



**FLORIDA**  
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

[www.floridaufsd.org](http://www.floridaufsd.org)



## PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### Golden Hill Elementary

- Held monthly read-alouds focused on kindness, compassion and thankfulness, culminating in a Thankfulness Parade.
- Relunched TREP\$, short for enTREPpreneur\$, a project-based learning program that teaches kids in grades 3-5 how to start their own businesses. The program culminated with the TREP\$ Marketplace.
- The Omegaman Assembly returned and promoted POSITIVE CHOICES and moved the students' hearts and minds to contemplate positive change!
- After school clubs offered in art, sign language, S.P.A.R.K.-Students Performing Acts of Respect and Kindness, beekeeping and building STEM.
- Star Lab inspired students to engage in a better understanding of the science of astronomy, stars and constellations in the night sky.
- Offered Summer Enrichment Program for students in grades 1-6.

### S.S. Seward Institute

- 60 college credits in partnership with colleges and universities offered to Seward seniors.
- Edgenuity coursework provides students the opportunity to independently complete enrichment courses and/or credit recovery courses.
- 61 students attended Orange-Ulster BOCES for various career and college readiness programs. Two Seward students enrolled in BOCES earned medals at the SkillsUSA Area IV Regional Conference for Digital Cinema and Nurse Assisting.
- Students competed on 18 junior varsity and varsity sports teams, with Scholar Athletes being recognized during Fall, Winter, and Spring sports receptions.
- Offered such academic programs as:
  - Middle School Summer School
  - Regents Review Courses
  - Evening Institute
  - Retention Prevention Program
- Students in grades 6-12 participated in the inaugural College & Career Day.
- Hosted parent presentations on a range of topics, including drug/alcohol abuse, bullying, and digital safety.
- Engage students in community service opportunities to help with local needs.

### Districtwide

- Improved HVAC systems.
- Provided multiple professional learning opportunities to all district staff.
- Increased safety and security measures to include, but not limited to:
  - Installed new public address system
  - Improved school buildings' secure vestibules
  - Hired security personnel
  - Hosted law enforcement emergency drill sessions with Orange County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, Town of Warwick Police Department, Village of Florida Police Department and Orange-Ulster BOCES partners.
- Hosted several community-based events, including: art shows, concerts, Science Symposium, drama production.
- Took necessary measures to refresh components of the district's technology infrastructure.
- Updated the district's IP phone system (VoIP).
- Refreshed district spaces in order to create more modernized learning environments.

[www.floridaufsd.org](http://www.floridaufsd.org)

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Florida, NY



**FLORIDA**  
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
51 North Main Street  
P.O. Drawer 757  
Florida, NY 10921-0757



### VOTER INFORMATION *Who can vote?*

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and registered. If you are registered to vote in general elections, you are automatically eligible to vote in school elections.

Don't forget to  
**VOTE**  
Budget Vote  
**TUESDAY, MAY 16**  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
S.S. SEWARD  
MEMORIAL BUILDING  
51 NORTH MAIN ST.

You may register 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. any day the district office is open. The last day to register is May 11, 2023. In the alternative, you may register with the Orange County Board of Elections.

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the Office of the School District Clerk. Any such application must be received by the District Clerk no more than thirty (30) days and at least seven (7) days before the date of the aforesaid election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter or the voter's designated agent set forth in the application at the Office of the District Clerk. Absentee ballots must be received by the Office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 16.

### Postal Patron

### Board of Education

- Rob Andrade, President
- Lori Gorcsos, Vice President
- Leslie Hill
- John T. Redman II
- Robert J. Scheuermann

Produced by the Florida Union Free School District in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service and Orange-Ulster BOCES.



**FLORIDA**  
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE  
**2023-2024**

» Tuesday, May 16, 2023

[www.floridaufsd.org](http://www.floridaufsd.org)





### Investing in our children is investing in our community

On May 16, 2023, Florida Union Free School District residents will consider a \$25,328,514 budget for the 2023-24 school year, which is a 1.5% tax levy increase. In order to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers, the District strives to stay within the allowable tax cap increase and for the past seven years, the district has fallen below the tax cap. The proposed budget at a glance includes:

**Proposed budget: \$25,328,514**

**Year-to-year spending increase: \$943,674**

**Proposed tax levy increase: 1.5%**

The proposed 1.5% increase in the tax levy—the total amount of money to be raised through property taxes- is within the District’s maximum allowable tax levy limit of 2% as defined by state law. What does this mean? See the chart below in order to determine the monthly and yearly estimated school tax rates with a corresponding tax levy increase of 1.5%:

MY HOUSE'S MARKET VALUE IS:	INCREASE PER MONTH	INCREASE PER YEAR
\$200,000	\$5.29	\$63.48
\$300,000	\$7.94	\$95.22

Final increase would depend upon STAR, tax assessment and equalization rates.

The proposed spending plan reflects the District’s budgetary goals to preserve student opportunities. The 2023-24 proposed budget expands the academic program and ensures that students have the resources, opportunities and a safe learning environment. Proposed spending increases are attributed to:

- New 5-year transportation contract with Student Bus Company, Inc.
- Continued investments and \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project (district to receive building aid the following year) in safety and security.
- Ongoing staff professional learning.
- Support the use of educational technology with a focus on cybersecurity.
- Rising costs of employee health insurance benefits.
- Contractual salary raises.
- General facility repairs.
- Modernization of district learning spaces.
- Funding for curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Votes will be cast in-person in the Seward Memorial Building or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be obtained at the Office of the School District Clerk. Voters will also elect one member to the Board of Education. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### On the Ballot

\$25,328,514 budget proposal for the 2023-24 school year

#### Polls Open

Tuesday, May 16  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

[www.floridaufsd.org](http://www.floridaufsd.org)

#### Where to Vote

S. S. Seward Memorial Building, 51 North Main St., Florida, New York

#### More information

For more details on the proposed budget, visit [www.floridaufsd.org](http://www.floridaufsd.org). The full text of the budget is also available for review during normal business hours in the S.S. Seward Memorial Building, 51 North Main Street, Florida, New York.

## THREE-PART BUDGET

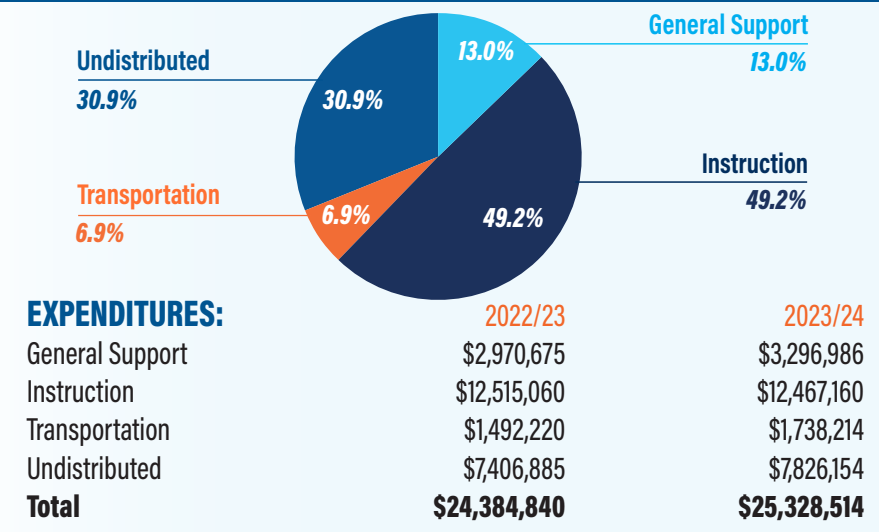
	2022-2023	2023-2024	\$ CHANGE	FACTORS IMPACTING CHANGE
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$18,102,763	\$18,436,433	\$333,670	Retirements, Teacher Wages, Transportation
<b>ADMIN.</b>	\$2,736,014	\$2,950,581	\$214,567	Retiree Health Insurance Costs, BOCES Capital Project
<b>CAPITAL</b>	\$3,546,063	\$3,941,500	\$395,437	Debt Service, BOCES Capital Project, Security
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,384,840</b>	<b>\$25,328,514</b>	<b>\$943,674</b>	

**PROGRAM BUDGET COMPONENT (72.8%):** This portion includes salaries and benefits of certified teachers and supervisors who spend the majority of their time teaching, teacher aides, monitors and nurses, as well as in-service training, library costs; such instructional costs as supplies, equipment and textbooks; co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics; staff development; and transportation operating costs.

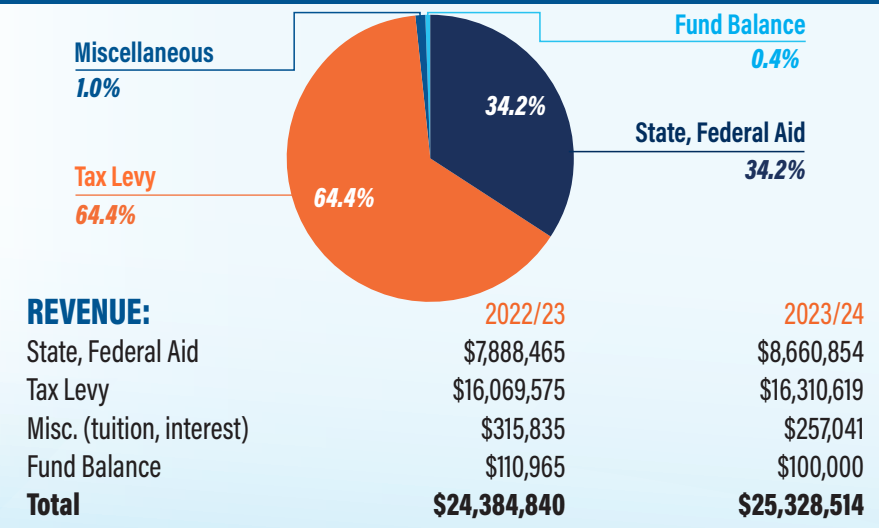
**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT (11.6%):** Includes expenses for office and administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50% or more of their time performing supervisory duties in finance and supervision; data processing; public information; legal services; property insurance; and school board expenses.

**CAPITAL BUDGET COMPONENT (15.6%):** This covers all school bus purchases, debt service on buildings, and leasing costs; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; and all facility costs, including salaries and benefits of the custodial staff; service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment; and utilities. This portion also includes operations, security, budgeted capital projects, principal and interest on debt and installment purchases and leases.

### Expenditures



### Revenue



## 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	\$24,384,840	\$25,328,514	\$25,019,218
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$943,674	\$634,378
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.87 %	2.60%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$16,069,575	\$16,310,619	
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)	\$16,069,575	\$16,310,619	\$16,069,575
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$406,135	\$578,516	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$15,738,442	\$16,055,385	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$15,663,440	\$15,732,103	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$75,002	\$323,282	
Administrative Component	\$2,736,014	\$2,950,581	\$2,780,000
Program Component	\$18,102,763	\$18,436,433	\$18,397,718
Capital Component	\$3,546,063	\$3,941,500	\$3,841,500

\* 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.

The Board of Education will review the expenditure budget and make decisions on those items to be included based on Education Law Section 2023.

The tax levy increase would be \$0 and non-contingent items such as equipment and capital transfers would be removed in accordance with New York state law.

\*\* 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
NONE	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	Goshen / \$845   Warwick / \$878

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Florida Union Free School District, Orange County, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the SS Seward Memorial Building, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

**Note:** As part of a request for proposal process, the District wishes to enter into a multi-year contract with Student Bus Company, Inc. beginning in the 2023-24 school year and ending with the 2027-28 school year. The total transportation cost of this program is expected to be \$1,545,867 in 2023-24 and \$8,044,754 total over the five years.

## SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

On May 16, residents will vote to fill one Board of Education seat. The candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, are:

- Leslie Hill (incumbent)
- Stephen Caldwell



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