



SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are Sachem

2018-19 Budget Information

#WeAreSachem

(PLEASE NOTE: AN EARLIER VERSION OF THIS EMAIL SENT YESTERDAY INCLUDED A DRAFT LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE SEE THE REVISED BELOW.)



Remember to Vote!

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Budget Vote and Trustee Election

6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Important Links

- [2018 Budget Newsletter](#)
- [May 2, 2018 Budget Hearing Presentation Audio](#)
- [Find your Polling Place](#)
- [Proposed Line-by-Line Expenditure Budget](#)
- [Tax Cap – An Initial Overview](#)
- [Absentee Ballot Application Form](#)

Presentations

- [Budget Presentation Schedule \(Dates and Times\)](#)
- [Budget Hearing Presentation](#)
- [Budget Adoption Presentation](#)
- [Budget Presentation #5 – Finalized State Aid, Draft Budget Recap](#)
- [Budget Presentation #3 & 4 – Curriculum and Instruction, Full Draft Recap](#)
- [Budget Presentation #2 – Student Activities and Support Services](#)
- [Budget Presentation #1 – Non-Instructional Areas](#)

Proposed Budget Highlights

- Proposed budget is once again within the district's allowable tax levy cap.
- Continues commitment to student-focused instructional programs.
- Adds one security guard to each elementary school.
- Adds one additional security guard to each middle school.
- Maintains all current programs and services.
- Decreases class target size at elementary schools.
- Adds World Language study in seventh grade.
- Replaces outdated technology equipment and other needs.
- Adds computer cart with devices at each of the elementary buildings.
- Expands clubs and activities at all buildings.
- Increases funding for art and music supplies.
- Replaces athletic equipment that is beyond its useful life.
- Maintains current athletic opportunities.

Letter from Members of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools

Dear Members of Our Sachem Community:

Each year, our administrative team and Board of Education spend several months carefully reviewing and preparing our budget while remaining accountable to our taxpayers. As the planning process unfolds, it should be understood that crafting a school budget is a complex process, one that is driven by numerous state laws and mandates, contractual obligations and other critical requirements.

We are pleased to present a proposed budget to our community that aligns with our goals and continues to improve fiscal responsibility throughout the district while balancing the needs of students with our residents in mind.

On Tuesday, May 15, residents will head to the polls to cast their vote on the 2018-19 budget and Board of Education election. The proposed budget, totaling \$322,887,319, represents a budget-to-budget increase of 2.77 percent and is at our allowable tax cap of 5.73 percent.

This year, the district had the difficult task of managing an approximate \$2.3 million decrease in state aid. This loss in aid is tied to a sizable decrease in building aid. To help offset the cost to taxpayers and the loss in aid, the district will realize savings from retirements throughout the district. Furthermore, the district will benefit from an increase in revenue from two of its three closed buildings. At the March 22 Board of Education meeting, the Board adopted a resolution to enter into an agreement with Eastern Suffolk BOCES to lease a portion of Tecumseh Elementary School. This agreement will allow Eastern Suffolk BOCES to move from its current location in Seneca Middle School to the newly rented building in the summer of 2018. Previously, the district entered into an agreement with Eastern Suffolk BOCES to rent Sequoya Middle School, effective July 2017.

Our proposed budget illustrates the district's commitment to wide-ranging, student-focused instructional programs and preserves all programs and services, K-12 art and music programs, and athletic and extracurricular activities. Additionally, we will continue to focus our efforts on our facility needs and incorporate upgrades into our yearly operating budget. See additional

proposed budget highlights above.

The safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority, and this budget reflects that concern. We have accounted for the addition of one security guard at each elementary school building, as well as an additional guard at each of our middle school buildings. We remain committed to making security investments at each building as our budget allows.

The support of our residents and the tireless efforts of our educators and families have helped our students demonstrate success in a multitude of ways. We take immense pride in the accomplishments of our students and their enthusiasm for learning.

To ensure that community members have the information they need to cast an informed vote, we have provided a brief overview of the 2018-19 proposed budget in this publication. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 15 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at your local elementary school.

Sincerely,

Members of the Sachem Board of Education
Kenneth E. Graham Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Learn more about the proposed 18-19 Sachem CSD school budget on 91.9 WSHR:

Tuesday 5/8 at 7pm,
Wednesday 5/9 at 10am

Mission Statement

The Sachem Family (students, parents, employees and residents) works interdependently to develop leaders of great character who are highly competent, confident and caring. Most importantly we are motivating our students to become the best possible version of themselves.

WE ARE SACHEM!

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