



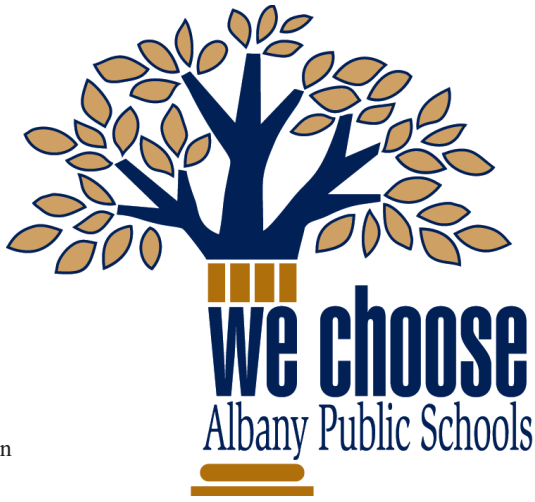
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CAPITAL education

2018 SPECIAL
BUDGET EDITION

Where do I vote?

See page 4 for a list

Programs supported in 2018-19 school budget

Albany voters will consider a \$249.4 million school budget proposal when they go to the polls May 15.

The City School District of Albany's 2018-19 budget proposal includes a 1.33 percent tax-levy increase. It is the first time in three years the district has proposed a tax-levy increase, and the proposed increase falls below the district's state-imposed "tax cap" of 1.97 percent.

The Board of Education approved the budget proposal at its April 12 meeting.

The proposed budget would support all current academic, social-emotional and extracurricular programs and services for more than 9,600 district students.

That includes full-day prekindergarten, music instrument instruction at all schools beginning in third grade, middle- and high-school foreign language programs and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes at Albany High School.

The proposal also includes about \$3.7 million in new staff and programs to keep up with enrollment growth and programmatic priorities, meet state mandates and continue to invest in the district's multi-year academic plan.

In addition, the budget would continue to invest in Community Schools initiatives at five elementary schools and the Tony Clement Center for Education. The district's 2018-19 state aid includes about

\$3.9 million in Community Schools funding, an increase of about \$600,000 from the current year.

Community Schools initiatives, developed in partnership with families and community members, would provide additional services to support students and families, including services beyond the traditional school day, at Clement and Arbor Hill Elementary School, Giffen Memorial Elementary School, Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy, Sheridan Preparatory Academy and Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST).

The May 15 ballot also will include elections for three Board of Education

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 15
7 a.m.-9 p.m.

New voting place for some

If you voted at Mater Christi School in the past, your voting location has changed. You now will vote at Bethany Reformed Church, located at 760 New Scotland Ave.

positions (*see related story at right*). The state moved Albany's board elections from November to May last summer to be in line with the vast majority of public school districts in New York.

Proposition #2 on May 15 will ask voters to create a new Capital Reserve Fund, a savings account for long-term building projects (*see related story at right*).

(continued on page 2)

School board elections also set for May

Starting this year, Albany voters also will have an opportunity to elect Board of Education members when they head to the polls in May to decide on the annual school budget.

Three board positions will be up for election May 15 along with the 2018-19 budget proposal and a separate proposition to create a new Capital Reserve Fund (*see related story below*).

Voters will have the opportunity to decide on these board seats:

- Two four-year terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2022; and
- A one-year term beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2019.

In the past, Albany's school board elections were held November in conjunction with the general election.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation last summer to shift the board elections to the third Tuesday in May annually – the same time as the school budget vote. That's also when nearly all other public school districts in the state hold board elections.

Board President Sue Adler, who was first elected in 2011, is stepping down when her term ends June 30. The terms of board members Ellen Roach and Tabettha Wilson also expire June 30.

The top two vote-getters in the May 15 election each will serve a four-year term. The candidate receiving the third-most votes will serve the one-year term.



Prekindergartener Adrian Castillo recently demonstrated his letter-writing skills in his classroom at Delaware Community School. The City School District of Albany's proposed budget would support nearly 1,100 students like Adrian in pre-K programs in all 12 of its elementary schools and 19 community-based locations.

2018-19 budget proposal at a glance

Total – \$249.4 million

Tax-levy increase – 1.33 percent

- The tax levy is the total amount of money the school district needs to collect from property owners. This is the first time in three years that the district has proposed an increase in the tax levy; the average increase over the past five years has been less than 1 percent.

Voting day

- Tuesday, May 15
- Polls open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. (*see page 4 for locations*)
- Call (518) 475-6015 if you're not sure where to vote

What the budget supports

- Full-day prekindergarten (1,092 spots) in all 12 elementary schools and at 19 community locations
- Three themed elementary schools
- The bilingual Dual Language Program at Delaware Community School
- Band, chorus and orchestra starting in third grade
- Sports teams – 58 for grades 7-12
- Programs that allow Albany High School students to gain college credit while in high school
- Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses at Albany High
- AVID college- and career-readiness programs at Albany High and in each middle school
- Albany International Center, an optional transitional program for refugee and immigrant students in grades 6-12 who are in

the early stages of learning English

- Community Schools initiatives at Arbor Hill Elementary School, Giffen Memorial Elementary School, Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy, Sheridan Preparatory Academy, Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST) and Tony Clement Center for Education

What's new in the budget?

- 5 seventh-grade teachers at O'Neal Middle School
- 1 social studies teacher at Albany High School
- 1 math coach to serve elementary schools district-wide
- 1 math coach to serve middle schools district-wide
- 9 substitute teachers to serve elementary schools district-wide
- 1 assistant principal at Pine Hills Elementary School
- 1 school resource officer to serve O'Neal Middle School
- 1 administrator on special assignment at O'Neal Middle School to support students, enhance the school's climate and culture, and oversee mentoring opportunities.
- 1 athletic supervisor to serve athletic, health and physical education programs district-wide
- 4 hall monitors at Albany High School to accommodate growing enrollment
- Additional music and art teachers to support increased enrollment
- Investment in The Flying Classroom, a STEM-focused (science, technology, engineering and math) initiative that also includes activities related to geography, literacy, writing, art and social studies

No-cost proposition on May 15 ballot

On May 15, voters will be asked to consider a proposition that would allow the City School District of Albany to set up a new Capital Reserve Fund – a savings account for long-term building projects.

This fund would not raise taxes. It is intended to help contain the tax impact of construction and facilities improvement projects in the future.

The school district needs voter approval to create a Capital Reserve Fund. Future deposits to the fund would require Board of Education approval, and withdrawals from the fund would require voter approval.

The highest amount that can be set aside in the fund is \$18 million.

See page 3 for the language you'll see on the ballot related to Proposition #2.

The district operates 21 total buildings that serve 11,300 students and staff during the school year – buildings that require ongoing upkeep. Money accumulated in a Capital Reserve Fund, combined with state reimbursement for school construction, would help minimize future costs to taxpayers.

If a majority of voters say yes May 15, the district would be allowed to make deposits to the fund from a variety of sources when available. Those sources might include budget savings that may accumulate in the next few years.

Your tax bill: making sense of the numbers

Q: How are my final school tax bill and tax rate set?

A: Your school tax bill and tax rate are determined by combining four factors, three of which are outside the district's control.

1. School tax levy: The total amount of money a school district needs to collect from property owners each year – \$115.5 million in the 2018-19 proposed budget. There is a 1.33 percent increase proposed for 2018-19, the first time in three years that the district has proposed a tax-levy increase. The proposed increase is below the district's tax "cap" for 2018-19 of 1.97 percent.

2. The state School Tax Relief Program, or STAR: Partial school tax exemptions for owner-occupied homes. Basic STAR savings next year will be \$650. Enhanced STAR savings for senior citizens will be \$1,370. *(Please note that the estimates provided in the table to the right include only these first two factors. The following additional factors are not yet available and are determined before the Board of Education sets the tax rates in August.)*

3. Property assessments: Estimates of the value of how much a property would sell for under normal conditions. This information is determined by the City of Albany.

4. Homestead vs. non-homestead proportion: Each summer, the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services determines the percentages of local taxes to be paid by homeowners and business owners. This is the final factor in determining the school tax rate.

Once all factors are set, the final tax rate determines how much of the total tax levy each property owner pays.

Q: How will the proposed 2018-19 budget affect my taxes?

A: **The City School District of Albany is proposing to increase its tax levy by 1.33 percent for 2018-19.** However, your overall tax bill may change by a different amount:

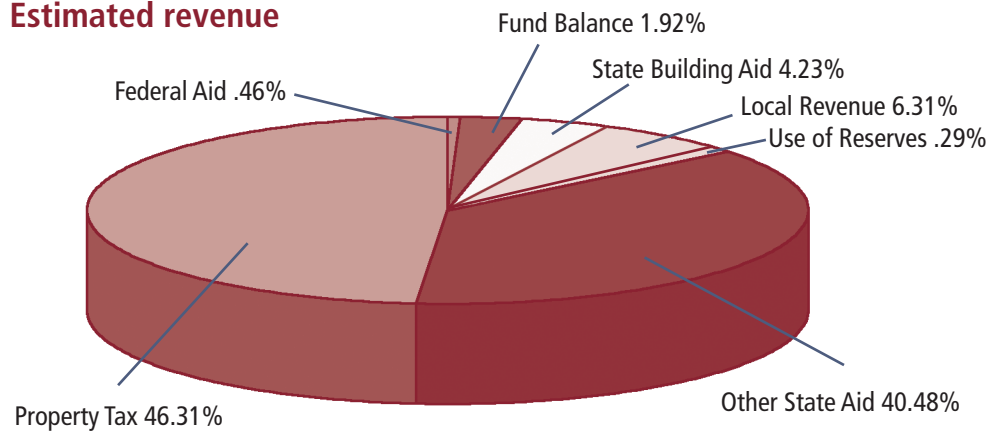
- If the value of your property changed;
- If your STAR reimbursement changed;
- If the proportion changes for school taxes paid by homeowners and businesses; or
- Due to changes in the Albany Public Library's tax levy.

Estimated school tax bill for a typical taxpayer whose home is valued at \$150,000*

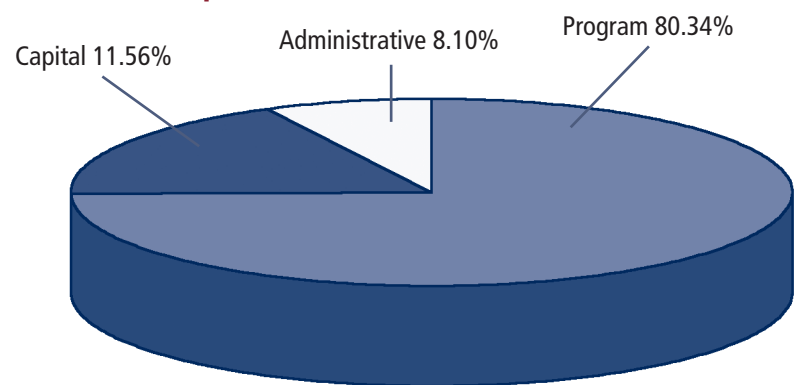
School tax	2017-18	2018-19	Estimated Change*
Without STAR exemption	\$3,232	\$3,275	\$43
With Basic STAR	\$2,595	\$2,625	\$30
With Enhanced STAR for seniors	\$1,889	\$1,905	\$16

* The final tax rate is set in August after the City of Albany finalizes its tax assessments and those assessments are reviewed by the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services.

Estimated revenue



Estimated expenditures



Proposed 2018-19 school budget

(continued from page 1)

The budget proposal is supported by an increase of about \$3 million in the district's state Foundation Aid, as well as investments of just over \$6 million from the district's fund balance and reserves.

The proposed budget also would fund \$36 million in payments and expenses related to charter schools.

Some 46.3 percent of the budget's estimated revenue – \$115.5 million – would come from local property taxes. State aid would contribute 40.5 percent, or \$100.9 million. The remainder would come from a variety of sources (see estimated revenue chart and graph on this page).

Please visit the 2018-19 Budget News section at www.albanyschools.org for more information. You also can call (518) 475-6065 to schedule a presentation for your group before the May 15 vote.

Estimated revenue, or where the money will come from

	2017-18	2018-19	\$ Change
Federal Aid	\$850,000	\$1,170,000	\$320,000
Fund Balance	5,850,000	4,800,000	-\$1,050,000
Local Revenue	14,485,000	15,730,000	1,245,000
State Building Aid	9,638,912	10,550,042	911,130
Other State Aid	95,354,494	100,971,569	5,617,075
Use of Reserves	0	711,567	711,567
Property Tax Levy	113,999,102	115,514,377	1,515,275
Total Revenue	\$240,177,508	\$249,447,555	\$9,270,047

Proposed expenditures, or where the money will be spent

	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	\$ Change
Program Budget	\$193,910,500	\$200,416,974	\$6,506,474
Instruction	149,786,272	153,998,054	4,211,782
Charter Schools Payments	34,222,090	35,955,974	1,733,884
Pupil Transportation	8,853,649	9,338,515	484,866
Athletics	1,048,489	1,124,431	75,942
Capital Budget	\$27,395,279	\$28,832,154	\$1,436,875
Debt Payments and Borrowings	14,236,484	15,143,668	907,184
Building Rentals	165,818	168,305	2,487
Operations/Maintenance/Capital	9,807,977	9,850,181	42,204
Utilities	2,685,000	2,670,000	-15,000
Tax Refunds and Judgments	500,000	1,000,000	500,000
Administrative Budget	\$18,871,729	\$20,198,427	\$1,326,698
School Supervision	16,695,205	18,033,022	1,337,817
Property and Liability Insurance	607,300	612,500	5,200
Printing, Mailing and Data Processing	1,226,756	1,240,437	13,681
Legal and Other Services	342,468	312,468	-30,000
Total Expenditures	\$240,177,508	\$249,447,555	\$9,270,047



Capital Education is published by the City School District of Albany.

Please direct comments about the newsletter,

story ideas and questions to

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Lisa Angerame at (518) 475-6066 or langerame@albany.k12.ny.us.

City School District of Albany
1 Academy Park
Albany, New York 12207

What voters will see on the May 15 ballot

Albany residents will be asked to consider three propositions and vote for three Board of Education members on Tuesday, May 15.

Two of the propositions are directly related to the City School District of Albany; the third is related to the Albany Public Library.

The first proposition asks voters to consider the proposed \$249.4 million school budget for 2018-19. Here's what will appear on the ballot:

Proposition #1

Shall the resolution adopted by the Board of Education on April 12, 2018 authorizing the City School District of Albany to expend the sum in the amount of \$249,447,555 during the 2018-19 school year, and to levy a tax therefore be approved?

YES NO

The second school district proposition asks voters to consider a no-cost proposal that would allow the district to set aside more money in a Capital Reserve Fund – a savings account for long-term building projects. (See related story, page 1.) Here is what will appear on the ballot:

Proposition #2

Shall the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany be authorized to (1) create a new Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing the purchase of, and general improvement, reconstruction, renovations or additions to the District's buildings, including the acquisition of sites, site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings are to be used; (2) the maximum amount for such fund shall be capped at \$18,000,000; (3) deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund such portion of the General Fund, unallocated fund balance and/or the unencumbered proceeds from the sale of school buildings as determined by the Board of Education? The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is twelve (12) years.

YES NO

Voters also will be asked to consider a \$7.15 million tax levy proposed by the Albany Public Library. This proposition is unrelated to the school district budget and will not affect school taxes. Here's what will appear on the ballot:

For more information on the library budget vote, please call Stephanie Simon at (518) 427-4344.

Proposition #3

Shall the sum of \$7,153,022.00 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the City School District of Albany for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Albany Public Library?

YES NO

New this year: May school board elections

Three of seven seats on the City School District of Albany Board of Education are up for election May 15: two four-year terms and one one-year term. The top two vote-getters each will serve a four-year term. The candidate receiving the third-most votes will serve the one-year term of office. (Learn more in the related story on page 1.)



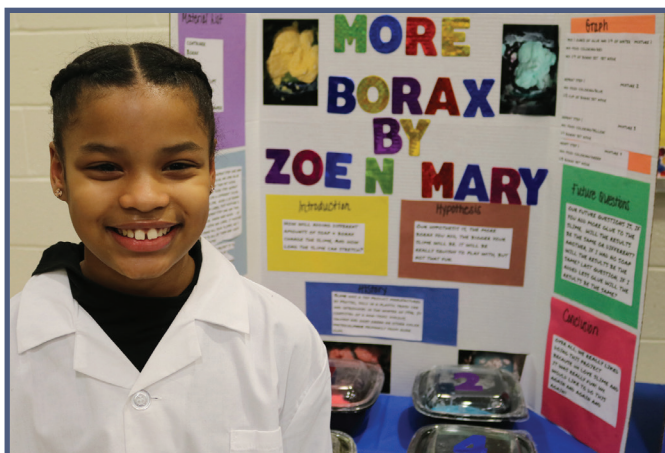
Albany High School senior Gabrielle Rodriguez prepares for a pitch in the Lady Falcons softball game against Colonie on April 11. Girls' softball is one of 58 competitive sports teams the budget plan would support for students in grades 7-12.



Trumpeter Sasha Post-Lais, an eighth-grader at Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School, took a break to chat while the All-City Middle School Band took the stage on March 21. The City School District of Albany's proposed budget funds band, chorus and orchestra classes for students from grade 3 to grade 12.



From left, Faris Almoussa, Meshaki Lubila and Ayoub Muhammad Ismail, fourth-graders at Sheridan Preparatory Academy, dressed as crayons from the book "The Day the Crayons Quit" on March 1 at their school's Living Literature Day. The City School District of Albany's 2018-19 budget plan supports English language arts programs throughout its 18 schools starting with the youngest learners.



Eagle Point Elementary School fourth-grader Zoe Crawford showed off her smarts on March 8 at the school's science fair. The City School District of Albany is investing in its science and technology programs in the proposed 2018-19 school budget.

Our schools by the numbers

- **0.634** – The average tax-levy increase over the past five years in the City School District of Albany if the current budget proposal is approved May 15.
- **1** – Place the Albany High School robotics team earned at the 2018 New York Tech Valley Regional FIRST Robotics Team event.
- **1.33** – Percent tax-levy increase in the proposed 2018-19 budget – the first increase proposed in three years
- **2** – Albany High School JROTC cadets, Irene Nelson and Christina Black, who will represent the district this summer at the American Legion Auxiliary Empire Girls State program
- **3** – Times the Albany High all-female Albanettes a capella choir has performed for Gov. Cuomo during his tenure
- **15** – Albany High students who toured historically black colleges and universities over spring break (Thanks to our partners at the Black Child Development Institute and the YMCA!)
- **19** – Students in grades 4-7 who won medals at the 2018 Joseph Henry Science Fair
- **21** – Date in July for the district's annual Summer Celebration and Safety Day
- **57** – Languages spoken by district students
- **58** – Sports teams for students in grades 7-12
- **79** – People inducted into the City School District of Albany Hall of Fame since 2009 (six more to come in September!)
- **103** – Wins Decky Lawson has earned in his six years as Albany High's girls' basketball coach
- **350** – Pieces of art by district students K-8 featured at the Empire State Plaza Youth Art Exhibition this March
- **879** – Classrooms throughout the district
- **1,092** – Number of prekindergarten spots for 3- and 4-year-olds for the 2018-19 school year
- **1,167** – Albany High senior Jahlil Young's six-game score in the state bowling tournament in March – the top score from Section II!
- **1,600-plus** – Fathers and father-figures who turned out to support their children's education during Dads Take Your Child to School Day last fall
- **4,900** – Pieces of pizza served every Friday, on average, in district cafeterias
- **4,986** – People following the district's Facebook page (Join them at facebook.com/albanyschools)
- **5,424** – People signed up for School News Notifier, or SNN (Join them at albanyschools.org/SNN)
- **8,000** – Milk cartons served each day, on average, in district cafeterias
- **120,000** – Square feet in Albany High's new academic building, which will be ready for the 2019-20 school year
- **(518) 475-6015** – Phone number to call to schedule a budget presentation for your organization before the May 15 vote.

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Polling locations

**Remember to vote
Tuesday, May 15
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

Find your voting location below, or visit the searchable online directory in the 2018-19 Budget News section at www.albanyschools.org. If you have additional questions, please call (518) 475-6015.

Please note: If you voted at Mater Christi School in the past, your voting location has changed. You now will vote at Bethany Reformed Church, located at 760 New Scotland Ave.

1 st Ward, Districts 1 – 9 City Parks and Recreation Building 7 Hoffman Ave.	8 th Ward, Districts 5 – 9 Albany School of Humanities 108 Whitehall Road
2 nd Ward, Districts 1 – 11 Giffen Memorial Elementary School 274 South Pearl St.	9 th Ward, Districts 1 – 9 New Scotland Elementary School 369 New Scotland Ave.
3 rd Ward, Districts 1 – 9 Sheridan Preparatory Academy 400 Sheridan Ave.	10 th Ward, Districts 1 – 8 Pine Hills Elementary School 41 North Allen St.
4 th Ward, Districts 1 – 8 North Albany Academy 570 North Pearl St.	11 th Ward, Districts 1 – 10 Albany High School 700 Washington Ave.
5 th Ward, Districts 1 – 7 Arbor Hill/West Hill Library 148 Henry Johnson Blvd.	12 th Ward, Districts 1 – 3 Teresian House 200 Washington Ave. Extension
6 th Ward, Districts 1 – 8 William S. Hackett Middle School 45 Delaware Ave.	12 th Ward, Districts 4 – 8 Montessori Magnet School 45 Tremont St.
7 th Ward, Districts 1 – 5 Delaware Community School 43 Bertha St.	13 th Ward, Districts 1 – 7 Pine Hills Elementary School 41 North Allen St.
7 th Ward, Districts 6 – 9 William S. Hackett Middle School 45 Delaware Ave.	14 th Ward, Districts 1 – 8 <i>(new voting location)</i> Bethany Reformed Church 760 New Scotland Ave.
8 th Ward, Districts 1 – 4 <i>(new voting location)</i> Bethany Reformed Church 760 New Scotland Ave.	15 th Ward, Districts 1 – 8 Eagle Point Elementary School 1044 Western Ave.

Voting requirements

To vote on the City School District of Albany's proposed 2018-19 budget, you must be:

- Registered to vote with the Albany County Board of Elections by Tuesday, May 1, 2018;
- At least 18 years old; and
- A citizen of the United States for at least 30 days before the vote.

For more information, please contact Paula Tibbitts, clerk of the Board of Education, at (518) 475-6015.

Absentee ballots

Anyone the Albany County Board of Elections designates as having a permanent disability automatically will be sent an absentee ballot.

Others who want to vote with an absentee ballot because of illness, hospitalization, vacation, studies, business or incarceration must apply for the absentee ballot.

You can call (518) 475-6015 to have an application mailed to you, or you can download one from the 2018-19 Budget News section at www.albanyschools.org. You also can pick up an application from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the board clerk's office in Academy Park on Elk Street.

If you want the absentee ballot mailed to your home, you must mail the completed application to the district clerk seven days before the vote – by Tuesday, May 8. If you want to pick up your ballot at the district office, you must have your completed application to the board clerk by 4 p.m. the day before the budget vote – Monday, May 14, at which time you will complete your vote.

All absentee ballots must be returned to the district clerk by 5 p.m. the day of the school budget vote – **Tuesday, May 15.**

What happens if the budget is not approved?

State law gives the Board of Education three alternatives if voters do not approve the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 15:

- Put the same budget up for another vote;
- Present a revised budget for voter consideration; or
- Adopt a contingency budget.

If the board presents a revised budget and it is turned down, a contingency budget must be adopted.

For 2018-19, a contingency budget would be \$247,932,280 and would hold the tax levy to its current level as required by state law. In addition, a contingency budget requires cuts to specific areas; the district would need to eliminate about \$1,515,275 from the current proposed 2018-19 budget to meet those contingency requirements.

The state closely regulates any district operating under a contingency budget, prohibiting spending on student supplies, equipment and certain raises, to name a few items. Also, community groups have to pay to use school buildings during a contingency budget.

This would mean that, in addition to the prohibited spending noted above, the district would have to consider cuts to its staffing and programs to meet the new contingency requirements.