



## THE PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET:

- Represents a tax levy increase of 1.68%, which is within the tax levy cap.
- Maintains current class size guidelines.
- Maintains Advanced Placement, high school and middle school elective courses.
- Maintains athletic, music and art programs, as well as co-curricular programs.
- Maintains full-day kindergarten and aligns district resources for long-term sustainability.
- Provides for academic enhancements, detailed on page 3.
- Improves special education support services.

# Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

BUDGET 2017

*The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District*

## Proposed Budget Within Tax Levy Cap; Supports World-Class Education

Over the past several months, Board of Education trustees, district administrators and community residents have participated in a series of workshops to plan for and discuss the proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year. The mission is to develop a budget that allows Harborfields' students to receive a world-class education while maintaining current programs and proactively planning for the future. The Board is pleased to present a budget that meets these goals while, at the same time, staying within the district's tax levy cap of 1.68 percent.

The proposed budget supports programs and services that have been implemented through past spending plans including full-day kindergarten,

music electives and enhancements of co-curricular programs. Through this spending plan, resources have been reallocated so that the district is also able to enhance certain programs and services without incurring additional costs. These include the

expansion of the science research program at the high school, improved special education support services and continuation of the district's ongoing technology initiative. For a detailed list of what is proposed through the budget, see page 3.

The budget also reflects an anticipated reduction of two staff members due to a decline in enrollment at the primary, elementary and middle school levels. For 2017-18, the district estimates a decline of approximately 99 students. Please be assured that even with the minor staff reduction, class sizes will be maintained within the district's guidelines at all building levels.

The district will host a budget hearing on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:45 p.m. at Oldfield Middle School. Please plan to attend to learn about the proposal and ask questions you may have. Residents will vote on the spending plan on Tuesday, May 16. Polls will be open from 2-9 p.m. at Oldfield Middle School. Even though the proposed budget is within the allowable tax levy cap, every vote counts. Thank you for your participation!



# Providing a World-Class Education to All Students

- Niche.com ranked Harborfields Central School District No. 28 in the 2017 Best School Districts in New York.
- Niche.com ranked Harborfields Central School District No. 21 in the 2017 Best Teachers in New York.
- Six Harborfields High School students were named Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- When comparing Harborfields graduates to the top performing states in the country on AP exams, 64.4 percent of Harborfields students scored a 3 or higher. Only 30 percent or lower of students in the other states performed at such a level.



- Harborfields outscored the top performing state, Massachusetts, in AP exam performance by more than 30 percent.
- 121 Harborfields High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- 12 Harborfields High School students were selected for the NYSCAME All-County music festival.
- Five Harborfields High School students represented the district at the 2016 NYSSMA All-State festival.
- Harborfields High School Tri-M Music Honor Society inducted 20 new students into the organization.
- Seven Harborfields High School students were recognized as Commended Students in the

2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

- Harborfields High School was recognized as an “Exemplary High Performing School” for the 2016 school year in the Blue Ribbon Schools Program by the New York State Education Department.
- A Harborfields High School student performed in the National Association for Music Education All National Honor Band, sitting First Chair in the trumpet section for the group.
- A Harborfields High School student designed a children’s T-shirt for the New York Wild Life Conservation, currently being sold at the Bronx Zoo and Central Park Zoo.
- Two Harborfields High School seniors received the 2016 Suffolk Zone Physical Education Award.
- Three OMS students took first and second place in the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair qualifying them to compete nationally in the Broadcom Masters Science competition
- One Oldfield Middle School student was selected as the school’s annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner for her volunteer service.
- Harborfields High School had 19 regional finalists in the Regional DECA Competition; a record number of winners, including two second place winners and two honorable mentions.
- One Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School student advanced to the Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee at Hofstra University.
- Ten student-athletes signed their national letters of intent to play their sport on the collegiate level.
- Two Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School students received perfect scores on the Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge.

The district’s total per pupil expenditure for 2014-15 was \$23,326, which was the lowest among districts in the Town of Huntington. The average for the town was \$26,652. Harborfields continues to succeed while responsibly using its resources.

- A senior at Harborfields High School was selected as a 2017 Presidential Scholar Candidate for her perfect ACT score.
- Six French horn students from Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, Oldfield Middle School and Harborfields High School represented the district in the SCMEA’s twelfth annual “Day of Horn.”
- A Harborfields High School senior was named a News 12/ Bethpage Federal Credit Union Athletic Scholar for her athletic achievements.
- 30 Harborfields High School students competed in the Science Olympiad and won medals in six of the events.
- Athletic teams continue to earn Suffolk County Scholar Athlete and Most Outstanding Sportsmanship team honors.
- The athletic program and its student-athletes boast numerous recognitions.



# An Overview of the Proposed 2017-18 Budget

The proposed 2017-18 spending plan was established with the goal of maintaining the high-caliber of a Harborfields' education. While the proposed 1.68 percent levy falls within the district's tax levy cap, the majority of the district's current programs and services are maintained through the proposed spending plan.

## The following reductions are proposed through the spending plan:

- Anticipated reduction of two K-8 teachers due to enrollment decline of 99 students for 2017-18.

## The following have been preserved in the current spending plan through effective planning and efficient spending:

- Class size guidelines.
- Full-day kindergarten.
- Grades 9-12 Advanced Placement and elective courses.
- Grades 7-12 athletic teams.
- Co-curricular activities at OMS and HHS.
- L.E.A.P. Enrichment Program at TJL.
- Summer Academy at WDPS and TJL.
- Technology and curriculum initiatives.

## Resources have been reallocated with the budget to allow for certain enhancements to the academic program. They include:

- Expansion of our introductory science research class at the high school.
- Introduction of a new computer coding class for all sixth-grade students.
- Expansion of special education support services by providing an extended school year summer program.
- Continued enhancement of districtwide technology initiative, including enhancements to instructional software.
- Continued support of staff growth through professional development and services.

**Tax Levy Increase:**  
**1.68%**





# Budget Questions & Answers



**Q:** Is the proposed budget within the allowable tax levy?

**A:** Yes. The proposed budget results in a tax levy increase of 1.68 percent, which is within the district's tax levy for 2017-18. Since the budget is within the allowable tax levy, a simple majority (50 percent plus one) is needed to approve the plan.

**Q:** What are the key additions in the budget?

**A:** As detailed on page 3, the proposed budget for 2017-18 calls for the expansion of the high school science research program, the continuation of the district's technology initiative and the expansion of the special education program. These enhancements have been realized by reallocating resources from other areas, resulting in no additional costs to the district.



**Q:** How does declining enrollment in the district affect the budget?

**A:** Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year is expected to decline by 99 students. The proposed budget reflects an anticipated decline of two (2) grade K-8 teachers due to this enrollment decline. It is important to note that class sizes will not be affected.

**Q:** Will residents be eligible for the property tax rebate as included in the state budget?

**A:** Yes. Since the district's proposed budget is within the tax levy cap, qualifying homeowners will be eligible for the property tax relief credit as per New York State guidelines.

**Q:** How will the proposed budget impact taxes?

**A:** A complete copy of the proposed budget and a tax calculator are provided on the district's website, [www.harborfieldscsd.net](http://www.harborfieldscsd.net), and at each school building office. Residents can log on to the website and use the tax calculator to determine the impact of the proposed budget. For those who don't have access to the web, listed at right is the formula for calculating your estimated tax increase for the proposed 2017-18 budget. When using the formula, please be sure to include the assessed value, after all exemptions, including STAR. If you are unsure of your assessed

valuation, please contact the Town of Huntington or log on to Harborfields' website, which provides access to the Town of Huntington's tax receiver's website.

**Q:** What happens if the budget is defeated?

**A:** If voters defeat the proposed budget, the district has the option of putting forth the same budget for a second vote on the third Tuesday in June, presenting an amended budget or adopting a contingency budget. If the proposed budget fails for a second time, the district must adopt the contingency budget, in which the tax levy increase is zero percent.

**ESTIMATED TAX  
INCREASE:  
ASSESSED VALUATION  
x 0.0426**

**EXAMPLE: FOR A PROPERTY  
ASSESSED AT \$4,000:  
ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE:  
\$4,000 x 0.0426  
= \$170.40**

New York State law provides that all district budgets be identified in three categories:

### Administrative Expenses

- Curriculum Development
- Staff Development
- In-Service Development
- Personnel
- District Audit
- Tax Collection
- Central Printing/Mailing
- District Votes

### Program Expenses

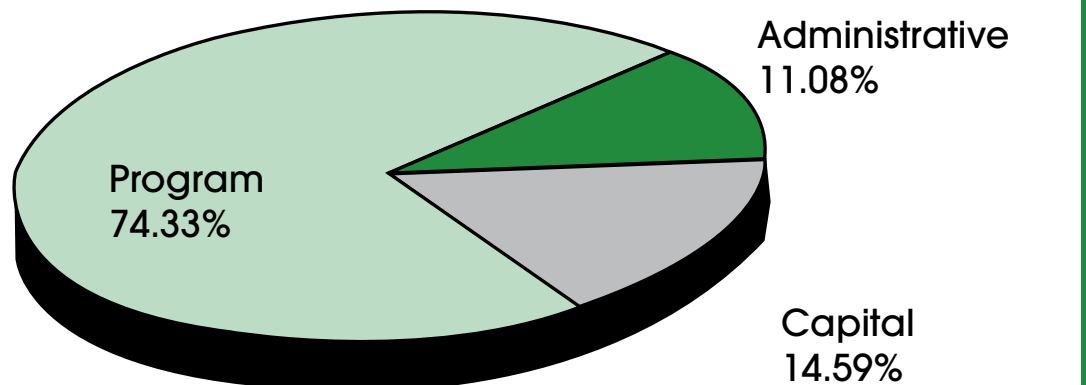
- All Student Services
- Instructional Support
- Transportation Operation
- Instructional Salaries and Benefits

### Capital Expenses

- All Facilities Costs
- Debt Services
- Operations/Maintenance
- Supplies
- Utilities
- Personnel

### Expenditures by Component

	Budget 2016-17	Proposed Budget 2017-18	Difference
<i>Administrative Component</i>			
Board of Education	\$90,611	\$91,288	\$677
Central Administration	637,426	637,957	531
Finance	876,308	905,013	28,705
Legal Services	81,000	81,000	0
BOCES, Personnel Services	75,886	75,886	0
Public Information	105,691	105,691	0
Maintenance of Plant	132,802	134,777	1,975
Other Central Services	222,850	222,850	0
Insurance, BOCES & Other Items	663,549	669,718	6,169
Curriculum Development & Supv.	459,821	472,147	12,326
Supervision Regular School	2,466,746	2,487,606	20,860
Res. Evaluation & Planning	7,300	7,300	0
Instruction (Net of Supervision)	553,978	586,178	32,200
Employee Benefits	2,777,734	2,849,604	71,870
<b>Total Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$9,151,702</b>	<b>\$9,327,015</b>	<b>\$175,313</b>
<i>Program Component</i>			
Legal Services	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$0
Instruction (Net of Supervision)	41,782,362	42,305,311	522,949
Contract Transportation	5,108,271	4,971,177	(137,094)
Employee Benefits	14,573,713	14,931,394	357,681
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	220,000	220,000	0
<b>Total Program Component</b>	<b>\$61,819,346</b>	<b>\$62,562,882</b>	<b>\$743,536</b>
<i>Capital Component</i>			
Operation of Plant	\$4,432,555	\$4,478,734	\$46,179
Maintenance of Plant	896,485	974,339	77,854
Employee Benefits	1,911,431	2,021,086	109,655
Debt Service	4,648,050	4,810,900	162,850
<b>Total Capital Component</b>	<b>\$11,888,521</b>	<b>\$12,285,059</b>	<b>\$396,538</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$82,859,569</b>	<b>\$84,174,956</b>	<b>\$1,315,387</b>



# Board of Education Candidates

Voters will have the opportunity to elect two members to the Board of Education, each for a three-year term. Candidates run at-large, meaning that the two candidates who receive the largest number of votes will be elected.

On Tuesday, May 9, the Council of PTAs will sponsor a Meet the Candidates Forum at Oldfield Middle School at 6:30 p.m. Additional information regarding the Board of Education candidates can be found on the district website at [www.harborfieldscsd.net](http://www.harborfieldscsd.net).



**CHRISTOPHER KELLY**

Christopher Kelly, a resident in the district for nine years, has three children, two who currently attend Washington Drive Primary School and Oldfield Middle School. Mr. Kelly is a Market Data Business Advisor at a major bank in New York City, where he manages close to a hundred vendors and contracts.

He served on the Council of PTAs from May 2015-April 2016 as the 'Get Out Vote' Chair, has been a soccer coach in a local league for the past seven years and is a member of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Centerport.

He notes that he would like to see the continued development of K-12 programs and would like to continue to find efficient ways to manage budget and leverage the tools that the district has. He believes that his skills can help analyze the budget in new and different ways.

"Great progress has been made over the last few years," he said. "We have a strong board, a solid administration, and an outstanding teaching staff. My aim is to be a collaborative member of the school board and work with this team to help continue to make Harborfields the very best it can be."



**LAURI LEVENBERG**

Lauri Levenberg, a resident in the district for 22 years, has three children including one who currently attends Harborfields High School and two former Harborfields graduates. Ms. Levenberg attended Hofstra University where she received both her bachelors and master's degree in speech pathology and is currently a speech therapist in the Three Village Central School District.

She is an active member of the community and is a member of Temple Beth El of Huntington, where she has served as Vice President of Education and a Board Trustee. Ms. Levenberg was also selected for the religious school chair position.

She believes that organizational changes and program enhancements can help each child and therefore, the entire Harborfields community to progress toward excellence.

"As a Harborfields resident and an educator for more than 20 years, I have the advantages of insight and perspective," she said. "The most important issue facing Harborfields is how to provide an education for the whole child while remaining fiscally responsible for our community. I believe that every child deserves a plan to succeed, regardless of path or ability."





**ANILA NITEKMAN**

Anila Nitekman, a resident in the district for 13 years, has two children who currently attend Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School. Ms. Nitekman is the founder of Tiny Bites Food Shears, an award winning portable kitchen scissor designed for parents to easily cut children's food into safe bites and into fun shapes and strips at home or on the go.

She is currently a parent representative for the fifth-grade class and is an active member of the Fifth-Grade Moving Up Ceremony Committee. Ms. Nitekman also has extensive knowledge in the world of marketing and education, working closely with NYC's Board of Education while serving as an employee at NYC & Company, a New York City tourism marketing agency.

A strong believer that the best school districts are those that are open to collaboration and new ideas, Ms. Nitekman notes that she is particularly interested in working with the administration in developing a robust STEAM curriculum.

"I am running for the Board to ensure that all our children have the absolute best resources and tools available to prepare them for higher education and success in our very competitive global economy and society," she said. "I feel strongly that there are many untapped and innovative programs we can implement to advance student achievement and provide every child with every opportunity to flourish and excel while minimizing the financial impact felt by taxpayers."



**DAVID STEINBERG**

David Steinberg, a resident in the district for eight years, has served as Board trustee since 2014 and is currently the Board's vice president. He has three daughters in the district, currently attending Washington Drive Primary School, Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School and Oldfield Middle School. Mr. Steinberg serves as Dean of Students at Syosset High School, where he is also the technology department chairperson, coordinator of student activities and coordinator of professional development.

He has played a large role in working with fellow Board members to enhance program offerings and facilities for students throughout the district. These included hiring a new superintendent, enhancing extra-curricular activities at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School and Oldfield Middle School and adding electives and Advanced Placement courses at Harborfields High School.

"In order for all students to reach their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment, we must support our schools to ensure that the needs of all students are met," he said. "This is easier said than done as we continue to be faced with obstacles and challenges. Yet, my Board experience has taught me that this community has the passion, will, and talent to work together for our children's success. It is why we are a Harborfields Family."

# HOMEOWNER EXEMPTIONS

Homeowners in the Town of Huntington will still receive property tax exemptions under the School Tax Relief program. New York State reimburses the school district for homeowners' STAR savings. There are two STAR exemptions, Basic STAR and Enhanced STAR.

Anyone who owns his or her home and lives in it while earning less than \$500,000 is eligible for the Basic STAR exemption. The Enhanced STAR exemption is available on the primary residence of Town of Huntington residents age 65 and up with yearly incomes below \$86,000. To receive this exemption, age and income documentation must be provided by applicants by Dec. 31 and must be renewed annually.

Additional exemptions are available to senior citizens and persons with disabilities with limited incomes, as well as veterans, volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. For more specific information, as well as applications and instructions, please contact the town assessor's office.

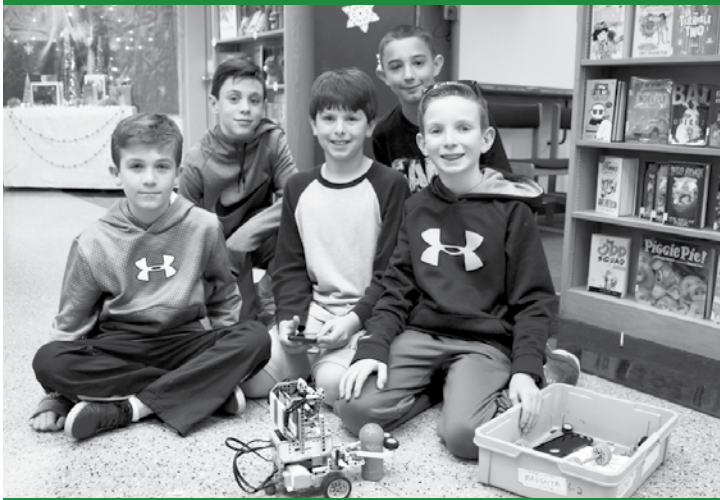
Town of Huntington residents may also be eligible for the Home Improvement Exemption. This exemption does not apply to new home assessments, additions to homes where the original home is less than 5 years old, or additions that expand the living area of the home by double (or more).

Harborfields Central School District  
2 Oldfield Road  
Greenlawn, N.Y. 11740-1200

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Thomas McDonagh, M.D.  
Colleen Wolcott

Francesco Ianni, Ed.D. *Superintendent of Schools*



Scan this code to go directly to the budget page of our website.

be obtained by stopping by the office of the district clerk, located at 2 Oldfield Road, Greenlawn. Absentee ballot applications can also be requested by phone by calling the district clerk's office at 631-754-5320, ext. 300.

## VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

A person shall be entitled to vote if he or she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the school district for 30 days preceding the meeting at which the person offers to vote.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are provided upon proper application to any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless incarcerated for conviction of a felony), or travel outside the voter's county of residence for employment or business reasons, studies or vacation on the day of the election.

Absentee ballot applications must be received by the district clerk or designee at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person.

In order to obtain an absentee ballot, residents must first complete an application for an absentee ballot. The application is available on the district's website under the "District News – Budget Information" section, or may

## REGISTERING TO VOTE

Community members who wish to vote at the annual budget vote and election for Harborfields should register in advance through the Suffolk County Board of Elections, the same as if they were voting in any other election (town, county, state, etc.). Any community member not already registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections may appear on the day of the budget vote and, once it is determined that he or she meets the criteria discussed above, his or her name will be added to the poll list and he or she may cast a ballot.



# REMEMBER TO VOTE!

**Tuesday, May 16**  
**Polls Open 2-9 p.m. @**  
**Oldfield Middle School auditorium**