

The Proposed Budget Maintains a Focus on Teaching and Learning

PROPOSITION 1

The Board of Education and District administration have been working together over several months to build a budget that addresses the evolving needs of our students in the post-pandemic era while also maintaining a strong focus on rigorous teaching and learning and excellent opportunities for our students outside the classroom. To accomplish this while balancing the support that we ask of the taxpayers, we have established the following priorities in this year's budget:

- Maintain existing programs for all students.
- Develop special class programs that allow an increasing number of students with disabilities to stay in the District.
- Expand our Student Support Services offerings and coordination so that we can remove obstacles to teaching and learning.
- Provide targeted professional learning for faculty and staff in priority areas of student need.
- Address the maintenance of facilities in a proactive way so as to maintain a safe and healthy environment for teaching and learning.
- Maintain our security staffing to assist in maintaining a safe, secure, welcoming and affirming environment.
- Manage our revenue budget cautiously so as to avoid creating unmanageable future obligations.

Despite increasing costs in several operational areas including utilities, transportation, and security, we believe that we have achieved this balance with careful planning, the help of additional state aid, and an increase in the overall property value of the District. While we are proposing a tax levy increase of 3.59% to support our budget, this does not mean that tax bills are going up by 3.59%. In fact, the estimated tax rate for the proposed budget decreases from \$21.68 to \$20.86 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

This information and much more is in the following pages and on the District Budget page of our website at <https://www.dfsd.org/Domain/228>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities, and Operations, or Ken Slentz, Superintendent of Schools. Their contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

The Dobbs Ferry School Budget Vote/Board of Education Election will be held in person (High School Gym) on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023** from 7:00a.m.-9:00p.m.

PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGET

Total Proposed Budget:	\$55,205,235
Projected Budget Increase:	7.45%
Projected Tax Levy Increase:	\$1,476,081
Projected Tax Levy Increase:	3.59%

Letter from the Board of Education

Dear Dobbs Ferry School District Resident,
The Board of Education is pleased to present the proposed 2023-2024 budget, which we have carefully crafted to minimize the tax burden on our residents while honoring our commitment to excellence in our schools and to the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

The proposed budget continues to support the District's Strategic Plan. It not only maintains our instructional program, but it also funds important support staff previously paid for by COVID stimulus money, purchases new curriculum instructional materials, meets inflationary increases in transportation and utility costs, and allows us to retain and recruit a staff of highly effective teachers.

The Board of Education treasures the trust that you put in us to prepare a budget that offers our students the benefits of an excellent education and maximizes the value of every tax dollar. We invite you to review the information in this newsletter and on our website, and we encourage you to head to the polls on Tuesday, **May 16, 2023**, to vote on the budget and to elect two new Board of Education Trustees.

Sincerely,

Jean Lucasey
President
Dobbs Ferry Board of Education

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!

DOBBS FERRY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

<u>Description</u>	<u>2022-2023</u> <u>Adopted Budget</u>	<u>2023-2024</u> <u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Change</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE			
Board of Education	\$ 32,025	\$ 43,200	\$ 11,175
District Clerk	10,200	10,200	0
District Meeting	24,450	25,450	1,000
Chief School Administrator	382,488	450,522	68,034
Business Administration	406,929	515,162	108,233
Auditing	65,200	58,950	-6,250
Treasurer	107,309	113,073	5,764
Legal	60,000	75,000	15,000
Personnel	117,442	112,241	-5,201
Public Information & Services	66,237	67,992	1,755
Central Printing & Mailing	24,250	27,000	2,750
Central Data Processing	241,616	289,323	47,707
Unallocated Insurance	206,035	216,493	10,458
Assessments on School Property	239,200	210,425	-28,775
BOCES Administrative Costs	267,162	268,490	1,328
Curriculum Development & Supervision	284,339	296,128	11,789
Supervision-Regular School	1,631,408	1,878,910	247,502
Research, Planning & Evaluation	3,000	3,000	0
In-service Training Instruction	162,396	180,363	17,967
Employee Benefits	1,218,955	1,356,722	137,767
Administrative Total	\$ 5,550,641	\$ 6,198,644	\$ 648,003
CAPITAL			
Legal	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operation of Plant	2,539,236	2,876,527	337,291
Maintenance of Plant	786,632	985,315	198,683
Judgments and Claims	0	0	0
Employee Benefits	353,111	394,465	41,354
Serial Bonds-School Construction	2,396,495	2,570,350	173,855
Other Debt	0	0	0
Capital Total	\$ 6,075,474	\$ 6,826,657	\$ 751,183
PROGRAM			
Legal	\$ 45,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 10,000
Teaching-Regular School	15,577,319	16,236,040	658,721
Programming for Students w/Disabilities	7,083,148	7,960,778	877,630
Occupational Education (Grades 9-12)	120,000	212,748	92,748
School Library & Audio Visual	244,548	261,362	16,814
Educational Television	75,416	80,324	4,908
Computer Assisted Instruction	1,412,660	1,429,863	17,203
Guidance	957,452	993,468	36,016
Health Services	571,231	607,386	36,155
Psychological & Social Worker Services	668,719	797,199	128,480
Co-Curricular Activities	257,440	285,365	27,925
Interscholastic Athletics	600,658	678,898	78,240
District Transportation Services	24,757	28,576	3,819
Contract Transportation	1,587,285	1,758,478	171,193
Civic Activities	0	0	0
Employee Benefits	10,370,523	10,639,449	268,926
Transfer to Other Funds	155,000	155,000	0
Program Total	\$ 39,751,156	\$ 42,179,934	\$ 2,428,778
Grand Total	\$ 51,377,271	\$ 55,205,235	\$ 3,827,964

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	\$51,377,271	\$55,205,235	\$53,138,036
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$3,827,964	\$1,760,765
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.45%	3.43%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$41,139,244	\$42,615,325	
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)	\$41,139,244	\$42,615,325	\$41,139,244
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,553,411	\$949,541	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$40,554,153	\$41,665,784	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$39,585,833	\$41,665,784	
I. Difference (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$968,320	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$5,550,641	\$6,198,644	\$6,193,644
Program Component	\$39,751,156	\$42,179,934	\$40,141,335
Capital Component	\$6,075,474	\$6,826,657	\$6,803,057

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingency budget would require the elimination of all equipment purchases and a reduction of staff.

** 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)

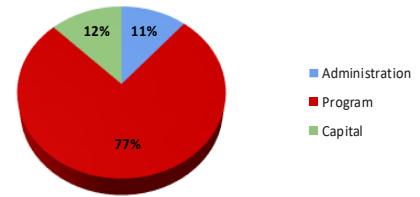
Description	Amount
N/A	N/A

Estimated basic STAR Exemption Savings *	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-
	\$1,740

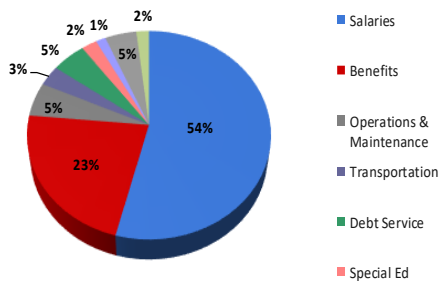
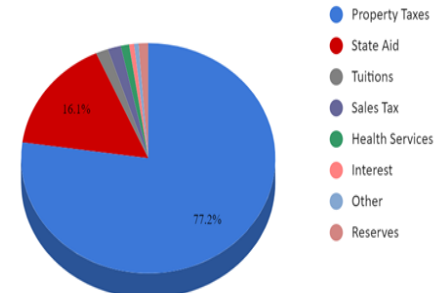
* The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Dobbs Ferry High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Dobbs Ferry High School gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by the voting ballot or machine.

Budget by Administrative, Program and Capital Expenses



Where the Money Comes From



Absentee Ballot Applications may be requested in writing or by email:
 District Clerk
 Superintendent's Office
 Dobbs Ferry High School
 505 Broadway
 Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
districtclerk@dfs.d.org

Application will be sent to the voter via US mail or email but must be delivered in person or sent via US mail to the District Clerk.
 Completed absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on May 16, 2023.

Voter Qualifications:

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 16, 2023.

Voter Registration:

Monday, May 8, 2023
 3:30 PM—7:30 PM
 Dobbs Ferry High School
 Gymnasium Foyer
 505 Broadway
 Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

PROPOSITION 1

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$55,205,235 shall be appropriated to meet the estimated expenditures for school purposes for 2023-2024 and that a tax be levied in accordance with the law to meet the same.

BOARD MEMBERS**VOTE FOR TWO or WRITE IN**

To elect two members of the Board of Education for three year terms commencing July 1, 2023, and expiring on June 30, 2026.

Rebecca Hershberg
Pavithra Nagarajan
Antonio Treglia

The School Budget Newsletter is Available in Spanish

El boletín de Presupuesto Escolar está disponible en español. Visitar el sitio web del Distrito en www.dfsd.org.
 Haga clic en Información del Distrito.



VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 7:00 AM TO 9:00 PM in the DFHS Gymnasium

Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District
 Board of Education
 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
boe@dfsdf.org

Board of Education

Jean Lucasey, *President*
 (914) 831-7601

lucaseyj@dfsdf.org

Brooke Bass, *Vice President*
 (917) 697-0126

bassb@dfsdf.org

Tracy Baron
 (914) 693-9155

baront@dfsdf.org

Shannon Stringer
 (914) 478-4639

stringers@dfsdf.org

Massimo Bufalini
 (917) 860-6007

bufalinim@dfsdf.org

Penny Sullivan-Nunes
 (914) 646-8454

sullivanunesp@dfsdf.org

Darren Wood
 (917) 355-7655

woodd@dfsdf.org

Ken Slentz, *Superintendent*
 (914) 693-1506

slentzk@dfsdf.org

Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent
 (914) 693-1500 x3030

clamser@dfsdf.org

Elizabeth Hausman, *Editor*
 (914) 693-1500 x3013

hausmane@dfsdf.org

Resident Customer

Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

ECRWSS

Non-Profit Corporation

US POSTAGE PAID

White Plains, NY 10610

Permit No. 22213

