

CAIRO-DURHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONmatters

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 15

1 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Middle School Cafeteria

What am I voting on?

Voters will decide on the following items:

- A \$31,147,145 budget for the 2018-19 school year
- Purchase of school buses
- Capital Reserve Fund
- Energy Performance Contract
- Selection of 3 BOE members

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS: All voters must be United States citizens, age 18 or older on Election Day. Voters must be residents of the Cairo-Durham Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to Election day and registered to vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Residents who will be unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You can obtain an absentee ballot by completing an absentee ballot application in the Board Clerk's office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The application deadline is May 7 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered. An application is available on the website. Please call (518) 622-8534, extension 25010 for more information.

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Proposed Budget Highlights Health & Safety

On Tuesday, May 15, the Cairo-Durham Central School District community will vote on a \$31,147,145 proposed budget for the 2018-19 school year. The primary goals of the proposed budget are to enhance educational opportunities and support school health and safety initiatives.

The proposed spending plan is an increase of \$1,043,768, or 3.47 percent, from the current year's budget. If approved by voters, it would result in a 1.95% increase in the tax levy.

The 1.95% tax levy increase is below the District's maximum allowable increase of 3.03% calculated under New York State's tax cap guidelines. As a result of staying within the allowable tax levy increase, qualifying residents would receive a property tax rebate from NYS this fall (see page 6 for more information).

The most notable changes to the budget would be the addition of the following key staff:

- Two (2) School Resource Officers (SRO)
- A part-time school nurse (MS/HS)
- A bus driver
- A cleaner/maintenance worker

To enhance school safety initiatives, the proposed budget would also add a Raptor Visitor Management System in addition to the SROs.

Non-staffing additions include a course titled "The Brain" and a Computer Science course. Both of these

courses would be offered through the Distance Learning Lab at Cairo-Durham High School (in partnership with other regional schools).

"These courses would give our students the opportunity to enhance their STEM credentials, work in collaboration with students outside of our District and enhance their opportunities for aspiring and innovative careers," said Cairo-Durham High School Principal Mr. Nick Fitzgerald.

Last year, the budget added a part-time "help desk" position to support students and staff with day-to-day technical issues. The 2018-19 proposed budget would continue to support our "Connected Classroom" initiative, which aims to provide Chromebook laptops to all students in Grades 6-12.

The main cost factors in the budget are staff-related and include the areas of health insurance, salaries and contractual

obligations.

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, residents will also elect three (3) members to the Board of Education and consider propositions for: an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) project, a Capital Reserve Fund and the purchase of seven (7) buses (as part of the District's board-approved replacement plan). Read more about these propositions and the Board of Education election on page 2.

"This budget proposal emphasizes health and safety with the addition of two School Resource Officers as well as a school nurse. Similar to last year, it also continues to focus on student programming, providing the very best opportunities for our students."

— Superintendent Anthony Taibi



What Am I Voting On?

PROPOSITION 1: Budget

PROPOSITION 2: School Bus Purchase

A separate proposition on the May 15 ballot seeks voter approval to purchase seven (7) school buses at a cost not to exceed \$619,762 (before state aid reimbursement). The bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to keep the District’s fleet in safe, working order.

The school bus proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$566,555 for the purchase of five (5) 65-passenger buses
- \$53,207 for the purchase of two (2) 5- to 7-passenger SUVs (such as a Chevy Traverse/ or Ford Explorer)
- – \$113,311 trade-in or sale for five (5) 65-passenger buses
- \$619,762 bus proposition total (\$506,451 after trade ins)

The District is eligible to receive approximately 66% in state aid reimbursement on the purchase of these vehicles. The actual cost to the District will be significantly less than the amount requiring voter approval. After adding bond interest and deducting state aid reimbursement, the net cost of this purchase is estimated to be \$214,078, which will be paid through a bond over five years..

If approved, the bus proposition would allow the District to trade in five (5) buses that have become expensive for the District to maintain. The State Education Department recommends that districts replace small buses every five to seven years and large buses every 10 years. The District decided to adopt a seven-year bus purchasing plan to maximize the trade-in value of each bus. Trade-in values decrease dramatically when buses reach 8-10 years of age.

PROPOSITION 3: Capital Reserve Fund

This proposition seeks voter approval to establish a Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000 over a 10-year period to help pay

for repairs, maintenance and improvements to district facilities and equipment. Establishing such a fund is not part of the general budget and therefore would not cause taxes to increase.

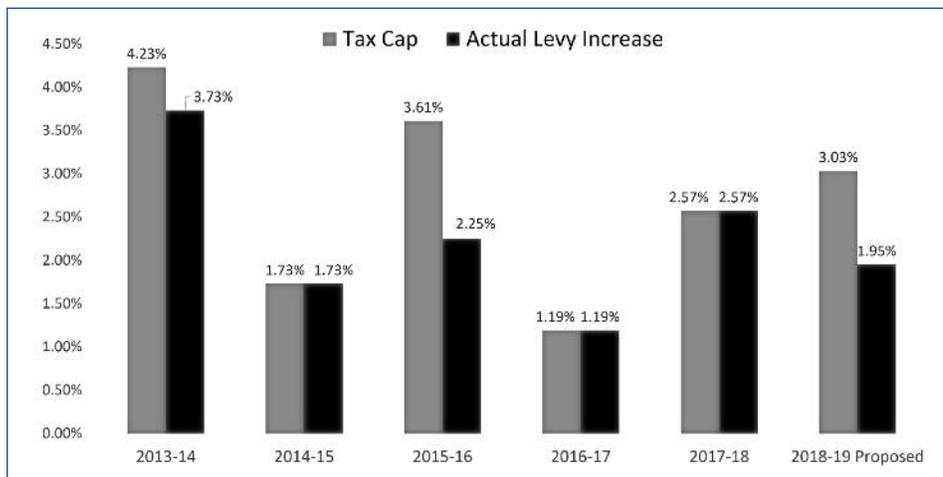
Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund would allow the District to plan for the long-term needs, both planned and unplanned. It would protect the District from unanticipated or emergency needs without having a significant impact on the overall school budget. Additionally, voter approval is required for the District to use these funds for non-emergency expenses. As the District plans for its next capital project, with “shovels in ground” in 2020, a Capital Reserve can be used to offset the costs associated with the project. Upon voter approval, money from this fund could be used to “pay down” the annual bond payments tied to the project.

PROPOSITION 4: Energy Performance Contract Project

Another proposition on the ballot addresses an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) project. An EPC is an agreement by an Energy Service Company (ESCO) for the provision of energy services in which energy systems are installed, maintained or managed to improve the energy efficiency of, or produce energy for, a facility in exchange for a portion of the energy savings. The scope of this project looks to improve the energy efficiency in all of our district buildings in order to generate savings to the District by decreasing energy demand. Examples include replacing/upgrading interior lighting, boilers, insulation and HVAC systems and controls.

Although this project does not require voter approval, the community has an opportunity to vote on it and allow the District to receive additional state building aid. If voters approve the EPC project, the District will receive an additional 10% in state building aid.

TAX LEVY HISTORY



This graph illustrates the District’s calculated tax caps compared to the actual tax levy increases since 2013. Whenever possible, Cairo-Durham CSD adopts a budget with a tax levy increase below the maximum allowable increase, ultimately saving \$380,123 in taxpayer dollars over the last five years.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

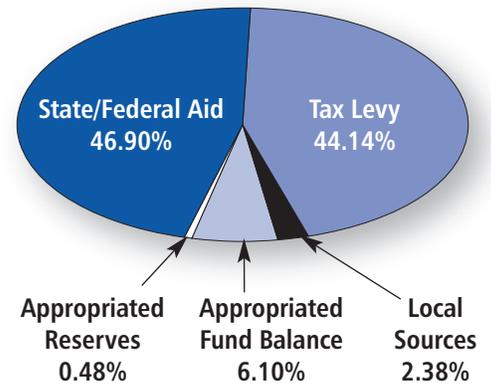
Three (3) of the nine seats on Cairo-Durham’s Board of Education are up for election on May 15. The terms of John Amoroso, Brian Coletti and Elizabeth Daly will expire on June 30, 2018. Each open seat is a three-year, non-paid term beginning on July 1, 2018 (through June 30, 2020). There are two candidates running for the three open seats. One seat may be filled by a write-in candidate.

To learn more about the BOE candidates, visit www.cairodurham.org

Where the money comes from...

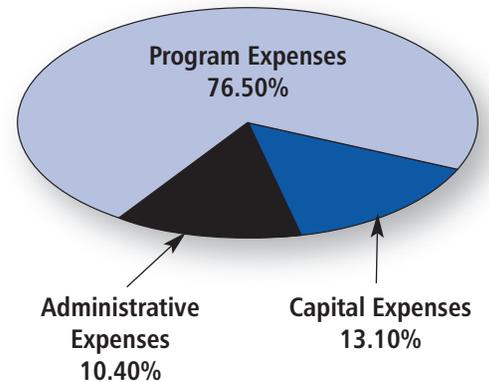
| Source of Funds | 2017-2018 Budget | 2018-2019 Proposed | Increase/Decrease | Percent Change |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| State/Federal Aid | \$13,994,018 | \$14,607,554 | \$ 613,536 | 4.38% |
| Tax Levy | 13,484,703 | 13,747,655 | 262,952 | 1.95% |
| Local Sources* | 624,656 | 741,936 | 117,280 | 18.78% |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 1,900,000 | 1,900,000 | — | 0.00% |
| Appropriated Reserves | 100,000 | 150,000 | 50,000 | 50.00% |
| TOTAL | \$30,103,377 | \$31,147,145 | \$1,043,768 | 3.47% |

* includes payments in lieu of taxes, interest penalties, charges for services, day school tuition, use of money and property, sale of property, refund of prior year expenses, etc.



...and where it is spent

| Expense Category | 2017-2018 Budget | 2018-2019 Proposed | Increase/Decrease | Percent Change |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | | |
| Board of Education | \$ 29,800 | \$ 38,235 | \$ 8,435 | 28.31% |
| Central Administration | 207,810 | 213,909 | 6,099 | 2.93% |
| Finance Services | 507,388 | 434,240 | (73,148) | -14.42% |
| Legal/Public Information | 74,175 | 153,650 | 79,475 | 107.15% |
| Central Services | 621,787 | 654,357 | 32,570 | 5.24% |
| Supervisory/Improvement | 1,175,861 | 1,154,231 | (21,630) | -1.84% |
| Fringe Benefits | 578,437 | 597,336 | 18,899 | 3.27% |
| Administrative Total | \$3,195,258 | \$3,245,958 | \$ 50,700 | 1.59% |
| PROGRAM: | | | | |
| Legal | \$ 60,000 | \$ 60,000 | — | 0.00% |
| Regular Instruction | 7,822,709 | 8,024,909 | 202,200 | 2.58% |
| Special Education | 3,695,420 | 3,949,179 | 253,759 | 6.87% |
| Occupational Education | 813,624 | 791,161 | (22,463) | -2.76% |
| Library/Technology | 1,329,238 | 1,244,806 | (84,432) | -6.35% |
| Student Services | 1,161,142 | 1,248,113 | 86,971 | 7.49% |
| Transportation | 1,819,556 | 1,866,881 | 47,325 | 2.60% |
| Interfund Transfers | 155,000 | 170,000 | 15,000 | 9.68% |
| Fringe Benefits | 6,269,230 | 6,474,060 | 204,830 | 3.27% |
| Program Total | \$23,125,919 | \$23,829,109 | \$ 703,190 | 3.04% |
| CAPITAL: | | | | |
| Operations & Maintenance | \$ 1,806,988 | \$ 1,902,957 | \$ 95,969 | 5.31% |
| Certiorari/Judgments | 8,000 | 8,000 | — | 0.00% |
| Debt Service | 1,469,823 | 1,650,749 | 180,926 | 12.31% |
| Transfer to Capital Fund | 100,000 | 100,000 | — | 0.00% |
| Fringe Benefits | 397,389 | 410,372 | 12,983 | 3.27% |
| Capital Total | 3,782,200 | 4,072,078 | 289,878 | 7.66% |
| TOTAL | \$30,103,377 | \$31,147,145 | \$1,043,768 | 3.47% |



Bus Purchase Q & A

Why does the District purchase buses on a regular basis?

Buses are regularly purchased in order to maintain a modern fleet of vehicles that are built with the latest safety features and efficiency standards. Each year, the District purchases five new buses to replace older models, as part of a seven-year bus purchasing plan (adopted by the Board of Education in 2016). The bus replacement plan is designed to ensure student safety and control repair/maintenance costs on older buses.

How does the District determine when to replace a bus?

The primary consideration for bus replacement is the age of the bus. The average lifespan of a school bus in the Northeast is roughly 10-12 years, mostly due to weather conditions and corrosive salt mixtures used on local roads. State law requires buses to undergo rigorous safety inspections twice a year. If a school bus fails one of these inspections, it must be taken off the road immediately and cannot return to service until it meets the state's standards. It costs much more to maintain an older bus to the state's standards than it costs to maintain a newer bus.

Cairo-Durham Central School District Budget Notice 2018-2019

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year * | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$ 30,103,377 | \$31,147,145 | \$30,831,295 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year | | \$1,043,768 | \$727,918 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 3.47% | 2.42% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 2.13% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$13,484,703 | \$13,747,655 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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) | \$13,484,703 | \$13,747,655 | \$262,952 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$403,004 | \$490,449 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$13,081,699 | \$13,402,526 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D) | \$13,081,699 | \$13,257,506 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | \$0 | \$145,320 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Administrative Component | \$3,195,258 | \$3,245,958 | \$50,700 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Program Component | \$23,125,919 | \$23,829,109 | \$703,190 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Component | \$3,782,200 | \$4,072,078 | \$289,878 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>* Under a contingency budget the District may not increase the tax levy over the prior year. In addition, the District cannot purchase any equipment, transfer funds to the Capital Fund, allow buildings and grounds to be used by the public free of charge, or provide salary increases to non-contractual personnel.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 35%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>** 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)</p> </td> <td style="width: 65%; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Creation of a Capital Reserve</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Purchase of Buses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$619,762</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy Performance Contract</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,950,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </td> </tr> </table> | | | | <p>** 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)</p> | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Creation of a Capital Reserve</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Purchase of Buses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$619,762</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy Performance Contract</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,950,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Description | Amount | Creation of a Capital Reserve | \$1,000,000 | Purchase of Buses | \$619,762 | Energy Performance Contract | \$1,950,000 | | |
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| Energy Performance Contract | \$1,950,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$411

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Cairo-Durham Central School District, Greene County, New York, will be held at Cairo-Durham Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Cairo-Durham Middle School, 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.

Connected Classrooms

The “Connected Classroom” initiative, which aims to cultivate 21st century skills by providing all middle/high school students with their own Chromebook laptops to use throughout the year, is fully supported by the general budget. During the 2017-18 school year, the budget helped to supply Chromebooks for all students in Grades 7 and 9. The proposed budget would continue to support the Connected Classroom initiative through the purchase of Chromebooks for additional grades, as well as enhancements to the network infrastructure to manage more devices. The plan is to have a completed 1:1 digital learning environment in Grades 7-12 within the next few years.

The initiative also includes Chromebook devices for use in elementary classrooms to develop the skills of K-5 students. For example, second graders created informational “fact books” using Chromebooks to research topics and find images, and third graders used Chromebooks to develop and present projects at the annual Frog Expo. These activities help our youngest students develop the technology skills necessary for future successes in school and the workforce.

Google for Education Reference District

Cairo-Durham CSD is one of only eight school districts in New York State (and 150 districts nationwide) to be recognized as a *Google for Education* Reference District. *Google for Education* Reference Districts demonstrate excellence and leadership through the innovative use of technology, including G Suite for Education (formerly known as Google Apps for Education) and Chromebook laptops, to drive impact and positive learning outcomes. This badge allows CDCSD to be recognized by peers as a leader in educational innovation.

“We didn't set out to use Google's products or get awards. We set out to make it easier for students and staff to do their work,” said Jaime Kikpole, the Information Technology Department Manager. “We were trying to solve real problems and deliver the kinds of service that people needed. It just so happened that Google apps and Chromebooks made this easy and affordable for us to do.”

Average Tax Impact (no STAR exemption)*

| Town | Assessed Home Value | Tax Paid (2017-18) | 1.95% Levy Increase** | Difference |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Athens | \$100,000 | \$1,548.67 | \$1,578.87 | \$30.20 |
| Cairo | \$100,000 | \$2,277.46 | \$2,321.87 | \$44.41 |
| Catskill | \$100,000 | \$2,581.12 | \$2,631.45 | \$50.33 |
| Conesville | \$100,000 | \$1,548.67 | \$1,577.87 | \$30.20 |
| Coxsackie | \$100,000 | \$2,092.80 | \$2,133.61 | \$40.81 |
| Durham | \$100,000 | \$1,923.81 | \$1,961.33 | \$37.51 |
| Greenville | \$100,000 | \$1,923.81 | \$1,961.33 | \$37.51 |
| Rensselaerville | \$100,000 | \$2,503.91 | \$2,552.74 | \$48.83 |

Note: to determine the tax difference based on a home value of \$150,000, multiply the amount in the “Difference” column by 1.5. For an assessed home value of \$200,000, multiply the amount in the “Difference” column by 2, and so on.

*Estimates

**Based on the NYS Property Tax Cap formula, Cairo-Durham CSD is considered “tax cap compliant.” See page 6 for further explanation and details about the property tax rebate.



Music Technology students use computer programs to manipulate musical elements and create original works, from ringtones to remixes. Middle school students, for example, create remixes of songs by altering various musical elements to make it their own. Students in the high school course, Digital Music Synthesis, participate in more complex projects such as composing soundscapes, exploring film scoring, and creating moods with music.

MUSTANG ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Class of 2017 earned 982 college credits while still in high school, with more than 51% of students earning at least three college credits.
- More than 70 pieces of K-12 student artwork have been selected for various regional art exhibitions so far this year.
- Neil Malone qualified to compete in the 2018 SkillsUSA state finals after he and his team placed in the top five for the regional Crime Scene Investigation competition. Malone is a Career & Technical Education student in Questar III’s Criminal Justice program.
- Juniors Saylor Lewtschenko and Erinn Valentin participated in the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, a prestigious seminar for high school students that focuses on topics in science and medicine. In order to attend, students had to be nominated and then selected to receive an invitation.



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Mr. Anthony Taibi, *Superintendent*

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Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 15
1 p.m. – 9 p.m.
MS Cafeteria

Questions and Answers

Is the proposed budget within the tax levy cap?

Yes. Cairo-Durham's estimated tax levy increase for 2018-19 is 1.95 percent. This is well below the District's maximum allowable tax levy increase of 3.03% (as calculated under the state's tax cap guidelines).

Is there a property tax rebate this year?

Yes, the NYS Property Tax Rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019 and is for homeowners who receive the STAR exemption, make less than \$200,000 a year and live in school districts that pass budgets at or below the tax levy cap. Cairo-Durham's budgets have stayed within the calculated tax cap over the last several years and will do so again for 2018-19 (see graph on page 2). Therefore, taxpayers who meet the eligibility requirements should receive a rebate check from the state.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the budget is not approved on May 15, the District may submit the original budget or submit a revised budget to the voters on June 19. If the resubmitted/revised budget proposal is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year (0% increase in tax levy). In that case, the District would likely see reductions in staff or programs and could not allow buildings/grounds to be used by the public free of charge.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the District Office at 518-622-8534 (ext. 25010) or visit our website and click on the "Budget & Tax Information" link.

College & Career Readiness

Preparing all Cairo-Durham graduates for life after high school—whether they choose to attend a two- or four-year college, enter the workforce or enlist in the military—is an important part of the Mustang Mission.

With opportunities to earn college credits in more than 40 courses, college-bound students are able to graduate with an advantage that saves both time and money. Partnerships such as the Bard in Hudson Civic Academy and Columbia-Greene Community College's College-in-the-High School program allow Cairo-Durham students to strengthen the skills needed for success in post-secondary education as well as take care of college coursework requirements prior to enrollment, thus helping to save on tuition costs.

To prepare students for the workforce, the District continuously looks to expand career-focused educational opportunities. Partnering with organizations such as Questar III BOCES, high school students are able to participate in numerous Career and Technical Education programs, including a new Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance program that will begin this September and be based at the former Durham Elementary School.

"This is a phenomenal opportunity for the District and the community for many reasons," said Superintendent Taibi. "This program is directly connected to employment opportunities within our community and region, and it can diversify the long-term career opportunities available to our students."

Students also learn vital employment skills through courses such as Life Skills and Career Research Seminar. This year, some students gained real-world job experience through internship-like activities at local supermarkets, accounting offices and the school district.