



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

The three candidates with the highest number of votes will each serve a three-year term, expiring June 30, 2022.

- Patrick Law
- John Spencer
- Todd Bush

...

PROPOSITION NO. 1 2019-2020 Budget

Voters will vote on the proposed 2019-20 general fund expenditure budget of \$44,666,352.

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PROPOSITION NO. 2

Voters will be asked to authorize \$379,797 from the District's Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund, 2016 to fund the purchase price of three 66-passenger buses to be used in the transportation program of the District.

...

Budget Hearing: May 14

The budget public hearing will be held May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

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Message from the Superintendent

The Depew Union Free School District continues its commitment to providing the School-Community with the necessary information to make an informed decision on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Once again, the proposed budget balances the needs of both the taxpayers of the Depew School-Community and our children through the maintenance of a quality educational program and at the same time, demonstrates current and future fiscal responsibility.



The proposed 2019-2020 school budget includes an increase in spending of 2.27% from last year's school budget, for a total budget of \$44,666,352, resulting in a 1.37% tax levy increase, which is within the mandated tax levy cap.

This fiscal plan continues to uphold the goals of the Board of Education and maintains the current elementary class sizes on the average of 20 to 24; continues the implementation of the regular instructional program; maintains current transportation services; maintains current student support programs, specifically providing literacy support, mandated Academic Intervention Services and counseling services. Furthermore, it maintains the current interscholastic athletic and current co-curricular programs; the availability of the facilities for community use and appropriates well-planned reserves to address potential future reductions in Federal and State Aid, while still considering the District's fiscal future. Finally, our plan addresses several key needs and offers more opportunities for our students that will ultimately support and enhance their educational experience. Some of those areas are as follows: School Resource Officer; Girls' Varsity Lacrosse; Boys' Ice Hockey; Increased access to Technology, including supplying three more of our new buses with Wi-Fi; Continuing the implementation plan for a District-wide Equipment Replacement Plan, including new classroom furniture, athletic equipment and choral risers.

If the budget vote is unsuccessful on May 21, the Board of Education may choose to adopt a revised budget, which would then go to the voters for a second vote. If, however, the budget is defeated a second time, the District would be forced to implement a contingency budget, which would force a reduction of \$245,147 and thus require decreases in a number of areas, including our \$100,000 Capital Outlay plan, which will address some of our safety and security needs. It would also require the elimination of some classroom equipment and the facility use by the public without full reimbursement of expenses.

From the information provided to you throughout our process, which can be accessed on our website at www.depewschools.org, we hope you can make an informed decision on May 21.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Budget Vote & Election

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 • Noon - 9 p.m.

Cayuga Heights Elementary School

1780 Como Park Blvd. • Depew, NY 14043

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Expenditure Highlights

Programs preserved: The presented budget continues our commitment to our 1:1 computing program for all grade levels and maintains existing class sizes. We were also able to preserve the District's 2011 redeployment plan that maintains current student support programs specifically providing literacy support; mandated Academic Intervention Services; and, counseling services. The plan addresses several key needs and offers more opportunities for our students that will ultimately support and enhance their educational experience. Some of those areas are as follows: upgrades to our technology infrastructure, access to technology, including supplying more of our buses with Wi-Fi, and instrumental enhancements to our music curriculum.

We are continuing our District equipment replacement plan, including replacing the choral risers in the high school, replacement of seventh and eighth grade furniture, creating a student innovation center within our high school library and replacing some outdated athletic equipment.

Budget Reductions: Most of our budget reductions were from aligning our initial budgeted projections within our benefits budget, BOCES, and special education budget areas to reflect actual rates and counts received. In addition, we were able to reduce our textbook needs due to the implementation of 1:1 computing.

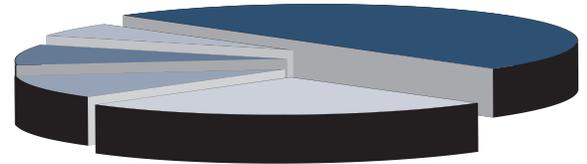
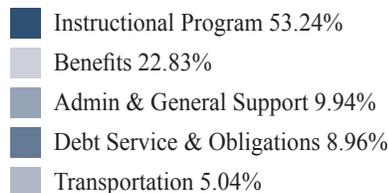
Capital Outlay Program

In order to address issues outlined in the recent Buildings Conditions Survey in a responsible and sustainable manner over a period of time, the District continues to utilize the benefit of its \$100,000 Capital Outlay Projects, which began with the 2016-2017 budget year. A \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project is an opportunity to institute Capital improvement projects that cost no more than \$100,000 and is preferably covered under one trade (i.e. architectural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing or civil). A district must show this expenditure in its annual budget plan and will then receive aid in the following aid year. The 2019-20 Capital Outlay work will include modest upgrades and improvements at the District's High School, such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the removal and replacement of existing glass block windows in the gymnasium and the replacement of four (4) retractable basketball backboards/nets (and the associated support structures), as well as the installation of electronic access control systems to various interior and exterior doors, all to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards and to improve security.

Budget Revenues and Expenditures

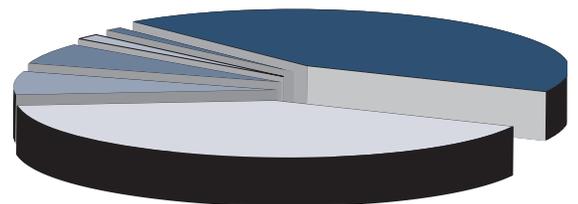
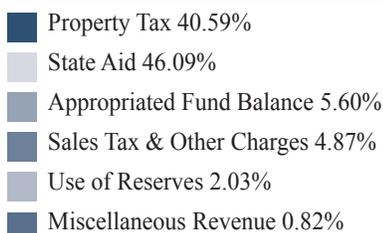
Budgeted Expenditures

Category	Current 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Dollar Change
Administration & General Support	\$4,391,841	\$4,437,846	\$46,005
Instructional	\$23,002,335	\$23,780,062	\$777,727
Transportation	\$2,250,171	\$2,252,671	\$2,500
Benefits	\$10,089,353	\$10,195,464	\$106,111
Debt Service	\$3,942,717	\$4,000,309	\$57,592
Total General Fund Budget	\$43,676,417	\$44,666,352	\$989,935
Vehicle Reserve Purchases	\$291,901	\$379,797	\$87,896
Total General Fund Budget with Vehicles	\$43,968,318	\$45,046,149	\$1,077,831



Budgeted Revenues

Category	Current 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Dollar Change
State Aid	\$20,130,906	\$20,587,130	\$456,224
Sales Tax & Other Charges	\$2,250,546	\$2,174,006	-\$76,540
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$0
Use of Reserves	\$586,896	\$907,600	\$320,704
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$321,159	\$365,559	\$44,400
Tax Levy	\$17,886,910	\$18,132,057	\$245,147
Total General Fund Budget	\$43,676,417	\$44,666,352	\$989,935



Revenue Highlights

- Overall, our budget-to-budget net increase in state aid is \$456,224. The increases are within the categories for Foundation Aid and Building Aid.
- 2019-2020 will be the eighth year of the state imposed tax cap. The District has maintained its budget at or below the tax cap limit for all eight years.
- The District plans on utilizing the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve; ERS Reserve; Workers' Compensation Reserve; and the Capital Improvement Reserve for Vehicles & Equipment, 2016. The use of these reserves are for specific expenses directly related to the individual purpose of the reserve. Included in the State's 2019-20 Enacted Budget, was the authorization for school district's to create a TRS Reserve that could help defray the cost the district pays toward the Teacher Retirement System. Information on this new reserve will be presented at our Budget Hearing meeting on May 14, 2019. For more information on the District's reserve funds, please see the Budget & Election webpage on the district site at www.depewschools.org.

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

History of Tax Levy & Budget

TAX LEVY

School Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 Est.
Tax Levy	\$17,243,582	\$17,370,360	\$17,558,919	\$17,886,910	\$18,132,057
Dollar Change	\$488,908	\$126,778	\$188,559	\$327,991	\$245,147
Percent Change	2.92%	0.74%	1.09%	1.87%	1.37%

BUDGET

School Year	2015-16*	2016-17*	2017-18	2018-19*	2019-20 Est.
Budget	\$41,494,126	\$42,753,383	\$43,263,553	\$43,968,318	\$45,046,149
Dollar Change	\$403,614	\$1,259,257	\$510,170	\$704,765	\$1,077,831
Percent Change	0.98%	3.03%	1.19%	1.63%	2.45%

* Includes Vehicle Purchases

TAX RATE (per thousand of assessed valuation)

School Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19*	2019-20 Est.**
Cheektowaga	\$21.57 0.45%	\$21.33 <1.11%>	\$21.23 <0.45%>	\$21.71 2.23%	\$21.70 <0.025%>
Lancaster	\$22.01 2.50%	\$22.45 2.02%	\$23.08 2.80%	\$22.94 <0.61%>	\$23.96 4.43%

*Note: the numbers below changed from the time of publication last year.

**These figures do not factor in the decrease in assessment value due to the Veterans' Tax Exemption

Estimated Dollar Change In Homeowner's Tax Bill

The tax rate is estimated at \$21.70 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, representing an estimated decrease of approximately 0.025% in Cheektowaga and \$23.96 per \$1,000, a increase of 4.43% for Lancaster residents.



Budget Public Hearing

May 14, 2019
Depew High School Cafeteria
6:30 p.m. - Budget Hearing

Voter Qualifications:

- 18 years old
- U.S. resident
- Resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote date



Factors that Alter Tax Rates & Why

There are several factors that dictate how an individual's school tax bill is calculated after a school district sets the final tax levy - none of which are within the district's control. (This calculation process did not change under New York's property tax cap law.)

Assessment Totals:

Tax bills continue to be calculated by using a property's assessed value (as determined by the local town assessor) and the tax rate - or the amount paid in taxes per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Equalization Rates:

Tax rates are not solely determined by the tax levy approved by voters; they are often adjusted by the state using equalization rates, designed to equally distribute the tax burden across municipalities within a district. Tax bills can also be affected by STAR or other exemptions, such as the Veterans' Tax Exemption, for which individual taxpayers may qualify. The equalization rate for Lancaster is 77% and for Cheektowaga, 85%.

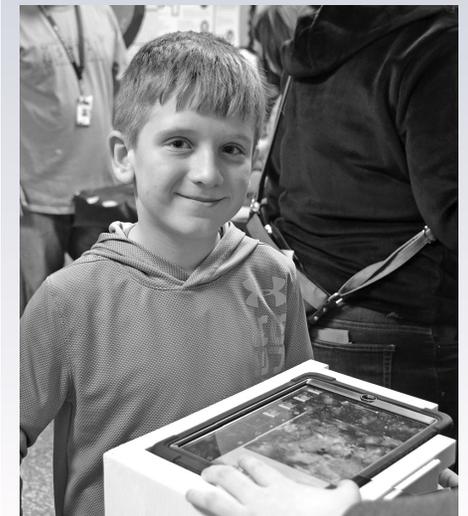
The actual tax rate will not be finalized until August 2019.

Absentee Ballot applications are available in the District Office from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m.

Budget Vote & Election

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Noon - 9 p.m.

Cayuga Heights Elementary School
1780 Como Park Blvd., Depew, NY 14043



STEAM Family Fun Night highlighted the district's use of technology and hands-on education.



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DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEPEW SCHOOL RESIDENT

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

- David Sheff, President
- John Spencer, Vice President
- Todd Bush, Trustee
- Amy Doody, Trustee
- Donna Kapinos, Trustee
- Patrick Law, Trustee
- Justin P. Young, Trustee

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

www.depewschools.org

**Depew Union Free School District
Budget Notice
Overall Budget Proposal**

	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$43,676,417	\$44,666,352	\$44,421,205
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$989,935	\$744,788
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.27%	1.71%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$17,886,910	\$18,132,057	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$17,886,910	\$18,132,057	\$17,886,910
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$129,205	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,757,705	\$18,132,057	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$17,757,705	\$18,132,057	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,886,411	\$3,883,063	\$3,869,090
Program Component	\$32,755,341	\$33,717,834	\$33,588,145
Capital Component	\$7,034,665	\$7,065,455	\$6,963,970

The proposed 2019-20 budget is at or below the Tax Cap Limit, thereby needing approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus 1). If the Depew UFSD had to enact a Contingency Budget, an additional \$245,147 of budget cuts would be needed. The above figures are exclusive of a separate resolution for vehicle purchases.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Vehicle Purchases	\$379,797

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings' Cheektowaga/Lancaster	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
	\$519 / \$477

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Depew Union Free School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at Cayuga Heights Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, in the Cayuga Heights Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. The Governor amended the real property tax law beginning with 2019-20 to reflect: (1) Homeowner(s) who receive the STAR exemption given directly on school tax bills, shall not exceed the exemption amount received in the 2018-19 school year; (2) Homeowner(s) who receive the STAR credit (via check), the growth in the STAR amount may increase up to 2% each year. Notify your assessor's office if you wish to switch from STAR exemption to STAR credit refund method.