



Levittown LEADER



The Board of Education and administration are pictured with the school-level spelling bee winners (l-r) Valerie Bonavita, Daniel Collins, A.J. Hagenbruch, Justin Ramsaroop, Alex Gao, Janine Ren, Shannon O'Leary and Sarah Masror.

Preserving Educational Quality Within the Tax Levy Cap

The proposed 2016-17 budget:

- Maintains and enhances educational and extracurricular programs, including continuation of the one-to-one tablet initiative.
- Preserves outstanding athletic programs.
- Introduces the AP Capstone program.
- Includes the purchase of new buses.
- Implements robotics classes at the middle school.
- Provides for enhancement of the middle school's computer literacy course.



From left: MacArthur High School valedictorian Gregory Matousek and salutatorian Ashley Kim, Division Avenue High School valedictorian Sepideh Vasseghi and salutatorian Kristin Schmidt.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION...

Preserving and Enhancing Programs Within the Tax Levy Cap

The Levittown Board of Education is cognizant of rising property taxes and remains steadfast in its commitment to limit the tax burden on the community. Through careful and resourceful planning and a collaborative effort with Central Administration, the Board has proposed a 2016-2017 budget totaling \$205,449,470 that keeps rising costs minimal while preserving and enhancing key instructional and co-curricular programs for students.

The state's tax levy cap that was set to expire in 2016-2017 has been extended to 2019-2020, resulting in the district's preparation of a school budget with limits under New York State's tax levy cap law. All New York State school districts are provided with the same formula to calculate the district's highest allowable tax levy, which still requires a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus 1) to pass.

In preparing the 2016-2017 budget, the Board elected to adopt a tax levy increase of 0.84 percent, which is at the allowable tax levy cap as per state law and which realizes a budget-to-budget increase of 1.8 percent. This proposed spending plan maintains and enhances current instructional and co-curricular programs, including the one-to-one tablet initiative, curriculum aligned with the New York State Common Core Standards, refreshed technology and the purchase of school buses. It also includes adoption of the College Board's AP Capstone program, the implementation of robotics classes and enhancement of the middle school's computer literature classes.

In addition to the district's proposed budget, the community will be asked to approve a second proposition to allow the district to expend \$4 million from the capital reserve fund, previously established by voters, to undertake and perform school district improvement projects. These projects will include districtwide improvements to the electrical systems and masonry. The capital reserve has been used to fund projects such as renovations to the weight and locker rooms at Division Avenue High School and Salk Middle School, as well as cooling stations throughout the district. ***The expenditure of funds from the capital reserve fund has no impact on the tax levy.***

Student achievement continues to bring pride to the Levittown community. Page 2 of this brochure contains information on many of our students' educational and co-curricular accolades, as well as the special spring edition of the Leader, which is insert into the pages of this budget brochure. Please continue to visit the district website at www.levittownschoools.com to read about student achievement and various activities throughout the school year.

We encourage you to become familiar with the proposed budget and capital reserve expenditures highlighted in this newsletter, as well as information on voting locations and times, voting qualifications, absentee ballots and budget hearing information. In addition, we encourage the community to take time to review the budget presentations posted on the district website and to attend the budget hearing on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Levittown Memorial Education Center.

Levittown School District
Levittown NY 11756

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REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 17
POLLS OPEN • 7 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Please Vote At Your Designated Polling Location
(Gardiners Avenue, East Broadway,
Levittown Memorial Education Center
or Division Avenue High School)



EDUCATIONAL DOLLARS AT WORK

COMMUNITY:

- Special high school musical performances are offered to senior citizens at no cost.
- Senior citizens may preview the artwork of high school students 15 minutes prior to the opening of the annual art shows on May 18 and 25.
- Senior citizens may purchase hairstyling and manicure services at a discounted cost at the Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Center.
- The automotive department at the Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Center offers automotive services to community residents at discounted prices.
- More than 200 needy family members benefited from the district's Adopt-A-Family Program.
- Students support various philanthropic organizations, including the John Theissen Children's Foundation, the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, the American Heart Association, Pennies for Patients and Pantene Beautiful Lengths.
- Hundreds of students, staff and community members participate in the annual LEADD walk and fair.

ACADEMICS:

- The graduation rate for the Class of 2015 was 99%.
- 99% of the Class of 2015 received a Regents diploma; 62% received an Advanced Regents diploma.
- 90% of the Class of 2015 is attending college.
- MacArthur High School senior Ashley Kim was named a National Merit Scholarship Program finalist, and nine students from Division Avenue and MacArthur high schools were named Commended Students.
- The NAMM Foundation named Levittown a Best Community for Music Education for the third consecutive year.
- Salk Middle School is one of 13 schools in the nation being considered as a National School of Character by Character.org.
- 200 students were designated as Advanced Placement Scholars, including two students who received the top honor of National AP Scholar.
- Division Avenue High School was designated a New York State Reward School for high performance without any significant gaps in student achievement.
- Hundreds of music students were selected to perform in county, state and national music festivals.

ATHLETICS:

- Twenty-one seniors have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their sports at the collegiate level.
- The Division Avenue High School boys basketball team received the 2016 James Greene Sportsmanship Award.
- MacArthur High School senior Jared Wolfe received the National Football Foundation's Jay Fiedler Award as a talented scholar-athlete.
- Jared and Anthony Anzano were also inducted into the National Football Foundation's Hall of Fame.
- Both high school cheerleading teams hold national rankings.
- As members of the New York State All-Star team, MacArthur High School wrestler Jeremy Hughes and Division Avenue High School wrestler Ricky Stamm participated in the Grapple at the Garden competition at Madison Square Garden this fall.
- Bowlers Brandon Soedarmasto from Division Avenue High School and Amanda DeLisi from MacArthur High School qualified to play on the boys and girls Nassau County All-Star Team.



From left: MacArthur High School Scholar-Athletes Lauren Kustek, Kasey Bray, Marissa Cannella, Angeline Klein and Jared Wolfe.

- Division Avenue High School student Brandon Soedarmasto ranked third in the Nassau County Individual Tournament.
- MacArthur High School's kickline team, the MacEttes, received a high gold designation and first-place award at the Starbound National Talent Competition.
- The district's Challenger Teams competed against other basketball teams in the league, drawing hundreds of fans to these local competitions for students with learning and physical disabilities.



Division Avenue High School Scholar-Athletes (front) Victoria Perricone, Elissa Bardbi, (back, l-r) Ian Fosey, Jessica Vespa, Erin McCauley, Brittany Voboril and Anthony Anzano.

- Division Avenue High School student Bobby Evans was named a semifinalist in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. He is the first Division Avenue student to receive this status in district history.
- Division Avenue High School senior Kristin Schmidt was named a national semifinalist in the 2015-2016 Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Program.
- Wisdom Lane once again qualified for and competed in the NYS Science Olympiad.
- Salk Middle School student Sean Napoli was one of four winners in TD Bank's "Take a Duck to Class" essay contest, sponsored by the Long Island Ducks.
- John Messina, a student enrolled in the Gerald R. Claps Career and Technical Education Center's electrical technology program, was named a career and technical education candidate in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.
- Abbey Lane fourth grader Alex Gao placed eighth in the 2016 Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee.
- Hundreds of students participate in the district's musicals and plays.
- Hundreds of students benefit from an award-winning career and technical program.

- Middle school and high school students have benefited from the Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology STEM Program.
- The Division Avenue High School DECA team competed at the state level.
- Hundreds of students were inducted into the National Honor Society, as well as the national honor societies for art, business, music and world languages.



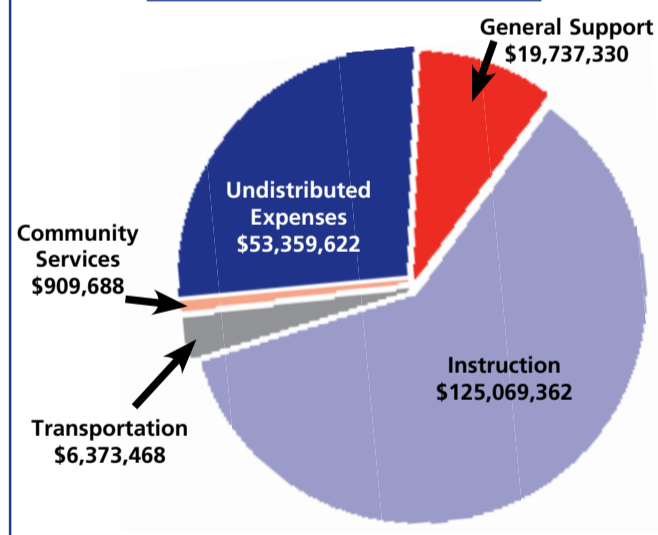
THREE-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

	2015-2016 Adopted Budget	2016-2017 Proposed Budget	Change	% Increase/Decrease
Administrative Budget				
Board of Education	\$147,328	\$140,450	(\$6,878)	-4.67%
Central Administration	\$3,771,913	\$3,842,437	\$70,524	1.87%
Special Items	\$2,385,368	\$2,497,717	\$112,349	4.71%
Supervision	\$6,673,693	\$6,962,930	\$289,237	4.33%
Planned Fund Balance	\$284,895	\$462,433	\$177,538	62.32%
Total Administrative	\$13,263,197	\$13,905,967	\$642,770	4.85%
Program Budget				
Teaching	\$63,813,410	\$64,527,236	\$713,826	1.12%
Special Education	\$33,795,762	\$34,848,678	\$1,052,916	3.12%
Special Schools	\$2,300,636	\$2,498,199	\$197,563	8.59%
Instructional Media	\$4,942,314	\$4,965,051	\$22,737	0.46%
Student Services	\$8,643,653	\$8,287,999	(\$355,654)	-4.11%
Activities & Athletics	\$2,750,875	\$2,854,858	\$103,983	3.78%
Transportation	\$5,538,029	\$5,638,468	\$100,439	1.81%
Employee Benefits	\$47,941,438	\$48,533,958	\$592,520	1.24%
Community Service	\$862,418	\$909,688	\$47,270	5.48%
Total Program	\$170,588,535	\$173,064,135	\$2,475,600	1.45%
Capital Budget				
Facilities & Operations	\$13,042,728	\$13,207,704	\$164,976	1.26%
Debt Service	\$3,032,334	\$3,936,664	\$904,330	29.82%
Equipment Expenses - Including Buses	\$476,000	\$735,000	259,000	54.41%
Transfer to Capital	\$1,415,000	\$600,000	(\$815,000)	-57.60%
Total Capital	\$17,966,062	\$18,479,368	\$513,306	2.86%
Budget Appropriation	\$201,817,794	\$205,449,470	\$3,631,676	1.80%

COMPUTATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

2016-17 Proposed Budget	\$205,449,470
Less Estimated Revenue	\$64,049,530
Subtotal	\$141,399,940
Less Appropriated Fund Balance/Reserves	\$6,660,255
Estimated 2016-17 Tax Levy	\$134,739,685

BUDGET EXPENDITURES

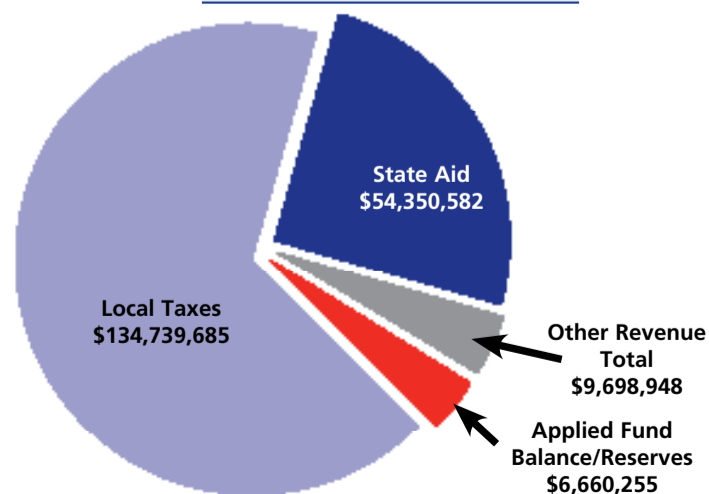


PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES	2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET
General Support	\$19,737,330
Instruction	\$125,069,362
Transportation	\$6,373,468
Community Services	\$909,688
Undistributed Expenses	\$53,359,622
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$205,449,470

ESTIMATED REVENUE & FUNDING	2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET
State Aid	\$54,350,582
Local Revenue	
Drivers Ed. Tuition	\$160,000
Tuition – Adult Ed.	\$45,000
After-School Program	\$665,000
Before-School Program	\$330,000
Tuition – Voc. Ed. – Other Districts	\$2,228,000
Tuition – Special Ed. – Other Districts	\$1,800,000
Rental of Real Property – Laurel Lane	\$174,460
Rental of Real Property – Individuals	\$115,000
BOCES Rental of Property	\$692,418
Miscellaneous	\$3,489,070
Local Revenue Total	\$9,698,948
Applied Fund Balance/Reserves	\$6,660,255
Local Taxes	\$134,739,685
TOTAL ESTIMATED FUNDING	\$205,449,470

SOURCES OF FUNDING



Complete copies of the 2016-2017 proposed budget are available in the district office and can be downloaded on the district's website, www.levittownschools.com.

2016-17 Proposed Budget	
LOCAL TAX LEVY	\$134,739,685

Budget-to-Budget Change 1.80%

Questions & Answers

Q: What propositions will the community vote on at the polls?

A: This year, the community will vote on three propositions, as well as the individual Board member elections for the school district and library: Proposition 1 – Levittown UFSD 2016-2017 Budget
Proposition 2 – Expenditure of Capital Reserve Funds (at no cost to the taxpayer)
Proposition 3 – Levittown Public Library Budget

Q: What is Proposition 2? Will it increase my taxes?

A: In addition to the district's proposed budget, the community will be asked to approve a second proposition to allow the district to expend \$4 million from the capital reserve fund, previously established by voters, to undertake and perform school district improvement projects. These projects will include electrical upgrades, masonry, a playground at Abbey Lane Elementary School, weight and locker rooms at Division Avenue High School, and districtwide cooling stations. The expenditure of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund has no impact on the tax levy.

Q: Why does the increase in the tax levy cap vary from district to district and is not a consistent limit for all levels of government?

A: Each district must complete a tax levy worksheet based upon a formula provided by New York State to calculate its individual tax levy cap. Factors that impact the cap calculation include the tax base growth factor, received PILOT payments, debt service for capital projects and other exemptions, which vary among districts.

Q: What happens if the 2016-2017 proposed budget is defeated at the polls?

A: If defeated, school districts have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted. State law mandates that if a district is forced to adopt a contingency budget, the tax levy increase over the current year is capped at zero percent.

Q: Where can I acquire more information about the district's proposed budget?

A: Complete copies of the 2016-2017 proposed budget are available in the district office and can be downloaded from the district's website, www.levittownschoools.com.

Democracy *in Action*

Students have been learning about American freedoms, including the freedom of speech and the right to vote.

On May 17, while community residents are voting on the 2016-2017 proposed school budget, students will have the opportunity to vote on an additional districtwide spirit day for the month of June. The choices are Crazy Hat Day, Sports Jersey Day, Western Day or School Spirit Day.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the voting center after school until 8 p.m. to experience the voting process together. Student votes will be tallied and results will be announced at each building on May 18.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016
2016-2017 School Budget Vote
and Trustee Election

BUDGET HEARING

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Levittown Memorial Education Center

For comprehensive information on the budget, please visit the district's website at www.levittownschoools.com.



Voting Locations and Times

Please vote at your designated polling location between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

(Gardiners Avenue, East Broadway,
Levittown Memorial Education Center or
Division Avenue High School)

VOTER INFORMATION

Qualifications for Voting

A voter will be entitled to vote for the election of school district trustees and the school budget, who has the following qualifications: a citizen of the United States, 18 years or older, a resident of the district for a period of 30 days or more before the election, and anyone who voted in a school, state or national election during the four years prior to the pending election. Those not registered or who have not voted in four years must register to vote before **Thursday, May 12, 2016**.

Registration forms for school elections may be obtained from the district clerk's office at Levittown Memorial Education Center.

Absentee Ballots

You must be a registered voter in order to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available in the office of the district clerk on any school day between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Completed applications must be received by the district clerk by mail (Tuesday, May 10) or in person (Monday, May 16). Applicants can download an application from the school district website at www.levittownschoools.com. Applications may not be submitted electronically because an original signature is required.

Upon receipt, your application will be reviewed, pursuant to the provisions of the education law, to establish your entitlement to vote by absentee ballot. A ballot will then be issued to you. For more information, contact the district clerk at 516-424-7002.



Dr. Tonie McDonald, Superintendent of Schools
Darlene Rhatigan, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Personnel
Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
William Pastore, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance
Dr. Donald Sturz, Assistant to the Superintendent for Pupil Services

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peggy Marengi, President
Jim Moran, Vice President
Karen Quinones-Smith, Secretary
Trustees: **Marianne Adrian**, **Michael Pappas**, and **Frank Ward**
Elizabeth Appelbaum, District Clerk