

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***What is the difference between the tax levy and the budget-to-budget increase?***

- The tax levy is the amount of money collected from taxpayers (after all other revenue sources such as state aid and tapping reserve balances are applied to the school budget). The more state aid, the lower the tax levy on residents. The budget-to-budget increase is the difference in the total budget from one year to the next. Baldwin's tax levy increase of 1.48% is both the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 56 school districts in Nassau County (2.42 average), and the 12<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 124 school districts on Long Island (2.60 average).

***What is Foundation Aid and why is it important?***

- The Foundation Aid formula was enacted by the state legislature in 2007 to create a more equitable formula for state funding, but due to the fiscal crisis and ensuing state budget deficit, the Foundation Aid formula has been frozen since 2009. The loss of Foundation Aid for schools, including Baldwin, is significant because it is the largest category of state aid. For Baldwin, of the \$31.1 million in state aid last year, \$17.6 million was through Foundation Aid.

***What innovative programs does the budget support?***

- Increased instructional technology in the classroom
- AP Seminar/ AP Capstone
- Integrated **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) instruction at the elementary level
- Project Lead the Way/Pre-Engineering
- Great Books Program
- Increased math instruction at the Middle School and High School
- Full teaming expanded to Grade 9
- Increased professional development
- AVID program expanded to Grade 9

***What if the budget does not pass?***

- The Board of Education can choose to put up the same budget for a second vote, or make reductions to the budget for a second vote on June 19, 2018. The board could also choose to go directly to a contingency budget, a 0% increase over last year's tax levy. A contingency budget would mean a decrease in the proposed budget of \$1,356,293.

***What is the purpose of the Expenditure of the Capital Reserve Fund in Proposition 3?***

- This proposition authorizes the school district to expend funds from the capital reserves on a variety of capital projects at all buildings in the district. Approval of this proposition results in **no additional cost to the taxpayers.**

## BALDWIN SCHOOLS PROPOSED 2018-19 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

**93%**

Of Baldwin High School Class of 2017 Continued on to Colleges and Universities including Cornell, Harvard, Brown, Yale and other fine institutions

**94%**

Of Baldwin High School Graduates Class of 2017 Received Regents Diplomas

**4**

Students Selected for NYSSMA All-State Festival

**108**

Baldwin Students are AP Scholars Including **24** with Honors, **19** with Distinction, and **1** National

**41**

President's Education Award Winners

**16**

Redesigned, inquiry-based, learning spaces  
**K-12**

**1,000**

Baldwin Student Placements in the Award-Winning School-to-Career Program

**2018-19  
Proposed  
Tax Levy**

Baldwin UFSD's tax levy of 1.48% is the **4<sup>th</sup> lowest** of the 56 school districts in Nassau County



**BUDGET VOTE, Tuesday, May 15, 2018  
Baldwin High School, 7 AM - 10 PM**

## KEY FACTORS AFFECTING THE BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Use of district reserves over 7 years = \$18.4 million
- Use of fund balance over 7 years = \$17.9 million
- The state aid portion of Baldwin’s education has dropped from 28.38% to 22.53% over the last 27 years.
- State aid is projected to increase for next year, but is not guaranteed.
- Utility bills continue to fluctuate.
- Unfunded state mandates = hundreds of thousands of dollars in unreimbursed costs.
- Long Island educates nearly 17% of the state’s students. Yet, only 12% of the state aid is directed to Long Island schools, including Baldwin.
- Long Island state aid per pupil is \$5,949, which is 26.7% less than the rest of the state (\$8,113).

## COST-SAVING AND REVENUE-PRODUCING MEASURES IN BALDWIN

Baldwin School District has worked hard to find efficiencies within the budget. Some of the initiatives have included:

- Revenue from leasing of properties
- Savings from rerouting of school buses
- Increased in-district programming such as the Hastings Academy and special education
- Paperless high school and middle school report cards and progress reports to save on postage and supplies
- Conversion to LED lighting districtwide
- Maximizing BOCES aid
- Elementary free and reduced lunch and breakfast program generates state and federal reimbursement.
- Of the 41 K-12 school districts in Nassau County, Baldwin School District ranks 9<sup>th</sup> **lowest** in per pupil spending, based on BOCES data from the 2016-17 school year.
- Of the 56 school districts in Nassau County, Baldwin School District ranks 16<sup>th</sup> **lowest** in central administration expenses per pupil for the 2016-17 school year.

## 2018-19 BUDGET SUMMARY

**Tax levy increase 1.48%**

**Budget-to-budget increase 1.98%**

### **Expenses**

• Administrative (10.37%).....	\$13,584,259
• Capital (12.11%) .....	\$15,873,090
• Program (77.52%).....	\$101,563,401
• Total Budget.....	\$131,020,750

### **Revenue**

• All State Aid .....	\$30,263,765
• Miscellaneous Sources.....	\$1,410,420
• Appropriated Reserves.....	\$2,236,000
• Appropriated Fund Balance .....	\$2,500,000
• Anticipated Property Tax .....	\$93,263,565
• PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes).....	\$1,347,000
• Total Budget.....	\$131,020,750

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018-19 BUDGET

- **Maintains** integrated **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) instruction at elementary level
- **Adds** additional college-level courses for college credit at the high school
- **Continues** the Pre-Academy enrichment program at the middle school
- **Adds** AP Seminar/AP Capstone
- **Expands** the AVID program to Grade 9 in the High School
- **Increases** instructional technology in our classrooms districtwide
- **Strengthens** professional development for instructional staff
- **Maintains** continuing education as a self-sustaining program
- **Expands** teaming to Grade 9
- **Funds** educational programs, including full-day kindergarten; middle and high school sports; middle and high school musicals; district intramurals; Sportsnite and Intramural Night; fourth grade instrumental music and Suzuki violin; Arts in Education funding (flow-through available to PTA); Saturday Night Alive; and NYSSMA majors
- **Includes** the following positions: 1 Full-time Elementary Educational Technology Specialist; 6 Security Guards; 2 Clerical Support Staff