



2023-24 BUDGET NEWS

# South Colonie

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## The 2023-24 Budget

### South Colonie residents to vote May 16 on proposed \$122 million school spending plan

The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Sand Creek and Lisha Kill Middle Schools.

Following an extensive review of program priorities and evaluation of feedback from the school community, the South Colonie Board of Education adopted a proposed budget on April 19 totaling \$122,194,702.

Budget highlights include an increase in projected foundation aid (24.4%) allowing South Colonie to sustain programs and academic opportunities for students, many which have been grant funded through stimulus funds for the past two years.

Additional priorities include the expansion of ENL (English as a new language) programming, expansion of universal pre-K programming, strengthening the continuum of services for our special education population, and planning for both the sustainability of our programs, staffing, and facilities for the next generation of Colonie.

The budget calls for a 7.7% spending increase over the current school year and an increase in the district tax levy of 1.99%—this is below the district’s projected tax levy limit of 2.19%. The spending plan factors a rise in expenses including health insurance, salaries and overall inflation.

Although assessments and equalization rates will not be known until August, the district



Stephanie Cogan



Eric McDowell



Thomas (TJ) Blakley



Denise Gangi-Pollacek

estimates the average Colonie property owner with a home market value of \$200,000 would pay \$5.31 per month more in school taxes next year under the proposed spending plan (tax rate estimates can be found on page 2).

### BUS PROPOSITION

In addition to voting on the school budget on Tuesday, May 16, South Colonie residents will be asked to consider authorizing the purchase of eight replacement school buses of various sizes—six (6) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 18/3 wheelchair bus and one (1) 42 passenger bus—overall cost not to exceed \$1,318,000.

The bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards while allowing the district to phase out older, high mileage vehicles to avoid the cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service. Bus purchases are financed over a five year period and aided simultaneously. This proposition has no projected tax impact.



### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Two seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a five-year term.

In addition to voting on the proposed budget and propositions, on May 16, voters will elect candidates to fill two open seats on the Board of Education.

Stephanie Cogan is running unopposed for reelection for a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Three candidates are running for a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2028, to succeed Colleen Gizzi.

Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot:

- ▶ Eric McDowell
- ▶ Thomas (TJ) Blakley
- ▶ Denise Gangi-Pollacek

CANDIDATE BIOS AND BUDGET Q&A CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.SOUTHCOLONIESCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHCOLONIESCHOOLS.ORG)

## 2023-24 BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE

<b>New Assigned Polling Locations</b> <b>Sand Creek Middle School</b> 329 Sand Creek Rd., Colonie, NY 12205  <b>Lisha Kill Middle School</b> 68 Waterman Ave., Colonie, NY 12205	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$122,194,702</b>	<b>On the Ballot</b> <b>Proposition 1: Annual Operating Budget</b>  <b>Proposition 2: Bus Purchase</b>  <b>Board of Education Election</b>
	<b>Budget-to-Budget spending increase</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	
	<b>Property Tax Levy increase</b>	<b>1.99%</b>	

# Budget Summary

## PROGRAM

2022-23	\$91,542,916	80.68%
2023-24	\$97,970,475	80.20%

The Program category includes: salaries and benefits of teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks and equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics and transportation costs (except bus purchases).

## ADMINISTRATIVE

2022-23	\$10,399,369	9.17%
2023-24	\$11,768,451	9.60%

The Administrative category includes: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; curriculum and staff development; school board costs; tax collection and some legal costs.

## CAPITAL

2022-23	\$11,516,600	10.15%
2023-24	\$12,455,776	10.20%

The Capital category includes: salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff; debt service on buildings; school bus purchases; utilities; general insurance; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.

## Estimated Property Tax Rate

Per \$1,000 of taxable \*assessed value

	2022-23	2023-24
Colonie	\$28.71	\$29.28
Guilderland	\$17.59	\$17.94
Niskayuna	\$17.98	\$18.34

\*Assessed values are based on each town's equalization rates.

House market value and related estimated tax increase

Market Value	Estimated tax
\$150,000	+ \$3.98/month
\$200,000	+ \$5.31/month
\$250,000	+ \$6.64/month
\$300,000	+ \$7.97/month

Tax rates for next year are estimates only. The district will set final tax rates in August based on final assessment figures by the Town Assessors and equalization rates provided by the State Office of Real Property Services. To learn more about the Tax Levy Cap visit [www.southcolonieschools.org](http://www.southcolonieschools.org).

# Where does the money come from? A look at Revenues

REVENUES	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	% Change
Taxes & STAR	\$77,413,709	\$79,024,957	2.08%
*State Aid	\$30,270,774	\$37,657,306	24.40%
**Misc./Medicaid	\$2,674,402	\$2,612,439	-2.32%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$3,100,000	\$2,900,000	-6.45%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$113,458,885</b>	<b>\$122,194,702</b>	<b>7.70%</b>

\*As required by Education Laws 1608 and 1716, the district estimates its 2023-24 State Aid to be \$37,657,306 or 30.8% of total revenues.

\*\*Miscellaneous revenues include tuition and services revenues from other public school districts, rental of school property, student fees, admissions, and continuing education.

# Where does the money go? A look at Expenditures

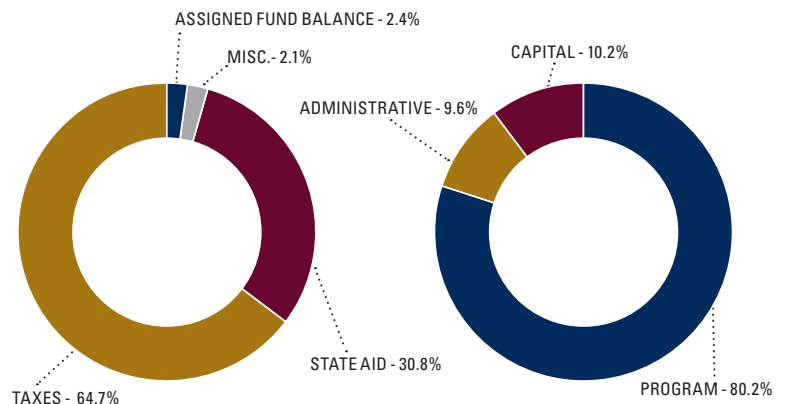
EXPENDITURES	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	% Change
Salaries	\$63,524,940	\$69,851,205	9.96%
*Equipment	\$867,330	\$1,007,467	16.16%
BOCES Services	\$4,122,376	\$4,208,902	2.10%
Supplies/Contracts	\$9,051,170	\$10,446,034	15.41%
Debt Service	\$3,921,945	\$3,909,214	-0.32%
Benefits	\$31,437,124	\$32,506,880	3.40%
**Interfund Transfer	\$534,000	\$265,000	-50.37%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$113,458,885</b>	<b>\$122,194,702</b>	<b>7.70%</b>

\*Equipment category includes state aided hardware expenditures.

\*\*Interfund transfer includes \$100,000 to Capital Fund for a small aidable capital project to be done during the 2023-24 school year.

## REVENUES

## EXPENDITURES



## Residents to vote on two propositions

### Proposition No. 1 –

Consideration of the proposed 2023-24 operational budget \$122,194,702 with a levy increase of 1.99% (which is below the New York State Tax Levy Limitation) with a proposed spending increase of 7.7% or \$8,753,788.

### Proposition No. 2 –

School bus replacement plan to purchase school buses of various sizes. Purchase includes—six (6) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 18/3 wheelchair bus and one (1) 42 passenger bus — overall cost not to exceed \$1,318,000.

## VOTER ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and are registered with the school district or the County Board of Elections.

As posted previously, May 9 is this year's deadline to register with the school district.

**Registered voters can find out their voting locations online at <https://vip.ntsteamed.com/>**

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee Ballot applications are available by contacting the District Clerk at 518-869-3576 or by downloading an application from the district website.

Absentee ballots must be submitted to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 16.

More details on the 2023-24 school budget & board election can be found online at [southcolonieschools.org](http://southcolonieschools.org).

## Required School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$113,458,885	\$122,194,702	\$120,595,625
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$8,735,817	\$7,136,740
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.70 %	6.29%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$76,548,708	\$78,072,027	
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)	\$76,548,708	\$78,072,027	\$76,472,950
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,760,533	\$1,556,025	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$75,384,708	\$76,669,972	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$74,788,175	\$76,516,002	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$596,533	\$153,970	
Administrative Component	\$10,399,369	\$11,768,451	\$11,057,551
Program Component	\$91,542,916	\$97,970,475	\$97,321,068
Capital Component	\$11,516,600	\$12,455,776	\$12,217,006

\*A contingent budget would result in \$1,523,319 in budget cuts. Elimination of non-contingent items (all equipment purchases) and further adjustments to administrative areas would be necessary to reduce the tax levy to the 2022-23 level as required by current contingent budget rules.

** 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
	<b>Proposition #2: Bus Purchase</b> Purchase and expend up to \$1,318,000.00, and for a term not to exceed five (5) years, the following motor vehicles: Six (6) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 18/3 wheelchair bus and one (1) 42 passenger bus.	\$1,318,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$508

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the South Colonie Central school district, Albany County, New York, will be held at Lisha Kill Middle School and Sand Creek Middle School on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the above listed school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

**Board of Education**  
Brian Casey  
*President*  
Stephanie Cogan  
*Vice President*



**South Colonie**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
102 Loralee Drive, Albany, New York 12205

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2023-24 **BUDGET NEWS**

**South Colonie** CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2023-24 Program Enhancements

The proposed 2023-24 budget preserves all current programs and services including 50 positions that were previously funded by stimulus funds.

### Student Support Services

- ▶ Additional staff to support the growing needs of ENL (English as a New Language) and special education student populations.
- ▶ Continued emphasis on social-emotional health through sustaining previously added staffing for those areas.
- ▶ New Staffing: + 3 special education teachers, +2 TAs, +2 ENL teachers, +1 ENL TA, +2 monitors, and +1 administrator.

### Instructional

- ▶ Additional teachers to enhance programs and support smaller class sizes.
- ▶ Additional staff to support expanded UPK programming.

- ▶ Continued STEAM education programming at the elementary and middle school levels.
- ▶ Continued career exploration program at the high school levels.
- ▶ Implementation of districtwide technology replacement plan to support on-going wear and tear and applicable upgrades.
- ▶ Staffing: +7.6 teachers, +2 teachers/TAs (UPK), +50 stimulus funded positions, coaching/advisor positions and +1 administrator.

### Transportation and O&M

- ▶ Bus maintenance replacement plan to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards while allowing the district to phase out older, high mileage vehicles to avoid the cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service.
- ▶ New Staffing: +1 full-time sub bus driver and +1 pupil transportation analyst.

Full details: [www.southcolonieschools.org](http://www.southcolonieschools.org).

## NEW ASSIGNED POLLING LOCATIONS

### Lisha Kill Middle School

68 Waterman Ave., Colonie, NY 12205

### Saddlewood & Veeder Zones

### Sand Creek Middle School

329 Sand Creek Rd., Colonie, NY 12205

### Roessleville, Shaker Road & Forest Park Zones

## POLLING LOCATION LOOKUP



Scan the  
QR Code to  
find out your  
polling location.

# Vote

Tuesday, May 16  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.