



HAMBURG

School District

*Please Vote
Wednesday, April 27*

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*Polls Open
2 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

2011-2012 Budget Q & A

What is the school budget and what is its purpose?

The school budget finances every aspect of our school students' education: building upkeep, utilities, all school materials and staff, etc. It was created with a conservative approach; that is, we calculated the actual cost for each program in the budget and did not merely add increases from the prior year.

When is the school election, and what is its purpose?

1. The school election is held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. Polls are open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. You vote in your usual voting location.
2. The purpose of the election is to elect board of education representatives and to vote on the proposed school budget.

Can I vote on the elementary school budget, as well as the high school budget?

All registered voters in Hamburg are able to vote on the Hamburg School District budget as well as the Wallkill Valley Regional High School budget at the same time in the same voting location on April 27.

What is the proposed budget for the 2011-2012 school year?

The proposed operating budget is \$5,346,395 which is \$43,120 or 0.81% higher than last year.

Why does the budget go up every year?

1. The budget goes up due to increases in contractual agreements and higher cost of utilities and other expenses similar to your own home's expenses.
2. The Board of Education utilizes significant shared service agreements, which substantively reduces our expenses. Some examples include shared services for business administration services, utilities, transportation, special education services, and bulk purchasing.

What are the main items that increased?

Salaries and benefits increased due to an increase in health benefit costs, contractual salary obligations, and state pension fund contributions. Other areas decreased or increased close to or less than 2% in the budget, including the out-of-district tuition budget, instructional support, and administrative expenditures.

Is there anything new in the budget?

This is basically a maintenance budget that attempts to fund the majority of current programs. For the second year in a row, we will be providing a full-day kindergarten, thus eliminating the need for and the expense of kindergarten courtesy bussing. Through careful planning, we are attempting to increase services for our children while decreasing operating expenses.

How is the budget funded?

The budget is funded with a proportion of

- a. 67.17% Property taxes
- b. 29.53% State Aid
- c. 2.19% Federal Grants
- d. 1.11% Miscellaneous
(includes interest income, fees, debt repayment and fund balance)

How much money collected in income taxes collected from Hamburg residents goes to Hamburg School District?

For the 2010-2011 school year, Hamburg School District received \$1,562,373, or 87% of the \$1,798,199 in income taxes that the State of New Jersey collected from Hamburg residents, as state aid. In other words, for every \$1 that the state collected in income taxes from a Hamburg resident, \$0.87 was given to Hamburg School District in state aid.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

1. If the Hamburg School District budget is defeated, it then goes to the town council for review and recommendation for budget cuts.
2. In that case, programs, staffing, and services may be negatively impacted.

What is the impact on a homeowner?

The tax levy for a home in Hamburg assessed at \$100,000, will see a tax increase of \$74.00 per year.

What can I expect from my continued investment in the Hamburg School District budget?

You can expect to see a continuation of our course offerings for our students in addition to small class size and student to teacher ratio. Basically, your investment preserves the program we currently provide to Hamburg School's students.