



ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.ichabodcrane.org

MAY 2019

SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

TUESDAY MAY 21, 2019

8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Ichabod Crane High
School Gymnasium

2019-2020 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

\$41,597,201

Budget-to-Budget Increase:

\$1,406,419 (3.5%)

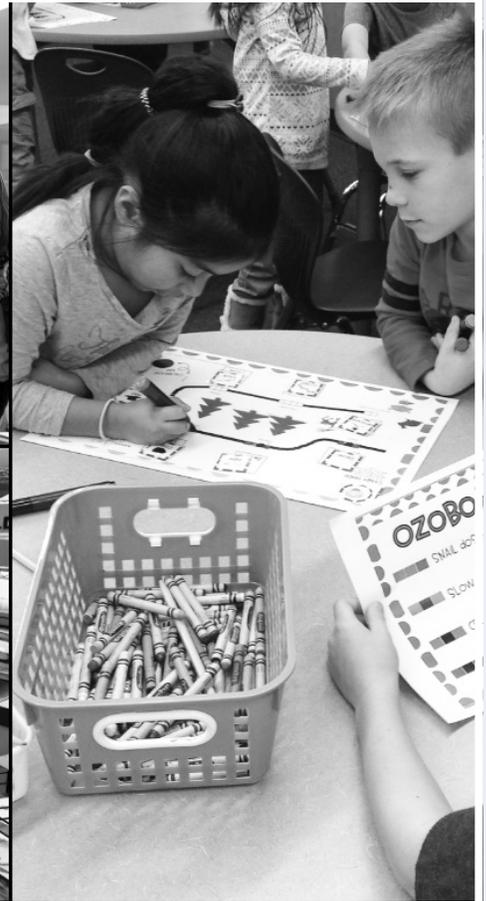
Estimated Tax Levy

Increase:

2.70%

(Meets allowable tax levy limit)

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON TWO PROPOSITIONS



Proposed 2019-2020 Budget Meets Tax Levy Limit

On Tuesday, May 21, Ichabod Crane Central School District residents will vote on a \$41,597,201 budget for the 2019-2020 school year.

This proposed amount is a \$1,406,419 increase, or 3.5%, from the 2018-2019 school year. If approved by District voters, it would result in a 2.70% tax levy increase, which meets the District's maximum allowable tax levy under the New York State tax levy cap legislation.

The final New York State budget allocates \$15,744,617 in aid for the District in 2019-2020, an increase of \$315,626 or 2.05% from 2018-2019.

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, District residents will elect three members to seats opening on the Board of Education. Finally, residents will vote on a separate proposition to purchase five additional school buses.

Capital Improvement Project Update

As the 2018-2019 school year enters its final months, the District would like to update the school community on the Capital Improvement Project and highlight the many improvements it will bring in the coming years.

Ichabod Crane voters approved the \$27,115,200 Capital Improvement Project on December 12, 2018. From January-March, 2019, architects (CSArch Architecture), construction management (Turner Construction) and the District conducted field visits evaluating construction affected buildings. These visits encompassed a majority of investigative testing (ex. asbestos), as well as photographing and measuring worksites.

Throughout this process, the District has held ongoing bi-weekly Owner, Architect and Construction Management (OACM) Meetings to discuss overall project progress. A key part of the meetings is receiving and providing feedback from administrative staff and faculty. Additionally, the District has been committed to ensuring staff and faculty remain actively involved throughout every stage of the project. This is accomplished by holding ongoing Programming Meetings with faculty impacted by the renovations and improvements.

While many components of the project will not be completed for a few years, school community members can look forward to a connecting road between the Primary School and the Middle School before the end of 2019. Currently, vehicles can only access the Primary School from State Farm Road and the connecting drive will eliminate the need to leave the campus to reach the building. This also means less travel time on the bus for students and easier access to all the school buildings for response vehicles in the event of an emergency. If plans proceed as anticipated, there will be a bidding period over Summer 2019, with plans to begin construction on the new road by late August/early September.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TIMELINE

Below is the planned timeline as of May 2019

- **January - September 2019:** Design Phase
- **October 2019:** Project Design Submitted to NYSED for Approval
- **October 2019 - July 2020:** NYSED Review Period
- **September - October 2020:** Bidding and Award of Contracts
- **November 2020 - September 2022:** Construction Period

SELECTED SCOPE OF WORK

The following is a selected scope of work for the three Ichabod Crane school buildings. This is not a comprehensive list of all the additions and improvements included in the Capital Improvement Project. For the full list - including blueprints of planned school building work - please visit the Capital Projects section of the District website at ichabodcrane.org/district/capital-projects.

HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMICS & PROGRAM

- STEAM (Science) Renovations
- STEAM (Technology Shop/Engineering) Renovations/Addition
- STEAM (Art) Renovations
- STEAM (Math) Renovations
- Guidance/Counseling Suite Renovations
- Replace Doors & Hardware at Auditorium
- Replace Stage Floor at Auditorium
- Provide New Sound Booth, Update ADA Seating at Auditorium

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ACADEMICS & PROGRAM

- Renovate/Update all 100-Wing Classrooms
- Renovate/Update all 200-Wing Classrooms
- Renovate/Update all 300-Wing Classrooms
- Improve Acoustics and Replace Instrument Storage in Music Suite

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETICS

- Renovate/Expand Middle School Gyms

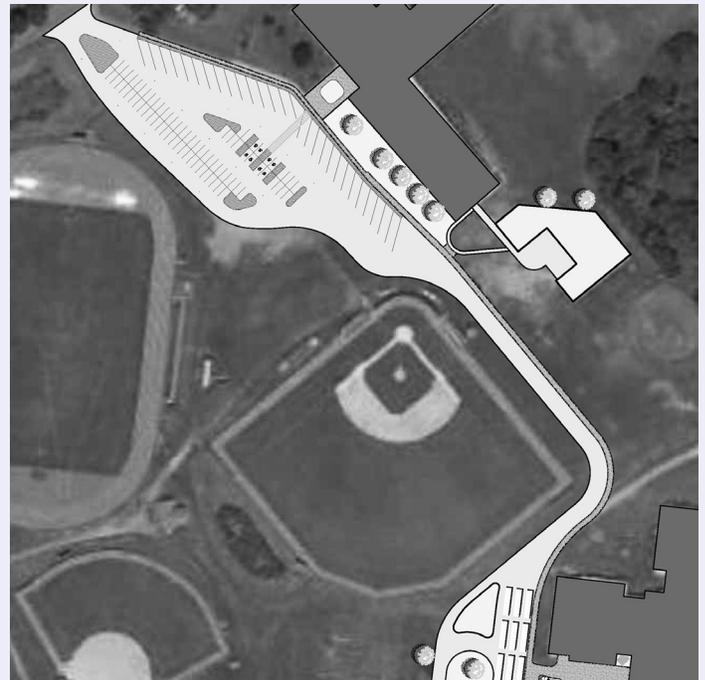
PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Provide Security Glazing Film at Entry Vestibule
- Provide Bullet-resistant Security Transaction Window & Drawer
- Renovate Nurse Toilet Room for ADA Compliance
- Provide Handicapped Parking at Main and North Parking Lots
- Replace Fire Alarm System w/ Addressable System

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Provide Connection Drive between Primary School & Middle School



Connecting drive between Primary and Middle School

Student Athletic Highlights in 2018-2019

- 8 varsity fall sports teams, 97 fall student-athletes, 5 varsity winter sports teams and 61 winter student-athletes recognized as NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete teams. To receive Scholar-Athlete team status with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75 percent of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00. The following varsity teams earned the certificate: Golf (95.75), Girls Cross-Country (95.00), Girls Soccer (94.25), Boys Cross-Country (93.82), Tennis (93.69), Girls Volleyball (93.18), Field Hockey (92.53), Boys Soccer (91.46), Girls Basketball (93.00), Boys Indoor Track (92.90), Girls Indoor Track (92.29), Boys Volleyball (92.25), Boys Basketball (92.18).
- Girls varsity cross country team were Class CC Section 2 champions at Cross Country Sectionals.
- Jair Gomez became the first-ever Ichabod Crane wrestler to win a Section II championship and compete in the New York state tournament.
- The boys varsity volleyball team won a Section II, Class B and New York State Regional championship. The team went 15-4 on the season.
- Haydon Broockmann earned Second Team All-State honors for his play at tight end.
- Tobi Zucco and Haydon Broockmann earned Reinfurt Division All-Star First Team selections during the football season.
- The varsity girls tennis team won its second straight Section II, Class B championship, beating Hudson Falls, 5-2, in the title match. The Lady Riders went 11-3 on the year.
- The boys varsity soccer team made it all the way to the Section II, Class B championship game for the third consecutive season.
- Anthony Carlucci (boys varsity soccer) awarded Times Union Athlete of the Year.
- Ichabod Crane soccer players nominated as Colonial Council All-Stars: Anthony Carlucci (MVP & Boys 1st Team), Jack Kirby (Boys 1st Team), Giovanni Gomez (Boys 1st Team), Spencer Bates (Boys 2nd Team), Edgar Gomez (Boys 2nd Team), Logan Groat (Boys 2nd Team), Sarah Dugan (Girls 2nd Team) Shannon Verbraska (Honorable Mention) and Riley Paul (Honorable Mention).
- Physical Education teachers worked with a state coordinator from the National Archery in Schools Program in hopes of adding Archery to the PE curriculum after students expressed an interest.
- Ichabod Crane merged with Maple Hill to form a joint lacrosse team.
- The second annual Dana V. Flax charity basketball game raised more than \$2,000.

Student Fine Arts Highlights in 2018-2019

- Seven High School students had artwork selected to be on display in the Art in Three Dimensions Juried Exhibition at Mohonasen High School. Madison Kowalski (ceramic sculpture), Jenna Rothwein (ceramic sculpture), Isabella Sakolish (cut paper relief sculpture), Betty Rose (ceramic sculpture), Maris Seabury (cut paper relief sculpture), Emiah Bruni (ceramic sculpture) and Lauren Bertrand (ceramic sculpture) were each featured.
- Two High School students had artwork on display at Columbia-Greene Community College's 23rd Annual Juried Art Show for high school students. On exhibit was senior Ama Boham's digital artwork *Grandma* and junior Luke Herrington's photograph *Leyeght Bulb*.
- Thomas Joseph's artwork inspired by *La Seine* by Joan Mitchell was displayed at The Empire State Plaza Art Collection Student Art Exhibit.
- Four students had their work selected to be included at the Regional Juried HS Exhibit at Albany Center Gallery. Ama Boham, Adam Lambert, Caitlin Matthies and Maris Seabury were all included in the exhibit.
- A total of 12 artists from Ichabod Crane were chosen to be a part of the Media Arts Festival Exhibit at Niskayuna High School. Students selected include Avery Bates, Ama Boham, Taylor Burnell, Jack DiGrigoli, Luke Herrington, Adam Lambert, Caitlin Matthies, Jacy Nearywood, Jenna Rothwein, Caroline White and Trina Yates.
- Students and teachers were chosen to participate in the 2018-19 Arts Integration Initiative which was organized by Art Omi and funded by the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation.
- The artwork of Brianna Bruno, Merle Curran-Ackert and Isabella Sakolish was selected for the 29th Annual Questar III High School Invitational Art Exhibit at Hudson Valley Community College in the Marvin Library Learning Commons.

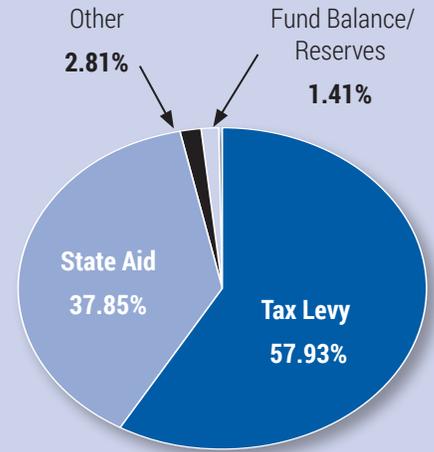
Student Performing Arts Highlights in 2018-2019

- Michael Vecellio was selected to represent Ichabod Crane as a member of the All State Mixed Chorus at the New York State School Music Association All State Festival in Rochester.
- Fourteen students from the Ichabod Crane High School were selected to attend the NYSSMA Area All State Festival on November 16-17, 2018 at Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park.
- Approximately 125 students from the Ichabod Crane District-wide Music Department were selected to attend the 2018-2019 Columbia County Music Festivals.
- 58 Ichabod Crane Central School student music evaluations took place at the April 2019 New York State School Music Association Solo-Ensemble Festival.
- The Crane Acting Troupe spring production of the Broadway musical, *NEWSIES*, was attended by more than 1,000 community members over the course of three shows.

REVENUES:

Where money comes from to pay for Ichabod Crane schools

Revenue Budget	2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy/Pilots	\$23,462,385	\$24,095,265	\$632,880	2.70%
State Aid	15,428,991	15,744,617	315,626	2.05%
Other: Rents, Tuitions, Misc.	710,500	1,170,900	460,400	64.80%
Fund Balance/Reserves	588,906	586,419	-2,487	-0.42%
Grand Totals	\$40,190,782	\$41,597,201	\$1,406,419	3.50%



2019-2020 Proposed Budget: Questions and Answers

Q: Is the proposed budget within the tax levy cap?

A: Yes. Ichabod Crane Central School District’s tax levy limit for 2019-20 is \$24,001,998 or an increase of 2.70 percent, which meets the allowable tax levy limit under the state’s tax cap law.

Q: Is Ichabod Crane Central School District getting an increase in state aid in the coming year? If so, how much?

A: Yes. Ichabod Crane is expecting a state aid increase of \$315,626 over the current year for a total of \$15,744,617 in state aid for the 2019-20 school year. State aid accounts for 37.85 percent of the district’s revenue.

The additional state aid allows the District to maintain all the programs and services currently delivered in 2018-19 and provides additional student supports and enhancements, facilities improvements and the purchase of new equipment.

Q: If the budget is defeated on May 21, what options does the Board of Education have?

A: If the proposed budget is defeated by voters on May 21, the Board of Education will have

three options: present the same budget to voters a second time, present a revised budget to voters, or adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated a second time, the board must adopt a contingent budget. In addition, with the property tax levy limit or “cap” law in effect, under a contingent budget the district can levy a tax no greater than that of the prior year’s budget – essentially a zero percent tax levy increase. For Ichabod Crane, a contingent budget would be \$40,708,003, which would mean the district would have to cut \$889,198 from the proposed budget.

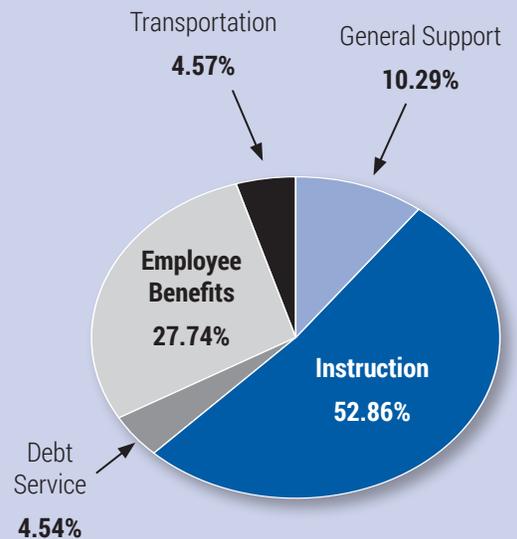
Q: Is there a property tax rebate?

A: Yes. New York State’s Property Tax Rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019 and is for homeowners who paid school taxes, receive the STAR exemption, have income less than \$200,000 a year and live in school districts that pass budgets at or below the tax levy cap. Ichabod Crane CSD’s budgets have stayed within the tax cap and will do so again for 2019-20 allowing eligible taxpayers to receive a check from the state in the fall.

EXPENSES:

How money is spent for Icabod Crane schools

Account Group	2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$4,143,752	\$4,280,985	\$137,233	3.31%
Instruction	20,873,646	21,986,961	1,113,315	5.33%
Transportation	1,842,616	1,900,447	57,831	3.14%
Employee Benefits	11,457,665	11,540,171	82,506	0.72%
Debt Service/Transfers	1,873,103	1,888,637	15,534	0.83%
Grand Totals	\$40,190,782	\$41,597,201	\$1,406,419	3.50%



THREE-PART BUDGET:

By law, school districts must divide their budget into three components—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to last year's amounts. Icabod Crane's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

PROGRAM	2018-19	2019-20
Amount	\$31,431,746	\$32,639,081
% of total	78.21%	78.46%

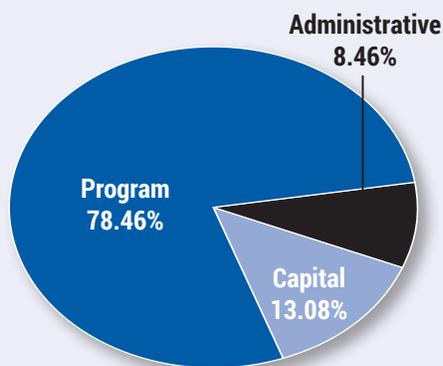
INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, etc.; teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks; library and instructional computer funds; athletics; and transportation (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE	2018-19	2019-20
Amount	\$3,443,872	\$3,518,865
% of total	8.57%	8.46%

INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; insurance costs; legal expenses; and Board of Education expenses.

CAPITAL	2018-19	2019-20
Amount	\$5,315,164	\$5,439,253
% of total	13.22%	13.08%

INCLUDES: debt service on buildings; bus purchases; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; operation and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits of custodial staff, supplies, utilities, repairs and renovations.



Board of Education Candidates

Eight (8) candidates are seeking three (3) seats on the Board of Education on May 21. Each of the the three vacancies are for a three-year term. The terms of Matthew Nelson, Jeffrey Ouellette and Anthony Welcome will end on June 30, 2019.

Running for these seats, in the order they appear on the ballot, are Elizabeth Phillips, Matthew Nelson, Jeffrey Ouellette, Anthony Welcome, James Antalek, John Chandler, Anne Marie Bertram and Brendan Caluneo.

Further candidate information be found online at icabodcrane.org

VOTER INFORMATION

Voter Eligibility

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Voter Registration

You must be registered before you are permitted to vote. You are already registered if you have:

- Voted in a school election within the last four (4) years
- Voted in a general election from the address in the District within the last four (4) years

Individuals may register to vote with the District Clerk from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on school days at the office of the District Clerk in the Central Office of the School District. An individual must be registered at least five days preceding an election in order to vote in that election.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person because of illness or disability. Applications for absentee ballots must be received at the office of the School District Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2019 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or prior to 4:00 p.m. on May 20, 2019, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., May 21, 2019.

School Building Highlights

A SMALL SAMPLING OF RECENT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT ICHABOD CRANE SCHOOLS.

PRIMARY SCHOOL: LIBRARY CARD INITIATIVE

This year the Primary School started their Library Card Initiative in partnership with Columbia County libraries. Each PS class (Kindergarten-3rd) visits the Kinderhook Library, where every student gets their own personal library card. The goal of the now ongoing initiative is to show young students the advantages of public libraries, the importance of reading at a young age, to encourage them to explore the libraries of Columbia County and develop a love of reading.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: PENNIES FOR PATIENTS/STUCK FOR A BUCK

The Middle School raised \$2,225 for Pennies for Patients, a program helping people with blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Students collected donations in person and online for three weeks which they gave to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The fundraiser culminated with the ever-popular “Stuck

for a Buck” where students voted on two staff they wanted to see taped to the wall. Christine Hamm and Jeffrey Montague won with the most votes. For a dollar donation, students received a large piece of duct tape and got to help tape them to the wall!

HIGH SCHOOL: EMPTY BOWLS SUPPER

This March, the High School Art Club hosted the 9th Annual Empty Bowls Supper fundraiser. They invited the community to enjoy a simple homemade meal (soup, bread and a beverage) and take home a ceramic bowl made by students & staff. These bowls served as visible reminders of the people going to bed hungry every night. Art Club members, Ceramics and Sculpture class students, along with members of Ichabod Crane staff and administration created over 150 ceramic bowls for the event. By the end of the evening, the event raised \$1,035 to benefit the Ichabod Crane Backpack Program, which meets the needs of hungry students over weekends when other food resources are unavailable.



Propositions You Will See on the Ballot

PROPOSITION 1

Vote on a budget of \$41,597,201 with a 2.70% tax levy increase.

PROPOSITION 2

Vote on a bus referendum to purchase 5 school buses at a cost of \$475,665.

Spotlight On School Safety

School Resource Officer, Toby Van Alstyne

School Resource Officer Toby Van Alstyne has been working in law enforcement for 14 years, coming on board with Ichabod Crane in 2014.

“I took the job in the school because I was watching the decline in the way that people trusted the police,” Officer Van Alstyne said. “I wanted to close the gap between the Sheriff’s Office and the School District. At the same time, I wanted to keep our ICC community safe in light of current events in other schools.”

Over the past few years, Officer Van Alstyne has been able to bridge that gap by working closely with the student body and staff at Ichabod Crane. He teaches, mentors and offers assistance to students on a daily basis.

“My favorite part of the job is watching the kids grow,” he said. “I truly love being a part of Ichabod Crane.”

DISTRICT HONORED FOR SAFETY EFFORTS

The District was recently honored with the Utica National Insurance Group’s “School Safety Excellence Award” at the Titanium with Honors level. The honor is presented annually and recognizes school district safety efforts as they work to help keep students, staff and visitors safe.

Categories considered include bullying prevention programs, playground safety and other areas, which are measured using specific, quantifiable surveys.

Ichabod Crane school officials accepted a certificate to commemorate the District’s safety efforts and a \$500 award for use in furthering those efforts.

Moving Forward With Distance Learning

The Ichabod Crane Central School District is thrilled to begin expanding its course offerings to students during the 2019-2020 academic year by working with the Northeastern Regional Information Center (NERIC).

By offering distance learning, ICC students will be able to join a classroom in another district by using cutting edge technology and an interactive, high-definition video system. This opens new opportunities for students that may have been limited in the past due to lack of space, size of the student body, staffing or budgetary constraints. Distance learning also helps resolve scheduling conflicts for students interested in AP, college-level courses or other electives.

For example, ICC high school students entering college as business majors do not currently have the option to take a business elective. These electives, along with courses such as college-level French 4 and 5, can be offered through the distance learning program.

In addition to students taking courses, distance learning also provides the opportunity for ICC faculty to host courses and broadcast out to participating schools. Further benefits include ICC staff time devoted to distance learning is eligible for state aid and the District can offer classes that may not have a full enrollment from the ICC student body.

A Closer Look at “Riders Pathway to Success”

Riders Goals 2021 is the result of a collaborative effort to identify five overarching goals that will be in effect from 2018-2021 to guide the District in their budgeting, staffing and curriculum development process. District administration, faculty and staff developed specific targets for improvement within each goal. Goal #1 - also known as the “Riders Pathway to Success” - is focused on student achievement and its target objectives are below:

GOAL #1: Student Achievement “Riders Pathway to Success”

TARGET 1: PROJECT 95

The District will strive for 95% graduation rate by the year 2024. There will be a 1% increase in the graduation rate for each of the next five years, starting in 2019.

TARGET 2: COURSE FAILURES

Reduction in course failures by 5% for 2018-19.

TARGET 3: STATE ASSESSMENTS

Increase Mastery Level on Regents Exams by 5% and increase the Proficient Rate by 5% for students taking Grades 3-8 State Assessments for 2018-19.

TARGET 4: STUDENT Proficiency Levels

Increase the number of K-2 students at or above grade level by 5% in reading, writing and math by 2018-19.

TARGET 5: POST-HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students will have access to college, career and life skills in their courses starting in the Middle School and will meet a set of proficiency standards for these skills prior to graduation.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Matthew Nelson, *President*
Anthony Welcome, *Vice President*
John Antalek
Jessica Berner
Dan Cohn
Tammy Crawford
Jeffrey Ouellette
Susan Ramos
Regina Rose

Postal Customer

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Suzanne Guntlow, *Acting Superintendent*
Michael Brennan, *Business Manager*

DISTRICT OFFICE

518-758-7575

www.ichabodcrane.org

NON-DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT: The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Compliance Officer, Suzanne Guntlow, and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Peg Warner, at 758-7575, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184. A copy of the "In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)" is available in the Superintendent's Office.

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

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	\$40,190,782	\$41,597,201	\$40,708,003
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$1,406,419	\$670,097
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.5 %	1.67%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$23,371,225	\$24,001,998	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$23,371,225	\$24,001,998	23,371,225
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$413,683	\$424,386	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$23,132,957	\$23,577,612	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$23,132,957	\$23,577,612	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,443,871	\$3,518,866	\$3,492,941
Program Component	\$31,431,745	\$32,639,082	\$31,975,807
Capital Component	\$5,315,164	\$5,439,254	\$5,239,254

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
\$520

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Kinderhook (Ichabod Crane) school district, Columbia and Rensselaer Counties, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the High School 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.