



HERKIMER

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSED BUDGET \$32,776,543

TAX LEVY CHANGE

➔ 0%

2023-24 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

Proposed budget includes enhancements, no tax levy increase

District residents will vote on Tuesday, May 16, on a proposed 2023-24 budget that includes no increase in the property tax levy, while enhancing student programs and services at the district, elementary and secondary levels.

This budget was made possible not only through the district continuing to analyze and control spending, but also due to the state completing its phase-in of foundation aid levels. Our district has consistently advocated for its share of foundation aid, which is provided for in this year's state budget.

As the final step of the phase-in, Herkimer is seeing its biggest jump in state aid for the upcoming school year – with the District Operating Aid from the state (including Foundation Aid) increasing by \$3.1 million.

“With state aid levels finally being restored to where they should be for school districts, this presented us with a rare opportunity to propose a budget that institutes important safety, staffing and program enhancements for our students without raising taxes,” Herkimer Superintendent Kathleen Carney said. “We’re excited for the community to hear how these proposals could elevate student opportunities and help ensure a safe and supportive learning environment.”

With a proposed property tax levy change of 0%, this would mark the third consecutive year the district's budget would result in no increase in the property tax levy. The total proposed budget is \$32,776,543. The budget is a 14.99% increase from the current school year, largely due to the increase in state aid and supporting a BOCES capital project (more on page 2). The additional state funding will allow our district to implement safety enhancements and essential educational programming to meet our students' extensive academic, social and emotional needs, without changing the tax levy.

Voters will also elect three Board of Education members and vote on the public library budget and Board of Trustees.



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VOTE

May 16, 2023 – Noon-8 p.m.
Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School
Library Media Center

LEARN MORE

Budget Hearing May 3,
2023 – 6 p.m. – Herkimer
Jr./Sr. High School
Library Media Center

Budget priorities:

The proposed 2023-24 budget carries a **0% tax levy change** while enhancing student programs and services.

The proposed budget would be the third in a row with no property tax levy increase.

Enhancements included in the proposed 2023-24 budget:

District enhancements:

- ▶ **Safety** measures including upgrading security cameras and phone systems, providing emergency classroom lockdown supplies and instituting the L.E.A.D. education program by our School Resource Officers.
- ▶ **Staffing and community resources** to support Connected Community Schools, R4K, tutoring and increased itinerant services through BOCES – including an English as a New Language (ENL) teacher, a speech therapist and a school psychologist.
- ▶ **Technology** updates including additional computer equipment and one-to-one devices.
- ▶ **Athletics** improvements including a golf cart to transport handicapped spectators and livestreaming for sporting events (HUDL).
- ▶ **Other** – including a new school vehicle, maintenance truck and maintenance projects.

Elementary program enhancements:

- ▶ Adding two academic intervention specialist (AIS) teachers, a full-time physical education teacher and a special education teacher.

- ▶ Additional speech improvement services (via BOCES).

- ▶ Sustaining smaller class sizes and small-group instruction.

- ▶ New technology class for upper elementary students.

- ▶ Enhancements to clubs including Drama Club and Steel Drums.

Secondary program enhancements:

- ▶ Adding an academic support teacher, a special education teacher and a science teacher.

- ▶ Hiring an assistant principal at the Jr./Sr. High School.

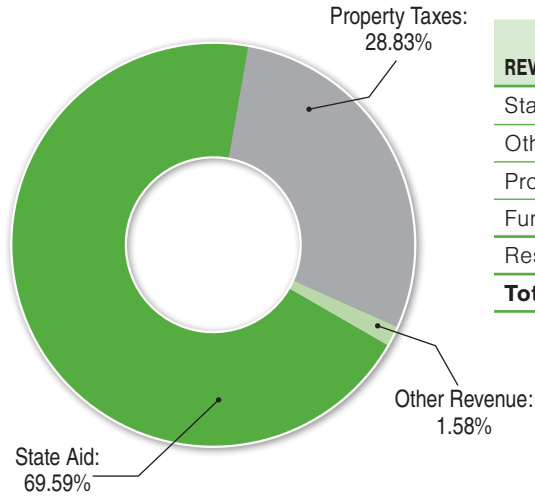
- ▶ Sustaining enrichment opportunities, academic support services and social-emotional supports.

- ▶ Maintaining and developing elective opportunities at the high school level including engineering, technology and agriculture.

- ▶ Sustaining high school opportunities including O-H-M BOCES Distance Learning and Project Lead the Way.

Projected Revenues

The district's plan for how it will obtain every dollar in the proposed budget



REVENUES	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24	% CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24
State Aid	\$17,904,038	\$22,808,874	\$4,904,836	27.40%
Other Revenue	\$656,500	\$516,669	-\$139,831	-21.30%
Property Taxes	\$9,451,000	\$9,451,000	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$230,000	\$0	-\$230,000	-100.00%
Reserves ERS/TRS	\$261,176	\$0	-\$261,176	-100.00%
Total Revenues	\$28,502,714	\$32,776,543	\$4,273,829	14.99%

Budget Numbers

REVENUE

- Overall state aid increase of \$4.9 million, of which \$3.1 million is for District Operating Aid (including Foundation Aid) and \$1.8 million is additional BOCES Aid. Most of the additional BOCES Aid is to help cover Herkimer CSD's portion of a new \$50 million Herkimer BOCES Capital Project that is focused on necessary infrastructure and system updates at BOCES buildings and the creation of more classroom space. Herkimer's portion of the project is determined by its percentage of the overall BOCES enrollment, which is about 13%.
- Proposed tax levy change of 0%. This is below the state calculated levy limit of 0.04%.
- Local taxes would make up about 29% of overall revenues.
- Proposal uses \$0 from fund balance and \$0 from retirement reserves (ERS/TRS).

SPENDING

- The 14.99% budget increase is due to the factors below and is covered by state aid increases without increasing the tax levy.
- Increased BOCES expenses of \$2.26 million, of which \$1.6 million will go toward Herkimer CSD's portion of a new Herkimer BOCES capital project (as explained above under "Revenue").
- Increased payroll and fringe benefit expenses to cover the cost of staffing and academic program enhancements.

Budget Q&A

What am I voting on?

On May 16, Herkimer Central School District voters will decide on the district's \$32,776,543 proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year. Residents will also elect three Board of Education members and will vote on the public library budget and library Board of Trustees.

How come the budget is increasing?

The main growth in the budget is a result of Herkimer CSD's portion of a new Herkimer BOCES capital project and increased payroll and fringe benefit expenses to cover the cost of staffing and academic program enhancements. State aid increases allow the district to cover these costs without increasing the tax levy.

What is included in the proposed budget?

In addition to maintaining existing programs and services, the proposed budget includes district-level enhancements focused on safety, staffing, technology and athletics; elementary enhancements including more teachers and support staff and program and club additions; and secondary enhancements including academic support and administrative staffing to sustain and increase opportunities. See "Enhancements included in the proposed 2023-24 budget" on page 1 for more information.

What happens if the budget is voted down?

If the proposed budget is defeated on May 16, the Board of Education can put the same or a revised budget up for a vote in June, or it can immediately adopt a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful budget votes, Herkimer would have to adopt a contingent budget. State law mandates that under a contingent budget, a school district must adopt a budget with no tax levy increase and eliminate all non-contingent expenses, such as certain student supplies, certain equipment purchases and community use of school facilities that results in a district expense. In other words, the district would likely need to charge fees for any community use of buildings and grounds. The administrative budget would also be subject to certain restrictions.

Proposed Expenditures

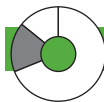
The district's plan for how money will be spent within the proposed budget



Program \$22,736,304 | 69%

Includes expenses for curriculum development, instructional programs, supplies, district transportation, athletic programs, community services, most employee benefits and transfers of funds.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24	% CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24
Subtotal	\$21,040,886	\$22,736,304	\$1,695,418	8.06%



Capital \$5,569,486 | 17%

Includes expenses for plant operations, maintenance, debt service principal and interest on all building projects and some employee benefits.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24	% CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24
Subtotal	\$4,908,959	\$5,569,486	\$660,527	13.46%



Administrative \$4,470,753 | 14%

Includes expenses for Board of Education, central administration, financial and legal services, personnel, supervision of regular school, BOCES administrative expenses including a BOCES capital project (See "Budget Numbers" on page 2) and administrative employee benefits.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24	% CHANGE '22-'23 TO '23-'24
Subtotal	\$2,552,869	\$4,470,753	\$1,917,884	75.13%

	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Total Expenditures	\$28,502,714	\$32,776,543	\$4,273,829	14.99%

See "Budget Numbers" on page 2 for more on the budget increase.

CATEGORY	2022-23 APPROVED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Payroll	\$9,300,524	32.6%	\$9,913,465	30.2%	6.59%
Benefits	\$6,243,491	21.9%	\$6,322,617	19.3%	1.27%
BOCES	\$6,002,561	21.1%	\$8,261,946	25.2%	37.64%
Contractual	\$3,249,000	11.4%	\$3,811,672	11.6%	17.32%
Debt service	\$2,905,638	10.2%	\$3,375,713	10.3%	16.18%
Supplies	\$435,500	1.5%	\$441,000	1.3%	1.26%
Equipment	\$159,000	0.6%	\$443,130	1.4%	178.70%
Transfer	\$125,000	0.4%	\$125,000	0.4%	0.00%
Textbooks	\$82,000	0.3%	\$82,000	0.3%	0.00%
TOTAL	\$28,502,714	100%	\$32,776,543	100%	14.99%



HERKIMER

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

801 West German Street
Herkimer, NY 13350

Bulk Rate
Non-Profit Org.
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13350

Board of Education

Brian Crandall, **President**
Michele Gilbert, **Vice President**
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Robert Mihevc
Scott Petucci
Aleksander Verenich

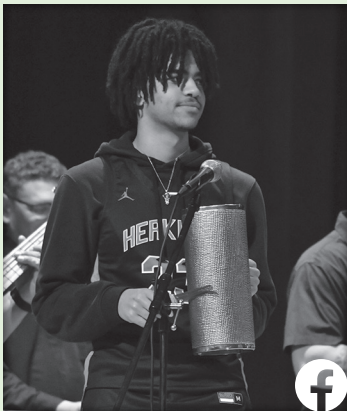
Superintendent

Kathleen Carney

*Produced in cooperation with Capital Region
BOCES Engagement and Development Services.*

2023-24 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

#HerkPride



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Voter Information

Who can vote?

In order to vote, a person must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen and a resident of the Herkimer Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 16, 2023, vote. Voter registration is not required.

When and where is the vote?

The school budget vote will take place from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, in the Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School Library Media Center.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Call the district office at 315-866-2230, ext. 1318, to obtain an application. If you want your absentee ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 9. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 15. The ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 16.

What exactly am I voting on?

Residents are voting on a proposed \$32,776,543 budget for the 2023-24 school year. The budget calls for a 14.99% spending increase and a **0% tax levy change**.

Residents will also:

■ ELECT THREE BOE MEMBERS

Three seats are up for election on the Herkimer Board of Education. Each carry a three-year term. Incumbents Diann Fischer, Scott Petucci and Joseph Lamanna are running for re-election to the board.

■ VOTE ON LIBRARY BUDGET/TRUSTEES

School district residents will decide on the Frank J. Basloe Public Library's proposed tax levy of \$353,844 to fund the library's annual budget. Residents will also vote on two library Board of Trustees seats. The candidate with the most votes will fill a five-year term, and the one with the second most votes will fill a three-year term.

How can I learn more?

A budget hearing will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, in the Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School Library Media Center. More budget details are also available online at www.herkimercsd.org.

 **VOTE**

May 16, 2023 – Noon-8 p.m.
Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School
Library Media Center