



COPIAGUE. Connections

Proposed
Budget
2014-15

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

PRESERVING PROGRAMS AND STAYING WITHIN THE TAX CAP

Over the past several months, the district's Board of Education and administration have worked diligently to develop the proposed 2014-15 school budget. With a continued focus on offering a comprehensive education to all Copiague students, this budget maintains all current programmatic and co-curricular programs. Keeping this in mind, the budget is reflective of the current economic climate and, for the third consecutive year, stays within the district's allowable tax levy cap.

Following careful consideration and input from all stakeholders, the Board of Education is presenting a proposed budget of \$109,618,073, which represents a 2.53 percent budget-to-budget increase and a 1.62 percent tax levy increase. In order to present a tax cap-compliant budget to the community, slight reductions have been made in staffing, field trips have been curtailed and, mainly due to increasing enrollment, there will be minor increases to class sizes at all levels.

"Despite the financial challenges we have faced over the last few years, our students continue to excel on all levels," said Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "In fact, we have a 93 percent Regents diploma rate at the high school!"

To help alleviate the tax burden and preserve programs for students, members of district unions have made concessions to their contracts. "We appreciate the support of all of our unions and their continued assistance in putting the children of Copiague first," said Board of Education President Michael L. Greb. Through prudent fiscal management and discipline, the district is also able to offset the tax increase by utilizing reserves and fund balance.

All residents are encouraged to participate as informed voters in the 2014-15 budget vote and trustee election. The polls will be open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20 at Great Neck Road Elementary School.

POINTS *of* PRIDE

- Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School was awarded the Merit Award of Recognition as part of the Best Communities for Music Education.
- Fifty members of the high school Classes of 2013 and 2014 have earned Advanced Placement Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP examinations taken last spring.
- Students in Joseph Vanasco's Advanced Placement chemistry class at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School were selected as finalists in the Student Space Flight Experiments Program Mission 5 to the International Space Station.
- Zachary Wilson, a senior at the high school, was awarded the Rensselaer Medal and the \$60,000 scholarship that accompanies it from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
- High school senior Lindsay Griffiths has been named a winner in the 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Program. The NASP exists specifically to honor academically talented Black Americans and is conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Veronica Zieba, a senior at the high school, was one of 10 students nationwide to win a Be Fearless Scholarship Award sponsored by the National Society of High School Scholars Foundation.
- Rachel Korba, an eighth-grader at Copiague Middle School, was the winner of the "Legislator for a Day" essay contest sponsored by the Suffolk County government offices.
- Four students in Lorraine Ciccotto's photography class at the high school were finalists in the National Photographers Forum 34th annual College and High School Photography Contest.
- Three high school student-musicians were selected to perform in the prestigious New York State School Music Association All-State concerts, with three additional students chosen as alternates.



- Thirty-one student-musicians in grades 5-12 were selected to participate in the Suffolk County Music Educators Association All-County Festivals.
- High school senior Rob Favichia and Deauville Gardens East fourth-grader Valeria Padilla were selected to take part in the SCMEA Day of Horn event.
- The high school DECA Club, under the guidance of adviser Louise Curci, won two first-place trophies, five gold medals and one fourth-place trophy, along with a chapter community service award and a membership increase award at the State Career Conference. Senior Isabel Colon was also inducted into the DECA Honor Society.
- Members of the high school Soul Skater Club were instrumental in the reopening of the Tanner Park Skate Park. The students were deputized by Town of Babylon officials in an effort to empower them to maintain a positive and safe environment at the park.
- The Copiague Middle School Robotics Club earned a first-place trophy for a research project in the First Lego League Qualifying Tournament. At the Lego League Championship Tournament, the students placed first in the Innovation category.
- Susan E. Wiley fourth-grader Zaiba Isael and second-grader Zuzanna Obrycki and Copiague Middle School sixth-graders Alexis Jakubowski and Brandon Parbhoo had their art pieces selected for inclusion in the Long Island Museum of American Art's "Colors of Long Island" exhibit.

Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

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Copiague School District

PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget: \$109,618,073

Budget Increase: 2.53%

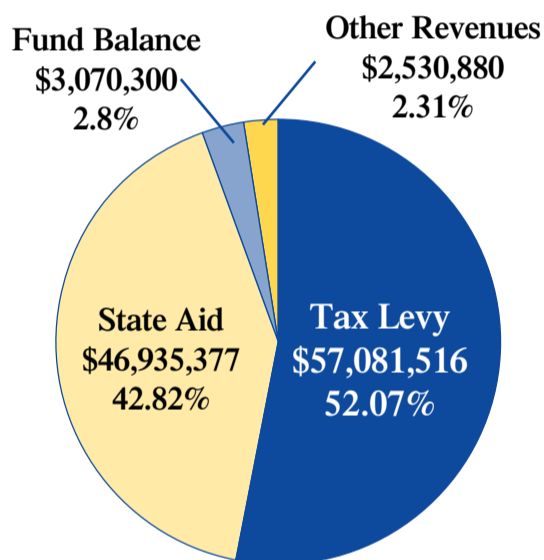
30¢ Per Day Increase
on an Average Home Assessed at 3,600

BUDGET 2014-2015 GOALS:

- Provide an expenditure and revenue plan that is student-centered and is focused on increased achievement.
- Support a staff development plan consistent with the Copiague School District plan for professional development to ensure that classroom strategies and practices are aligned with New York State standards and assessments.
- Support a staffing plan that ensures all children meet or exceed the New York State Learning Standards.
- Continue to implement the District's Technology Plan.
- Provide facilities for students, employees, and the community that are safe, well-maintained and conducive to the activities of the district.
- Continue the review of existing instructional programs, administrative support services, and all co-curricular and interscholastic activities to evaluate equity and efficiency in determining their continuation or modification.
- Actively seek out new revenue sources and implement cost containment strategies to minimize the tax burden and broaden student programming.
- Total budgetary and tax rate increase will be in line with Board of Education and community expectations.
- Present a budget for voter approval that:
 - o Provides full disclosure
 - o Is easy to understand
 - o Is free from error
 - o Is sensitive to the needs of our District residents



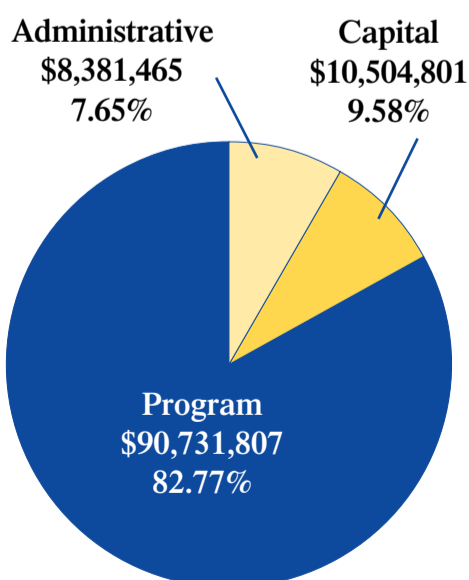
REVENUE BREAKDOWN



2014-15 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Budget 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	Increase (Decrease)
SALARIES	\$47,323,459	\$48,763,945	\$1,440,486
BOCES	19,650,049	19,466,628	(183,421)
FRINGE BENEFITS	20,621,643	21,658,900	1,037,257
TRANSPORTATION	9,616,527	9,756,388	139,861
CONTRACTUAL	2,656,477	2,875,842	219,365
UTILITIES	1,280,000	1,280,000	0
SUPPLIES	846,961	833,860	(13,101)
DEBT & INTEREST	2,203,982	2,199,407	(4,575)
TUITION	1,385,200	1,400,000	14,800
TEXTBOOKS	368,223	328,222	(40,001)
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	200,000	215,000	15,000
EQUIPMENT	102,435	139,281	36,846
REPAIRS	655,600	700,600	45,000
TOTALS	\$106,910,556	\$109,618,073	\$2,707,517

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



WHAT IS A THREE-PART BUDGET?

The District is mandated by New York State to present its budget to the public in three parts: Administrative, Capital, and Program. Below are brief explanations of what is included under each part.

Program – The program component of the budget represents all personnel, equipment, supplies, and contractual items related to the instruction of students. Items include regular and occupational instruction, continuing and co-curricular education, instruction for pupils with disabilities, libraries, guidance, nurses, psychologists, social workers, interscholastic sports, and student transportation items. Employee benefits of program staff are also included.

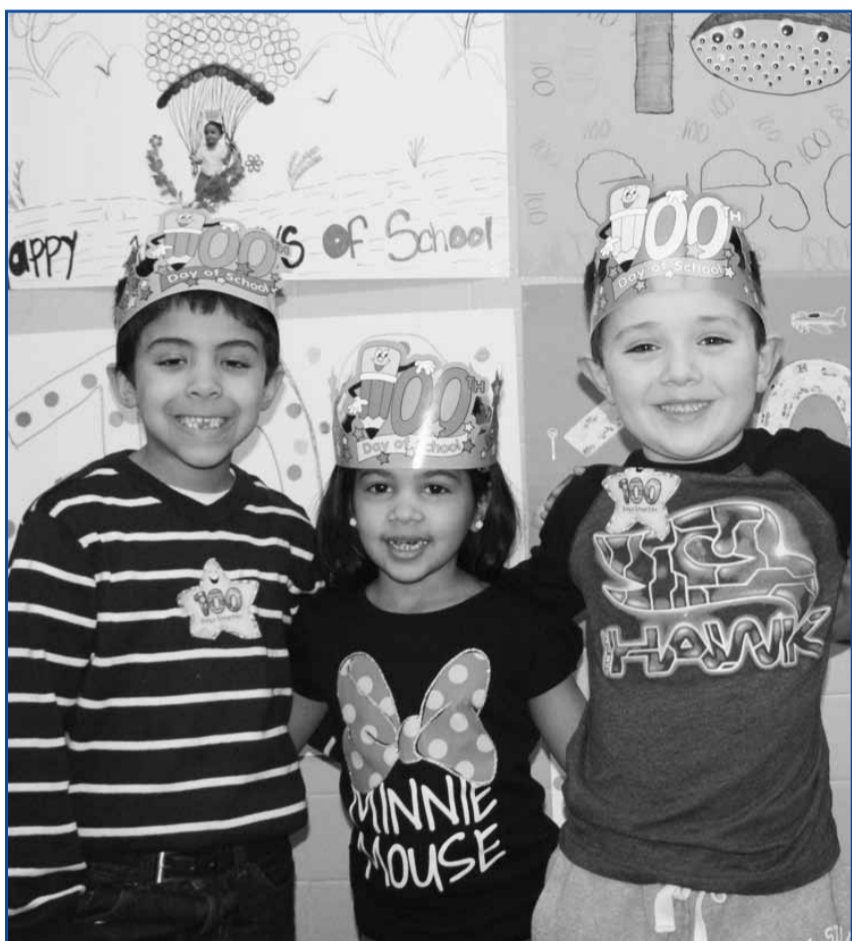
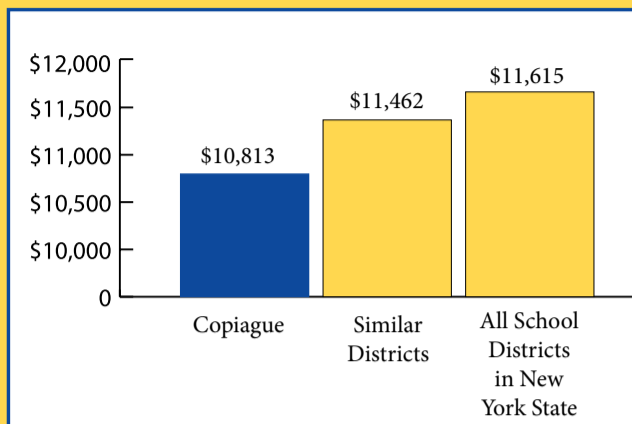
Capital – The capital component includes the operation and maintenance of buildings and grounds, principal and interest payments of bonds, and salaries and benefits for buildings and grounds employees and security staff.

Administrative – The administrative component of the budget represents the items necessary to support the educational process. Included under the administrative component (but not limited to) are expenses for the Board of Education, District Clerk, District meetings, District Office support operations, instructional leadership, and insurance and employee benefits for the administrative personnel.



COST PER PUPIL

Through prudent fiscal management, the District has been able to lower the cost of per pupil expenditures in general education while still increasing student achievement. Based on the New York State School Report Card Fiscal Accountability Supplement, Copiague's cost per pupil in general education is lower than both similar districts and all New York State school districts. The chart at right uses data from the 2011-12 school year, which is the most recent data available from the state.



DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THE PROPOSED BUDGET

WHAT WILL 30 CENTS A DAY PROVIDE?

- Maintain all academic programs for children in grades K-12.
- Support current athletic and extracurricular programs based upon student interests.
- Continue the commitment to our superior educational technology program.
- Honor the District's commitment to be prudent, accountable, and sensitive to the financial needs of the taxpayers.
- Preserve the District's financial stability.

UNFUNDED MANDATES...STILL NO RELIEF

Board of Education members and administrators often speak of unfunded mandates that affect the escalating cost of education. These are federal or state requirements that the District must comply with and implement without funding from the government.

The following list shows a portion of the diverse unfunded mandates, which account for 17-18 percent of any school budget:

INSTRUCTIONAL

- Common Core Learning Standards
- Annual Professional Performance Review
- Dignity for All Students Act
- Test Scoring (Grading and Substitutes)
- Teacher Mentoring
- Home Instruction
- Graphing Calculators
- ESL/Bilingual Instruction
- Academic Intervention Services

FACILITIES

- AHERA Inspections

- Five-Year Plan
- Wicks Law
- Pesticide Applications
- Gym Partitions
- Backflow Water Protection
- Building Condition Survey

FINANCIAL

- Auditing:
 - External
 - Internal
 - Claims
- Fixed Asset Accounting

- Segregation of Duties (staffing impact)
- Charter Schools
- IRS Regulations
- Litigation Defense

OTHER

- Non-Public School Transportation (15-mile radius)
- Defibrillators (AEDs)
- Fingerprinting
- Character Education/Social Services
- Printing State Documents



VOTER REQUIREMENTS

- You are a U.S. Citizen.
- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You have been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You are registered to vote in the general elections or are registered to vote in the school elections.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The District Clerk must receive applications at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. All completed ballots must be in the hands of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election. For further information, call 631-842-4015.



Questions & Answers

Q: What does this budget support?

A: The proposed 2014-15 school budget supports all current academic and co-curricular programs and the goals that the Board of Education and administration have established for the District. It also includes cost-saving measures in order to reduce the financial impact on taxpayers. It is important to note that this budget is within the District's allowable tax levy limit.

Q: What is a tax levy limit?

A: For school districts, the tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy (before exemptions) that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus 1) is required. A maximum allowable tax levy is the tax levy limit plus certain exclusions. A school district adds these exclusions to its tax levy limit and still maintains voter approval by a simple majority. Any proposed tax levy amount above this limit will require budget approval by a supermajority (60 percent or more) of voters.

Q: What happens if voters reject the proposed budget?

A: If voters reject the proposed

budget, the school board may put up the same or a revised budget for a second vote or adopt a contingency budget.

Q: Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

A: No. The tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay to contribute to the levied amount is the tax rate.

Q: What happens if the proposed budget is defeated twice?

A: If the proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, the District must adopt a contingent budget. Under the new law, a District that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount – which would impose, in effect, a zero percent cap.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Complete copies of the proposed 2014-15 budget are available in the District office, each school building, and the Copiague Memorial Public Library. Budget information is also available on the District website: www.copiague.k12.ny.us.

COMPUTATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

2014-15 Proposed Budget	\$109,618,073
Less Estimated Revenue	- \$49,466,257
Subtotal	\$60,151,816
Less Appropriated Fund Balance	- \$3,070,300
Estimated Tax Levy 2014-15	\$57,081,516

THE IMPACT OF A CONTINGENCY BUDGET

If voters defeat the proposed budget twice, the effects of a contingency budget would present significant negative consequences to a school district such as Copiague. Under the enacted "tax cap," if a district has to adopt a contingency budget, it may not increase its current tax levy by any amount from the previous year, essentially a zero percent cap.

If the District were forced to adopt a contingency budget for next year, we would be obligated by law to operate under the restrictions of such a budget, which require:

- Charging a fee for the use of buildings and fields by community and outside groups
- Potential program reductions
- Elimination of summer school enrichment programs
- No purchasing of student supplies
- No purchasing of equipment



VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON

MAY 20



10:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M.

**GREAT NECK ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1400 GREAT NECK ROAD**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael L. Greb, **President**

Brian J. Sales, **Vice President** Laura Gavey, **2nd Vice President**

Doris Fischer Henry Johnson Rosemary Natoli Everett E. Newman III

Mr. Charles A. Leunig, **Superintendent of Schools**