

# C MPASS

## Proposed Budget Focuses on Student Programs

### PROPOSED BUDGET IS TAX LEVY CAP-COMPLIANT

In our commitment to educational excellence, the North Salem Board of Education has adopted its 2022-23 proposed budget, totaling \$47,860,718. In doing so, we are proud to present to the community a fiscally responsible, cap-compliant spending plan designed to fulfill our mission to encourage our students to become critical and creative thinkers.

In forming this year's proposed budget, we prioritized several key areas: maintaining low class sizes, sustaining the district's focus on learning readiness, continuing our mental health initiatives and providing safe transportation. The budget also includes school safety and security initiatives, a multitude of technology upgrades and our ongoing commitment to facility upgrades. Most importantly the budget addresses learning loss related to COVID-19 while maintaining all of our existing programs and services.

Community members will also be asked to vote on a second proposition, which provides funding for transportation and grounds equipment purchases in the amount of \$1,085,000. These funds will be used to purchase seven 66-passenger school buses, three wheelchair-accessible passenger vans and one skid steer bucket loader with attachments. The project will replace expiring debt service for previous

transportation purchases. If this proposition is approved, the debt service will increase by \$103,000 or a tax levy increase of 0.26%. This increase is already included in the proposed tax levy increase being presented to the voters.

On Tuesday, May 17, the North Salem community is invited to vote on the proposed \$47,860,718 spending plan. It represents a 2.07% increase in the tax levy, which complies with the New York State tax levy cap for the district.

For more information on the 2022-23 proposed budget, please visit the district website at [www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org). Send questions and comments to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Freeston at [kfreeston@northsalemsschools.org](mailto:kfreeston@northsalemsschools.org).



***Our Mission: Engage students to continuously learn, question, define and solve problems through critical and creative thinking.***

Polls will be open on Tuesday, May 17, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Pequenakonck Elementary School gym.

Sincerely,  
The North Salem Board of Education

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- The proposed 2022-23 budget represents a tax levy increase of 2.07%, which is below the New York State allowable tax levy cap.
- The district is receiving a substantial amount in state aid, which will be used for COVID-19 related learning recovery and facilities projects to improve indoor air quality.
- The budget maintains all current programs and services.
- The budget continues to focus on mental health initiatives.
- The budget preserves all current class size guidelines.

# PROPOSED THREE-PART BUDGET 2022-23

	2021-22 ADOPTED BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Board of Education/District Meeting	\$73,900	\$74,698	\$798	1.08%
Central Administration	368,883	370,503	1,620	0.44%
Finance/Auditing	694,304	743,864	49,560	7.14%
Legal	150,000	150,000	-	0.00%
Human Resources/Public Information and Services	150,874	159,620	8,746	5.80%
Unallocated Insurance	183,888	191,100	7,212	3.92%
BOCES Administrative	239,658	247,068	7,410	3.09%
BOCES Capital Expenses	26,783	29,397	2,614	9.76%
Curriculum Development and Supervision	562,279	522,537	(39,742)	(7.07%)
Supervision – Regular School	1,308,909	1,321,100	12,191	0.93%
Employee Benefits	1,060,373	1,202,181	141,808	13.37%
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$4,819,851</b>	<b>\$5,012,068</b>	<b>\$192,217</b>	<b>3.99%</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>				
Operation of Plant	\$2,126,143	\$2,072,960	(\$53,183)	(2.50%)
Maintenance of Plant	869,060	919,291	50,231	5.78%
Judgements and Claims	-	9,457	9,457	-
Security Supplies	295,848	315,186	19,338	6.54%
Purchase of Buses	182,452	182,452	-	100.00%
Employee Benefits	979,412	1,023,589	44,177	4.51%
Serial Bonds	1,444,815	1,023,758	(421,057)	(29.14%)
Bond Anticipation Note	326,290	848,721	522,431	160.11%
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$6,224,020</b>	<b>\$6,395,414</b>	<b>\$171,394</b>	<b>2.75%</b>
<b>PROGRAM</b>				
Teaching – Regular School	\$12,432,223	\$12,727,626	\$295,403	2.38%
Program for Students with Disabilities	7,283,170	8,101,053	817,883	11.23%
Occupational Education	310,209	262,590	(47,619)	(15.35%)
School Library and Audiovisual	415,302	424,604	9,302	2.24%
Computer-Assisted Instruction	945,225	1,030,638	85,413	9.04%
School Counseling	719,143	747,673	28,530	3.97%
Health Services – Regular School	295,369	314,418	19,049	6.45%
Psychological Services – Regular School	494,505	508,132	13,627	2.76%
Co-curricular Activities – Regular School	222,993	224,858	1,865	0.84%
Interscholastic Athletics – Regular School	754,303	737,157	(17,146)	(2.27%)
District Transportation	2,105,910	2,218,544	112,634	5.35%
Garage Building	16,500	16,500	-	0.00%
Contract Transportation	29,000	29,000	-	0.00%
Employee Benefits	8,782,033	9,045,442	263,409	3.00%
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	65,000	65,000	-	0.00%
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$34,870,885</b>	<b>\$36,453,235</b>	<b>\$1,582,350</b>	<b>4.54%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$45,914,756</b>	<b>\$47,860,718</b>	<b>\$1,945,961</b>	<b>4.24%</b>
<b>BUDGET COMPONENT SUMMARY</b>				
	2021-22 ADOPTED BUDGET	2021-22 % OF BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET	2022-23 % OF BUDGET
Administration	\$4,819,851	10.50%	\$5,012,069	10.47%
Capital	6,224,020	13.56%	6,395,414	13.36%
Program	34,870,885	75.94%	36,453,235	76.17%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$45,914,756</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$47,860,718</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUE</b>				
	2021-22 ADOPTED BUDGET	2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
Westchester County Sales Tax	\$425,000	\$550,000	\$125,000	29.41%
Miscellaneous Revenue	385,000	391,054	6,054	1.57%
Tuition	444,792	752,474	307,682	69.17%
Basic Formula Aid – General Aid	2,909,971	3,583,004	673,033	23.13%
Unemployment Benefit Reserve	5,000	5,000	-	0.00%
Interfund Transfer from Debt Service	25,000	25,000	-	0.00%
Employees' Retirement Reserve	450,000	450,000	-	0.00%
Teachers' Retirement Reserve	217,920	217,920	-	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	825,000	825,000	-	0.00%
<b>Total All Other Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,687,683</b>	<b>6,799,452</b>	<b>1,111,769</b>	<b>19.55%</b>
Property Tax Levy	40,227,073	41,061,266	834,193	2.07%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$45,914,756</b>	<b>\$47,860,718</b>	<b>\$1,945,962</b>	<b>4.24%</b>

# Your Investment Paying Off...

- 100% of the Class of 2021 earned Regents Diplomas; 42% of graduates earned Regents Diplomas with Honors.
- Four students from the NSHS Class of 2021 were named National Merit Commended Students.
- Students attend colleges in 28 states, including Washington, D.C., and two students joined the armed forces.
- 96% of the Class of 2021 were accepted to colleges.
- Our students' average SAT scores outperformed New York State and national average scores.
- In 2021, 43 students earned Advanced Placement Scholar Awards as recognized by the College Board.
- 45% of our high school students took one or more AP courses.
- High school students have the opportunity to enroll in 18 AP courses commencing in grade 10.
- In May 2021, 307 Advanced Placement exams were administered to 161 students.
- The high school boasts a 41% participation rate in the co-curricular program and a 74% participation rate in the athletic program.
- 19 athletic teams were designated as scholar-athlete teams by maintaining a cumulative average of 90% or better during the 2020-2021 school year.
- 53% of students volunteer 30 hours or more of community service each year, demonstrating real-life application of problem-solving skills.
- Our students apply critical and creative problem-solving skills through course-specific, problem-solving tasks incorporated into every grade.
- Our students continue to develop critical and creative thinking skills, which are central to our district's mission, through day-to-day learning and benchmark learning experiences like the 4Cs writing project. We are focused on growing our students' skills and dispositions through Habits of Mind and Visible Thinking

Routines. These are taught across all grades and departments.

- High school seniors participate in the O.P.T.I.O.N.S. internship program, solving authentic problems in fields such as business, medicine and education by using critical and creative thinking skills. Seniors present their work to the community at a senior exhibition.
- With the full return to school, the faculty and staff have worked to support our students through the Yale RULER program designed to help students identify and regulate their emotions as part of being a successful learner.
- PQ students have been thrilled to participate in many activities that were missing during the pandemic. The Band program is back for fourth and fifth graders. Student Council started meeting again. After-school enrichment activities returned for all students. Spring concerts and Field Day are on the docket for April, May and June.
- Connecting students with experts in their fields takes shape through our annual author visits. These individuals inspire our children to read, write, create and collaborate. Through virtual author visits sponsored by the PQ PTO, students were able to learn with the authors Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, Helen Lester, Peter Reynolds, Darren Sardelli and Lauren Tarshis.
- Our teachers and students worked closely with the Center for Environmental Education and participated in engaging science

lessons. Our students explored topics such as the tropical rainforest; nature's engineers – insects; and erosion – changing the face of our planet.

- The PQ family is thrilled to have a K-5 FLES program. All of our students here at PQ have an opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish twice a cycle.
- Our grade 3-5 students have the opportunity to participate in Genius Hour. This experience allows our students to create, explore and engage in critical thinking projects.
- We are accredited by the University of the State of New York and by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and have received the prestigious "Schools to Watch" designation.
- The district is a member of EdLeader21 and the Tri-State Consortium, both of which promote 21st century learning and provide professional development for high performing schools.
- North Salem educators present at national and regional consortium conferences about how our students are learning to integrate critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication and digital learning into problem-solving.
- **The profile of a North Salem graduate as a problem-solver outlines the aspirations of graduates as critical and creative thinkers, collaborators, communicators, citizens and continuously improving learners.**

## Budget Increases: A 5-Year Perspective

2018-19	2.19%
2019-20	2.31%
2020-21	2.50%
2021-22	2.11%
2022-23	4.24%
<b>Average:</b>	<b>2.49%</b>

## Tax Levy Trends: A 5-Year Perspective

2018-19	2.47%
2019-20	1.65%
2020-21	2.20%
2021-22	1.26%
2022-23	2.07%
<b>Average:</b>	<b>1.91%</b>

# Protecting the Community's Investment

## Proposition 2: Transportation and Grounds Equipment

On May 17, voters will be asked to vote on a second proposition regarding funding for \$1,085,000 transportation and grounds equipment purchases to include:

- Seven 66-passenger, full-size school buses.
- Three wheelchair-accessible passenger vans.
- One skid steer bucket loader and attachments.



### What is the cost to taxpayers for this project?

The total cost of these purchases is estimated to be \$1,085,000. This will replace debt service for previous transportation purchases. The debt service for transportation would increase by \$103,000, which increases the tax levy by 0.26% in the 2022-23 school year.

### Why should North Salem invest in transportation and grounds equipment?

We have an aging bus fleet, which has been further damaged by the salting on the roads in the winter. This project would replace existing vehicles, many of which have rotted out. The average age of buses to be replaced is 15 years. In addition, the purchase of the skid steer bucket loader, which is needed for snow removal, would eliminate our need to rent one, resulting in cost savings over the life of the vehicle.

### Voter Information

This proposition, to secure funding for the transportation and grounds equipment purchases, will appear as Proposition 2 on the School District Annual Budget ballot on May 17. Voting will take place at the same time as the school budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, at Pequenakonck Elementary School, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.



# Questions and Answers

**Q: How is the Board able to present a budget at the New York State tax levy cap?**

**A:** The Board and administration have made a concerted effort over the past several years to limit expenses and seek cost savings where possible. This careful planning has allowed the Board to present a budget that does not exceed New York State's maximum allowable tax levy cap. Factors instrumental in holding expenses to a minimum include savings from retirements, additional state aid and growing revenue from the STEP program, which provides special education services to other districts.

**Q: What does the proposed tax levy increase of 2.07% mean for my taxes?**

**A:** An overall tax levy increase of 2.07% means that we will collect \$834,193 more from the whole community than was collected last year. It does not mean your tax bill will increase by 2.07% in 2022-23. How the tax levy affects the amount of your tax is a product of many factors, including your town's portion of the tax levy, the equalization rates, changes in assessments to your property and others, changes in property tax exemptions within your town, tax certioraris and small claim assessment reviews. Your tax assessor is the professional best able to explain the impact on your tax bill. These officials have information that is not available to the NSCSD. Nevertheless, our commitment to meeting the tax levy cap illustrates our desire to exert as little upward

pressure on your tax as possible. Please remember that tax rates are not the same as tax bills and are often poor barometers of the actual tax due. Put another way, the only item controlled by the district is the total amount of taxes we seek from the community.

**Q: What happens if the community does not approve the proposed budget on May 17?**

**A:** If the proposed budget is defeated on May 17, New York State law allows the district to present the same budget or a revised budget for one more vote, or go directly to a contingency budget. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district must, by law, adopt a contingency budget, which would limit the tax levy to that of the current school year. A contingency budget would not have funding for equipment purchases, certain repairs and community use of the facilities unless the district expenses are fully reimbursed. If necessary, the actual budget reductions would be made by Administration and the Board of Education pursuant to Education Law.

**Q: What were the Board's priorities in developing the proposed budget for 2022-23?**

**A:** When preparing the spending plan for 2022-23, the Board had several priorities guiding the planning process: maintaining low class size and sustaining the district's mission. A focus on post COVID-19 initiatives is reflected, as well as a continued focus on mental health initiatives.



North Salem Central School District  
230 June Road  
North Salem, NY 10560

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# School Budget Vote and Trustee Election

The 2022-23 school budget vote and trustee election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Pequenakonck Elementary School gym.

## Voter Information

To be eligible to vote, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be at least 18 years old by May 17 (the date of the election).
- Be a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to May 17.
- Not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction.
- Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.
- Be registered with either the school district's board of registration or with your appropriate county Board of Elections. If you previously registered to vote but have not voted in either a school district or general election in the last four years, you must reregister to vote.

You may register at the office of the district clerk in the district administration offices, 230 June Road, during the office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also contact the district clerk to schedule an appointment. The last day to register to vote is Thursday, May 12.

## School Trustee Election

There are a total of three trustee seats to be filled for a three-year term ending June 30, 2025.

## Absentee Ballot Applications

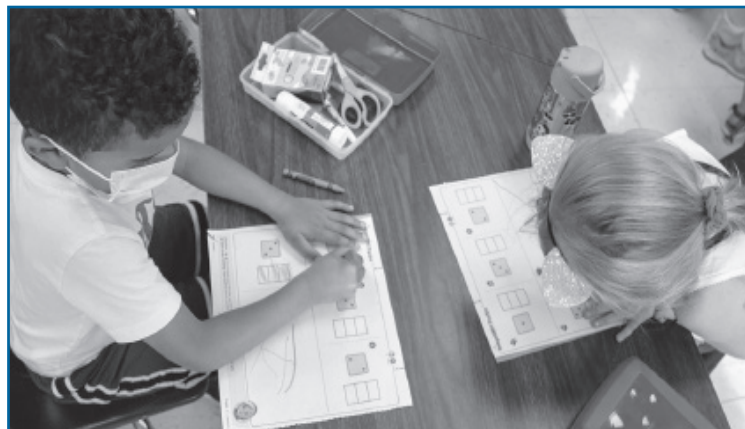
The application for absentee ballots may be obtained from the district website under "Board of Education," or by calling

the district clerk at 914-669-5414, ext. 1011. The completed application must be received by the district clerk at least seven days prior to the annual school district election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Applications received after May 12 may not be mailed, but they may be picked up at the district clerk's office until May 16. The district clerk must receive absentee ballots by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17.

## Budget Information

For more details on the proposed budget, please access our website, [www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org). Copies of the complete proposed 2022-23 budget are available for review in the district office and online.

If you have any questions about the budget, please call the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kenneth Freeston, at 914-669-5414, ext. 1011, or check the website, [www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org).



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