

EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A unified community educating the whole child"

BUDGET EDITION • SPRING 2021

Budget Vote Scheduled for May 11, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT AND INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Members:

On Tuesday, April 13, the East Ramapo Central School District Board of Education unanimously adopted the Proposed 2021-22 Budget.

We are excited to share that this budget will maintain the district's focus on ensuring that all students are afforded equitable access to high-quality programs, services, and resources, with a targeted focus on making strategic, sustainable investments that simultaneously support students' holistic academic and social-emotional needs. **Our proposed spending plan preserves high-quality programs and maintains equitable access to supports and resources in a safe and secure educational environment.**

Academic and fiscal accountability and responsibility continue to be mainstays of the East Ramapo Central School District. The Proposed 2021-22 Budget frames a plan that effectively balances the needs of all students and our overall school community. We have established a long-term academic and fiscal strategic plan that is reflective of student and community-specific needs, maintaining an assurance that ERCSD will provide:

- A 0% increase in tax levy with **NO reductions in programs or services**
- Seven much-needed Social Workers to support students' social-emotional needs - inclusive of supporting Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), which are traumatic events such as the COVID pandemic, food or housing insecurity, or the loss of a loved one
- Consistent levels of music, the arts, athletics and extra-curricular programming
- Enhanced English Language Learners (ELL) and Students With Disabilities (SWD) programming, services and professional learning, and the streamlining of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and SWD personnel and programming to provide direct instructional support
- A reduced number of school-to-school grade-level transitions
- Expanded School Year opportunities for students K-12 with a focus on literacy and numeracy development and credit recovery at the secondary level.

The Proposed 2021-22 Budget is balanced and was developed using extensive, up-to-date expenditure and revenue data to ensure it is aligned with and meets comprehensive students' academic, social-emotional, transportation-specific and community-based needs. In doing so, it includes an increase in spending of 11%. The total budget of \$272,449,633 includes a reconciled budget increase of \$26,704,780. **Through the leadership of the District's new Business Official Team, the focused work of the District's Leadership Team—including being certain that department and school-based leaders are empowered to be accountable for their budgets—our fiscal plan will include a 0% tax increase, with no impact to East Ramapo Central School District taxpayers.**

We have been deliberate in continuing to foster relationships and building our community connections. We are one community and are excited to continue our work and service at the highest levels. We appreciate your collaboration, support, and co-advocacy.

Sincerely,

Yehuda Weissmandl
President, Board of Education

Dr. Ray Giamartino
Interim Superintendent of Schools

2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:
\$272,449,633

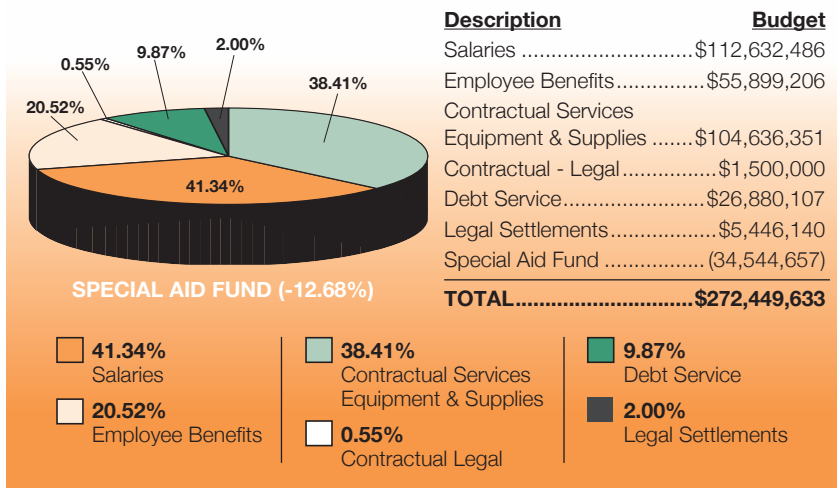
Budget-to-Budget Increase:
11%

Projected Tax Levy Increase:
0%

The budget to budget increase is primarily related to one-time expenditures in the 2021-2022 budget.

VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 • 7:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Components of the Proposed Budget



Proposed Budget Summary

	PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-22	CONTINGENCY BUDGET 2021-22	CHANGE
Administrative Component	\$30,004,655	\$30,004,655	-
Program Component	\$194,762,419	\$194,762,419	-
Capital Component	\$47,682,559	\$47,682,559	-
TOTAL BUDGET	\$272,449,633	\$272,449,633	-

Because the district is going out for a 0% levy increase, the contingency budget would remain the same.

All Around East Ramapo

Growing Number of East Ramapo Students Attain the New York State Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy allows students to demonstrate their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in English and a World Language.



Once added to their diploma, it can be used at the college level to take more advanced coursework. In the past two years, East Ramapo has graduated 36 students with the Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma, and more than 100 juniors and seniors are working towards achieving it this year.

Facility upgrades such as this are important because they reduce costs, increase safety, and extend the life of the space. Renovations have an extraordinary impact on students, faculty, and the school community. As the appearance of the schools improves, so do feelings of pride in the institution.



Family Resource Coordinators Helping Families Throughout East Ramapo

Family Resource Center (FRC) coordinators provide valuable support to so many throughout the East Ramapo community, helping to coordinate school and educational activities, including health fairs, math and reading nights, mentoring programs, parent classes, and financial planning sessions. FRC's play an important role in each of our 14 schools, including Central Administration. More information can be found at ERCSD.org/FRC.

learning needs. Professional learning opportunities will support collaborative discussions to build on understanding around student ownership of learning, with explicit learning targets, complex questioning, student engagement, and the integration of technology for critical thinking and problem-solving.

What "need" do these 3 platforms address?

- ClassLink Single Sign-On**
 - One-stop hub that connects and accesses web and Windows apps on any device
 - Provides analytics; usage data of digital resources
- Remind Reciprocal Communication**
 - Two-way communication between home and school
 - Ability to make secure voice calls between staff and parents
- Schoology Unified Learning Management Tool**
 - Engage students using one common system for remote or in-person learning
 - Integrates 200+ educational tools and platforms



Ramapo High School Fitness Center Renovation

On March 15, 2021, East Ramapo administrators cut the ribbon on a much-needed state-of-the-art fitness center at Ramapo High School. The new facility offers 4,400 square feet of functional instructional space, featuring an open floor plan to support studio-style fitness classes in physical education and during afterschool activities and athletics, including wrestling, track, basketball, football, and off-season training.

Expanded School Year Opportunities

Beginning in July 2021, the District will make available Expanded School Year opportunities to address unfinished learning in an equitable manner for all students. These programs will extend into the 2021-22 school year. In line with ERCSD's Strategic Academic Plan, teachers will continue to implement educational strategies to address student

Equitable Access to Technology and Virtual Learning Solutions

East Ramapo has committed to 1-to-1 technology access for all students. Since the pandemic shuttered schools last year ago, the District has distributed more than 7,483 Chromebooks and 1,116 hotspots to our learners. This digital technology, along with our key partnerships with Dell and T-Mobile, provides immediate and equitable access to instructional programs and services for all students. The District continues to build on its digital learning infrastructure necessary to provide all students with a high-quality education, and has employed various programs to engage children in highly-effective learning, such as Classlink, Remind, and Schoology.

District Budget Notice East Ramapo Central School District 2021-22

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 245,744,853	\$ 272,449,633	\$ 272,449,633
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 26,704,780	\$ 26,704,780
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		11%	11%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 154,490,227	\$ 154,490,227	\$ 154,490,227
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)	\$ 154,490,227	\$ 154,490,227	\$ 154,490,227
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 2,314,317	\$ 2,590,102	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 157,089,206	\$ 156,023,654	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (EB-F+D)	\$ 152,175,910	\$ 151,900,125	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 4,913,296	\$ 4,123,529	
Administrative Component	\$ 21,304,009	\$ 30,004,655	\$ 30,004,655
Program Component	\$ 207,221,235	\$ 194,762,419	\$ 194,762,419
Capital Component	\$ 19,227,982	\$ 47,682,559	\$ 47,682,559

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated: Reduction of selected administrative, instructional and other expenses.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
NONE	\$0

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ :	\$838

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the East Ramapo Central School District will be held Tuesday, May 11, 2021 per the Governor's Executive Order No. 202.26. Qualified voters must return an absentee ballot via a postage paid return envelope to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 11, 2021.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

On the Ballot

PROPOSITION #1: 2021-22 BUDGET: Shall the Annual Budget of the School District, as proposed, in the amount of \$272,449,633 be adopted and a tax levied?

What a Contingency Budget Means for East Ramapo

Under a Contingency Budget, the District's Tax Levy for 2021-22 must be the same (or less) than the Tax Levy for 2020-21 (0% increase). For the East Ramapo Central School District, since we are proposing a 0% levy increase, the Tax Levy revenues would not be impacted by a contingency budget.

Who can vote?

In order to vote, you must be a citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the date of the vote and registered to vote.

If you voted in a school election in the past four years or in a November general election, you need not register again. If you are uncertain whether you are registered or need to learn how to register, please visit ercsd.org/budgetvote.

Voter Information

For more information on the District’s Budget vote, registration and absentee voting, please visit our website at ercsd.org/budgetvote. A Rockland County voter registration form may be downloaded at rocklandgov.com.

Para obtener más información sobre la votación del presupuesto del distrito, la inscripción y la votación en ausencia, visite nuestro sitio web en ercsd.org/budgetvote. Puede descargar un formulario de registro de votantes del condado de Rockland en rocklandgov.com.

Pou plis enfòmasyon sou vòt bidjè distri a, enskripsyon, ak vòt absan, vizite sit entènèt nou an nan ercsd.org/budgetvote. Ou ka telechaje yon fòm enskripsyon vòtè Konte Rockland nan rocklandgov.com.

למידע נוסף על הצבעות בתקציב המחוז, רישום והצבעות נפקדות, אנא בקרו באתר האינטרנט שלנו בכתובת ercsd.org/budgetvote. ניתן להוריד טופס הרשמה לבחורים במחוז וקלנד בכתובת rocklandgov.com.



Para leer este boletín en español, visite ercsd.org
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School District Polling Places in East Ramapo

You vote in the Ward for your address as shown on your voter mailer or check ercsd.org/budgetvote

WARD	VOTER LOCATION
1.	Summit Park Elementary School
2.	Avir Yakov Girls
3.	Spring Valley High School - Upper Gym
4.	Chestnut Ridge Middle School
5.	Yeshiva Viznitz
6.	Ukrainian Hall
7.	Ramapo High School
8.	Palisades Credit Union Park NY Boulders Ball Park
9.	Lime Kiln Elementary School

VOTE: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 • 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.



EAST RAMAPO BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Yehuda Weissmandl, President
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Dr. Ray Giamartino
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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 Spring Valley, NY 10977

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