



It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

SPECIAL 2013-2014 BUDGET ISSUE

MAINTAINING ALL PROGRAMS *Within the Tax Levy Cap*

A Message from YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

Dear Residents,

For the past several months, our District administrators and Board of Education Trustees have been working together to develop a proposed 2013-2014 school budget that supports and maintains the quality of education that makes us so proud of our schools. It has become increasingly challenging to offer our students the level of education they require and our community expects. The 2013-2014 school year will be the second year of the state-mandated tax levy cap, which limits the amount of revenue that school districts can raise through the tax levy. This legislation requires every district to calculate its own tax levy cap based upon a complicated formula provided by the state.

The proposed budget maintains all academic programs, music and fine arts programs, clubs and after-school activities, provides for additional security equipment and does not exceed the allowable tax levy limit. It requires a simple majority approval of 50% plus one. As we implement the more

rigorous Common Core Learning Standards across all grades, we are also holding our educators accountable under the Annual Professional Performance Review. Doing more with less is a way of life now. We have worked diligently to preserve a high-quality education for our children and provide the best education we can offer.

So many of our parents and residents attend school events and can observe firsthand the amazing things our children are achieving. Some of our programs are chronicled in this publication. Our children shine in the arts, mathematics, reading, science and technology. We have had the opportunity, unique to Valley Stream, to view the numerous accomplishments of our students at the annual Lights on for Education event held on April 4 at Memorial Junior High School. Just witnessing the hundreds of people attending this event is enough to confirm that our community highly values education. If you missed it, be sure to attend next year!

As you begin to learn more about the



proposed 2013-2014 budget for Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen, you can be certain that it was carefully prepared with the interests of our children front and center while remaining mindful of the current economic climate and our responsibilities to our taxpayers. We hope you will attend the budget presentations during the next several weeks, ask questions and become an informed voter. The budget hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the James A. Dever School cafeteria.

It is truly a treasure of our democratic system that we can walk into a polling place and express our views. I urge everyone to take the opportunity of the school budget vote to do just that.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Greco Jacobs,
Board of Education President



Proposed budget preserves all academic, music and fine arts programs, all clubs and after-school activities...

**REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013
6 A.M. - 9 P.M.**

ACHIEVING SUCCESS THROUGH TEAMWORK

BUILDING UPON A RICH HISTORY OF SUCCESS

PARENT/COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

- Parents as Reading Partners
- Parent Universities
- Intergenerational Reading Partners
- District Volleyball Tournament
- Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged
- Wellness Nights
- Shared Decision Making
- Pride Committees
- Emergency Phone and Text Alert System
- Parent Portal
- Email Notification System
- Parent Education Programs
- Summer Recreation Programs

RICH & DIVERSE CURRICULUM

- Implementation of Common Core Learning Standards
- Differentiation of Instruction
- Focus on 21st Century Skills
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Research-Based and Evidence-Proven Support Programs
 - Read 180
 - Waterford Reading
 - Wilson Reading Program
 - Foundations
- Outstanding Musicians and Artists
- Comprehensive Science Program
- Wide Range of Special Education Services and Programs
- Bilingual Social Work Services
- Ongoing Professional Development and Mentoring
- Training Opportunities for Support Staff
- Students Meet/Exceed State Performance Standards

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- SMART Tables
- Interactive White Boards and Tables
- Student Response Systems
- Video Streaming
- Videoconferences
- iPods
- Online Resources – Encyclopedias and Databases
- E-Books
- Informative District Website
- Online Research Tool

DEFINING A HIGH-VALUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

A high-value school district can be identified in a number of ways. Below are some of the qualities that define Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen as a high-value school district:

- **Curriculum exceeding New York State Standards and aligned with Common Core Learning Standards**
- **Technology-integrated instruction**
- **Safe and secure environment conducive to student success**
- **Outstanding art, music and physical education programs**
- **Districtwide health and wellness program**
- **Ongoing character education and anti-bullying programs**
- **Student, faculty, parent and community partnerships**
- **Formidable financial oversight**



Cost Saving Initiatives

- **Transportation** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen is a founding member of the Southwest Quadrant Transportation Cooperative, which allows for the sharing of yellow school bus service for all private and parochial school students within the district's transportation guidelines.
- **Food Services** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen participates with District 30 and the Central High School District in a cooperative food service program. The cooperative is able to take advantage of reduced food costs and shared administrative expenses including clerical, accounting and auditing costs.
- **Insurance – Workers' Compensation** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen is one of the charter members of the Nassau County School Cooperative Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Plan. The District's Assistant Superintendent for Business has served as President of the Cooperative for the past 13 years. The District has realized over \$600,000 in premium savings versus the least expensive alternative - insuring through New York Safety Group 491. **Other Insurance** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen is also a founding member of the New York State Insurance Reciprocal, a consortium of school districts throughout the state. The reciprocal is run by school districts, for the benefit of school districts, providing coverages tailored to district needs at competitive rates.
- **Residency** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen cooperates with District 24 and the Central High School District in the provision of residency advisory services including the employment of a full-time residency officer. This cooperative arrangement reduces clerical and investigative costs.
- **Equipment and Supplies** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen participates in cooperative bidding, BOCES, New York State contracts and inter-municipal agreements for the purchase of equipment and supplies. The District also purchases gasoline at a reduced rate through a contract with the Village of Valley Stream.
- **Professional Development and Technology Services** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen joins with other school districts to share consultant expenses.
- **BOCES Services** – Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen joins with other Nassau County school districts to share services, such as special education, textbooks, health and safety support, and technology.

Important Information...

There is one Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen proposition for voter consideration:

Proposition No. 1: The District is presenting a proposed budget that represents a 3.89% increase over last year's budget. The tax levy associated with this budget adheres to the new tax levy limit.

Driving Forces Behind the Budget

- Maintain all academic programs
- Preserve all music and fine arts programs
- Maintain all clubs and after-school activities
- Support additional security equipment

Important Transportation Information

The current yellow bus transportation policy for eligible students in grades K-6 attending the four elementary schools in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen will remain in place for the 2013-2014 school year. Kindergarten through third-grade students residing one-half mile or greater and fourth through sixth-grade students residing one mile or greater from the school they attend will still be provided yellow school bus transportation.



A DETAILED LOOK AT PROPOSED 2013-2014 BUDGET

INSTRUCTION – 60.7% of Budget

	2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
Teaching - Regular School	\$14,749,626	\$14,732,024
Special Education	6,386,407	6,586,022
Curriculum Development	427,302	373,443
Supervision	1,292,311	1,265,197
Research & Development	4,250	4,250
Reading	1,454,573	1,486,904
Preschool	5,750	5,750
Gifted & Talented	121,396	124,853
Library	560,521	567,380
Computer-Assisted Instruction	764,081	712,499
Student Management System	56,500	58,195
Health Services	436,472	428,506
Psychological Services	540,737	576,448
Social Work Services	188,717	191,356
Total Instruction	\$26,988,643	\$27,112,827
% Change		0.5%

DISTRICT SUPPORT – 4.5% of Budget

Board of Education
District Clerk
District Meeting
Central Administration
Business Administration
Auditing
Treasurer
Legal Services
Personnel
Records Management
Public Information
Central Mailing
Central Data Processing
Insurance
School Dues
BOCES Administration
Refund of Property Taxes
Total District Support
% Change

TRANSPORTATION – 4.5% of Budget

	2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
Transportation	\$95,191	\$96,325
Contracted Transportation	2,072,863	1,889,497
Total Transportation	\$2,168,054	\$1,985,822
% Change		-8.4%

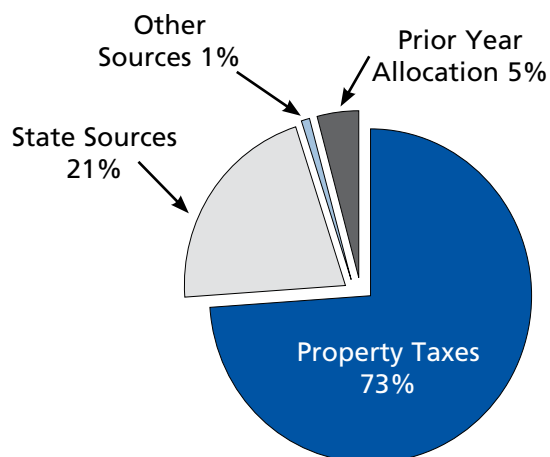
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE - 5.6%

Operations
Maintenance
Total Operations and Maintenance
% Change

SUMMARY OF 2013-2014 REVENUE

	2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
State Aid	\$8,879,320	\$9,099,310
Fund Balance Appropriations	1,875,000	1,875,000
Interest Earnings/Building Use	76,000	52,000
Summer Recreation	103,000	103,000
Tuition Other Districts	250,000	250,000
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	15,000	15,000
Misc. Revenue	12,500	12,500
Property Tax Levy	31,992,885	33,236,190
PILOT Payments	14,000	16,348
Revenue for Budget	\$43,217,705	\$44,659,348

PROPOSED BUDGET SOURCES OF REVENUE BY PERCENT



PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES

BET - \$44,659,348

DEBT SERVICE/TRANSFERS – 1.4% of Budget

2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014		2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
\$13,900	\$16,700	Construction	\$484,300	\$488,000
9,850	9,850	Interfund Transfer	80,000	80,000
21,900	22,500	TAN & Energy Performance Contract	54,656	54,711
329,023	329,482	Total Debt Service/Transfers	\$618,956	\$622,711
501,459	487,811	% Change		0.6%
91,000	91,000			
12,200	12,200			
137,000	167,000			
17,700	16,700			
9,500	10,900			
75,500	75,500			
12,800	12,900			
35,000	35,000			
259,500	265,500			
11,930	11,930			
247,816	262,437			
0	170,589			
\$1,786,078	\$1,988,999			
	11.4%			

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – 23.1% of Budget

*Government Mandated

	2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
Health Insurance	\$3,623,720	\$3,821,272
Teachers' Retirement*	2,567,411	3,569,312
Employees' Retirement*	686,160	722,198
Social Security (FICA)*	1,888,779	1,925,687
Workers' Compensation*	193,600	200,285
Unemployment*	61,500	91,500
Life Insurance	1,500	1,500
Disability Insurance	2,400	2,400
Total Employee Benefits	\$9,025,070	\$10,334,154
% Change		14.5%

of Budget

2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
\$1,912,296	\$1,910,682
\$615,608	\$601,608
\$2,527,904	\$2,511,835
	-0.6%

SUMMER RECREATION – .2% of Budget

	2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014
Summer Recreation	\$103,000	\$103,000
Total Summer Recreation	\$103,000	\$103,000
% Change		0%

TAX IMPACT ON THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER

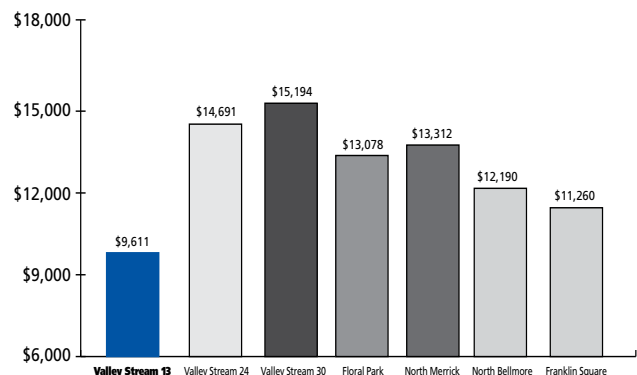
	2012-2013	Proposed 2013-2014	% Change
Elementary District	\$3,357.05	\$3,449.22	2.75%
High School District	\$3,427.01	\$3,474.01	1.37%
Combined Tax	\$6,784.06	\$6,923.23	2.05%

According to the Nassau County Department of Assessment the average home in Valley Stream UFSD thirteen has a market value of \$329,200.

The Elementary School Tax will increase \$92.17 per year or 25.2¢ per day!

Comparing Per Pupil Expenditures

Stretching Tax Dollars Further



Source: New York State Education Department (2012-2013)

WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUE FOR 2013-2014?

Based on current projections, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen estimated 2013-2014 revenues are broken down in the following manner:

State aid \$9,099,310
 Other revenues \$448,848
 Carryover from previous year \$1,875,000

TOTAL \$11,423,158

The remaining funds of \$33,236,190 that are needed to support the budget will be obtained through the set tax levy.

WHAT IS REVENUE?

The District receives revenue from four sources:

- State aid
- Other miscellaneous sources, including interest earnings and grants
- Carryover from prior year's operations
- Tax levy (remaining monies needed to support the budget)

USING RESERVES...

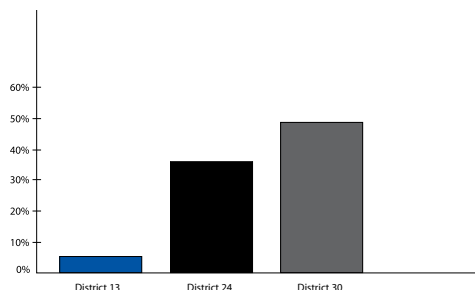
At the end of any fiscal year, districts have funds that were budgeted but not fully expended or revenues somewhat in excess of those planned. After returning significant portions of those funds to the taxpayers in

the ensuing fiscal year, the Board of Education places any additional funds in reserve accounts. These reserves serve to protect the District against unanticipated needs and/or a severe economic downturn such as the one we are currently experiencing. Part of the proposed 2013-2014 budget uses these reserve accounts and, thereby reduces the tax levy. As the state's fiscal difficulties continue, the Board anticipates utilizing significantly more of these funds in the upcoming years in order to control increases in property taxes. For the 2013-2014 proposed budget, the Board of Education has authorized the use of more than \$1,875,000 in fund balance and reserve funds.

What is a tax levy?

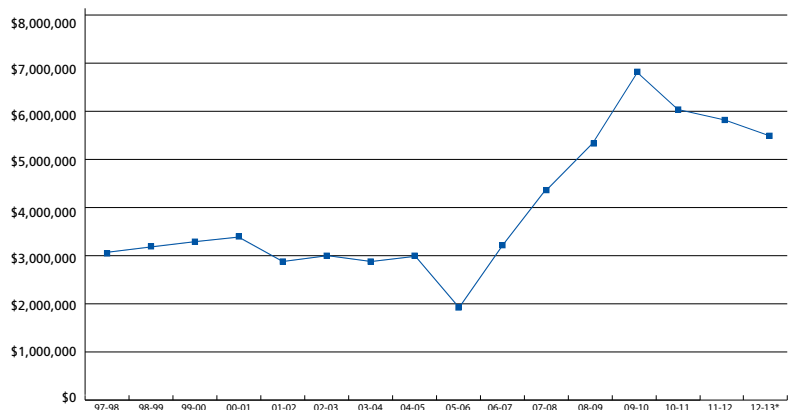
The tax levy is the amount of money determined by the Board of Education that needs to be raised in property taxes in order to balance the school budget. The District takes the total school budget and subtracts estimated revenues such as state aid, tuitions and fees. The remaining amount is what needs to be raised in property taxes.

PORTION OF TAX LEVY PAID BY COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS *



* Percentages based on current adjusted base proportion.

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN RESERVE FUNDS 1998 THROUGH 2013 (ESTIMATED *)



Questions & Answers

Q. What is a school budget?

A. A school district's annual budget is the best estimate made by the Board of Education and the administration of the funds needed to support a quality educational program for the upcoming school year.

Q. Does this budget include services for residents who do not have children in public schools?

A. Yes, as required by law, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen offers yellow school bus transportation, textbooks and special services such as speech and school health for all public and private school students. The District also makes its facilities available to community groups and organizations.

Q: Will transportation for students be preserved under the proposed budget?

A: Yes, all Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen students who are eligible under the District's current transportation guidelines will continue to receive yellow school bus transportation. Kindergarten through third-grade students residing one-half mile or greater and fourth through sixth-grade students residing one mile or greater from the school they attend will still be provided transportation.

Q. What percent of the budget represents administrative costs and what are some of these costs?

A. Administrative costs account for 10.42% of the total 2013-2014 proposed budget. These costs include the operation of the District offices, curriculum development and instructional administration, operation of the principals' offices, auditing, the District treasurer, legal expenses, public information and insurance. As with all areas of the budget, the District continually monitors these expenses to ensure that tax dollars are spent in the most efficient manner possible.

Q. What happens if the budget fails on May 21?

A. If the budget is defeated on May 21, state law allows the District to present either the same budget or a revised budget, which would include program cuts for one more vote. The cost of a second budget vote is approximately \$27,000. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the District must, by law, adopt a contingency budget.

Q. What is a contingency budget?

A. A contingency budget is the maximum amount authorized by law that a district can impose on the community if the school budget is voted down. New York State now mandates a limit on the tax levy associated with a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, more than \$1,200,000 would need to be removed in order to comply with New York State law.



Q. What are the restrictions under a contingency budget?

A. In addition to expenditure caps, the state imposes controls on certain district expenditures, including the elimination of all capital projects and severe restrictions on the use of school facilities by community members. The Board of Education may choose to make reductions or to eliminate programs which could include the summer recreation program, the use of buildings and fields by outside groups, instrumental music, field trips and extracurricular activities. Class size may also increase.

Q. Does the District seek alternative funding sources?

A. Yes. District personnel seek opportunities to secure funding from both public and private sources. The Grants Committee investigates funding opportunities offered by corporations and other private sector organizations. In cooperation with local legislators, the District seeks funding through special legislative grants for such projects as playground improvements, science and technology equipment.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. Detailed copies of the proposed 2013-2014 Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen budget are available in the District Office at 585 North Corona Avenue. Reference copies are available for inspection at all District schools. Budget information is also available on the District's website at www.valleystream13.com. In addition to obtaining information on the proposed budget from the sources listed above, the community can also stay informed by speaking with one of the District's Budget Ambassadors. To find out who your local Budget Ambassador is, please ask your school principal, look for the Budget Ambassador's identifying button or locate their names on the school's front door or on the District's website.



**2013-2014
Budget Information**
District Budget &
Trustee Vote
May 21, 2013
6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen
585 North Corona Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580-2099
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www.valleystream13.com

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REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013 • 6 A.M. - 9 P.M.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!
REMEMBER TO REGISTER AND VOTE

Public Budget Hearing -
Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m.
James A. Dever School Cafeteria

Last Day to Register to Vote -
Tuesday, May 14 from 5-9 p.m.
at Each School Building

BUDGET VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013
6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Voting will be in the District Thirteen school election district in which you live.
This is usually in the public school your child or your neighbor's child attends.

NEED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

District residents who will be unavailable for the annual budget vote and election on Tuesday, May 21 may obtain absentee ballots. Applications for ballots may be obtained at the office of the District Clerk and on the District's website at www.valleystream13.com. All ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

VOTER REQUIREMENTS

- In order to qualify to vote in the upcoming budget vote and trustee election:
- You must be a U.S. citizen.
 - You must be 18 years of age or older.
 - You must be a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
 - You must have registered to vote in the general elections or have voted in a school election within the last four years (between 2009-2012).



It's Elementary
VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Frank Chiachiere, Ph.D. Joan Gartner Joseph DiSibio
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