

# BUDGET PROPOSAL 2019-20

Edgemont School District

May 2019



Dear Members of the Edgemont Community,

On May 21st, the Board of Education is submitting to the voters a \$61,378,033 budget for the 2019-2020 school year. The projected budget-to-budget increase is 3.80%, and the anticipated tax-rate increase is .96%. The proposed budget does not exceed the State's 2% tax cap.

The Board of Education believes that the adopted budget will preserve the core values that distinguish an Edgemont education in a fiscally responsible manner, and prepared in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Our district continues to absorb and accommodate notable growth in student enrollment over recent years. This has required a corresponding increase in professional staffing and associated costs. Nevertheless, this budget continues to maintain and enrich an already excellent education by adding innovative programs at both elementary schools, and at Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School. It also supports the Intensive Communication Achievement Program (ICAP) scheduled to begin its second year at the Junior High School. Further, the budget maintains existing academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs. Safety enhancements and the development of flexible, innovative learning spaces at all three campuses are included in the facilities plan. Additional technology to extend and improve access across the district is also incorporated. It includes

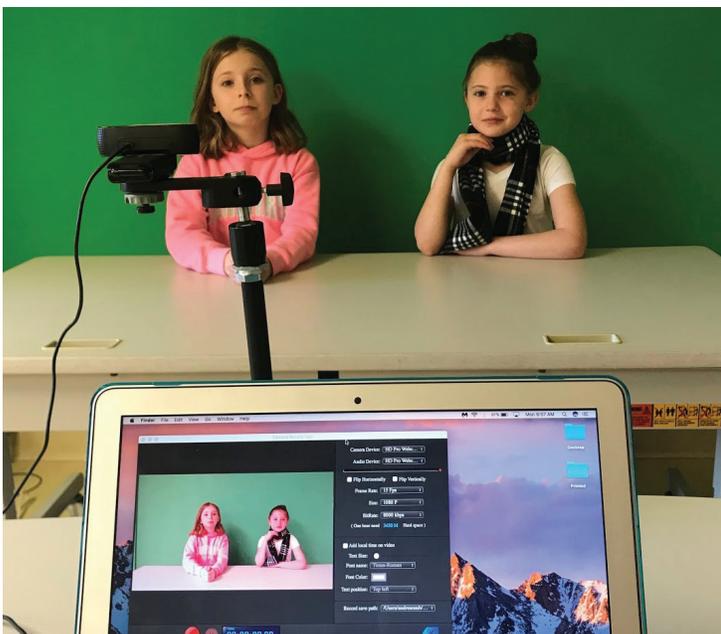
continued professional learning for all faculty to support new literacy, science, and computer science programs across all grades. We are expanding our instructional repertoire in social/emotional learning through the integration of technology with a focus on Tech Health and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) coursework.

The 2019-2020 budget presentation can be found on the district's website ([www.edgemont.org](http://www.edgemont.org)) along with Board of Education meeting and budget-related dates. For questions about the budget, please contact Susan Shirken, Assistant Superintendent, at (914) 472-7767 or [sshirken@edgemont.org](mailto:sshirken@edgemont.org), Victoria Kniewel, Superintendent, at (914) 472-7768 or [vkniewel@edgemont.org](mailto:vkniewel@edgemont.org), or the Board of Education at [boe@edgemont.org](mailto:boe@edgemont.org).

The vote and the election of candidates for the Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, May 21, from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm in the Edgemont High School Jim San Marco Gymnasium.

Sincerely,

Edgemont Board of Education



# THE PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET INCLUDES

- Science 21 expanded from K-2 to Grade 3
- Robotics/Coding and expanded “STEAM” programs in Grades 5-8
- Programming to foster Social/Emotional Learning skills, attitudes and behaviors
- Creation of innovative flexible learning spaces to promote hands-on learning and collaboration.
- Expanded inclusion of ICAP students at Greenville and EHS  
*Intensive Communication Achievement Program serving Edgemont students with significant communication disorders and/or an autism diagnosis*



**Q** Were any programs, staff, or services reduced or discontinued in the proposed budget?

**A** No. This budget maintains all current academic and co-curricular programs, faculty and consultants.

**Q** We voted as a district to override the tax cap in 2015. One of the goals of the override was to manage future tax-rate increases. Is that plan working as we hoped?

**A** Yes. During the budget presentations for the 2015-16 budget, it was estimated that the district may have to propose an override again three years later. Fortunately, the district has managed to remain within the tax cap since that time and, as of today, we are cautiously optimistic that we will continue to do so for next year. Further, the district maintains prudent reserves to cover unexpected expenses which arise in the normal course of operations, and to help bridge the gap between what is needed to maintain our programs and what we are allowed to raise in taxes.

**Q** In regard to the Facilities Plan, what projects have been completed and what are the next steps?

**A** The last of the projects from the 2014 bond referendum are substantially complete. This summer, as part of our operating budget, we are completing environmental work at Seely Place with a new flooring project and we hope to complete additional bathroom renovations. Greenville will receive new carpeting in the library and the Jr./Sr. High School will see renovated spaces for innovative programs, collaboration, and small group discussion.

**Q** Why does the community need to vote?

**A** New York State requires that the proposed budget be put forth for a public vote. With a majority of yes votes, the district can move forward to implement this spending plan.

# 2019-20 BUDGET Q&A

**Q** Would the incorporation of Edgemont affect the funding of the school budget?

**A** It is not anticipated that incorporation would affect the amount of funding needed to support the school district.

**Q** What is a tax certiorari claim and how does it impact the budget?

**A** Tax certiorari is the legal process by which the courts review a real property assessment. Certioraris involve **commercial** real estate; SCARs are **homeowner** claims for a reduced assessment.

Both impact the budget in several ways. We have had a \$300,000 line item each year in the school budget for over ten years. Once the district resolves the legal action with the claimant, the school district likely will have to reimburse the owners of the commercial property for the overcharged amount. In most cases, the process reduces the assessed value of the property, which in turn raises what other homeowners and commercial property owners have to pay.



**Q** Do Edgemont schools benefit from local sales tax?

**A** Yes, the district generally receives between \$370,000 and \$400,000 a year in sales tax revenue from Westchester County. Last year the district received slightly over \$390,000.

**Q** What are the enrollment projections for 2019-2020?

**A** Based on the size of our existing K-11 grade cohorts and statistical projections derived from the ratio of births to kindergarten enrollments, we anticipate total enrollment in the district for the 2019-2020 school year to be approximately 2025 students. The district has seen an approximate growth in enrollment of 6% since 2016.



## BUDGET BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	2018-2019 BUDGET	2019-2020 PROPOSAL
Salary	\$32,190,128	\$33,571,021
Health Insurance	\$6,297,843	\$6,586,009
Other Benefits	\$1,108,846	\$1,089,768
Retirement	\$3,611,821	\$3,420,417
Medicare	\$507,234	\$532,498
Social Security	\$2,408,336	\$2,537,511
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$46,124,208</b>	<b>\$47,737,224</b>
Debt Service	\$2,515,035	\$2,526,643
Out-of-District Ed	\$1,482,480	\$1,496,943
Supplies/Textbooks	\$582,149	\$585,867
Buildings/Grounds	\$1,525,188	\$1,075,429
Equipment/Repairs/Service Contracts	\$1,586,485	\$1,615,258
BOCES' Lan, etc.	\$465,150	\$529,399
Interscholastic Athletics	\$1,106,403	\$1,165,099
Transportation (Out-of-District)	\$724,833	\$784,802
Oil/Gas/Electric	\$607,000	\$607,000
Consultants	\$99,600	\$145,180
Legal/Audit/Insurance	\$535,562	\$535,863
Co-curricular	\$415,484	\$422,508
Certiorari	\$300,000	\$300,000
Professional Development	\$123,350	\$143,935
Technology	\$936,444	\$1,006,883
Transfer to Capital	\$0	\$700,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,129,371</b>	<b>\$61,378,033</b>

## PRELIMINARY REVENUE AND TAX-DOLLAR PROJECTIONS

REVENUE SOURCE	2018-2019 BUDGET	2019-2020 PROJECTIONS
State Aid	\$4,556,335	\$4,531,130
<b>Sales Tax</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>
Interest on Investments	\$60,000	\$100,000
Additional Revenues	\$300,000	\$300,000
Tuition	\$365,000	\$300,000
Tuition from Other Districts	\$86,688	\$186,688
Gifts	\$38,338	\$38,333
Transfer from Debt Service	\$0	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance ERS	\$357,713	\$628,112
Appropriated Fund Balance to Capital	\$0	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,000,000	\$1,165,000
Property Taxes	\$51,975,302	\$53,738,770
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$59,129,371</b>	<b>\$61,378,033</b>
Assessment	\$2,616,587,775	\$2,680,478,842
% Tax-Dollar Increase	1.69%	0.96%
% Budget-to-Budget Increase	3.57%	3.80%

## SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 59,129,371	\$61,378,033	\$59,129,371										
Increase for the 2019-20 School Year		\$2,248,662	\$0										
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		3.8 %	0%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$51,975,302	\$53,738,770											
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											
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$51,975,302</b>	<b>\$53,738,770</b>	<b>\$51,975,302</b>										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,806,884	\$2,164,071											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$50,168,418	\$51,574,699											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$50,168,418	\$51,574,699											
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$5,872,284	\$6,535,431	\$5,872,284										
Program Component	\$44,117,745	\$45,365,918	\$44,117,745										
Capital Component	\$9,139,342	\$9,476,684	\$9,139,342										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>The District would be required to cut \$2,248,662 from the proposed budget. The Board of Education would eliminate and/or reduce teaching positions, teacher aides, support staff, selected instructional programs, interscholastic athletics, student activities, community use of buildings and grounds, memberships in professional organizations, equipment, non-emergency capital projects, consultants, performing arts programs and selected supplies.</p> <p>** 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)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount								
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NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year

\$1,759

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Edgemont Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the James San Marco Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

EDGEMONT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**EDGEMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
300 White Oak Lane  
Scarsdale, New York 10583  
www.edgemont.org

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Mariquita Blumberg  
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Pamela Montgomery  
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Monica Sganga

Victoria S. Kniewel, SUPERINTENDENT  
Susan Shirken, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT  
Rosemary DeVito, DISTRICT CLERK

# VOTE MAY 21 EHS GYM 6 AM-9 PM

## BUDGET DETAILS INSIDE

# VOTER INFORMATION

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

**Daily, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

All executed absentee ballots must be received by the District Office (Edgemont High School campus) no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

### VOTER REGISTRATION

All residents who wish to vote in the May 21, 2019 budget vote and election of Board members must be registered in advance. Residents of Edgemont who wish to register must do so by going to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street in White Plains or call 914-995-5700.

An exhibition of artwork by Edgemont Junior High students will be on display throughout the evening. Performances by the music students of Seely Place, Greenville, and Edgemont Jr. High will begin at 6:00 PM. Please join the Fine and Performing Arts Department for any and all of these events before or after you vote. All are welcome!

