

3/19: Dr. Mundell Budget Update for Residents

The district continues to share news and information related to the upcoming budget vote, which will be held on Tuesday, May 21. As part of that process, we are sharing bi-weekly superintendent updates with our community stakeholders. We encourage our families to stay up to date on this year's budget. Budget information is available on our budget page and will be posted on our district's homepage. Additionally, information will be provided through our ParentSquare portal.

This week, we will highlight the role of inflation, provide background on the tax levy and its effect on our district, and touch upon the advocacy efforts being conducted on behalf of our community by Dr. Mundell and regional superintendents. We aim to be transparent in our outreach to inform you on areas that directly impact our students, faculty, and staff – along with our BKW community.

Inflation's impact on budgets

By this time, every one of us has been impacted by inflation. Whether it is at the grocery store or reviewing your heating and cooling bill, the impact is real. Within a school district, inflation plays a role in several areas and creates new ways to adjust. Various district departments experience inflation's impact on varying fuel costs, tools, and transportation management. Those same expenditures also increase heating bills for our operations team to ensure our facilities and classrooms stay comfortable for learning. Our Food Services department experiences higher costs for fruit and vegetables and adjusting costs for delivery. A district operates like a community within a community. We work to plan and estimate potential increases in food and energy costs, but like many markets, they fluctuate throughout the budget year. We continue to work to mitigate those costs for our stakeholders.

The tax levy: What is it and how does it impact today's taxpayer?

The common definition of tax levy, especially as it relates to school districts, states that a local property tax passed by voters of a school district generates revenue for the local school district. All money generated by school district levies goes directly to the school district to pay for enhancements to the state-funded basic education. We have an additional resource that details the Tax Cap/Limit so that it is easier for prospective voters to understand the basic principles associated with a school budget. That can be found [here](#).

Advocating for our community

We are fortunate to work with local, state, and federal representatives to ensure our district's needs are recognized. Over the past few months, Dr. Mundell has worked to advocate for our district at the New York State Capitol, sharing our concerns and messages with both leadership groups in the Assembly and Senate. Earlier this month, we shared a letter from superintendents from Capital Region BOCES 24 component districts that details the regional effort to keep state funding for our programs and services. Each year, the Governor of New York works with statewide representatives to deliver a budget for New York state residents by April. As we approach that date, efforts to continue working with local representatives will move forward, and updates will be provided to our community.