



# Budget Newsletter 2018

Dear Community Members,

In preparation for the districtwide Budget Vote and Board Election on May 15, 2018, we present this year's District Budget Newsletter, which provides key information on what you will be asked to vote on. In addition to what you will find on the following pages, information is available to you on our district website at <http://www.skanschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1202>.

This year's budget was complicated to build as we are always seeking the proper balance between providing the best possible program and being mindful of the capacity of our taxpaying community. Given some of the large cost increases that we are experiencing in key areas, we worked diligently to maintain as many of our programs and as much of our staffing as possible. The end result of this work is a proposed increase in the tax levy of 3.75%. However, given the increase in assessed value of the district, the vast majority of our taxpayers will see a decrease in their overall tax bill this year.

Finally, to ensure the security of our school buildings, this year's vote will take place at the district office - the former bus garage - at 45 East Elizabeth St. We will have a modified version of our annual art show for you to enjoy when you stop in to vote.

Should you have any questions about this information or information that is posted on our website, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Slentz or Mrs. DeMass at the District Office.

Thanks very much and we look forward to seeing you on the 15th.

Ken Slentz  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Sue Murphy  
*President, Board of Education*

## BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

**May 15, 2018 | 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**SCS District Office | 45 E. Elizabeth St.**

### DIRECTIONS TO THE POLLING PLACE

The election will take place in the Skaneateles Central Schools District Office.

- Please use the main entrance.
- The parking area next to the building will be reserved for voters.
- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- You may wish to schedule your trip to the polls to avoid student arrival and dismissal times.
  - Arrival - 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
  - Dismissal - 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- We invite you to the District Art Show in the District Office.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

1. Citizen of the United States.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. A resident of the Skaneateles Central School District at least 30 days prior to the date of the vote (renters are district residents - proof of address for new residents is required).

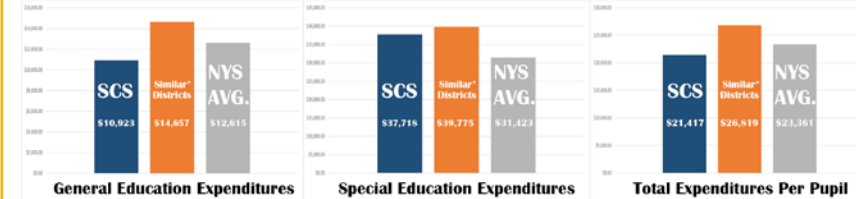
### Three Part Budget Summary for 2018-2019 School Year

Budget Category	2017-18	2018-19
Legal	\$51,072	\$55,106
Occupational Education (9-12)	\$374,094	\$356,816
Program Students with Disabilities	\$2,414,870	\$2,720,692
Teaching - Regular School	\$9,157,229	\$9,348,708
Teaching - Special Schools	\$35,950	\$10,000
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$691,426	\$784,949
School Library - AV	\$538,003	\$434,560
Attendance - Regular School	\$1,845	\$2,000
Co-Curricular Activities - Regular School	\$64,920	\$95,500
Guidance - Regular School	\$595,241	\$466,208
Health Services - Regular School	\$200,152	\$227,356
Interschool Athletics - Regular School	\$677,165	\$742,643
Psychological Services - Regular School	\$187,049	\$250,139
Pupil Personnel Services	\$33,931	\$5,048
Social Work - Regular School	\$123,479	\$129,481
District Transportation	\$204,258	\$257,000
Garage Building	\$85,460	\$40,750
District Transportation	\$960,707	\$1,089,000
Transfer to Non-Capital Funds	\$120,000	\$145,000
Employee Benefits	\$4,952,663	\$5,063,159
<b>Program Budget Total (\$) --&gt;</b>	<b>\$21,469,513</b>	<b>\$22,224,115</b>
Budget Category	2017-18	2018-19
Maintenance of Plant	\$726,015	\$641,972
Operation of Plant	\$1,601,818	\$1,680,285
Special Items	\$12,063	\$10,000
Debt Service	\$4,296,675	\$4,806,107
Transfer to Capital Funds	\$100,000	\$100,000
Employee Benefits	\$507,290	\$508,664
<b>Capital Budget Total (\$) --&gt;</b>	<b>\$7,243,861</b>	<b>\$7,747,028</b>
Budget Category	2017-18	2018-19
Board of Education	\$29,602	\$29,720
District Office	\$785,180	\$857,705
Tax Collector	\$26,731	\$29,957
Public Information and Services	\$73,358	\$76,361
Personnel & Records Management Officer	\$92,509	\$83,000
Central Data Processing	\$356,541	\$392,000
Central Printing and Mailing	\$124,427	\$127,957
BOCES Administrative	\$239,838	\$239,100
Insurance & School Association Dues	\$133,005	\$133,000
R&D & In-Service Training/Instruction	\$150,792	\$227,975
Supervision - Regular School	\$710,397	\$755,859
Curriculum Development - Supervision	\$329,400	\$355,933
Employee Benefits	\$691,606	\$730,023
<b>Administrative Budget Total (\$) --&gt;</b>	<b>\$3,743,385</b>	<b>\$4,038,589</b>
<b>3-Part Budget Total (\$) --&gt;</b>	<b>\$32,456,760</b>	<b>\$34,009,732</b>

### Estimated Revenues

Revenue Source	2017-2018	2018-2019
Proposed Tax Levy	\$ 24,010,144	\$ 24,910,524
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 240,272	\$ 205,296
State Aid	\$ 7,506,431	\$ 8,022,482
County Sales Tax	\$ 50,000	\$ 30,000
Interest/Penalties	\$ 37,284	\$ 75,000
Services/Charges	\$ 107,930	\$ 138,930
Sale of Equipment/Other	\$ 25,500	\$ 47,500
Refund Prior Year Expense	\$ 350,000	\$ 256,000
Federal Aid - Medicaid	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Other Sources	\$ 49,000	\$ 94,000
Interfund Transfers	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 32,456,761</b>	<b>\$ 33,859,732</b>
Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 150,000
<b>TOTAL Budget</b>	<b>\$ 32,456,761</b>	<b>\$ 34,009,732</b>

Fiscally Responsible: 2017 Spending Per Pupil  
(Similar Districts\*: Low Need/Resource Capacity)



**2017 Spending Per Student:** While our school district spends less than similar districts, and less than the statewide average in some areas, our investments yield tremendous returns. The graph above shows how much we spend per student - general and special education and combined - at Skaneateles.

### Annual Building Maintenance Initiative

Under NYS Education Law, the District may invest up to \$100,000 in facilities and receive building aid back the following year. With the state aid reimbursement rate of 62.9%, this means that a \$100,000 investment in one year will return around \$62,900 in the following year. This will be the fourth year the district has participated in this initiative. The first three projects have included the replacement of deteriorated/unsafe exterior doors in various locations in our school buildings. Projects for 2018-2019 will include further updates in safety & security.

“Learning is not some of the time; it’s all of the time – for all of us”



## School Budget Notice

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	\$32,456,761	\$34,009,732	\$33,109,352
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$1,552,971	\$652,591
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.78%	1.92%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$0	\$0	
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)	\$24,010,144	\$24,910,524	\$24,010,144
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,737,640	\$2,139,390	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$22,452,794	\$22,936,719	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$22,272,504	\$22,771,134	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$180,290	\$165,585	
Administrative Component	\$3,743,386	\$4,038,589	\$3,818,652
Program Component	\$21,469,513	\$22,224,115	\$21,746,592
Capital Component	\$7,243,862	\$7,747,028	\$7,544,108

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-19 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:

The administrative component of the 2018-19 budget would be capped at 11.53%. All non-ordinary contingent expenses, such as equipment and interscholastic athletic sports team travel, would be removed. An additional \$729,236 in ordinary contingent expenses would need to be cut from the proposed budget. These cuts may include, but are not limited to: non-instructional employee salaries, instructional material & supplies, utilities and telecommunication, maintenance of facilities, repair of buildings, travel expenses, and library and classroom newspapers and periodical subscriptions, etc. In the event of a contingency budget, the actual allocation of the components may differ from the budget displayed above.

\*\* 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
BUS PROPOSITION	\$450,000
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND GENERAL CONSTRUCTION	\$2,500,000

<a href="#">NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgt@nysed.gov</a>	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$442

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Skaneateles school district, Onondaga County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the District Office, 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.

## Estimated Tax Impact

Town	Assessed Full Value Apportionment	Tax Levy Amount	Per \$1,000 Assessed		
			Actual 2017-18 Tax Rate	Est. 2018-19 Tax Rate	Est. Decrease
Skaneateles	\$1,421,652,623	\$19,540,544	\$14.443862	\$13.745008	-\$0.698854
Spafford	\$254,931,663	\$3,504,023	\$14.443879	\$13.745031	-\$0.698848
Marcellus	\$7,516,561	\$103,315	\$14.443794	\$13.744950	-\$0.698844
Sennett	\$70,055,554	\$962,910	\$15.431949	\$14.684710	-\$0.747239
Owasco	\$40,554,540	\$557,420	\$17.402934	\$16.560919	-\$0.842015
Niles	\$17,629,200	\$242,312	\$15.203993	\$14.468368	-\$0.735625
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,812,340,141</b>	<b>\$24,910,524</b>	<b>\$13.744950</b>	<b>\$14.443796</b>	<b>-\$0.698847</b>

\$300,000 Assessed Home (Est. Tax Bill)				
Town	Basic STAR	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	Est. Decrease
Skaneateles	\$30,000	\$3,900	\$3,711	-\$189
Spafford	\$30,000	\$3,900	\$3,711	-\$189
Marcellus	\$29,850	\$3,902	\$3,713	-\$189
Sennett	\$27,140	\$3,911	\$3,721	-\$189
Owasco	\$25,500	\$3,890	\$3,701	-\$188
Niles	\$29,100	\$3,891	\$3,702	-\$188

Based on preliminary land and building assessed values, the above assumes an increase of \$150M in school taxable value for the Town of Skaneateles.

**Tax Levy Cap:** The district's tax levy is allowed to increase up to 4.44% this year under the law. The proposed budget calls for a levy increase of 3.75%. The actual tax rate will be established in August after assessments and equalization rates are finalized by each of the six towns.

**Senior Citizen Tax Exemption:** The Board of Education continues to offer a tax exemption to Senior Citizens in the community. This exemption is based on income with the exemption being calculated on a sliding scale, which ranges from a 5% to 50% assessment credit.

Applications for this exemption are available in the assessor's office along with the regulations governing the exemption. Applications must be filed before March 1 of any year. Residents, who believe they qualify for the exemption or desire further information, should contact their local assessor.

**School Tax Relief (STAR):** If you own your home, it is your primary residence, and your income is \$500,000 or less, you are eligible for the basic STAR credit. If you are a senior citizen with a qualifying income, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit. The state will reimburse the school district for the amount of taxes that are exempted due to this program. If you have questions regarding your eligibility for the STAR program, please contact your assessor.

# PROPOSITIONS ON BALLOT: What You Will See When You Vote

Budget Vote and Board of Education Election | Tuesday, May 15, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. | SCS District Office (45 E. Elizabeth St.)

## Proposition I, General Fund Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Skaneateles Central School District, Counties of Cayuga and Onondaga, New York, be authorized to expend the sum of \$34,009,732 for the 2018-2019 school year and levy the necessary tax when due?

## Proposition II, Bus Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the Skaneateles Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, be authorized to purchase and finance student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$450,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$450,000, shall be issued?

## Proposition III, Capital Reserve Fund General Construction

Shall the Board of Education of the Skaneateles Central School District be authorized to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 to be used for renovations and additions to all District facilities, including purchase of equipment and school buses, security and safety improvements, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, site development, storm and sanitary sewer, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) future transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law?

## Skaneateles Central School Board of Education

*Members of the Board of Education volunteer countless hours as key stewards of our district. We rely on their wisdom and guidance, just as we rely on the very important support and input we receive from our many other partners. To provide the best education for our students, it takes all of us: teachers, administrators, parents, coaches, community members - and members of those all-important boards, foundations, task forces and committees. The best results of our collective stewardship come from the broadest engagement, which includes YOU. This document is one of several ways we hope to improve our communication and engagement.*

Front Row (left to right):  
Geraldyn Huba; Sue Murphy, Board President; Margaret Usdansky Niebuhr;  
Julie Abbott-Kenan, Board Vice-President.

Back Row (left to right):  
Kerry Brogan; Curt Coville; Ken Slentz, Superintendent; Thomas E. Lambdin.



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# Board of Education: Candidates for Election (Vote For Any Three)

## KERRY BROGAN

Age: 50  
Town of Residence: Skaneateles

A graduate of SHS and a current member of the SCS Board of Education, Kerry Brogan is the mother of two students currently in Skaneateles Schools, as well as a recent graduate.



Brogan believes student wellness, school safety and being fiscally responsible are the district's three main priorities.

While gains have been made, Brogan believes there is more to be done, leading her to run for one more term to ensure that the district's students have the best experience possible attending our schools, while preparing them for the future.

## MICHAEL KELL

Age: 35  
Town of Residence: Sennett

Married with four children, Michael Kell has been an active member of the school district for ten years and will have children in the SCS schools for the next 20 plus years.



From helping with pre-school initiatives to coaching countless sports teams and recently becoming a member of the Little League Board, Kell has been an active member of the community.

Kell believes there is no greater obligation than ensuring the safety, security and mental well-being of the district's students, staff and others in the school system.

## JONATHAN DOWER

Age: 45  
Town of Residence: Skaneateles

Board of Education candidate, Jonathan Dower, grew up in the town of Skaneateles and attended the Skaneateles Central School District. Dower is the father of three daughters.



Dower is a graduate of RIT with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and decided to run for the school board after attending several meetings and being intrigued by the process.

Dower believes that his work experiences will provide unique perspective that will be helpful to the collective Skaneateles Central School Board of Education and the district.

## SUSAN MURPHY

Age: 55  
Town of Residence: Skaneateles

A member of the Board of Education since 2012 and its current President, Susan Greenfield Murphy has raised two sons as a lifelong member of the Skaneateles community.



Murphy hopes to continue to foster the mission of the district, providing students with multiple learning opportunities and experiences to lead them to be positive future citizens & community members.

Murphy believes it is crucial to preserve and enhance the quality of the SCS school system, while working to implement Project 2021.



## MEETINGS:

The work, or planning sessions, of the Board usually take place on the first Tuesday of each month. Regular meetings of the Board usually take place on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. inside the BOE Room at the District Office located at 45 E. Elizabeth St. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

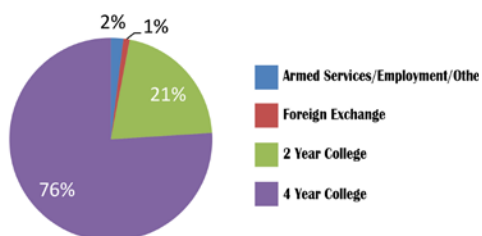
## DISTRICT MISSION:

The mission of the Skaneateles Central School District is to provide positive and successful learning experiences for **all** students. The schools will also strive to provide students with knowledge and problem solving skills necessary to contribute and adapt to an ever changing world. Within a caring and student-centered environment, the schools will offer a balanced educational program with high expectations to challenge and motivate **each** student. The school staff, students, parents, Board of Education and community share the responsibility for this mission.

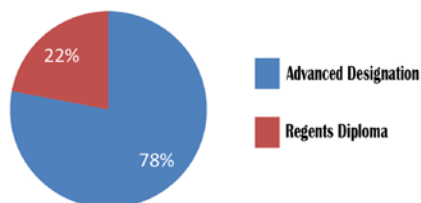
“Learning is not some of the time; it's all of the time – for all of us”

## Our Measures of Success

Graduation Destinations Class of 2017



Diplomas Earned by Class of 2017



### 2017 SAT SCORES

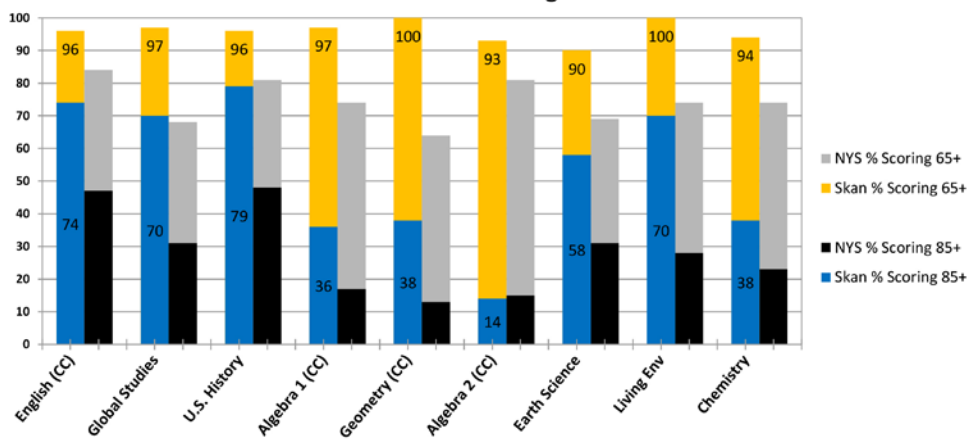
	Critical Reading	Math	Total
National Average	533	527	1060
State Average	528	523	1052
Skaneateles	601	586	1187

### 2017 ACT SCORES

National Average 21.0 State Average 24.2 Skaneateles 26.5

The College Board's SAT test and the American College Testing Program Assessment (ACT) measure the college-bound student's aptitude for success in education beyond high school. Seventy percent of our students took the SAT, with reading and math tests scoring ranges of 200-800. The ACT has four test areas of Math, English, Reading and Science, and a composite score ranging from 1 to 36. Sixty seven percent of our students took the ACT.

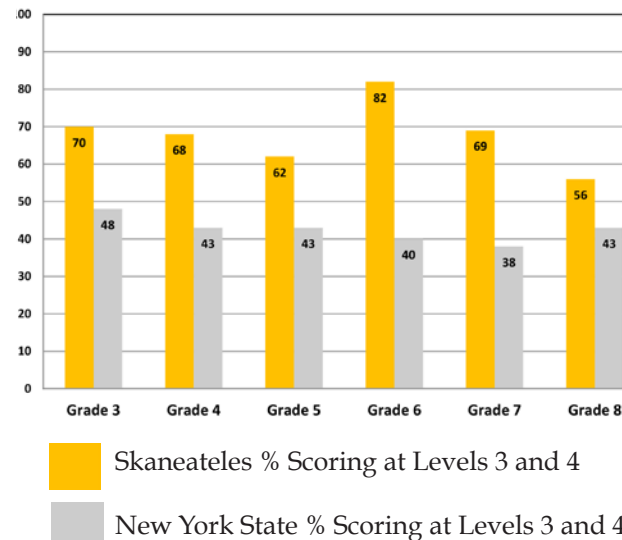
2016-2017 Skaneateles CSD Regents Exam Results



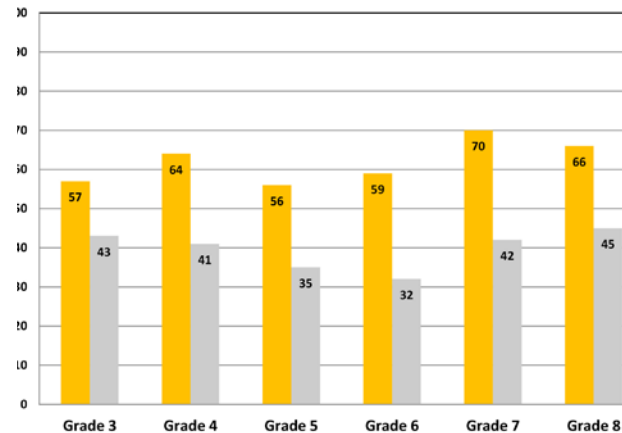
Regents examinations provide a basis for evaluating the quality of instruction and learning that has taken place. Students must pass five Regents Exams in order to graduate, and eight to receive the Advanced Regents diploma.

## Additional Measures of Success

2016-2017 NYS 3-8 Math Test Results



2016-2017 NYS 3-8 ELA Test Results



Scores on the ELA and Math assessments place students at one of four levels. Those at Level 4 excel in standards for their grade; those at Level 3 are proficient in standards; those at level 2 are partially proficient and those at Level 1 are well below proficient in standards for their grade.

The increased rigor of Common Core-aligned tests is apparent statewide as seen in the 3-8 graphs as well as in the Algebra 1 (CC) bar in the Regents Exam Results bar graph to the left.

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# The Focus of our Investments

On pages two and three, you were able to see the breakdown of the projected costs (expenditures), our income (revenue), and what we will need to support the difference (fund balance) for the proposed budget of \$34,009,732 with a total tax levy of \$24,910,524 for 2018-2019. This is an increase of \$900,380 or 3.75% in the tax levy for 2018-2019 and an increase of 4.78% in the budget. So what are the efficiencies in the budget and what is the community getting in return for the requested investments? We hope many features in this report answer that question. Here are some other examples of enhancements and improvements:

## High School

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- 13 Advanced Placement courses.
- 30 elective courses.
- 24 clubs, including 11 musical groups.
- 53 interscholastic athletic teams.
- Career exploration and job shadowing programs.
- Graphic Media courses.
- Driver's Education.
- Online course offerings.
- Expanded math electives.

## Middle School

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- Expansion of World Language into sixth grade.
- Sixth grade reconfiguration providing one hour of ELA & math instruction.
- Expansion and Library Media Services; including Break Out EDU, book fairs, reading promotions.
- Sixth grade Coding Club, A/V Production Lab, Fall and Spring Fling student events promoting wellness.

## Elementary (Waterman and State Street)

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- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum, plus Coding and robotics K-5 with every student spending time in STEM one time per six-day cycle for discovery based labs.
- Orchestra programs starting in third grade with almost 40% of the State Street students participating.
- Odyssey of the Mind and Math Olympiad programs continue to excel in fifth grade with OOTM teams competing at state level and one advancing to World Finals at Iowa State University.
- New K-5 pilot Science program, *Smithsonian STC*.

## Learning Opportunities for Faculty and Staff

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- High quality Professional Learning utilizing local, regional (BOCES), and state level expertise.
- Certified counseling staff in each building.
- Increased data literacy and capacity for data-driven instruction.
- Continuation of professional learning with Mrs. Buff as Instructional Technology Specialist.

## Safety & Security Upgrades

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The following facilities upgrades are in progress as a part of the Smart Schools Bond Project:

- ***New Card Readers for Entry Doors:*** Decreased reliance on keys, lost cards can be immediately deactivated, administrators can easily monitor entry.
- ***132 New Door Sensors:*** Added to exterior doors to alert staff of doors propped open or left ajar.
- ***161 New Digital Cameras:*** Installed on the interior and exterior of buildings and can be viewed in real time on computers or smart phones.
- ***Upgraded Public Address System:*** Includes additional speakers on interior and exterior of buildings to alert all students and staff of emergency communications.
- ***Telephone System Upgrade:*** Allows for districtwide announcement capabilities.
- ***Lockdown Alert System:*** Installed to notify visitors when schools are in lockdown status.

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# Skaneateles Central Schools

45 East Elizabeth Street  
Skaneateles, New York 13152

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Skaneateles, NY 13152  
Permit No. 6

## Local Postal Patron

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## TRANSPORTATION

### Getting to school safely, effectively & efficiently

The continuation of our Bus Replacement Plan will be on the May 15 school budget ballot (See Proposition II on page four). Now in year three, this plan involves the ongoing replacement of an aging fleet and will result in improved safety for students, improved approval ratings for bus inspections, and ultimately, fewer buses in total. Cost savings measures like this help to accomplish our ultimate goal of providing the best educational programs for students, while being fair to our taxpayers.

### Under the 5-Year Bus Replacement Plan:

- Trade-in value will increase when buses are traded in at the end of warranty, while still “young” with good value.
- Money and time spent on maintenance will decrease.
- The number of out-of-service buses at any given time will decrease, resulting in enough “road ready” buses to meet our needs, thereby decreasing the number of buses needed in the fleet.
- The plan will accommodate a reduced fleet size.
- Buses will better meet all Department of Transportation regulations.
- Costs and expenditures will be much more predictable.
- New purchases will include one gasoline fueled bus.