



A 21st Century Learning Community – Excelling in a complex, interconnected, changing world

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Alignment of Resources with Our Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan guides our work at the district, building, department and individual level. This includes the alignment of our time, resources and energy with the budget to support these priorities.

ESM's next Strategic Plan (2023-2028) is currently under development with an emphasis on being "Future Focused and Future Ready." The plan focuses on three emerging priority areas:

- ◆ Student-Centered Learning
- ◆ Wellness
- ◆ Safe and Welcoming Learning Environments

The 2023-24 proposed budget aligns resources to focus on student learning from pre-k through grade 12 while supporting all curricular areas. The budget also supports the priority areas of providing safe and welcoming learning environments, as well as ongoing counseling, social emotional learning and mental health initiatives for our students. These focus areas are intrinsically tied to our vision to be "an exemplary 21st Century learning community whose graduates are prepared to excel in a complex, interconnected, changing world."

Our commitment to long-range financial planning and fiscal responsibility remains strong. Among the cost-saving measures in the budget are our energy performance contract, shared services and cooperative purchasing with BOCES, and operational efficiencies in building maintenance, information technology and transportation. Revenue-based measures include investment interest and federal revenue maximization strategies.

The final 2023-24 state budget raised state education

aid over 2022-23 levels for all school districts. In doing so, the shift of 5.7% in the overall ESM budget reflects additional Foundation Aid that the district will receive in 2023-24.

Foundation Aid is a formula-driven, unrestricted state aid category created to support general public school district expenditures. The state budget includes funding for a year #3 of a 3-year plan to fully phase-in Foundation Aid, reaching full funding in 2023-24.

ESM's \$97,585,195 proposed 2023-24 budget adopted by the Board of Education on April 17 reflects careful stewardship and investment of enhanced state resources. This includes a minor \$100,000 capital project to install new flooring in CHS classrooms and hallways.

Based on preliminary estimates of changes in assessed value, ESM school tax rates are projected to decrease by 5.26%. On a home assessed at \$100,000, the overall tax bill decrease for 2023-24 after the Basic STAR exemption would be approximately \$84.51 annually. For senior citizens with Enhanced STAR, the tax bill would decrease an estimated \$36.46 for 2023-24. In general, the tax rate decrease equates to approximately \$1.22 per \$1,000 of assessed property value annually.

Please remember final assessments and equalization rates are not available until August at which time we will finalize the tax rate. The state calculates a property tax cap for each district. ESM is under its tax cap with an estimated tax levy increase of 2.9%.

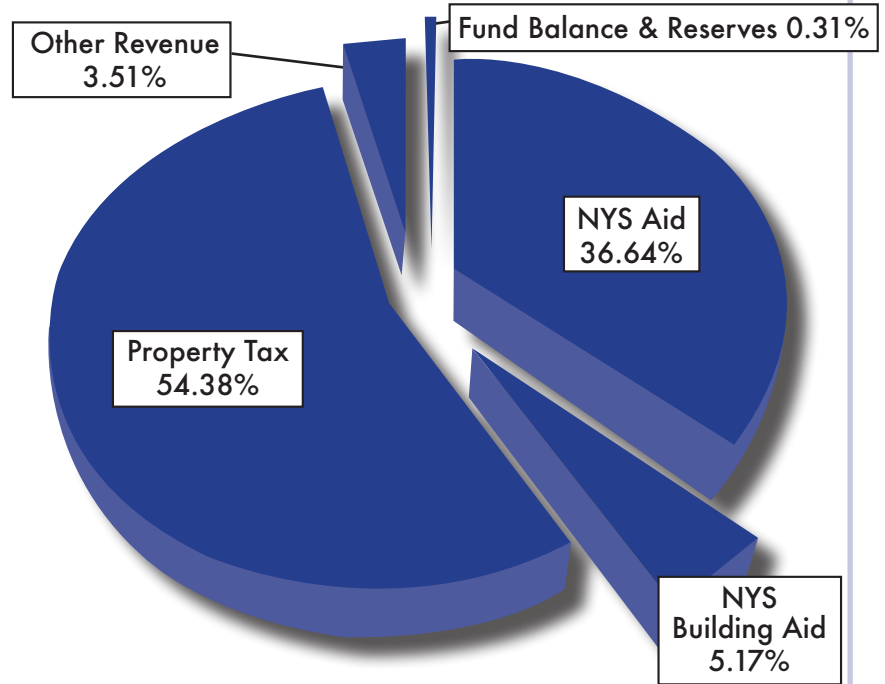
A public hearing to learn more about the budget is May 8 at 6 p.m., and will be held at the Central High School Library. We sincerely thank our ESM community for your continued engagement and support for the education of our youth.

2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

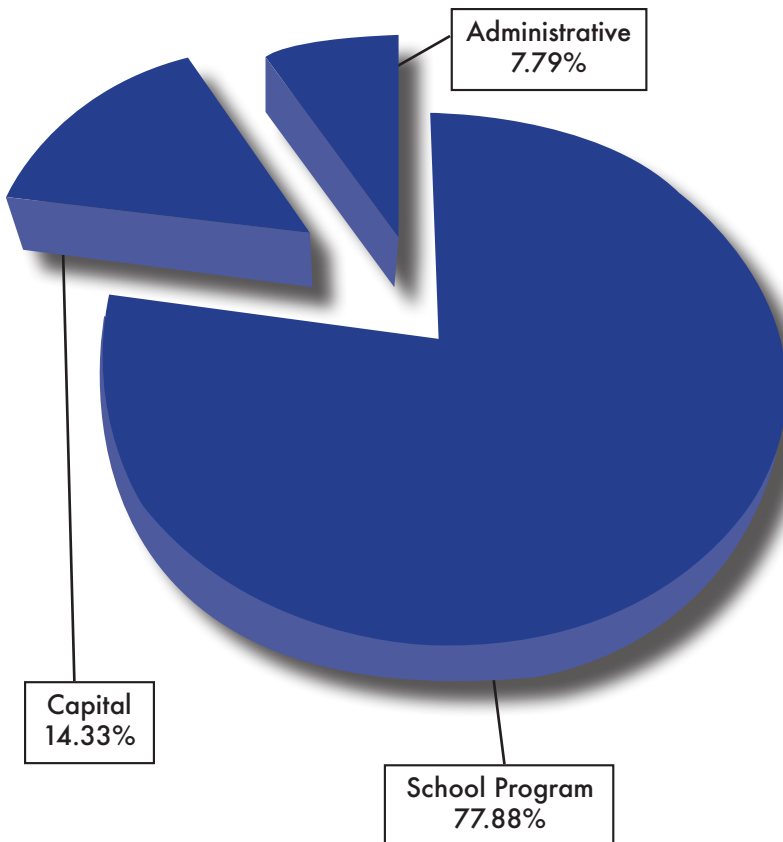
Where does the School Budget money come from?

2023-24 Revenue \$ Amount

New York State Aid	\$35,751,239
New York State Building Aid	\$5,049,774
Property Tax	\$53,063,074
Other Revenue	\$3,421,108
Fund Balance and Reserves	\$300,000
Total	\$97,585,195



Three-Part Budget Summary



Program Component: At 77.88% of the total budget, it includes regular instruction, special education, occupational education, curriculum and staff development and summer school as well as pupil services such as health, guidance, library, co-curricular activities, athletics and transportation.

Capital Component: This represents 14.33% of the total budget, including expenses for the operation and maintenance of district facilities, building renovation costs, property tax refunds and employee benefits attributable to salaries for these functions.

Administrative Component: This represents 7.79% of the total budget, including expenses for instructional supervision, curriculum development, the Board of Education, school information officer, central administration, director of facilities, transportation supervisor, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing and employee benefits attributable to salaries for these functions.

2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

Propositions on the Ballot

Proposition #1:

Proposed School Budget \$97,585,195.

Proposition #2:

Purchase of School Buses not to exceed \$977,514.

Proposition #3:

Increase East Syracuse Free Library levy from \$333,922 to \$353,957.

Proposition #4:

Increase Minoa Free Library levy from \$239,700 to \$249,900.

School Board Member Seats:

Voters will choose two candidates for two open School Board seats. The two candidates with the most votes will be elected to a four-year term.

Bus Purchase Proposition:

The district is proposing to spend \$977,514 to purchase five 66-passenger buses, and one 48-passenger wheelchair accessible bus. The new student transportation vehicles would ensure vehicle safety and replace the oldest and most expensive vehicles to maintain/repair. The District will use \$800,000 from the 2016 Bus Purchase Reserve Funds and \$177,514 from 2023-2024 budgetary appropriations to finance the bus purchases.

Public Library Propositions:

By law, the public libraries in East Syracuse and Minoa can request that the District conduct a budget vote and collect funds for the public libraries. Public Library budget requests are not part of ESM's school budget. This year, the Minoa Library submitted a request for a \$10,200 increase that would result in a \$249,900 annual budget. The East Syracuse Free Library submitted a request for a \$20,035 increase that would result in a \$353,957 annual budget. Questions about these propositions should be directed to public library officials.

Capital Outlay Project:

Under current law, capital outlay projects with a cost of no more than \$100,000 are eligible for Building Aid. ESM's budget proposal includes \$100,000 to complete additional flooring replacement in classrooms and hallways at the high school.

How Can I Learn More?

The public hearing on the budget is May 8 at 6 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Central High School Library, 6400 Fremont Road. Questions and comments may also be directed to Katherine Skahen, Executive Director of School Business Administration, by e-mailing kskahen@esmschools.org or calling 315-434-3004.

When and Where is the Vote?

The ESM Board of Education will hold its budget and school board member election on May 16 from noon to 9 p.m. in the ESM Central High School small gym, 6400 Fremont Road, East Syracuse. In-person voting will be conducted in a manner consistent with NYS Department of Health Guidelines.

Who Can Vote?

To be eligible to vote in the school election, you must be: a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older and an ESM district resident for at least 30 days. No prior registration is required.

Can I Get an Absentee Ballot?

Applications for absentee ballots for qualified voters may be obtained at the office of the School District Clerk at 407 Fremont Road, East Syracuse, NY, or by contacting the District Clerk's office at 315-434-3004. Any such applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the date of the vote and election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote and election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the District Office by 5:00 PM on May 16, 2023.

For Additional Information:

A copy of the full budget is available at the ESM District Administrative Office, 407 Fremont Rd., East Syracuse. Visit www.esmschools.org/budget for a full budget packet.

2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

3 Candidates Running for 2 Board of Education Seats

Voters will elect two candidates to four-year terms on the Board of Education. Elections will be held during the budget vote on May 16 from noon to 9 p.m. in the ESM High School gymnasium lobby.

The candidates, in order of how they will appear on the ballot, are John Albanese, Diana LaMattina Abdella and Amelia Skandalis. Biographical information and a statement of each candidate's philosophy of education follow in order of how they will appear on the ballot:

John Albanese



John Albanese lives in East Syracuse with his wife Jennifer and their two children Natalie (Park Hill) and Michael. He has resided in the district for 33 years and is also an ESM grad.

Mr. Albanese is the vice president of MA Sales, Inc. in East Syracuse. He has a bachelor's degree in management, leadership and marketing from Le Moyne College.

He has served four years on the ESM Board of Education and prior to that was a member of the ESM Education Foundation. He enjoys attending athletic events and playing golf, as well as spending time with his family.

Philosophy of Education: Our children are best prepared for their future with an education that provides them with an opportunity to develop academically, socially and emotionally. My personal goal is to make a difference and a contribution to the continued success of the ESM school district.

My entire K-12 education was within the ESM School District. During my years there I valued the opportunities that I experienced. The depth of our offerings is a strength few districts can rival. Coming from a family of educators, I can appreciate firsthand the importance that our teachers and staff bring to the overall experience.

I believe our efforts as a district should always be student centered, and maintain its relevance in the 21st century. Concurrently, we need to practice the strongest of safety protocols, ensuring our students and families ability to focus on learning as the priority. We also need to continue fostering relationships with agencies and support personnel that help our students to maintain positive mental health.

Our ultimate goal is for our students to be prepared for their next phase of life.

Diana LaMattina Abdella



Diana LaMattina Abdella lives in Minoa with her husband, Anibal, and their children, Aubrey (7th grade) and Evan (4th grade).

Diana graduated from ESM in 1998, and has been a resident of the district for her entire life. She is the Chief of Staff for a New York State elected official. Diana has been recognized by the WCNY Annual Makers: Women Who Make America and CNY's

40 Under 40. She is the coordinator for the CNY Veterans Parade and Expo.

She has a bachelor's degree from Le Moyne College and a master's degree from SUNY Cortland. Diana is currently a Girl Scout troop leader and creates the Minoa Elementary Yearbook as part of the PTO.

Philosophy of Education: A successful education will prepare students to be informed and aware citizens who can use their abilities and talents to be productive in their community.

I am very proud of the ESM district. As a member of the Board of Education, I would advocate for continuing and enhancing a curriculum offering a variety of learning opportunities and skills to prepare our students for college, the military, or the workforce.

As a mother, I know, each student is vastly different. An effective education system cognizant of different learning styles, talents and abilities while motivating individuals and building a sense of belonging and achievement. Beyond a diploma, there is an importance of developing a well-rounded child, which can be done through social-emotional programs, leadership opportunities, and extra-curricular activities.

An emphasis on the well-being of and support for teachers and staff is also crucial to maintaining learning environments where everyone can reach their maximum potential, and everyone feels welcome and affirmed.

**BUDGET VOTE — MAY 16
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL — NOON to 9 p.m.**

2023-2024 INFORMATION

Amalia Skandalis



Amalia Skandalis lives in Syracuse with her children Niko, who attends CHS, and Teah, who attends Pine Grove Middle School. She has resided in the district for nine years.

Ms. Skandalis is an art teacher in the Baldwinsville Central School District (BCSD) at Palmer Elementary School. She has a master's degree in art education and a dual master's degree in

early childhood and special education; both from Syracuse University. She also has a bachelor's in art education and associate degrees in both general art and photography.

She previously served two years on the ESM Board of Education. She is a member of both the BCSD building and district Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committees, as well as the New York State Art Teachers Assoc., New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the Baldwinsville Teachers Association. She is a board consultant for the Academy of Excellence and owner of ANTS Farm LLC, which conducts agriculture education & workshops. In addition, she is her school's Art Club advisor and a member of the Syracuse Scholarship Organization.

Her interests are gardening, theater and martial arts training. She has studied both Brazilian Jiu-jitsu and Muay Thai kickboxing as well as other areas of self defense combined with health and wellness of body and mind.

Philosophy of Education: I believe that All children are able to learn. It is up to Us as education professionals to ensure they have equitable and inclusive access to the methods that work for them.

Our job is to prepare them to be confident, independent, positive contributors to our community. In order to prepare our students for a diverse and interconnected world we have a responsibility to meet them where they are at, provide opportunities for them to thrive, and be willing to accept and interpret the evidence of their learning in a multitude of ways.

As a multiply-qualified education professional for over 20 years, I emphasize that transparency, communication, and a growth mindset are essential. Families are an integral part of the teaching and learning team, and a key component to the growth of our students.

I believe that the bulk of our efforts need to be child-centered through a DEI lens in order to individualize interventions and support as needed to ensure that all students are fully prepared for their futures when they leave our schools.