

SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

Residents Vote May 18 on 2021-2022 Budget

Dear Community Members,

Following a comprehensive review of the proposed spending plan this spring, our Board of Education adopted the proposed 2021-22 School Budget, totaling \$98,208,170. This represents a 0.10% tax levy increase, supports a modest 1.41% increase in school spending and reserves any unspent funds for future tax stabilization and capital improvements, as needed.

The proposed budget is aligned with our school district's strategic goals and provides a springboard to move beyond the COVID-19 crisis. The spending plan preserves and enhances our academic, social emotional and extracurricular programming and services for our students, while addressing pandemic-related learning loss and mental health needs. Also included in the budget are capital projects to address critical infrastructure, health and security needs.

The past 14 months have been difficult for us all. As students, staff, families and community members, we have worked hard to adjust, adapt and overcome new challenges—and we have made progress. Our K-5 students returned to school on a full-time, in-person basis last month and we look forward to welcoming our secondary students back as conditions and guidelines allow.

Together, we will continue to carefully manage our way through this unprecedented pandemic period, supporting our students, staff and families and remaining true to our mission to elevate, engage and inspire. I hope to see you at the polls on May 18.

Sincerely,


Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools


Leon Jacobs
President, Board of Education

Questions regarding the school budget referendum or upcoming Board of Education election? Please contact District Clerk Kathy Muscari at kmuscari@socsd.org or (845) 680-1012.

Si hablas español visita www.socsd.org

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET:

- Preservation of the core instructional program for students in grades K-12
- Implementation of comprehensive programming to address pandemic-related learning loss and help students to successfully transition back to school full-time
- Construction of a one-stop, student support center at Tappan Zee High School
- Installation of upgraded security systems at South Orangetown Middle School and Tappan Zee High School



PROPOSED 2021-22 BUDGET

TAX LEVY INCREASE
0.10%

BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE
1.41%

TOTAL BUDGET
\$98,208,170

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on **May 18, 2021**:

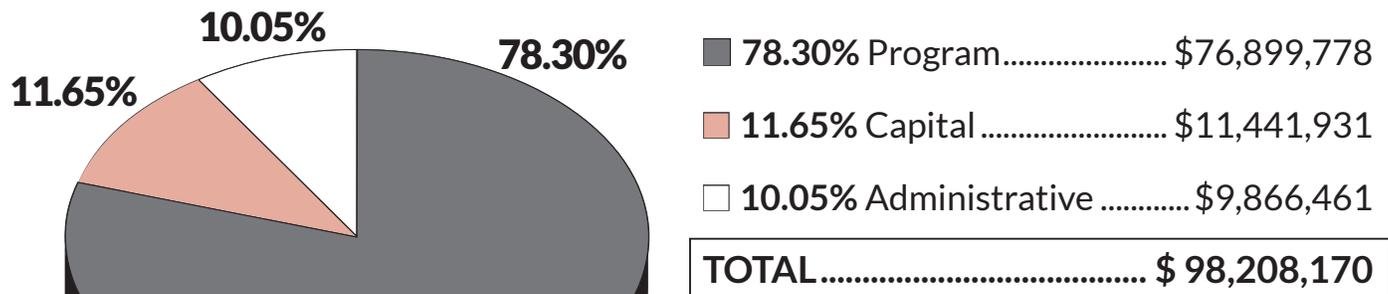
PROPOSITION #1: 2021-22 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2021-22 budget in the amount of \$98,208,170 be approved?

ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

An election will be held for one (1) Board of Education seat. The full, three-year term for this seat is July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024. At this time, there are no candidates for the vacancy. The ballot will have no candidate names, but will have one space for a write-in vote.

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES



Due to delays in the New York State Education Department’s review process and construction supply chain issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Summer 2021 capital projects as described below can no longer be performed according to the schedule originally envisioned. We anticipate that these projects may be delayed later into the 2021-22 school year and into Summer 2022. Although this shift does not change our budget, we want to ensure that voters are aware of the revised schedule before heading to the polls on May 18.



CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMER 2021

The proposed budget contains \$2,550,000 for capital projects at Tappan Zee High School, South Orangetown Middle School, Cottage Lane Elementary School and William O. Schaefer Elementary School, which include:

- Construction of a student support center at Tappan Zee High School, a one-stop location for school counseling, social work, prevention counseling and school psychology services
- Installation of a new clocks/public address/lockdown system at South Orangetown Middle School and Tappan Zee High School
- Renovation of the sound and audiovisual system in the Tappan Zee High School auditorium
- Renovation of accessible bathrooms at William O. Schaefer Elementary School
- Replacement of traditional water fountains with bottle filling stations at William O. Schaefer Elementary School
- Electrical upgrades to expand capacity districtwide

FOR DETAILED BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION

BUDGET Q&A

Q: How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted budget planning for 2021-22?

A: The 2021-22 proposed budget includes extensive, integrated programming to address pandemic-related learning loss, skills regression and social emotional needs to support students' successful transition back to school on a full-time, in-person basis. Programming will begin this summer and continue through the school year.

The proposed budget also includes funding to support the District's expanded technology program, which now provides every K-12 student with a mobile device (iPads or Chromebooks) for learning, laptops and technical tools for teachers and platforms to deliver online instruction. Increased costs for cleaning supplies and facilities equipment and parts due to supply chain issues have also been incorporated into the proposed spending plan for 2021-22.

Q: What has SOCS D done to contain costs while maintaining high-quality educational programming and supports for students?

A: Throughout the budget development process, the District has maintained its focus on fiscal responsibility by responding to changing student needs and decreasing enrollment by shifting and, where necessary, reducing staff. Facilities projects, such as LED lighting installation, have been implemented to generate cost savings and the District continues to work with the New York State Insurance Reciprocal to control costs.

Further, the District will leverage multiple funding sources, such as federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act grants, to offset the tax burden on our community. Grant monies will support comprehensive programs to address

COVID-related learning losses and social emotional needs to help all students transition back to school successfully.

Q: Why isn't the proposed tax levy increase 2%?

A: One component in New York State's tax levy limit formula is the Allowable Levy Growth Factor, which is limited to the lesser of 2% or the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This year, the change in CPI is 1.23%. In addition, the tax levy limit formula allows for capital exclusions which reflect the year-over-year change in capital spending from previously budgeted funds, but not from capital reserves or fund balance. Capital exclusions are reduced for 2021-22, which contributes to a lower maximum tax levy limit.

Q: What happens if voters reject the budget?

A: If voters do not approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education may put forward the same or a revised budget for a second vote OR adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied last year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, SOCS D must adopt a contingency budget which would require \$2,286,656 in cuts. As a result, the following reductions may be required: reduction in teaching staff, thereby increasing class size; loss of modified sports; loss of certain extracurricular programs; loss of occupational education services, per Education Law; mandated removal of certain equipment; curtailed community use of facilities without a charge; removal of capital projects not deemed as health and safety; and, reduction in instructional supplies, conferences/memberships, support staff, community services and certain administrative costs.



Questions? Email budget@socsd.org



POLLS WILL BE OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 18 FROM 7:00AM UNTIL 9:00PM.

- **DISTRICT #1: Blauvelt residents**
South Orangetown Middle School
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt
- **DISTRICT #2: Orangeburg residents**
Tappan Zee High School
15 Dutch Hill Road, Orangeburg
- **DISTRICT #3: Tappan residents**
William O. Schaefer Elementary School
140 Lester Drive, Tappan
- **DISTRICT #4: Grandview, Palisades, Piermont & Sparkill residents**
Tappan Zee Education Center
(formerly Tappan Zee Elementary)
561 Route 9W, Piermont

VOTING INFORMATION

TO BE A QUALIFIED VOTER YOU MUST BE:

- US Citizen;
- at least 18 years old by May 18, 2021;
- a School District resident for 30 days immediately preceding the vote;
- and, registered to vote in School District elections and have voted in a School District election/vote during the past four (4) calendar years.

Eligible voters currently registered to vote with the Rockland County Board of Elections are also eligible to vote.

Due to COVID-19, qualified voters may also request absentee ballot applications by calling the District Clerk at (845) 680-1012. For more information, visit www.socsd.org/voting-information.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.SOCSD.ORG

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 96,839,306	\$ 98,208,170	\$ 95,921,515
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 1,368,864	\$ (2,286,656)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.41%	(2.33%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 83,594,265	\$ 83,676,185	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$ 83,594,265	\$ 83,676,185	\$ 83,594,265
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,771,926	\$ 2,117,104	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 79,822,339	\$ 81,107,585	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 79,822,339	\$ 81,107,585	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 8,981,870	\$ 9,866,461	\$ 8,920,686
Program Component	\$ 76,892,458	\$ 76,899,778	\$ 76,415,265
Capital Component	\$ 10,964,978	\$ 11,441,931	\$ 10,585,564

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A Contingency Budget would require a reduction in the proposed budget of \$2,286,656. As a result, the following reductions may be required: reduction in teaching staff, thereby increasing class-size, loss of modified sports, loss of certain extracurricular programs, loss of occupational education services, per education law mandated removal of certain equipment, community use of facilities, removal of capital projects not deemed health and safety, reduction in instructional supplies, conferences/memberships, support staff, community services and certain administrative costs.

** 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
	\$0

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,040

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown school district, Rockland County, New York, will be held at District #1 - South Orangetown Middle School, District #2- Tappan Zee High School, District #3 - William O. Schaefer Elementary School, and District #4 - Tappan Zee Education Center on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. For this vote only, voters who do not wish to appear at the polling place due to the potential of contracting or spreading COVID-19 may request an absentee ballot from the Office of the District Clerk and mark "temporary illness" as the reason.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

SOUTH ORANGETOWN
 CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299
 (845) 680-1000 • Website: www.socsd.org

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D. *Superintendent*

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Leon Jacobs, *President*
 Dan Lamadrid, *Vice President*
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 Christine Lee
 Cara Stepanian, Ph.D.

Editor: Jen Citrolo
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SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 • 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM