



EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A unified community educating the whole child"

Budget vote scheduled for May 17, 2016

A Joint Message from your Board of Education and Superintendent

Dear Community Members:

The budget this year is a collaboration among the Board of Education, District Administration, school staff and the community. Working together, we have put forth a budget which will promote academic success for all students in our diverse community, while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. The budget promotes our mission of providing a healthy, safe, supportive, engaging and challenging learning environment, while staying within the tax levy cap.

Each component of our mission and vision can be found in the line items of our budget, as we continue to implement research-based strategies to increase student achievement, increase the graduation rate, decrease disciplinary incidents and improve school culture.

The proposed 2016-17 budget enhances our academic programs and provides opportunities for every one of our students to exceed expectations. Through re-framing of district resources and an emphasis on K-12 integration, we are able to provide four additional full-day Kindergarten classes, increased music and art instruction, targeted intervention strategies in reading, and enhanced professional development for our staff. We will continue to mobilize all available resources to solve problems, promote development and provide the education and opportunities necessary for academic success.

The Board of Education and District administration has struggled with the need to present a balanced budget while ensuring the integrity of our instructional programs. To this end, we looked for efficiencies within the district, and concentrated our resources in effective practices. For the third year in a row, the district will have a balanced budget which stays within the tax levy cap.

We encourage you to come out in a show of support of our children and school community by remembering to vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Sincerely,

**East Ramapo Central School District
Board of Education**

Yehuda Weissmandl, President

Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Deborah L. Wortham



Budget Highlights:

▶ Budget is Balanced

For the third year in a row, the proposed budget is balanced and does not rely on one-time revenues.

▶ Tax Levy Cap Compliant

The proposed budget complies with the tax levy cap. Because the District will stay within the cap, STAR eligible taxpayers will receive rebate checks to defray some or all of their tax increase.

▶ Fund Balance Maintained

In 2015-16 the District was able to begin rebuilding a fund balance. The budget for 2016-17 maintains that fund balance, providing a measure of stability in the District's fiscal situation.

▶ Enhanced Programs

- Four full-day Kindergarten classes will be added next year, bringing the total to eight full day classes - six general ed and two special ed.
- Targeted small-group reading instruction will be provided to students in reading at the elementary and middle schools.
- Music classes will be added for sixth graders and art classes for fifth graders during the school day. There will be expanded opportunities for music and the arts afterschool activities as well.

continued on page 2

2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

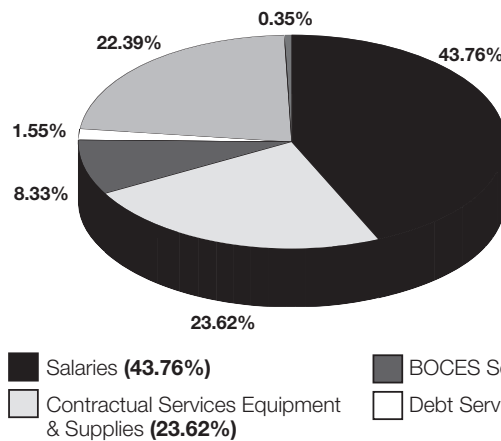
Proposed Budget: \$224,364,070	Budget-to-Budget Increase: 2.81%	Projected Tax Levy Increase: 1.69%
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VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 • 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Budget Highlights continued

- The Accelerated Reader 360 program will be implemented to further enhance the reading program.
- A “STEAM” (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math) program will begin at Kakiat Elementary School.
- A Literacy through Engineering program will be implemented.
- A full-time position will be added to facilitate a strong attendance initiative.
- The first year of a planned K-8 school model will be implemented with Kindergarten classes added to the primary schools.
- Academic Facilitators will support teachers and administrators at all schools in Common Core standards.

► Components of the Proposed Budget



Description	Budget
Salaries	\$98,191,646
Contractual Services Equipment & Supplies	\$52,985,942
BOCES Services	\$18,698,699
Debt Service	\$3,480,462
Employee Benefits	\$50,229,854
Interfund Transfers	\$777,467
TOTAL	\$224,364,070

► Proposed Budget Summary

	PROPOSED BUDGET 2016-2017	CONTINGENCY BUDGET 2016-2017	CHANGE
Administrative Component	\$23,595,286	\$22,595,286	\$1,000,000
Capital Component	\$20,451,659	\$20,051,659	\$400,000
Program Component	\$180,317,125	\$179,238,383	\$1,078,742
TOTAL BUDGET	\$224,364,070	\$221,885,328	\$2,478,742
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2016-17 school year	\$149,255,638	\$146,776,896	\$2,478,742

► East Ramapo Points of Pride

• Increase in Graduation Rate

The 4 year high school graduation rate increased 3% from 2013-14 to 2014-15

• College Acceptance

87% of our high school graduates attend college. Some of those colleges to which students are accepted are: Harvard University, Yale University, Duke University, Brown University, Cornell University, New York University, George Washington University, Northeastern University, Boston University, Rutgers University.

Ramapo High School Salutatorian Cyan Deveaux was accepted to twelve schools, including Harvard, Yale, Cornell and Duke. Congratulations Cyan!

• College in High School

Both high schools offer a variety of partnerships that offer students the opportunity to earn college credit in high school. Advanced Placement courses in English Language and English Literature, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government and Politics, Psychology, Micro and Macro Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and A/B Calculus are available. In addition to course offerings through Syracuse University's Project Advance and college level language courses offered through SUNY Albany, this year, through a partnership with Rockland Community College (RCC), students are earning college credit in College Speech and College Physics. For the 2016-17 school year, College English, Psychology, Chemistry and Criminal Justice will be added. All credits earned through RCC can be transferred to other SUNY schools.

- Spring Valley High School made the Washington Post list of “Most Challenging High Schools”, one

of six Rockland High Schools to do so. The ranking is based on the number of AP or IB tests taken by students each year. Great News!

• Star Renaissance

The District implemented the STAR Renaissance assessment program in 2016. The assessments are computer adaptive, and dynamically adjust to each student's unique responses. By providing valid, reliable and timely data to our teachers and administrators, the assessments will allow instruction targeted to the strengths and learning needs of individual students.

• Cultural Arts After School Program

After school Chorus, Band, Orchestra and Drama were part of the offered enrichment activities to all sixth grade students in our school district. Over 200 students attend these programs during the week.

• Athletic Accomplishments

East Ramapo athletes excelled, both as teams and as individuals. The following were recognized this year:

- Scholar Athlete Team Awards - East Ramapo Girls Soccer, Spring Valley Boys Track & Field
- Section Playoff Qualifiers - Ramapo Boys Soccer, Spring Valley Soccer, East Ramapo Volleyball, East Ramapo Girls Soccer, Spring Valley Varsity Basketball, Ramapo Boys Varsity Basketball
- League 2B Champions - Spring Valley Boys Varsity Basketball
- Section 1 Dual Meet Semifinalists - East Ramapo Wrestling

• Outstanding Musicians

East Ramapo students excelled in the annual

NYSSMA festivals:

- Five Ramapo High School students qualified for Area-All-State in Wind Ensemble and Chorus
- Three Spring Valley High School students qualified for All County Jazz Band
- Thirteen East Ramapo high school students qualified for Senior All county Band and Chorus
- Five students from Pomona Middle School and Ramapo High School qualified for the Junior All-County Festival
- The East Ramapo Marching Band placed third in the MAC Marching Band Competition. Participation increased to 75 students this year, as the band played at football games, parades and community events.

• East Ramapo Teacher Awarded

STEM Fellowship: Spring Valley High School chemistry teacher Doria Hillsman was awarded a teaching fellowship in STEM education sponsored by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Tarrytown, NY.

• WIPRO Fellowship Program

The Wipro Science Education Fellowship is a two-year science teacher-leadership program which aims to address the needs of improving STEM teaching and learning. The goal of the program is to keep good teachers in the classroom, aid them in becoming local leaders and to serve the needs and vision of the school district in which they teach in grades K-12. East Ramapo began participating in the 2014-15 school year with five teachers selected as fellows. This first cohort will finish their fellowship in June 2016. Three fellows from East Ramapo were chosen for the second cohort, which will complete the two-year fellowship in the 2016-17 school year.

► District Budget Notice East Ramapo Central School District 2016-17 ◀

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 218,226,651	\$ 224,364,070	\$ 221,885,328
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$ 6,137,419	\$ 3,658,677
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.81%	1.68%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 146,776,896	\$ 149,255,638	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 146,776,896	\$ 149,255,638	\$ 146,776,896
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 1,214,593	\$ 1,476,534	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 145,562,303	\$ 147,779,104	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$ 145,562,303	\$ 147,779,104	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 23,493,398	\$ 23,595,286	\$ 22,595,286
Program Component	\$ 174,935,298	\$ 180,317,125	\$ 179,238,383
Capital Component	\$ 19,797,955	\$ 20,451,659	\$ 20,051,659

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2016-17 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated: Reduction of selected administrative, instructional and other expenses.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
NONE	\$0

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ :	\$1,120
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the East Ramapo Central School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held at Lime Kiln Elementary School, Summit Park Elementary School, Kakiat Elementary School, Ramapo High School, Avir Yakov Girls School (Hillcrest Elementary), Spring Valley High School, Louis Kurtz Civic Center, Chestnut Ridge Middle School, Margetts Elementary School and Hempstead Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

► On the Ballot

PROPOSITION #1: 2016-17 BUDGET: Shall the Annual Budget of the School District, as proposed, in the amount of \$224,364,070 be adopted and a tax levied?

CANDIDATES: There are four open seats on the Board of Education. Three of the seats are for three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2019. A fourth seat is for a term beginning immediately after the election and ending on June 30, 2018. Check the District website for a sample ballot listing the candidates for each seat: www.ercsd.org.

► What a Contingency Budget Means for East Ramapo

Under the tax levy cap, the contingency budget would allow no increase in the tax levy – effectively a 0% cap. In that event, \$2,478,742 would be cut from the proposed budget. These cuts will jeopardize planned school program additions as well as existing programs. They might include reduction in staff and school equipment, elimination of summer school projects, athletic and extra-curricular activities at the high schools and middle schools, as well as elective classes.

Who can vote?

In order to vote, you must be a citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of the School District for at least 30 days prior to the date of the vote and registered to vote.

If you voted in a school election in the past four years, or in a November general election, you need not register again. If you are uncertain whether you are registered, or need to learn how to register, please call the District Clerk at (845) 577-6015.

How to register

You can register at the District Clerk's office on any day that school is in session between the hours of **8:30 a.m.** and **4:00 p.m.** The last day to register at the District Clerk's office is **Thursday, May 12, 2016.**

Voter Information

For more information on the District's Budget/Trustee vote, registration and absentee voting, please visit our web site at **www.ercsd.org** or call the District Clerk at 577-6015. A Rockland County voter registration form may be downloaded at **www.co.rockland.ny.us/BOE/register.htm**

Si usted desea que esta carta sea traducida al Español, favor de llamar los miercoles a la Sra. Zoraida Arroyo, al teléfono (845) 577-6363. Ella con mucho gusto los atenderá.

An ka ke ou ta vle nou tradui lèt sa a an Kreyòl, rele Eddy Sopin nan nimewo telefòn sa a: (845) 577-6363. L ap kontan pou li ede ou.

School district polling places in East Ramapo

Lime Kiln Elementary	Louis Kurtz Civic Center
Summit Park Elementary	Spring Valley High School
Kakiat Elementary	Margetts Elementary
Ramapo High School	Chestnut Ridge Middle School
Avir Yakov (Hillcrest Elementary)	Hempstead Elementary



Mission: As a unified community, the East Ramapo Central School District is committed to educating the whole child by providing a healthy, safe, supportive, engaging and challenging learning environment.

VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 • 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM



EAST RAMAPO BOARD OF EDUCATION

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