



Freeport

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pride

Special Budget Edition 2019

www.freeportschools.org

PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET

NO TAX LEVY INCREASE FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Continues to Support Programs, Services and Success

2019-20 Budget Highlights

- Supports programs to prepare students for college, career and life readiness.
- Continued focus on STEAM initiatives.
- Continued support to improve student safety.
- Expansion of new course offerings, including AP and dual-enrollment courses.
- Continued expansion of instructional technology and enhanced digital library (e-books and apps).
- Additional support services for ENL students and students with special needs, including BOCES services.
- Substantial capital improvement projects – at no additional cost to taxpayers.
- Continued Summer Arts Academy, STEM summer program, and after-school programs and clubs, including robotics.

A Message From Your Board of Education

Dear Neighbor,

The Board of Education and administration have diligently worked to develop a 2019-20 annual budget that encompasses the needs of our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our community. We are pleased to present a budget that maintains and enhances our programs along with a **tax levy decrease of 0.12%**. This is the **fifth year in a row** the district has decreased the tax levy.

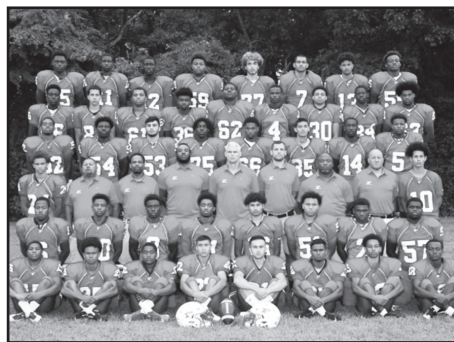
Freeport Public Schools is proud to provide excellent educational opportunities to our students. Our students continue to amaze us with their award-winning achievements in academics, athletics and the arts. We continue to focus on educating the whole child for college, career and life readiness and enhance our services for the physical and mental well-being of our students, staff and families. We are pleased to offer enhanced academic and after-school programs, including more Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment

courses; additional staff; and 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 delighted to present a budget with no tax levy increase for the seventh time in 12 years. There will be a **0.12% tax levy decrease**. Please learn more about the proposed budget and the proposition to approve spending from the capital reserve fund. Thank you for your support. Please remember to vote on May 21.

Sincerely,

The Freeport Board of Education
Michael C. Pomerico, President; Anthony J. Miller, Vice President; Ronald J. Ellerbe, Trustee; Vilma I. Lancaster, Trustee and Ernest J. Kight, Jr., Trustee.



Freeport Public Schools
235 N. Ocean Ave.
Freeport, NY 11520

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REMEMBER TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 6 A.M.-9 P.M.



2019-20 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

	2018-19 BUDGET	2019-20 BUDGET	VARIANCE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT			
Board of Education	73,441	73,441	-
Central Administration	482,051	511,080	29,029
Finance – Business Administration	973,359	947,839	(25,520)
Staff (Personnel, Legal and Public Information)	884,680	785,637	(99,043)
Central Services	1,372,557	1,440,600	68,043
Special Items	1,726,808	1,771,482	44,674
Curriculum Development and Supervision of Schools	439,056	465,841	26,785
Supervision – Regular School	8,754,182	9,089,007	334,825
Research Evaluation and Planning	50,254	112,254	62,000
Employee Benefits	4,397,995	4,477,268	79,273
Total Administrative Budget	19,154,383	19,674,449	520,066
PROGRAM COMPONENT			
Legal	21,632	21,632	-
In-service Training	330,000	330,000	-
Teaching – Regular School	60,659,008	62,092,297	1,433,289
Children with Disabilities and Special Needs	28,780,348	30,129,390	1,349,042
Teaching – Special Schools	997,456	1,017,119	19,663
Instructional Media	3,120,484	3,388,779	268,295
Pupil Personnel Services	8,330,900	8,599,170	268,270
Pupil Transportation	9,484,852	9,775,767	290,915
Employee Benefits	30,078,565	30,603,899	525,334
Total Program Component	141,803,245	145,958,053	4,154,808
CAPITAL COMPONENT			
Operations and Maintenance	9,055,197	9,409,963	354,766
Employee Benefits	2,900,873	3,035,086	134,213
Interfund Transfers (Including Transfer to Capital Projects)	7,012,382	6,770,081	(242,301)
Total Capital Component	18,968,452	19,215,130	246,678
Grand Total	179,926,080	184,847,632	4,921,552

Revenues

State Aid (Including Building Aid)	78,020,373	81,861,256	3,840,883
Charges for Services	450,000	450,000	-
Use of Money and Property	225,000	875,000	650,000
Sale of Property/Compensation for Loss	100,000	125,000	25,000
PILOTS (Including LIPA)	761,065	771,065	10,000
Miscellaneous	647,071	647,071	-
Transfer From Reserves and Capital Fund	4,000,000	4,000,000	-
Fund Balance Usage	8,500,000	9,000,000	500,000
NYS Schools for the Deaf and Blind	280,000	280,000	-
Total Non-Tax Revenue	92,983,509	98,009,392	5,025,883
Tax Levy Revenue	86,942,571	86,838,240	(104,331)
Total Revenues	179,926,080	184,847,632	4,921,552

Budget Message From the Freeport Memorial Library

The Freeport Memorial Library Board asks you to vote on May 21. We are proposing a modest increase of 1.1%. The proposed budget will assure that the library can continue to provide books, magazines, e-books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, Nooks, Roku Streaming Sticks, concerts, lectures, tutoring, workshops, children's programs, computers, multifunction color copiers, mobile hot spots and much more.

Programs presented this past year include the Eighth Annual Youth Services Fall Festival; summer reading clubs for adults, teens and children; and FML on the Mile, which included Magic on the Mile, Sip and Paint, and Cavalcade of Stars.

The Business Resource Information Center sponsored a Black Friday Fair for local small businesses. We continue to participate in New York Heritage, a digitization project, which allows online access to historical materials. We also co-sponsored a concert on the Nautical Mile Esplanade.

Our facility is open 70 hours a week, and many of our services are available online 24/7, including databases such as Overdrive, a source to download e-books and audiobooks; Lynda.com, which

provides comprehensive courses covering technical skills and business strategies; and RB Digital, which provides digital access to magazines.

2019-20 Library Proposal

	2018-19 Current Budget	2019-20 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Non-Tax Revenue	\$129,957	\$104,623	(\$25,334)
Taxes	\$6,177,313	\$6,269,597	\$92,284
TOTAL BUDGET	\$6,307,270	\$6,374,220	\$66,950
Copies of the proposed library budget are available at the library.			

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY – YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Our Financial Integrity

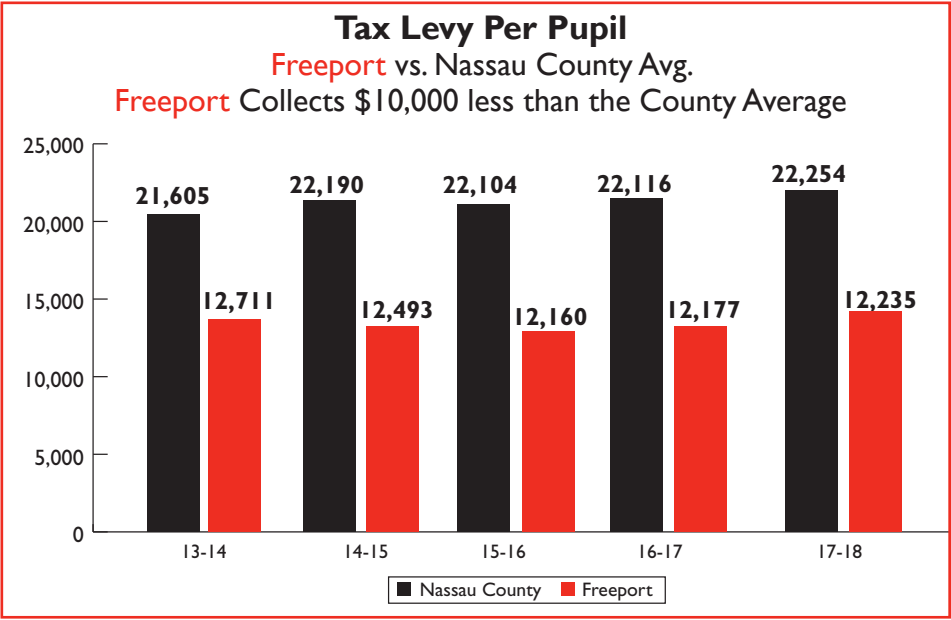
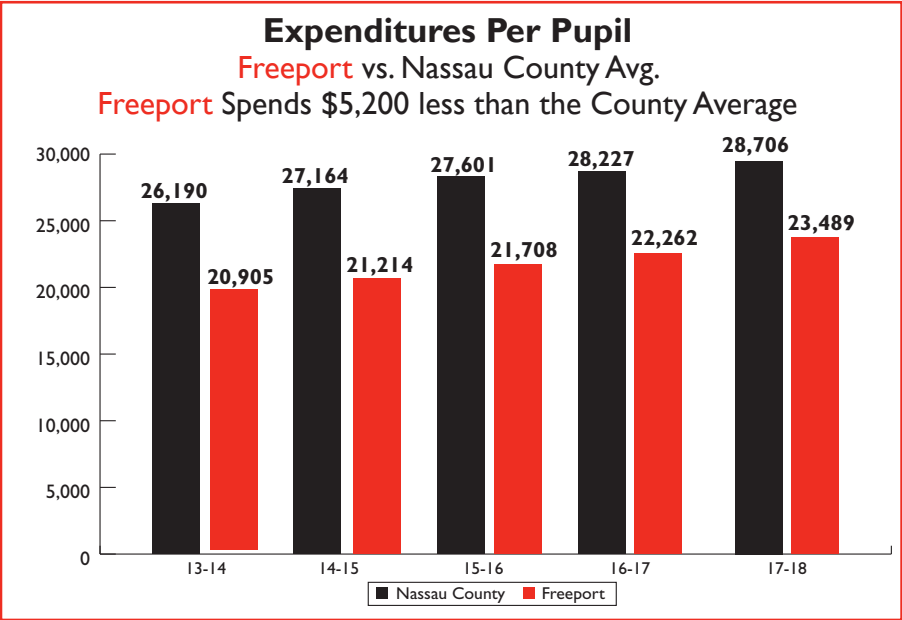
- The tax levy has decreased for five consecutive years.
- The district's Standard & Poor's bond rating is AA, a rating earned by only a few of the 300 school districts rated in New York State.
- Freeport spends approximately \$5,200 less per pupil and collects approximately \$10,000 less in tax levy per student than the average school district in Nassau County.
- By refinancing outstanding bond payments, the district saved taxpayers \$6.5 million in interest costs and also shortened the payback period by three years for one of the outstanding bond issuances.
- Through the first capital reserve fund established in 2009, as well as the second capital reserve fund established in 2017, the district has completed \$12.9 million in capital reserve projects at no additional cost to taxpayers.
- In the past few years, through an energy performance contract and an EXCEL bond, the district has implemented more than \$25 million in capital improvement projects at no cost to taxpayers.
- Using the interest-free Qualified School Construction Bond program, the district completed \$5 million in additional capital improvement projects, saving taxpayers approximately \$1.4 million in interest costs.

Grant Funding: More Than \$7.4 Million

To date, during the 2018-19 school year, the district has been awarded more than \$7.4 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

- Tax Levy Decreased for Fifth Consecutive Year Including Decrease of 0.12% for the 2019-20 School Year.
- Average Tax Levy Increase for the Past 12 Years Is Only 1.15%.



Points of Pride

VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS

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

OUR ACADEMICS

- Full STEAM Ahead – All schools are involved in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) activities, including Discovery Days and evening STEAM universities.
- Dr. Rainer Weiss, winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics, and Dr. Greg Olsen space explorer, and other Apollo astronauts met with students.
- In addition to the high school rollout, expanded 1:1 Chromebook

rollout initiative in Dodd Middle School and Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School.

- 99 students were inducted into the National Honor Society and 93 were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

OUR SPORTS PROGRAMS

- The Red Devils varsity football team won the Conference I Nassau County championship, the Long Island Conference I championship and the coveted Rutgers Cup. The team is also ranked No. 1 in New York State.
- The varsity cheerleaders placed ninth at nationals, breaking a school record.
- Five members of the Class of 2019 received college athletic scholarships and signed letters of intent.
- Freeport High School's girls 4x200-meter relay team set a school record and placed first at the New York State Indoor Track and Field championships. The boys 4x200-meter relay team also set school records and placed third.
- Freeport High School's 4x4 mixed relay team placed second at the

Indoor Track Nationals and achieved All-American status.

OUR MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAMS

- The district has once again been named a Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for 2019.
- In addition to the district's annual Peace Concert and Celebrating Black History performance, our music students have been invited to perform in local, regional and national concerts and competitions. Prestigious venues include St. Patrick's Cathedral, Carnegie Hall, the Empire State Building, the New York State Capitol, the All-Eastern Select concert, Freeport Village events, Nassau County legislative events and more.

CLASS OF 2018

- More than \$6 million in scholarships offered to graduates and more than \$98,000 in community scholarships earned by graduates.
- Nearly 1,000 college acceptances offered to graduates.
- 270 college credits earned by graduates through dual-enrollment courses, the P-Tech and Smart Scholars programs.
- 52 alumni and current Freeport High School students earned Advanced Placement Scholar status by excelling on the 2018 AP exams.



Q & A

Q. What is the capital reserve proposition, and what impact will it have on my taxes?

A. The capital reserve proposition will have no effect on your taxes. In 2009, and again in 2017, Freeport voters approved the creation of capital reserve funds, which allow the district to set aside money in a reserve account specifically allocated for capital projects. It is important to note that with voter approval, at no additional cost to taxpayers, the district will expend \$1.5 million from the 2009 capital reserve fund and \$2.5 million from the 2017 capital reserve fund.

Q. What is the budget increase and what are the major factors impacting the proposed budget?

A. This is the fifth consecutive year and the seventh time in the past 12 years that the district has proposed a budget that results

in a tax levy decrease. The proposed budget represents a budget-to-budget increase of 2.74%, which will support additional staffing needs, contractual salary increases, safety and security enhancements, special education/BOCES tuition costs, transportation, technology upgrades and other mandated costs. This is offset by additional increases in state aid and revenues.

Q. How will my school taxes be affected by this budget?

A. There should be no increase in your school taxes for next year. For the 2019-20 school budget, the tax levy will decrease by 0.12%, a decrease for the fifth consecutive year. If individual homeowners do see a tax increase, it will not be attributable to the school district budget. Factors outside the school district's control could impact tax bills,

including changes in home market values, assessed valuations and shifts in the tax distribution from one class of taxpayer to another.

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

A. The proposed budget represents a 0.12% decrease in the tax levy. 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 in June. If the budget is defeated in June, the board is required by law to adopt a contingency budget, which cannot increase the tax levy above the current year's amount.

What's on the Ballot?

PROPOSITION ONE: SCHOOL BUDGET

Resolved, that the annual school budget of \$184,847,632 be adopted and the necessary amount be raised by a tax upon the taxable property located in the Freeport Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Freeport, New York, for the school year 2019-20.

PROPOSITION TWO: FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUDGET

Resolved, that the Freeport Memorial Library Budget in the amount of \$6,374,220 be adopted and the necessary amount be raised

by a tax upon the taxable property located in the Freeport Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Freeport, New York, for the Freeport Memorial Library in 2019-20.

PROPOSITION THREE:

Shall the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District be authorized to expend \$1.5 million from the 2009 capital reserve fund and \$2.5 million from the 2017 capital reserve fund, at no additional cost to taxpayers, for the purpose of performing districtwide repairs and renovations, including air conditioning; bathroom renovations;

building security and entry vestibules; ceiling tile and lighting replacements; exterior improvements; window replacements; classroom, flooring and lighting renovations; interior and exterior doors and hardware; science room renovations; security upgrades; roofs, grounds, steps, playgrounds, foundation, sidewalks and parking lots. Other projects will include bleachers replacement and the press box at Freeport High School; exterior brick repointing, replacement and waterproofing and masonry restoration at Columbus; and locker room, and replacement of HVAC and drainage at Freeport High School.

Who Can Vote?

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

- 18 years of age.
- A U.S. citizen.
- A resident of the Freeport School District for 30 days prior to the election.
- A duly registered voter.

When and Where to Vote

Voting will be held at Archer Street, Bayview Avenue, Caroline G. Atkinson, Columbus Avenue and Leo F. Giblyn schools and the Albany Avenue Field House, 55 Albany Ave., Freeport, on Tuesday, May 21, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

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

Persons registered permanently disabled with the Nassau County Board of Elections will automatically receive an absentee ballot.

Information about the budget is available in Spanish at the administration building and each school building.

This year, all voting will be done electronically. There will be people at the polling places to provide assistance as needed.

REMEMBER TO VOTE • TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 • 6 A.M.-9 P.M.



If you have any questions regarding Freeport Public Schools polling sites, go to www.freeportschools.org to view the district voting sites and boundaries map, or call 516-867-5209.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael C. Pomerico, President Anthony J. Miller, Vice President
Ronald J. Ellerbe Vilma I. Lancaster Ernest J. Kight Jr.

Kishore Kuncham, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*