



Holland Central School District
District Office
103 Canada Street Holland, NY 14080
P: 716-537-8200 F: 716-537-8203
www.hollandcsd.org

Hello Holland School District Residents,

The Holland School Board of Education and I would like to make you aware of the impact of the foundation aid in our annual budget. According to the governor, many districts have been overpaid by New York State for a long time and with the decrease in enrollment, the state would like to decrease the funding based on our enrollment. This means taking away foundation aid. While the governor backed off on this decision, she did not increase the aid based on inflation as the state has done in the past. This creates a situation where our aid remains flat while our expenses increase each year. We are operating with a deficit budget.

We have experienced a decline in enrollment in our district over the past several years. In 2019 when we reopened the middle school, our total student enrollment in our buildings was 897 students. Our enrollment in our buildings now is 737 students. This represents a decline of 160 students. A large percentage of our state aid and BOCES aid is based on student enrollment. This decrease has a negative impact on our aid.

The Board has been frugal with tax increases over the past ten years, going below the maximum permitted increases. The money from the federal government and New York State covered our expenses without having to rely on increases for our local taxpayers. At the time it was the correct decision. However, in our current situation we must find ways to either increase taxes beyond the limit or reduce expenses to balance the budget. Over the past two years, we have reduced spending by cutting where we could, without having a serious impact on the education of our students. We are now in a situation where further cuts will negatively impact our educational programming.

We recently had an optimization study completed by Leadership Solutions Advisors LLC. They issued a report to the board that included an Independent Financial Sustainability Analysis. This analysis outlines the fiscal stress that we are under and projects that it will increase over the next few years. Several options to reduce expenses were presented. The Board of Education does not want to make any decisions until the public has an opportunity to look at the information, ask questions and make suggestions as to what the next steps should be.

We would like to invite you to attend a Town Hall meeting where you can hear the presentation, ask questions, make suggestions and have your voice heard. We will hold this meeting in the auditorium at the Middle School on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Thank you for your continued support of the Holland Central School District. Go Dutchmen!

Sincerely,

Eric J. Lawton
Superintendent