

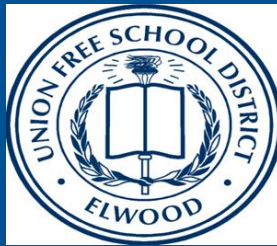


Elwood UFSD

2024/2025 Budget Workshop #3

Ms. Lorraine Dunkel
Asst. Superintendent for Business

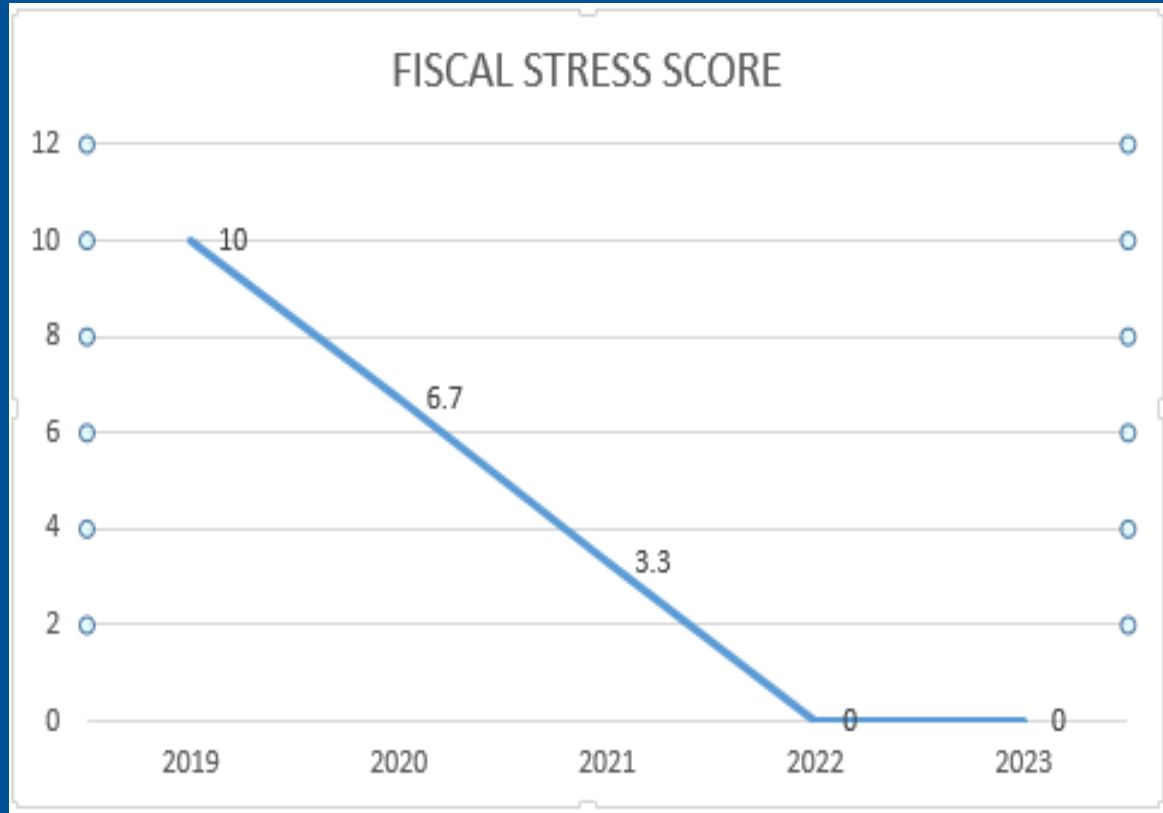




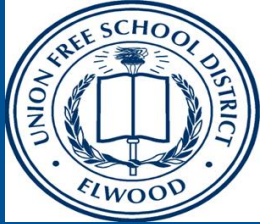
Elwood UFSD Budget Goals & Priorities

- Highest priority is to maintain the excellence and diversity of offerings within our current program
- Additional priorities include:
 - Enhancing programmatic offerings in a fiscally responsible manner
 - Maintaining our fiscal health
 - Utilizing long-term budget planning
 - Meeting all NYS regulatory requirements -- including all special education and ELL services
 - Maintaining the safety, health and welfare of all students, faculty and staff
 - Maintaining optimal/appropriate class sizes
 - Maintaining the diverse offerings of programs to meet the needs of all learners
 - Being responsible to our residents/local taxpayers

Update on Fiscal Health

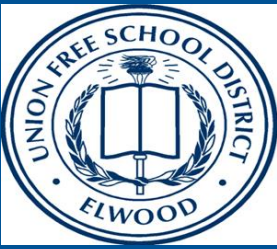


- New York State provides annual fiscal health scores to all districts. The score is based on points given in various fiscal categories including Fund Balance, Cash Flow, Debt and Deficit Spending.
- This system was created as an early warning system for communities and school districts for potential fiscal problems. Alerting everyone to potential problems gives local officials and taxpayers the opportunity to be more proactive.
- This is the fifth year in a row that Elwood has received “no designation”.



2024 Update on Governor's Budget Proposal

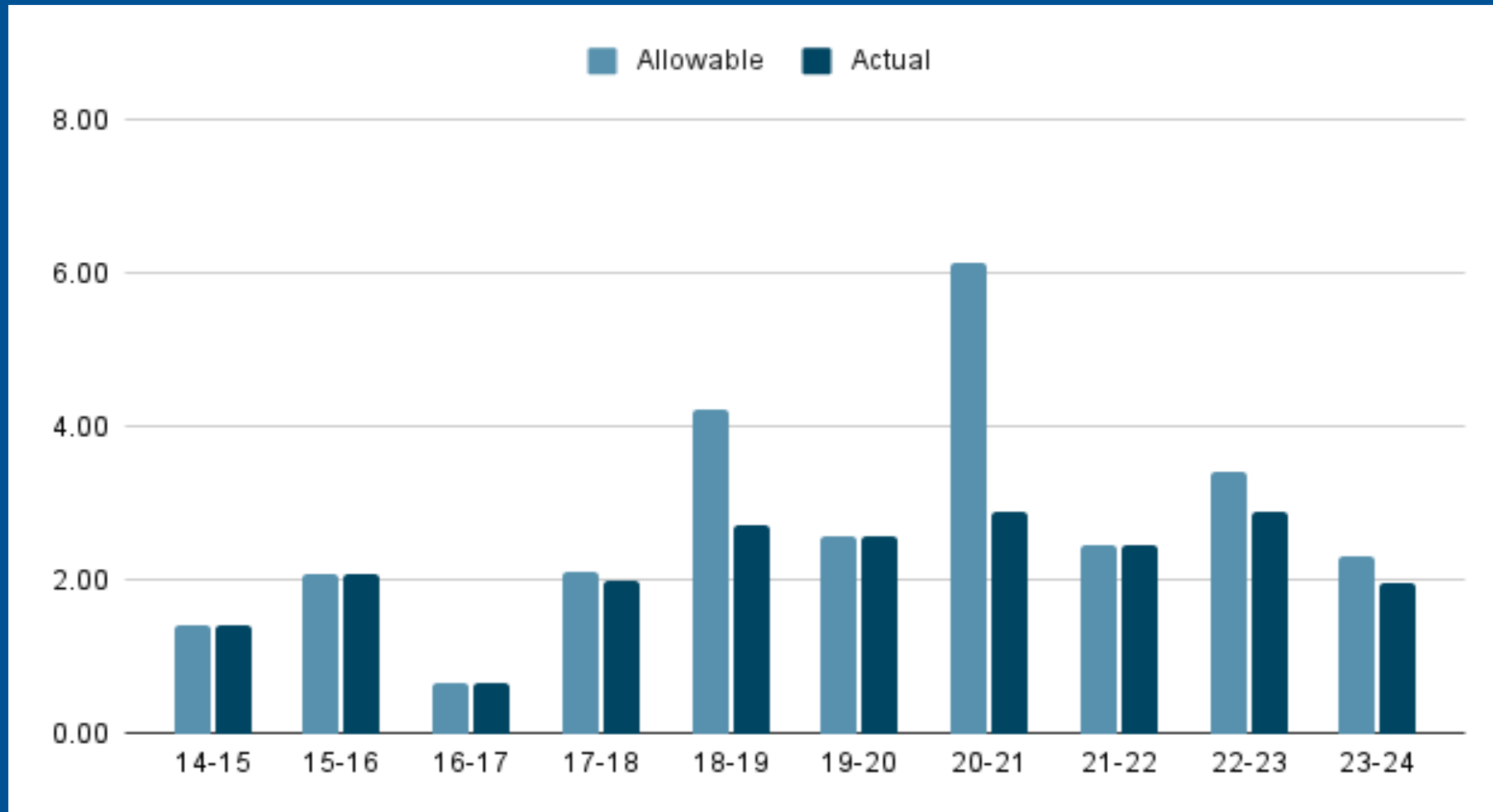
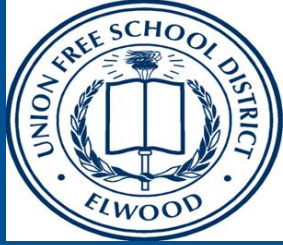
- Governor Hochul has proposed cutting a half billion dollars from proposed state aid amounts and eliminating the Save Harmless feature from the aid calculation. Save Harmless allows school districts to receive the same amount as prior years (and also receive an across-the-board percentage increase) despite having lower enrollment or other formulaic factors that would otherwise reduce their state aid.
- One of the most onerous long-term aspects of the school aid proposal (and much more costly to districts than the elimination of Save Harmless) is the arbitrary adjustment of the formula's inflationary adjustment. The formula's inflationary factor, if left alone, would be 4.1%. The Division of the Budget has proposed randomly using a ten-year average, where the high and low years are dropped, giving them a factor of 2.4% and withholding \$300 million from schools.
- In 2023/2024 the district received an increase in State Aid of \$1,887,761.
- Based on the Governor's initial proposal for 2024/2025, Elwood's State Aid increase is projected at \$196,150.

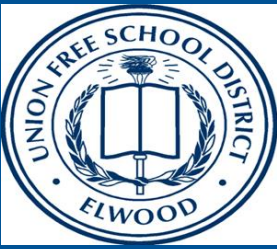


2024/2025 Tax Levy Projections

- The initial tax levy projection is due to New York State on March 1, 2024
- The current tax levy cap for 2024/2025 is estimated at 2.02%, but is subject to change
- Administration is seeking guidance from the Board of Education for the recommended tax levy in establishing the proposed budget

Ten Year Tax Levy History

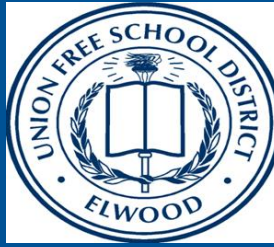




Program / Position Review for 24/25

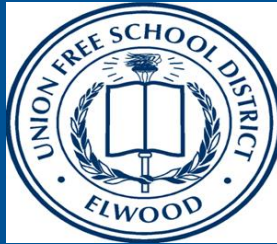
- Continuation and enhancement of K-12 Chromebook replacement cycle
- Continued expansion of Assistant Coaches for Varsity Sports
- Expansion of Athletic Program: Girls Flag Football, equipment, etc.
- Technology upgrades
- Director of MST
- ENL Teacher (.60 FTE)
- Art Teacher (.30 FTE)
- Teaching Assistants (4 positions)
- K-5 Health Program
- Transitional Support
- Credit Recovery
- K-5 Literature & Homework Clubs
- EMS & JGHS Various Clubs

New Federal & State Mandates for 2024/2025



Additional items required for the 2024/2025 Budget

- FAPE – Free and Appropriate Education
 - Mandates school to provide education to students until the age of 22 (formally age 21)
- 21st Century Computer Science & Digital Fluency Learning Standards
 - Adopted by NYS in 2020
 - Mandated instruction in grade bands which will require all students to take a course in computer science while in high school
- Expansion of ENL (English as a new language)
- Athletic Equipment
 - Shot clocks for Lacrosse Program (mandated in 2024/2025 season)



Proposition #2 - Capital Reserve

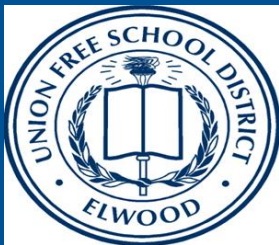
- In 2018, the community approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve. The purpose of this reserve was to allow us to address areas of the district that need improvement, but cannot be incorporated into the general fund budget. Many of these areas were recognized as part of the Building Conditions Survey, but were not included in the 2017 Bond.
- As part of our continued effort to improve upon our infrastructure, including security, we are seeking approval to spend up to \$500,000 for capital improvements. Listed below are some of the items we are looking to purchase utilizing these funds.

District-wide vehicle(s) for Maintenance & Grounds

Improvements to building infrastructure

Improvements to technology infrastructure

- In order to receive approval for these expenditures, law requires a simple majority (50% +1)
- Please note these monies are outside of the tax levy and no resident will pay any additional taxes



Next Budget Workshop
Revenue Budget and Tax Levy

March 7, 2024

7:30pm in the Elwood Middle School Library

Questions / Comments:

Ms. Lorraine Dunkel

Assistant Superintendent for Business

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