



Highland Falls – Fort Montgomery Central School District

Challenge. Engage. Empower.

2023-2024 School Budget Overview

- The 2023-2024 school budget could be described as a ‘rollover’ budget with all current academic programs intact for the upcoming year. The budget also includes increased support in both academic and operational areas; applied in a fiscally responsible manner so the district can continue to provide the premier educational experience the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District has always strived to give its students.
- The proposed budget at \$39,036,276 maintains academic, athletic and extracurricular programs, with a:
 - o Tax levy increase of 1.44%
 - o Budget-to-budget increase of 8.57%
 - o Budget-to-budget increase in dollars of \$3,082,376
- The district’s continued focus on increasing academic support in this budget includes:
 - o Increased funding for Special Education
 - o Adding an additional Elementary level teaching position
 - o Bringing two teaching positions into the budget which are currently paid with Federal grants
- In the area of district operations, the proposed budget includes:
 - o Increased support to maintain our aging building systems and facilities for the coming school year.
 - o A new 5-year Transportation contract which will begin in the 2023-2024 school year and is a key driver of the one-time budget-to-budget increase.
 - o Increasing the hours Sheriff Security Deputies are working in the district.
 - o Maintaining the \$130,000 equipment budget and \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project budget.
- Impact aid revenue is projected to remain the same as the current year. We continue to proceed cautiously, anticipating that the program and funding will remain stable for the next 3-5 years.
- A small amount from our EBALR reserve, \$50,000, will be used to balance the budget and reduce the tax levy.
- The estimated year-to-year tax for a \$250,000 home will increase by \$6.59 per month this year.
- The Property Tax Cap law is still in effect which limits the year-to-year increase in the tax levy. For 2023-2024, the District tax levy increase is 1.44%, which is below the allowable tax levy limit of 2.17%.
- If the proposed budget does not pass, New York State law would require the district to use a contingency budget for the 2023-2024 school year, requiring the district to reduce the budget by \$163,220, which would lead to:
 - o Reducing the Administrative component of the budget, i.e. Cut additional Sheriff Security Deputy
 - o Charging the community for all facility use, i.e. Rec Dept. and after-school CONNECT program
 - o Evaluating transportation costs for non-essential school operations (field trips, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- Running under a contingency budget would put at risk the district receiving the \$1.2MM i-payment portion of our Federal Impact Aid as we would be in jeopardy of not being able to meet the Maintenance of Effort requirement.

Three-Part Budget Breakdown

	Percent of 2022-2023 Budget	Percent of 2023-2024 Budget
Administrative	8.87%	9.00%
Program	76.16%	76.09%
Capital	14.97%	14.91%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

