



It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

SPECIAL 2017-2018 BUDGET ISSUE

Responsible Budgeting, Unparalleled Education

Valley Stream's 2017-2018 Proposed Budget Supports District Goals and Maintains Programs While Operating Within the Tax Levy Cap at 1.67%

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

Why Support the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen ?

It's As Simple As A-B-C

A IS FOR ALL – because we need to make sure that all our children get the education they need to succeed.

B IS FOR BEST—because our kids deserve the best facilities, like modern computers, science, art and music rooms and libraries.

C IS FOR CAREERS—because better education today will prepare kids for tomorrow's world-changing opportunities.

Today we must go beyond the ABCs of education.

D IS FOR DEDICATION—Your Board of Education and staff are dedicated to providing “the best possible education at the most affordable cost.”

E IS FOR EVERYONE—Everyone in the community should be involved. As they say, “it takes a Village to raise a child.”

I could cite the entire alphabet but suffice to say I will stop now at the letter V.

V IS TO VOTE—Vote on May 16, 2017. Here is your opportunity to participate in our democracy. May 16th is the time to be heard on your school budget and elect trustees.

Remember: Every Vote counts & elections have consequences.

William P. Stris, Board President



**REMEMBER TO VOTE:
TUESDAY, MAY 16 • 6 AM – 9 PM**

2017-2018 BELIEFS AND GOALS

Public elementary education sets the foundation for a lifetime of learning and serves as a gateway to the world for young students. We do not take this responsibility lightly, and before we ask you to visit the polls on May 16, we want you to know exactly where we stand and what we believe.

Building a Foundation for Success

The Board of Education, superintendent and administration believe that all children should be treated as scholars, and that they can and will succeed. The District has always believed in the value of educating the whole child, and thanks to ongoing community support, provides a well-rounded education that includes a challenging academic curriculum, participation in and appreciation of the arts and social awareness based on self-respect and caring for others.

Belief Statement

The Board of Education and administration believe that:

- All children can learn at the highest levels.
- Teaching and learning should be differentiated and child-centered.
- Social and emotional learning is critical to the learning process.
- We should have challenging learning experiences for all children.
- Children learn best by constructing a new understanding of their relationship to the world around them (i.e., constructivist approach).
- Children should become lifelong learners and be well-prepared for post-secondary life experiences.

Mission Statement

The District offers our lifelong learners a robust curriculum through the partnership of home, school and community. We expose our children to important literature and ideas to master



fundamental skills and develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The District promotes social responsibility, encouraging students and staff to set high personal goals.

Vision Statement

The District will treat each and every child as a scholar to be prepared to meet the challenges of his or her future.

District Goals

High-Quality Curriculum and Instruction

The District will develop and implement a high-quality curriculum, instruction and balanced assessment model for all students. All staff will implement evidenced-based practices, including high-yield instructional strategies that increase higher-order thinking, collaboration, creativity, and student engagement.

Leadership and Innovation

All members of the community are valued and seen as contributors to the goals of the District. Allocation of resources will support job-embedded professional development dedicated to promoting creative problem-solving. The District will seek Districtwide expertise and insights to realize measurable achievement gains for educators and students.

Systems Thinking

The District will continually create benchmarks for success that align targeted resources to evaluate and enrich the quality of our instructional and operational goals. Every student and educator will meet and exceed local and national measures of achievement.

A Message from your Superintendent



Actions Designed to Increase Student Achievement

The proposed 2017-2018 budget demonstrates Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen's commitment to reflecting the expectations of our community to provide a world-class education to our students. It

has been a privilege to partner with the Board of Education, our educators, parents, and extended community to construct a budget that strategically ensures the successful maturation of our existing programs and allocates resources that will sustain our continuous improvement efforts. The District's proposed budget allows for the continued implementation of a balanced literacy approach that will be extended to grades 3-6 in English Language Arts as we plan for a new adoption of curricular materials this fall. We will also implement many more digitized resources supplementing our current curricular offerings, including Lightsail, a personalized digital library for independent and guided reading and ST Math, a game-based visual learning platform for math comprehension

and proficiency. Additionally, we are pleased to announce the extension of the utilization of Chromebooks to our third graders next year as well. Growing our organizational capacity to promote high-quality service to our families continues to be a priority, and to support this goal, the budget proposes increasing one half-time social worker to a full-time equivalent.

Improving teacher practice is the primary way to increase student learning. The preservation of our instructional coaching model in this proposal will maintain our ongoing cost-effective alternative to traditional professional development opportunities. Lastly, this budget promotes other savings that enhance our partnership with BOCES to further the technology goals outlined in our strategic plan.

Sincerely,

Constance D. Evelyn, Superintendent of Schools

The James A. Dever Museum of Modern Art Features Modern Art Created by Dever's Talented Student-Artists

In March, **James A. Dever Elementary School** was transformed into a beautiful modern art gallery. And the best part—all the works were made by Dever's very own students! It was a beautiful display of the creativity, ingenuity and talent of Dever's students.



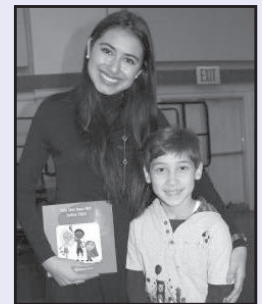
Howell Road Students Inspire Literacy Through Book Exchange

Students from **Howell Road Elementary School** created their own free book exchange program, the Little Free Library, to share their love of reading. Students designed and decorated a new wooden book-exchange box to be located outside of Howell Road. Soon, any student will be able to take a book to read or leave a book to share with their peers.



Author Bianca Liriano Visits Wheeler Avenue Students

Recently, acclaimed author Bianca Liriano met with students at **Wheeler Avenue Elementary School** to discuss good character and reducing test-taking anxiety. Ms. Liriano read her book *This Test Does Not Define You* to third graders and shared her personal experiences about handling anxiety.



Willow Road Students Are 'Soup-er' Bowl Champs

Willow Road Elementary School recently partnered with the INN of Hempstead to donate a large collection of soup to those struggling to afford decent meals. The Willow Road School community collected cans of soup for the local food pantry. Congratulations to the students in Ms. Kiernan's, Ms. Byrnes' and Ms. Gonzalez's classes for taking home the prized "Soup-er" Bowl Trophy!



A DETAILED LOOK AT THE PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
INSTRUCTION - 61.33 % OF BUDGET		
Teaching-Regular School	\$ 15,771,833	\$ 16,201,544
Special Education	7,287,748	7,801,417
Curriculum Development	405,630	435,750
Supervision	1,341,042	1,365,254
Research & Development	4,250	4,250
Reading	1,586,340	1,493,067
Preschool	5,801	5,822
Gifted & Talented	131,734	134,301
Library	605,557	596,585
Computer Assisted Instruction	754,701	1,048,551
Student Management System	61,550	61,550
Health Services	473,535	505,500
Psychological Services	656,331	669,328
Social Worker Services	241,202	246,018
Total Instruction	\$ 29,327,254	\$ 30,568,937
% Change		4.23%

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
TRANSPORTATION - 4.79 % OF BUDGET		
Transportation	\$ 102,295	\$ 102,726
Contracted Transportation	2,248,300	2,285,700
Total Transportation	\$ 2,350,595	\$ 2,388,426
% Change		1.61%

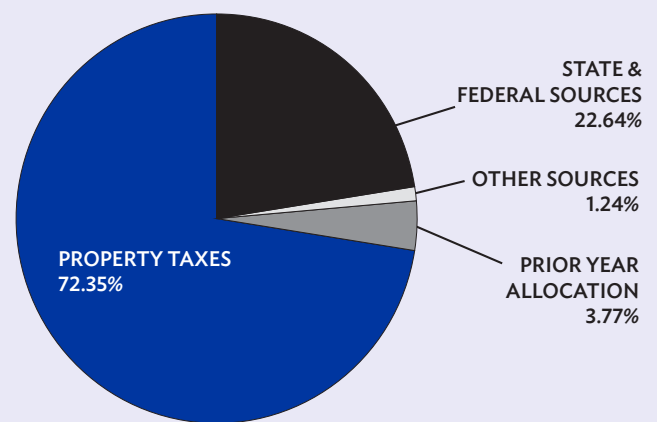
	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
DISTRICT SUPPORT - 4.06 % OF BUDGET		
Board of Education	\$	\$
District Clerk		
District Meeting		
Central Administration		
Business Administration		
Auditing		
Treasurer		
Legal Services		
Personnel		
Records Management		
Public Information		
Central Mailing		
Central Data Processing		
Insurance		
School Dues		
BOCES Administration		
Total District Support	\$	\$
% Change		

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE - 4.06 % OF BUDGET		
Operations	\$	\$
Maintenance		
Total Operations & Maintenance	\$	\$
% Change		

SUMMARY OF 2017-2018 REVENUE

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
State and Federal Aid	\$10,582,234	\$11,368,374
Fund Balance Appropriations	1,875,000	1,875,000
Employee Benefits Reserve	0	250,000
Interest Earnings/Building Use	52,000	77,000
Summer Recreation	103,000	100,000
Tuition Other Districts	100,000	100,000
Refund Prior Year Expenditures	20,000	75,000
Misc. Revenue	35,219	14,499
Property Tax Levy	34,896,345	35,479,114
PILOT Payments	583,124	502,976
Revenue for Budget	\$48,246,922	\$49,841,963

PROPOSED BUDGET SOURCES OF REVENUE BY PERCENT



PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES

BUDGET - \$49,841,963

2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
22,700	\$ 22,700
10,477	14,975
34,050	33,950
357,838	330,100
518,051	544,040
91,000	91,000
12,807	13,460
224,160	224,160
18,200	36,500
10,900	10,900
78,000	103,000
13,050	13,050
35,000	35,000
257,650	257,650
12,130	12,750
279,500	279,500
1,975,513	\$ 2,022,735
	2.39%

88% OF BUDGET	
1,656,178	\$ 1,730,959
648,731	700,842
2,304,909	\$ 2,431,801
	5.51%

DEBT SERVICE/TRANSFERS - 3.29 % OF BUDGET

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
Construction	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000
Interfund Transfer	80,000	80,000
Debt Service	491,858	861,694
Total Debt Service/Transfers	\$ 1,271,858	\$ 1,641,694
% Change		29.08%

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - 21.43 % OF BUDGET

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
Health Insurance	\$ 4,825,873	\$ 4,933,235
Teachers' Retirement*	2,999,785	2,770,000
Employees' Retirement*	750,000	700,000
Social Security (FICA)*	2,026,682	2,026,682
Workers' Compensation*	212,000	226,000
Unemployment*	91,500	21,500
Life Insurance	1,500	1,500
Disability Insurance	2,400	2,400
Total Employee Benefits	\$ 10,909,740	\$ 10,681,317
% Change		-2.09%

* Government Mandated

SUMMER RECREATION - 0.21 % OF BUDGET

	2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
Summer Recreation	\$ 107,053	\$ 107,053
Total Summer Recreation	\$ 107,053	\$ 107,053
% Change		0.00%

TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 48,246,922	\$ 49,841,963
% Change		3.31%

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

The current yellow bus transportation policy for eligible students in grades K-6 attending the four elementary schools in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen will remain in place for the 2017-2018 school year. Kindergarten through third-grade students residing one-half mile or greater and fourth- through sixth-grade students residing one mile or greater from the school they attend will still be provided yellow school bus transportation.



What is the Estimated Total Revenue for 2017-2018?

Based on current projections, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen's estimated 2017-2018 revenue is broken down in the following manner:

State and Federal Aid	\$11,368,374
Other revenues	\$1,119,475
Carryover from previous year	\$1,875,000
TOTAL	\$14,362,849

The remaining funds of \$35,479,114 that are needed to support the budget will be obtained through the set tax levy.

What is Revenue?

The District receives revenue from four sources: state aid; miscellaneous sources, including interest earnings and grants; unexpended funds from prior years' operations; and the tax levy (remaining monies needed to support the budget).

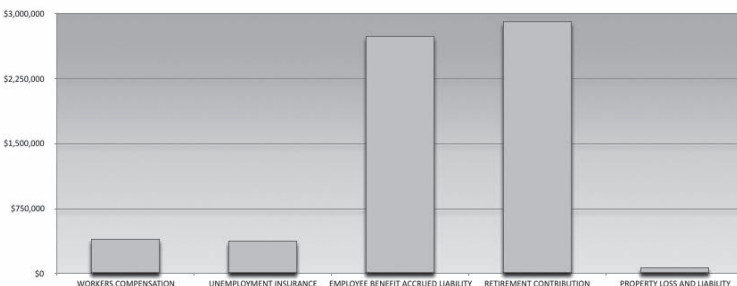
What is a Tax Levy?

The tax levy is the amount of money needed to be raised in property taxes to balance the school budget. The District calculates the total school budget minus estimated revenues including state aid, tuitions and fees to determine the amount needed to be raised in property taxes.

Using Reserves

At the end of any fiscal year, districts have funds that were budgeted but not fully expended or revenues that exceed the amount anticipated. After returning significant portions of those funds to the taxpayers in the ensuing fiscal year, the Board of Education places any additional funds in reserve accounts to protect the District against unanticipated needs and/or a severe economic downturn. Part of the proposed 2017-2018 budget uses these reserve accounts and, thereby, reduces the tax levy. The Board anticipates continuing to utilize these funds in the future to control increases in property taxes and maintain the District's excellent academic and fine arts programs. For the 2017-2018 proposed budget, the Board of Education has authorized the use of \$1,875,000 in fund balance plus additional reserve funds. For the 2017-2018 proposed budget, the Board of Education has authorized the use of \$1,875,000 in fund balance plus \$250,000 to pay accrued benefits due employees upon separation of service.

Summary of Reserve Funding 2016-2017



COST-SAVING ACTIONS

Energy Performance Contract

The District has completed a \$5.5 million energy performance project. Energy efficiency measures installed as part of this project included replacement of all 11 original boilers, lighting upgrades, computerization of heating and lighting controls, and natural gas service upgrades.

Joint Collective Bargaining

The District is engaged in joint collective bargaining through a coalition with other Valley Stream districts.

Technology Infrastructure

The District is interconnected with Valley Stream districts for cooperative projects.

Transportation

The District is a founding member of the Southwest Quadrant Transportation Cooperative for private and parochial schools, which allows for the sharing of yellow school bus service for all private and parochial school students within the District's transportation guidelines.

Food Services

The District participates with District 30 and the Central High School District in a food service program. The cooperative takes advantage of reduced food costs and shared administrative expenses, including clerical, accounting and auditing costs.

Residency

The District cooperates with District 24 and the Central High School District in the provision of residency advisory services, including the employment of a full-time residency officer. This arrangement reduces clerical and investigative costs.

BOCES Services

The District joins with other Nassau County School Districts to share services such as special education, textbooks, health and safety support, and technology.

BUDGET Q & A

Q: What is a school budget?

A: A school district's annual budget is the best estimate made by the Board of Education and the administrators of the funds needed to support a quality educational program for the upcoming school year.

Q: Does this budget include services for residents who do not have children in public schools?

A: Yes, as required by law, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen offers yellow school bus transportation, textbooks and special services such as speech and school health for all public and private school students. The District also makes its facilities available to community groups and organizations.

Q: Will transportation for students be preserved under the proposed budget?

A: Yes, all Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen students who are eligible under the District's current transportation guidelines will continue to receive yellow school bus transportation. Kindergarten through third-grade students residing one-half mile or greater and fourth- through sixth-grade students residing one mile or greater from the school they attend will still be provided transportation.

Q: What percentage of the budget represents administrative costs and what are some of these costs?

A: Administrative costs account for **10.27 percent** of the total 2017- 2018 proposed budget. These costs include the operation of the District Office, curriculum development and instructional administration, operation of the principals' offices, auditing, the District Treasurer, legal expenses, public information and insurance. As with all areas of the budget, the District continually monitors these expenses to ensure that tax dollars are spent in the most efficient manner possible.

Q: What happens if the budget fails on May 16?

A: If the budget is defeated on May 16, state law allows the District to present either the same budget or a revised budget, which would include program cuts, for one more vote. The cost of a second budget vote is approximately \$27,000. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the District must, by law, adopt a contingency budget.

Q: What is a contingency budget?

A: A contingency budget is the maximum amount authorized by law that a District can impose on the community if the school



budget is voted down. New York State now mandates a limit on the tax levy associated with a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, more than \$1,000,000 would need to be removed in order to comply with New York State law.

Q: What are the restrictions under a contingency budget?

A: In addition to expenditure caps, the state imposes controls on certain district expenditures, including the elimination of all capital projects and severe restrictions on the use of school facilities by community members. The Board of Education may choose to make reductions or eliminate programs, which could include the summer recreation program, the use of buildings and fields by outside groups, instrumental music and extracurricular activities. Class size may also increase.

Q: Does the District seek alternative funding sources?

A: Yes. District personnel seek opportunities to secure funding from both public and private sources. The Grants Committee investigates funding opportunities offered by corporations and other private sector organizations. In cooperation with local legislators, the District seeks funding through special legislative grants for projects such as playground improvements and science and technology equipment.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Detailed copies of the proposed 2017-2018 Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Budget are available in the Business Office at 585 North Corona Avenue. Reference copies are available for inspection at all District schools. Budget information is also available on the District's website at www.valleystream13.com. In addition to obtaining information on the proposed budget from the sources listed above, the community can also stay informed by speaking with one of the District's Budget Ambassadors. To find out who your local Budget Ambassador is, please ask your school principal or look for the Budget Ambassador's identifying button.

Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen

585 North Corona Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580-2099
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Milagros Vicente, *Trustee*

Constance D. Evelyn, *Superintendent*

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VOTER INFORMATION

NEED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

District residents who will be unavailable for the annual budget vote and election on Tuesday, May 16th may obtain an absentee ballot. Applications for an absentee ballot may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk and on the District's website at www.valleystream13.com. This absentee ballot application should be received by the District Clerk seven days prior to the election if mailing the ballot is involved. This will allow time for the District Clerk to mail the absentee ballot to the voter, and for the voter to vote and mail the completed ballot back to the District Clerk. All ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

VOTER REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify to vote in the upcoming budget vote and trustee election:

- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must be 18 years of age or older.
- You must be a resident of the school District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You must have registered to vote in the general election or have voted in a school election within the last four years (between 2013-2016).



Every Vote Counts!

REMEMBER TO REGISTER AND VOTE

Registration is held at each school building, when in session, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Last day to register to vote is Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at each school building 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.

BUDGET VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017 • 6 AM - 9 PM

Voting will be in the District Thirteen school election district in which you live.
This is usually in the public school your child or your neighbor's child attends.



REMEMBER TO VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 16 • 6 AM - 9 PM