



Harborfields CSD 2013-2014 Proposed BUDGET

VOTING

Tuesday, May 21
2 p.m.–9 p.m.

at OMS Auditorium



Letter from the **BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Harborfields Residents:

We greatly appreciate the community's input throughout the 2013-2014 budget development process, which commenced in January. Within the past several months, budget presentations were conducted at Board of Education meetings, which included a Community Forum on March 20.

Following careful consideration of input received from our community, the Board of Education adopted the proposed 2013-2014 budget at the April 17 Board meeting. An essential goal of this budget process was to propose a budget which continues to ensure the best educational programs, experiences and opportunities for our students, yet meets the needs of the Harborfields school community.

The proposed budget is the allowable tax levy budget which represents a tax levy increase of 3.18 percent. In order to arrive at the 3.18 percent allowable tax levy budget it was necessary to reduce approximately \$1million from the rollover budget. As a result, the reductions include: 3.9 teachers. 1.0 teaching assistant, 1.0 custodian, and \$229,000 in other items, including a reduction in mailing costs, student agenda books and maintenance. A detailed list of items may be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

The district has made every effort to provide the community with the most current information regarding the budget process, which may be accessed on the district's website, www.harborfieldscsd.net. The budget hearing and Meet the Candidate Forum will be held on May 14 at Oldfield Middle School at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will provide community members with another opportunity to learn about the details of the 2013-2014 proposed budget.

In summary, the 2013-2014 allowable tax levy budget of 3.18 percent continues to meet the needs of the Harborfields school community by maintaining: class size guidelines; 4-12 music performing groups; 3-5 LEAP program; 7-12 athletic program; Advanced Placement courses; AIS support services; 3-5 Summer Academy; and OMS and HHS cocurricular activities.

Thank you for taking the time to review this informational budget brochure. Should you have any additional questions, please visit the district website or contact the Harborfields district office.
Sincerely,

The Harborfields Board of Education
and Superintendent of Schools Diana Todaro



Harborfields Points of Pride:

- Harborfields was ranked second in Suffolk County, 24th in New York State and 304th in the Nation on the Washington Post Challenge Index
- Harborfields was ranked second in Suffolk County, 46th in New York State and 287th in the US News and World Report's list of Best High Schools
- One Harborfields High School senior was named a 2013 National Merit Semifinalist
- Nine Harborfields High School students were recognized as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program
- 71 Harborfields High School students were recognized as 2012 AP Scholars
- 38 Harborfields High School students were recognized as 2012 AP Scholars with Honors
- 93 Harborfields High School students were recognized as 2012 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 26 Harborfields High School students were recognized as 2012 National AP Scholars
- Harborfields High School offered 13 Advanced Placement course options in 2012, 13 honors-level courses, and five courses in which college credit may be awarded
- Present statistics indicate that approximately 97 percent of district graduates continue their formal education
- Harborfields High School students consistently score higher than the national average on all areas of the SAT, including SAT subject tests

Q A. Is the proposed budget within the new tax levy cap?

Yes. The proposed budget results in a tax levy increase of 3.18 percent, the allowable tax levy limit for the Harborfields Central School District. As the increase falls within the cap, the approval of the proposed budget will require a simple majority of 50 percent plus 1 on May 21.

This is the second year that New Yorkers are adapting to the new tax laws mandated in June 2011 by state legislators. The levy increase is often referred to by politicians and reporters as the "2 percent tax cap." This shorthand reference is rather misleading, as the "2 percent cap" you have read about is actually a 2 percent growth factor that is included in a formula

used to determine the maximum allowable tax levy increase on a district-by-district basis. Every school district throughout the state has its own tax levy cap. The formula the cap is based on takes many factors into consideration; for example, certain capital projects are excluded from the cap. For Harborfields, the tax levy cap for 2013-2014 has been set at 3.18 percent, per New York State law. The proposed budget falls within this guideline.

"The introduction of several unfunded state mandates has made the present budget season a challenging process that took place over several months with tremendous support from the district's administration, staff and community," said Board of Education President Nicholas Giuliano. "It was imperative to all involved that the Harborfields tradition of excellence be maintained and the financial impact on the community be taken into consideration. I am pleased that together, we were able to come up with a proposed budget at the district's cap of 3.18 percent."

Q A. How will the proposed budget impact taxes?

A complete copy of the proposed budget and a tax calculator are provided on the district's website, www.harborfieldscsd.net and at each school building office. Residents can log onto 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 below is the formula for calculating your estimated tax increase for the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

When using the formula listed below, 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 onto Harborfields' website, www.harborfieldscsd.net, which provides access to the Town of Huntington's tax receiver's website.

**Estimated Tax Increase:
Assessed Valuation x .0721**

**Example: For a property assessed at \$4,000:
Estimated Tax Increase: \$4,000 x .0721 = \$288.40**

Q.A. So what program and staffing changes are included in the budget and how will they impact students?

The proposed 2013-2014 spending plan was established with the goal of ensuring that the following essential objectives were met:

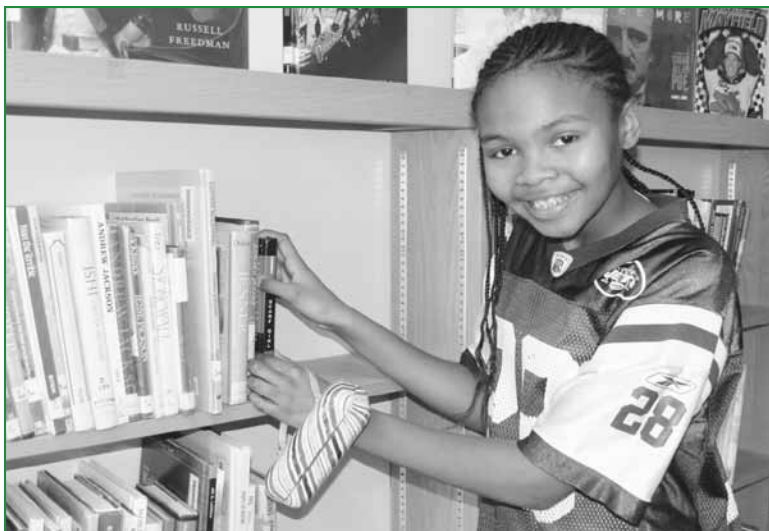
- Students are college- and career-ready upon graduation
- Students are provided with the skills needed to become productive and responsible citizens
- Students are provided with skills considered necessary to compete in a global marketplace
- Students are provided with opportunities to participate in varied learning experiences that address social, emotional and community needs
- The school environment is safe and secure for all students, staff and community members

In an effort to compile a budget at the district's allowable tax levy cap of 3.18 percent, the Board and administration have proposed the following reductions, totaling approximately \$1 million, through the 2013-2014 spending plan:

- Reduction of 5.9 K-12 staff
- Elimination of agenda books at TJL, OMS and HHS
- Elimination of the Summer Academy at WDPS
- Elimination of PSAT/SAT courses at HHS
- Reduction in maintenance/utilities
- Reduction in supplies/contractual

The following has been **preserved** in the current spending plan through effective planning, an administrative pay freeze and efficient spending:

- Class size guidelines
- Grades 9-12 Advanced Placement courses
- Grades 4-12 performing music groups
- K-12 support programs
- Enrichment program at TJL
- Grades 7-12 school athletics
- Cocurricular activities at OMS and HHS
- Addition of one AP STEM course at HHS



Harborfields Points of Pride:

- 98 percent of Harborfields High School students have satisfied requirements to earn a Regents diploma, while 78 percent have obtained Advanced Regents diplomas
- Harborfields High School was one of fewer than 400 schools in the nation honored by the College Board with a position on the Advanced Placement Honor Roll for two consecutive years
- Oldfield Middle School offers five accelerated sections to students in the eighth grade
- One Oldfield Middle School student qualified to compete in the New York State level of the Google National Geographic Bee
- In 2011-2012, Oldfield Middle School was selected as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School was recognized as a Suffolk Reading Council Honor School and Washington Drive Primary School was the recipient of the ASCD Educating the Whole Child Award
- Harborfields students in grades 3-8 consistently score above average levels of proficiency on New York State ELA and math assessments
- Harborfields teaching staff have been the recipients of honors including News 12 Teacher of the Month, Elementary Science Level Science Teacher of the Year and New York State Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year
- Six Harborfields students were chosen for NYSSMA All-State honors
- Two Harborfields students were recognized as NAFME All-Eastern Music Festival Commended Students
- One Harborfields student was selected as a SCMEA All-County Jazz Ensemble Commended Student



Harborfields Points of Pride:

- Nine Harborfields High School artists were selected for the Huntington Arts Council High Arts Showcase
- Four Harborfields High School artists were selected for the Art League of Long Island Go APE Advanced Placement Student Exhibition
- One Harborfields High School artist was named a Long Island Arts Alliance/Newsday Scholar-Artist
- 100 percent of fall varsity teams were named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams
- The athletic program and its student-athletes boast numerous recognitions including New York State Champions, League Champions, Most Outstanding Sportsmanship Teams, and All-County, All-League, All-Conference and All-Academic teams
- Three Harborfields students were recognized as Citibank-News 12 Long Island Scholar Athletes



What happens if the budget is defeated?

Since the Board is proposing a budget that falls within the tax levy limit, the budget needs to be approved by a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one). If voters defeat the proposed budget, the district has the option to put forth the same budget for a second vote on the third Tuesday in June, present an amended budget or adopt a contingency budget. If the proposed budget fails for a second time, the district must adopt the contingency budget in which the allowable tax levy increase is 0 percent. For Harborfields, a contingency budget with a tax levy increase of 0 percent would call for an additional cut of \$3.1 million.



What has the district done to hold down costs and operate more efficiently?

The Harborfields Central School District has made a myriad of decisions over the course of the past several years, that demonstrate its commitment to streamlining costs in order to operate the district in a more efficient manner. Decisions contributing to cost efficient budgets over the past several years have included:

- Maintenance of an eight-period schedule at Oldfield Middle School
- Maintenance of half-day kindergarten at Washington Drive Primary School
- Elimination of after-school late buses
- The assignment of one study hall period to all ninth-grade students
- Elimination of cocurricular activities at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School
- Elimination of one elective for ninth-grade students
- Reduction of cocurricular activities at Oldfield Middle School
- Reduction of second teams at Oldfield Middle School
- Reduction of supply and maintenance budgets
- Review of contractual obligations
- Maintenance of efficient administrative structure
- Reduction of approximately 55 members of staff over the course of the last four years

This year, the Board of Education was once again faced with the challenge of how best to ensure exemplary educational programs, experiences and opportunities for the Harborfields students, while still meeting the need of the community.

Q.A.

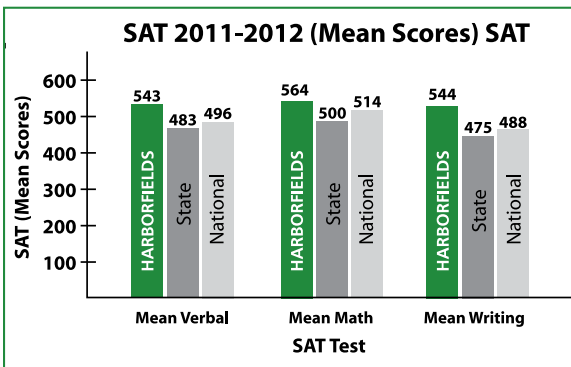
What exemptions are available to help taxpayers?

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. Under state law, STAR exemptions can now grow by only two percent per year. 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 \$79,050. To receive this exemption, age and income documentation must be provided by applicants by the following Dec.31 and must be renewed annually.

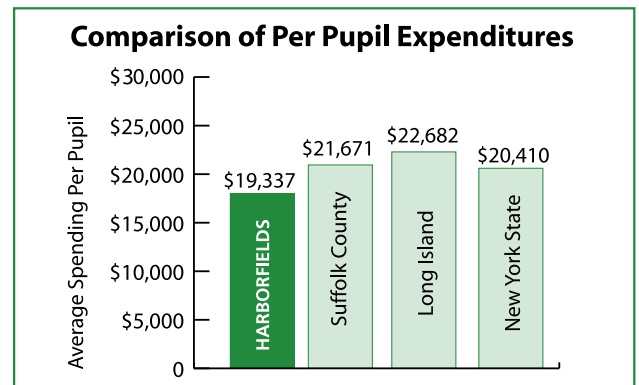
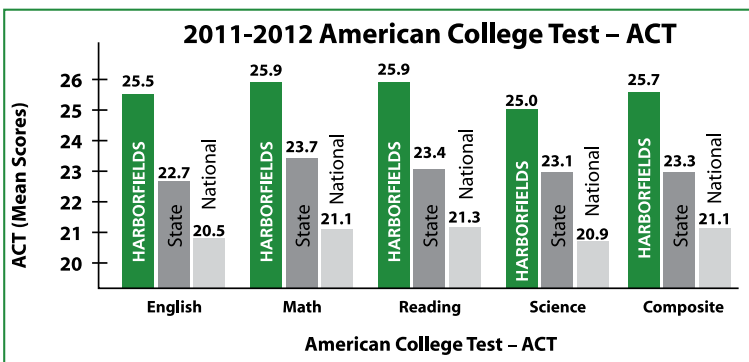
Town of Huntington residents may also be eligible for the Home Improvement Exemption. This exemption does not apply to new home assessments, additions to homes where the original home is less than five years old or additions that expand the living area of the home by double (or more).

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



Doing More with **LESS**

Harborfields' students score higher than their peers on standardized tests including the SAT and American College Test. This is an impressive statistic when considering the fact that Harborfields Central School District spends less per student than the average of all school districts in Suffolk County, on Long Island and in New York State, as illustrated below.



Harborfields Central School District spends less money per pupil than the district averages in Suffolk County, on Long Island and in New York State.

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

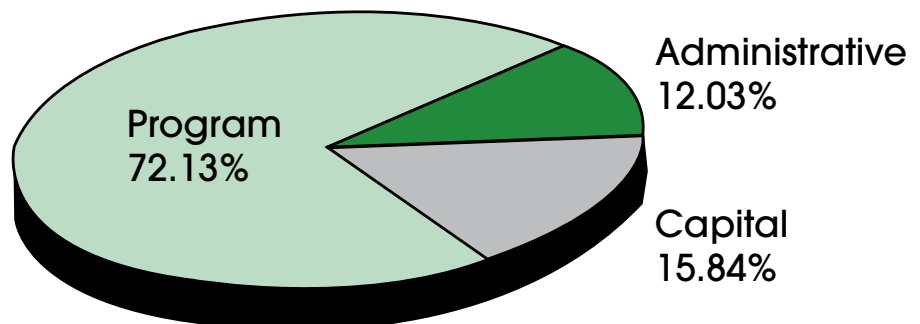
Expenditures by Component

	Budget 2012-13	Proposed Budget 2013-14	Difference
<i>Administrative Component</i>			
Board of Education	114,617	105,469	-9,148
Central Administration	626,790	705,417	78,627
Finance	811,840	828,086	16,246
Legal Services	74,000	74,000	0
BOCES, Personnel Services	57,136	57,136	0
Public Information	131,363	121,363	-10,000
Maintenance of Plant	120,689	119,543	-1,146
Other Central Services	217,850	217,850	0
Insurance, BOCES and Other Items	620,502	623,083	2,581
Curriculum Development & Supv.	391,705	322,216	-69,489
Sup. Reg. Schl.	2,446,476	2,467,345	20,869
Res. Evaluation & Planning	7,000	7,000	0
Instruction (Net of Supervision)	894,897	892,264	-2,633
Employee Benefits	2,435,772	2,767,743	331,971
Total Administrative Component	8,950,637	9,308,515	357,878

<i>Program Component</i>			
Legal Services	115,000	115,000	0
Instruction (Net of Supervision)	36,075,471	36,517,676	442,205
Contract Transportation	4,548,151	4,661,807	113,656
Employee Benefits	13,259,443	14,327,942	1,068,499
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	180,000	180,000	0
Total Program Component	54,178,065	55,802,425	1,624,360

<i>Capital Component</i>			
Operation of Plant	4,529,570	4,501,876	-27,694
Maintenance of Plant	751,252	756,481	5,229
Employee Benefits	1,686,909	1,990,536	303,627
Debt Service	5,038,237	5,009,162	-29,075
Total Capital Component	12,005,968	12,258,055	252,087

TOTAL BUDGET	75,134,670	77,368,995	2,234,325
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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 May 14 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.

Wayne A. Ebanks



Wayne A. Ebanks is a 47-year-old high school principal, with two children in the district. According to Mr. Ebanks, the most important issues facing the district are the impact of budget constraints on the district and finding solutions that are educationally sound and best meet the needs of students and the school community.

Irene Gaughan



Irene Gaughan is a 48-year-old Vice President of marketing, with three children in the district. According to Ms. Gaughan, the most important issues facing the district are finding creative solutions to fund district programs, creating a three-to-five-year strategic plan that addresses the highest district issues and ensuring the highest quality education while meeting resident's needs.

Gregory W. Kalmar II



Gregory W. Kalmar II is a 37-year-old attorney, with two children in the district. According to Mr. Kalmar, the most important issues facing the district are finding alternative revenue sources and reinstating vital school programs such as the PSAT and SAT prep classes.

Hansen Lee



Hansen Lee is a 49-year-old senior manager for business intelligence, with a child who has graduated from the district and two still attending. According to Mr. Lee, the most important issue facing the district is the need for enhanced technology programs in all areas of the curriculum.

Gary Schoer



Incumbent Gary Schoer is a 62-year-old attorney, with two children who have graduated from the district. According to Mr. Schoer, the most important issues facing the district are maintaining excellence and providing a well rounded educational experience in the face of capped revenues and uncontrollable expenses.

David Steinberg



David Steinberg is a 40-year-old high school biology teacher and small business owner, with three children, one of whom currently attends school in the district. According to Mr. Steinberg, the most important issues facing the district are establishing a three-to-five-year strategic plan, enhancing the curriculum with technology and maintaining small class sizes as well as club and sports offerings.

Joseph Toles



Incumbent Joseph Toles is a 54-year-old school counselor, with a child who has graduated from the district and two still attending. According to Mr. Toles, the most important issues facing the district are declining enrollment, continuing quality education in the current fiscal environment and advocacy against a regional school system.

Louis Voltaggio



Louis Voltaggio is a 50-year-old Nassau County police officer, with two children in the district. According to Mr. Voltaggio, the most important issues facing the district are maintaining class size, reducing erroneous spending, increasing community involvement and avoiding further reductions in the classroom.

RETURN ADDRESS:

Harborfields Central School District
2 Oldfield Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740-1200

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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. For more information, please contact the district clerk's office at 631-754-5320, ext. 300.

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Harborfields Central School District's Board of Education is in the process of establishing a District Advisory Committee comprised of community and staff members. The mission of the District Advisory Committee is to provide input to the Board of Education regarding items related to the development of the district's annual budget.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the 2013-2014 District Advisory Committee, please complete the application which can be found on the district's website and submit it to the superintendent's office by Friday, May 31, 2013.

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.

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.). Community members not already registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections may appear on the day of the budget vote and, once it is determined they meet the criteria discussed above, their name will be added to the poll list and they may cast a ballot.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE

Tuesday, May 21

Polls will be open from 2-9 p.m.
in the Oldfield Middle School auditorium.



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



Harborfields CSD
2013-2014 Proposed
BUDGET

Publications Coordinator:
Alison DeMaria

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