regular instruction of its students.

The district's total budget expenditure will be limited to the sum of last year's tax levy plus this year's non-property tax revenues (State Aid, PILOTs, fund balance, other income, sales tax and transfers):

Last year's levy: \$43,740,677

2020-2021 non-property tax revenues: \$35,789,058

Total maximum expenditure: \$79,529,735

Any facilities usage by outside organizations will be denied unless the organization covers all of the district's expenses for the use of facilities. This includes municipal groups and other organizations the district has had long-standing relationships with.

Q: What does limiting expenditures to ordinary contingent expenses mean?

A: Expenses directly tied to the safe, legal day-to-day operation of the district and the regular instruction of its students. The district will not be allowed to spend money on the following expenses: equipment, field trips, extra-curricular activities, summer school (except special education), among others.

Q: What do all these reductions mean for the Hendrick Hudson School District?

A: Our 2020-2021 school budget will have to be reduced to \$79,529,735 from \$82,137,880, a reduction of \$2,608,145. Most of the cuts will come from workforce reduction, especially teachers, teacher aides, teacher assistants, monitors, secretaries and custodians, due to the district having already streamlined operating costs for a number of years.

- A failed budget will force the district to eliminate non-mandated programs that our school community has long valued, including electives, before- and after-school programs, student support services and athletics, and will result in upwards of 50 staff layoffs.
- Additionally, more than \$520,000 of essential equipment and other expenses to support our programs would need to be eliminated.