



# SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

## BUDGET EDITION

### Dear Community Members,

On April 18, 2023, the South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education adopted the proposed 2023-2024 school budget in the amount of \$108,815,021. As has been the practice every year, the District's budget stays within the allowable tax cap at 2.08%.

As a result of the District's ongoing efforts to contain ever-increasing costs, the proposed budget represents \$1,000,000 in cuts achieved through the elimination of 6.5 positions through attrition, reductions in facilities expenditures, savings from hiring new staff to backfill retirement vacancies and streamlining of software licensing. Our administrative team has worked diligently to review offerings and reallocate existing resources and staffing, as needed, to meet demand for new programs and courses.

As you have seen in our social media feeds, e-blasts and community newsletters, our students, staff and schools continue to achieve at the local, state and national levels. The proposed budget supports our robust programs and services to meet the academic, social and mental health needs of our K-12 students and prepare them all for success beyond graduation.

We are gearing up for a wide range of capital work in our schools. Repairs to the South Orangetown Middle School pool are underway. Summer 2023 work approved in last year's budget—clocks/public address/lockdown system at Cottage Lane Elementary School and accessible bathroom renovations at CLE, SOMS and Tappan Zee High School—will begin in June. State approval for Capital Improvements Project Phase I construction at William O. Schaefer Elementary School and CLE is pending; however, installation of a new video board and scoreboard in the TZHS main gym will be completed this summer. Our Smart Schools Bond Project was just approved by the state and district-wide cabling upgrades will be done by September.

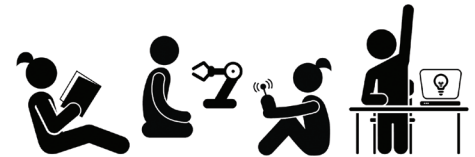
Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain a competitive, comprehensive and innovative educational experience for all South Orangetown students.

Please vote on May 16.

Sincerely,

**Ileana Eckert**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

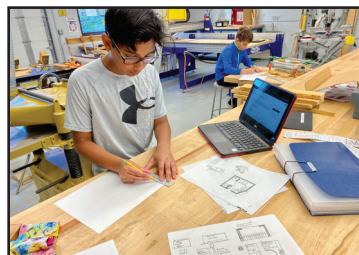
**Dana Stilley, Ph.D.**  
President, Board of Education



Elevate. Engage. **Inspire.**

<b>PROPOSED 2023-24 BUDGET</b>
TAX LEVY INCREASE <b>2.08%</b>
BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE <b>7.15%</b>
TOTAL BUDGET <b>\$108,815,021</b>

*Si hablas español visita  
[www.socsd.org/budget](http://www.socsd.org/budget)*



VOTE

# SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE • TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

VOTE

## Is the proposed tax levy increase within the cap?

**Yes.** SOCS D has remained within the tax levy limit every year since the property tax cap law went into effect in 2012.

## How does the budget support South Orangetown students?

The proposed 2023-24 budget:

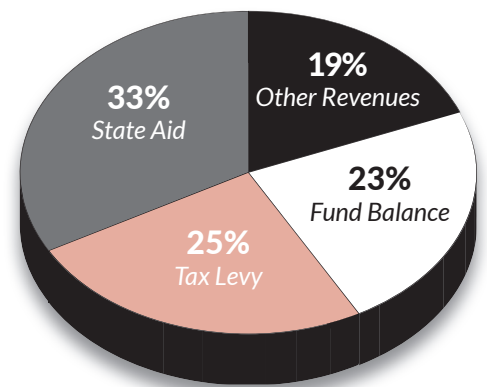
- Maintains high-quality programs, services and staffing to meet the needs of all students, including growing populations of Special Education students and English Language Learners;
- Further expands District-based special education classes with addition of classes at CLE and SOMS to keep more students with special needs in-district;
- Maintains current transportation services, late buses (SOMS/ TZHS) and field trips, extracurricular and athletics busing;
- Enhances security staffing at all four schools and includes safety and security camera upgrades and additions at all buildings;
- Provides 40 seats for career and technical education programs;
- Enables rolling technology refreshes K-12 for 1:1 student devices and teacher laptops;
- Sustains K-12 extracurricular and enrichment programming, including Summer STEAM Camp; and,
- Expands intramural (SOMS) and interscholastic sports (SOMS/ TZHS) based on student demand.

## What is driving the budget-to-budget increase? How is the District paying for it?

Two components are driving budget growth: rising costs and budget transfers. Rising costs for key items, such as transportation, health insurance, gas and electric, translate to a 5.47% budget-to-budget increase for 2023-24. Although budget transfers do not impact the tax levy, they are recorded as expenditures. A transfer of \$1.7M from the District's Fund Balance, or savings, to its Capital Reserve Fund (for renovating the 8 classrooms at WOS not included in the Capital Improvements Project) accounts for the remainder of the budget-to-budget increase.

The 7.15% budget-to-budget increase translates to \$7,260,156, which will be funded as follows:

- **\$1.70M (23%)** - Transfer of existing funds from Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Fund
- **\$2.41M (33%)** - State Aid increase
- **\$1.79M (25%)** - Tax levy increase of 2.08%
- **\$1.36M (19%)** - Other revenues, including increased interest earnings, rental income, prior year income and Continuing Education tuitions



## What is the District doing to contain costs?

Over the course of the budget development process, the District cut expenses by \$1M through the reduction of 6.5 FTE positions due to attrition, evaluation and streamlining of software licenses and trimming of the facilities budget.

Additional cost containment measures include:

- Evaluating each position to determine whether or not it needs to be filled as staff members retire;
- Competitive bidding and cooperative purchasing;
- Participation in an energy purchasing service and Workers' Compensation Consortium;
- Utilization of BOCES programs and services;
- Outsourcing services, such as food service, transportation and cleaning; and,
- Purchasing and use of software to streamline middle and high school student scheduling.

## What happens if voters reject the budget?

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 the District to reduce the 2023-24 proposed budget by eliminating all minor capital projects, eliminating all equipment expenditures not related to safety and restricting community use of facilities.

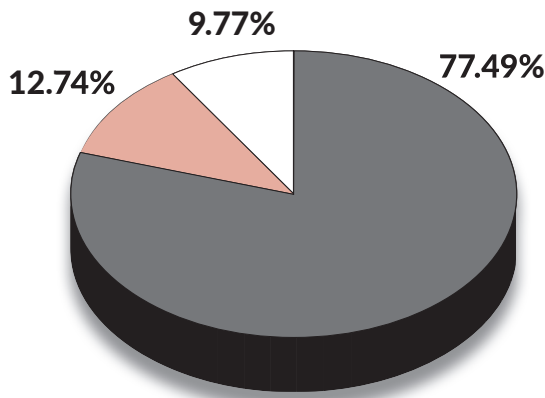


**QUESTIONS?**

Email [budget@socsd.org](mailto:budget@socsd.org)

**FOR DETAILED BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION PLEASE**

# ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES



■ 77.49% Program.....	\$84,320,734
■ 12.74% Capital .....	\$13,866,897
□ 9.77% Administrative .....	\$10,627,390
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$108,815,021</b>

## SUMMER 2024 MINOR CAPITAL WORK

The proposed budget contains \$2,000,000 for minor capital projects which include:

Installation of a new clock/public address/ lockdown system at WOS

Security camera upgrades and additions district-wide

Nurse's suite upgrade for ADA compliance and isolation room at SOMS

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on **May 16, 2023**:

### ■ PROPOSITION #1: 2023-24 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2023-24 budget in the amount of \$108,815,021 be approved?

### ■ ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

An election will be held for two (2) Board of Education seats. The full, three-year term for each seat is July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026. Following are the candidates for the two vacancies in the order they will appear on the ballot:

**Seat 1: Katie Gravino and Leon Jacobs (incumbent)**

**Seat 2: Dawn Kitz and Diana Korabel**



## POLLS WILL BE OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 16, 7:00AM - 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:

- a U.S. citizen;
- at least 18 years old by May 16, 2023;
- a School District resident for more than 30 days immediately preceding the vote; and,
- registered to vote with the Rockland County Board of Elections OR registered to vote with the School District and having voted in a School District election/vote during the past four (4) calendar years.

Absentee ballots are available for residents who will be out of town or unable to vote at the polls due to illness or disability. Qualified voters may request absentee ballot applications by calling the District Clerk at **(845) 680-1012**. The application must be received by the District Clerk no more than 30 days and at least 7 days prior to a public vote.

For more information, visit [www.socsd.org/voting-information](http://www.socsd.org/voting-information).

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [WWW.SOCSD.ORG/BUDGET](http://WWW.SOCSD.ORG/BUDGET)



# SOUTH ORANGETOWN

## Central School District

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 101,554,865	\$ 108,815,021	\$ 104,855,092
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 7,260,157	\$ 3,300,228
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.15%	3.25%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 85,990,120	\$ 87,780,728	
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)	\$ 85,990,120	\$ 87,780,728	\$ 85,990,120
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,030,643	\$ 3,162,787	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 81,107,585	\$ 82,959,477	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 82,959,477	\$ 84,617,941	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 10,137,211	\$ 10,627,390	\$ 10,594,148
Program Component	\$ 80,191,215	\$ 84,320,734	\$ 84,242,664
Capital Component	\$ 11,226,439	\$ 13,866,897	\$ 10,018,280

\*Contingency Budget = proposed budget less difference between prior year tax levy and proposed tax levy. A contingency budget would require the District to reduce the 2023-24 proposed budget by \$3,959,923. As a result, the minor capital project amount of \$3,700,000 and all district-wide non-safety related equipment would be eliminated. Community use of facilities would be restricted.

\*\* 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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$979

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown Central 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 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



## SOUTH ORANGETOWN

### Central School District

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

**Ileana Eckert, Interim Superintendent**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Dana Stilley, Ed.D., President**  
**Leon Jacobs, Vice President**  
**Steven Finn**  
**Steven Peña**  
**David Sansone**

**Editor:** Jen Citrolo  
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## CURRENT RESIDENT

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 • 7:00AM – 9:00PM**