

South Lewis Central School District Newsletter

The Proposed 2023-24 Annual Budget Newsletter

One District. One Building. One Family.



Celebrating our future. Honoring our past.

Public Hearing Tuesday, May 9, 2023 6:30 PM Board Room Voting Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:00 PM-8:00 PM High School Music Suite

2023-24 Budget News

1.98% Tax Levy Increase

Dear South Lewis Central School Community:

The Board of Education recently adopted the 2023-24 budget. **This budget will have a 1.98% tax increase.** This marks the 12th consecutive year we have stayed below the Tax Cap. Over that time period, we have increased taxes an average of 1.82% per year. This is well below our allowable tax levy limit which would have allowed South Lewis to increase taxes an average of 4.3% per year. Additionally, our average tax increase of 1.82% since the creation of the tax cap also includes all associated costs with our \$38+ million dollar capital improvement project that resulted in our single-campus. As always, the District has worked very hard to adopt a budget that is responsible to the taxpayer while continuing to provide strong programs, services, opportunities and facilities for our students and school community.

This year we will have three school district propositions on the ballot in May. The first proposition is for the 2023-24 South Lewis overall school budget of \$29,899,550. The second is to finance the purchase of five 66-passenger school buses for a total maximum aggregate of \$700,951. The third proposition is to increase the annual appropriation for the public libraries from \$80,000 to \$90,000. This third proposition is not part of the annual school district budget. Rather, the school district, as a taxing jurisdiction, simply collects the funds on behalf of the community libraries.

In addition to these three propositions, the voters of South Lewis CSD will also elect one Board of Education member to a five-year term. The expiring seat is currently held by Thomas Burmingham. There are two candidates, incumbent Thomas Burmingham and Stacey McCall, for the one spot. The District will be sending out an informational "Meet the BOE Candidates" flyer prior to the vote.

A Public Hearing for the budget and the three propositions will be held before the Board meeting on Tuesday, May 9th in the South Lewis Board Room at 6:30 PM. The annual budget vote and Board of Education election will be held the following Tuesday, May 16th from Noon to 8:00 PM in the Music Suite.

Lastly, if you are interested in learning more about the South Lewis Central School budget or would like a speaker at your organization, please call me at 315-348-2500.

Sincerely,

Douglas Premo Superintendent of Schools

Information from the New York State School Report Card is not in the 2023-24 Budget Brochure. The information is available at the South Lewis website

<u>www.southlewis.org</u> or by contacting the South Lewis Central School District Office

Levy or Rate?

People often confuse the words **tax levy** and **tax rate**. The levy is the amount of money the district needs to generate from the local taxpayer to meet its budget demands. We are projecting that the local levy will be \$9,463,034 (1.98% increase over last August's levy). We cannot state accurately what tax rate that levy will require until August.

Why? The tax rate required to yield the tax levy is dependent upon state-provided assessments, which are not completed until late summer. Please remember that the school district does not generate those rates. Therefore, though we can calculate a levy with some certainty, we can only estimate a rate.

Mini-Renovation Project

Each year South Lewis CSD seeks to maximize State Aid in order to make the most of the District's tax dollars. As such, South Lewis will include mini-renovation capital projects within the annual budget. Each mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the State; and is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned to the District in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the South Lewis budget. If this work was not completed as part of a capital project, there would be no funding and the District would have to incur the full cost.

In this year's budget, the District is planning improvements to the HVAC system in the Biomass building. The proposed \$100,000 mini-renovation project will generate approximately \$85,000 in building aid for South Lewis which will go a long way in funding next year's mini-renovation project.

PROPOSED COMPONENT BUDGET 2023-24 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$ 17,520
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	296,486
FINANCE	448,262
LEGAL SERVICES	5,000
PERSONNEL	46,000
PUBLIC INFORMATION	97,610
OTHER CENTRAL SERVICES	70,000
BOCES ADMIN., PROPERTY INS., DUES	355,800
CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT	267,117
SUPERVISION	759,703
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	543,427
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$2,906,925
2022-23ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$2,704,086

Administrative Budget:

The Administrative component of the budget includes salaries and benefits for all certified s c h o o l a d m i n i s t r a t o r s; expenditures associated with the district's central administrative offices, including the school board, superintendent, school business office, and principals; as well as other administrative activities.

2023-24 PROGRAM BUDGET PROPOSAL

LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 15,000	
INSTRUCTION	12,542,569	
TRANSPORTATION	1,501,622	Program Budget:
BUS GARAGE	53,500	This component of the budget
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	5,175,394	includes salaries and benefits of
OTHER TRANSFER	230,000	teachers, supervisors who spend
COMMUNITY SERVICES	8,000	a majority of their time
		performing teaching duties, and
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$19,526,085	operating expenses for
		instructional and transportation
TOTAL 2022-23 PROGRAM BUDGET	\$18,870,952	programs.

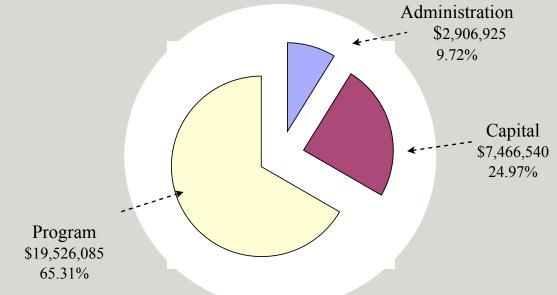
2023-24 CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

OPERATION OF FACILITIES	\$1,954,189
MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES	245,384
JUDGMENTS AND CLAIMS	3,000
REFUND OF TAXES	10,000
BUS PAYMENTS	370,251
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	462,666
DEBT SERVICE	4,421,050
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET	\$7,466,540
2022-23 CAPITAL BUDGET	\$6,965,064

Capital Budget:

This component of the budget includes funds for the purchase of school buses, principal and interest payments on debt service, and all operational, cleaning, and maintenance costs for district facilities, including salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, and utility costs.

Proposed Component Budget



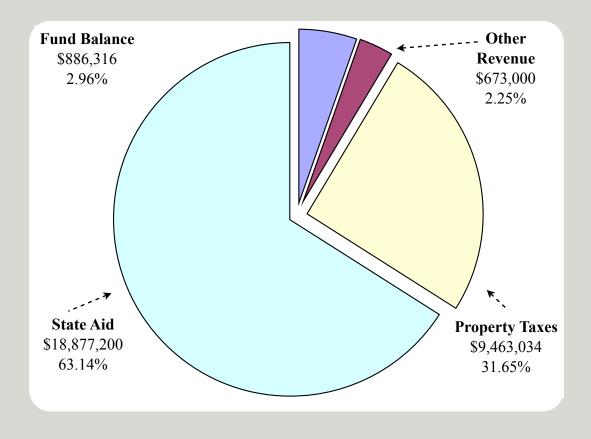
School District Tax Report Card

	Budgeted 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$28,540,102	\$29,899,550	4.76%
Estimated School Tax Levy	\$9,279,34	\$9,463,034	1.98%
Enrollment	970	1043	7.52%
Consumer Price Index			8%

PROPOSED BUDGET REVENUE COMPARISON

	2022-23 Estimated Revenue	2023-24 Estimated Revenue	Dollar Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase/ Decrease
Property Taxes	9,279,304	\$9,463,034	\$183,730	1.98%
State Aid	\$18,185,448	\$18,877,200	\$691,752	3.80%
Other Income	\$304,745	673,000	\$368,255	120.8%
Fund Balance	\$770,605	\$886,316	\$115,711	15.01%
Total	\$28,540,102	\$29,899,550	\$1,359,448	4.76%

ESTIMATED REVENUE & FUND BALANCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Voters at a school election must have all of the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least eighteen (18) years of age
- A resident within the district for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to the day of the vote

If the budget is defeated, the School Board's options are to:

- Put the same budget up for vote a second time,
- Submit a revised budget to the voters, or
- Adopt a contingency budget and seek voter approval



South Lewis Central Schools District Newsletter Request Form

If you would like a hard copy of each issue of the South Lewis Central School District newsletter mailed to you please complete this form and return it to the address below. You can also call the District Office at 315-348-2500 and provide the needed information.

South Lewis Central Schools ATTN: Douglas Premo 4264 East Road PO BOX 10 Turin, NY 13473	
DATE:	
Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number:	
	Thank You!

Qualifications

- Must be able to read and write
- Must be a qualified voter of the district
- Must be and have been a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year
- May not be a current employee of the school board

BOARD OF EDUCATION Term Expires





Candidates for the one (1) five-year term seat on the Board of Education will be listed on the ballot. Voters will vote for one candidate to fill the one seat.

SEATS EXPIRING

Thomas Burmingham

CANDIDATES

Thomas Burmingham Stacey McCall

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITIONS WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING







PROPOSITION #1

Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Lewis Central School District, Lewis County, New York, be authorized to levy the necessary tax for and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$29,899,550 for the purpose of the General Fund Budget for the 2023-24 school year.

PROPOSITION #2

Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Lewis Central School District, Lewis County, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase five 66-passenger buses, for a total maximum aggregate cost not to exceed \$700,951 and that the sum of \$700,951, or as much thereof as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of the tax upon the taxable property of said school district and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said school district shall be issued.

PROPOSITION #3

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Lewis Central School District, Lewis County, New York be authorized to levy a tax to increase the amount of a continuing annual appropriation for public Libraries from \$80,000 to the amount of \$90,000 to be divided and paid for the support and operation of the libraries in the following manner: \$20,000 each to the Port Leyden Community Library and Constableville Village Library and \$25,000 each to the Lyons Falls Free Library and B. Elizabeth Strong Memorial Library.



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ALL SOUTH LEWIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO TURN FOUR (4) YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK) IN SEPTEMBER 2023.

ALL SOUTH LEWIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO TURN FIVE (5)YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, ARE ELIGIBLE TO BEGIN KINDERGARTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2023.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The Counseling Office is proud of all the seniors as they pursue their dreams. We love to celebrate their achievements and plans if any senior is joining the workforce and has secured employment following graduation, please share your good news with us! The following seniors have been accepted to college or enlisted in the military:

Aiden Billhardt: University of Northwestern Ohio **Alyssa Callaghan:** Keuka College and SUNY Canton Warren Covey: University of Northwestern Ohio Mitchell Domagala: Clarkson University, Mohawk Valley Community College, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Jefferson, SUNY Poly, University at Buffalo Jordan Dorrity: SUNY Morrisville Carson Dosztan: Mohawk Valley Community College Noah Edick: United States Marine Corps Chelsi Effland: Onondaga Community College Matthew Farese: SUNY Adirondack Breycee Farr: Mohawk Valley Community College Alexia Finster: SUNY Poly Alexis Geary: Onondaga Community College, Le Moyne College, Mohawk Valley Community College and SUNY Jefferson Brooke Kenyon: Buffalo State, E. Tennessee State University, Le Moyne College, SUNY Plattsburgh and SUNY Potsdam **Emmalie Kenyon:** Mohawk Valley Community College Violet Klossner: Le Moyne College, SUNY Poly Alexis Kraeger: Alfred State College, SUNY Canton and SUNY Jefferson Brooke Kraeger: Le Moyne College, SUNY Cobleskill SUNY Jefferson and SUNY Morrisville Abigail Litts: SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Delhi and Mohawk Valley Community College Makena McDougall: SUNY Canton Aidan McGuire: Alfred State College, Alfred University, Farleigh Dickinson University, St. John Fisher University, SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Plattsburgh Heidi Metzler: SUNY Jefferson **Olivia Millard:** SUNY Canton **Dublin Moore:** SUNY Jefferson and United States Marine Corps Michael Moore: Alfred State College Dylan Moshier: SUNY Jefferson Barbara Plato: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Madison Rookey: Mohawk Valley Community College Sarah Schindler: SUNY Jefferson Sara Shaw: SUNY Plattsburgh Ella Sherman: SUNY Oswego and Wells College Lanelle Vile: SUNY Cobleskill **Roger Williams:** Herkimer Community College Ashley Wright: SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Oswego and Stony Brook University **Carin Young:** SUNY Geneseo, Le Moyne College, Nazareth College, St. Lawrence

University, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Poly and Wells College

Seniors:

Continue applying for scholarships listed on YOUR COLLEGE website and listed on the scholarship bulletin. Schedule your placement testing with your college as soon as possible. Those of you entering the work force need to continue your job searches, work on resumes, and cover letters, and ask teachers and counselors if they would act as job references.

Be sure to let your college know that you will be attending in the fall and meet the deposit deadline.

Financial Aid for Higher Education:

You should have received financial aid award letters. Any college-bound senior who has not completed financial aid forms (FAFSA, TAP, and CSS Profile, if required) should do so as soon as possible. Applications are available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, www.hesc.org, and www.collegeboard.org. Make sure you are not missing deadlines and missing out on funds that may be available to you! Please contact the college if you have questions. You should also contact the college about their scholarship process.

Information for College-Bound Students

Students planning to attend college this fall should attend the orientation program held at their respective colleges during the spring or summer. Surveys have indicated that students who attend orientation sessions adjust much better to college life than those who don't attend. Make certain you note on your calendar the college's date for orientation.

College-bound seniors should also contact those colleges and universities at which they have been accepted but do not plan to attend. Inform the Admissions Office staffs that you have decided to attend another college. They will appreciate this information, and students who are on a waiting list to gain admission into the college will hopefully benefit from the space that opens. Letters, e-mails and phone calls are all acceptable ways of communicating this information. **NYS Excelsior Scholarship** – High School Seniors: (www.webapps.hesc.ny.gov) If you would like to be notified when the application is available – go to the website and follow the steps to enter your email and you will receive a notification regarding the scholarship. The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college TUITION-free (you will still be responsible for all other costs.)

The Excelsior Scholarship application for the 2023-24 academic year will open soon for new applicants. Current Excelsior Scholarship recipients should not complete this application.

An applicant must:

• be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term;

• be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;

• have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;

- have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less;
- be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University;
- be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successfully), applicable toward his or her degree program;
- if attended college prior to the 2022-23 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successfully), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Excelsior Scholarship;
- be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
- be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by a NYS award that you have previously received; and
- execute a Contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.

Apply at <u>www.webapps.hesc.ny.gov</u> Application Deadline: TBA

Juniors:

The registration deadline for the June 3rd SAT is May 4th. Register online at <u>www.Collegeboard.org</u>. Registration help is available in the Counseling Office. The South Lewis code is 335653.

Students should check their admission materials for the location of their exam and make sure they take both admission materials and proper ID to the exam.

Be sure to write your own user id and password and keep it in a safe place. We are advising that you select Watertown, New Hartford or Whitesboro as your test center since Lowville and Beaver River are not available.

College Athletics: Any Junior considering Division I or Division II athletics in college, must register at <u>www.ncaa.org</u>.

For more School Counseling Office information, please "Like" the South Lewis School Counseling Office page on Facebook or follow us on Instagram.

You should have your course requests for next year's schedule completed by now. Parents, if you have questions or concerns, please call your child's counselor. Please visit colleges this spring and summer. Even though many colleges are not scheduling live tours, many are. And most colleges have virtual tours. If you need assistance setting up the visit, please see your school counselor. Summer School: The high school counseling office will have information available soon regarding summer school. Information will be available June 1st. Students who do not pass a class are encouraged to take the class over if it is offered in summer school. This year, registration for summer school must be completed before summer school session I begins. No late registrations will be accepted.

Below are the **tentative** courses to be offered during summer school.

Session I: July 5th to 20th English 9 English 11 Global 9 Earth Science Health (continues to Session II)

Session II: July 24th to August 8th Global 10 English 10 US History Living Environment Algebra I Health (ends August 3rd)

Driver Education:

South Lewis is planning to offer Driver Education this summer. Class will begin <u>July</u> <u>5th</u> and run Monday through Friday for six weeks. Students must have a valid learner's permit before that date. Interested students must sign up in the high school counseling office as soon as possible.

The South Lewis High School Counseling Office would like to recognize the tremendous effort exhibited by Mrs. Amanda Kogut, School Counselor in the middle school and Mrs. Kelly Whalen, School Counselor in the elementary, for organizing and conducting the first South Lewis Clothing Giveaway. Your compassion, vision, and hard work is appreciated by your colleagues and the community.



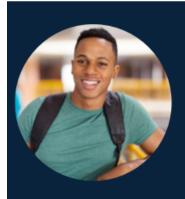
As school counselors, we follow the state guidelines to include ALL students in our role, providing personal/social counseling, academic advisement, and career/college planning.

NYS Board of Regents Initiative on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

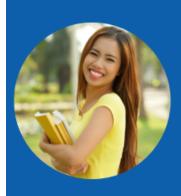
We will create and sustain safe, nurturing and engaging learning environments for **ALL** students.



"Diversity is not our problem. It is our promise." -- Elijah Cummings

WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED

- Diversity means a wide range of human qualities and attributes
- Diversity is an educational and social asset for ALL
- Respecting diversity helps us meet the physical, social and emotional needs of ALL



"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." -- Margaret Mead

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED

- Equity means fair treatment and opportunity for ALL
- Equity is fair access to programs, classes and needed supports
- Equity prepares ALL students to be actively engaged citizens



"There is only one way to see things, until someone shows us how to look at them with different eyes." -- Pablo Picasso

CULTURES, LANGUAGES AND EXPERIENCES

- Inclusion means recognizing, understanding and accepting ALL
- Inclusion teaches and models respect for ALL
- Inclusion makes ALL feel safe, supported and valued

"Diversity is being invited to the dance. Inclusion is being asked to dance. Equity is allowing you to choose the music." -- Cynthia Cimedo

EMMA REID VALEDICTORIAN



With a 99.43 GPA, Emma Reid has earned the distinction of the Class of 2023 Valedictorian. Emma is the daughter of Andrew and Kristine Reid of Boonville. During her high school years, Emma has been an outstanding student, a leader among her peers, and a conscientious member of the South Lewis community.

With her stellar academic record, Emma has achieved scholastic recognition both locally and nationally. Recently, Emma was identified as a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program which acknowledges students with exceptional academic performance and high SAT scores. Emma is also the recipient of several collegiate scholarship nominations and awards including: the Clarkson University Leadership Award; the Rensselaer Medal; the RIT Computing Medal and Scholarship; the New York State Senate Youth Leadership Recognition Award; and the Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology. At South Lewis, Emma was a Spring 2022 inductee into The Morgan Lewis Chapter of National Honor Society and was recently designated a Class of 2023 South Lewis Lions Club Scholar. In addition to a rigorous high-school schedule, Emma has been independently taking college-level classes since she was a sophomore. Because of her performance as a college student, Emma was awarded the CollegeBoard.org Rural and Small Town Recognition Award and was named to Mohawk Valley Community College President's List.

In addition to focusing on academics and maintaining high honor grades, Emma works to contribute to her school community in other ways. In the fall, Emma spends time in the pool with her teammates on the Falcon Swim Team; in the winter, she enjoys downhill skiing and shares her knowledge as an instructor to novice skiers. Over the years at South Lewis, Emma has been a part of FFA, GAA, Youth Advisory Council, Conspiracy Club, and Library Club. Emma serves as a peer tutor, as a competitive member of the Whiz Quiz Team, and as an integral part of the Falcon Robotics Team. Outside of school, Emma devotes time to her church, fills any extra moments by volunteering for 4-H activities, and commits herself to assisting the Lewis County Youth Bureau and Jr. Fair Board.

In the fall, Emma plans to attend a 4-year college where she will pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science.



With an overall average of 97.65, Mason Youngs has been identified as both Salutatorian and Technical Honor Student for the Class of 2023. Mason is the son of James and Cheryl Youngs of Boonville. Throughout his high school career, Mason has distinguished himself as a high-achieving student and an active member of his class.

Academically, Mason has remained on the high honor roll during high school and has gained recognition as an extraordinary high school student. This year, Mason was nominated for the New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence. Mason was also named a Class of 2023 South Lewis Lions Club Scholar. Last year, Mason's commitment to academic excellence earned him the nomination for the University of Rochester's Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award. This award recognizes exceptional promise in the sciences as well as high PSAT scores.

Over the years and in addition to his school work, Mason has remained involved with team sports and with social clubs and groups. As a South Lewis Falcon, Mason has been a member of the Rifle Team since his freshman year. This year, Mason enjoyed the distinction of Rifle Team Captain. During his freshman year, Mason participated in Students Against a Vanishing Environment ("S.A.V.E."), a school-wide recycling initiative. This year, Mason has become an engaged participant in the South Lewis Conspiracy Club. This is a social club that provides a forum in which high school students can research selected topics, provide informed presentations, and engage in thoughtful discussion with their peers.

For the past two years, Mason has excelled as a student at the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center in Glenfield. There, Mason is enrolled in the Carpentry Program where he has established himself as a student with tremendous ability. Mason's attention to detail and precise nature have allowed him to consistently develop and enhance his building skills with hands-on training and with cutting-edge technology. Recently, Mason was named the Channel 7 Career-Tech All Star.

After graduation, Mason will pursue a career in carpentry and has plans to one day own his own business in the construction industry.

SOUTH LEWIS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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CAR-RTE-SORT

Occupant or Box Holder



South Lewis Central School

Home of the Falcons