



Discovery

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2020–21 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

2.98% Spending Increase • 2.57% Tax Levy Increase

The Board of Education has adopted the proposed 2020–21 school budget in the amount of \$241,395,571. This amount is a 2.98 percent increase over last year's budget. The proposed tax levy increase is 2.57 percent, which is below the tax cap limit of 4.16 percent.

"This is an unusual budget season during an unprecedented time," explains Superintendent Dr. Teresa Prendergast. "This global pandemic has affected our school operations in every way. As we look ahead to next school year, the Administration and the Board have worked very carefully to present a prudent budget that maintains support for our children and preserves our high-quality academic and extracurricular programs."

DEVELOPING A SCHOOL BUDGET IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

After months of preparation, with input from stakeholders across the District, administrators completed the preliminary working budget. In early March, the Board of Education held its first informal budget hearing. Just two weeks later, the Governor closed schools across the State as the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic came to light.

In April, administrators revised the budget and eliminated more than \$1.4 million in planned additions for the 2020–21 school year. Further, additional funds were allocated from the District's fund balance and reserves to offset increased costs and reductions in state aid. These changes reduce the tax burden on residents.

"In light of the severity of what is going on all around us, it seems an inopportune time to focus on a school budget, however we have obligations to meet," says Board President Barbara Berkowitz. "Our children need the continuity of instruction now more than ever with all the other changes in their young lives. These students deserve the same high standards of educational opportunities as those who came before them, and those who will follow. As a Board of Education, that is our responsibility."

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The proposed tax levy increase is below the tax cap limit.

The proposed 2020–21 school budget will:

- **Maintain all current programs** at the elementary and secondary levels
- **Maintain elementary class sizes**, in accordance with Board of Education guidelines
- **Maintain funding for extracurricular programs**, including clubs, activities, music, art, and athletics
- **Maintain opportunities in support of all learners**
- **Add secondary level ENL and special education** teachers and teaching assistants, plus additional funding for state-approved nonpublic school special education placements
- **Provide ongoing professional development** training for faculty and staff



Pursuant to an Executive Order by the Governor, voting will take place by absentee ballot ONLY. See page 4 for more details.

2020 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE • ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM ON JUNE 9

SERVICES FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The District, in accordance with State law, allocates more than \$6.5 million to provide services to private and nonpublic school students, including bus transportation, textbooks, health services, special education services, school library materials, and computer software loan programs.

REVENUES IN 2020–21

To balance the 2020–21 budget, the District will appropriate more than \$5.7 million in fund balance and reserves, which are unspent funds from prior years.

DID YOU KNOW?

Great Neck's 2019–20 school tax rate for single-family homes ranks as the fifth-lowest of all school districts in Nassau County.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET DOESN'T PASS?

Historically, if the budget were to fail on its first vote, the Board of Education would have an option to offer a revised budget for a re-vote before considering a contingency budget. As of this publication date, school districts have not received any guidance from the Governor on whether or not a re-vote would be allowed this year in the event the budget is defeated. Should a re-vote not be permitted under current circumstances, the Board would be forced to adopt a contingency (or "austerity") budget.

Under the tax levy cap law, **a contingency budget would require a reduction of more than \$5.3 million from the 2020–21 proposed budget**, which would impact:

- class size
- academic programs
- non-mandated study skills
- reading, math, and special education services
- early morning drop off
- staffing
- after-school clubs and athletic programs
- capital projects
- other transportation services

All contractual and debt service obligations would remain in effect.

2020–21 BUDGET CHALLENGES

ANTICIPATED REDUCTIONS IN STATE AID.

The global pandemic has resulted in significant loss of operating revenue for New York State. In turn, the State may opt to further reduce education funding to public schools.

INCREASED CONTRACTUAL EXPENDITURES IN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

The majority of the District's transportation services are provided by an outside company. The District's previous long-term transportation contract expires at the end of the 2019–20 school year. A recent bid for transportation services has resulted in a new five-year contract, which has increased overall transportation costs.

INCREASED ENROLLMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

Many families are attracted to the District for outstanding academic programs, including exceptional special education services. As a result of increasing student enrollment in this area, this budget adds special education teaching positions, teaching assistant positions, and additional funding for state-approved non-public school special education placements.

CAPITAL PROJECTS COST OVERRUN.

Construction bids for select voter-approved capital projects from the 2017 Bond have come in higher than initially estimated. Changes in construction standards and material costs have resulted in increased costs.

“ We must be sensitive to the tax impact that our school district budget has on our community members who are facing financial challenges during this difficult time. ”

— John Powell,
Assistant Superintendent for Business



PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOLS & OUR STUDENTS

Our community values education and has high expectations for its students and its schools. The following awards and achievements are from May 2019 through April 2020.



John L. Miller—Great Neck North High School and William A. Shine—Great Neck South High School were recognized among the **2020 Best High Schools by U.S. News and World Report**. Both schools are among only 19 Long Island schools to rank in the top 1,000 on the list, representing the top half-percent of high schools nationwide. Additionally, South High has been named as one of the Best High Schools in America for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

- **Advanced Placement Scholars:** 456 high school students honored by the College Board
- **All-County Music Festival:** 125 participants in grades 5–12
- **All-State Music Conference:** 8 high school participants, 8 alternates
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory/Long Island Regional Science Bowl:** Middle school team wins first place at middle school competition; High school team wins first place at high school competition



- **Long Island Music Hall of Fame High School Recognition Program:** High schools receive ratings of Gold and Gold with Distinction
- **Mathcounts Competition:** Middle school team wins second-place award at regional competition



The Great Neck Public Schools is honored to be ranked by Niche.com as the #1 Best School District in New York State and the #3 Best School District in the nation. The **2020 Niche K-12 Rankings** also recognize the quality of Great Neck's faculty, and health and safety programs.



The Great Neck Public Schools was named one of the **Best Communities for Music Education in America by the NAMM Foundation** for the thirteenth time since 2005.

- **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center competitions:** 5 high school ensembles win regional high school competition; 1 high school ensemble selected to perform at Lincoln Center
- **DECA State Conference:** 190 high school participants
- **FIRST Robotics Competition:** South High robotics team receives 2 top awards at 2020 regional competition
- **FIRST Tech Challenge:** North High robotics team advances to 2020 FTC Long Island Championship
- **FIRST LEGO League:** Elementary and middle school teams win awards at regional FLL competition
- **International Telly Awards:** GNPS/TV receives two bronze awards for student-directed programs in the 40th annual international competition

- **2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition:** 2 Scholarship Winners, 16 Finalists, 16 Semifinalists, 41 Commended Students
- **New York State Honor Concert Band:** 7 middle school participants, 1 alternate
- **Regeneron Science Talent Search (formerly Intel):** 1 high school Regeneron STS Scholar
- **Vocabulary Bowl:** Middle school team wins national Division II Championship for middle/elementary schools
- **WAC Lighting Invitational Science Fair:** 43 high school award winners



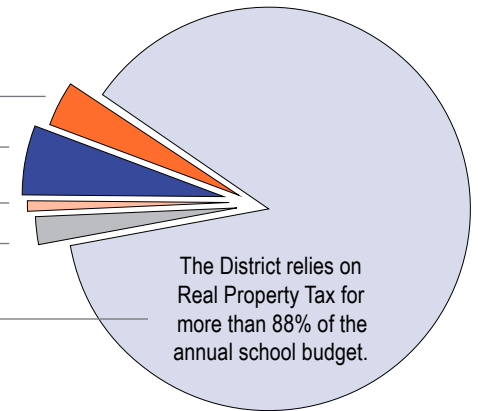
The Village School was named a **2019 Blue Star School by Wise** for their commitment to personal finance instruction and providing students with the tools to become financially capable young adults.

2020-21 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 2019-20	PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-21	PERCENT CHANGE
Instruction	\$ 174,926,737	\$ 176,618,833	0.97%
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 24,448,029	\$ 23,991,367	-1.87%
Transportation	\$ 14,174,887	\$ 16,836,852	18.78%
General Support	\$ 9,054,670	\$ 9,386,622	3.67%
Capital Projects	\$ 4,016,000	\$ 6,216,000	54.78%
Adult Education & Recreation	\$ 3,749,322	\$ 3,906,771	4.20%
Debt Service	\$ 4,049,299	\$ 4,439,126	9.63%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 234,418,944	\$ 241,395,571	2.98%



REVENUES	BUDGET 2019-20	PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-21	PERCENT CHANGE
State Aid	\$ 9,705,357	\$ 9,079,079	
Miscellaneous*	\$ 14,899,733	\$ 13,749,023	
Appropriated Fund Balance	-	\$ 2,200,000	
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 2,295,568	\$ 3,510,000	
Amount to be Raised by Real Property Tax	\$ 207,518,286	\$ 212,857,469	2.57%



* This line includes revenue from sources other than taxes on real property, such as tuition from other districts that enroll their students in Great Neck Public Schools programs, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT payments), and interest on deposits and investments.

2020-21 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Voting by Absentee Ballot ONLY • Tuesday, June 9, 2020

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1: 2020-21 Great Neck Public Schools Budget

PROPOSITION 2: Great Neck Library Budget

PROPOSITION 3: Two Board of Education Seats

Candidates for Board Seat 1

John Jahng

Rebecca Sassouni

Candidate for Board Seat 2

Jeffrey Shi

VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY

Due to health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, an Executive Order from the New York State Governor requires the 2020-21 budget vote to be conducted via absentee ballot only. Every registered voter will receive an absentee ballot with a postage-paid return envelope. Absentee ballots must be received by the Office of the District Clerk, Phipps Admin. Building, 345 Lakeville Rd., no later than 5PM on June 9, 2020.

VOTER REGISTRATION

If you have voted in any school or general election between 2016 and 2019, you are registered to vote in the school election on June 9. The deadline to register for this vote is May 26. Residents who are unsure if they are registered can confirm their registration status by contacting the District Clerk by email (jlizza@greatneck.k12.ny.us) by phone (516-441-4020). Residents can also use the "Am I Registered?" online tool (<https://nb.findmypollplace.com/greatneckufsd/AmIRegistered>) by scanning the QR code.

