



ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.ichabodcrane.org

MAY 2022

SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

TUESDAY May 17, 2022

8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Ichabod Crane High
School Gymnasium

2022-2023 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

\$46,693,075

Budget-to-Budget Increase:

\$2,814,151 (6.4%)

Estimated Tax Levy
Increase:

2.3%

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON THREE PROPOSITIONS:

1. Proposed Budget
2. Proposed Bus Purchases
3. Student Board Member



ICHABOD CRANE 22-23:

Thriving and Stronger Than Ever

Residents to vote on 2022-2023 Budget

On Tuesday, May 17, Ichabod Crane Central School District residents will vote on a \$46,693,075 budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

Property Tax Levy Increase is Below NYS Allowable Limit

Under New York State's tax cap legislation, the maximum allowable property tax levy increase for the 2022-2023 school year is a 3.45% increase from 2021-2022. The 2022-2023 budget proposal will have a 2.3% increase, which is below the maximum allowable limit by law and provides a balanced budget.

One-Time Federal Stimulus Funds Are Not Part of NYS Aid

Due to the additional financial burdens of the pandemic, Ichabod Crane CSD continues to receive federal relief funding to use over the next two school years. Dating back to 2020, this includes a total amount of \$3,934,582 to be expended through 2024. To date, nearly all of the original CARES Act (\$215,534) funding has been allocated. Of the remaining ARP (\$2,114,867) and CRRSA (\$1,604,181) money, roughly 33% has been expended in the 2021-22 school year, an additional 33% is planned for 2022-23, and the remainder will be spent in the 2023-24 school year. Please note that this funding is not part of the State's aid formula and will not be included in the district's general operating fund for normal operating expenses. However, the district has leveraged this additional funding to maximize state aid. These funds will continue to be utilized to support the following areas:

ENHANCEMENTS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Health & Safety:

- Upgrades to air filters

Academic Progress and Enrichment:

- Enhanced Summer School and Explorers! (Enrichment Programming)
- After School Academic Support
- Credit Recovery
- New Academic Intervention Staff at the Middle and High School

Social-Emotional and Mental Health Supports:

- Full-Time Social Worker
- On-Site Support from Columbia County DSS
- Adoption of Second Step Emotional Support Curriculum
- Professional Development for Parents and Staff

Educational Technology:

- New Interactive HS Classroom Displays
- Devices for Every K-12 Student and Staff Member
- Software platforms for individualized learning

What We've Accomplished: Transformative Changes

As the Capital Project nears completion, transformative changes happening in the district are evident. Improvements to our facilities have expanded possibilities for students, now and in the future. Instructional areas in the Middle and High School have become true 21st century learning spaces as technological capabilities have been built right into classrooms which facilitate new methodologies of teaching, particularly in STEAM. Innovative programming is now underway, inspiring and challenging our students in fresh and exciting ways.

For example, in the high school STEAM wing, our new classroom space allows us to offer interdisciplinary classes, inviting subject matter experts to share their fields of expertise. Under development for the fall are new project-based courses using manufacturing technologies. Our students and staff will soon gain experience with innovative technologies creating educational opportunities in areas such as welding, CNC fabrication, automotive diagnostics, repair, and maintenance.



These new learning spaces bring students, industry experts and educators together in collaborative partnerships. Plans in development include an internship program and enhanced partnerships with local colleges and universities to bring more College-in-the-High School credit to Ichabod Crane. We are strengthening activities outside of the classroom as well. We are in the process of purchasing equipment on drone technology that will not only tie into our Aerospace and Transportation curricula, but will enable students to participate in an after-school drone racing league.

Superintendent Suzanne Guntlow is excited about the future: "As a District, we are focused on meeting the needs of all students including those who are college bound, intend to enter the workforce or join the military forces. These advanced facilities are a true investment in our future as a community. We look forward to the opportunities afforded to our students but also to district residents and the community." Board President Matthew Nelson added, "Through collaborative partnerships, we will continue to foster a strong educational experience for all students providing them an advantage in the future. We are grateful for the support of our community which has allowed us to provide these opportunities."



Excelling in Academics and Athletics



Ichabod Crane High School Athletics Department, its teams, and individual athletes had a year of outstanding athletic and academic achievement. During the fall and winter seasons the New York State Public High School Athletics Association named 13 of our teams and 117 of our individual athletes Scholar-Athlete Teams and Individuals, a distinction which requires keeping an academic average above 90.

Financial Strengths & Highlights

- **Tax Cap:** The district continues to remain below the maximum allowable tax cap increase. The 2022-2023 levy increase of 2.3% is below the 4-year average of 2.7%.
- **Increased State Aid:** NYS Aid increased \$6,278,000 or 50.5% since 2014. Local share of overall revenue decreased from 58% to 55% in 2022-23.
- **Building Aid:** 72.5% building aid ratio funds Capital Projects at 27.5% local share.
- **Building Aid Waiver:** Applied and received a waiver from SED to receive building aid prior to current capital project completion lowering the amount of overall borrowing and saving interest expenses over the life of the loan.
- **District Reserves:** Reserves have increased since 2016. Strong reserves enhance the district's fiscal position.
- **District Fund Balance:** The district maintains the maximum allowable fund balance of 4% of annual budget for a reliable cash flow when needed, eliminating the need to borrow through revenue anticipation notes.
- **Capital Project Financing:** The district will realize lower than estimated interest rate cost from capital project borrowing.
- **Moody's A1 Issuer Rating:** This is a strong municipal investment grade rating, positioning the district as a low credit risk.

Ichabod Crane's Capstone Achievement

The Ichabod Crane High School Class of 2021 once again met the district's aggressive target, with 96 percent of the class earning diplomas in four years. The school district established the Riders' Pathway initiative in 2018, which established a graduation rate target of 95 percent or better. The school district has met or exceeded this rate every year since, including the past two years despite the challenges of the pandemic. In fact, Ichabod Crane High School had the highest graduation rate in Columbia County last year.

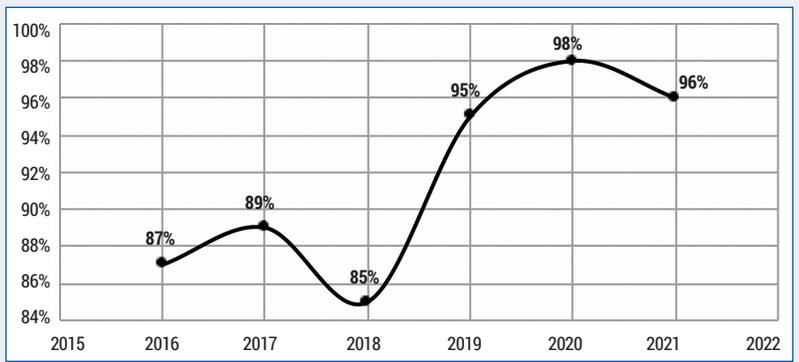
"The high school graduation rate is our ultimate measure as a school system. I am so proud of our collective effort to prepare our students, from kindergarten through high school," said Superintendent Suzanne Guntlow.

The Riders' Pathway to Success is a collaborative effort by the school district's teachers and administrators across all schools and content areas to set goals, monitor progress and develop specific actions to support any areas in need of improvement. This group meets quarterly and has been instrumental in several innovations designed to support student success and growth such as the implementation of academic lunch, a restructuring of freshman orientation and the development of tiered study halls to name just a few.



STUDENT GRADUATION RATES

2016	87%	2019	95%
2017	89%	2020	98%
2018	85%	2021	96%



HELPING ALL STUDENTS THRIVE:

Summer Program Expansion and Enrichment Innovation

As the school year comes to an end, summer academic and enrichment programming is gearing up to begin! This year we are pleased to offer expanded opportunities in remediation programming and credit recovery as well as enrichment opportunities. We are committed to ensuring each student is supported academically and is given the tools they need to achieve.

Our summer enrichment program, Explorers! is free for students at all grade levels. This program began in July of 2021 and has been expanded for summer 2022. Explorers! features week-long workshop experiences led by subject matter experts, artists, teachers, and staff. These in-depth experiences allow students to explore topics through literature, social studies, visual arts, natural sciences, and more. Please check the school website for more information about offerings and how to sign up.

Focus on the Well-Being of Students, Staff, Teachers, and Families

At Ichabod Crane, we have worked diligently to maximize the impact of the federal grant funding received. One example of this is through the implementation of services and programming that ensures everyone has access to resources centered around protecting the mental, social, and emotional health of our students.

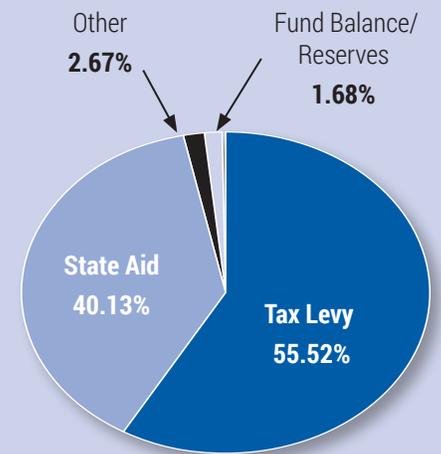
This year we welcomed a new full-time Social Worker, a 3-year district-wide position that is fully grant-funded. In addition, we have focused on providing families with resources to bolster their wellness and mental health toolkits, including free webinars and online learning resources from Dr. Jennifer Bashant.

Our new and more comprehensive Staff Employee Assistance Program is an important part of making sure our school family is supported and our ongoing partnership with Columbia County Department of Social Services offers 1-day per week on-site student support.

Teachers are better prepared to support our students' needs by taking part in mental health awareness and intervention training. We implemented a social-emotional curriculum for classrooms and take pride in our ability to identify, intervene, and support students when needed. Mental and emotional health are key components to school and student success.

REVENUES:

Revenue Budget	2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy	\$25,344,601	\$25,927,527	\$582,926	2.30%
State Aid	16,203,036	18,737,302	2,534,266	15.64%
Other: Rents, Tuition, Misc.	1,251,884	1,245,500	-6,384	-0.51%
Fund Balance/ Reserves	1,079,403	782,746	-296,657	-27.48%
Grand Totals	\$43,878,924	\$46,693,075	\$2,814,151	6.41%



Innovation through Educational Technology

Technology resources, services, training, and skills in our district continue to expand, improve, and benefit the entire school community. The instructional challenges of the pandemic have been met with dedication to learning and innovation on the part of our staff to meet our students' educational needs. Federal grant funding allowed the acquisition of software and hardware that vastly improved our instructional capabilities. As newly available resources for teaching staff have led to enhancement in our instructional delivery methods, the skillset of our staff continues to advance. We have used this time and the financial resources afforded us to reach a new level of excellence in all facets of our educational delivery. Some of these improvements and upgrades include:

Providing All Students with Instructional Devices:

Federal grant money has allowed us to provide new Chromebooks for every single student in our district, Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Improving Staff and Classroom Educational Technology:

Every teacher received a new laptop. Upgrades to classroom technology are on track to begin next school year including a substantial upgrade of our interactive whiteboard classroom technology. This first round of upgrades will be installed in 36 high school classrooms, the library, and the auditorium. Middle and Primary upgrades are scheduled for the following years.

Expanding IT Support:

We were able to fund and hire a full-time Director of Technology and an additional part-time Information Technology Support position. These vital positions allow us to provide ongoing support to staff and students as we effectively integrate new devices and classroom technology.

Developing Skill Sets:

As circumstances demanded innovation, our teachers have gone above and beyond to expand their capabilities to meet new instructional demands such as hybrid learning and synchronous/asynchronous teaching. The advancement of our instructional staff's technology skills has broadened the academic possibilities for our students. Our goal is to build



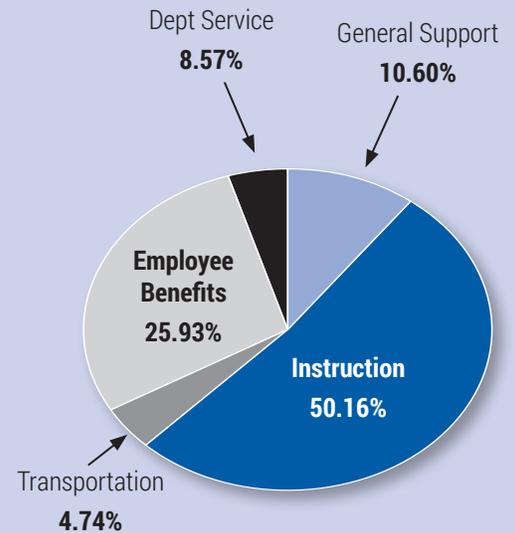
upon the innovation in instruction experienced over the last two years to continue the momentum of technology enhanced educational experiences.

Maximizing Impact of Online Resources:

The District purchased new software, instructional and assessment platforms, and digital textbooks which allow students to improve their academic skills while allowing instructors to effectively assess progress and adjust instruction accordingly.

EXPENSES:

Account Group	2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$4,962,576	\$4,947,411	-\$15,165	-0.31%
Instruction	22,982,581	23,421,690	439,109	1.91%
Transportation	2,121,136	2,213,400	92,264	4.35%
Employee Benefits	11,291,415	12,109,288	817,873	7.24%
Debt Service/Transfers	2,521,216	4,001,286	1,480,070	58.70%
Grand Totals	\$43,878,924	\$46,693,075	\$2,814,152	6.41%



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. Ichabod Crane's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

PROGRAM	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$33,378,697	\$34,552,876
% of total	76.07%	74.00%

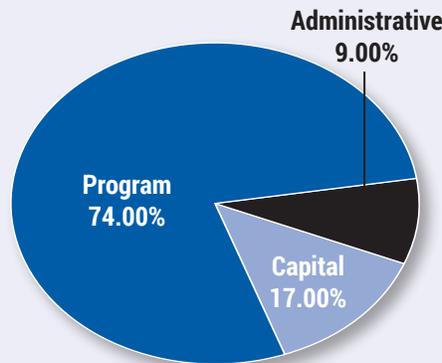
INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks, library and instructional computer funds, athletics, and transportation (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$4,041,249	\$4,202,377
% of total	9.21%	9.00%

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	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$6,458,978	\$7,937,822
% of total	14.72%	17.00%

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.



2022 Board of Education Candidates

There are seven (7) candidates seeking three (3) seats on the Board of Education on May 17, 2022. Board members with expiring terms are Matthew Nelson, Elizabeth Phillips, and Jeffrey Ouellette. Board terms are for three (3) years.

Running for these seats in the order they appear on the ballot are Bill Schneider, Pat Schuler, Matthew Nelson, Jim Antalek, Meghan Lafferty-Brown, Elizabeth Phillips and Thomas Driscoll.

Further candidate information can be found online at www.ichabodcrane.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. – 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

In the interest of public safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic, absentee ballots are available to any registered voter in the district. This is in addition 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 May 10, 2022, if the ballot is to be mailed to voter or by May 16, 2022 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 p.m. on May 17, 2022.

Please contact the District Clerk at mpotts@ichabodcrane.org if you have any voting questions.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Matthew Nelson, *President*
Elizabeth Phillips, *Vice President*
Jennifer Allard
Elaine Berlin
John Chandler
Kelly Firmbach
Jeffrey Ouellette
Anne Schaefer
Jared Widjeskog

Postal Customer

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Suzanne Guntlow, *Superintendent*
Lucas Christensen, *Assistant 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, Lucas Christensen, 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

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL 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	\$ 43,878,924	\$ 46,693,075	\$ 45,982,149
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 2,814,151	\$ 2,103,225
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.4 %	4.79 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 25,344,601	\$ 25,927,527	
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)	\$ 25,344,601	\$ 25,927,527	\$ 25,344,601
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 877,998	\$ 1,010,195	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 24,663,852	\$ 25,208,560	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 24,466,603	\$ 24,917,332	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 197,249	\$ 291,228	
Administrative Component	\$ 4,041,249	\$ 4,202,377	\$ 4,170,377
Program Component	\$ 33,378,697	\$ 34,552,876	\$ 33,979,150
Capital Component	\$ 6,458,978	\$ 7,937,822	\$ 7,832,622

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

- A contingency budget would restrict tax levy revenue to maximum allowable from 2021-22. Under a contingent budget the district would have to consider program reductions, including layoffs to both instructional and non-instructional staff. There would also be possible reductions of all program areas including extra-curricular activities. No equipment could be purchased unless it was a direct safety concern. Finally, the district would be required to charge all outside community groups for the use of facilities and grounds.

** 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)

Description	Amount
4 BUSES	\$ 443,926
	\$
	\$
	\$

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 513
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Kinderhook Central school district, Columbia County, New York, will be held at the Ichabod Crane high school gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between 8:00am and 9:00pm at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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