



Special Budget Edition 2021

# Freeport

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Pride

[www.freeportschools.org](http://www.freeportschools.org)

PROPOSED 2021-22 BUDGET  
NO TAX LEVY INCREASE SIX OUT OF SEVEN YEARS

**NO TAX LEVY INCREASE FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

*Supporting Educational Excellence, Equity, Health, Wellness and Safety*

### 2021-22 Budget Highlights

- The district has proposed a 2021-2022 budget with no tax levy increase. In fact, it is a 0.12% decrease.
- Maintains programs, services and staffing. Provides for support for loss of schooling.
- 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 and safety of students and staff.
- Increases programming in Social Emotional Learning with SEL Sensory Spaces.
- Increases professional development, curriculum development and materials focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Implicit Bias.
- Enhances support services for ENL 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.
- Increased allocations for capital improvements.



## *A Message From Your Board of Education*

Dear Neighbor,

We hope you are all doing well as we continue to move forward towards a return to normalcy following the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we remained Freeport Strong and we are now seeing hope as restrictions are being scaled back and people are able to be vaccinated. Freeport Public Schools is delighted at the success of our phased-in reopening plan that has allowed our students to flourish this year. The health and safety of our students and staff remained a vital consideration as we planned the budget for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board of Education is committed to its responsibility of proposing a budget that balances the needs of the district with fiscal responsibility for our community. We are pleased to propose a budget with no tax levy increase. For six out of the last seven years, there has been no tax levy increase.

At the start of the budget

planning process, the district was facing another reduction of State Aid based on the governor's proposed budget following a significant State Aid cut for the present year and next year. The \$1.9 trillion federal American Rescue Plan stimulus package has brought new funding to New York State, including \$9 billion for school districts. The Foundation Aid for Freeport has been partially restored, allowing for a budget proposal with no tax levy increase. **We are proposing a 2021-2022 budget that maintains and enhances our current programs and services with no tax levy increase. In fact, it is a tax levy decrease of 0.12%.**

Freeport Public Schools is proud to provide our students with the finest educational opportunities available. Our students continue to amaze us with their resilience in the face of adversity and are showing growth in their academics, athletics and the arts. 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 facing with the current

pandemic. We are pleased to offer enhanced academic and after-school programs, including an expanded summer school program, additional staff and continued enhancement of health and safety equipment and maintenance, along with numerous plans for capital improvement and special maintenance projects. Complete details of the proposed budget and proposition to approve capital spending from the Capital Reserve Fund, which is **at no additional cost to taxpayers**, are inside the newsletter.

We are pleased to present a fiscally responsible budget with a **tax levy decrease** and a budget-to-budget increase of 3.92%. There has been no tax levy increase for six out of seven years now. 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 18, 2021.

Regards,  
The Freeport Board of Education  
Vilma I. Lancaster, President  
Ronald J. Ellerbe, Trustee  
Maria Jordan-Awalom, Trustee  
Gabriela Castillo, Trustee

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**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 6 A.M.-9 P.M.**



# 2021-22 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

	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>			
Board of Education	73,441	73,441	0
Central Administration	529,879	539,613	9,734
Finance – Business Administration	976,934	1,003,437	26,503
Staff (Personnel, Legal and Public Information)	795,795	811,265	15,470
Central Services	1,455,013	1,479,250	24,237
Special Items	1,801,522	1,826,638	25,116
Curriculum Development and Supervision of Schools	482,799	464,585	(18,214)
Supervision – Regular School	9,319,272	9,698,351	379,079
Research Evaluation and Planning	129,092	129,092	0
Employee Benefits	4,623,222	4,891,736	268,514
<b>Total Administrative Budget</b>	<b>20,186,969</b>	<b>20,917,408</b>	<b>730,439</b>
<b>PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>			
Legal	21,632	21,632	0
In-service Training	330,000	380,000	50,000
Teaching – Regular School	62,699,600	64,525,744	1,826,144
Children with Disabilities and Special Needs	30,861,195	30,676,546	(184,649)
Teaching – Special Schools	1,005,047	1,236,381	231,334
Instructional Media	3,343,426	3,806,363	462,937
Pupil Personnel Services	8,509,543	8,650,798	141,255
COVID-19 EXPENSES	-	1,428,762	1,428,762
Pupil Transportation	10,622,912	10,770,797	147,885
Employee Benefits	31,766,829	33,363,285	1,596,456
<b>Total Program Component</b>	<b>149,160,184</b>	<b>154,860,308</b>	<b>5,700,124</b>
<b>CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>			
Operations and Maintenance	9,531,469	9,968,350	436,881
Employee Benefits	3,139,404	3,384,435	245,031
Interfund Transfers (Including Transfer to Capital Projects)	6,245,081	6,519,432	274,351
<b>Total Capital Component</b>	<b>18,915,954</b>	<b>19,872,217</b>	<b>956,263</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>188,263,107</b>	<b>195,649,933</b>	<b>7,386,826</b>

## Revenues

State Aid (Including Building Aid)	81,861,256	91,894,001	10,032,745
Charges for Services	450,000	405,000	(45,000)
Use of Money and Property	754,798	122,000	(632,798)
Sale of Property/Compensation for Loss	125,000	135,000	10,000
PILOTS (Including LIPA)	771,065	721,264	(49,801)
Miscellaneous	647,071	656,000	8,929
Transfer From Reserves and Capital Fund	4,500,000	3,950,000	(550,000)
Fund Balance Usage	9,500,000	8,500,000	(1,000,000)
NYS Schools for the Deaf and Blind	280,000	-	(280,000)
<b>Total Non-Tax Revenue</b>	<b>98,889,190</b>	<b>106,383,265</b>	<b>7,494,075</b>
<b>Tax Levy Revenue</b>	<b>89,373,917</b>	<b>89,266,668</b>	<b>(107,249)</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>188,263,107</b>	<b>195,649,933</b>	<b>7,386,826</b>

## Budget Message From the Freeport Memorial Library

The Freeport Memorial Library Board asks you to vote. The proposed budget, a modest increase below the tax cap, will assure the Library can continue to provide high-quality programs and services to the Freeport community.

Our building is normally open 70 hours a week, and many of our services are available 24/7 through our website. When the pandemic forced us to close the building, we continued to serve you by converting our programs to an online format, increasing access to digital materials such as databases, e-books and audiobooks and adding access to video content. When the shutdown ended, the Freeport Memorial Library

was the first library in Nassau County to reopen.

Programs presented this past year included the virtual Summer Reading Clubs for adults, teens, tweens and children. Several authors participated in our virtual book discussions. We presented classical concerts through Zoom and Facebook Live. We provided patron favorites, such as yoga, meditation, Zumba, Zumba Gold, tai chi, knitting and crocheting, as well as craft programs.

We thank you for your continued

support and look forward to serving the Freeport community with the highest quality of services and programs in the year ahead.

### 2021-22 Library Proposal

	2020-21 Current Budget	2021-22 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Non-Tax Revenue	\$116,308	\$89,544	(\$26,764)
Taxes	\$6,382,833	\$6,440,619	\$57,786
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$6,499,141</b>	<b>\$6,530,163</b>	<b>\$31,022</b>

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



# FINANCIAL INTEGRITY – YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

## Our Financial Integrity

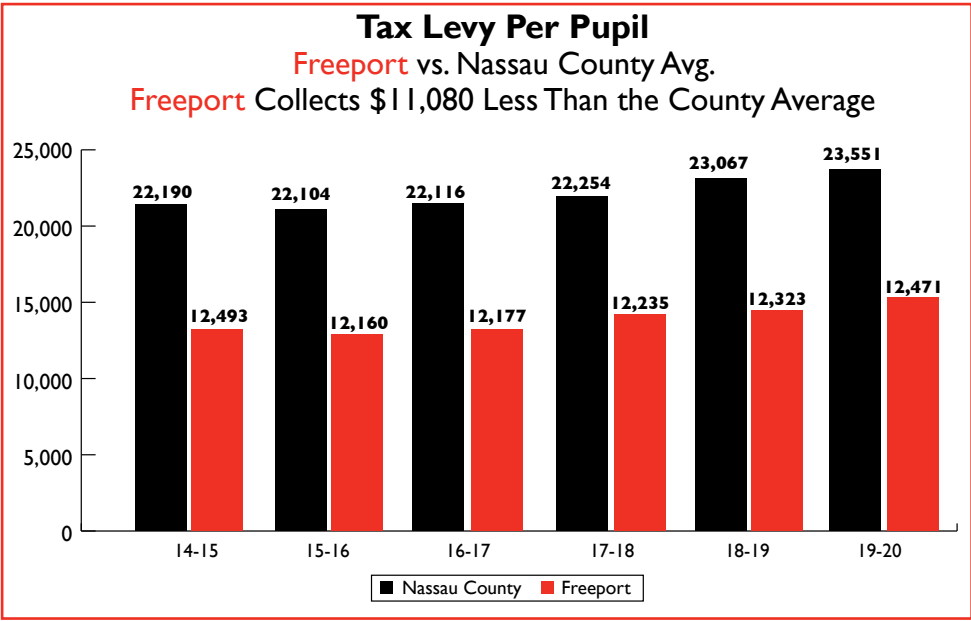
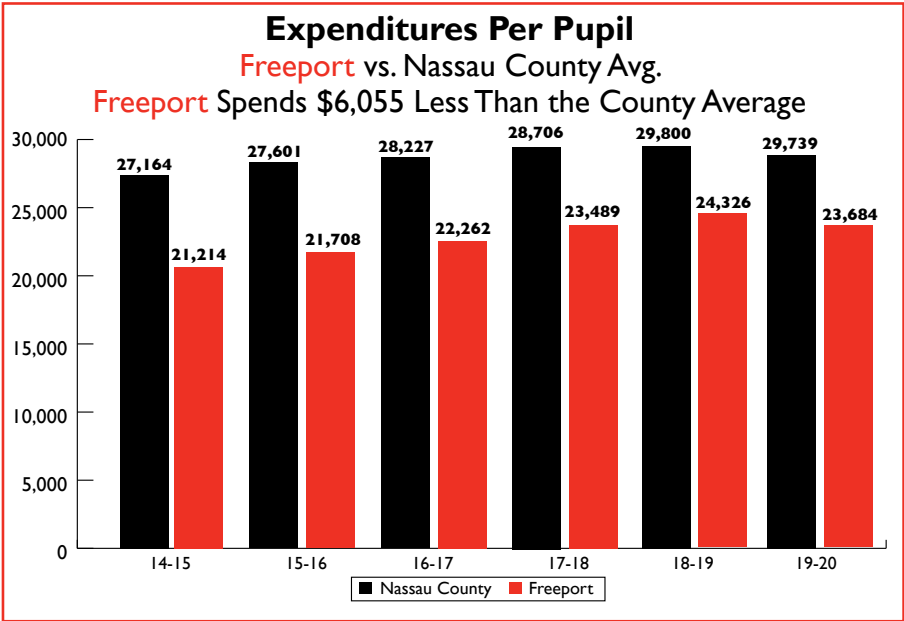
- The district has proposed a 2021-22 budget with no tax levy increase. In fact, it is a 0.12% decrease.
- The district's Standard & Poor's bond rating of AA is a rating earned by only a few of the districts in New York State.
- By refinancing outstanding bond payments, the district saved taxpayers \$6.5 million in interest costs.
- Freeport spends approximately \$6,055 less per pupil and collects approximately \$11,080 less in tax levy per student than the average school district in Nassau County.
- \$24.2 million in capital projects completed using the capital reserve funds at no additional cost.
- \$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 with permanent classrooms, infused technology into the classrooms including iPads, Chromebooks, Smart Boards and increased connectivity at no additional cost.

## Grant Funding: More Than \$8 Million

To date, during the 2020-2021 school year, the district has been awarded more than \$8 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 Six Out of Seven Years.
- Average Tax Levy Increase for the Past Seven Years Is Only 0.56%.



## 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, Cohen Children's Medical Center, 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, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, SUNY Old Westbury 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, by the U.S. Education Department to participate in the CubeSat Project Challenge. Freeport High School students and J.W. Dodd Middle School students are designing a CubeSat that will carry an experiment for possible launch into outer space.  
• Students participating in the CubeSat Project Challenge met via Zoom with astronaut Scott Tingle to discuss the design of their CubeSat and solicit feedback from him. This was the second

time students had an opportunity to speak with him.  
• 49 past and present students from Freeport High School earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholars for excelling on the 2020 AP exams.  
• 82 students will be inducted into Freeport High School's National Honor Society.  
• 81 students will be inducted into J.W. Dodd Middle School's National Junior Honor Society.  
• Freeport teams representing Atkinson, Dodd and FHS participated in the 2021 virtual New York State Future Problem Solver State Bowl. Teams from all schools placed highly and have received an invitation to compete in the virtual International competition scheduled for June.  
• Caroline G. Atkinson Odyssey of the Mind fifth grade team, Division 1, placed first in the regional competition and second in the state-level competition. This team qualified to advance to the world finals. The sixth grade team, Division 2, placed second in the regional competition.  
• Dodd Middle School Mathletes finished second out of the four New York schools and fifth out of the eleven schools in Region 2 competitions.

**OUR SPORTS PROGRAMS**  
• Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, district athletes did not slow down. The district provided a Pre-Season Workout Program, open to all students in grades 7-12, to prepare for the fall and winter

sports seasons. The preseason training program offered socially distanced practice for girls and boys soccer, basketball, wrestling, girls tennis, cross-country, track and field, girls swim, golf, boys and girls volleyball, cheerleading and football in compliance with all New York State Education Department and New York State Department of Health Reopening Plan guidelines, as well as the current NYSPHSAA regulations.  
• Several Freeport High School student-athletes have been selected to Newsday's Top 100 Players in basketball, cheerleading, football and girls soccer.

**OUR MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAMS**  
• Once again, the district is a recipient of the Best Communities for Music Education Award by the NAMM Foundation for 2021.  
• Freeport High School Select Chorale performed at the Boston Celtics vs. the Washington Wizards basketball game, which aired on the NBC Sports Washington network.  
• Two Freeport High School Select Chorale members were selected to participate in the 2020 New York State School Music Association Conference All-State Chorus. This is the highest level in the state a student-musician can achieve.  
• Students at Caroline G. Atkinson School were joined during their music lesson by famous rock and roll guitarist and founder of the TeachRock Foundation Steven Van Zandt.  
• Student-artists from the Leo F. Giblyn School had their artwork selected and

displayed at the Long Island Children's Museum.  
• Bayview's fourth grade orchestra and band students participated in The Harry Chapin Practice-A-Thon, an event happening across New York State, with a goal of raising \$20,000 to address food insecurity on Long Island.

**CLASS OF 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS**  
• 490 graduates.  
• More than \$5 million in scholarships and financial aid were offered by colleges and universities.  
• Approximately \$95,000 in community scholarships were earned by graduates.  
• More than 750 college acceptances were offered to graduates.  
• 471 Regents Diplomas were awarded, including Regents Diplomas with Honors and Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation.  
• 41 graduates achieved a diploma endorsed with the New York State Seal of Bilingualism.  
• 1,281 college credits were earned by students, including graduates, 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 are the major factors impacting the proposed budget?

A. The proposed budget represents a budget-to-budget increase of 3.92% **with no tax levy increase**. This is the sixth out of seven 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 and other mandated costs including COVID-19 costs for PPE and additional hygiene and sanitization supplies. The proposed budget also includes enhancements and provides support for loss of schooling during the school year including an expanded summer school program with academics, athletics, STEM and the arts, increased Social Emotional Learning programming and sensory spaces, funding for AP exams, support services for ENL and students with special needs, and increases professional development, curriculum development and materials focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Implicit Bias.

### Q. How does the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) impact the 2021-2022 budget?

A. With the additional money allocated by the federal government to New York State under ARPA, Freeport Schools saw an increase

in Foundation Aid. The ARPA funding is restricted for specific purposes. Freeport is granted an increase in Title grant funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, \$6.5 Million. The district is anticipating receiving additional ARPA funding of \$21.5 million and is awaiting further details regarding the use of these funds. The district will be required to spend these funds during the next four years.

### 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 ONE: SCHOOL BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the School Expenditure Budget of \$195,649,933 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 2021-2022.

### PROPOSITION TWO: FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Freeport Memorial Library Expenditure Budget amount of \$6,530,163 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 Freeport Memorial Library 2021-2022.

### PROPOSITION THREE: 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: roof replacement – Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School (Phase I) and Columbus Avenue Elementary School; masonry pointing and exterior glazed block repairs – Leo F. Giblyn Elementary School; replace Yankee Gutter System – Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School; HVAC improvements – districtwide; science rooms renovations – Freeport High School; school security upgrades/interior and exterior doors and hardware – districtwide; bathroom

and health office renovations – districtwide; air conditioning – districtwide; classroom/flooring lighting renovations – districtwide; ceiling tile and lighting replacements, window replacements, improvements to the grounds, steps, foundations, sidewalks, playgrounds, parking lots – districtwide; exterior improvements, field renovations – districtwide; renovate main entrance – Bayview Avenue Elementary School; replace gymnasium partition and wall pads – New Visions Elementary School.

Residents will be asked to vote on these propositions and the election of one trustee 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](http://www.freeportschools.org).

# REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 18 • 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

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