



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

April 29, 2024

Dear North Shore Families,

I hope that you are doing well.

As you may know, many communities were awaiting the final New York State Budget to see if schools would receive additional state aid in response to the Governor's budget proposal from January.

Last week, the New York State Legislature and the Governor finally reached an agreement. The North Shore Schools received a net increase of \$80,556 as compared to the initial state aid proposal from January.

Please note that the District is allocating this amount to lowering the tax levy increase, which will now be 3.87%.

Please also note that when looking at state aid in newspapers, the UPK grant amount must be subtracted, as this cannot be used for any other purpose. This year, North Shore received \$858,600 in UPK aid and we are excited to be offering over 120 UPK seats with this grant funding (saving residents over \$1 Million).

It is important to note, despite **false claims** made by emails sent to the community:

- North Shore **DOES NOT** have the highest tax levy (by either percentage or whole dollar amounts) in Nassau County, even before the change above.
 - Multiple districts have tax levy amounts in the 3% range and one neighboring district is exceeding its tax cap to over 4.5%. These districts are not losing revenue from LIPA.
 - The 2023-24 North Shore CSD budget was \$1,578,436.17 (1.837%) under the tax cap. The proposed 2024-25 budget is \$1,567,933.2 (1.76%) under the tax cap.
 - North Shore's tax levy has been under the tax cap by a total of \$3,146,415.37 in the last two years.
- North Shore CSD has one of the lowest budget-to-budget increases (1.906%) in Nassau County while also losing over \$7 Million in taxes from LIPA to date.
 - North Shore CSD has cut \$5.2 Million, including 48 positions, in the 2023-24 Budget and the Proposed 2024-25 Budget.
- The proposed 2024-25 Budget preserves programs for students with some increases in class sizes at the secondary level.

- If the budget fails on the first vote, a new budget would be developed which would likely result in:
 - Reductions in classroom sections/teachers at the elementary level
 - Increases in class size at all levels
 - Reductions in certain programs:
 - Enrichment
 - Clubs
 - Fine and Performing Arts
 - Sports Teams
 - New Electives (e.g. business courses)

- If the budget fails on the second vote, the District would need to adopt a contingent budget, which would require a 0% tax levy increase from 2023-2024 and an additional \$3.5 Million (\$6 Million total) in cuts which could include:
 - Elimination of an additional 20-30 teaching positions
 - Elimination of some athletics, music, arts, enrichment, and extracurricular programs
 - Elimination of 6-9 elementary class sections
 - Elimination of certain electives at the secondary level
 - Elimination of field trips
 - Elimination of Community Education and Public Use of Fields

Please always feel free to contact me with any questions that you have at any point.

The District's only interest is in maintaining the integrity of the educational program for students and balancing the tax impact on residents.

The District of course understands that finding the right balance is a matter of deliberation and debate, but a key part of open discussion is accurate and factual information.

Please visit <https://www.northshoreschools.org/boe/budget.html> for factual information and all of this year's budget presentations.

In addition, we will have several community budget discussions in the upcoming weeks which will be announced shortly.

Sincerely,

Chris Zublionis, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools