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Fast Facts

- Budget Vote -
Tuesday
May 19, 2015
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Proposed Budget:
\$218,266,651
- Budget to Budget
3.47% increase
- 1.26% projected
tax levy increase

For detailed budget information
visit the District website
<http://www.eram.k12.ny.us>

East Ramapo
Central School District
105 South Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Phone: 845-577-6000
Website:
<http://www.eram.k12.ny.us>

Budget Vote - Tuesday, May 19, 2015

East Ramapo Central School District

Proposed 2015-16 Budget

The Board of Education will present a proposed budget to the public for a vote on May 19, 2015. The development of East Ramapo Central School District's annual spending plan is a year-long process. Throughout the year, financial information is reviewed to address questions regarding how best to meet the needs of both our students and the community. For more detailed information visit the District website.

Highlights of the Budget

- Proposed Budget of \$218,226,651 for 2015-16
- Budget is Tax Cap compliant – **no** tax increase after State rebate
- The budget is balanced and sustainable; no reliance on one-time revenues
- Budget provides for projected growth in Special Education and Bilingual programs
- Modest restorations in programs are included; 2-full day Kindergarten classes, partial restoration of elementary art and music, increased athletics and extra-curriculars, administrative/instructional support at secondary schools
- Budget to Budget increase of 3.47%

What's in this Budget:

- All programs at this year's level
- Two new full-day Kindergarten classes
- Universal Transportation - all students bused within State and voter-approved guidelines
- Additional instructional support for Elementary Education
- New funding for Secondary Education instructional leaders
- Athletic program - all current varsity and junior varsity sports are maintained - new funds for uniforms and equipment are included
- Additional funding for building capital and repair projects
- Additional funding for Art and Music instruction at the elementary schools
- New ELA program for grades K-6

Factors driving the budget increase

- Increases in health insurance payments
- Contractual salary increases for teachers and support staff
- Growth in Special Education and Bi-lingual Education programs
- The defeat of the proposed capital bond project requires additional allocations for capital repairs and maintenance in the general fund budget



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Budget Vote

Tuesday
May 19, 2015

7:00 a.m. -
10:00 p.m.

Polling Sites

Lime Kiln School
Summit Park School
Kakiat School
Ramapo HS
Hillcrest School
Kurtz Center
Spring Valley HS
Margetts School
Chestnut Ridge MS
Hempstead School

How can I find my polling place?

If you are not sure where to vote, you can find your polling location on the District website: eram.k12.ny.us by clicking on the "Register to Vote" link on the front page.

East Ramapo Central School District

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will my taxes go up if the budget passes?

Since the school district budget is Tax Cap Compliant, STAR eligible households will have **no** increase in the amount of taxes after the State tax rebate.

Why is the tax levy going up 1.26%?

There is a complex formula used to calculate the allowable tax levy for the school district. The formula is based on the CPI, but also takes into account changes in the tax base due to construction activity in the District as well as certain exclusions for pension contribution and local capital costs. Because the school district budget is Tax Cap Compliant, STAR eligible households will have **no** increase in the amount of taxes after the State tax rebate.

How will students be affected by the budget?

This budget maintains all programs in place this school year, and makes modest restorations of some items that were cut in previous budgets. The District will be able to provide two classes of full-day Kindergarten, and bring more art and music instruction to the elementary schools. There will also be new instructional support positions at the secondary schools and increased spending for athletics and extra-curricular activities. While we are not yet in a financial position to bring back all programs, the additions possible next year will enhance the education provided to our students.

I read that the District received an extra 5.8 million dollars in State Aid - why aren't you restoring more programs?

The total increase in State Aid is almost 5.8 million dollars, however, most of that aid is enrollment driven reimbursement for expenses paid in 2014-15 for transportation, textbooks and similar items. Those expenses increase as enrollment in District public and non-public schools increase, and aid in those areas supports the increased spending next year. The budget in 2015-16 also has to absorb the projected increases in special education and ENL enrollment, as well as the professional development initiatives that are now funded by the Race to the Top grant, which ends this year. After accounting for the "rollover" of this year's programs, contractual increases in staff salaries, health insurance, retirement payments, and projected increases in enrollment, 1.2 million dollars was available to begin restoration of programs. Priorities were discussed with staff, the Board and the community to arrive at the final recommendation.

Will there be dedicated art and music teachers in the elementary schools next year?

No. To fully restore art and music teachers at the elementary schools would cost approximately 3 million dollars. The new funds dedicated for art and music instruction will support the kind of partnerships with local arts organizations and artists which have been used to enrich instruction in the arts this year at the elementary schools. Classroom teachers will continue to provide art and music instruction as well.

How are non-public schools supported in this budget?

Students in non-public schools will continue to receive all services mandated by the State, including transportation, textbooks, computer software, computer hardware and library books, as well as special education services. In addition to those items in the general fund budget, students in non-public schools will continue to receive mandated Title services through the State and Federal grants.

What happens if the proposed budget is not approved by the voters?

The Board of Education has two options if the proposed 2015-16 budget is not approved by the voters on May 19th. The Board may put a revised budget up for a second vote, or it may adopt a "contingency" budget.

Under the tax levy cap law, the contingent budget will allow no increase in the tax levy. In that event, all proposed program additions, totaling \$1.2 million dollars, would be eliminated and an additional \$600,000 of cuts would be necessary. This could mean cuts to athletic and extra-curricular activities at the high schools and middle schools, and reduction of AP classes and electives.