



LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LAWRENCE.ORG

2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Board of Education and central administration of the Lawrence Union Free School District take pride in our ability to maintain the highest standard of excellence in education at the lowest possible tax impact. That's why we have worked so tirelessly to propose a school district budget with a 0.35% budget increase and 0% increase in the tax levy while maintaining all programs and services offered to both the public and non-public school families.

Our philosophy in crafting a budget is simple. We have two primary objectives: we care for our students, and we care for the taxpayers. Every decision we make stems from how we can best support these constituencies. We care for students by supporting and sustaining award-winning programs, initiatives, technology upgrades, facilities and more. And we care for taxpayers by doing so without increasing our tax levy. That we are able to accomplish this is a testament to the hard work of our Lawrence team and the unwavering support of our parents and community. Lawrence Public Schools are truly a collaborative effort.

The mission of the Lawrence Public Schools, a unifying force at the heart of a cultural mosaic, is to ensure all learners reach their highest individual potential, through an academically rigorous educational system that inspires life-long learning; focuses on creative, student-centered teaching and learning; and enables all to possess the confidence and abilities to meet life's challenges.

☆ CONTINUATION OF TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLS

We are constantly updating our technology to set and meet long and short-term goals. The proposed 2023-2024 budget continues to keep us ready for the challenges of the future.

☆ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WITH NO TAX INCREASE

\$5 million in capital improvements for this year, and \$5 million in capital improvements for next year, with no increase to taxes.

☆ EMPHASIS ON THE WHOLE CHILD

Academic, mental, and physical growth are embedded in the philosophy and practices in Lawrence. In this way, we best prepare our learners to handle life's challenges and reach their highest potential.

BUDGET VOTE & ANNUAL ELECTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

POLLING LOCATIONS:

- ☆ Primary School at
Number Two School
1 Donahue Avenue, Inwood
- ☆ Lawrence Middle School
195 Broadway, Lawrence
- ☆ Lawrence High School
2 Reilly Road, Cedarhurst
- ☆ Atlantic Beach Village Hall
65 The Plaza, Atlantic Beach

SEE BACK PAGE FOR
VOTING GUIDELINES

Residents who wish to view the line-by-line details may view the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget on the District website, Lawrence.org, under "Important Documents"

REVENUES

As a school district, we have limited sources of revenue. We aggressively pursue and are awarded grants, state and federal funds, and maximize our investments.

	CURRENT BUDGET 2022–2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023–2024
STATE AID (Non-Tax Revenues)	\$13,011,709	\$12,347,035
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE PLUS SURPLUS	\$0	\$0
OTHER SOURCES (Non-Tax Revenues)	\$3,524,044	\$4,549,044
TAX LEVY	\$85,954,300	\$85,954,300
TAX LEVY (Capital Project Exclusions)	\$0	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$102,490,053	\$102,850,379

EXPENDITURES

New York State requires that all public schools report their spending in the "Three-Part Budget" format.

THREE-PART BUDGET

	CURRENT BUDGET 2022–2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023–2024
ADMINISTRATION	\$11,545,558	\$11,076,352
CAPITAL	\$11,271,094	\$10,999,825
PROGRAM	\$79,673,401	\$80,774,202
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$102,490,053	\$102,850,379

ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION, 10.769% OF THE BUDGET

\$11,076,352

	CURRENT BUDGET 2022–2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023–2024
Administrative Services — Offices of the Superintendent, Human Resources, and Business: salaries of Asst. Superintendent, administrators, secretarial and support staff; supplies, equipment and contractual services, and all related expenses, including BOCES services, legal fees, including annual retainer for Board of Education attorneys.	\$3,147,640	\$2,709,876
Central Services — Includes central printing, mailing, service contracts for equipment; data processing for all student administrative services, as well as maintenance fees of financial programs for payroll, accounting, personnel and staff attendance.	\$1,750,090	\$1,670,504
Curriculum — Salaries of the Curriculum Office staff; supplies, related expenses; salaries of building principals, supervisors, their administrative staffs and clerical personnel, hall monitors and aides; related expenses for equipment purchase, rental and service agreements.	\$1,453,961	\$1,542,404
Special Items — Insurance, mandated charges such as the district's BOCES administrative cost, fees to Villages of Cedarhurst and Lawrence, School Association dues; investigative services for nonresident cases.	\$1,117,775	\$1,077,750
Employee Benefits — Includes employer's FICA obligation, Medicare, health, dental, optical and life insurance. Employees contribute to the aforementioned benefits. Where possible, the District utilizes self-insurance programs as a cost-containing measure. Also includes workers' compensation, unemployment, health insurance, and reimbursement of Medicare Part B expenses for retirees over age 65.	\$4,076,092	\$4,075,818
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$11,545,558	\$11,076,352

CAPITAL, 10.695% OF THE BUDGET**\$10,999,825**

	CURRENT BUDGET 2022–2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023–2024
Operations and Plant Maintenance — Salaries of maintenance, grounds, cleaning and security crews and related supervisors for four buildings; equipment; contracted services for property repairs, property insurance; BOCES/health and safety officials; utilities and WAN/fiber-optic internet lines; cleaning supplies and materials.	\$5,773,026	\$5,548,931
Debt Service — Includes payments, principal and interest on notes, and energy efficient bonds, copy machine leases.	\$75,000	\$25,000
Employee Benefits — Includes employer’s FICA obligation, Medicare, health, dental, optical and life insurance. Employees contribute to the aforementioned benefits. Where possible, the District utilizes self-insurance programs as a cost-containing measure. Also includes workers’ compensation, unemployment, health insurance, and reimbursement of Medicare Part B expenses for retirees over age 65.	\$1,458,121	\$1,460,947
Interfund Transfer FEMA Capital Project	\$3,964,947	\$3,964,947
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$11,271,094	\$10,999,825

PROGRAM, 78.536% OF THE BUDGET**\$80,774,202**

	CURRENT BUDGET 2022–2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023–2024
Classroom Instruction/Regular School — Salaries for all teachers, aides and substitutes; furniture and equipment, contractual expenses, textbooks for public and nonpublic students; supplies and materials and BOCES-related expenses.	\$23,670,723	\$23,108,938
Special Education — Salaries for all special education teachers, aides, support and clerical staff for all programs conducted within the District; equipment, supplies; tuition and legal services for special education students and foster children receiving BOCES services.	\$19,115,295	\$19,050,153
Pupil Services and Activities — Salaries for Attendance, Guidance, Health Services, Psychological Services, Social Work Services, Co-curricular and Interscholastic Athletics staff and clerical support; supplies, fees and testing costs where applicable.	\$7,066,738	\$7,360,471
Transportation — Transportation/Central Registration: staff and special education bus monitors; medical exams, training, expenses for Central Registration. Contract Transportation: costs related to transport of public and nonpublic students, handicapped pupils, field trips and school activities.	\$13,005,226	\$14,743,915
Employee Benefits — Includes employer’s FICA obligation, Medicare, health, dental, optical and life insurance. Employees contribute to the aforementioned benefits. Where possible, the District utilizes self-insurance programs as a cost-containing measure. Also includes workers’ compensation, unemployment, health insurance and reimbursement of Medicare Part B expenses for retirees over age 65.	\$15,661,967	\$15,494,904
Other — Special schools, academic support and grants-in-aid, instructional media and technology.	\$813,452	\$675,821
Interfund Transfers — Local Share for Summer Handicapped and Section 4201 School.	\$340,000	\$340,000
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$79,673,401	\$80,774,202

BUDGET VOTE AND ANNUAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 • 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

All voters must be United States citizens, 18 years old or older, and a resident of School District 15 for at least thirty days prior to the vote. In addition, a resident must be registered either with the school district or with the Nassau County Board of Elections. If you have voted in either a school district election within the past year or a local general election anytime in the past four years, you are already registered. If you are not already registered with either, you may register with the County online or with the DMV online or download their form and mail it in. The form can also be picked up at your local Post Office.

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk and are also available on the District website at Lawrence.org. Completed applications must be received in the District Clerk's office by May 9th if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. If the ballot is to be hand delivered to the voter, the application must be received in the District Clerk's office by May 9th. All completed absentee ballots must be received in the District Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on May 16th. An absentee ballot drop-box will be located outside of the Lawrence High School main entrance from May 9th until May 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register in person throughout the school year with Ms. Mohinder Bharaj, District Clerk. By doing so, you will be qualified only to vote in school district elections. Qualified residents should bring at least one document from each category below to the District Clerk's office, 2 Reilly Road, Cedarhurst, NY 11516, on school days between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For security reasons, please call ahead for an appointment as the campus is closed to visitors: 516-295-7032.

Evidence of identification (photo ID)

- Valid NYS driver's license
- Valid NYS photo ID card
- Valid US passport

Evidence of residency and occupancy

- Recent gas bill, oil bill, electric bill, home telephone bill, cable bill, property tax bill showing address and name
- Copy of lease
- Record of recent mortgage payment

May 3, 2023 is the last day to register for the May 16, 2023 Budget Vote and Election.

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT?

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - SCHOOL BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Lawrence Union Free School District No. 15, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, be authorized to expend the sum of **One Hundred Two Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars (\$102,850,379.00)** for the fiscal year 2023-2024, and is further authorized to levy the necessary tax for the above purpose upon the taxable property of the School District, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - LIBRARY BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the sum of **Three Million Two Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty Six Dollars (\$3,239,646.00)** be appropriated for the Peninsula Public Library for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and that said amount be raised by tax upon the taxable property of the Lawrence Union Free School District No. 15, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, pursuant to §259 of the Education Law, and be levied and collected in the same manner as are other general taxes, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 - 2023 BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND CREATION AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Lawrence Union Free School District 15 is hereby authorized to establish a Building Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to §3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the "2023 Building Capital Reserve Fund") and expend funds from such Reserve for the purpose of financing reconstruction, renovation and equipping of: 1) Lawrence High School, including classroom renovations, athletic wing renovations, gymnasium renovations, new roof, library renovations, air conditioning installation and HVAC improvements, site improvements; 2) Lawrence Middle School, including library, classroom renovations, cafeteria renovations, locker replacements, gymnasium renovations, boiler replacements, new equipment storage facility, air conditioning installation and HVAC improvements, site improvements; 3) Lawrence Primary School, including site improvements; 4) District wide technology, telephone, safety and security upgrades. The ultimate amount of such appropriation is not to exceed **Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00)**, plus interest and earnings thereon. The probable term of such

Reserve is to be ten (10) years, but such Reserve shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted. The sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are unappropriated fund balances made available by the Board of Education from the 2022-2023 budget.

PROPOSITION NO. 4 - 2024 BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Lawrence Union Free School District 15 is hereby authorized to establish a Building Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to §3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the "2024 Building Capital Reserve Fund") and expend funds from such Reserve for the purpose of financing reconstruction, renovation and equipping of: 1) Lawrence High School, including classroom renovations, athletic wing renovations, gymnasium renovations, new roof, library renovations, air conditioning installation and HVAC improvements, site improvements; 2) Lawrence Middle School, including library classroom renovations, cafeteria renovations, locker replacements, gymnasium renovations, boiler replacements, new equipment storage facility, air conditioning installation and HVAC improvements, site improvements; 3) Lawrence Primary School, including site improvements; 4) District wide technology, telephone, safety and security upgrades. The ultimate amount of such Reserve is not to exceed **Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00)**, plus interest and earnings thereon. The probable term of such Reserve is to be ten (10) years, but such Reserve shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted. The sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are unappropriated fund balances made available by the Board of Education from the 2023-2024 budget.

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

To elect two (2) trustees of the Board of Education for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2026. Incumbents: Murray Forman and Asher Mansdorf

LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEE

To elect one (1) trustee of the Peninsula Public Library for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2028. Incumbent: Samuel Francis