

# 2022-2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Edgemont Union Free School District

May 2022

Dear Members of the Edgemont Community,

The Board of Education is submitting to the voters a \$67,026,024 budget for the 2022-2023 school year, corresponding to a 2.72% budget-to-budget increase. With a tax levy of \$56,878,230, the projected tax-rate increase is 1.82%.\* The proposed budget was developed with attention to significant unknowns, including transportation, special education placements, the clerical contract, as well as concern for the current financial stress for taxpayers. Based on how the State's tax cap is calculated, the tax levy is at the tax cap.\*\*

**Despite staying within the tap cap, why have a tax rate increase at all?** Over 77% of this budget covers salary and benefits for personnel - faculty, teacher aides, custodians, administrators and support staff. They work as a team to create Edgemont's excellent education, and this past year has demonstrated the vital role they all have in that mission. The vast majority of the budget-to-budget increase comes from contractually-negotiated increases in compensation and special education expenses. Other than contractual obligations, and state mandates, there are extremely limited increases in the remaining areas. **If all of the educationally necessary and legally mandatory expenses, which constitute 96% of the budget** (among these are salaries, benefits, special education, support services, transportation, legal, audit, insurance, debt service) **are excluded, the overall increase for all remaining expenses (\$76,861) amounts to a bare 0.11% of the total budget.**

The Board of Education believes the adopted budget preserves the core values that distinguish an Edgemont education in a fiscally responsible manner. If we were to hold the tax rate flat, we would be effectively instituting an austerity budget, which would require cuts that would dramatically devalue the education our students receive.

*\*Changes to Edgemont's total taxable property assessment (not published until September 2022) will affect the tax rate.*

*\*\*Although commonly known as the 2% tax cap, the cap is based on a calculation that excludes debt service and capital expenses, and is based on the rate of inflation and a state calculated tax-base growth rate.*



**What are the main drivers of this budget?** The budget supports the new 6-period bell schedule at the high school. This scheduling shift is necessary to ensure compliance with the required yearly instructional hours and facilitates additional opportunities for deep and meaningful student engagement through an increase in each period's duration. Professional development, included to support our educators to adapt to these changes, is among the essential additions. Adding needed staff in guidance, a district-wide special education coordinator, and a business administration official are the other key positions created to support the implementation of the district's goal. Of utmost concern to all, this budget remains sensitive to the economic climate and is the result of informed, fiscally responsible decisions. Finally, this budget maintains existing academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs while including funding for two new courses at EHS - Animation and Greek & Latin Roots of English.

If the community does not approve the proposed budget on May 17th and subsequently fails to support a second attempt by June 30th, a contingency budget automatically goes into effect. If this were to occur, the budget would need to be reduced by \$765,047 while ensuring that property taxes collected in 2022-2023 would be no more than what was collected in 2021-2022. To do so, cuts would need to be made to personnel (increasing class size), programs and athletics.

The 2022-2023 budget presentations can be found at [edgemont.org/district/budget-information](http://edgemont.org/district/budget-information). For questions about the budget, please contact Victoria Kniewel, Superintendent, at [vkniewel@edgemont.org](mailto:vkniewel@edgemont.org); Bryan Paul, Assistant Superintendent, at [bpaul@edgemont.org](mailto:bpaul@edgemont.org); or the Board of Education at [boe@edgemont.org](mailto:boe@edgemont.org).

The budget vote and the election of candidates for the Board of Education will take place **at the EHS Jim San Marco gymnasium, from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm, on May 17, 2022.**

Sincerely,

Edgemont Board of Education

# 2022-2023 BUDGET Q&A

**Q** How and when is the vote going to occur this year?  
**A** An in-person vote is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, in the San Marco Gym at Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School. Additional information regarding absentee ballots is available on page four of this document.

**Q** What additions does the proposed budget include?  
**A** This budget allows for the staffing of four new key positions created in direct support of the district's strategic goal. A district-wide CSE/CPSE coordinator, an additional high school counselor, and an assistant business official/treasurer are included. To support teachers as the Jr./Sr. High School shifts to the new 6-period bell schedule, a Jr./Sr. High School teacher resource specialist position is also built in, along with necessary funding to ensure a smooth transition. Funding for the expansion of the Science21 curriculum for fifth graders and K-6 elementary Math in Focus programs, along with continued funding for essential consultancies, are also included. The budget accounts for necessary replacements and upgrades for student and staff Chromebooks. And, for the first time since its inception, the Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School ski program will be fully funded by the district.

**Q** Were any programs or services reduced or discontinued in the proposed budget?  
**A** No. This budget maintains all current academic and co-curricular programs and includes several important additions.

**Q** Edgemont is expected to receive \$1,536,029 more in State Aid in 2022-2023 than received this year. What accounts for this increase?  
**A** There are a number of reasons for this increase, but most notable is the State's commitment to providing Foundation Aid. For many years, Edgemont has received less Foundation Aid than expected due to financial limitations at the State level. State law now requires affected districts like ours to receive the aid we are owed over a two-year phase-in period. In the coming year, this amounts to an additional \$1,059,605 in Foundation Aid. The remaining difference in Foundation Aid is anticipated to be paid in the 2023-2024 school year.

**Q** How does the vote for Board of Education members work?  
**A** There are three vacant positions on the 2022-2023 Board of Education, as members Judy Seiff and Alec Clarke finish their second terms, and current member Nilesh Jain finishes his first full term. The Edgemont School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC), composed of representatives from each geographic area of the school district, has recommended residents Nareen Jabbour and Grace Lin for a first term, and Nilesh Jain for a second full term. The vote for the Board of Education members takes place on the same day (and on the same ballot) as the budget vote. Residents may vote for one, two, three, or none of the proposed candidates, and there is a write-in option as well.

## BUDGET BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSAL
Salary	\$34,948,072	\$36,029,435
Health Insurance	\$7,165,648	\$7,513,272
Other Benefits	\$1,113,206	\$1,021,225
Retirement	\$3,826,001	\$3,819,629
Medicare	\$639,467	\$661,970
Social Security	\$2,751,535	\$2,785,899
<b>PERSONNEL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,443,929</b>	<b>\$51,831,430</b>
Debt Service	\$2,554,327	\$2,544,240
Out-of-District Education	\$2,534,886	\$2,408,426
Supplies/Textbooks	\$547,728	\$590,690
Buildings/Grounds	\$1,020,425	\$1,056,554
Equip/Repairs/Contracts	\$1,588,543	\$1,803,932
BOCES, Misc. Expenses	\$612,787	\$676,146
Interscholastic Athletics	\$1,196,091	\$1,280,389
Transportation	\$710,200	\$679,450
Oil/Gas/Electric	\$608,000	\$766,500
Consultants	\$127,720	\$177,900
Legal/Audit/Insurance	\$663,180	\$638,850
Co-Curricular Activities	\$425,856	\$406,391
Certiorari	\$250,000	\$200,000
Prof. Development	\$129,429	\$141,797
Technology	\$1,088,288	\$1,123,329
Transfer to Capital	\$750,000	\$700,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,251,389</b>	<b>\$67,026,024</b>

## REVENUE ANTICIPATIONS

REVENUE SOURCE	2021-2022 BUDGET	2022-2023 PROPOSAL
State Aid	\$5,097,754	\$6,633,783
Sales Tax	\$650,000	\$715,000
Interests on Investments	\$45,000	\$15,000
Additional Revenues	\$200,000	\$250,000
Tuition	\$250,000	\$264,592
Tuition (Other Districts)	\$250,000	\$391,450
Gifts	\$38,333	\$38,333
Appropriated Fund Balance TRS	\$160,000	\$174,574
Appropriated Fund Balance ERS	\$606,182	\$665,062
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,970,000	\$1,000,000
Property Taxes	\$55,984,120	\$56,878,230
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$65,251,389</b>	<b>\$67,026,024</b>

## TAX RATE & BUDGET-TO-BUDGET PROJECTIONS

	2022-2023
Taxable Assessment (Projected*)	\$2,651,941,150
% Increase in Tax Rate (Projected*)	1.82%
% Increase Budget-to-Budget	2.72%

\*Changes to Edgemont's total taxable property assessment (not published until September 2022) will affect the tax rate.

## TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL FUND

As a part of the budget, the district proposes to transfer \$700,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to support a Seely Place Elementary School window replacement project. The windows installed in 2001 in the new wing of Seely Place have been prone to failure and parts are no longer available to support more permanent repairs. As a result, the only viable long-term solution is to replace these windows with new, more robust units. No separate resolution is necessary to initiate this transfer; rather, the passing of the budget as proposed provides the necessary authorization to transfer these funds.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year**
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 65,251,389	\$ 67,026,024	\$ 66,260,977
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 1,774,635	\$ 1,009,588
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.72 %	1.55 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 55,984,120	\$ 56,878,230	
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)	\$ 55,984,120	\$ 56,878,230	\$ 55,984,120
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,170,546	\$ 1,777,100	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 53,813,574	\$ 55,101,130	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 53,813,574	\$ 55,101,130	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 7,103,038	\$ 7,491,908	\$ 7,299,134
Program Component	\$ 48,415,080	\$ 49,760,658	\$ 49,188,385
Capital Component	\$ 8,983,271	\$ 9,073,458	\$ 9,073,458

\*\* Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the district would be required to cut \$765,047 from the proposed budget. The Board of Education would be forced to eliminate some combination of administrative positions, teaching positions, teacher aides, support staff, interscholastic athletics, and student activities. In addition, community use of buildings and grounds, all contingency equipment and furniture, conference and travel expenses, and memberships in professional organizations would need to be eliminated.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1,646

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 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 17, 2022 between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, in the Jim 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, NY 10583  
www.edgemont.org

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Rosemary DeVito, DISTRICT CLERK

# VOTE MAY 17 EHS GYM 6 am - 9 pm

## BUDGET DETAILS INSIDE

# VOTER INFORMATION

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

### DAILY, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

District Office (Edgemont High School Campus)

Absentee Ballots are available in the District Office (Edgemont High School campus), from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday. If a voter would like an absentee ballot mailed directly to him/her, the application for the absentee ballot must be received in the District Office no earlier than April 18, 2022, and no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. If an absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter, it must be picked up from the District Office no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, May 16, 2022. All executed absentee ballots must be received in the District Office no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.



## VOTER REGISTRATION

To be a qualified voter, you must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old by May 17, 2022, and a School District resident for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election. If you are not registered, or if you have not voted in the School District election or general election in the past four calendar years, you must register to vote with the County Board of Elections. To check whether you are registered, visit <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>.

To accommodate Edgemont residents who meet the aforementioned state-mandated eligibility requirements, the district will hold voter registration on May 9, 2022, between 3:00-7:00 pm at the District Office (EHS Campus). Proof of residency and date of birth are required for in-person registration.

Residents of Edgemont who wish to register at other dates/times must do so by going to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street in White Plains, or call 914-995-5700. Voter Registration Forms can be downloaded from the district website ([www.edgemont.org](http://www.edgemont.org)) under the Voter Information tab.

Para obtener más información sobre la votación, visite el sitio web del distrito: [www.edgemont.org](http://www.edgemont.org).