

# BUDGET BULLETIN

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

## 2018–2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

### Preserves Academic Programs & Enhances School Security

After extensive public discussion and input, the Board of Education has adopted the proposed 2018–19 school budget in the amount of \$229,845,028. This amount is a 2.93 percent increase over last year's budget. The proposed tax levy increase is 2.52 percent, which is below the tax cap limit of 2.85 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 extra-curricular programs."



### Proposed Tax Levy Increase of 2.52% is Under the Tax Cap Limit

#### Funds for Security Enhancements

The proposed budget allocates approximately \$1.5 million from the District's reserves and fund balance for a one-time Security Capital Project to strengthen security at the main entrances of all district facilities. The scope of this project includes: the construction of double-door security vestibules, or "man-traps," at all main entrances; electronic locks on both sets of interior and exterior doors; an intercom buzzer system; an additional security camera at each entrance; and a secure pass through for drop-off items. Main entrance doors, adjacent glass, and interior entrance doors will be treated with shooter attack resistant film or glazing.

"Our District has consistently invested in safety and security initiatives over recent years, and this increased budget allocation to address security concerns beyond those measures demonstrates our commitment to providing the safest environment for our students and staff," says Board President Barbara Berkowitz.

The District is conducting two external security audits this spring—one through the Nassau County Police Department in coordination with the Village of Lake Success Police Department and Kings Point Police Department, and a second through an independent security firm. Based on the results of these assessments, additional security projects for the 2018–19 school year may be funded through the District's reserves and fund balance.

**"...This increased budget allocation to address security concerns... demonstrates our commitment to providing the safest environment for our students and staff."**

—Board President  
*Barbara Berkowitz*

#### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018–19 proposed budget:

- maintains all current programs
- maintains class sizes, in accordance with Board guidelines
- adds one school psychologist and one social worker to the support staff
- adds five additional security guards and enhances safety measures district-wide
- includes funding for textbooks, training, and materials for new curricula, including the Next Generation Science Standards and revised NYS Social Studies framework
- provides ongoing professional development training for faculty and staff

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE • TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018 • 7 AM–10 PM**  
**E.M. Baker School • Lakeville School • Saddle Rock School • South High School**

visit us online at [www.greatneck.k12.ny.us](http://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us) • like us on Facebook  Great Neck Public Schools • vol. 39-2 Budget 2018

Validation of Fiscal Practices

Great Neck is one of only nine school districts—and 33 public entities overall—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 effective internal control system of checks and balances, and procedures that are supported by Board policies.

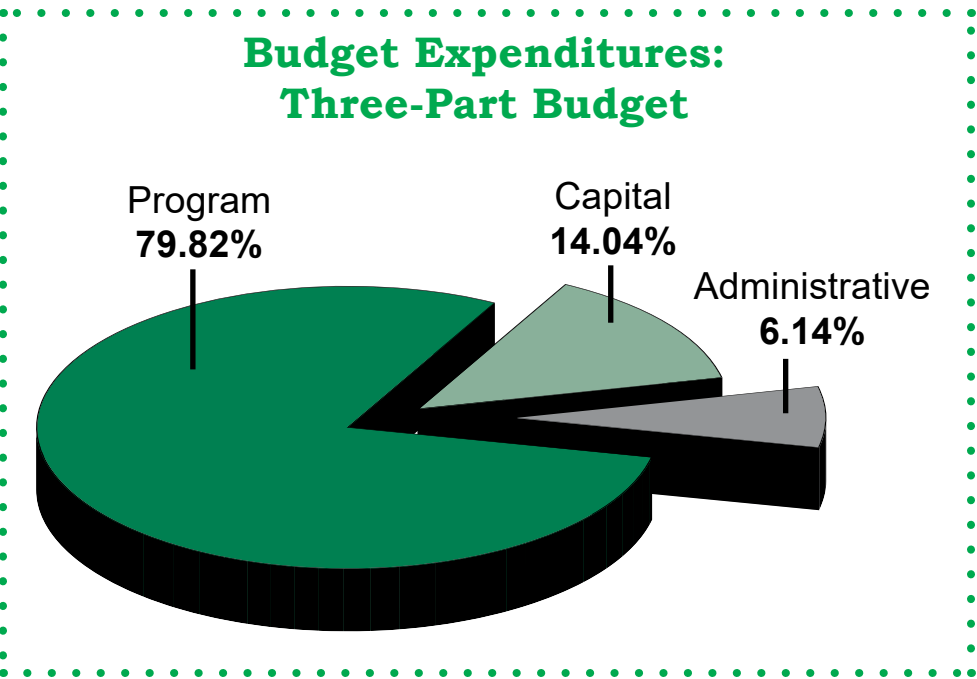
Revenues in 2018–19

To balance the 2018–19 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 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 \$1.9 million in revenue in 2018–19.

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.



**“Our goal is to preserve the financial strength of the District to ensure we can maintain the phenomenal quality of our schools.”**

*—Board Vice President  
Donald Ashkenase*



Kindergarten and pre-K students at the Parkville School Early Childhood Center love to read!



E.M. Baker School students show projects they created about their heritage to celebrate International Week.



Kennedy School students use Tinkercad software to create designs that come to life using 3D printers.



Lakeville School students create greeting cards for residents in local nursing homes.



Saddle Rock School students participate in an engineering challenge during the school’s STEM Night.

## New York State's Property Tax Cap

The 2018–19 school year is the seventh in which school districts must abide by New York State's tax-cap legislation. Multiple factors affect the actual limit, and the tax-levy limit for 2018–19 is 2.85 percent. John Powell, assistant superintendent for business, explained that the tax-levy limit "incorporates 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."

***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.***

School Year	Tax Levy Limit %	Tax Rate Increase
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



**North Middle** students showcase ballroom dancing skills they learned through the Dancing Classrooms program, now in its seventh year in the Great Neck Public Schools.

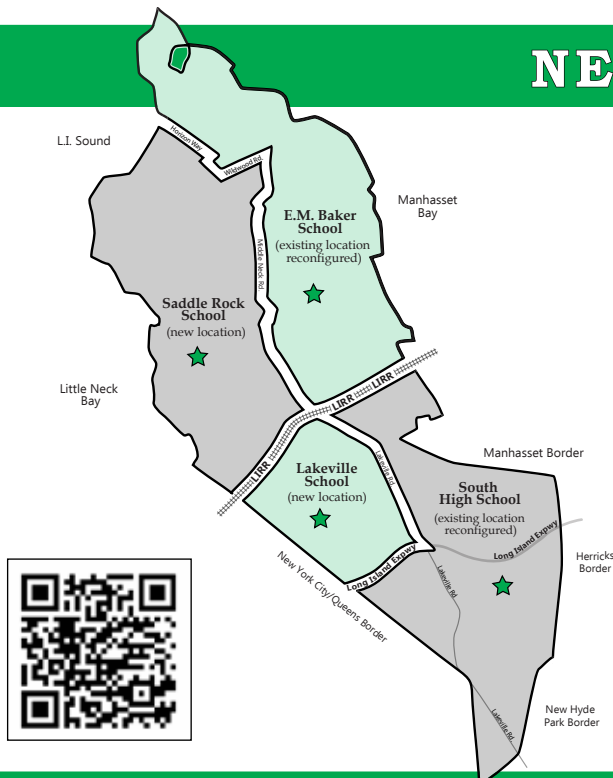


**South Middle** students authored and illustrated fictional children's stories based on factual animal research they conducted in science class. The digital books were presented to elementary students throughout the District.

## Did You Know?

Great Neck's 2017-18 school tax rate for single family homes ranks as the fifth-lowest of all school districts in Nassau County.

## NEW POLLING LOCATIONS



**Saddle Rock School**  
new location

**E.M. Baker School**  
existing location reconfigured

**Lakeville School**  
new location

**South High School**  
existing location reconfigured

There are four polling locations for school district elections. The new election districts are indicated on the map on the left. 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 and click on the "Poll Place Finder" icon in the upper-right hand corner of the homepage.

This information is also available by calling the District Clerk on school days between 9 AM–4 PM at (516) 441-4020.



## EXPENDITURES

	BUDGET 2017-18	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-19	PERCENT INCREASE
Instruction	\$ 166,577,589	\$ 171,243,706	2.80
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 23,232,322	\$ 23,633,215	1.73
Transportation	\$ 13,768,778	\$ 14,001,856	1.69
General Support	\$ 9,051,143	\$ 8,845,164	(2.28)
Capital Projects *	\$ 4,016,000	\$ 5,558,315	38.40
Adult Education & Recreation	\$ 3,558,333	\$ 3,496,272	(1.74)
Debt Service	\$ 3,107,000	\$ 3,066,500	(1.30)
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 223,311,165</b>	<b>\$ 229,845,028</b>	<b>2.93%</b>

\* The \$1.5 million increase in Capital Projects for 2018-19 reflects the Security Capital Project outlined on page 1 of this newsletter.

## REVENUE

	BUDGET 2017-18	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-19	
State Aid	\$ 8,900,970	\$ 9,609,825	
Miscellaneous **	\$ 13,649,977	\$ 14,335,184	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 690,000	\$ 690,000	
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 1,505,371	\$ 1,638,637	
<b>Amount to be Raised by Real Property Tax</b>	<b>\$ 198,564,847</b>	<b>\$ 203,571,382</b>	<b>2.52%</b>

\*\* 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, building rental fees, and interest on deposits and investments.

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE**  
**Tuesday, May 15, 2018 from 7 AM–10 PM**

# 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 2017 through April 2018.



- ◀ **Adelphi University Quill Awards for Outstanding Journalism:** high school newspaper takes 1 first place, 2 second place, and 1 third-place awards
- **Advanced Placement Scholars of the College Board:** 530 high school students
- **All-County Music Festival:** 113 participants in grades 5-12
- **All-State Music Conference:** 7 high school participants
- **Best Communities for Music Education in America:** awarded to district for the 12<sup>th</sup> time since 2005
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory/Long Island Regional Middle School Science Bowl:** 1 first-place winning team
- **DECA International Career Development Conference:** 68 high school student participants
- ◀ **Smoky Mountains FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition:** high school team wins two top awards
- **Honor Orchestra of America:** 1 high school performer
- **International Science & Engineering Fair:** 6 high school participants
- ◀ **Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society Young Musicians Concert:** 1 high school ensemble
- **Long Island Junior Science & Humanities Symposium:** 4 high school winners; 1 first place
- **Long Island Psychology Fair:** 3 high school winners
- **Long Island Science & Engineering Fair:** 13 high school winners, 8 middle school winners
- **Long Island Scholar-Artist Award:** 1 high school recipient
- **Long Island String Festival Association:** 7 high school participants, 16 middle school participants, 4 elementary participants
- ◀ **Mathcounts Competition:** middle school team wins second-place award
- **Nassau County Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French Poetry Awards:** 15 high school winners (*five participants pictured lower left*)
- **National Council of Teachers of English Award:** 2 high school winners
- **National French Exam:** 36 high school winners
- **National Latin Exam:** 79 secondary school winners; 42 gold award winners
- **National Merit Scholarship Competition:** 21 finalists, 23 semifinalists, 34 commended students
- **National Spanish Exam:** 101 high school winners; 7 gold award winners
- **National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards:** 2 high school winners, 1 middle school winner
- **New York State Honor Concert Band:** 4 high school winners, 5 middle school winners
- **Regeneron Science Talent Search (former Intel):** 7 high school scholars
- **Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology:** 6 high school semifinalists
- **WISE Blue Star School:** 1 high school





## GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

345 Lakeville Road • Great Neck, NY 11020

(516) 441-4000

[www.greatneck.k12.ny.us](http://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us)

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### Mission Statement

The Great Neck Public School District provides an innovative and collaborative educational environment that supports academic excellence and the social and emotional growth of all students so that they may become life-long learners and compassionate, productive members of a diverse, global society.

### Board of Education

Barbara Berkowitz, president  
Donald L. Ashkenase, vice president  
Donna Peirez, trustee  
Rebecca Sassouni, trustee  
Jeffrey Shi, trustee

### Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Teresa Prendergast

[www.greatneck.k12.ny.us](http://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us) Great Neck Public Schools #GNPSEducationalExcellence #DiscoverGreatness

## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE • TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018 • 7 AM–10 PM

### E.M. Baker School • Lakeville School • Saddle Rock School • South High School

### Voter Registration

If you have voted in any school or general election since 2013, you are registered to vote in the school election on Tuesday, May 15. If you have not voted since 2013 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 10 to vote on Tuesday, May 15. For additional details, please call the District Clerk at (516) 441-4020.

### Ballot Propositions

**Proposition 1:** 2018–19 Great Neck Public Schools Budget

**Proposition 2:** Great Neck Library Budget

**Proposition 3:** Two Board of Education Seats

*Trustees Donald Ashkenase and Barbara Berkowitz are seeking re-election.*

### For More Information

The 2018–19 proposed budget may be viewed on the District website at [www.greatneck.k12.ny.us](http://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us). Printed copies of the budget are available at the Phipps Administration Building, 345 Lakeville Road. 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.



Village School students present projects during the annual Village School Exhibition event.



The Adult Learning Center on Clover Drive provides a variety of educational opportunities for adults to improve basic skills, earn a high school equivalency diploma, prepare for college, or learn English as a Second Language.