

Superintendent's Message: Budget Proposal Prioritizes Students' Social-Emotional Needs in Challenging Times

We are in unprecedented times. Our school buildings have now been closed for more than two months and will remain shuttered for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year. Despite the physical closures though, work continues on all levels. The North Syracuse Central School District continues to educate students through teacher-led remote learning. Meals and technology services are being provided and planning for upcoming years continues.

On Monday, May 11, our Board of Education, for the first-time ever, approved a budget proposal via a "Zoom" meeting. Unprecedented times. When we began planning the 2020-2021 school budget many months ago, we were optimistic about the additions that might be possible with the governor's proposed increases to education funding. Fast forward to the present and we are once again in the unfortunate position of receiving significantly less State Aid than the promised amount. As a result, we have been forced to make significant spending cuts.

Our expenditures for the 2020-2021 school year are projected to be \$172.6 million. Those funds are carefully allocated to provide the best education and supports to all North Syracuse Central School District students. We are the largest suburban district in Central New York, serving more than 8,300 students with a strong track record of fiscal responsibility, as evidenced by our per pupil spending. One important piece of this budget proposal that I'd like to bring to your attention is that the social-emotional needs of all students remain a priority. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we address the social-emotional needs of our students. This budget proposal includes additions in that area so that all of our school buildings will be staffed with a school social worker, school counselor or both.

Due to declining enrollment over the past several years, some position eliminations are included in this proposed budget. Despite the proposed reductions, class sizes for 2020-21 remain below guidelines and contractual requirements and student teacher ratios are conducive to meeting the needs of both students and staff.

In the past several years, as the District's financial situation had improved, we had been fortunate enough to expand offerings for junior high and high school students as part of *Vision 2020*. This budget proposal maintains and expands those important



Pictured above: Student artwork shared on social media during the building closure brings HOPE for a brighter future.

opportunities. In these times of rapid change and technological advancement, it is essential to expose our young people to a variety of subjects so that they can choose educational and career paths suited to their interests and passions.

While these complicated times have changed the way we do things, we will be holding a public hearing on May 26 at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place online via Zoom and will be livestreamed at <https://ensemble.cnyric.org/Watch/La4j5R6S>. Please take time to watch the presentation and learn more about this year's budget vote and board member election.

This year's budget vote and member election will take place exclusively by absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Qualified voters will receive an absentee ballot by mail with return postage paid by the District. Voters should complete their ballot and mail it back to the District in the postage paid envelope. In order for ballots to be counted, the District must receive them by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this year's complex budget proposal. Please visit our budget website at www.nscsd.org/budget to learn more and to read about our Board of Education candidates.


Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

District Expenditures - All public schools in New York State are required by law to report spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital.

Program	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$133,347,870	\$136,889,932	\$3,542,062	2.7%
Regular Instruction	\$46,630,987	\$44,978,159	-\$1,652,828	-3.5%
Special School Program	\$22,740,569	\$23,894,049	\$1,153,480	5.1%
Student Services	\$10,030,297	\$11,624,674	\$1,594,377	15.9%
In-Service Training	\$467,461	\$466,461	-\$1,000	-0.2%
Legal	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	100.0%
Transportation	\$8,542,831	\$9,043,175	\$500,344	5.9%
Employee Benefits	\$44,835,726	\$46,683,414	\$1,847,688	4.1%

The Program/instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for **79.3% of the entire budget**.

Administrative	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$12,463,148	\$13,769,282	\$1,306,134	10.5%
*Board of Education	\$183,897	\$188,191	\$4,294	2.3%
Central Administration	\$2,169,888	\$2,138,029	-\$31,859	-1.5%
Central Support	\$1,909,290	\$2,220,397	\$311,107	16.3%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$5,105,955	\$5,718,255	\$612,300	12.0%
Employee Benefits	\$3,094,118	\$3,504,410	\$410,292	13.3%

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up **8% of the entire budget**.

*Please note, Board members are volunteers. There is no compensation associated with these positions.

Capital	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$20,949,389	\$21,908,530	\$959,142	4.6%
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$9,933,848	\$11,032,710	\$1,098,862	11.1%
Central Support	\$185,000	\$183,140	-\$1,860	-1.0%
Employee Benefits	\$3,246,888	\$3,405,961	\$159,074	4.9%
Debt service	\$7,583,653	\$7,286,719	-\$296,934	-3.9%

Consistent with the past several years, the Capital component includes a \$100,000 special security capital project. The District has been spending money each year to enhance security in our buildings.

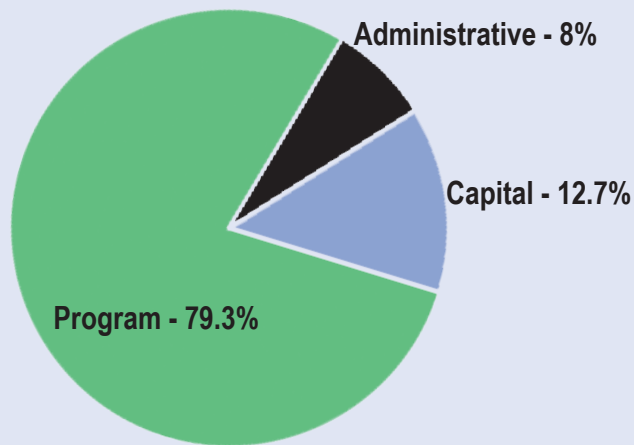
The Capital component accounts for **12.7% of the entire budget**.

Total Expenditures	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	\$166,760,407	\$172,567,744	\$5,807,337	3.5%

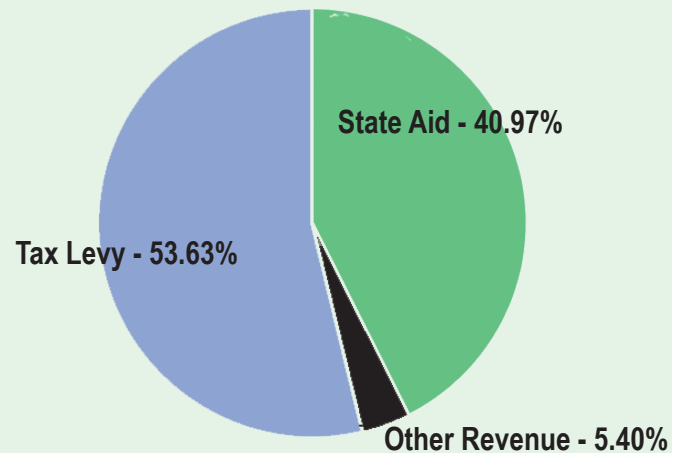
District Revenues

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
General Aid	\$64,945,776	\$67,044,979	\$2,099,203	3.23%
PILOTS	\$379,161	\$424,408	\$45,247	11.93%
Sales tax	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$50,000	16.67%
Interest	\$200,000	\$450,000	\$250,000	125.00%
Fund balance	\$3,750,000	\$4,000,000	\$250,000	6.67%
Rent	\$404,000	\$404,000	\$0	0.0%
Use of General Reserve	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	N/A
Medicaid	\$450,000	\$550,000	\$100,000	22.22%
Other	\$2,187,900	\$2,150,000	-\$37,900	-1.73%
Subtotal	\$72,616,837	\$76,373,387	\$3,756,550	5.17%
Building Aid	\$3,934,238	\$3,649,402	-\$284,836	-7.24%
Property tax levy	\$90,209,332	\$92,544,955	\$2,335,623	2.59%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$166,760,407	\$172,567,744	\$5,807,337	3.48%

District Expenditures



District Revenues



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The Board is composed of nine members who are elected by District voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board. The terms of three Board members expire each June 30th. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote.

This year there are six candidates: Michael Donofrio, Terri Krueger, Joshua Ludden, Erin McDonald, Michael Mirizio and Xavier Moody-Wusik, running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three (3) year terms (from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023).

Candidate profiles are listed online at www.nscsd.org/budget. **Each Board of Education candidate is responsible for providing information for his or her own biography. The District does not endorse one candidate over another and reserves the right to edit biographies.**



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2020-2021 School Budget Vote and Board Member Election By Mail ONLY! Ballots Due June 9 @ 5 PM

2020 - 2021

Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget
\$172,567,744

Tax Levy increase
\$2,335,623

Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 2.59%

On the ballot:

- 2020-2021 school budget proposition: \$172,567,744
- Vehicle purchase proposition: \$2,113,295
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$471,228
- Three seats on the Board of Education

TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME \$61 ANNUAL INCREASE BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$4,000	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$24.21	\$605.42	\$24.21
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,421	\$2,421	\$2,421
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$61/5.08	\$61/5.08	\$61/5.08

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR.

ONLINE Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 6 PM

<https://ensemble.cnyric.org/Watch/La4j5R6S>

VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM

Each year, all school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. In accordance with the District's bus replacement program, we are purchasing new vehicles in order to maintain the average age of our transportation fleet with a limited number of vehicles over 10 years old and to reduce the cost of repairs and avoid problems associated with rusting frames that prevent the vehicles from passing D.O.T. inspection.

The 2020-2021 vehicle proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$2,113,295:

- Ten 65-passenger gasoline engine school buses
- Two 42-passenger gasoline engine school buses with one to three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning
- Six trucks/vans and mower to replace 15 year-old vehicles
- One tow truck to replace 30 year-old cable tow truck

Vehicle Proposition	Cicero	Clay	Salina
Annual tax increase for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR	\$2.38	\$2.38	\$2.38

Details online at www.nscsd.org/budget