



EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2014

BUDGET REMAINS WITHIN TAX CAP AT 0.94%

WHILE PRESERVING AND ENHANCING PROGRAMS

*To My Fellow Community Members,
Taxpayers and Parents:*

Maintaining a commitment to comply with the state's tax levy cap, the Board of Education has proposed a budget that will provide excellent value for the East Islip community. It offers options for our children and the smallest tax levy increase in years of just 0.94 percent (equaling \$647,397) over the current rate.

All of the essential elements of an East Islip education that the community deserves and expects – strong, enriched academic, music and art programs as well as sports and clubs – remain intact. This will help to continue our ascendancy as an outstanding district that provides a sound foundation for the college and career success of its students.

Diligent effort and judicious management of fund balances have enabled us to present a budget that reflects one of the lowest tax levy caps on Long Island. It delivers cost savings both now and for the future, offering a proposed budget of \$110,785,649 for 2014-2015.

The district has studied enrollment trends and student needs, and has explored staffing with a keen eye while making adjustments where necessary and prudent. By doing so, we realized more than \$1 million in reductions. A carefully planned restructuring of the four elementary school

buildings, reorganizing them geographically into two K-2 schools (Connetquot and Timber Point) and two 3-5 schools (Ruth C. Kinney and John F. Kennedy) with universal pre-kindergarten on both ends, will not only save \$450,000 for the district, but will avoid raising class sizes. The adjustment of transportation start times also enabled the district to save more than \$300,000.

Building utilization has also driven savings by increasing revenue, most notably the rental of the Early Childhood Center. The five-year lease on the ECC, which begins in August 2014, will yield \$79,000 in revenues

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for 2014-2015 with escalating rental revenue in the next four years. This too will help to stabilize and improve financial fitness.

Our schools remain exemplary, aided by a strong tradition of community involvement. The district remains proactive in ensuring that both student achievement and the array



of academic programs and activities continue to rise and improve. Among the valuable programs restored in the proposed budget are the robotics program at the middle school, third-grade instrumental music and sixth-grade foreign language study, as well as a full year of the middle school sports program, which had been partially restored in 2013.

The Board of Education seeks informed voters and encourages community members to examine the detailed budget documents and presentations available for viewing on the district's website, www.eischools.org, and to take the time to vote on Tuesday, May 20.

Sincerely,
Louis F. Raffone, President
East Islip Board of Education



REMEMBER TO VOTE!
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014 • ECC • 6 A.M.-9 P.M.

Message *from the* SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Community Residents:

We are proud to present a 2014-2015 budget that supports East Islip's students, their families and the taxpayers in our community in a holistic way. Facilitated by teamwork and long-term thinking, this budget remains within the state's tax levy cap and increases by only 0.94 percent, confirming our fiscal responsibility to the district's residents. At the same time, the proposed budget not only maintains all of our current top-rated offerings in music, art, athletics, clubs and activities, but augments them by restoring dearly missed programs (from middle school robotics to third-grade music and sixth-grade foreign language).

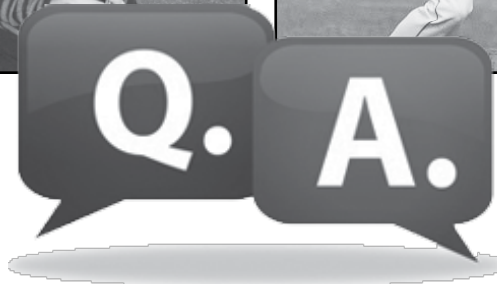
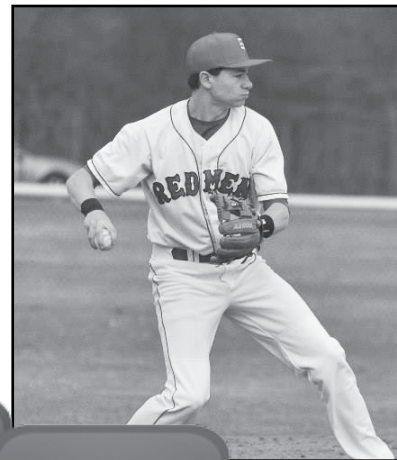
Our goal is to continue the renaissance of East Islip as a top-notch academic district whose students are fully prepared and provided all the needed tools and experiences to succeed. College and career readiness remains at the forefront, a focus that reflects the impressive achievements of our students as they rise through the grade levels. Last year alone, our seniors were awarded more than \$6 million in scholarship monies and were accepted into dozens of prestigious post-secondary colleges and universities. Of these graduates, 97 percent received Regents-endorsed diplomas and 91 percent continued their education.

Adding to our three successful, nationally recognized Career Academy programs at the high school, a new fourth Culinary Arts and Hospitality Academy will debut this fall, one of many ways in which the district is proactively guiding students to success in burgeoning careers in today's demanding job world. In addition, the proposed budget will enable us to add two new Advanced Placement courses in psychology and music theory, providing more options for our students to excel and challenge themselves.

We have made it a top priority to ensure that resources are available to inform voters. Extensive budget information and presentations regarding the proposed 2014-2015 budget can be found on the district's website, www.eischools.org, in the Budget section under the District tab.

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 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 new 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. To determine if you are eligible for this tax benefit, check our website in the future for more details.

Q: If New York State's Smart Schools Bond Act passes, will it impact East Islip?

A: This \$2 billion bond act for New York State schools, once approved by general election voters in November, would fund education project enhancements in areas such as classroom technology, safety initiatives and pre-kindergarten classroom construction as well as infrastructure improvements for high-speed broadband.

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

A: If voters reject the proposed budget on May 20, it can be presented for one more vote before July. 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 recent graduating classes have been accepted to a wide variety of top-ranked colleges and universities from across the nation, including:

- Binghamton University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Cornell University
- Loyola University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Notre Dame University
- Parsons the New School for Design
- Pennsylvania State University
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- Sacred Heart University
- Stony Brook University
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- Towson University
- University of Delaware
- University of Illinois
- University of Maryland
- University of Miami
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Virginia
- Villanova 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 2014-2015 INCLUDES:

- Low class sizes
- Full-day kindergarten
- Full complement of Advanced Placement courses
- Districtwide technology and safety upgrades
- All current middle and high school athletic teams
- All current K-12 music and arts offerings plus third-grade music
- Common Core-aligned curriculum in both ELA and math
- Wide variety of clubs and extracurricular activities
- Four high school Career Academies
- K-12 inclusion programs
- Cultural arts programs
- Data-driven instructional methods
- Districtwide anti-bullying, wellness and safety programs
- Teaching staff committed to meeting Annual Professional Performance Review standards
- Community use of facilities including convenient use of online facilities calendar



East Islip



(From left): Salutatorian Grant Stroehlein, Max Gieraltowski, and valedictorian and U.S. Presidential Scholars Program candidate William Meehan were named National Merit Scholarship Commended Students.

Three seniors named **Commended Students** by 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program, placing them among top 5 percent nationwide out of more than 1.5 million students who competed.

East Islip School District designated a “**Best Community for Music Education**” by NAMM Foundation.

High school student named **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program candidate**, one of approximately 3,000 candidates nationwide (and one of only 34 on Long Island).

Timber Point Elementary, a previous Blue Ribbon Award School, named 2013 **New York State Reward School** for the second year in a row.

Six members of East Islip High School’s Class of 2014 named **AP Scholars with Distinction** by College Board, as well as 15 AP Scholars, one AP Scholar with Honor, and one National AP Scholar – the highest level of recognition.

Two young scientists at high school received awards at **Long Island Science Congress**; students also participated in Stony Brook University’s Protein Modeling Challenge and Feinstein Institute for Medical Research’s Medical Marvels competition.

One high school student won **Award of Merit** at New York State level of PTA Reflections arts contest; another high school student, one from middle school and one from Timber Point won at county level.

High school musician named principal flute of 2013 **NAFME All-National Honor Symphony Orchestra** and award winner of **LIAA Scholar-Artist** program; four high school students named **All-State** musicians at NYSSMA Winter Conference; 11 students chosen for NYSCAME All-County Music Festival; three musicians picked to perform with **LISFA All-County Middle School Orchestra**; 14 fourth-grade music students selected for SCMEA **PEAK Festival**; many students from East Islip’s schools selected to perform in SCMEA divisional performing ensembles.

Girls varsity bowling team finished as undefeated **New York State champions** as well as league and county champions, with all six starters earning All-County status.

Culinary Arts and Hospitality Career Academy added to high school’s successful set of career-readiness programs, also including Environment Green, International Business Globalization, and Medical and Health Technology career academies; six business students honored as first L.I. students to be invited to present at international trade fair in Germany; and Career Academy director recognized with **IEEE Pre-University Educator Award**.

Eight high school students won “**Best in Show**” awards for video and photography at 2014 Long Island Media Arts Show.

High school student honored for the second year in a row for exemplary volunteerism with **President’s Volunteer Service Award**.

Timber Point fifth-grader won **SCMEA Usdan Scholarship** to attend the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts this summer.

Middle and high school **kickline teams** both won championships.



Timber Point fifth-grader Noelle Naccarato won the SCMEA Usdan Scholarship.

Pride is Back

Four staff members of high school newspaper The Broadcaster won recognition at Adelphi University's 2014 **Quill Awards**.

Three varsity wrestlers named **All-State**; the team finished second overall for the season, the highest in school history; and wrestling coach inducted in the **National Wrestling Hall of Fame**.

High school educator named **Best Teacher on Long Island** in Bethpage Best of L.I. competition.

Honors Biology class invited to study DNA at Stony Brook.



(From left): Joshua Koretz, Victoria Keenan and Peter Gerace III were chosen for the Long Island String Festival Association's All-County Middle School Orchestra.

High school track athlete earned **second-place medal** for high jump at state championship.

RCK kindergartner won first place in **Suffolk Reading Council Creative Writing Contest**.

High school academic team competed in **Regional Quiz Bowl** as one of the top eight teams on Long Island.

Redmen varsity football team made Suffolk-record 18th appearance in **divisional championship game**.

Two East Islip High School students selected as finalists in **College & High School Photography Contest** with their work to be published in book.

RCK students joined global effort to successfully set new **Guinness World Record** in sport stacking.

High school teacher named to state's **Master Teachers** list.

Two high school students displayed work in Albany at annual **New York State Art Teachers Association Legislative Exhibit**.

High School mock trial team participated as semifinalists at **Long Island Moot Court Tournament**.

Seniors signed **National Letters of Intent** to play for top college athletic programs, including Cornell, Hofstra, Mercy College, North Carolina State, Pace, Presbyterian, University of New Haven and University of Vermont.



Broadcaster editors Maxx Vogelsberg and Anne Flamio won first place for layout in Adelphi's 2014 Quill Awards.



Class of 2014 top 10 seniors: (clockwise from top left): Jackson Domenech, Troy Revello, William Farrell, Max Gieraltowski, Andrew Dobkowski, Maria Guadagno, Leah Stevens, Grant Stroehlein, Christina Giordanella and William Meehan.

2014-2015 Proposed Budget

Expenditures

Description	2013-2014 Final Budget	2014-2015 Adopted Budget	Difference from 2013-2014
Board of Education Includes operational expenses, district clerk, district meetings, etc.	\$66,257	\$62,781	-\$3,476
Central Administration Includes operational expenses and salaries for all staff in the office of the superintendent.	355,529	353,534	-1,995
Finance Includes expenses for accounting, treasurer, purchasing and fiscal advisers.	785,610	785,197	-413
Staff Includes expenses for legal costs, personnel, public information and administration.	607,431	636,054	28,623
Central Services (Operations and Maintenance) Includes expenses and salaries related to the operation and maintenance of district buildings, and lease payment on a district vehicle of \$18,348 in year 1, \$36,696 in years 2 and 3 for a total cost of \$55,044.	6,769,112	6,736,248	-32,864
Special Items Includes costs for insurance, dues and BOCES.	1,091,595	1,119,250	27,655
Total GENERAL SUPPORT	9,675,534	9,693,064	17,530
Administration and Improvement: Building	5,018,922	5,109,868	90,946
Teaching Expenses: Regular School	38,030,076	37,894,834	-135,242
Special Education	13,039,662	12,869,683	-169,979
Special School Services	3,300	3,300	0
Computer and Media Services	194,696	256,142	61,446
Pupil Personnel	3,451,120	3,692,523	241,403
Total INSTRUCTION	59,737,776	59,826,350	88,574
Total TRANSPORTATION	5,477,938	5,303,779	-174,159
Includes two-year extension at 4% each in 2014-2015 and in 2015-2016			
Total COMMUNITY SERVICES (RECREATION)	241,534	264,791	23,257
Fringe Benefits	28,175,506	29,429,848	1,254,342
Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS)	379,000	451,641	72,641
Interfund Transfers (Including Debt Service)	5,789,396	5,816,176	26,780
Total UNDISTRIBUTED	34,343,902	35,697,665	1,353,763
TOTAL BUDGET	\$109,476,684	\$110,785,649	\$1,308,965
Percent Increase			1.20%

2014-2015 Proposed Budget

Revenues

Description	2013-2014	2014-2015	Difference from 2013-2014
	Final Budget	Adopted Budget	
State Aid (Including BOCES)	\$32,914,515	\$33,777,565	\$863,050
Other Revenues (from interest income, facility rentals, tuition and other fees)	2,375,000	2,384,596	9,596
Applied Surplus (FUND BALANCE)	1,942,900	1,942,900	0
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	0	75,000	75,000
Appropriated Reserves	2,634,800	2,634,800	0
Transfer from Debt Service Fund	0	213,922	213,922
Legislative Grant in Aid	500,000	0	-500,000
Tax Levy and STAR Payments	69,109,469	69,756,866	647,397
TOTAL REVENUES	\$109,476,684	\$110,785,649	\$1,308,965
Tax Rate Per \$100 Assessed Value	\$19.658	\$19.842	\$0.184
Tax Levy Increase	3.86%	0.94%	-2.92%
Tax Rate Increase	3.67%	0.94%	-2.73%
Total Assessed Value	351,560,254	351,560,254	0
Homestead Assessed Value	312,169,388	312,169,388	0
Non-Homestead Assessed Value	39,390,866	39,390,866	0

