



# EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2015

## PROPOSED BUDGET OF 0.96% IS UNDER TAX CAP

### PRESERVES PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

To My Fellow Community Members,  
Taxpayers and Parents:

The Board of Education's proposed 2015-16 budget of \$111,076,458 will maintain all of the district's outstanding programs and services while complying with the tax cap and remaining fiscally responsible, giving back to the taxpayers of our community and providing a firm foundation for years to come for all students and their families. The proposed budget preserves essential programs and services, including:

- Full-day kindergarten
- K-12 music and art
- HS and MS athletics
- Elementary clubs
- Low class sizes

At 0.96 percent, this budget is well below the tax cap of 2.3 percent and carries a budget-to-budget increase of \$290,809. Additionally, we relied far less on available fund balance to offset costs. This reduction of approximately \$800,000 will take less out of our valuable resources and serve as a major

step to improve the overall financial health of the district.

The proposed budget not only maintains desired educational and extracurricular programs, but also enhances and improves on the district's offerings, including: additional ENL and world language teachers, cheerleading and varsity assistant coaches, updated textbooks and classroom libraries, district-supported high school and middle school musicals, and new middle school and high school clubs, including the return of robotics.

The ability to include these enhancements was helped by the increase in state aid and the partial restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment. The GEA restoration amounted to an additional \$1.4 million for our proposed budget, thanks to the district's persistent advocacy efforts and strong partnership with our elected leaders in Albany.

This array of additional services for our students demonstrates value and our belief in the importance of creating well-rounded individuals who are involved in sports, the arts, clubs and



other activities. The Board of Education, along with administrators, reviewed the proposed budget carefully and made all decisions with the advancement of our students and the economic health of the community in mind.

The Board of Education encourages all community members to become informed voters by viewing the detailed budget documents and presentations available on the district's website, [www.eischools.org](http://www.eischools.org). We urge you to take the time to vote on Tuesday, May 19.

Sincerely,  
Steven Behan, President  
East Islip Board of Education



**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015 • ECC • 6 A.M.-9 P.M.



# Message *from the* **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Residents:

As your Superintendent of Schools, I am pleased to present to you the proposed 2015-2016 budget for the East Islip Union Free School District. We have worked diligently over the past several months to develop an educationally and financially responsible spending plan that meets the needs of our students as well as our community. There were three non-negotiable priorities that framed the design of the proposed budget:

- ✓ Educational Quality
- ✓ Long-Term Foresight and Planning
- ✓ Fiscal Solvency

The proposed 2015-2016 budget of \$111,076,458 carries a tax levy increase of 0.96 percent and a budget-to-budget increase of 0.26 percent (representing only \$290,809 over the current year's budget of \$110,785,649). Throughout the budget planning process, our team made every effort to keep our academic program on the cutting edge while maintaining costs for our taxpayers. We have worked to maximize revenue-generating initiatives and will be appropriating less from our reserves to balance spending as we plan for a more financially stable future.

I would like to thank all educational and community partners who participated in our second annual Advocacy Breakfast, as well as all those who wrote letters to our elected leaders in Albany urging them to repeal the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and restore state aid. East Islip did see an increase in aid, as well as a partial restoration of the GEA, as a result of your efforts. As community residents, we can be proud to live in a town where our students are thriving, our facilities are improving and our community has a collective voice.

Over the past couple of years, we have made significant strides. The district has seen a very successful reconfiguration of all elementary schools, as well as the return of third-grade instrumental music, middle school athletics and sixth-grade foreign language instruction. Additionally, we have seen the expansion of Advanced Placement offerings at East Islip High School, a steady improvement in graduation rates, particularly among our special education students, and the live launch of the Parent Portal Gradebook this past November. Most recently, we announced the implementation of an "Open Enrollment/Challenge-Up" philosophy, to launch this September, that will encourage our high school students to challenge themselves in our more rigorous courses; this philosophy is designed to enhance postsecondary opportunities in college and the workplace.

The proposed budget is one that preserves low class sizes and full-day kindergarten and offers an enhanced array of K-12 academic programs, including the expansion of Advanced Placement and world language courses. It is a budget that is committed to preserving our quality music and arts programs, and one that preserves middle school and high school athletics, with the return of various assistant coaches at the varsity level. Furthermore, it preserves and enhances elementary, middle school and high school clubs and activities; additions include a new Robotics club and Science Research club at the high school, as well as a STEM club and TV Media club at the middle school. Finally, the proposed budget allows for a substantial increase in needed technological infrastructure, hardware and software to ready our facilities and instructional spaces for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In closing, I invite you to visit our website for more detailed information on the proposed 2015-2016 school district budget and remind you to cast your vote in our upcoming Annual School Budget Vote and Trustee Election on Tuesday, May 19.

Yours in education,

Linda J. Rozzi  
Superintendent of Schools



**Q: What is the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate?**

A: The tax levy is the amount of money requested from the Town of Islip by the Board of Education to balance the budget after state aid and other revenues are considered. The Board does not set the tax rate, which is a function of the assessed value of properties and is determined by the town assessor through valuation of properties in the town. The state's tax levy limit does not apply to the tax rate or an individual tax bill, but solely to the tax levy of the school district.

**Q: How will New York State's tax freeze affect the budget and taxpayers?**

A: For school districts like East Islip, whose proposed budgets remain at or below the state's tax levy cap, homeowners who are eligible for the income-based STAR exemption may receive offsetting rebate checks from the government for the amount of money that their school taxes rose.

**Q: What happens if the proposed budget is defeated and a contingency budget results?**

A: If voters reject the proposed budget on May 19, it can be presented for one more vote in June. If the Board of Education does not opt for a revote, it can immediately adopt a contingency budget, which by the New York State tax cap law, would require the district to operate with a zero percent tax levy increase. If the district proposes a second budget and that is also defeated, the district must, by law, adopt at a zero percent increase. Such a contingency budget would force reductions from the proposed budget in such areas as staff, nonmandated student programs, athletics, clubs and the community's use of facilities.

# A SOUND FOUNDATION FOR COLLEGE

With an East Islip education preparing them for college readiness, students from this year's graduating Class of 2015 have been accepted to a wide variety of top-ranked colleges and universities, including:

- Adelphi University
- Fordham University
- George Mason University
- Hofstra University
- Johnson & Wales University
- LIU Post
- Marist College
- Mount St. Mary's University
- Nazareth College
- Niagara University
- Northeastern University
- Pace University
- Penn State University
- Philadelphia University
- Purdue University
- Quinnipiac University
- Roger Williams University
- Rutgers State University
- Sacred Heart University
- Salve Regina University
- Siena College
- St. John's University
- SUNY Albany
- SUNY Binghamton
- SUNY FIT
- SUNY Geneseo
- SUNY New Paltz
- SUNY Potsdam - The Crane School of Music
- SUNY Stony Brook
- Syracuse University
- Towson University
- University of Alabama
- University of Delaware
- University of Rhode Island
- University of South Florida
- University of Tampa
- University of Vermont
- West Virginia University



## SCHOOL DISTRICT VALUE = HOME VALUE

We believe that all of a community's residents – whether they have children enrolled or not – benefit from thriving schools as a result of the strong positive correlation between the quality of a district and the attractiveness of a community.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2015-2016 INCLUDES:

### Low class sizes

Full-day kindergarten

### Full complement of Advanced Placement courses

Updated instructional materials for Social Studies, ELA, Math and Science

### All current middle and high school athletic teams

Addition of various varsity assistant coaches

### Addition of staff for World Languages at the advanced level

Wide variety of clubs and extracurricular activities

### Four high school Career Academies

Districtwide technology upgrades

### All current K-12 music and art offerings

Data-driven instructional methods

### Teaching staff committed to meeting Annual Professional Performance Review standards

Community use of facilities, including convenient use of the online facilities calendar





*The Class of 2015 top 10 seniors are: (clockwise from top left): Nicholas Buquicchio, Joseph Guadagno, Meghan Mueller, Krista Cook, Amanda Healy, co-valedictorians Valli Mani and Lauren Farrell, Derek Dattero, Rebecca Fitzmaurice and Kristen Tomasini.*

Nine members of East Islip High School’s Class of 2015 were named **AP Scholars with Distinction** by the College Board, along with 13 AP Scholars and six AP Scholars with Honor.

The varsity football team won the **Suffolk County Division II Championship**, East Islip’s first since 2007.

A sophomore musician was the only Long Islander selected to join the **Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra** and one of only six horn players nationwide to represent the U.S. on the Orchestra’s 2015 tour of China.

The boys varsity bowling team won their second **New York State Championship** in the last three years.

Three high schoolers received Awards of Excellence from the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists and were nominated to attend the prestigious **Congress of Future Medical Leaders** in Washington, D.C.

Seven high school student-musicians were selected for **All-State** honors and performed in NYSSMA Winter Conference’s All-State Festival; 17 were chosen as **All-County** musicians and performed in the NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Concert.

A high school **star wrestler** placed second in the state, won the county championship, earned his third All-State honor and set a school record for career wins and pins.

# East Islip

The “**Taste of the Town**” event showcased both the new Culinary Arts and Hospitality Career Academy and the local dining scene while raising funds for the EJ Autism Foundation.

Ten high school students won “**Best in Show**” awards for video, photography and computer graphics at the 2015 Long Island Media Arts Show.

The boys varsity cross-country team won a **league championship** for the first time since 1978, capping an undefeated 6-0 season.

Two track stars earned **All-State status** at state championships, finishing in first place in high jump and second in race walking; both also won All-Long Island and All-County honors.

The high school **mock trial team** participated in the Angela R. Mathew High School Mock Trial Seminar at Harvard University.

The middle school **kickline team** won a championship for the fifth year in a row.

Eight outstanding elementary musicians from JFK and RCK were selected for the **SCMEA All-County Festival**.



*Strong music programs at RCK (pictured) and JFK sent eight musicians to the SCMEA All-County Festival.*

# Pride Shines

High school art students won first place and two honorable mentions at Suffolk County Community College's annual **High School Art Competition**.

The middle school's girls soccer and volleyball teams both finished with **undefeated seasons**; the girls tennis team was awarded the NYSPHSAA Section XI **Sportsmanship Award**.



*The Redmen were Suffolk County champions for the first time in seven years.*

East Islip School District was again designated a "**Best Community for Music Education**" by the NAMM Foundation.

RCK third-graders created a special **remembrance quilt** on Patriot Day to honor 9/11 heroes.

A girls varsity basketball player was the first to be named to the **All-County team** since 2004.

Artwork by high school students was chosen for exhibition at the **All-County SCALA Scholarship Show** and annual **New York State Art Teachers Association Legislative Exhibit**.



A middle school musician participated in the **SCMEA Day of Horn**.

*Katie Bunde, Joe Nickel and Matthew DeLuca were nominated to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Washington, D.C.*

The staff of the high school newspaper, The Broadcaster, was honored at Adelphi University's 2015 **Quill Awards**, earning five awards, including third place overall for "Most Outstanding Newspaper."

Two girls varsity bowlers finished first and fourth overall in the county, earning them spots on the **Section XI All-Star** team.

A senior artist's drawing won the prestigious **Gold Key Award** in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, while a sophomore artist won \$250 in the **Huntington Fine Arts scholarship** competition.

Seniors signed **National Letters of Intent** to play for top college athletic programs, including Syracuse University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, West Virginia University, New York Institute of Technology, Adelphi University, Binghamton University, Mercy College, Wingate University, Iona College, High Point University, Roberts Wesleyan College and the University of Mount Union.



*The middle school girls soccer team finished their season undefeated.*

# 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

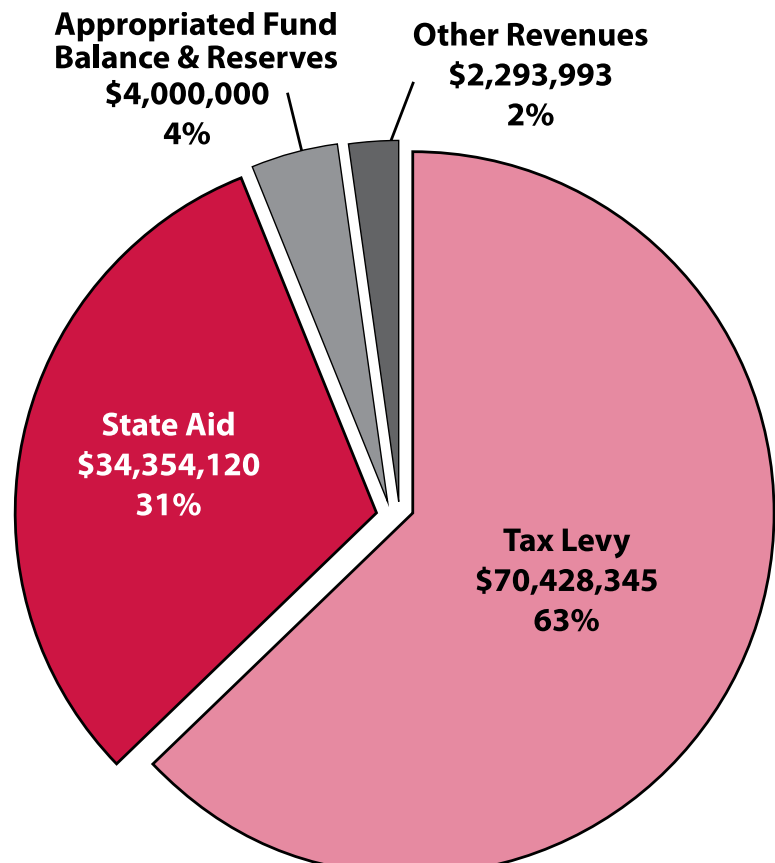
## Expenditures

Description	2014-2015 Final Budget	2015-2016 Adopted Budget	Difference from 2014-2015
Board of Education Includes operational expenses, district clerk, district meetings, etc.	\$62,781	\$63,334	\$553
Central Administration Includes operational expenses and salaries for all staff in the office of the superintendent.	353,535	298,624	(54,911)
Finance Includes expenses for accounting, treasurer, purchasing and fiscal advisers.	785,197	907,399	122,202
Staff Includes expenses for legal costs, personnel, public information and administration.	636,054	700,866	64,812
Central Services (Operations and Maintenance) Includes expenses and salaries related to the operation and maintenance of district buildings. Also, the District entered into a three year lease for a tractor during 2014/15. The total amount of the lease is \$37,362. Twelve monthly lease payments, totaling \$12,454 are included in the 2015/16 Budget.	6,736,248	7,078,892	342,644
Special Items Includes costs for insurance, dues and BOCES.	1,119,250	1,145,233	25,983
<b>Total GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>9,693,064</b>	<b>10,194,348</b>	<b>501,284</b>
Administration and Improvement: Building	5,109,868	5,139,636	29,768
Teaching Expenses: Regular School	37,894,834	38,229,638	334,804
Special Education	12,869,683	12,972,656	102,973
Special School Services	3,300	0	(3,300)
Computer and Media Services	256,142	306,032	49,890
Pupil Personnel	3,692,523	3,854,259	161,736
<b>Total INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>59,826,350</b>	<b>60,502,221</b>	<b>675,871</b>
<b>Total TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>5,303,779</b>	<b>5,496,301</b>	<b>192,522</b>
Includes two-year extension at 4% each in 2014-2015 and in 2015-2016			
<b>Total COMMUNITY SERVICES (RECREATION)</b>	<b>264,791</b>	<b>234,905</b>	<b>(29,886)</b>
Fringe Benefits	29,429,848	28,275,123	(1,154,725)
Debt Service (TANS)	451,641	451,641	0
Interfund Transfers (Spec. Aid, Debt Svc, H/C)	5,816,176	5,921,919	105,743
<b>Total UNDISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>35,697,665</b>	<b>34,648,683</b>	<b>(1,048,982)</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$110,785,649</b>	<b>\$111,076,458</b>	<b>\$290,809</b>
<b>Percent Increase</b>			<b>0.26%</b>

# 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

## Revenues

Description	2014-2015 Final Budget	2015-2016 Adopted Budget	Difference from 2014-2015
State Aid	\$33,777,565	\$34,354,120	\$576,555
Other Revenues	2,384,596	2,293,993	(90,602)
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,942,900	1,300,200	(642,700)
Appropriated Benefits Accrued Liability	75,000	75,000	0
Appropriated Retirement Contrib. Reserve	1,825,000	1,815,000	(10,000)
Appropriated Uemployment Reserves	159,705	159,705	0
Appropriated Workers' Comp. Reserve	650,095	650,095	0
Transfer from Debt Service Fund	213,922	0	(213,922)
Tax Levy	69,756,866	70,428,345	671,479
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$110,785,649</b>	<b>\$111,076,458</b>	<b>\$290,809</b>
Tax Rate Per \$100 Assessed Value	\$19.201	\$19.386	
<b>Tax Levy Increase</b>	<b>0.94%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	
<b>Tax Rate Increase</b>	<b>0.83%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	
Total Assessed Value	351,922,086	351,922,086	
Homestead Assessed Value	312,440,411	312,440,411	
Non-Homestead Assessed Value	39,481,675	39,481,675	



\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\* Postal Customer • Local Resident Delivery

**VOTING INFORMATION**  
**May 19, 2015 • 6 a.m.-9 p.m.**  
**Early Childhood Center**  
**1 Craig B. Gariepy Ave., Islip Terrace**



Voter Registration Books Inspection

The register will be open for inspection at the district clerk’s office upon completion and on the five days prior to the budget vote and election, during regular business hours and on Saturday, May 16, 2015 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots may be made at the district clerk’s office. Such applications must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or by the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available in the district clerk’s office on the five days prior to the day of the vote during business hours. In order to be canvassed, an absentee voter’s ballot must be in the district clerk’s office by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2015.

Questions? Please contact the district clerk at 631-224-2013.



Scan this code to go directly to the budget page on our website.

**If you have a question about the budget, please call or email Assistant Superintendent for Business Stephen Harrison at 631-224-2020 or [sharrison@eischools.org](mailto:sharrison@eischools.org).**

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- Qualifications for Voting
- You must be 18 years of age and a citizen
- of the United States and...
- a) be registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or
- b) have voted in a school, library or general election in the East Islip School District within the past four years, or
- c) have registered with the school district by May 6, 2015.
- 



**EAST ISLIP**  
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2015

Visit our website at [www.eischools.org](http://www.eischools.org)

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*This newsletter is published by the Board of Education as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 631-224-2000 or fax 631-581-1617.*