



BUDGET BULLETIN

a publication of the GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Where Discovery Leads to Greatness

2019–20 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET 1.99% Spending Increase • 1.94% Tax Levy Increase

After extensive public discussion and input, the Board of Education has adopted the proposed 2019–20 school budget in the amount of \$234,418,944. This amount is a 1.99 percent increase over last year's budget. The proposed tax levy increase is 1.94 percent, which is below the tax cap limit of 4.09 percent.

"With this proposed budget, our students will continue to receive the innovative instruction that has established the Great Neck Public Schools as a premier school district on Long Island, in the state, and in the country," explains Superintendent of Schools Dr. Teresa Prendergast. "I am grateful for the support of the Board in presenting this fiscally responsible budget, which preserves our high-quality academic and extracurricular programs."

A BUDGET BASED ON NEED

Each year, the budget development process includes input from stakeholders across the District, including the United Parent Teachers Council (UPTC), building principals, teacher representatives, and district administrators. The Board of Education encourages input from residents during public budget meetings, held from March through May.

"We value the transparency of our budget process," explains Board President Barbara Berkowitz, noting that the Board has reviewed the proposed budget, line by line, during public budget meetings. "The Administration and the Board have to balance the needs of our students with our fiscal responsibility to taxpayers. We are especially mindful of the pressures on our taxpaying community."

Proposed increases to instructional staff for the 2019–20 school year reflect Great Neck's growing student enrollment. While other school districts across Long Island are experiencing a declining enrollment trend, the outstanding quality of the academic programs offered by the Great Neck Public Schools continues to attract families and new students to the District.

"The Great Neck Public Schools provide a myriad of academic programs for students of all interests and abilities. In addition, the STEAM, music, theater, sports, publications, and club programs provide opportunities for every student to find a niche in which to succeed," says Board Trustee Donna Peirez. "We are very proud to be able to offer these differentiated academic and extracurricular choices."

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The proposed 2019–20 school budget will:

- **Maintain all current programs** at the elementary and secondary levels
- **Add elementary teaching positions** to safeguard class sizes, in accordance with Board guidelines, due to increased enrollment
- **Add secondary teaching positions** to meet student need for course offerings and electives
- **Add English as a new language (ENL) and special education teaching positions** to support delivery of required services
- **Add one nurse** to the health staff
- **Add two guards** to the security staff
- **Expand the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program** to include classes at the John F. Kennedy School
- **Initiate a drama program and a robotics program** at the elementary level
- **Increase funding** for student participation in local, regional, and national competitions
- **Provide ongoing professional development** and training for faculty and staff



SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE • TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 • 7 AM–10 PM
E.M. Baker School • Lakeville School • Saddle Rock School • South High School

REVENUES IN 2019–20

To balance the 2019–20 budget, the District will appropriate \$2.3 million in fund balance and reserves, which are unspent funds from prior years. These funds will help to cover contractual salary increases, hikes in health-insurance premiums, and other planned expenditures. The District also allocates approximately \$4 million annually for ongoing health and safety capital projects to maintain our facilities.

Anticipated increases in revenue will also offset expenses. For example, Great Neck collects tuition from other school districts that enroll their students in programs offered here. These enrollments continue to be a significant revenue source and it is anticipated that they will yield nearly \$2.3 million in revenue in 2019–20.

SERVICES FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The District, in accordance with State law, allocates more than \$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.

VALIDATION OF FISCAL PRACTICES

Great Neck is one of a select few school districts in New York State to earn an “Aaa” rating from Moody’s Investors Service. This rating means that the District’s financial obligations are judged by Moody’s to be of the highest quality and, therefore, subject to the lowest level of credit risk. In the annual, New York State-required external audit of the school district, the certified public accounting firm of Cullen & Danowski, LLP, reports favorably on Great Neck’s management of finances, emphasizing a strong financial position, wise investments, an internal control system of checks and balances, and procedures that are supported by Board policies.



NEW YORK STATE’S PROPERTY TAX CAP

Since the inception of the tax-cap legislation in 2012, Great Neck’s proposed tax rate increases have been at or below the State-mandated tax levy limit. The tax levy limit for 2019–20 is 4.09 percent. Multiple factors affect the actual limit, including changes to the tax base, the rate of inflation, payments in lieu of taxes, debt payments, capital project expenditures, transportation equipment purchases, and pension increases above a certain percentage.

“We must be sensitive to the tax impact of our school district budget on our community members, who are also facing federal tax changes and Nassau County reassessments,” explains Assistant Superintendent for Business John Powell. “We have to keep our outstanding educational program as affordable as possible.”

Residents may refer to the tax calculator tool on the District website at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/budget to estimate their 2019–20 school tax liability.



VOTER REGISTRATION

If you have voted in any school or general election since 2015, you are registered to vote in the school election on Tuesday, May 21. If you have not voted since 2015 or are not registered, you may register if you are 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and have lived in the District for at least 30 days.

Registration takes place on school days from 9 AM–4 PM at the Office of the District Clerk, Phipps Administration Building, 345 Lakeville Road. You must be registered by Thursday, May 16 to vote on Tuesday, May 21. For additional details, please call the District Clerk at (516) 441-4020.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The 2019–20 proposed budget may be viewed on the District website at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/budget. Printed copies of the budget are available at the Phipps Administration Building, 345 Lakeville Rd. Reference copies can be found in the schools and libraries. For details about the budget, voter registration, absentee ballots, and voting, please call (516) 441-4020.

Did You Know?

Great Neck’s 2018–19 school tax rate for single-family homes ranks as the fifth-lowest of all school districts in Nassau County.

School Year	Tax Levy Limit %	Tax Rate Increase %
2019–20	4.09	1.94
2018–19	2.85	2.52
2017–18	1.26	1.26
2016–17	0.17	0.17
2015–16	1.56	1.56
2014–15	2.39	1.97
2013–14	3.14	3.14
2012–13	2.49	2.49

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 2018 through April 2019.



John L. Miller—Great Neck North High School and William A. Shine—Great Neck South High School were recognized among the **2018 Best High Schools by U.S. News and World Report**. Both schools earned Gold Medals—a designation awarded only to the top 500 schools in the entire country. Additionally, North High and South High were the only Long Island schools to place in the top 100 of the Best High Schools in America for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

- **Advanced Placement Scholars of the College Board:** 544 high school students
- **All-County Music Festival:** 118 participants in grades 5–12
- **All-State Music Conference:** 16 high school participants



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.

- **Brookhaven National Laboratory/Long Island Regional Middle School Science Bowl:** 1 first-place winning team
- **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Competitions:** 4 high school ensembles win regional high school competition; 2 high school ensembles and 2 middle school ensembles selected to perform at Lincoln Center
- **DECA International Career Development Conference:** 66 high school student participants
- **FIRST Robotics Competition:** High school team wins first place plus 4 top awards at regional competitions; qualifies for FIRST World Championship



- **Long Island Science & Engineering Fair:** 7 high school winners, 18 middle school winners
- **Long Island String Festival Association:** 20 high school participants, 13 middle school participants, and 2 elementary participants



The Great Neck Public Schools are ranked by niche.com as the second-best school district in New York State and the seventh-best school district in the country. The **2019 Niche K-12 Rankings** also recognize the quality of our faculty; on the Niche list of Districts with the Best Teachers, Great Neck is ranked as second in Nassau County, fifth in New York State, and fourteenth in the nation.

- **Mathcounts Competition:** Middle school team wins second-place award at regional and state competitions
- **National Merit Scholarship Competition:** 24 Finalists, 24 Semifinalists, 53 Commended Students
- **National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards:** 1 National Gold Key award winner, 5 Gold Medal winners, 5 Silver Medal winners
- **New York State Honor Concert Band:** 1 high school participant, 3 middle school participants
- **Regeneron Science Talent Search (formerly Intel):** 5 high school STS Scholars
- **WAC Lighting Invitational Science Fair:** 43 high school award winners



GNPS/TV is the recipient of the **2018 Overall Excellence in Educational Access award** from the Alliance for Community Media, which is awarded to best educational channel in the country.

- **International Science & Engineering Fair:** 6 high school participants; 4 Grand Award winners, including first-place and Best in Category awards



The Village School was named a **2018 Blue Star School by Wise** for their commitment to personal finance instruction and providing students with the tools to become financially capable young adults.

2019–20 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 2018–19	PROPOSED BUDGET 2019–20	PERCENT CHANGE
Instruction	\$ 171,243,706	\$ 174,926,737	2.15
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 23,633,215	\$ 24,448,029	3.45
Transportation	\$ 14,001,856	\$ 14,174,887	1.24
General Support	\$ 8,845,164	\$ 9,054,670	2.37
Capital Projects	\$ 5,558,315	\$ 4,016,000	(27.75)
Adult Education & Recreation	\$ 3,496,272	\$ 3,749,322	7.24
Debt Service	\$ 3,066,500	\$ 4,049,299	32.05
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 229,845,028	\$ 234,418,944	1.99%

REVENUES	BUDGET 2018–19	PROPOSED BUDGET 2019–20	PERCENT CHANGE
State Aid	\$ 9,609,825	\$9,705,357	0.99
Miscellaneous**	\$ 14,335,184	\$14,899,733	3.94
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 690,000	0	(100.00)
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 1,638,637	\$2,295,568	40.09
Amount to be Raised by Real Property Tax	\$ 203,571,382	\$207,518,286	1.94%

** 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, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) payments, and interest on deposits and investments.



SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE Tuesday, May 21, 2019 • 7 AM–10 PM

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 1: 2019–20 Great Neck Public Schools Budget

Proposition 2: Great Neck Library Budget

Proposition 3: One Board of Education Seat
Trustee Donna Peirez is seeking re-election.

POLLING LOCATIONS

There are four polling locations for school district elections: E.M. Baker School, Lakeville School, Saddle Rock School, and South High School. The election districts are indicated on the map to the right. Each registered voter will be allowed to cast one ballot only at his/her assigned polling location. To confirm your registration status and assigned polling location, scan the QR code or visit the District website at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/voting and click on the "Poll Place Finder" link. This information is also available by calling the District Clerk on school days between 9 AM–4 PM at (516) 441-4020.



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified registered voters can obtain applications for absentee ballots from the District website at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/budget or from the Office of the District Clerk during school days from 9 AM–4 PM. Residents who are qualified voters and whose registration records have been marked "permanently disabled" by the Board of Elections will automatically receive absentee ballots. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 PM on Tuesday, May 21.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act requires school districts in Nassau County to provide election information in English and Spanish. In accordance with this Act, print materials produced by the Great Neck Public Schools pertaining to the 2019–20 School District Election and Budget Vote will be distributed in both languages.