



EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2016

CREATING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

LOWEST TAX LEVY INCREASE IN 15 YEARS

To My Fellow Community Members,
Taxpayers and Parents:

After careful planning and deliberation, the East Islip Board of Education has chosen to remain under the tax cap for the fifth year. It is a mission of the Board to create a strong foundation for the future while remaining fiscally responsible.

On Tuesday, May 17, residents will be asked to vote on the proposed 2016-2017 budget of \$112,683,147, which represents an increase of 1.45 percent from the current year and carries a tax levy increase of zero percent. The proposed budget will specifically support the high school's new AP Capstone program, the restoration of summer school, K-12 music and art, and MS and HS athletics, among other essential programs and services.

The district realized savings through teacher retirements and the reallocation of teacher resources due to declining enrollment. In addition, we are realizing an overall reduction in contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System and Employees' Retirement System due to a lower contribution rate next year. The district will continue to use funds from reserves of \$2,753,682 to fill the budget deficit. The district will also receive an increase in state aid of \$2,113,810,

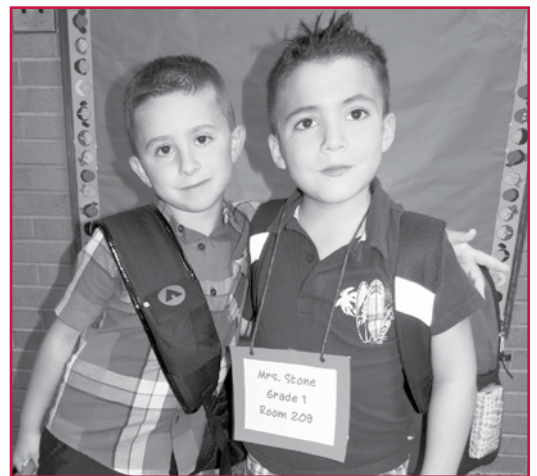
including the full restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which has allowed us to use funds in other areas.

In addition to the budget, community residents will have the opportunity to cast their votes for one trustee seat on our Board of Education, as well as vote on a proposition to establish a new capital reserve fund. Establishing a capital reserve fund sets in place fiscally responsible planning and permits the district to address additional expenditures without having to include expenses in the annual budget. The district will not incur borrowing expenses for funds placed in the capital reserve account thus reducing the need to raise taxes.

For more information on the proposed budget, visit the district's website at www.eischools.org. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 17. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Early Childhood Center. Please make your voices heard.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, thank you for taking an active role in our district and for helping us to build on the future of our students and buildings.

Sincerely,
Philip Montuori, Sr.
Board of Education President



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



REMEMBER TO VOTE!
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 • ECC • 6 A.M.-9 P.M.



2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Expenditures

Description	2015-2016 Final Budget	2016-2017 Adopted Budget	Difference from 2015-2016
Board of Education Includes operational expenses, district clerk, district meetings, etc.	\$63,334	\$69,657	\$6,323
Central Administration Includes operational expenses and salaries for all staff in the office of the superintendent.	\$298,624	\$335,385	\$36,761
Finance Includes expenses for accounting, treasurer, purchasing and fiscal advisers.	\$907,399	\$872,467	(\$34,932)
Staff Includes expenses for legal costs, personnel, public information and administration.	\$700,866	\$707,754	\$6,888
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 2016/17 budget. Includes the estimated expense associated with the purchase of the following three pieces of equipment for the Buildings and Grounds Department: Truck \$35,000, Skid Steer \$56,975 and Utility Truck \$64,740.	\$7,078,892	\$7,327,172	\$248,280
Special Items Includes costs for insurance, dues and BOCES.	\$1,145,233	\$1,166,699	\$21,466

Total GENERAL SUPPORT	\$10,194,348	\$10,479,134	\$284,786
Administration and Improvement: Building	\$5,139,636	\$5,232,798	\$93,162
Teaching Expenses: Regular School	\$38,229,638	\$39,043,289	\$813,651
Special Education	\$12,972,656	\$13,313,449	\$340,793
Special School Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Computer and Media Services	\$306,032	\$383,644	\$77,612
Pupil Personnel	\$3,854,259	\$3,878,807	\$24,548

Total INSTRUCTION	\$60,502,221	\$61,851,987	\$1,349,766
Includes estimated expenses associated with the four-year lease of photocopiers through Eastern Suffolk BOCES. The total amount of the lease over the four years is \$422,611, of which \$105,653 is budgeted in 2016/17.			

Total TRANSPORTATION	\$5,496,301	\$5,827,471	\$331,170
Includes two-year extension at 0% for 2016/17 and the lower of 2% or CPI for 2017/18.			

Total COMMUNITY SERVICES (RECREATION)	\$234,905	\$239,395	\$4,490
Fringe Benefits	\$28,275,123	\$27,638,084	(\$637,039)
Debt Service (TANS)	\$451,641	\$743,910	\$292,269
Interfund Transfers (Spec. Aid, Debt Svc, H/C, Capital)	\$5,921,919	\$5,903,166	(\$18,753)
Includes the expenses of \$58,000 associated with network upgrades and wireless access.			

Total UNDISTRIBUTED	\$34,648,683	\$34,285,160	(\$363,523)
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TOTAL BUDGET	\$111,076,458	\$112,683,147	\$1,606,689
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Percent Increase			1.45%
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2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Revenues

Description	2015-2016 Final Budget	2016-2017 Adopted Budget	Difference from 2015-2016
State Aid	\$34,354,120	\$36,807,497	\$2,453,377
Other Revenues	\$2,293,993	\$2,693,623	\$399,630
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,300,200	\$354,819	(\$945,381)
Appropriated Benefits Accrued Liability	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Appropriated Retirement Contrib. Reserve	\$1,815,000	\$1,564,058	(\$250,942)
Appropriated Unemployment Reserves	\$159,705	\$159,705	\$0
Appropriated Workers' Comp. Reserve	\$650,095	\$600,100	(\$49,995)
Transfer from Debt Service Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tax Levy	\$70,428,345	\$70,428,345	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES/RESERVES	\$111,076,458	\$112,683,147	\$1,606,689
Tax Rate per \$100 Assessed Value	\$19.956	\$19.956	
Tax Levy Increase	0.96%	0%	
Tax Rate Increase	0.96%	0%	
Total Assessed Value	\$352,919,815	\$352,919,815	\$0
Homestead Assessed Value	\$313,330,621	\$313,330,621	\$0
Non-Homestead Assessed Value	\$39,589,194	\$39,589,194	\$0

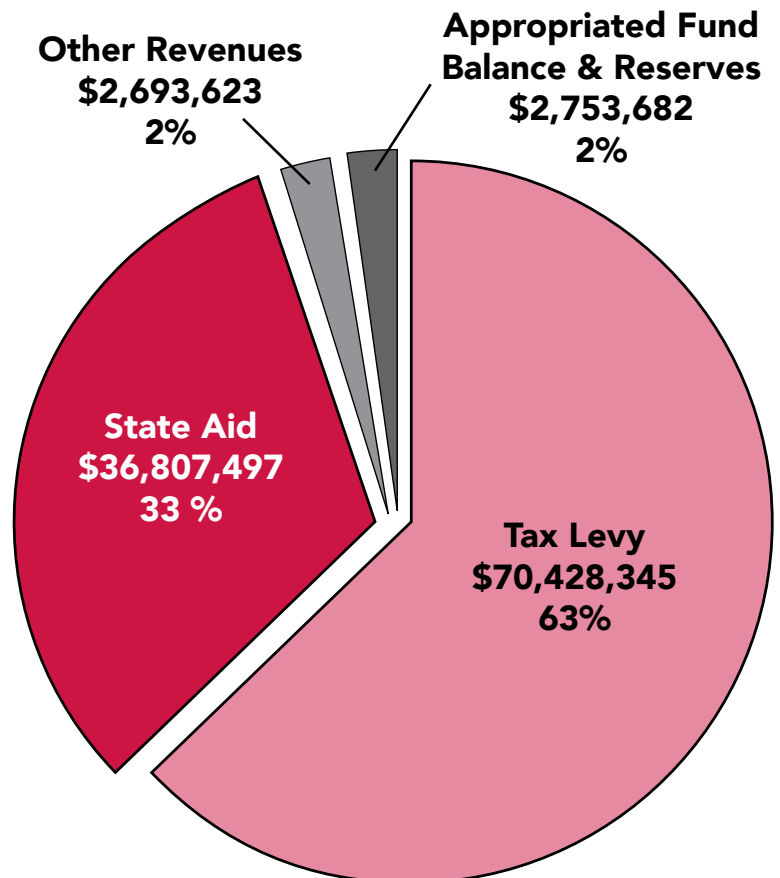
PROPOSITION NO. 1

School District Budget Vote

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund

In addition to voting on the 2016-17 proposed budget, the community will have an opportunity to vote on a proposition to establish a 2015/16 Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed \$20 million plus investment income over a 10-year period. The funds are to be transferred from surplus monies remaining in the general fund including a sum not to exceed \$2,000,000 from the 2015-2016 budget and thereafter in an annual amount of not more than \$2,000,000 for each remaining year of the probable term. This CRF will enable the district to set aside potential future savings to fund much-needed, long-term capital projects. The proposed CRF requires voter approval, both to establish the reserve fund and to expend its funds at a later time.





Points of Pride



- Four outstanding JFK musicians and 24 middle school musicians were selected for the SCMEA All-County Festival.
- The high school's varsity Redmen football squad won the divisional playoff and competed in the Suffolk County Division III county championship game at Stony Brook; the team's coach earned his milestone 100th win.
- A high school basketball star scored her 1,000th career point as a varsity athlete, only the fourth East Islip girls basketball player to ever reach that total.
- Connetquot and JFK students were named national finalists, and one middle school student was named a state-level winner, in this year's PTA Reflections arts contest.
- The high school's Mock Trial team's terrific season included a Best Witness Award at the Empire World Championship, participation in Harvard University's Angela R. Mathew High School Mock Trial Seminar, a second-place finish in the Plainview-Old Bethpage Moot Court tournament, and a undefeated run through six rounds of the New York State Mock Trial Tournament, where they finished as Suffolk semifinalists.
- Five students in the high school's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Career Academy won a best appetizer award at the New York State ProStart Invitational competition.

- The high school's varsity gymnastics squad were undefeated League III champions, and a seventh-grader on the team earned All-County and All-State honors and finished fifth in state as a member of the Section XI team.
- Two middle school horn players attended the 11th annual SCMEA Day of Horn, participating in the largest horn ensemble in the world, as recorded by the Guinness Book of World Records.
- The middle school kickline team won the Long Island Kickline Association Championship in the pom category for the fifth year in a row.
- The high school's International Business Globalization Career Academy students were winners at the annual Virtual Enterprises International business plan competition.
- Eight music students from the high school, middle school and JFK were selected for this year's Long Island String Festival Association concerts, recognizing them as being among the top string orchestra players in the county.
- A high school wrestler earned All-County honors and fifth overall in the Suffolk County wrestling championships.
- East Islip High School was approved as an AP Capstone school, with the innovative diploma program to begin this fall.
- JFK and RCK science fair winners competed at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Elementary School Science Fair.
- Seniors signed National Letters of Intent to play for top college athletic programs, including Adelphi University, Hofstra University, Campbell University, St. Joseph's University, Wesleyan University and the University of New Haven.



A Message from the Superintendent

Together we have made some difficult decisions that allow the district to strengthen its financial foundation to ensure that East Islip maintains the high-quality school system that provides for our students. Due to staff reductions based on declining enrollment, as well as the full restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, the district is able to:

- Maintain its academic and co-curricular offerings for students.
- Add AP Capstone program.
- Reduce our reliance on reserves to fund the budget from \$4 million to \$2.7 million, which will lead to improved fiscal health.
- Repay the full allotment of \$2.2 million to the state for the previous overpayment in building aid.
- Add a librarian and social worker at the elementary level.
- Reinstate Summer School at no charge to East Islip students.
- Add a groundskeeper/mechanic, which will significantly reduce costs that are currently outsourced.
- Purchase a full-service truck/skid steer, which will lead to increased savings in the grounds maintenance program.
- Replace the playground at Ruth C. Kinney Elementary and make necessary repairs to the playgrounds at John F. Kennedy and Timber Point.
- Refurbish the high school auditorium.

As evidenced by the list above, if we continue to be prudent with our budget we can continue to reinvest in our technological and capital infrastructure without overburdening the taxpayers.

Our goal is to remain fiscally responsible while maintaining high-quality programs for our students. Our pledge is to continue to find ways to reduce spending in every budget, and funds realized through these savings from budget to budget can be used to make necessary improvements as we reinvest in the future of East Islip Schools.

Sincerely,
John V. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools

Points of Pride

- The Broadcaster won “Most Outstanding Newspaper” at Adelphi University’s 2015 Quill Awards, beating out 26 other high schools, and the staff earned five individual awards for writing, illustrating, and layout and design.
- One high school senior was named a Commended Student by the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Seven members of East Islip High School’s Class of 2016 were named AP Scholars with Distinction by the College Board, as well as 13 AP Scholars and five AP Scholars with Honor.



- The middle school girls volleyball team finished their season undefeated for the second consecutive year, as did the school’s girls soccer squad.
- Seven high school student-musicians were selected for All-State honors and performed at the NYSSMA Winter Conference’s All-State concerts; 13 were chosen as All-County musicians and performed at the NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Concert.

- The high school’s boys cross-country team finished their second straight undefeated season and defended their League IV title for the first time since 1978; an All-State runner on the girls varsity team won county and Long Island championship in the 55-meter dash, and finished fifth overall in the state tournament.



- High school students won numerous “Best in Show” awards at the 2016 Long Island Media Arts Show.
- The middle school’s Tri-M Music Honor Society inducted 34 new members, the largest number of Tri-M inductees in the school’s history.
- Artwork by high school students was chosen for exhibition at the LIU Post “Advanced Visions 12: High School Artists of Excellence” show, the All-County SCALA/BACCA Art Show Exhibition and the New York State Art Teachers Association Legislative Exhibit in Albany.

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

VOTING INFORMATION **May 17, 2016 • 6 a.m.-9 p.m.**

Early Childhood Center • 1 Craig B. Gariepy Ave., Islip Terrace

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.



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: Will taxpayers be eligible for a Property Tax Rebate?

A: Yes. Under the New York State Property Tax Rebate program, taxpayers receiving a STAR exemption, who earn \$275,000 or less, and who reside in a district that complies with the New York State tax cap, are eligible to receive a property tax rebate of \$130 for the 2016-17 school year.

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

A: If voters reject the proposed budget on May 17, 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. The contingency budget assumes reductions in the following areas: certain equipment, supplies and materials, and professional and technical services.

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 14, 2016 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Qualifications for Voting

You must be 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States and...

- be registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or
- have voted in a school, library or general election in the East Islip School District within the past four years, or
- have registered with the school district by May 12, 2016.

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 17, 2016.

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



EAST ISLIP
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2016

Visit our website at www.eischools.org

• BOARD OF EDUCATION •

Philip Montuori Sr., President
Christopher Zachry, Vice President • Steven Behan, Trustee
Jessica Carney, Trustee • William Carpluk, Trustee
John V. Dolan, Superintendent of Schools

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.