

# Fire Island Union Free School District

## 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

*May 13, 2025*





# Fire Island UFSD Mission Statement

The Fire Island School District believes in a collaborative approach to instruction that is designed to meet the individual needs of the students. Our mission is to create a safe, supportive, student-centered environment. We are committed to helping all children achieve academic excellence through creative challenges within our unique island setting.

Our goal is to prepare the students to be dynamic citizens of our ever-changing society.

# The Property Tax Cap



*Does the tax cap mean my annual property tax can't increase more than 2 percent?*

**Not necessarily.**

New York's property tax cap law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. School districts are then allowed to take certain exemptions that may boost their tax levy limits to more than 2% or the inflation rate.

If a school district's proposed tax levy increase is within its limit, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval. If a school district's proposed tax levy increase exceeds the tax levy limit, a supermajority of voters – 60% or more – would be required for budget passage.

*Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?*

**No.**

The tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay to contribute to the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another, based on such things as equalization rates and assessed property values, and may exceed 2 percent.

# Property Tax Cap Calculation



Prior year Tax Levy	\$5,258,255	
Growth Factor	x <u>1.0061</u>	
Addition to taxing authority	\$5,290,330	
Less: Capital Tax Levy	- <u>\$2,526</u>	
Allowable Levy Growth Factor	x <u>1.02</u>	
Tax Levy Limit	<u>\$5,393,560</u>	
Plus: BOCES Capital Expenditure		
Available Carryover from 2024 SY	+ <u>\$66,489</u>	
2025-2026 Allowable Tax Levy	\$5,460,049	
Less: 2024-2025 Levy	- <u>\$5,258,255</u>	
<b>Allowable increase</b>	\$201,794	<b>3.84%</b>
<b>Proposed 2025-2026 Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$5,317,335</b>	<b>1.12%</b>

# Fire Island UFSD

## 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

### OVERVIEW

- ▶ Total 2025-2026 Budget : **\$6,728,125**
- ▶ Less: Total 2025-2026 Revenue Other Than Property Tax : **(\$1,260,790)**
- ▶ Less: Fund Balance to Reduce 2024-2025 Tax Levy: **(\$150,000)**
- ▶ 2025-2026 Tax Levy: **\$5,317,335**

**Below the  
allowable  
tax levy  
limit!**

**1.124% Tax Levy Increase**

2024-2025 Tax Bill	2025-2026 Tax Bill
If my bill was \$600...	It would be \$607.
If my bill was \$800...	It would be \$809.
If my bill was \$1000...	It would be \$1,011.

How does a 1.124% increase in the tax levy impact my school taxes?

# 2025-2026 Revenues

Account	Description	2025-2026	2024 - 25 Budget	Change
A 1001	Real Property Tax	5,317,335.56	5,258,254.73	59,080.83
				-
A 1040	Appropriation Of Planned Balance	150,000.00	150,000.00	-
				-
A 1041	Special Taxes - Suffolk County	630,000.00	630,000.00	-
				-
A 1085	School Tax Relief " Star "	5,300.00	6,500.00	(1,200.00)
A 1311	Day School Tuition From individuals	69,619.80	50,672.00	18,947.80
A 1315	Adult Education	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
A 1335	Student Fees & Charges	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
A 2401	Interest & Earnings	125,830.00	156,000.00	(30,170.00)
				-
A 2665	Sale Of Equipment	1,000.00	3,000.00	(2,000.00)
				-
A 2666	Sale Of Transportation Equipment	5,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)
A 2701	Refund Of Prior Year Expense			-
				-
A 3101	Basic State Aid	290,386.00	184,768.00	105,618.00
A 3101.EX	Excess Cost Aid	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
				-
A 3102	Lottery Aid	10,000.00	17,000.00	(7,000.00)
A 3103	Boces Aid	66,265.00	57,989.00	8,276.00
				-
A 3260	Textbook Aid	1,714.00	1,806.00	(92.00)
				-
A 3262	Computer Software Aid	450.00	539.00	(89.00)
A 3263	Library Aid	225.00	225.00	-
				-
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,728,125.36</b>	<b>146,371.63</b>

<b>3 Areas</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>General Support</b>	\$1,466,662	24%
<b>Instructional</b>	\$2,246,481	37%
<b>Districtwide</b>	\$2,384,982	39%

2025-2026  
Proposed  
Budget  
Expenditures  
Support Areas

# EXPENDITURES

## General Support

+6.858% of change

Description	Type of expenditures
Board of Education A1000	BOE Professional Organizations, Policy Book, District Studies, Equipment, District Clerk Salary, Legal Advertisements, Professional Organizations, Costs Associated with Election, Equipment
Central Administration A1200	Superintendent Salary, Administrative Assistant Salary, Professional Organizations, Equipment
Finance A1300	Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations Salary, Treasurer, Professional Organizations, Accounting Services, Communication Costs; External Auditor, Accounting Software, Purchasing, Equipment
Staff A1400	Legal fees, Personnel, Records Management, Public Information and Services
Central Services A1600	Operation of Plant – Maintenance Salaries, Equipment, Gas, Electric, Freight, Contracted Services – Village of Ocean Beach for water, Refuse collection, Sewer, Phone, Maintenance of Plant, Supplies, Central Data Processing, Copiers, State Reporting, Student Data Software/ Programs
Unallocated Insurance (Special Items) A1900	NYSIR, American Bankers- Flood, Student Accident Insurance, BOCES Administrative

# EXPENDITURES

## Instruction

-1.453% of  
change

Description	Type of expenditures
Administration	Professional Development, In-service Training, Student Management Programs, Professional Organization
Regular School/ Programs for students with disabilities A2000-2300	Teacher Salaries, Secondary Students, Textbooks, BOCES Services, Instrument Rentals, Programs, Textbooks for Non- Public Students, Exploratory Education, Special Education Teacher Salaries, ENL, Psychologist, BOCES Teachers – OT, Speech, Special Programs, Tuition for Special Education Students, Equipment, Adult Education
Instructional Media A2600	School Librarian Salary, Library Books, Library Software and Databases, Computer Hardware, Computer Software, Technology Administrator/ Support Salary, Internet Fees/ T1 Line, Website, BOCES- Model Schools, Equipment
Pupil Services A2800	Director of Health Services Salary, Health Programs, Health Services Equipment, Psychological Service, Co-Curricular Activities, BOCES – Guidance Counselors

# EXPENDITURES

## Districtwide Support

+3.712% of change

Description	Type of expenditures
District Transportation Services A5000	Bus Driver Salaries: 7 Full time, Extra Runs and Overtime, Gas, Miscellaneous Services – Drug and Alcohol Testing, School Bus Safety Program, Equipment
Garage Building	PSEG, Transportation Software and Programs, Equipment
Community Services A7000	Community Recreation – Summer library, Basketball monitors, Adult education monitors
Employee Benefits A9000	State Retirement, Teacher Retirement, Social Security, Worker Compensation, Life Insurance, Unemployment, Insurance, Disability Insurance, Hospital & Dental Insurance



# Proposition #1: School Budget

	Summary of General Fund Appropriations	% of Change from 2024-2025 Budget
General Support	\$1,466,662.35	+6.858%
Instruction	\$2,246,480.54	-1.453%
Districtwide Support	\$2,384,982.47	+3.712%
<b>Total General Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>\$6,098,125.36</b>	<b>+2.459%</b>
Suffolk County Contingent Fund	\$630,000.00	0.00%
<b>Total Authorized Amount</b>	<b>\$6,728,125.36</b>	

# Fire Island UFSD

*Includes S.C. Contingent Fund*

# 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

## OVERVIEW

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### 1.124% Tax Levy Increase

# Highlights of 2025-2026 Proposed Budget



## 1. Enhancing Educational Resources and Programs

### ➤ Curriculum and Instruction

- ✓ Updated curricular materials to support teaching and learning, including expanded classroom libraries.
- ✓ Support for the implementation and updating of the district's collaboratively developed Strategic Plan.
- ✓ Funding for teacher involvement in curriculum development and enhancements through summer work and partnerships with leading experts in instruction.

### ➤ Comprehensive Instructional Programs

- ✓ Art, Library, and Spanish.
- ✓ Music programs, including Ukulele, Band, Customized Lessons, & Performing Arts.
- ✓ Daily Physical Education.
- ✓ Integration of instructional technology.
- ✓ Environmental Education initiatives.

### ➤ Student Support Services

- ✓ Maintaining staffing levels to ensure current student-to-teacher ratios.
- ✓ Increasing support for students by adding more days with a school psychologist at Woodhull.

# Highlights of 2025-2026 Proposed Budget



## 2. Expanding Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

### ➤ After-School Programs

- ✓ Introduction of new after-school clubs and enrichment activities, with more off-Island opportunities.

### ➤ Music and Arts

- ✓ Procurement of new instruments to replace old equipment and to enhance the band.
- ✓ Increased opportunities for participation in county and state music festivals.

### ➤ Field Trips

- ✓ Sustained funding for trips to destinations such as the Statue of Liberty, NYC, Broadway, & museums as well as local sites of historical, scientific, or natural significance.

## 3. Advancing Technology and Communication

### ➤ Technology Integration

- ✓ Maintenance of 1:1 computing device program for students and staff.

### ➤ Communication Enhancements

- ✓ Refreshed website for greater accessibility and enhanced presence in media and social media platforms.

# Highlights of 2025-2026 Proposed Budget



## 4. Safety, Security, & Transportation Enhancements

### ➤ Crisis Alert System

- ✓ **Instant Emergency Response:** Credit card-sized badges that, with a simple button press, instantly alerts appropriate personnel or initiates a full-campus lockdown, reducing response time in critical situations.
- ✓ **Comprehensive Alert System:** Badges signal a staff alert for medical emergencies or disturbances or trigger a lockdown, activating flashing strobes, screen takeovers, and PA announcements while notifying first responders of the exact location.
- ✓ **Campus-Wide Coverage:** Protection provided across all school areas, including classrooms, hallways, and outdoor areas ensuring immediate access to help anywhere on campus.

### ➤ Updated Transportation

- ✓ New single-axle bus
- ✓ New four-wheel drive suburban

# Highlights of 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

## 5. Buildings and Grounds

- Sustains our new outdoor learning classroom & garden, a vision brought to life by the Shared Decision-Making Team
- Invests in ongoing building upkeep & landscape enhancements to ensure a welcoming, well-maintained school environment



# BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Woodhull School  
3:00 – 9:00 p.m.

