

# EAST ROCKAWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2014-15 BUDGET

### FACT SHEET

#### Total Operating Budget--\$37,295,028

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- **Budget to Budget Increase 1.23%**

- Budget supports the restructure of our reading program providing more targeted reading instruction to individual students
- Budget provides for continuation of all school programs including Gifted and Talented, Arts, Music, Robotics, AP Classes, Alternative School Program, and Breakfast Program
- New Course offerings include: AP Psychology, AP Environmental Science, AP Statistics, SAT Prep Course, College Robotics and College Accounting through SUNY Farmingdale College
- All sports programs are continued
- Busing for parochial students is included

#### Tax Levy for 2014-15 Budget--\$28,760,630

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- **Tax Levy Increase 1.73% or \$488,492**

- The allowable tax levy increase is calculated using a state mandated eight step formula.
- Each School District's maximum allowable levy increase is different
- Some school district's will have a tax levy cap higher than 2% and some lower

#### State Aid for 2014-15 Budget--\$6,024,508

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- **Why is East Rockaway's State Aid Lower?**

- Many State Aids are Expense Driven
  - In 2012-2013 the school district provided transportation to all middle school and high school students from East Rockaway to Baldwin because of Super Storm Sandy damaged the MS/HS. Therefore, the State provided additional state aid in the 2013-14 school year. Since the district did not have that additional expense in 2013-14, no additional state aid for transportation will be forthcoming in 2014-15 fiscal year.
  - During the 2012-13 school year, the district implemented new special needs programs. Therefore students returned to East Rockaway. The programs are not only more effective for our students, but also are cost saving. In addition, other districts send their students to the East Rockaway program, thus generating revenues for the East Rockaway School District.
- ER Received an additional \$88,868 in GAP Elimination Aid
  - Gap Elimination Adjustment was first introduced for the 2010-11 fiscal year as a way to close the \$10 billion State budget deficit.
  - Even with this increase in GAP aid, NYS has still failed to return to the level of funding that the district received prior to 2010-11. In the four budgets since the 2010-11, the East Rockaway School district has lost \$2,841,704 in state aid.

## Capital Projects Propositions on the Ballot

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For the past several years the district has used the Capital Reserve Funds for Capital Improvements in Buildings and in Technology. In 2008 5-Year Reserves were established. The 2008 Capital Reserve's I term has expired therefore, it is necessary to create Capital Reserve II for Technology and for Building improvement for a ten-year period. Undertaking these projects through use of reserve funds and unreserved fund balance is at no additional cost to the taxpayers and does not increase the tax levy. If voters support this concept and release the funds, property taxes will not increase since the monies are in place. The source of funding is the annual transfer of surplus monies from the district's general fund after the close of the current school year once the district's financial books are audited.

### **PROPOSITION NO. 2: Provides for the Funding of Building Improvement Projects in the 2014-15 fiscal year: (Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements Expenditure/General Fund Expenditure \$156,000 and \$200,000):**

(1) East Rockaway High School/Middle School: Structural concrete slab replacement reconstruction in the Technology Building, electrical replacement and interior finishes; (2) District wide heating, ventilating, and temperature control reconstruction; (3) District wide asphalt paving, concrete curb and sidewalk replacement; (4) District wide security; all of the foregoing to include equipment, construction and other work required in connection with the projects.

### **PROPOSITION NO. 3 Provides for Funding of Technology Projects in the 2014-15 Fiscal Year (Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Expenditure /General Fund Expenditure \$120,000 and \$200,000):**

(1) Smart classroom projects necessary to complete the outfitting of all instructional spaces with interactive whiteboard technology; (2) Network upgrades and replacements; (3) Data Backup and Email upgrades; (4) Technology lab upgrades; and (5) Replacement of computer hardware. All of the foregoing to include equipment, construction and other work required in connection with the projects.

### **PROPOSITION NO. 4 (Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II): \$2,000,000 for ten years**

Establish a capital reserve fund, known as the "Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II," for a probable term of ten years and will commence on June 30, 2014. The capital reserve fund will be capitalized in a total amount not to exceed \$2 million dollars, plus interest, during the term of the fund. The source of the funding of the capital reserve fund will be an annual transfer of surplus money, if any, from the District's General Fund's unassigned fund balance not exceed \$200,000 in any given year.

### **PROPOSITION NO. 5 (Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II): \$2,000,000 for ten years**

Establish a capital reserve fund, known as the "Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II," for a probable term of ten years and will commence on June 30, 2014. The capital reserve fund will be capitalized in a total amount not to exceed \$2 million, plus interest, during the term of the fund. The source of the funding of the capital reserve fund will be an annual transfer of surplus money, if any, from the District's General Fund's unassigned fund balance not to exceed \$200,000 in any given year.