



Levittown LEADER



Maintaining Educational Quality Within the Tax Cap Law

- Full-Day Kindergarten
- No Change in Elementary Class Size Guidelines
- Supplies and Materials for Instruction
- New Technologies
- High School and Middle School Athletic Teams
- Clubs and Activities
- Maintenance of School Facilities and Grounds
- Continuation of Programs in the Arts and Sciences
- No Change in Transportation Guidelines
- Field Trips

A MESSAGE FROM THE Superintendent...

Proposed Budget Preserves Programs and Increases Efficiencies

Proposed 1.85% Tax Levy Increase Below Allowable Levy Cap

The Levittown School District Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget for the 2012-2013 school year that calls for an increase to the tax levy of 1.85%. This proposed increase is substantially lower than the calculated tax levy cap of 2.51%, as per New York State.

Through careful and resourceful planning, the Board and administration have prepared this proposed spending plan without having to make any reductions to existing instructional or co-curricular programs. In addition, through the improvement of operational efficiencies, the Board and administration have been able to implement several cost-saving initiatives that not only protect the taxpayer's investment, but also increase the use of technology in the classroom and the safety of our students.

"The District is in a good financial position, at a time when many districts across Long Island have had to make drastic cuts in their budgets

and tough decisions to meet the demands of the tax levy law," Superintendent of Schools Dr. James J. Grossane stated.

Budget-to-budget spending has also decreased by 4.00%, due to the District's ability to put into place several cost-savings measures, as highlighted on page two of this newsletter. However, a decrease in budget-to-budget spending is not guaranteed in the long term. "In the next two to three years, the levy will need to be increased as the District reduces its dependence on the fund balance and reserves," Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Mark Flower explained.

We are particularly proud of the outstanding accomplishments of our students and staff. This year, the District was placed on the College Board's Advanced Placement District Honor Roll. Student achievements of note include a National Merit winner, a nationally ranked girls varsity soccer team, Intel Semifinalists, and countless awards in music, art, and science. This newsletter contains information on many of our students' successes and accolades, and we encourage you to visit our website at www.levittownschoools.com to read about our students' many achievements throughout the school year.

We encourage you to become familiar with the District's proposed budget. Please take the time to review the budget presentations on the District website. Most importantly, we hope you share our confidence in the District's financial plan for the 2012-2013 school year.



Levittown School District
Levittown N.Y. 11756

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Darlene Rhatigan, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Personnel
Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Mark Flower, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

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Saving Dollars Through Cost Efficiencies

The Board of Education and administration are continually searching for ways to improve the efficiencies of operations within the District while providing a quality and high-value education to the students. The following cost-saving initiatives totaling approximately \$1.3 million are a few examples of what the District has implemented to continue to protect the taxpayer's investment.

New York Power Authority (NYPA) Efficiency Contract – The District entered into an agreement with NYPA to conduct a Districtwide energy efficiency analysis and has proceeded to implement NYPA's recommendations to conserve energy. The savings achieved over the next several years will be used to offset the cost of this project at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Dual-Fuel System – Wisdom Lane Middle School will install a dual-fuel system for both oil and gas. This provides the option to use either fuel source, depending upon which is currently less expensive.

Implementation of SMART Board Technology - Through an agreement with Nassau BOCES, the District will purchase and install SMART Boards into every classroom by September 2012. The District will purchase the new technology over five years, avoiding the need to place the total cost in the 2012-2013 school budget. The District will also receive a 50% reduction in cost and professional development training for teaching staff.

iPads for the ABA Program – Through an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant, the District is able to purchase 150 iPads for the Applied Behavior Analysis Program. At no additional cost to the taxpayer, teachers will receive professional development training to introduce the use of iPads into the curriculum, and students will also be trained in their use.



MacArthur High School Valedictorian Melissa Slyper and Salutatorian Lauren Saunders and Division Avenue High School Valedictorian Evan Rosati and Salutatorian Eric Maciel are pictured with principals Kathleen Valentino and Dr. Francesco Ianni.

Busing Fuel Management and Technology Implementation – After a consultant reviewed busing contracts and transportation, the District has decided to install new technology that will realize cost savings:

- A fuel management system called a Tia System will be installed at gas pumps that allow fuel to be pumped into vehicles equipped with a unique ID sensor. It will track fuel consumption on specific vehicles and the miles per gallon, and accurately bill other districts that pump fuel from the Levittown pumps.
- New routing software is being purchased to optimize the District's bus stops and potentially reduce the number of buses. The District could realize a \$72,000 savings per bus, and the number of buses to be eliminated is still to be determined.
- Through use of the new routing software, GPS units will be installed on all buses to monitor the vehicle's exact location, indicate speed, locate bus stops, and monitor idle time.
- The District plans to install cameras on all buses to increase the safety of students.

EDUCATIONAL DOLLARS AT WORK

Academics

- The District was named to the College Board's second annual AP Achievement District Honor Roll
- 59% of the Class of 2011 attended four-year colleges; 29% attended two-year colleges
- 97% of the Class of 2011 received a Regents Diploma; 70% received an Advanced Regents Diploma
- Three seniors were named Finalists and two seniors were named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program
- Two seniors were recognized as Semifinalists in the 2012 Intel Science Talent Search
- 207 students were designated as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars, including seven students who received the top honor of National AP Scholar

- Hundreds of students benefit from an award-winning career and technical program
- Hundreds of students participated in the District's musicals and plays
- High school and middle school students have been recognized for science research on the local and national levels
- Hundreds of music students were selected to perform in state and county music festivals

Athletics

- Eleven senior athletes signed National Letters of Intent to continue their sports at the collegiate level
- The Division Avenue High School varsity football team was a recipient of the prestigious Howie Vogts Memorial Award
- The MacArthur High School girls soccer team was ranked ninth in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America



National Merit Finalists Garrett Leotta, Jordan Fisher, and winner Lauren Saunders.

- Student-athletes have been designated as regional, state, and national competitors

Community

- 180 families benefitted from the Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program
- Students regularly support philanthropic efforts, including the John Theissen Foundation and the American Heart Association
- Hundreds of students, staff, and community members participate in the annual LEADD walk and fair
- Several programs cater to the senior citizen population

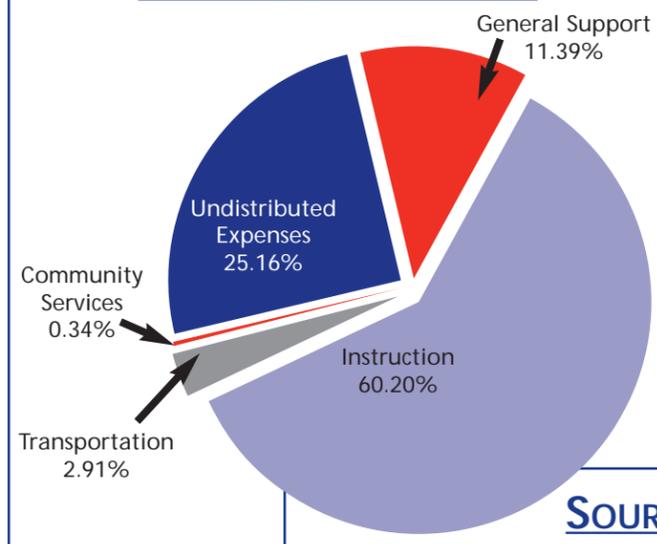
THREE-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

	2011-2012 Adopted Budget	2012-2013 Proposed Budget	Change	% Increase/Decrease
Administrative Budget				
Board of Education	\$220,301	\$170,691	-\$49,610	-22.52%
Central Administration	\$2,596,283	\$2,449,064	-\$147,219	-5.67%
Special Items	\$3,455,752	\$2,772,152	-\$683,600	-19.78%
Supervision	\$5,133,564	\$6,004,670	\$871,106	16.97%
Total Administrative	\$11,405,900	\$11,396,577	-\$9,323	-0.08%
Program Budget				
Teaching	\$59,821,728	\$60,549,960	\$728,232	1.22%
Special Education	\$29,472,851	\$27,529,227	-\$1,943,624	-6.59%
Special Schools	\$7,525,267	\$4,946,600	-\$2,578,667	-34.27%
Instructional Media	\$4,266,458	\$4,759,391	\$492,933	11.55%
Student Services	\$8,499,715	\$8,090,202	-\$409,513	-4.82%
Activities & Athletics	\$2,378,479	\$2,497,916	\$119,437	5.02%
Transportation	\$5,634,984	\$5,084,260	-\$550,724	-9.77%
Employee Benefits	\$43,254,698	\$42,662,929	-\$591,769	-1.37%
Community Service	\$743,165	\$647,228	-\$95,938	-12.91%
Applied Fund Balance	\$8,118,426	\$4,427,219	-\$3,691,207	-45.47%
Total Program	\$169,715,771	\$161,194,932	-\$8,520,839	-5.02%
Capital Budget				
Facilities & Operations	\$12,808,297	\$12,266,213	-\$542,084	-4.23%
Debt Service	\$3,977,507	\$4,787,859	\$810,352	20.37%
Transfer: Capital		\$351,000	\$351,000	
Total Capital	\$16,785,804	\$17,405,072	\$619,268	3.69%
Total Budget Appropriation	\$197,907,475	\$189,996,581	-\$7,910,894	-4.00%

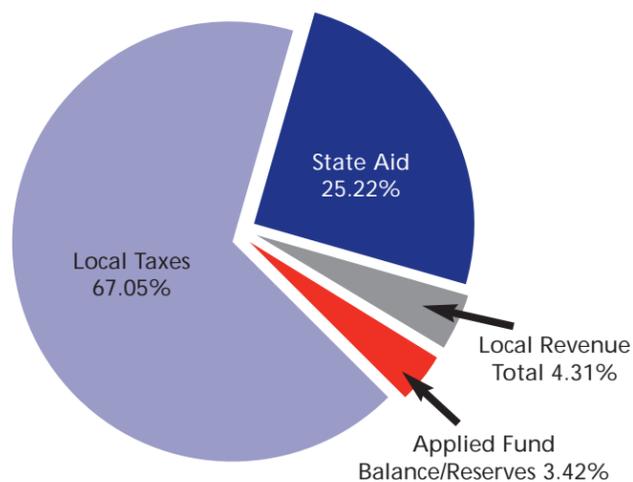
TAX RATE CALCULATIONS

	2011 Tax Rate For Average Assessed Home			2012 Tax Rate For Average Assessed Home		
Class 1 Tax Rate per \$100	\$957.51	\$957.51	\$957.51	\$975.22	\$975.22	\$975.22
Assessed Value	\$650	\$813	\$975	\$650	\$813	\$975
School Tax before STAR	\$6,227.62	\$7,784.53	\$9,341.44	\$6,342.84	\$7,928.54	\$9,514.25
Annual Change in Taxes				\$115.22	\$144.01	\$172.81

BUDGET EXPENDITURES



SOURCES OF FUNDING



PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

2012/13 PROPOSED BUDGET	
EXPENDITURES	
General Support	\$21,633,076
Instruction	\$114,377,966
Transportation	\$5,536,524
Community Services	\$647,228
Undistributed Expenses	\$47,801,787
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$189,996,581

2012/13 PROPOSED BUDGET	
ESTIMATED REVENUE & FUNDING	
State Aid	\$47,901,938
Local Revenue	
Drivers Ed Tuition	\$100,000
Tuition - Adult Ed	\$45,000
After School Program	\$571,643
Before School Program	\$526,680
Tuition - Voc Ed - Other Districts	\$1,864,840
Tuition - Special Ed - Other Districts	\$2,759,177
Reimbursement of Medicare Part D	\$1,100,000
Rental of Real Property - Individuals	\$115,000
BOCES Rental of Property	\$625,000
Miscellaneous	\$520,720
Local Revenue Total	\$8,228,060
Applied Fund Balance/Reserves	\$6,500,230
Local Taxes	\$127,366,353
TOTAL ESTIMATED FUNDING	\$189,996,581

2012/13 Proposed Budget LOCAL TAX LEVY	\$127,366,353
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Questions & Answers

Q: What is a "tax levy limit?"

A: The new "tax cap" law mandates the highest allowable tax levy increase that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget for which only a simple majority of voters (50%+1) is required. Each district is required to use the same formula to determine its own tax levy.

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

A: Each district must complete a tax levy worksheet 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 between districts.

Q: Although the District had the ability to raise the tax levy limit by 2.51%, why did the Board of Education choose to raise the levy by 1.85%?

A: Due to the District's ability to use reserves, the Board of Education was able to decrease the levy this year. However, in the next two to three years, the levy will need to be increased as the District reduces its independence on the fund balance and reserves.

Q: What happens if the 2012-2013 proposed budget is defeated at the polls?

A: If defeated, school districts have the option, as in the past, of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingent budget must be adopted. Under a contingent budget, school districts may not increase the tax levy by any amount (0%). Certain existing budget requirements prohibit spending in specific areas, including community use of buildings, certain salary increases, and new equipment purchases.

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

A: Complete copies of the 2012-2013 proposed budget are available in the District Office and can be downloaded on the District's website, www.levittownschoools.com.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

May, 15, 2012
2012-2013 School Budget
Vote and Trustee Election

Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 8, 2012 @
Levittown Memorial Education Center
7:30 p.m.

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

New Voter Locations and Times

Please vote at one of the District's new polling locations between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Gardiners Avenue, East Broadway
Levittown Memorial Education Center, and
Division Avenue High School

VOTER INFORMATION

Qualifications for Voting

A voter will be entitled to vote at any school meeting 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 thirty 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 May 15, 2012.

Registration forms for school elections may be obtained from the District Clerk's office.

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 8) or in person (Monday, May 14). Applicants can download an application from the school district website at www.levittownschoools.com, but 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 520-8300, x608.

NEW Contingency Budget Law

If voters decide not to approve the proposed 2012-13 budget, the Board of Education will have the option to present the District's spending plan for a second vote. If defeated a second time, a contingency budget must be adopted. Under the new tax cap rules, a contingency budget requires a 0% increase in the tax levy.

