



# EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Preliminary District Budget Community Meeting

### Questions Asked During April 12, 2021 Meeting

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>What is the district doing to reduce/ minimize legal spending in the future? Are we looking for more affordable law firm with more reasonable rates or negotiating rates with current firm to be more reasonable?</p>	<p>The district continues the process of assessing legal expenses through an expenditure trend analysis. The executive cabinet team is working more closely together to ensure increased and sustained thought partnership, drawing upon internal expertise and only accessing the advice of counsel when absolutely necessary.</p>
<p>Next year we going back to school ?</p>	<p>The expected plan is for all students to return to in-person instruction in September, 2021, subject to any CDC, New York State and Rockland County Department of Health guidelines.</p>
<p>What positive changes can we see as far as improving the building s in the district ? And also what new systems and activities will be established for special needs and autistic children?</p>	<p>The District will continue to expand it's programming geared towards students on the autistic spectrum, with incoming Kindergarten students through to our high school students. There are a variety of curriculum programs utilized that are geared toward the unique needs of students, with applied behavior analysis (ABA) as a core method, along with social skills programming with board certified behavior specialists.</p>
<p>Is the transportation expense for private and public students? What is the current student bus capacity on each bus? How many children are allowed to sit in each seat?</p>	<p>The proposed budget encompasses both Public and Non-Public School transportation. While there is no regulation pertaining to actual seating capacity, the recommendation is to social distance if possible and when not possible, to wear a mask. Masks will continue to be mandatory for all students, drivers and aides.</p>
<p>What is the specific role of the monitor ?</p>	<p>In general, the NYS monitors have responsibility for both academic (progress) and fiscal oversight. A more comprehensive description of the role of the monitors can be accessed via the New York State Education Department web page at:  <a href="http://www.nysed.gov/accountability/state-monitors">http://www.nysed.gov/accountability/state-monitors</a>.</p>
<p>Can residents, parents, community members have a copy of this presentation?</p>	<p>The link for the presentation is posted on the district's website.</p>
<p>What was the 2020-2021 budget?</p>	<p>The 2020-2021 budget was \$245,744,853.</p>
<p>Ok missed the budget proposal slides will they be made available to review?</p>	<p>The link for the presentation is posted on the district's website.</p>

<p>Will the CARES ACT Money, COVID-19 money and the American Rescue Plan money ALL go to the Public Schools?</p>	<p>Funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act were allocated to public school districts with the provision they share the funds equitably with private and independent schools in their geographic boundaries. The total (pending) CARES Act allocation for the East Ramapo Central School District is \$22,250,529. In East Ramapo's case, the equitable share provision mandates that approximately 71% of the total CARES Act funds go to private and independent schools in the district, since the student population of these schools equals 71% of the total in- district student population. The public schools received 29% of the CARES Act funds.</p> <p>Funds allocated to public school districts from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA approved by Congress in December 2020), are not subject to the provision of equitable share with private and independent schools. The funds allocated to East Ramapo – \$66,418,114 – remain in the district for use by the East Ramapo public schools. Likewise, funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, approved by Congress in February 2021 – \$150,445,511 – are not subject to the provision of equitable share with private schools. The funds thus remain in the district for use in supporting the district's public schools.</p>
<p>Will there be a budget vote?</p>	<p>Funds to public school districts from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), approved by Congress in December, 2020, are not subject to the provision of equitable share with private and independent schools. The funds allocated to East Ramapo – \$66,418,114 – remain in the district for use by the East Ramapo public schools. Likewise, funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, approved by Congress in February 2021 – \$150,445,511 – are not subject to the provision of equitable share with private schools. The funds thus remain in the district for use by the district's public schools.</p>
<p>Are there going to be any after -school programs and early morning programs available for all students?</p>	<p>As we move into the 2021-2022 school year, the district will continue to provide relevant programs that support student acquisition of in-depth content knowledge, social-emotional development, and technology fluency.</p>
<p>How are the meeting?</p>	<p>The meeting was fluid and was specific to the proposed district budget for the 2021-2022 school year.</p>

<p>Who has final say/discretion as to how the funds are spent? The school board or some other type of federal or state oversight board?</p>	<p>The district administrative team develops a proposed expenditure budget for the district, and these expenditures are ultimately approved by the elected school board. If this question is asking specifically about the stimulus money, the district submits a proposal to the New York State Education Department for approval. The New York State Education Department also audits the programmatic and fiscal performance of the district.</p>
<p>When do you foresee major renovations or new buildings for the schools in our district?</p>	<p>The district will conduct a comprehensive capital improvement assessment and frame a plan that first meets district needs and equally conforms with NYS and NYSED standards with the intent of then seeking appropriate board and/or community approval.</p>
<p>What plans do you have to address the needs of the children who have regressed over the last year?</p>	<p>Beginning in July 2021, the District will make available Expanded School Year opportunities that will begin to address unfinished learning in an equitable manner for all students and extend through the 2021-2022 school year. In line with ERCSD's Strategic Academic Plan, teachers will continue to implement educational strategies that address student learning needs. Professional learning opportunities will support collaborative discussions that seek to build on understandings around student ownership of learning with explicit learning targets, complex questioning, student engagement, emphasizing the integration of technology for critical thinking and problem solving.</p>
<p>There is contractual legal and transportation, but there is also a line for just contractual. What is that money allotted for?</p>	<p>Examples of what such monies are allocated to include, but are not limited to: postage, Tax Certiorari, Snow Removal Service, Graduation Expenses, Mileage, Utilities, etc.</p>
<p>Didn't we save money on transportation this year? If so, can the saved monies be transferred to next year's budget?</p>	<p>The district did not save in the area of Transportation this year.</p>
<p>the 11 million dollar increase for the transportation includes already the new bids for the entire district?</p>	<p>No, the transportation budget is not representative of new contracts. The budget is representative of the current year transportation expenditures, plus CPI.</p>
<p>Nos van a dejar votar a los papás que solo tenemos número social , para el budget ?</p>	<p>Haga clic en el enlace para revisar las calificaciones de los votantes para el presupuesto de la escuela en el estado de Nueva York. <a href="https://www.ercsd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=287">https://www.ercsd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=287</a></p>
<p>Why there's such a small amount allotted for teachers' benefits? I understand teachers are deducted a deduction in order to receive medical benefits. Also-after having worked so hard this year, they should be given a good increase % next school year</p>	<p>The employee benefits rates are set by New York State. Salary increases are contractual and a part of the collective bargaining negotiation process.</p>

<p>What is meant by lessening transitions between schools?</p>	<p>Transitions refer to student changes between schools - for example, grades K to 1, 3 to 4, and 6 to 8, etc. Reducing student transitions between schools will limit potential disruptions in learning, augment to streamlined programming and services and further establish consistency in learning environments and curriculum across schools.</p>
<p>We have been told in the past that our school building will have all windows replaced. It has not happened. Are there any funds put aside to address this issue?</p>	<p>The district will conduct a comprehensive building by building assessment to identify the needs of each site. Following the review of related data and explicit needs, a determination of how to apply the appropriate type and level of funding will be determined.</p>
<p>How much of the budget will be allocated into supplemental programs such as extra help with Reading and Math, Gifted and Talented education, etc?</p>	<p>Decisions regarding district programs, including supplemental programs, are evidence-based where the district reviews multiple student measures to determine and prioritize our efforts - maintaining focus on student-specific needs. As such, the allocation for programs is dependent on a number of factors inclusive but not limited to the type of program offered, the number of students identified, personnel/specialized personnel required to support, transportation and professional development.</p>
<p>Does the transportation budget include cost of the private school transportation or is this amount only for the public school students?</p>	<p>The proposed transportation budget includes both public and non - public school transportation</p>