

WE ARE  
*Sachem*



**SACHEM**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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For more information, visit  
[www.sachem.edu](http://www.sachem.edu)

# Annual Election & Budget Vote

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

**6 AM – 9 PM**

at your local Sachem elementary school

POLLING PLACES ARE THE SAME AS THEY WERE IN THE 2016 BUDGET VOTE, INCLUDING GATELOT AND TECUMSEH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

*Proposed Budget Supports Development of Opportunities for All Students, Stays Within Tax Cap*

**Eligible Residents Still Receive Tax Rebate Checks**

**Please remember to  
vote on May 16<sup>th</sup>**

## Dear Members of Our Sachem Family,

The budget process began this past fall and included a thorough review of all aspects of the district's current budget, a series of administrative budget meetings, and public review at five regular Board meetings. The Sachem Board of Education, after working closely with the school administration, adopted the 2017-2018 proposed budget of \$314,191,536. On May 16, you will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed 2017-2018 budget that preserves and enhances the quality of our district's educational programs while remaining within the tax levy limit.

This budget maintains the high quality curriculum and instruction that combine a core education with recognition of the ever changing world in which our students will live their lives. It supports students of all abilities and interests. It keeps our athletic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs completely intact. It includes expenses for essential capital improvements and for replacements to our aging bus fleet. The proposed 2017-2018 budget also supports the addition of new technology at all schools including computers, robotics kits, 3D printers, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) kits for each of our elementary schools. These technologies will ultimately be further enhanced through funding from the New York State Smart Schools Investment Plan.

We take great pride in our students' accomplishments and enthusiasm for learning, we are committed to the development of opportunities for all students to demonstrate success in a multitude of ways, and we are grateful to all of our Sachem Central School District stakeholders for their dedication to our schools. Please visit our website, [www.sachem.edu](http://www.sachem.edu), to view budget presentations and other district news. We urge everyone to be informed and to vote on Tuesday, May 16.

Sincerely,

*The Sachem Board of Education*



# POINTS OF PRIDE

## THROUGHOUT SACHEM

### ACADEMICS

- » Two students named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists & seven recognized as Commended level
- » Aftershock Sachem Robotics qualified for the World Championships
- » Sachem hosted 41st annual College Night
- » Each HS offered over 25 AP or co-enrolled college level courses
- » East health students won Folio Award for "At Face Value" Smoking Simulator Anti-Smoking Program
- » One student placed 3rd in Suffolk on the level II SCMTA math contest
- » Cayuga students participated in World Read Aloud Day
- » North team advanced to the semifinal round of the EuroChallenge
- » Seneca teams placed 1st and 3rd in LI Iron Chef Competition
- » Sagamore 6th grade students interviewed Suffolk County Legislators
- » Merrimac hosted Leadership visit days
- » Lynwood's 3rd grade Destination Imagination Team received 1st place at the Regional Tournament, 2nd place at States, and will be competing at the Global Tournament in May
- » Two science research students selected to attend a professional science conference at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
- » Nearly 300 students districtwide inducted into National Junior Honor Society
- » Districtwide participation in inquiry based STEAM/Science Fairs
- » Cosmetology students preparing for careers in the field
- » Districtwide participation in Hour of Code initiative

- » Hiawatha students participated in training event on CPR and choking rescue
- » Samoset students participated in an Early College Awareness Program
- » Wenonah students, faculty, families, & community participated in Invention Convention
- » Nokomis 3rd graders engaged in Genius Hour activities
- » Grundy hosted an interactive teddy bear clinic in conjunction with Stony Brook University which allowed students to learn more about the medical profession
- » Waverly 1st grade students created STEAM projects

### ARTS

- » East student placed 1st for oil painting division in BAFFA (Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts) Student Invitational Art Exhibit
- » The Art Honor Society worked with children around the world facing substantial life challenges
- » Lynwood's 5th grade Colors of the Rainbow Ballroom Dance Team achieved the Gold trophy at the Team Match
- » Marching Band took 2nd place in the NY State Field Band Association Championships
- » 875 Sachem students participated in NYSSMA
- » Student performances – concerts, musical, & drama productions
- » All-county musicians for choral, band, jazz, and orchestra

### ATHLETICS

- » 85% of Sachem's varsity teams earned New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Team Honors
- » Over 1,100 students earned Scholar Athlete recognitions from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association

- » Sachem North Arrowettes crowned NDA National Champions in Jazz and Team Performance
- » Sachem East Girls Winter Track team won Suffolk County Championship
- » Sachem girls bowling team received the Section XI Sportsmanship Award
- » 85% of our varsity teams participated in post-season/play-off competition
- » 6 varsity teams were league champions
- » 110 athletes earned All-County Athletic Honors
- » 19 athletes earned All-Long Island Athletic Honors
- » 15 athletes earned All-State Honors
- » 6 athletes recognized as an All-American in their sport
- » 1 athlete recognized as a National Champion

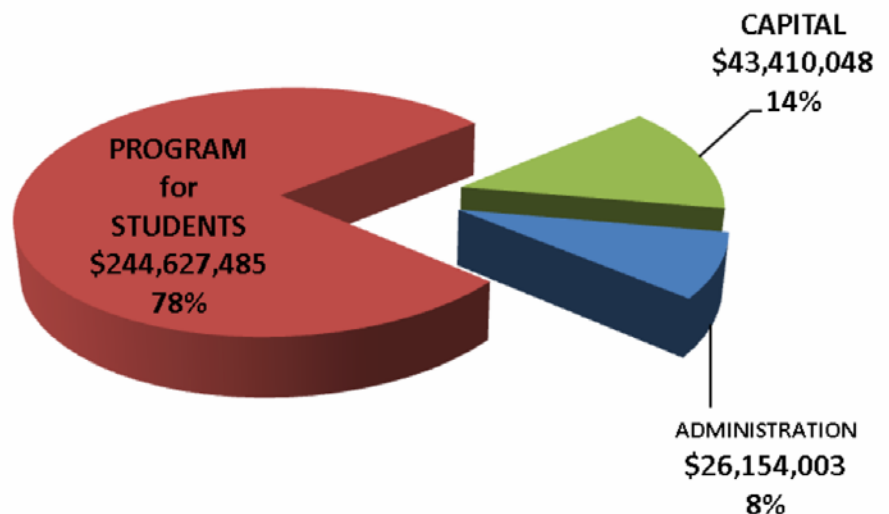
### ALTRUISM

- » Waverly students raised over \$40,000 for St. Baldrick's Foundation
- » All students at Chippewa participated in April's Autism Awareness month, raising nearly \$4,400 for Spectrum of Dreams
- » Lynwood created 35 Spring Baskets and donated them to Stony Brook Pediatric Hospital
- » Cayuga Jump Rope for Heart Event
- » East hosted Color Run & Walk in honor of Youth Art Month, raising funds for Habitat for Humanity
- » East SADD placed 3rd in the "Teens in the Driver Seat" Cup
- » North Leadership Council hosted Halloween extravaganza for Sachem's elementary school students
- » North Student Government collected 1,490 boxes of food and close to \$6,000 through fundraisers to purchase turkeys and necessary food for the food drive in November
- » Samoset collected over 10,000 pounds of food to donate to LI Cares as part of the "Stomp Out Bullying" campaign



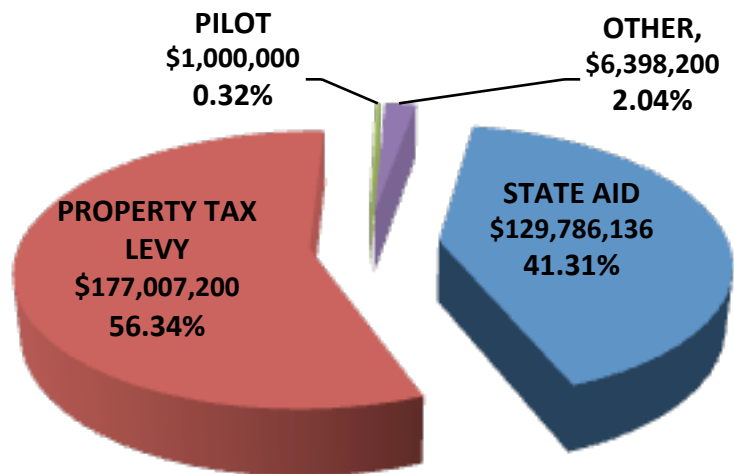
# PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES 2017-2018

	2016-2017 BUDGET	2017-2018 PROPOSED	CHANGE \$	%
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Board of Education	\$131,761	\$165,070	\$33,309	25.28%
Central Administration	\$579,886	\$571,175	(\$8,711)	-1.50%
Business Administration/Finance	\$2,059,067	\$2,104,501	\$45,434	2.21%
Personnel/Communications	\$1,406,821	\$1,541,861	\$135,040	9.60%
Buildings and Grounds	\$2,895,075	\$3,301,036	\$405,961	14.02%
Unallocated Insurance/BOCES	\$3,302,147	\$3,158,700	(\$143,447)	-4.34%
Curriculum and Instruction	\$9,339,587	\$9,357,415	\$17,828	0.19%
Special Education	\$498,346	\$380,380	(\$117,966)	-23.67%
Benefits	\$5,605,774	\$5,573,865	(\$31,909)	-0.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,818,464</b>	<b>\$26,154,003</b>	<b>\$335,539</b>	<b>1.30%</b>
<b>PROGRAM</b>				
Personnel/Communications	\$70,200	\$70,200	\$0	0.00%
Curriculum and Instruction	\$84,213,647	\$87,526,262	\$3,312,615	3.93%
Special Education	\$42,752,756	\$44,371,268	\$1,618,512	3.79%
Servicing Pupils with Special Needs	\$4,908,738	\$5,224,965	\$316,227	6.44%
Occupational Education	\$1,871,528	\$1,690,007	(\$181,521)	-9.70%
Special Programs	\$193,533	\$185,000	(\$8,533)	-4.41%
Instructional Media	\$7,572,634	\$7,831,121	\$258,487	3.41%
Pupil Services	\$14,079,935	\$13,466,218	(\$613,717)	-4.36%
District Transportation	\$18,986,358	\$19,679,400	\$693,042	3.65%
Community Recreation	\$1,091,417	\$1,142,027	\$50,610	4.64%
Benefits	\$62,241,742	\$62,753,633	\$511,891	0.82%
Interfund Transfers	\$500,000	\$687,384	\$187,384	37.48%
Planned Balance	\$1,154,163	\$0	(\$1,154,163)	-100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$239,636,651</b>	<b>\$244,627,485</b>	<b>\$4,990,834</b>	<b>2.08%</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>				
Buildings and Grounds	\$15,179,498	\$14,896,453	(\$283,045)	-1.86%
Purchase of Buses	\$0	\$750,000	\$750,000	
Unallocated Insurance/BOCES	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
District Transportation	\$0	\$108,000	\$108,000	
Benefits	\$4,929,918	\$4,925,101	(\$4,817)	-0.10%
Bonded Indebtedness	\$20,832,763	\$21,913,728	\$1,080,965	5.19%
Capital Projects	\$0	\$806,766	\$806,766	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,952,179</b>	<b>\$43,410,048</b>	<b>\$2,457,869</b>	<b>6.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$306,407,294</b>	<b>\$314,191,536</b>	<b>\$7,784,242</b>	<b>2.54%</b>



# PROPOSED BUDGET REVENUES 2017-2018

	2016-2017 BUDGET	2017-2018 PROPOSED	CHANGE \$	%
STATE AID	\$128,224,954	\$129,786,136	\$1,561,182	1.22%
PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$171,070,969	\$177,007,200	\$5,936,231	3.47%
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	0.00%
OTHER				
Charges for Services	\$2,274,555	\$2,370,000	\$95,445	4.20%
Use of Money & Property	\$737,216	\$1,165,000	\$427,784	58.03%
Gifts, Donations, Unclassified, Reimbursements	\$2,410,000	\$2,244,500	(\$165,500)	-6.87%
Library Debt Service Reimbursement	\$439,600	\$418,700	(\$20,900)	-4.75%
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$250,000	\$200,000	(\$50,000)	-20.00%
Fund Balance / Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
	<b>\$6,111,371</b>	<b>\$6,398,200</b>	<b>\$286,829</b>	<b>4.69%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$306,407,294</b>	<b>\$314,191,536</b>	<b>\$7,784,242</b>	<b>2.54%</b>







# SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE 2017-2018

Sachem Central School District Budget Notice	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 SY	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 SY	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 SY *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 306,407,294	\$ 314,191,536	\$ 308,255,305
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$ 7,784,242	\$ 1,848,011
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.54 %	0.60%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 171,070,969	\$ 177,007,200	
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)	\$ 171,070,969	\$ 177,007,200	\$ 171,070,969
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 1,258,900	\$ 4,627,155	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 169,812,069	\$ 172,380,045	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 169,812,069	\$ 172,380,045	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 25,818,464	\$ 26,154,003	\$ 25,257,087
Program Component	\$ 239,636,651	\$ 244,627,485	\$ 241,641,243
Capital Component	\$ 40,952,179	\$ 43,410,048	\$ 41,356,975

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. If the Sachem CSD does not have a voter approved 2017-2018 budget, the Board of Education would need to reduce the proposed budget by **\$5,936,231**. Resulting cuts would include all non-contingent budget items, including all new instructional equipment and hardware, as well as planned capital projects, which include ADA renovations to HS North pool locker room, accessibility compliant field access stairs at HS East, and six replacement school buses. The figures above regarding a 2017-2018 contingency budget are estimates for future consideration. A formal contingency budget would be promulgated for consideration for the Board of Education if the voters compel the District to operate under contingency.

\*\* 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
NONE	\$0

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> - Brookhaven	<b>\$951</b>
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> - Islip	<b>\$934</b>
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> - Smithtown	<b>\$975</b>

The annual budget vote for fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Sachem Central School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at all Elementary schools in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



## Q. What does the proposed budget support?

A. The proposed budget maintains the district's academic programs, athletics and co-curricular activities, K-12 music and art offerings, district-wide security while delivering several critical enhancements, including: supplemented funding for Instructional Materials at all Buildings, Regents and AP review sessions, SAT/ACT Prep at the HS Level, enhanced ENL course offerings at the HS level, improvements to the instrumental music curriculum, replacement of outdated desktop PCs and Macs, instructional technology - including STEAM Kits, VEX Robotics Kits, 3D Printers, and more, addition of an Assistant Principal at each secondary building, facilities and equipment upgrades, and enhanced HS elective offerings.

## Q: How does the New York State tax cap work?

A. In 2011, New York State enacted a property tax levy limit for school districts, local governments, libraries, and fire and water districts – a stated, but flexible 2 percent increase above the previous year's levy. The rate of inflation and specified exclusions and adjustments can allow for greater or lesser increases. School districts follow an eight-step process that also reflects tax base growth and the previous year's payments in lieu of taxes to calculate their actual tax levy limit. For the 2017-18 school year, Sachem's cap allows an increase of 3.47 percent above last year's tax levy. The district's proposed increase is within the allowable cap, as it has been in the past. Remember that this is the total tax levy increase; individual property owners may see a higher or lower percent of increase based upon each property's changes in assessed value, exemptions and other factors.

## Q. In addition to the tax cap, what mandates does the government impose on school districts?

A. All levels of government impose a variety of mandates for which school districts must pay.

These include, but are not limited to:

- » *Part 154 – ELL Mandates*
- » *BOCES administrative fees*
- » *Special education mandates*
- » *Mandated testing and scoring*
- » *Auditing and financial compliance*
- » *Academic Intervention Services (AIS)*
- » *Health insurance premium increases*
- » *Pension and retirement contributions*
- » *Implementation of APPR and Common Core Learning Standards, with accompanying staff development and new classroom material costs.*



Like most expenses related to government directives, these generally increase rather than decrease annually.

## Q. What happens if voters do not approve the budget?

A. If voters defeat the proposed budget, the district has two options: put the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopt a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted. If that were to occur, state law mandates that the tax levy increase over the current year be capped at zero percent. The Board would need to reduce expenditures by \$5,936,231, which would include items such as all new instructional equipment and hardware, the new secondary assistant principals, facilities equipment, six replacement school buses, as well as various ADA/OCR compliance renovations at HS East and North. In addition to the items listed the Board would also need to eliminate another \$2.6M from the educational program budget.

## Q. Will residents be eligible for the property tax rebate as included in the state's budget?

A. Yes. According to the law this year, a homeowner will receive a property tax rebate check from New York State if the school district's budget is within the allowable tax levy cap, the homeowner earns less than \$275,000 and the homeowner is eligible for the STAR exemption. The rebate checks for 2017-18 are based on a percentage of STAR savings and gross income. They are no longer a fixed amount and will vary. For the majority of Sachem homeowners these rebate checks will range from approximately \$121 to \$261, depending on your gross income level. This will significantly offset or in some cases negate any increase in school property taxes.

If you have additional questions, please email [jokeefe@sachem.edu](mailto:jokeefe@sachem.edu).



# Qualifications FOR THE VOTE

## ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

The election of three Board Members for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2017. The three year terms of Teri Ahearn, Victor J. Canales and Dorothy Roberts are expiring on June 30, 2017.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The Sachem Central School District has authorized the use of absentee ballots for the vote on the school district budget and trustee election. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election (May 9th) if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. If the ballot is to be filled out in the District Clerk's office, voters have until the day before the election (May 15th) to pick up the ballot. To obtain an application for an absentee ballot, contact Allison Florio, District Clerk, at 631-471-1331, visit the Administrative Annex at 51 School Street, Lake Ronkonkoma, or download from [www.sachem.edu](http://www.sachem.edu).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions about your current registration status or need further information about voting, call the District Clerk, Allison Florio, at 631-471-1331 during business hours.

A resident of the Sachem Central School District may vote for the election of school board members or upon all matters which may be brought before the annual meeting by the Board of Education.

To qualify for the vote, a person must be:

- » A resident of the Sachem Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- » Registered to vote.
- » A citizen of the United States who is at least 18 years old.

The Sachem Central School District has permanent registration records for school district elections and votes. If you registered and/or voted in any school election or referendum or in the general elections since 2012, you do not need to register again to vote on May 16, 2017. To maintain permanent registration, you must have voted and/or registered at least once in the last four years.



*Remember to Vote!*

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