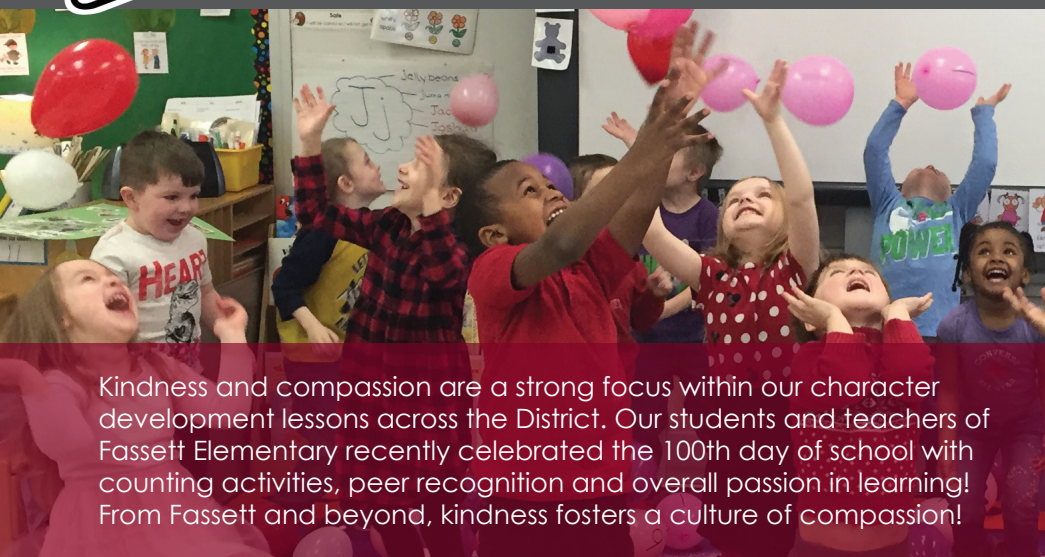




ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BUDGET NEWS MAY 2018

BUDGET 2018-2019



Kindness and compassion are a strong focus within our character development lessons across the District. Our students and teachers of Fassett Elementary recently celebrated the 100th day of school with counting activities, peer recognition and overall passion in learning! From Fassett and beyond, kindness fosters a culture of compassion!

Dear Community Members,

As we approach another budget vote, I'm pleased to present the 2018-2019 budget on behalf of the Board of Education. This year's budget proposal includes transportation replacements, regular maintenance upgrades of software and technology, and additional safety programs. The budget supports those investments while continuing existing academic, fine arts, athletic, and extracurricular programs.

Throughout this newsletter, we have chosen to highlight the many ways our educators focus on character development. Studies show that practicing gratitude increases positive emotions and happiness. We believe that fostering an environment of kindness and compassion not only improves student achievement but has a lasting effect on school safety. That's why, at every level, we are teaching our students kindness through a variety of building-wide programs. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the great initiatives happening throughout the District.

We are extremely grateful to you for your support of our mission to provide a safe and engaging learning environment for our students, and look forward to our continued work together to support the Elmira community.

Sincerely,

Hillary Austin
Superintendent of Schools

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 15
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Annual Budget Vote &
School Board Election

Locations: School district
voters residing north of the
Chemung River (including
residents of the Lowman
area) vote at
Ernie Davis Academy
(933 Hoffman St.)

Voters residing south of the
Chemung River (including
residents of the Golden
Glow area) vote at
Elmira High School
(777 S. Main St.)

MAY 8
6 p.m.

Budget Hearing

Location:
Ernie Davis Academy
Community
Room
(933 Hoffman St.)



WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?



PROPOSITION 1: 2018-2019 SCHOOL BUDGET

Shall the following resolution be adopted? | Approval of Budget: Vote Yes or No

RESOLVED, that the proposed \$127,885,274 General Fund Budget of the Elmira City School District, Chemung County, New York for 2018-2019 be approved in accordance with Section 2022 of the Education Law and that the balance of said budget, after applying public monies thereto, be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said district.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

District voters will elect three (3) members to the Board of Education. The three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms commencing July 1, 2018 and expiring June 30, 2021.

BUDGET BOOK

The 2018-2019 Proposed Budget Book with extensive details about the budget is available at the following locations:

- District Administration Building
(951 Hoffman St., Elmira, NY)
- All 11 school buildings
- Steele Memorial Library
(101 E. Church St., Elmira, NY)
- West Elmira Library
(1231 W. Water St., Elmira, NY)
- District website:
elmiracityschools.com/budget18-19.cfm

RECENT STAR EXEMPTION CHANGES

In 2016, the law changed regarding the STAR exemption. Instead of applying to your assessor for the exemption, you'll now register with New York State for the STAR credit. If you are eligible, you will receive a STAR credit in the form of a check. The dollar value of the credit will generally be the same as the property tax exemption. Please call NYS Department of Taxation and Finance at 518-457-2036 with questions or to register.

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

A proposed 1.5% tax levy increase will be presented to voters on May 15. Due to a decrease in Building State Aid, this rise is necessary to maintain current programs and services. This proposed increase is under the calculated tax levy limit of 4.25%.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?



*IMPACT OF
1.5% TAX LEVY*

\$50K home value = \$15.39 additional annual tax

\$100K home value = \$30.78 additional annual tax

NEW REQUIREMENT: REPORTING RESERVE FUNDS

Saving for future projects, acquisitions, and other allowable purposes is an important planning consideration for the Elmira City School District. You'll see a new report regarding reserve funds on page 5 of this newsletter. To summarize, reserve funds provide a mechanism for legally saving money to finance all or part of future infrastructure, equipment, and other requirements while mitigating the need to cut services or to raise taxes. The Elmira City School District is in compliance with the Real Property Tax Law limiting the amount of unexpected surplus funds to no more than 4% of the budget.

PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY



ANTICIPATED REVENUES

State Aid
Property Taxes
Other

2017-2018

\$90,789,106
\$33,001,508
\$3,411,380

2018-2019

\$91,111,944
\$33,496,850
\$3,276,480

TOTAL

\$127,201,994

\$127,885,274

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Administration
Instruction
Charter School
Physical Plant
Transportation
Benefits
Debt Service
Miscellaneous

2017-2018

\$5,532,805
\$52,508,424
\$3,200,000
\$11,565,532
\$5,224,349
\$34,685,012
\$13,337,588
\$1,148,284

2018-2019

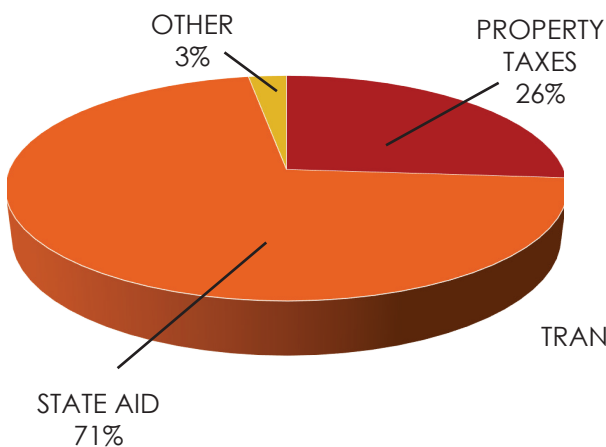
\$5,708,766
\$53,931,064
\$3,800,000
\$12,105,096
\$5,120,660
\$33,211,062
\$12,996,050
\$1,012,576

TOTAL

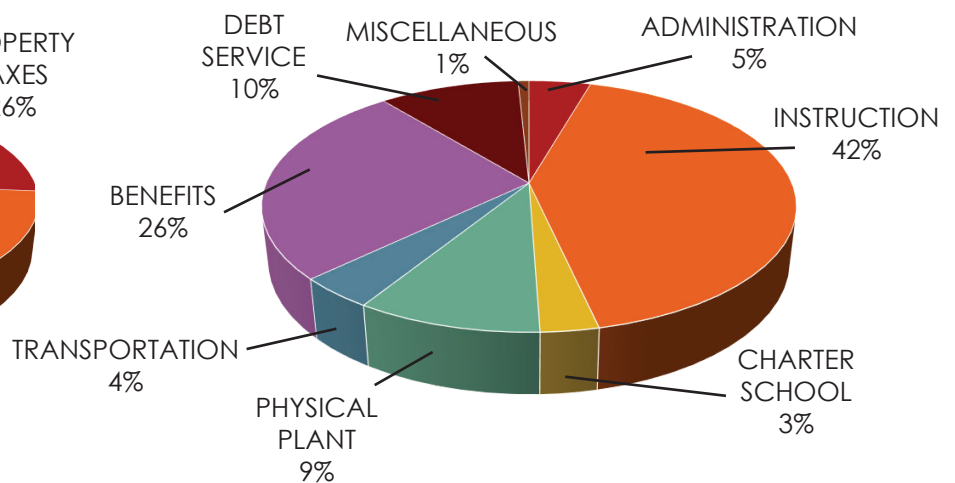
\$127,201,994

\$127,885,274

REVENUE



EXPENSES



2018-19 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD



ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONTACT PERSON

Melissa Mendolera | ph. 607-735-3057

	Budgeted 2017-18 (A)	Proposed Budgeted 2018-19 (B)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	127,201,994	127,885,274
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	33,001,508	33,496,850
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable		
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	33,001,508	33,496,850
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	776,746	910,837
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy Permissible Exclusions ³	32,224,762	32,864,850
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	32,224,762	32,586,013
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	0	278,837
Public School Enrollment	6,963	7,039
Consumer Price Index		2.13%

¹ Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

² Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

³ For 2018-19, includes any carryover from 2017-18 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2017-18 (D)	Estimated 2018-19 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	18,613,970	20,000,000
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	666,042	500,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	5,515,210	5,540,156
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%

NEW REPORT: SCHEDULE OF RESERVE

RESERVE NAME	RESERVE DESCRIPTION	3/31/18 ACTUAL BALANCE	6/30/18 ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE	INTENDED USE OF THE RESERVE IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR
Capital	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	\$ 6,715,688	\$ 6,717,000	Will be used for next capital project
Repair	To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.			
Workers' Compensation	To pay for Workers Compensation and benefits.	\$ 1,244,476	\$ 1,800,000	Pay for benefits, medical/hospital expenses and administrative costs of our self insured Workers' Compensation Plan - 2 claims for \$258,914 in 17-18
Unemployment Insurance	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.	\$ 606,600	\$ 608,000	Not intended for 2018-2019
Reserve for Tax Reduction	For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.	\$ 427,830	\$ 429,000	Not intended for 2018-2019
Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service	To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.			
Insurance	To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.	\$ 1,704,323	\$ 1,706,000	Pay for property damaged but not insured. i.e., Bus
Property Loss	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.			
Liability	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.		\$ 500,000	Reserve was established in 17-18
Tax Certiorari	To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements	\$ 351,488	\$ 353,000	Pay judgement claims arising out of tax certiorari proceedings - 1 claim for \$3,622 in 17-18
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries	To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	\$ 730,137	\$ 900,000	Employee reimbursement upon retirement for unused sick, vacation and personal leave
Retirement Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	\$ 7,017,799	\$ 7,019,000	Not intended for 2018-2019
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	For unpaid taxes due certain city school districts not reimbursed by their city/county until the following fiscal year.			

CHOOSING KINDNESS IN THE CLASSROOM: SUPPORTING ACADEMIC & EMOTIONAL WELLNESS



BEECHER ELEMENTARY

Every student at Beecher Elementary watched the film, *Wonder*, which promotes lessons on **kindness**, **compassion** and **acceptance**. The school has embraced the important life lessons taught from the movie by creating a **Kindness Wall** that is now on display in the cafeteria. Each student created a poster that included an inspirational quote and has the assignment of doing something kind.



RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

At Riverside Elementary, town meetings are focused around character traits such as **Respect**, **Responsibility**, **Tolerance**, **Citizenship** and **Kindness**. Students and staff spread kindness in school, home and the community in order to help grow the "Grinch Tree's Heart!" In turn, the Grinch helps student minds grow by asking them to read every night. Riverside takes emotional and educational learning to heart!



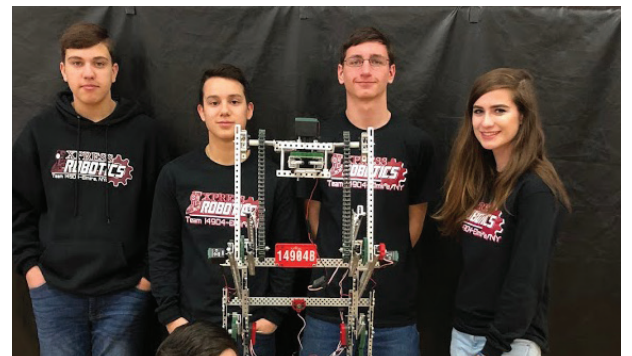
BROADWAY ELEMENTARY

Broadway Elementary celebrated **Kindness Week** by participating in activities centered around **kindness** and **acceptance**. Staff creatively worked with students to publicly display and tally all of the acts of **kindness** completed by students. Students were also able to "Make & Take" **kindness** quotes from the **Kindness Confetti wall**.



ERNIE DAVIS ACADEMY

Through our *Robotics and Engineering Course*, students utilize underwater robotics to grow their knowledge of buoyancy, balance and understanding of robots. This course also brings the **opportunity** for students to learn about coding and to showcase their robotics skills in two different regional competitions.



PARLEY COBURN ELEMENTARY

Parley Coburn students and staff have been promoting **kindness** with an opportunity to recognize each other for kind actions. **Acts of kindness** are read during announcements and placed on an ever-growing garden of **Kindness Trees** in the cafeteria.



ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL

High School students recently attended an assembly to hear from Mr. Larry Scott. Speaking on behalf of *Rachel's Challenge*, Mr. Scott shared the story of his late niece, Rachel Scott, the first fatal victim at Columbine High School. He delivered a message about **kindness and compassion**. Elmira High School accepted *Rachel's Challenge* as another step toward school safety. A *Rachel's Challenge* student group has been formed and a poster of commitment was signed by members. In May, this program will be brought to Broadway Academy and Ernie Davis Academy.



DIVEN ELEMENTARY

The Diven Dolphins have learned to be *Bucket Fillers* by purposefully using **kind words and actions** to make our school, community, and world a better place! The concept was introduced during a school-wide assembly and with the book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud. During designated *Bucket Filler* days, students displaying **kind acts** are given a special coin to add to the school bucket.



PINE CITY ELEMENTARY

Each month, Pine City students participate in the **Focus on Character** program. Teachers look for students to demonstrate one of our six character traits: **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring** and **Citizenship**. Once selected for the month, a group picture is posted on the **Focus on Character** bulletin board in the hallway.



BROADWAY ACADEMY

Broadway Academy seventh grade students took the **I AM NORM** pledge, focusing on **respect** for all people and inclusion in our schools. The **I AM NORM** group shares gifts with their peers while encouraging **acceptance and respect**. Once a month, students meet to coordinate activities and share their ideas about how to promote inclusion in their school and community.



HENDY ELEMENTARY

The students and staff at Hendy Avenue are proud participants of the CATCH Program (*Coordinated Approach To Child Health*). The program promotes **healthy** food decisions, encourages daily physical activity, and endorses **healthy lifestyle choices**. Hendy partners closely with Cornell Cooperative Extension, local businesses, and other agencies to maintain a **positive school environment**.





ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
951 Hoffman Street
Elmira, NY 14905

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Hillary J. Austin
Elmira City School District

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President

Mary Tucker
Vice-President

Maryann Friebs
Lynn Grottenthaler
Scott Moore
Josh Palmer
Randy Reid
Kevin Sullivan
Deborah White

Benjamin Butler
Student Representative

Theo Summerville
Student Representative



PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We are now enrolling Pre-K students for the 2018-2019 school year! The program is open to children who will be 4 years old by December 1st. There is no fee for participation. Learn more at elmiracityschools.com or call Student Services at 607.735.3040.

STAY CONNECTED

ELMIRACITYSCHOOLS.COM



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The Elmira City School District mails absentee ballots to voters listed as "permanently disabled" by the Chemung County Board of Elections. Other registered voters who cannot get to the polls on May 15 due to illness or travel may also vote by using an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the office of the District Clerk at the Board of Education Administration Offices (951 Hoffman St., Elmira NY).

Questions? Call the District Clerk at 607.735.3010.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IF YOU ARE:

- Registered to vote in general elections
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days preceding the election
- At least 18 years old on the date of the election
- A U.S. Citizen

JOIN US AND HELP SHARE KINDNESS AND COMPASSION

**I ACCEPT
RACHEL'S CHALLENGE**

Based on a life lost at Columbine HS in 1999, Rachel's Challenge is a powerful intervention for encouraging kindness and compassion within a school climate. This event is free and open to the public.

**THURSDAY MAY 17
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
ERNIE DAVIS ACADEMY
933 HOFFMAN ST., ELMIRA**

Program is intended for ages 12+.