

**FORT PLAIN**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL

## 2019-20 proposed budget stays below allowable tax cap

On Tuesday, May 21, residents of the Fort Plain Central School District will go to the polls to vote on a proposed \$20,950,000 budget for the 2019-20 school year. The budget carries a 1.49% tax levy increase, which is below Fort Plain's allowable tax "cap" of 4.2%.

The proposal would increase spending 2.2%, or \$450,000, compared to 2018-19. That change is offset by an increase in state aid as well as steps the district has taken to control costs and improve efficiencies. Because the levy increase is below the district's state-calculated "cap," the proposal will require a simple majority of 50% plus one vote to pass.

### Budget highlights

Fort Plain will receive an additional \$220,313 in Foundation Aid in 2019- 20. Foundation Aid is unrestricted money from the state that districts receive annually that can be used to meet general expenses.

Like other area districts, Fort Plain relies heavily on Foundation Aid, which – combined with aid for reimbursed expenses – makes up more than two-thirds of the district's revenue.

"We understand that we are operating with finite fiscal resources and continue to be committed to building budgets that remain within our state-calculated tax levy limit," said Superintendent of Schools David Ziskin.

"Our administrative and school teams continually reflect on the allocation of our resources, making adjustments to programming to ensure our greatest areas of need are supported," Ziskin said. "We believe the 2019-20 budget is closely aligned to our district mission and will improve the education our students receive."

### Resources directed to priority areas

The Board of Education, administrators, and faculty teams at the Junior-Senior High School and Harry Hoag Elementary School continue to identify opportunities for improvement and implement corresponding action plans within each of the district's identified priority areas. Highlights of areas supported in the 2019-20 proposed budget include:



### Priority Area: Safety

- Security camera coverage of the facilities and grounds will be upgraded and expanded over the next three years. The installment plan allows the district to receive BOCES reimbursement of nearly 80% of the cost of materials and equipment associated with the expanded security coverage.
- The district will implement a new visitor identification program in 2019-20 that will check a visitor's driver license or state identification card against a background database, which includes information such as inclusion on the sex offender registry. Once the scan is complete, the system prints a custom visitor identification badge.
- The partnership between the Fort Plain Central School District and the Fort Plain Police Department to provide a school officer for campuses has improved security protocols and procedures. The 2019-20 proposed budget maintains the presence of a Fort Plain Police Officer in district schools each day classes are in session.

### Priority Area: Student social and emotional developmental health

The district has been intentional in efforts to support student social and emotional developmental health. The district has built partnerships with multiple community-based

## BUDGET VOTE

May 21, 2019

1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Harry Hoag Elementary  
Gymnasium

## VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- U.S. citizen
- School district resident for at least 30 days
- 18 years of age

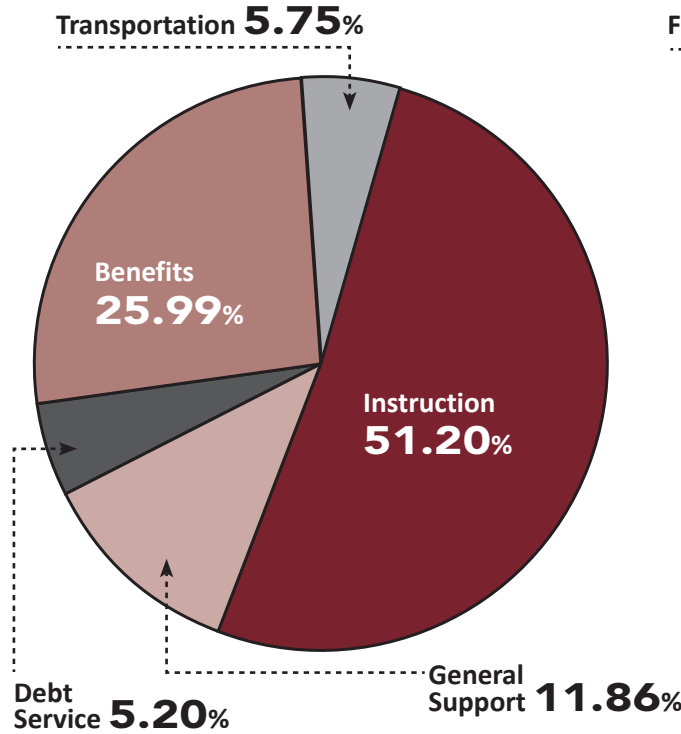
## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Voters who meet eligibility requirements, but are unable to make it to the polls on school budget vote day, may cast their votes by absentee ballot. An application must be completed and received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. For applications or more information, contact Rebecca J. Smith in the district office at 993-4000, ext. #1000.

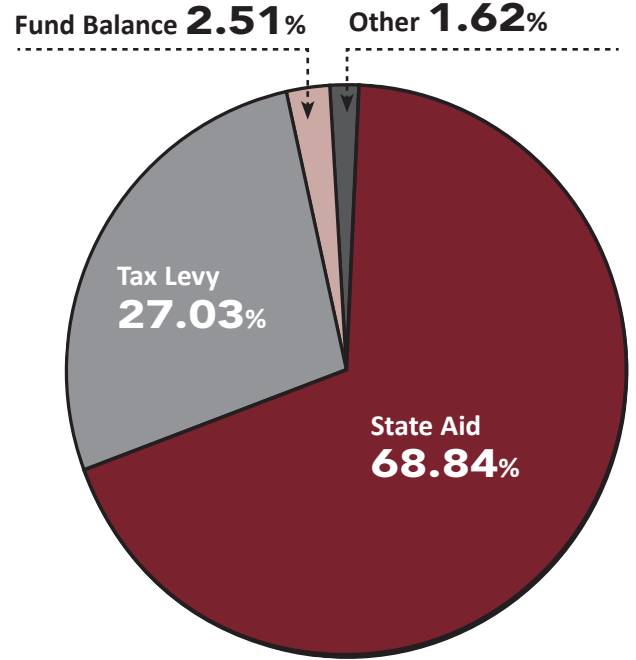


# 2019-20 Budget at a Glance

## EXPENDITURES



## REVENUES



## EXPENDITURES

	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
General Support	\$2,520,282	\$2,485,545	-1.38%
Instruction	10,257,370	10,726,118	4.57%
Pupil Transportation	1,181,127	1,204,182	1.95%
Employee Benefits	5,476,221	5,444,155	-0.59%
Debt Service & Related Transfers	1,065,000	1,090,000	2.35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,500,000</b>	<b>\$20,950,000</b>	<b>2.20%</b>

## REVENUES

	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
State Aid	\$14,035,684	\$14,422,249	2.75%
Property Tax Levy	5,580,146	5,663,412	1.49%
Fund Balance	600,000	525,000	-12.50%
Other	284,170	339,339	19.41%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,500,000</b>	<b>\$20,950,000</b>	<b>2.20%</b>



## Budget proposal continued...

and government agencies to ensure that students have access to support.

### **Priority Area: Teacher and leader effectiveness**

- New York state will implement new learning standards for the 2020-21 school-year. Fort Plain is committed to providing a strong transition to these standards. The Board of Education recently adopted a specific goal to ensure students receive robust, appropriate instruction aligned to the new standards:

*All teachers will develop complete curriculum aligned to the Next Generation Learning Standards by September 1, 2020.*

The 2019-20 proposed budget includes support for this critically important, time-bound goal through a two-year plan that will ensure our students receive rich, standards-aligned instruction during the 2020-21 school-year. New York will administer the first state assessments that are aligned to the new standards in 2020-21.

This two-year plan includes the following positions, which will be eliminated when the work is complete.

- ➔ A Teacher on Special Assignment will work with all K-8 teachers to develop standards-aligned curriculum. This curriculum will include learning objectives, teaching points and assessments that are aligned to the new standards.
- ➔ HFM BOCES will provide a 0.2 full-time equivalent curriculum development coach for grades 9-12.

### **Priority Area: Student, family and community engagement**

- Fort Plain will continue to partner with Montgomery County to share the cost of a full-time, 12-month social worker who will provide year-round support for a specific caseload of families. The social worker provides counseling and support to students and their families who have struggled with their transition to the school setting.



### **Priority Area: Fiscal resources**

The 2019-20 proposed budget supports the programming students need to be successful by reallocating existing resources to the greatest areas of need and by leveraging increased efficiencies. The district's solar energy projects in the Village of Nelliston and at two other sites generate ongoing credits that result in reduced energy costs for the district. The district also performed a state aid audit that resulted in additional revenue.

"The board and administration are committed to supporting efforts to achieve the district mission. Our goal is to provide a strong, relevant education to our students in a fiscally responsible manner," commented Dr. Ziskin.

"Our proposed budget maintains programs and ensures our greatest areas of need receive the appropriate resources required to deliver on our mission's promise to prepare every student for success beyond graduation."

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ronald Kardash  
*President*

Jeffrey L. Jones  
*1st Vice President*

Joseph Bartholomew  
*2nd Vice President*

Mary Beth Hudyncia

Todd McFee

David Przestrzelski

Jami L. Stevens



**Fort Plain Central School**

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**LOCAL BOXHOLDER**

*Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.*



**BUDGET VOTE**

**May 21, 2019**

**1 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Harry Hoag Elementary  
Gymnasium**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**May 8, 2019**

**7 p.m.**

**District Office  
Conference Room**

**What will you see on the ballot?**

**Proposition 1:** *To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.*

**Proposition 2:** *Authorization to Purchase Buses:* Shall the Board of Education of the Fort Plain Central School District be authorized to: (a) acquire three school vehicles at a maximum aggregate cost of \$377,000.00; (b) expend such sums for such purpose; (c) expend from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund an amount not to exceed \$377,000.00 for such purpose; (d) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received and amounts disbursed from the reserve fund; and (e) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$377,000.00 and to levy a tax to pay the interest on such obligations when due?

**Proposition 3:** *Authorization for Increase in the Library Tax Levy:* Shall the annual appropriation to support and maintain the Fort Plain Free Library be increased by \$5,000 to \$85,000, which sum shall be separate and apart from the Fort Plain Central School District annual school district budget and be raised annually by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, and which appropriation shall be the annual appropriation for the library until changed by further vote of the electors of the school district, and such tax shall be levied and collected yearly as are other general taxes and such monies paid over to the trustees of the Library?

**Board of Education Election:** *To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education to a three (3) year term commencing on July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2022 to succeed Ronald Kardash and Joseph Bartholomew whose terms expire on June 30, 2019.*

**OUR MISSION:**

The Fort Plain Central School District will provide each student with the opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically in a safe, orderly and positive environment.

*Our goal is to prepare every student for success  
beyond graduation.*