

SPRING 2019

EXPRESS

ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

I'm very pleased to present the 2019-2020 budget to our community. Budgeting is a year round process. Our team of educators, along with our Board of Education, are very committed to making data-driven decisions that take multiple important factors into consideration when building our budgets. As always, this budget considers the needs of all of our stakeholders and we are excited about the great opportunities we are able to provide our students.

Throughout several editions of our recent newsletters, we have shared the many exciting programs that have been added into our school systems through our Community Schools model. These programmatic opportunities give students and families access to counseling supports, healthcare opportunities, and extensive after school programming. Next year's budget includes slight expansions to some of these very important services as well as some new and exciting opportunities for our students. One of those expansions is additional School Resource Officers. As you know, safety is our number one priority and we are very excited about the impact that our officers have in our schools. Next year, all of our buildings will have a School Resource Officer and we couldn't be more pleased!

As a community, you have been very supportive of our efforts to make sure that our classrooms are state of the art facilities where learning opportunities are engaging and inviting. In order to maintain and develop these great spaces, we continue to develop long range planning that includes future capital work. By once again establishing a Capital Reserve Fund, we will be able to continue our work in maintaining quality educational facilities. I invite you to read through the enclosed update.

On behalf of the Elmira City School District and the Board of Education, we appreciate your support.



Hillary J. Austin
Superintendent of Schools
Elmira City School District

SPRING INTO ACTION

MAY 21, 2019

**Annual Budget Vote
& School Board Election**

MAY 13, 2019

Budget Hearing



ALSO INSIDE

BUDGET NEWS

Planning ahead
and investing in our
educational future

SCHOOL SAFETY

Learn about the
growing trend of
police officers in
schools

CARE

Climb Aboard
the Reading
Express

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

PROPOSITION 1 | 2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

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

RESOLVED, that the proposed \$130,482,362 General Fund Budget of the Elmira City School District, Chemung County, New York for 2019-2020 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.

PROPOSITION 2 | APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following resolution be adopted? Approval to Establish General Capital Reserve Fund: **Vote Yes or No**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of Education Law Section 3651(1) for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, additions, alterations, renovations or other improvements to District's buildings and facilities, including the acquisition and installation of machinery, equipment, apparatus or furnishings required for the purposes of such buildings and facilities, and playgrounds, athletic fields, parking lots, roofing, sidewalks and other site improvements connected to such buildings and facilities, with the ultimate amount of such reserve fund not exceeding \$15,000,000 plus any accrued earnings on amounts deposited in such reserve fund; for a probable term of ten years; and funded by any or all of the following sources: unappropriated fund balances from the general fund, state aid related to expenditures from this capital reserve fund, interest income related to investment of monies in the fund, and any other additional monies hereafter authorized by the voters of the District.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

A total of four seats will be filled during this election. Three seats are for three-year terms, which will run from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. One seat is for a one-year plus term from date of election to June 30, 2020.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 21, 2019

Annual Budget
Vote & School
Board Election

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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 13, 2019

Budget Hearing

6:00 p.m.

Candidate Forum
Presented by the
League of Women
Voters

6:30 p.m.

Location: Washington
Avenue School Building

430 W. Washington Ave
Elmira, NY

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 21 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

430 W. Washington Ave School Building

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

Questions?

Call the District Clerk at 607.735.3010

PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

ANTICIPATED REVENUES

State Aid
Property Taxes
Other

2018-2019

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

2019-2020

\$92,123,642
\$34,165,154
\$4,193,566

TOTAL

\$127,885,274

\$130,482,362

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Administration
Instruction
Charter School
Physical Plant
Transportation
Benefits
Debt Service
Miscellaneous

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

2019-2020

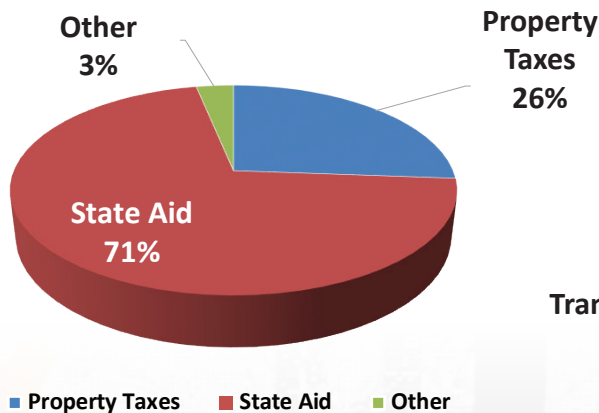
\$5,867,253
\$55,830,264
\$5,100,000
\$12,200,211
\$4,808,418
\$33,440,226
\$12,415,990
\$820,000

TOTAL

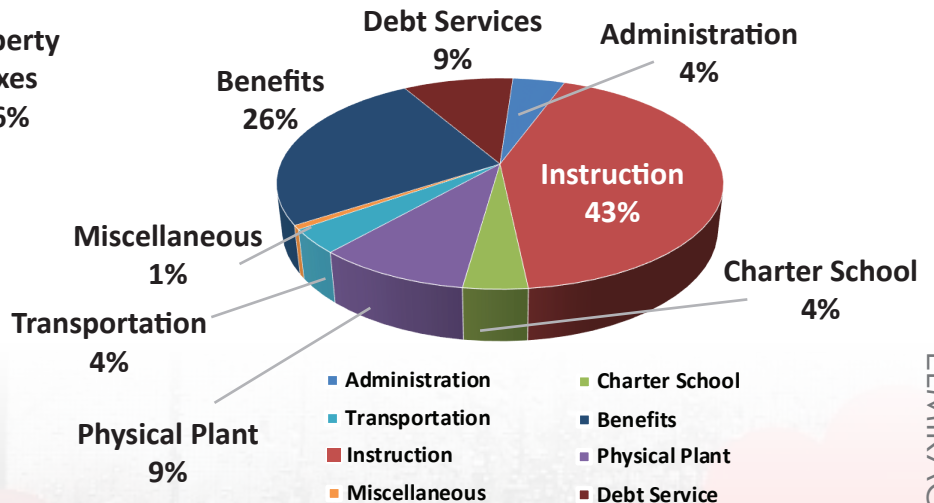
\$127,885,274

\$130,482,362

REVENUE



EXPENSES



PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

A proposed 2% tax levy increase is included in this year's budget in order to maintain current programs and services. This proposed increase is under the calculated tax levy limit of 2.11%.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

\$50K home value = \$20.71 additional annual tax
\$100K home value = \$41.42 additional annual tax

ANNUAL CAPITAL OUTLAY

Diven Elementary School

- Fire Alarm and Building Security Upgrades
- Maximum of \$100,000
- No borrowing required

2019-20 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONTACT PERSON

Melissa Mendolera | ph. 607-735-3057

	Budgeted 2018-19 (A)	Proposed Budgeted 2019-20 (B)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	127,885,274	130,482,362
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	33,496,850	34,165,154
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)	33,496,850	34,165,154
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	910,837	990,207
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy Permissible Exclusions ³	32,864,850	33,214,947
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	32,586,013	33,174,947
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	278,837	40,000
Public School Enrollment	7,039	6,899
Consumer Price Index	2.13%	2.44%

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 2019-20, includes any carryover from 2018-19 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2018-19 (D)	Estimated 2019-20 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	21,696,259	23,610,751
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	422,761	500,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	5,543,831	5,647,758
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%

SCHEDULE OF RESERVE FUNDS

RESERVE TYPE	RESERVE NAME	RESERVE DESCRIPTION*	3/31/19 ACTUAL BALANCE	6/30/19 ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE	INTENDED USE OF RESERVE IN 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR
Capital	Capital Reserve	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	Will be used for next capital project
Repair		To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.			
Workers' Compensation	Worker's Compensation Reserve	To pay for Workers Compensation and benefits.	\$ 1,445,224	\$ 1,539,751	Pay for benefits, medical/hospital expenses and administrative costs of our self insured Workers' Compensation Plan - 1 claim paid for \$90,527 in 18-19
Unemployment Insurance	Unemployment Insurance Reserve	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.	\$ 620,435	\$ 71,000	Not intended for 2019-2020
Reserve for Tax Reduction	Reserve for Tax Reduction	For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.	\$ 437,588	\$ 439,000	Not intended for 2019-2020
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	Insurance Reserve	To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.	\$ 1,743,195	\$ 1,745,000	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	Liability Reserve	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.	\$ 357,453	\$ 340,000	Pay for liability claims. 1 claim paid for \$76,830 in 18-19.
Tax Certiorari	Tax Certiorari Reserve	To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements	\$ 357,366	\$ 345,000	Pay judgement claims arising out of tax certiorari proceedings - 1 claim for \$5,722 in 18-19.
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries		To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			
EBALR - Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	Reserve for Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	\$ 1,358,351	\$ 1,436,000	Employee reimbursement upon retirement for unused sick, vacation, and personal leave-5 claims paid for \$76,184 in 18-19
Retirement Contribution	Retirement Contribution Reserve	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	\$ 8,951,092	\$ 8,955,000	Reserve will be used when ERS rates begin to increase
Other Reserve	Teacher's Retirement Contribution Reserve	To fund employer retirement contributions to the New York State's Teachers' Retirement System	\$ -	\$ 700,000	Reserve established in 18-19. Reserve will be used when TRS rates begin to increase

Climb Aboard the Reading Express



In second grade, our students are still learning to read. And by third grade, they need to know how to read in order to learn. This is a critical point in a student's educational experience. Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.

Our Elmira City School District has recently been awarded an Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program Grant from the US Department of Education, one of only 40 recipients from across the United States to receive this financial award. This three year federal grant offers \$2.2M in total (\$727,000 per academic year). With these additional funds, we have the opportunity to implement our CARE Project (Climb Aboard the Reading Express) program. From multi-tiered instruction to advanced literacy support from our school libraries, the grant will fund literacy activities for students in grades kindergarten through third grade.

The IAL Program supports the implementation of high-quality plans for childhood literacy activities and book distribution efforts. Per year, \$350,000 will be spent on books for our classrooms, school libraries and to be given to kids to keep permanently at home. With this support, we will be able to reorganize our K-2 libraries to increase accessibility to books and to include engaging, current, and content-rich literature.

The book giveaway efforts will begin at the end of this school year. Each student, in grades kindergarten through third, will go home this summer with a "Box of Books" comprising 25-40 free books for them to build their permanent home libraries! **Thanks to this grant, we will be purchasing around 200,000 books in total for our classrooms, libraries and families.**

"This federal grant offers an incredible opportunity for our community to come together to increase reading motivation, performance, and frequency," says Jay Hillman, Director of Educational Services.

Grief Counseling, Supporting Our Students During Difficult Times

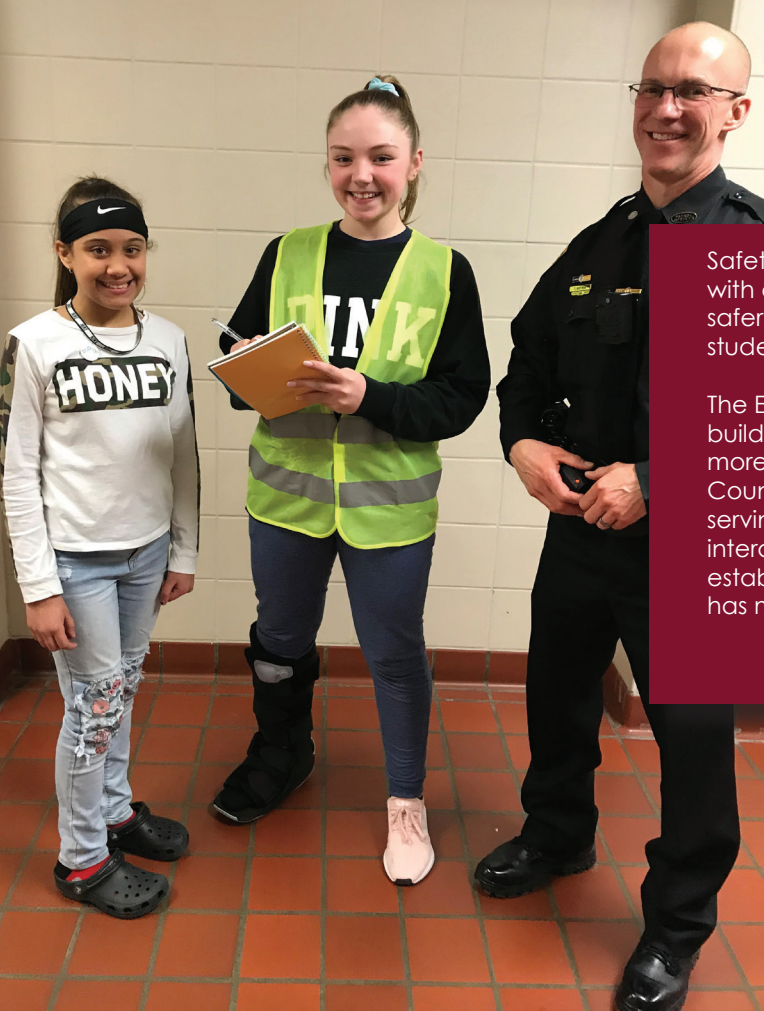
We know that unexpected life events can happen at unpredictable times. As educators, we know the school family can be a familiar safe place for children and families to express grief. That's why new this year, we have introduced Grief and Loss Support Counseling Services to provide immediate individual support to students who have experienced the loss of a loved one or have experienced a significant traumatic event. This program is possible through the supportive partnership with Glove House Inc.

The Grief and Loss Support Counseling service provides direct support to Elmira students according to the family's needs. During the school year, individual and group meetings are held with a Grief Counselor in collaboration with an identified school partner in each school. Additionally, the Grief Counselor also provides guidance for families to connect them to agency services as needed.

Support is available beyond just the academic year. During the summer months, the Grief Support Counselor will work on a more intensive basis with students and families. Weekly summer meetings will allow time for grieving students to work on building their coping and resiliency skills.



Safety + Role Models School Resource Officers



Safety is always our top priority for our School Resource Officers and with a strong team, they are offering so much more. Our officers create safer schools and have become heroes, role models and friends to our students.

The Elmira City School District has School Resource Officers at all buildings throughout the District. New this year, we have added four more School Resource Officers to our staff in partnership with Chemung County. These new SROs, retired police officers from our area, are serving our elementary school buildings. On top of safety, their goal is to interact with students in a positive manner on a daily basis. We believe establishing a positive rapport with law enforcement from an early age has many benefits.



Inspired by our dedicated School Resource Officers, student leaders of Beecher Elementary School are taking school safety to the next level. The Student Safety Patrol, a group of 15 students, is patrolling the halls each morning. During this time, students are stationed at their "post." They give stickers to students they feel have shown great behavior and also give positive messages to peers to help start their day off well! They also take notes in their notebooks of observations they feel need to be addressed by an adult. We are so proud of our Student Safety Patrol!

"Our job is to keep our school happy and safe," says Aubrie Disbrow, student member of the Student Safety Patrol at Beecher Elementary.





ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
951 Hoffman Street
Elmira, NY 14905

*****ECRWSS**
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Non-profit
org.
US postage
PAID
Elmira, NY
Permit No. 39

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Hillary J. Austin
Elmira City School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sara Lattin
President

Randy Reid
Vice-President

Lynn Grottenthaler
Scott Moore
Josh Palmer
Ron Shaw
Kevin Sullivan
Deborah White

Audem Jackson
Student Representative

Alexa Wagner
Student Representative



PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We are now enrolling Pre-K students for the 2019-2020 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



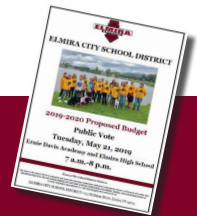
NEW STAR REBATE PROGRAM CHANGES



Homeowners earning between \$250,000 and \$500,000 a year will get a check for their STAR rebates this year rather than receiving the savings directly in their school-tax bills. STAR recipients who receive a check will also receive a 2% increase in their tax savings, those who see the savings directly on their tax bill will not. If you want to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit savings go to www.tax.ny.gov for instructions.

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR ENHANCED STAR?

A new law this year requires ALL property owners age 65+ who are eligible for Enhanced STAR to complete a form with their local tax assessor. According to the New York State tax agency, the form is completed once, not every year. This change only applies to those who have the exemption included in their property tax bills not those who receive a check for this exemption. The deadline for this application was due March 1st for 2019. If you missed this deadline, you can complete the form for 2020.



BUDGET BOOK

The 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Book with extensive details about the budget is available at the following locations:

- **District Administration Building
Located at 430 W Washington
Ave., 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/
budget19-20.cfm](http://elmiracityschools.com/budget19-20.cfm)

elmiracityschools.com