



Budget 2022-2023

www.AmherstSchools.org

Our Schools in Action

A Budget Focused on Educational Goals

Our approach to developing this budget proposal has been to proactively and thoroughly plan; always with an eye focused on our educational goals. What we have been able to accomplish over the past years during the pandemic is truly amazing and our collaborative approach benefited all. I am so proud of our entire school community.

Planning and preparation continue to be our approach to the development of the \$68.3 million budget for 2022-2023. The Amherst Board of Education uses a multi-year long-range forecast to consider not only the immediate needs for the district, but also to anticipate the impact these decisions may have in the future.

The 2022-2023 budget includes:

- A tax cap levy decrease of -\$268,454. For 2022-2023, the calculated tax levy limit for Amherst Central School District is a decrease of -0.69%.
- An estimated tax rate decrease of -\$0.15 per thousand of assessed valuation.
- A budget-to-budget increase of 6.19% mostly due to contractual obligations as well as pandemic-related expenses to ensure the health, safety and social-emotional welfare of students.
- A second year increase in New York State Foundation Aid that allows us to balance the budget with minimal use of reserves. If the promise of a full funding formula occurs next year, it will provide our district with a level of aid that is predictable and stable which assists our budget development process.
- The first steps of a phased plan to roll the multiple supports that have been funded through the Federal Stimulus Funds for Education into the general fund to reduce reliance on federal funding that we know will end.

We present this budget proposal to the community with confidence that it meets the school district's mission to prepare all students to excel in a dynamic world while being responsive to the needs of our taxpayers. Stay informed at amherstschoools.org/budget. Please take the time to visit the high school on May 17 and vote.

Respectfully,

Paul Steimle
Board of Education President



Paul Steimle
Board of Education
President

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2022



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Amherst Central School District is grateful for the community's continued support. Your return on investment can be measured by the broad range of opportunities afforded to our students and their successes. Throughout this issue, you will find many examples of how your support is reaping great returns for our students.

Amherst Central School District BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

at the Amherst Central High School
South Gymnasium

Please enter through the doorway off the driveway to the far left of the school (not the front entrance of the school).

Budget At A Glance

2022-2023 Proposed Budget

\$68,300,000

Budget-to-Budget Increase

\$3,984,000

Tax Levy Decrease

-0.69%

Estimated Tax Rate Decrease

-\$0.15 per thousand assessed valuation

What's on the Ballot?

Residents will vote on the following propositions:

Proposition 1 – School Budget

The Amherst Central School District budget of \$68,300,000 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Board of Education Candidates

The election of two members to the Board of Education to serve three-year terms.

Read the candidate bios on page 5.



Lorry Goldhawk



Dominic Vivolo

Capital Outlay Project

The 2022-23 budget includes \$100,000 for a Amherst CSD Capital Outlay project. The scope of this year's project has not been defined. Previous projects have included elementary sidewalk repairs, an emergency generator, and entrance ramps for accessibility.

Three Part Summary & Definition

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	DOLLAR CHANGE	% of 2022-2023
Administrative Expenditures	\$6,252,409	\$6,479,673	\$227,264	9.49%
Program Expenditures	\$48,388,426	\$51,541,572	\$3,153,146	75.46%
Capital Expenditures	\$9,675,165	\$10,278,755	\$603,590	15.05%
TOTAL	\$64,316,000	\$68,300,000	\$3,984,000	100%

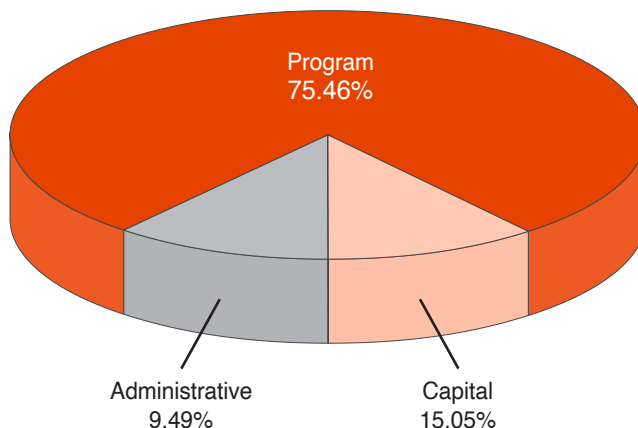
Three-Part Budget Definitions

Administrative Budget Component: Includes expenses for office and administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50 percent or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; public information; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

Capital Budget Component: This covers debt service on buildings and leasing costs; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; and all facility costs, including salaries and benefits of the custodial staff; service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment; and utilities.

Program Budget Component: This portion includes salaries and benefits of teachers and supervisors who spend the majority of their time teaching; such instructional costs as supplies, equipment and textbooks; co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics; staff development; and transportation operating costs.

Proposed 2022-23 Three-Part Budget



Where Does the Money Come From?

REVENUE SUMMARY	2021-2022	2022-2023	CHANGE
Property Tax	\$38,952,886	\$38,684,432	-\$268,454
In Lieu of Tax	\$435,000	\$750,000	\$315,000
County Sales Tax	\$3,420,343	\$3,928,000	\$507,657
Community Ed	\$78,500	\$78,500	\$0
Interest Earning	\$81,000	\$16,300	-\$64,700
State Aid	\$15,300,999	\$17,333,925	\$2,032,926
Building Aid	\$3,566,211	\$5,026,080	\$1,459,869
Other Revenues	\$1,583,061	\$1,402,763	-\$180,298
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$806,000	\$1,000,000	\$194,000
Use of Reserves	\$92,000	\$80,000	-\$12,000
TOTAL	\$64,316,000	\$68,300,000	\$3,984,000

Where Does the Money Go?

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	2021-2022	2022-2023	CHANGE
Personnel	\$30,323,760	\$31,998,341	\$1,674,581
Benefits	\$13,249,391	\$13,580,224	\$330,833
General Support	\$2,261,032	\$2,652,094	\$391,062
Instruction	\$4,434,364	\$4,719,074	\$284,710
BOCES	\$4,208,203	\$4,982,658	\$774,455
Transportation	\$3,579,624	\$3,671,134	\$91,510
Debt Service	\$5,453,555	\$5,696,475	\$242,920
Contingency	\$806,071	\$1,000,000	\$193,929
TOTAL	\$64,316,000	\$68,300,000	\$3,984,000

Contingency Budget

Should the board declare a contingency budget the following would be implemented by law: no change in levy, no new equipment, must charge for all building use by community, no change in salary for non-instructional, non-unionized employees, no non-essential maintenance.

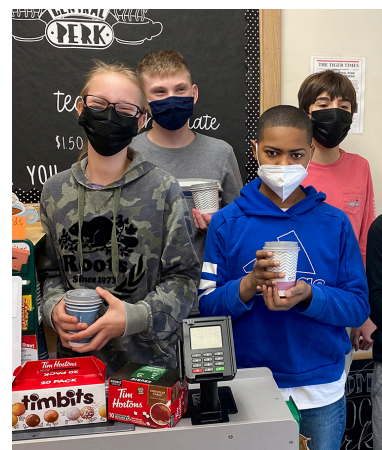
Five Year Budget History

YEAR	BUDGET	LEVY
2017-18	2.97%	2.74%
2018-19	2.18%	2.54%
2019-20	2.72%	3.01%
2020-21	3.79%	2.39%
2021-22	3.03%	3.14%
AVERAGE	2.94%	2.76%

Tax Levy & Rate

	2021-2022	2022-2023	CHANGE
Property Tax Levy	\$38,952,886	\$38,684,432	-\$268,454
Assessment	\$1,824,453,853	\$1,824,453,853	\$0
Tax Rate per \$1,000*	\$21.350436	\$21.203294	-\$0.15

*Rate based on prior year assessed value.



Learn more at amherstschools.org/budget

PROPOSED BUDGET INFORMATION



Amherst Central School District
Budget Notice

**OVERALL BUDGET
PROPOSAL**

	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$64,316,000	\$68,300,000	\$67,730,043
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$3,984,000	\$3,414,043
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.19%	5.31%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$38,952,886	\$38,684,432	
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 Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$38,952,886	\$38,684,432	\$38,952,886
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,741,160	\$979,147	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$37,211,726	\$37,705,285	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$37,211,726	\$37,705,285	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$6,252,409	\$6,479,673	\$6,394,074
Program Component	\$48,388,426	\$51,541,572	\$51,229,707
Capital Component	\$9,675,165	\$10,278,755	\$10,106,262

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingent budget would require the elimination of all equipment purchases, no community use of District facilities without payment of full operating costs, no Community Education Programming, no salary increases for non unionized employees, an appropriation of \$320,089 in fund balance and reserves, and no increase to the 2021-22 tax levy.

Note: The District has agreed to a two year extension of our current contract with our contract transportation provider, First Student. 2022-23 is the first year of that two year extension.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$583

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Amherst Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Amherst Central High School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Amherst Central High School, at which time the polls will be opened 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.

School Board Candidates

Lorry Goldhawk

Lorry Goldhawk has been a Human Resources consultant since 2008, working for other HR consulting firms prior to forming her own business. Prior to her consulting work, Lorry worked in Human Resources at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, where she handled faculty-level recruitment, immigration applications and processing, and internal consulting projects. Lorry has additional experience as Director of Recruiting for a local financial services company, and as Operations and Testing Manager for a management and HR consulting firm.



Mrs. Goldhawk received two Bachelor's degrees (BS Management/HR/Marketing and BA Psychology) from the University at Buffalo. She also holds two human resources certifications, and served in several capacities on the Board of the Buffalo Niagara Human Resources Association.

Mrs. Goldhawk has served as a Board Member since 2014, and is active with the Erie County Association of School Boards, where she serves on various committees and is a member of the Executive Board. She received the 2021 Shining Star award from ECASB.

A native of Western New York, and an Amherst resident since 2003, Mrs. Goldhawk and her husband, Matthew, have two children attending Amherst Central High School.

Dominic Vivolo

Dominic Vivolo and his wife, Tina, have resided in Amherst since 2004. They have three children, Gabriella, Dominic and Isabella, that attend or have graduated from Amherst Central High School.

Mr. Vivolo graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He has operated his own Ameriprise Financial office in Snyder where he is a Financial Advisor and Vice-President, since 2016.



Currently, Mr. Vivolo is a Volunteer Fireman and EMT for the Snyder Fire Department. Formerly, Mr. Vivolo served as Chairman of the Amherst Youth Board, Vice-President of Operations at the Amherst Senior Foundation, and Treasurer and board member for Amherst Nursery School. He is currently an active participant on the Audit, Capital and Tax Certiorari Committees for Amherst Schools.

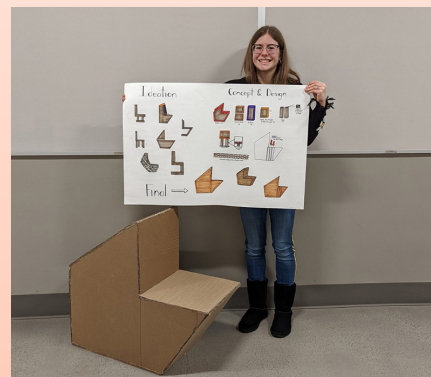
Capital Improvement Project Update

The final phase of the current Capital Improvement Project saw a complete transformation of the technology wing in the basement of the High School. A new computer lab was created that also integrates with a 3-D print room along with an innovation lab and then the wood shop all tied together with glass windows so the students and staff can interact and visualize between the openness of the spaces.

see more photos on right.



Capital Improvement Project Update



Facilities

- The Facilities Department that comprises the Custodial department along with Grounds and Maintenance maintains more than 625,000 square feet of building space and approximately 77 acres of land.
- Additionally they maintain 17 tennis courts, 1 basketball court and over 20 athletic fields from soccer to field hockey that are used by students and the community.

District

- We serve approximately 3,000 students and 560 staff each day.

School Nutrition

- Every student is eligible for free meals due to a USDA waiver and 52,626 breakfasts and 154,633 lunches have been served from the start of school through February.
- From September through February, Amherst Central students enjoyed approximately 13,029 gallons of milk as part of a nutritious breakfast and/or lunch.

Social-Emotional Learning

- Staff at the Family Support Center launched a monthly newsletter for parents, as well as monthly informational and activity-based events for families.

Grades K-5

- Students in kindergarten to fifth grade are fully engaged in a new elementary health curriculum of age appropriate lessons on physical, mental health and social-emotional learning topics. Lessons are delivered over 11 weeks by a Health and Physical Education teacher at Smallwood Drive and Windermere Boulevard elementary schools.

Grades 6-8

- Amherst Middle School was named a Best Middle School in U.S. News & World Report's first-ever K-8 rankings of best public middle schools because they place among the top 30% in the state, according to the agency's ranking methodology.
- 50 eighth-graders participate in the WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leadership program.
- 120 students made up the cast and crew of the school musical, "High School Musical, Jr." performed in February.

Keeping Minds, Bodies, Spirits Healthy with a New Elementary Health Curriculum

A new district-wide elementary health curriculum teaches kindergarten to fifth-graders how they can keep their bodies, minds and spirits healthy. Lessons are focused on teaching kids how to express feelings appropriately, build self esteem, show gratitude and other skills related to social-emotional strength and mental health well-being. The curriculum is framed around three prongs - physical health, mental health, social-emotional health.

The district hired two full-time health and physical education teachers and placed one at each of the district's elementary schools; Smallwood Drive and Windermere Boulevard. They work three days a week pushing into elementary classes to cover general and mental health topics over an 11-week period. By the end of June, they will have worked with every grade level and every class in their building. The other two days of the week, they are physical education teachers in the traditional sense and students come to them for gym class.

What's unique about this is that it's building-based and that it provides a series of 11 lessons over a trimester. Topics can be modified and adjusted based on social norms within our society, especially for the fifth-graders. For instance lessons about dangers of tobacco use now evolve into vaping. Social media safety used to be more about physical stranger danger and now it's more about cybersecurity and safe online use.

The Director of Health, PE and Athletics collaborated with Pupil Personnel Services elementary counseling staff and the two health teachers to develop the content for the mental health and social emotional lessons. The health lesson topics cover expressing feelings appropriately, self-care and healthy habits, bullying (DASA), how to show forgiveness/gratitude, nutrition and food groups, drug/alcohol prevention, safety, disease prevention, healthy relationships, stress, and Erin's law.

Girls Varsity Flag Football Pilot

Amherst Central High School is piloting a girls varsity flag football team this spring in a collaboration between Section VI, New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Buffalo Bills, Nike, New York Jets, and the New York Giants. There are 12 local teams in the pilot year with hope of a regional and state championship. There will be six to eight games with a roster of 15-20 girls. Amherst received a \$3,000 grant from the Buffalo Bills, \$1,000 from the Amherst Tigers Booster Club and \$1,200 from the Amherst Alumni Association to offset expenses in the pilot year. Nike will provide up to 20 uniforms.

Fitness Centers are Transformed

The fitness centers at Amherst Middle School and Amherst Central High School, originally outfitted through a PEP grant many years ago, have been updated with new equipment, flooring and sound systems through federal stimulus dollars. The new spaces are bright and inviting and provide a place for teaching physical wellness during the day and an area for strength and conditioning after school for athletic teams. Pictured below is the high school fitness center.



Teaching Assistant Staff Spotlight

Meet Karen Myszkiewicz, a special education teaching assistant at Amherst Middle School, who has shared her love for children by working for ACSD for 18 years. She currently works in the Integrated Co-Teaching program with eighth-graders. Over the years she has supported students in math, science and social studies classrooms. It is her responsibility to make sure program modifications and testing modifications documented on each student's IEP are followed daily.

"I have always enjoyed the students the most," she said. "I love the connections I've been able to create over the years. I also have a fantastic group of coworkers that make my work environment fun."

"I started my career in education working as an elementary school teacher," she said. "I have to say that I love middle school students as well. They can be so funny and they are still young enough that they need positive role models in their lives. Working in a school setting is different from any other job. The best part of my day is working one-on-one with students. Most students I work with really want and appreciate the support they are given."

If you are considering applying for a teaching assistant position with the Amherst Central School District, she says you must love children and be a good communicator with both students and adults. The district has openings for teaching assistants, teacher aides and other positions throughout the year.



Become a Tiger. Join the A Team!

Many of our employment opportunities offer flexible schedules that align with the 10-month school year. We also have opportunities to work year-round as a 12-month employee. ACSD employees also qualify for NYS pension, may enroll in health benefits and get paid vacation, sick days and holidays. Job openings are posted at www.amherstschoools.org/employment.

Master Teacher Program Participants Are Highest-Performing STEM Teachers

Amherst Central School District is honored to have 10 faculty members selected to participate in the New York State Master Teacher Program, Western Region, by the State University of New York. The program is a state-wide professional network of outstanding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers.

ACSD faculty in the Master Teacher Program are Christopher Kensey, an algebra teacher at Amherst Central High School; Amy Sorrentino, an Algebra 2 Regents and Precalculus Regents teacher at Amherst Central High School; Erik Zobel, a physics teacher at Amherst Central High School; Krista Jones, an eighth-grade math and Algebra Honors teacher at Amherst Middle School; Nancy Claxton, a seventh-grade science teacher at Amherst Middle School; Kristen Shouldice, a second-grade teacher at Windermere Boulevard Elementary School; Lori Chittenden, a first-second grade teacher at Smallwood Drive Elementary School; Jill Zobel, kindergarten teacher at Smallwood Drive Elementary School; and Jamie Cinelli, kindergarten teacher at Smallwood Drive Elementary School. Stephanie Reddien, a math teacher at Amherst Central High School, is a Master Teacher Emeritus.

As part of the Western New York network, master teachers will work with other master teachers from local school districts and future teachers studying at Buffalo State College to develop and share STEM content knowledge with their district. Master Teachers are the highest-performing STEM teachers who join together as an expert community dedicated to developing one another's expertise in the areas of content, pedagogy, and students' families and communities.

RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Grades 9-12

- 52 students have applied to earn the Seal of Civic Readiness upon graduation by demonstrating civic knowledge, skills and actions, mindsets and experiences. ACHS is one of 20 regional schools piloting the program this year.
- More than 40 seniors have applied to earn the Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation, demonstrating proficiency in English and at least one other world language.

Class of 2021

- 88% of seniors continued their education at post-secondary institutions.
- 21 seniors entered the workplace; 1 entered the military.
- 7 earned AP Scholar with Distinction honors; 7 AP Scholar with Honors; 17 AP Scholars.
- 69% of students graduated with Advanced Regents designation; 19% with Advanced Regents with Honors.
- 2 students were National Merit Finalists; 2 students were National Merit Commended Students.
- 14 Advanced Placement courses offered.
- Over \$16 million in scholarships awarded.

Library

- The Amherst Central library program provides students and staff with a diverse collection of materials available in both print and digital formats which allows patrons to seek information from multiple viewpoints as well as allow users to seek information of personal interest.
- With more than 63 digital online databases, 9,317 digital media types, and 60,779 printed books available, staff and students have a wide selection of library materials available both in the physical library and abroad 24/7.
- From September to March, students have checked out 41,586 printed books and 4,883 ebooks and other digital media types.

Tech Integration

- Currently there are close to 3,000 active chromebooks in use districtwide weekly.
- Since September, 3,456 tech support tickets have been completed.
- The technology office supports close to 5,700 active accounts.



Amherst Central School District
55 Kings Highway
Amherst, NY 14226-4330

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*****ECRWSEDDM***

District Resident

Community Education This Summer

Registration is open for 2022 summer camps in Basketball, Wrestling, Tennis and PE Games for boys and girls. All registration is done online at amherstschools.org/communityed. If you have questions, please contact Darcy Daigler in the community education office at (716) 362-3080 or email at ddaigler@amherstschools.org.



School Registration for 2022-23

Kindergarten Registration: If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2022, and live within the boundaries of the Amherst CSD, they are eligible for kindergarten.

We also offer a free Pre-K program that offers a creative and fun curriculum that is taught by certified teachers. This high-quality program is open to any 4-year-old child residing in the district. The child must be four by Dec. 1, 2022.

Instructions for the online registration process is available on the district website at www.amherstschools.org/registration.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available for the Amherst Central School District vote.

The completed ballot must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 17, the day of the vote.

A qualified voter in the district may use an absentee ballot if, on voting day, he or she is a patient in a hospital or unable to appear personally because of illness or physical disability; is required to be outside the country because of duties, occupation or studies; is on vacation outside the country; or is detained in jail awaiting action conviction of an offense other than a felony.

For more information, contact the District Clerk at 362-3051 or visit the office at 55 Kings Highway, Amherst, NY.

Krolick's Chicken Barbecue



Tuesday, May 17, 2022
3-6 p.m.

at Amherst Central High School
Pickup in Washington Highway parking lot.
Dinner includes two sides, dessert and roll.

Cost \$13

Pre-order by Friday, May 13
by email to Laurie LeGoff at llegoff@amherstschools.org
or call 716-362-8174.

BUDGET VOTE May 17, 2022

Amherst Central High School
South Gymnasium
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Exit Survey at Budget Vote

The Amherst CSD Board of Education will again conduct an exit survey to gain insight into the priorities and concerns of residents. Voters are encouraged to take a moment to complete the survey after they have submitted their ballots at the vote on May 17.

Voter Eligibility

To qualify as a voter, a person must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least 18 years old
- a resident of Amherst Central School District for at least 30 days prior to May 17, 2022. (Education Law § 1212)

Apartment dwellers who meet these qualifications are eligible. No prior registration is required and residents do not have to be registered voters. (Education Law § 1212)



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@AmherstTigers1



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Amherst Central High School