



# ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MAY 2023

## SCHOOL BUDGET

**VOTE**  
**TUESDAY**  
**May 16, 2023**  
**8 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

Ichabod Crane  
High School Gymnasium

## 2023-2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

**\$48,587,624**

Budget-to-Budget Increase:

**\$1,894,549 (4.06%)**

Estimated Tax Levy  
Increase:

**2.94%**

## VOTERS TO DECIDE ON TWO PROPOSITIONS:

1. Proposed Budget
2. Proposed Bus Purchases



## ICHABOD CRANE CARES:

# Supporting the Whole Student

The staff at ICC know the importance of educating and supporting each of our approximately 1,700 students in our district, and we accomplish this on a daily basis by taking a holistic approach to ensure our students continue to learn and thrive in safe and supportive environments.

*"We know that we cannot simply focus on academic achievement and interventions. We also have to focus on our students' social-emotional brain development," Superintendent Suzanne Guntlow said. "This approach allows our educators to teach more effectively, our students to learn better, and our parents and community to feel pride in a shared commitment to our entire Rider student body."*

Educating and supporting the whole child at Ichabod Crane is accomplished in many different ways. Some examples include having a team of AIS (Academic Intervention Services) educators, who are NYS certified teachers that are trained to work with students K-12 who need direct support. We also continue to offer a robust afterschool and summer learning and

enrichment programs across all grades.

Our experienced K-12 Counseling Department's psychologists, school counselors and a full-time social worker support our students emotionally, academically and socially. This includes, but is not limited to, 1:1 counseling by a licensed master social worker, crisis intervention, and referrals to necessary out-of-district services and supports.

The district also has a web of safety net programs called Ichabod Cares. We have created and sustained an array of programs to help our Rider students and families whenever necessary. We have programs that distribute food, clothing, shoes and toiletries on a weekly basis, which include the Primary School and Middle School Backpack programs and Ichabod's Table and Closet at the High school.

Next year's proposed budget supports maintaining staff and programs, as well as hiring a new occupational therapist, the addition of one special education classroom at the Middle School and additional tutoring services.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE 2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET

- Full-time Occupational Therapist
- Replacement of one-third of our Chromebook inventory
- Full-time Technology Teacher for grades 7-12
- Full-time IT Technician
- Increase in special education services, including the addition of one new special education classroom at the Middle School

# Continued Investment in our Global Community of Learners

Investing in high-quality, state-of-the-art technologies continues to be a top priority at Ichabod Crane CSD. Once again, district officials have proposed a budget that supports the necessary maintenance and acquisition of new devices to ensure our students and staff continue to be part of the global community of learners.

*"Technology allows our staff to remove the physical barriers of the classroom," Superintendent Suzanne Guntlow said. "Through the use of devices like Chromebooks, our students can connect their classroom lessons to the real world around them. Technology also allows our administrators and staff to collect a multitude of data, which allows for more effective, differentiated and individualized instruction."*

In 2022, we achieved our goal of being fully 1:1, which means that every ICC student has a district-issued Chromebook. In the 2023-24 proposed budget, we are replacing a third of our Chromebooks as they approach the end of their usable life.

Another way we connect to the world is through the use of internet-connected, projection-based display systems in each classroom. Next year's budget supports new equipment in the Primary and Middle Schools, following in the footsteps of the High School that received 36 new display systems in the 2022-23 school year. We also continue to offer distance learning, which provides our students access to virtual offerings they would not have otherwise.

We also purchase and use online learning programs and software designed to support teachers' use of individual student data to drive their classroom instruction. One example of this is i-Ready, an online program for reading and math that we continue to fund in next year's budget. i-Ready consists of two parts: diagnostic and personalized instruction.



Each year, students in grades K-8 take three diagnostic assessments in September, January and May. Our educators use the assessment data to individualize instruction for their students. The assessments also allow teachers and administrators to monitor progress throughout the school year. In addition, i-Ready offers personalized online lessons that are informed by the assessments.

*"This technology is absolutely not a replacement for a highly-skilled teacher," Asst. Superintendent Lucas Christensen said. "It is a platform to help our teachers with differentiated instruction, which means our educators adapt what they are teaching to meet the needs of their students in as close to real-time as possible. One way we identify those needs is through the use of programs like i-Ready."*

## Excelling in Academics and Athletics



The Ichabod Crane 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 131 of our individual athletes Scholar-Athlete Teams and Individuals, a distinction which requires maintaining an academic average above 90.

## BY THE NUMBERS...

<b>2.94</b>	Percent tax-levy increase in the proposed 2023-24	<b>120</b>	Students named Riders of the Month in Middle and High Schools through March
<b>22</b>	Pieces of art by district students (K-7) displayed at the Empire State Plaza Student Art Exhibit in March	<b>1,694</b>	Students enrolled K-12
<b>38</b>	Sports teams available to students in grades 7-12	<b>2,000</b>	Chromebooks and laptop computers used by students and staff
<b>55</b>	Buses in our transportation fleet	<b>5,350</b>	People following the district on Facebook and Instagram
<b>64</b>	Acres of property on our three-school campus	<b>11,850</b>	People reached by our best performing post on Facebook.
<b>74</b>	Riders inducted into Junior National Honor Society and National Honor Society this year	<b>215,500</b>	Breakfasts and lunches served each year
<b>96</b>	2022 graduation rate	<b>475,000</b>	Miles traveled by district buses annually



# STEAM-POWERED: The Capital Project Accelerates Collaboration

Eight months have passed since the completion of the multi-year, multi-phase Capital Project, which involved a series of complex renovations and construction, and the addition of cutting-edge technology and equipment across the ICC campus.

As a result, the district has added new courses, increased multidisciplinary collaborations, utilized the brand-new premiere Middle School gymnasium in many ways, relied on solar energy to power the three-building campus, and much more.

*"These spaces and new equipment have not sat idle," Superintendent Suzanne Guntlow said. "Since the very beginning of the school year, our staff and students have utilized the final products of the Capital Project in many innovative ways. It is amazing to see what we have been able to do and accomplish in less than a year's time."*

As they have settled into the new STEAM wing, High School staff and students have collaborated more between departments as they explore new ways to solve problems and explore ideas. The High School also added new courses, including Automotive I, a full-year course; and Materials Processing/Production, a half-year metals course.

*"These courses have allowed students to explore automobiles and repair, and metalwork and design in ways that weren't possible before the new wing, and next year, we will have even more to offer," HS Principal Craig Shull said. "We are also looking*

*forward to continuing our conversations with Columbia-Greene Community College about future budding partnerships related to the STEAM wing."*

The 2023-24 proposed budget supports the addition of Advanced Materials Processing and Machining, the next course in the metals sequence. In addition, the High School will offer Robotics and Beginner Programming. This course will use pneumatic and digitally-controlled systems to create robotic arms and rovers that can accomplish specific tasks. Students will learn how to write code to program and remotely control a robot.

At the Middle School, the former gymnasium was gutted to make way for the new, enlarged space. This year, the gymnasium is being used to host many athletic competitions at all levels, including basketball, volleyball and wrestling; all-school assemblies; and open houses. Community

sports organizations, such as the Kinderhook Basketball Association and Northern Columbia Little League, have used the gym for practices.

*"It was an honor to compete in the new gymnasium during my last season as a Rider basketball player. By creating this new, enlarged space, it felt like the district had our back," said Alex Schmidt, an ICC senior who recently committed to play basketball at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica. "We celebrated our state championship by hanging our banner in the new gym, which for me, symbolized our team reaching our ultimate goal."*



## ARTS IN EDUCATION

Finding new and different ways of integrating the arts into what we offer at ICC continues to be a key focus, as we recognize the long-term impact it has on learning, providing our students with new pathways to learn more effectively and participate more meaningfully.

One way we support the arts is by participating in Questar III's Arts in Education program, which provides the district access to a comprehensive online directory that lists 600+ performers, institutions and programs that are aligned with state standards.

This year, through Arts in Education, we funded Flying Deer, our popular K-4 program that provides our students with many opportunities to engage in nature-based lessons and activities. Arts in Education also allowed us to bring artist and educator Sasha Sicurella back to our Middle School, where she offered a series of art-based workshops for our fifth graders focused on self and global awareness. Next year's proposed budget supports increased utilization of Arts in Education.

## ICC's Continued Capstone Achievement

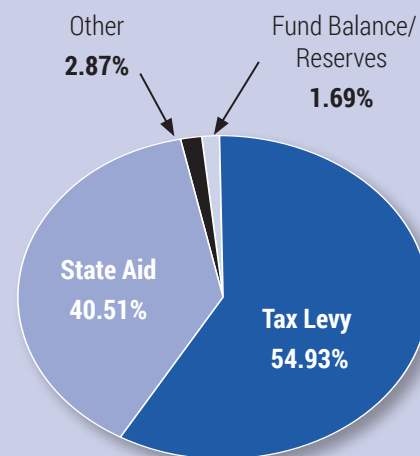
The Ichabod Crane High School Class of 2022 once again met the district's target, with 96 percent of the class earning diplomas in four years. The school district established the Riders' Pathway initiative in 2018, which established a graduation rate target of 95 percent or better. The school district has met or exceeded this rate every year since, including the past three years despite the challenges of the pandemic.

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.

## REVENUES:

Revenue Budget	2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy	\$25,927,527	\$26,689,850	\$762,323	2.94%
State Aid	18,737,302	19,684,607	947,305	5.06%
Other: Rents, Tuition, Misc.	1,245,500	1,392,167	146,667	11.78%
Fund Balance/ Reserves	782,746	821,000	38,524	4.89%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$46,693,075</b>	<b>\$48,587,624</b>	<b>\$1,894,549</b>	<b>4.06%</b>

\*State Aid is based on data provided by NYS as of 2/1/2023.



## Rooted in the Science of Reading

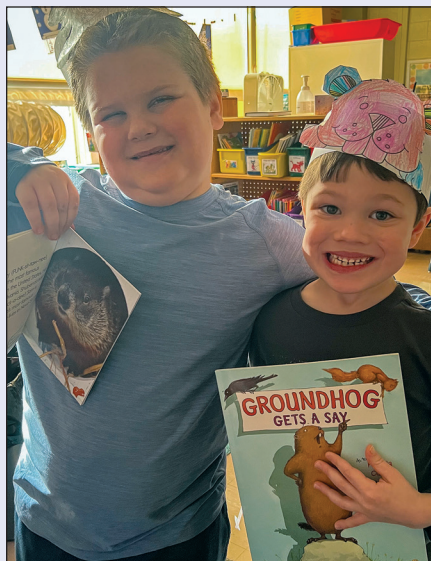
In recent years, ICC leadership has used the "Science of Reading," a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research, as its roadmap to guide very deliberate efforts to improve literacy instruction throughout the district.

This research directed our selection of new professional development programs, election of the new K-3 literacy program, and now, the same exhaustive process for the planned adoption of a new 4-6 literacy program this June.

In the 2021-22 school year, a small group of K-3 staff first trained in LETRS, Language Essential for Reading and Spelling – a professional-learning program that instructs teachers in what literacy skills need to be taught, why, and how to plan to teach them – and it delves into the research behind these evidence-based practices. The following year, all Primary School staff trained in LETRS.

*"We recognize that high-quality, research-based professional development is a critical component to maintaining and improving our literacy instruction,"* said Asst. Superintendent Lucas Christensen, who oversees all curriculum programs. *"I am grateful for our staff's hard work and commitment to ensure that our youngest students receive the foundational skills they need for word reading and language comprehension."*

In spring 2022, we chose CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) as the new core reading program at the Primary School, after a group of ICC K-6 literacy experts met for months and solicited input from area districts and specialists.



Implementation began in September 2022, with continued professional development and the creation of a literacy coach position to support the rollout of CKLA. With less than a year into the new program, PS staff are already reporting positive results.

Currently, our district leadership and literacy experts are repeating the same research-based process to select a new 4-6 literacy program. Our elementary teachers are training in LETRS, while another internal expert group works to ultimately adopt a new program in June, with implementation in September. Like with CKLA, the 4-6 implementation will include teacher training, curriculum work and ongoing support provided by our literacy coach during the 2023-24 school year. The district's literacy work also happened in consultation with education experts at the University of Albany.

Next year's proposed budget includes funding for the retention of the literacy coach position, ongoing professional development across K-6, and a new 4-6 literacy program rooted in research and adherence to NYS standards.

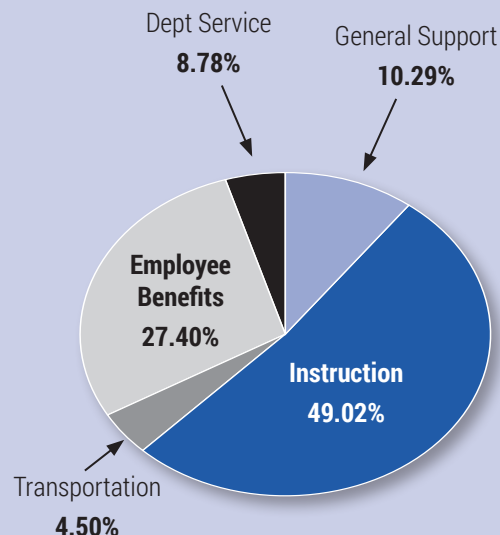
*"I am proud to work with teachers and administrators who continuously educate and inform themselves on the evidence-based research on best practices in literacy education,"* said Berit Erickson, the district's literacy coach. *"And then based on that, they have made informed decisions and continue to have informed discussions and professional development about the shift in reading philosophies."*

## ONLINE SCHOOL SAFETY

Maintaining safety across our district remains a top responsibility at ICC. Recently, we launched a new School Safety Info page on our website: [www.ichabodcrane.org/district-school-safety-information/](http://www.ichabodcrane.org/district-school-safety-information/), where you will find the details about the District-Wide Safety Plan, building response plans, safety teams, emergency drills and much more. We encourage you to visit our new page, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## EXPENSES:

Account Group	2022-23	Proposed 2023-24	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$4,947,411	\$5,000,959	\$53,548	1.08%
Instruction	23,421,690	23,818,166	396,476	1.69%
Transportation	2,213,400	2,188,870	-24,530	-1.11%
Employee Benefits	12,109,288	13,312,529	1,203,241	9.94%
Debt Service/Transfers	4,001,286	4,267,100	265,814	6.64%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$46,693,075</b>	<b>\$48,587,624</b>	<b>\$1,894,549</b>	<b>4.06%</b>



## 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	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$34,552,876</b>	<b>\$35,832,605</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>74.00%</b>	<b>73.75%</b>

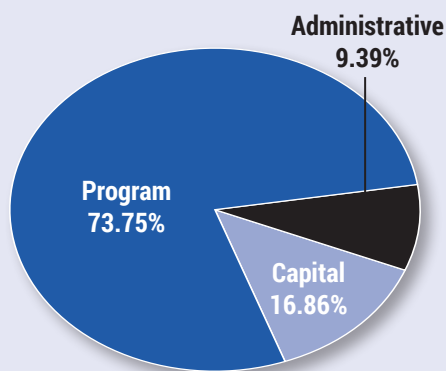
INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks, library and instructional computer funds, athletics, and transportation (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$4,202,377</b>	<b>\$4,560,967</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>9.00%</b>	<b>9.39%</b>

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	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$7,937,822</b>	<b>\$8,194,052</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>17.00%</b>	<b>16.86%</b>

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.



## 2023 Board of Education Candidates

There are five (5) candidates seeking three (3) seats on the Board of Education on May 16, 2023. Board members with expiring terms are Elaine Berlin, John Chandler and Kelly Firmbach. Board terms are for three (3) years.

Running for these seats, in order they appear on the ballot, are Melissa Miller, John Chandler, Christopher Scoville, Megan Pelizza and Kelly Firmbach.

Further candidate information can be found online: [www.ichabodcrane.org/board-of-education](http://www.ichabodcrane.org/board-of-education)

## 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

Absentee ballots are available to any registered voter in the district.

Residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person because of illness or disability may request an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots must be received at the office of the School District Clerk by May 9, 2023, if the ballot is to be mailed to voter or by May 15, 2023 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 16, 2023.

Please contact the District Clerk at [mpotts@ichabodcrane.org](mailto:mpotts@ichabodcrane.org) if you have any voting questions.





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#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Elizabeth Phillips, *Vice President*  
Jennifer Allard  
Elaine Berlin  
John Chandler  
Kelly Firmbach  
Meghan Lafferty-Brown  
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](http://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 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 46,693,075	\$ 48,587,624	\$ 47,640,623
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 1,894,549	\$947,548
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.05%	2.03%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$25,927,527	\$26,689,850	
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)	\$25,927,527	\$26,689,850	\$25,927,527
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,010,195	\$1,080,737	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$24,917,332	\$25,609,113	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$24,917,332	\$25,609,113	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$4,202,377	\$4,560,967	\$4,525,867
Program Component	\$34,552,876	\$35,832,605	\$34,933,854
Capital Component	\$7,937,822	\$8,194,052	\$8,180,902
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 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 2022-23. 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	
3 Buses & 2 Mini Vans		\$545,729	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

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

\$512

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 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 16, 2023 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.

For additional information, visit the District's Website at [WWW.ICHABODCRANE.ORG](http://WWW.ICHABODCRANE.ORG)