



SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

Residents Vote June 9 on 2020-2021 Budget

Dear Community Members,

In December, we invited our school community to contribute to the revision of our District's mission statement. Nearly 1,000 students, parents, teachers and community members responded. Based on their input, our Board of Education developed and adopted a new mission and values statement:

The mission of the South Orangetown Central School District is to elevate, engage and inspire through personalized and exceptional educational experiences that ensure all students achieve to their fullest potential.

Our values are:

- To challenge our students with the highest quality education
- To foster an inclusive school district community based upon respect, responsibility, equity and global citizenship, and
- To provide a safe and nurturing environment which prepares every student for future success

Following an extensive review, our Board of Education adopted the proposed 2020-21 School Budget on May 7 to support this mission and vision. The proposed \$96.8 million budget represents a 2.2% budget-to-budget increase which reflects our efforts to reduce growth in annual spending and remains within the legally-prescribed tax cap with a 2.82% tax levy increase. This spending plan is a strategic investment in our students during this unprecedented time. It will provide flexibility as we develop a road map for reopening which may require adjustments to instruction, student supports, facilities and daily operations.

We are grateful for the enduring community support for our schools, our children and our future and encourage all who are eligible to vote on June 9.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dan Lamadrid
President, Board of Education

Questions regarding the school budget referendum or upcoming Board of Education election? Please contact District Clerk Kathy Muscari at kmuscari@socsd.org or (845) 680-1012.



PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET

TAX LEVY INCREASE

2.82%

BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE

2.20%

TOTAL BUDGET

\$96,839,306

SOCSD RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Since March, SOCS D has focused on delivering critical safety net supports for families, providing high-quality remote instruction and ensuring continuity of business operations as it navigates executive orders and New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidance pertaining to statewide school closures, testing cancellation and changes to graduation requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the initial days of the closure, a team of administrators and essential staff worked to prepare 1,400 free breakfast and lunch meals for our children each week, disinfect and secure all school buildings, answer hundreds of questions from families via our District Hotline, provide dozens of technology devices and internet access for students in need, develop remote work plans for more than 450 staff and build a comprehensive distance learning program for our more than 3,100 K-12 students.



Distance learning launched March 31 and will extend through the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, per Governor Cuomo's May 1 directive. The District's plan includes teacher-led, teacher-supported and independent learning in all courses, across all grade levels. "Developing tech-infused classrooms has been an integral part of our curriculum and professional development work for more than a decade. As a result, our students are already familiar with most of the online resources their teachers are using and how to access them," explained Superintendent of Schools Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D. "I'm impressed by the spirit of innovation that has taken root in our school culture and the work our teachers have done to transition instruction from the classroom to a virtual environment."

Ensuring equity and access so that all learners achieve to their fullest potential remains an essential district goal. "Providing special education supports and services is challenging, but not impossible, to do via distance learning. Our parents have been exceptional partners, working with staff to sustain their children's progress at home and being open to trying different approaches," Pritchard said.

Despite the best efforts of students, families, staff and administrators, all are grappling with the consequences of the evolving global health crisis, including the personal health and financial impacts of the disease. School counselors, social workers, psychologists and prevention counselors are working collaboratively to reach out and support students both emotionally and academically.



Looking ahead, SOCS D is working closely with other Rockland County school districts and Rockland BOCES to develop a reopening plan aligned with the Governor's executive orders and NYSED guidance. The Administrative Team is reimagining how instruction and supports are delivered and how learning spaces can be adapted to meet potential new health and safety considerations. To achieve this, the District is prepared to be flexible in terms of strategically repurposing resources, as needed, to best meet the evolving needs of our students and staff.

CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMER 2020

Voter-approved capital projects to address critical infrastructure needs will proceed as scheduled this summer, in conjunction with in-house projects focused on student health, safety and learning. Summer 2020 projects include:

TZHS

- Renovation of the cafeteria serving line and seating area
- Installation of ADA-accessible bleachers and press box
- Replacement of the track
- HVAC upgrades to the main gym
- ADA-accessible bathroom renovations

SOMS

- Library renovation, expansion and technology upgrades
- Renovation of the art rooms
- Reconfiguration of the main office and counseling suite
- Playground installation
- ADA-accessible bathroom renovations

CLE

- ADA-accessible bathroom renovations
- HVAC upgrades to the cafeteria and main office

FOR DETAILED BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on **June 9, 2020**:

PROPOSITION #1: 2020-21 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2020-21 budget in the amount of \$96,839,306 be approved?

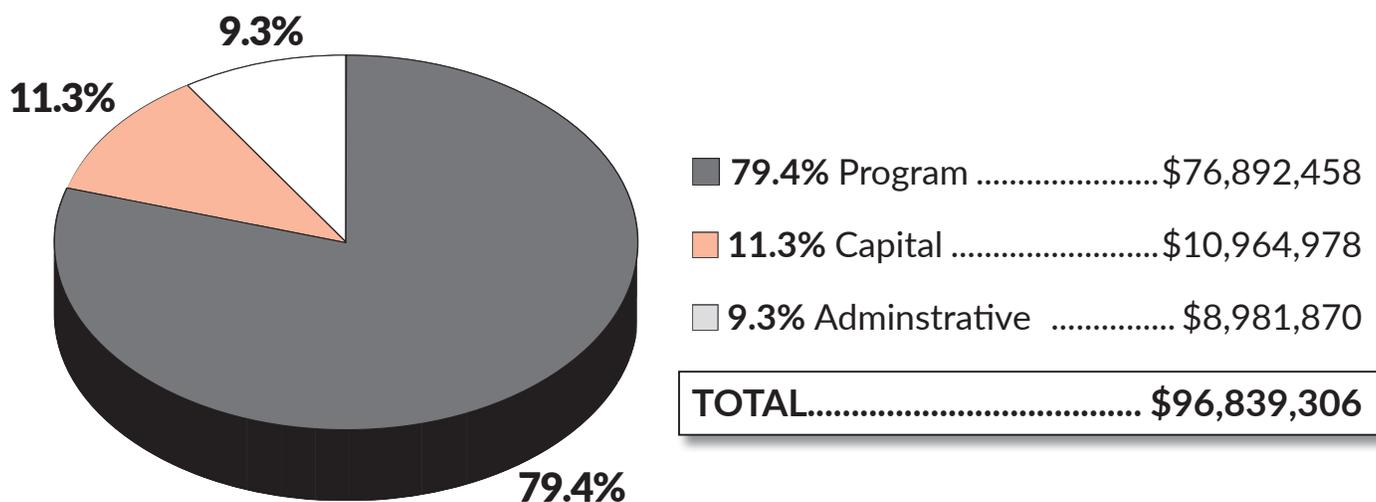
ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

An election will be held for two (2) Board of Education seats. The full three-year term for each seat is July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023. Following are the candidates for the two vacancies, in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Seat 1: Leon Jacobs (incumbent)

Seat 2: Christine Lee (incumbent)

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES



BUDGET Q&A

Questions? Email budget@socsd.org

Q: Why is the proposed tax levy increase above 2%?

A: The primary factor driving the proposed 2.82% tax levy increase is that the tax levy limit formula allows for capital exclusions which reflect the year-over-year change in capital spending from previously budgeted funds, but not from capital reserves or fund balance. **Due to the capital exclusions, the proposed 2.82% tax levy increase remains within the tax cap.**

Q: What happens if voters reject the budget?

A: If voters do not approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education may put forward the same or a revised budget for a second vote OR adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied last year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, SOCSO must adopt a contingency budget which would require **\$2.295 million in cuts**. As a result, the following reductions may be required: reduction in teaching staff, thereby increasing class size; loss of modified sports; loss of certain extracurricular programs; loss of occupational education services, per Education Law; mandated removal of certain equipment; curtailed community use of facilities without a charge; removal of capital projects not deemed as health and safety; and, reduction in instructional supplies, conferences/memberships, support staff, community services and certain administrative costs.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 94,755,161	\$ 96,839,306	\$ 94,543,583
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$ 2,084,145	\$ (2,295,723)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.20%	(2.37%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 81,298,542	\$ 83,594,265	
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)	\$ 81,298,542	\$ 83,594,265	\$ 81,298,542
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,981,551	\$ 3,771,926	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 78,316,991	\$ 79,822,339	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 78,316,991	\$ 79,822,339	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 8,814,963	\$ 8,981,870	\$ 8,797,179
Program Component	\$ 75,104,158	\$ 76,892,458	\$ 75,172,639
Capital Component	\$ 10,836,040	\$ 10,964,978	\$ 10,573,765

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A Contingency Budget would require a reduction in the proposed budget of \$2,295,723. As a result, the following reductions may be required: reduction in teaching staff, thereby increasing class-size, loss of modified sports, loss of certain extracurricular programs, loss of occupational education services, per education law mandated removal of certain equipment, community use of facilities, removal of capital projects not deemed health and safety, reduction in instructional supplies, conferences/memberships, support staff, community services and certain administrative costs.

** 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
	\$0

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,040

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown Central School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held remotely by absentee ballot only, on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 ending at 5:00pm, the time when the District Clerk must receive the absentee ballots.

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

**SOUTH ORANGETOWN
 CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299
 (845) 680-1000 • Website: www.socsd.org

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D. *Superintendent*

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Editor: Jen Citrolo
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**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE BY MAIL ONLY
 TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020**