



Special Budget Edition 2022

Freeport

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pride

www.freeportschools.org

PROPOSED 2022-23 BUDGET
NO TAX LEVY INCREASE SEVEN OUT OF EIGHT YEARS

NO TAX LEVY INCREASE FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Supporting Educational Excellence, Equity, Health, Wellness and Safety

2022-23 Budget Highlights

- The district has proposed a 2022-23 budget with no tax levy increase. In fact, it is a 0.12% decrease.
- Maintains and enhances programs, services and staffing. Supports all learners by providing enrichment and addressing learning loss.
- Increases programming in social-emotional learning and adds staff to further support mental health and wellness.
- Supports programs to prepare students for college, career and life readiness.
- Increases instructional technology equipment and enhances digital learning platforms.
- Includes continued support for health, safety and wellness of students and staff.
- Increases professional development and materials focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, social-emotional learning, mental health and ELL students.
- Enhances support services for ELL students and students with special needs, including BOCES services.
- Includes after-school programs and clubs, including hands-on STEM experiences.
- Includes enhanced summer programs for students, including academics, the arts, athletics and STEM.
- Significantly increases allocations for capital improvements including upgrades for health, safety and program spaces.
- Proposition No. 2 for the capital reserve fund approves \$2.5 million to be spent on capital projects at no additional cost to taxpayers.



A Message From Your Board of Education

Dear Neighbor,

We hope you are doing well as the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have eased and we approach a more normal way of life. Despite all the challenges of the past years, Freeport Public Schools has remained true to our mission and vision of providing our students with an excellent education that prepares them for college, careers and life. The Board of Education and administration have worked to develop a 2022-23 annual budget that encompasses the needs of our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our community. We are pleased to be able to present a budget that maintains and enhances our programs **along with no tax levy increase**. In fact, there is a **tax levy decrease of 0.12%**. The district has decreased the tax levy **seven out of the last eight years**.

This year, the governor's and the legislature's executive proposals included a record increase in

State Aid for education. After years of advocacy, the promise of Foundation Aid is being kept. Based on this, Freeport Public Schools will finally be receiving our fair share of Foundation Aid over the next two years. This has allowed for a proposed budget that maintains and enhances programs and staffing with no tax levy increase.

Freeport Public Schools is proud to provide our students with the finest educational opportunities available. It is wonderful to have all our students back this year for in-person learning, and our schools are busy with learning and activity before, during and after school hours. Our students are making great strides in their academics, athletics and the arts and we are proud of their accomplishments. We will sustain our focus on the whole child and focus on our services for the physical and mental well-being of our students, staff and families, especially given the ongoing trauma and stress we are still facing from the pandemic. We are pleased to offer enhanced academic and after-school programs, including an expanded Summer School program, and additional staff to

provide instructional supports for students. The proposed budget includes numerous plans for capital improvement projects, including HVAC upgrades to improve indoor air quality, science room renovations, bathroom renovations and other facility upgrades. The ballot includes a proposition to approve capital spending from the capital reserve fund, which is at no additional cost to taxpayers. Complete details of the proposed budget are inside the newsletter.

We are pleased to present a fiscally responsible budget **with a tax levy decrease** while still maintaining and enhancing our programs and services. Please learn more about the proposed budget and the proposition to approve spending for the capital reserve fund. Thank you for your support. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 17.

Regards,
The Board of Education
Maria Jordan-Awalom, President
Gabriela Castillo, Vice President
Trustees: Vilma I. Lancaster,
Ronald J. Ellerbe and
Sunday F. Coward

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REMEMBER TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY, MAY 17 6 A.M.-9 P.M.



2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET



New York State law provides that all school district budgets must be identified in three components: Administrative Component, Program Component and Capital Component.

Expenditures

	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 BUDGET	VARIANCE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT			
Board of Education	73,441	78,671	5,230
Central Administration	539,613	503,654	(35,959)
Finance – Business Administration	1,003,437	1,006,321	2,884
Staff (Personnel, Legal and Public Information)	811,265	863,065	51,800
Central Services	1,479,250	1,518,980	39,730
Special Items	1,826,638	1,906,919	80,281
Curriculum Development and Supervision of Schools	464,585	492,022	27,437
Supervision – Regular School	9,698,351	10,161,190	462,839
Research Evaluation and Planning	129,092	129,092	0
Employee Benefits	4,891,736	5,110,079	218,343
Total Administrative Budget	20,917,408	21,769,993	852,585
PROGRAM COMPONENT			
Legal	21,632	21,632	0
In-service Training	380,000	380,000	0
Teaching – Regular School	64,525,744	67,935,435	3,409,691
Children with Disabilities and Special Needs	30,676,546	31,264,847	588,301
Teaching – Special Schools	1,236,381	1,271,881	35,500
Instructional Media	3,806,363	3,813,475	7,112
Pupil Personnel Services	8,650,798	8,968,775	317,977
COVID-19 Expenses	1,428,762	693,762	(735,000)
Pupil Transportation	10,770,797	11,443,058	672,261
Employee Benefits	33,363,285	34,684,207	1,320,922
Total Program Component	154,860,308	160,477,072	5,616,764
CAPITAL COMPONENT			
Operations and Maintenance	9,968,350	10,812,975	844,625
Employee Benefits	3,384,435	3,545,368	160,933
Interfund Transfers (Including Transfer to Capital Projects)	6,519,432	13,121,702	6,602,270
Total Capital Component	19,872,217	27,480,045	7,607,828
Grand Total	195,649,933	209,727,110	14,077,177

Revenues

State Aid (Including Building Aid)	91,894,001	107,370,049	15,476,048
Charges for Services	405,000	405,000	0
Use of Money and Property	122,000	132,300	10,300
Sale of Property/Compensation for Loss	135,000	135,000	0
PILOTS (Including LIPA)	721,264	669,212	(52,052)
Miscellaneous	656,000	656,000	0
Transfer From Reserves and Capital Fund	3,950,000	4,600,000	650,000
Fund Balance Usage	8,500,000	6,600,000	(1,900,000)
Total Non-Tax Revenue	106,383,265	120,567,561	14,184,296
Tax Levy Revenue	89,266,668	89,159,549	(107,119)
Total Revenues	195,649,933	209,727,110	14,077,177

Budget Message From the Freeport Memorial Library

The Library Board of Trustees has adopted a budget for 2022-23 with no tax levy increase, well below the tax cap, and an overall budget decrease.

The Library has resumed regular operating hours and continues to take steps to return to normal operations. Although we have resumed hosting on-site programs and meetings, we continue to offer curbside pickup of materials and virtual services, such as reference and readers' advisory, digital library card applications and access to research databases, e-books, streaming video and more.

Programs presented this year include virtual Summer Reading Clubs for adults, teens, tweens

and children, along with book discussions, fitness programs, crafts, concerts and other programs in virtual, hybrid and on-site formats. We continue to offer drop-off tax assistance, as well as free notary service, career counseling and small business counseling.

Inn B Tween, our new tween room where fifth and sixth graders can learn, study, participate in programs and socialize with their peers, is now open.

Since there is no proposed change to the tax levy, NO PUBLIC VOTE IS REQUIRED.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving the Freeport community with the highest quality of programs and services.

2022-23 Library Proposal

	2021-22 Current Budget	2022-23 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Non-Tax Revenue	89,544	82,448	(7,096)
Taxes	6,440,619	6,440,619	0
TOTAL BUDGET	6,530,163	6,523,067	(7,096)

Copies of the proposed library budget are available at the library.

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY – YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK

Our Financial Integrity

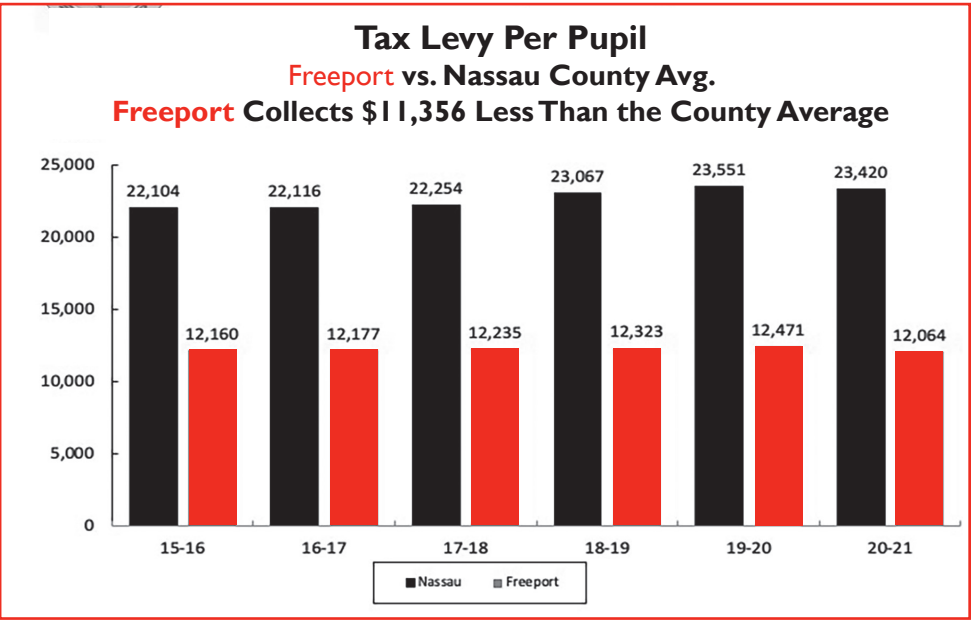
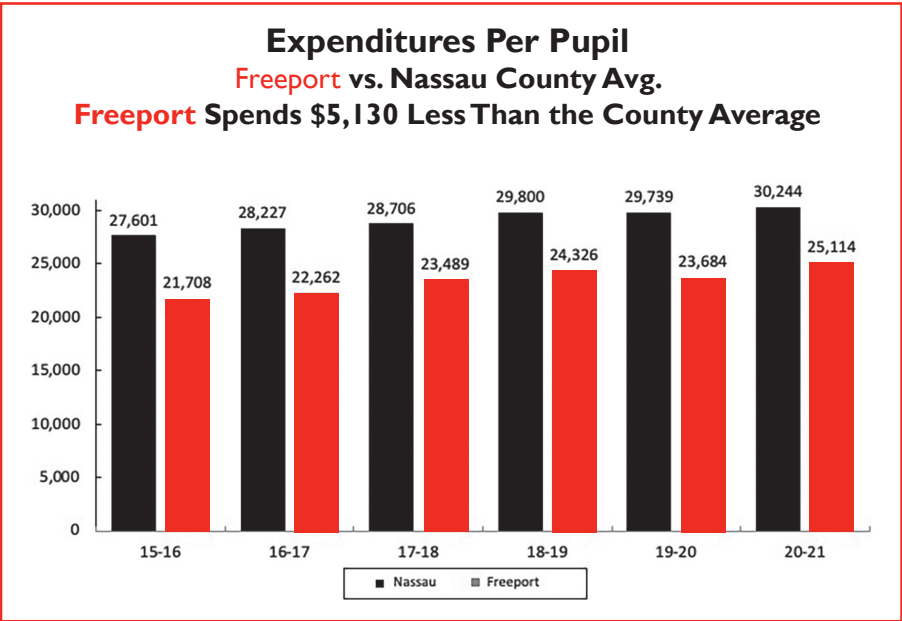
- The tax levy has not been increased for the last seven out of eight years.
- The district's Standard and Poor's bond rating of AA earned by only a few of the 300 districts in New York State.
- By refinancing outstanding bond payments, the district saved taxpayers \$6.5 million in interest costs.
- Freeport spends approximately \$5,130 less per pupil and collects approximately \$11,356 less in tax levy per student than the average school district in Nassau County.
- \$26.7 million in capital projects completed using the capital reserve funds at no additional cost to taxpayers.
- \$6.3 million in districtwide improvements completed through an energy performance contract, lowered the carbon footprint by 30% annually, at no additional cost.
- \$5.9 million in projects completed through the SMART Schools Bond Act Program replaced four portable classrooms, infused technology into the classrooms including Chromebooks, iPads and Smart Boards, and increased connectivity at no additional cost.
- Freeport Public Schools plans to utilize \$9.9 million from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Act and from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) over the next three to four years for capital project upgrades and improvements including upgrades to ventilation and improvements to program related spaces such as classrooms and athletic fields.
- Proposition No. 2 for the capital reserve fund approves \$2.5 million to be spent on capital projects at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Grant Funding: More Than \$8.5 Million

To date, during the 2021-2022 school year, the district has been awarded more than \$8.5 million in competitive and allocated grant funding. These grants enable the district to provide additional essential programs and services at no cost to taxpayers.

Tax Levy History

- The Tax Levy Has Not Been Increased for the Last Seven Out of Eight Years.
- Average Tax Levy Increase for the Past Eight Years Is Only 0.33%.



Points of Pride

VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS
Advanced academic and research opportunities are available to students through partnerships the district has established with Adelphi University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cradle of Aviation Museum, City University of New York, Farmingdale State College, the Graduate Center, Hofstra University, the International Association for Human Values, the Long Island Children's Museum, Molloy College, Nassau Community College, Northwell Health, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, SUNY Old Westbury, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, and Stony Brook University.

Freeport Public Schools has an ongoing partnership with Northwell Health's Cohen Children's Medical Center, which provides mental health support to children and adolescents between the ages of 5-17 who present with a mental health crisis.

OUR ACADEMICS
• The district has been selected, as one of five school districts in the nation, to have a student-designed CubeSat experiment launched into space via a suborbital rocket. Freeport High School students and J.W. Dodd Middle School students are designing the experiment and the CubeSat.
• 51 past and present students from

Freeport High School earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholars for excelling on the 2021 AP exams.
• 127 students were inducted into Freeport High School's National Honor Society.
• 102 students will be inducted into J.W. Dodd Middle School's National Junior Honor Society.
• J.W. Dodd Middle School Mathletes Club participated in the AreteLabs Math Madness Competition, leading to two wins and one tie.
• Students in grades 7-12 competed in the Future Problem Solving New York State competition Part 1 and Part 2, where they won several first- through third-place awards.
• Students at Caroline G. Atkinson School competed in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition where they earned two second place awards and one third place award.

OUR SPORTS PROGRAMS
• Twelve varsity teams from the fall and winter seasons qualified as New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams.
• The varsity cheerleading team won the Nassau County Championship in the Large School Small Team Division. They also placed seventh at the New York State championships and in the Top 20 at nationals.
• Four members of the boys varsity winter track team won county

championships.
• Freeport High School is one of nine school districts in Nassau County to field a girls flag football team in the inaugural spring season. The program is sponsored by the New York Jets and Nike.
• Several Freeport High School students have been selected to Newsday's Top 100 players in basketball, track and girls soccer.
• Twelve members of the varsity wrestling team made All-Conference and nine members qualified for the County Championship.
• Freeport High School dance team placed third in Hip Hop and second in Poms, and the J.W. Dodd Middle School dance team placed third in both categories in their first competition in two years.

OUR MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAMS
• Freeport continues to be a Best Community for Music Education.
• Freeport High School Drama Club presented live performances of "Newsies."
• J.W. Dodd Middle School Drama Club presented live performances of "Frozen Jr."
• More than 200 student-musicians participated in the NYSSMA adjudications in brass, piano, string, woodwinds and vocalists.
• Students in grades K-12 engaged in

both the Spring Festival of the Arts Virtual Exhibit and Students Rebuild exhibit, which is a program of the Bezos Family Foundation.
• Freeport High School Select Chorale has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in the spring.
• Freeport High School Select Chorale performed the national anthem at MetLife Stadium during a New York Jets game.

CLASS OF 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS
• 429 graduates.
• \$6,723,099 in scholarships and financial aid was offered by colleges and universities to the Class of 2021.
• Approximately \$92,000 in community scholarships was earned by the Class of 2021.
• 426 Regents Diplomas were awarded, including Advanced, Advanced with Honors, Advanced Designation in Science, Advanced Designation and Honors in Science, Advanced Designation and Honors in Math and Science, CTE, Advanced CTE and Honors Mastery in Math.
• 55 Regents Diplomas endorsed with the New York State Seal of Biliteracy were awarded.
• More than 1,000 college credits were earned by the Class of 2021 through dual-enrollment courses, P-Tech and Smart Scholars.

Q & A

Q. What is the capital reserve proposition, and why won't it impact school taxes?

A. The capital reserve proposition will have no effect on your taxes. In 2017, Freeport voters approved the creation of a capital reserve fund, which allows the district to set aside money in a reserve account specifically allocated for capital projects. With voter approval, the district will expend \$2.5 million from the 2017 capital reserve fund at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Q. What is included in the budget?

A. The proposed budget represents a budget-to-budget increase of 7.20% with no tax levy increase. This is the seventh out of the last eight years that the district has proposed a budget that results in a tax levy decrease. The proposed budget will maintain programs and services including current staffing needs, safety and security, special education/BOCES tuition costs, transportation, technology upgrades, equipment and a significant allocation of \$8.5 million for capital upgrades and improvements, an increase of \$7.5 million over last year's budget. The proposed budget also includes enhancements and

provides support for loss of schooling during the school year, including increased staffing to support programs and services; an expanded summer school program with academics, athletics, STEM and the arts; increased social-emotional learning programming; support services for ELL and students with special needs; and increased professional development, curriculum development and materials focused on SEL and mental health, diversity, equity, inclusion and supports for ELL students.

Q. How does the federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) impact the 2022-23 budget?

A. Freeport Public Schools has received funding allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in our schools in the amount of \$21,424,525. Funds were also received from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), which includes the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II), in the amount of \$6,329,277. In accordance with state guidelines, funds in Freeport Schools have been allocated to address learning loss and after-school

and summer programming, health and safety supplies and equipment, as well as building and capital projects. The allocated funds will be utilized over the next three to four years to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools that are providing educational services. This includes both the safe reopening and continued safe operation of schools along with addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on learning. The district plan for the use of these funds has and will continue to play a significant role in planning for upcoming school budgets.

Q. What happens if the proposed budget is not approved?

A. If the budget is not approved by voters, the Board of Education has the option of proposing the same budget or a revised budget for a revote. If the budget is defeated following the revote, the Board is required by law to adopt a contingency budget, which cannot increase the tax levy above the current year's amount. The proposed budget represents a 0.12% tax levy decrease.

What's on the Ballot?

PROPOSITION No. 1 FREEPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET 2022-23

RESOLVED, that the School Expenditure Budget of \$209,727,110 be adopted and the necessary amount be raised by tax upon the taxable property located in Freeport Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Freeport, New York, for the year 2022-23.

PROPOSITION No. 2 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

SHALL the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District be authorized to expend \$2,500,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 16, 2017, for the purpose of performing the following projects: HVAC Replacement, Auditorium – Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School; Science Room

Renovations – Freeport High School; and Bathroom Renovations – J.W. Dodd Middle School.

TRUSTEE ELECTION

Residents will be asked to vote on these propositions and the election of two trustees to the Board of Education.

Who Can Vote?

Only registered voters can participate in the Freeport School District budget vote. A qualified voter must be

- At least 18 years of age.
- A United States citizen.
- A resident of the Freeport School District for 30 days prior to the election.
- A duly registered voter.

Where to Vote

- Voting will be held at the following schools: Archer Street, Bayview Avenue, Caroline G. Atkinson, Columbus Avenue,

Leo F. Giblyn and the Albany Avenue Field House.

Absentee Ballots

- Registered voters who require an absentee ballot may pick up an application at the district clerk's office or the Freeport Memorial Library. They may also call 516-867-5200 or 516-867-5209 to receive an application by mail.
- Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter.

- If the ballot is to be filled out in the district clerk's office, voters have until the day before the election to pick up the ballots.
- Persons registered permanently disabled with the Nassau County Board of Elections will automatically receive an absentee ballot.

All ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the election.

For Additional Information

For more information, visit the district's website at www.freeportschools.org.

REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 17 • 6 A.M.-9 P.M.

This information is provided in Spanish in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



Freeport
PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Pride*
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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Maria Jordan-Awalom, President; Gabriela Castillo, Vice President
Trustees: Vilma I. Lancaster, Ronald J. Ellerbe, Sunday F. Coward

Kishore Kuncham, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools