



*A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community – Excelling in a complex, interconnected, changing world*

# 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET

## Alignment of Resources with Our Strategic Plan

The 2021-22 proposed budget supports the importance of a safe, healthy environment for learning by providing resources for returning our buildings to full capacity.

We align our resources to focus on student learning from pre-k through grade 12 while supporting all curricular areas. This focus is intrinsically tied to our vision to be “an exemplary 21st Century learning community whose graduates are prepared to excel in a complex, interconnected, changing world.”

ESM’s current Strategic Plan (2018- 2023) communicates our high expectations for student learning integrated with our core values of educating the whole child and lifelong learning. The plan focuses on five priority areas:

- ◆ Teaching and Learning
- ◆ Technology for Teaching and Learning
- ◆ Communication and Community Engagement
- ◆ Professional Development and Employee Engagement
- ◆ Learning Environment Systems and Structures

Our Strategic Plan guides our work at the district, building, department and individual level. This includes the alignment of our time, resources and energy with the budget to support these priorities.

Our commitment to long-range financial planning and fiscal responsibility remains strong. Among the cost-saving measures in the budget are our energy performance contract, shared services and cooperative purchasing with BOCES, and operational efficiencies in building maintenance and transportation. Revenue-based measures include investment interest and federal revenue maximization strategies.

The final state budget changed significantly from the Governor’s proposed budget in January to the final

Legislative budget in April. A combination of federal stimulus funding and an increase in various state revenues raised state education aid over 2020-21 levels for all school districts.

Foundation Aid is a formula-driven, unrestricted state aid category created to support general public school district expenditures. The state budget includes a plan to fully phase-in Foundation Aid, reaching full funding in 2023-24.

ESM’s \$88,012,248 proposed 2021-22 budget adopted by the Board of Education on April 19 reflects careful stewardship and investment of enhanced state resources. This includes a minor \$100,000 capital project to replace cooler condensing units and a chemical neutralization system in the CHS science wing.

The budget also includes new debt service for Phase I of the Elementary Objective Capital Project, which is fully offset by a corresponding increase in state Building Aid. Without Debt Service and Interfund Transfers, the net budget increase for general operating costs is 3.4%.

On a home assessed at \$100,000, the overall tax bill increase for 2021-22 after the Basic STAR exemption would be approximately \$27.74 annually. For senior citizens with Enhanced STAR, the tax bill would increase an estimated \$11.97 for 2021-22. In general, the tax increase equates to approximately 40 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value annually. Please remember final assessments and equalization rates are not available until August at which time we will finalize the tax rate.

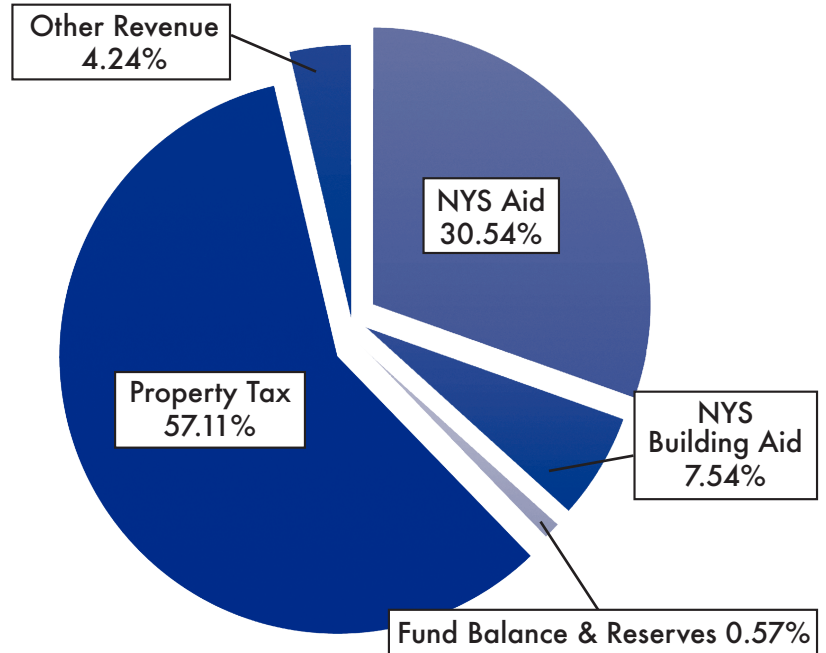
The state calculates a property tax cap for each district. ESM is under its tax cap with an estimated tax levy increase of 2.6%. However, the net taxpayer impact of the tax levy increase is actually just 1.36%. ESM receives revenue from Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements. Because several businesses/organizations have PILOTs ending in 2021-22, those properties will no longer pay PILOT to the district and will instead transition to paying the district via

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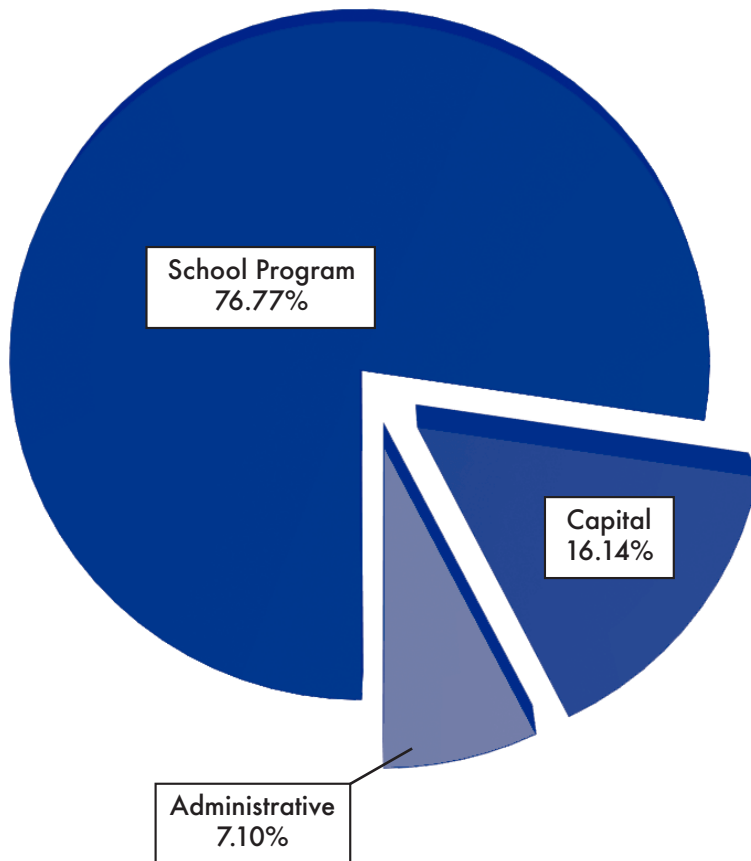
# 2021-2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

## Where does the School Budget money come from?

<b>2021-22 Revenue</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
New York State Aid	\$26,877,587
New York State Building Aid	\$6,636,004
Property Tax	\$50,264,643
Other Revenue	\$3,734,014
Fund Balance and Reserves	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,012,248</b>



## Three-Part Budget Summary



**Program Component:** At 76.77% of the total budget, it includes regular instruction, special education, occupational education, curriculum and staff development and summer school as well as pupil services such as health, guidance, library, co-curricular activities, athletics and transportation.

**Capital Component:** This represents 16.14% of the total budget, including expenses for the operation and maintenance of district facilities, building renovation costs, property tax refunds and employee benefits attributable to salaries for these functions.

**Administrative Component:** This represents 7.10% of the total budget, including expenses for instructional supervision, curriculum development, the Board of Education, school information officer, central administration, director of facilities, transportation supervisor, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing and employee benefits attributable to salaries for these functions.

# 2021-2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

## Alignment of Resources with Our Strategic Plan

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property taxes. This shift accounts for the greatest portion of the tax levy increase.

A public hearing to learn more about the budget is May 10 at 6 p.m., and will be held virtually through a videoconferencing format. Details on how to attend the hearing will be posted at [www.esmschools.org](http://www.esmschools.org).

We sincerely thank our ESM community for your continued engagement and support for the education of our youth.

## How Can I Learn More?

The public hearing on the budget is May 10 at 6 p.m. The hearing will be held virtually through a videoconferencing format. Details on how to attend the hearing will be posted at [www.esmschools.org/budget](http://www.esmschools.org/budget) on the School District's website. Questions and comments may also be directed to Katherine Skahen, Executive Director of School Business Administration, by e-mailing [kskahen@esmschools.org](mailto:kskahen@esmschools.org) or calling 315-434-3004.

## When and Where is the Vote?

The ESM Board of Education will hold its budget and school board member election on May 18 from noon to 9 p.m. in the ESM Central High School small gym, 6400 Fremont Road, East Syracuse. In-person voting will be conducted in a manner consistent with NYS Department of Health Guidelines.

## Who Can Vote?

To be eligible to vote in the school election, you must be: a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older and an ESM district resident for at least 30 days. No prior registration is required.

## Can I Get an Absentee Ballot?

Applications for absentee ballots for qualified voters may be obtained at the office of the School District Clerk at 407 Fremont Road, East Syracuse, NY, or by contacting the District Clerk's office at 315-434-3004. Any such applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the date of the vote and election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote and election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the District Office by 5:00 PM on May 18, 2021.

## For Additional Information:

A copy of the full budget is available at the ESM District Administrative Office, 407 Fremont Rd., East Syracuse. The full budget packet will also be available at [www.esmschools.org/budget](http://www.esmschools.org/budget) online.

## Propositions on the Ballot

### Proposition #1:

Proposed School Budget \$88,012,248.

### Proposition #2:

Purchase of School Buses not to exceed \$743,241.

### School Board Member Seats:

Voters will choose two candidates for two open School Board seats. The two candidates with the most votes will be elected to a four-year term.

### Bus Purchase Proposition:

The district is proposing to spend \$743,241 to purchase six 66-passenger buses. The new buses would ensure vehicle safety and replace the oldest and most expensive vehicles to maintain/repair. The District will use proceeds from the sale of Bond Anticipation Notes or Bonds to finance the bus purchases.



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**



# 2021-2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

## 2 Candidates Running for 2 Board of Education Seats

Voters will elect two candidates to the Board of Education during the upcoming vote. Each voter can choose two candidates for a four-year term. The candidates are Lori Aird and Susan Cain, who are incumbents running unopposed. Biographical information and a statement of the candidate's philosophy of education follow in the order they will appear on the ballot:

### Lori Aird



and her husband Daniel live in East Syracuse. They have three children: Dylan, Rachel and Dalton, who are all ESM grads.

A resident of the district for 19 years, Mrs. Aird is a program manager for SRC, Inc. She has a bachelor's degree from Clarkson University and is working on her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree

from SUNY Oswego.

She is currently a member of ESM's School to College and Career Advisory Board. She is a past treasurer of the ESM Marching Band Boosters and a past treasurer of ESM Youth Sports.

She enjoys golf and Sudoku puzzles.

**Philosophy of Education:** As a mother of three, I have seen firsthand that children mature and developed at their own pace, have unique interests, and respond to different learning styles. I believe in an education system that recognizes individual learning styles, motivates students to learn, and provides a safe learning environment.

The end goal of high school is not only a diploma, but to prepare students to be successful in the next chapter of their life, whether that is college, the military, or the workforce. It is important to prepare students socially, academically and provide them with the skills that enable success beyond high school. Just as important to the development of the whole child is the emphasis on serving the community we live in.

As a member of the Board of Education, I have and will advocate for our students to have a rich curriculum and learning opportunities to prepare them for global opportunities. This includes extra-curricular activities, as they help students develop leadership skills while giving them opportunities to be collaborative and learn how to problem solve.

### Susan Cain



and her husband, Todd, live in East Syracuse and have been ESM residents since 2002. They have two children — Abigail, currently attends ESM Central High School and Joshua is an ESM grad.

Mrs. Cain is currently Assistant Vice President and Market Operations and Risk Analyst with M&T Bank, where she has worked the past 24 years.

She has served as an ESM Board of Education member for almost five years.

She is currently a board member of the ESM Education Foundation and a member of the ESM Marching Band Boosters. She previously served five years as Fremont PTO Treasurer. Mrs. Cain has a bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Potsdam. She enjoys spending time with family as well as skiing, sailing and reading.

**Philosophy of Education:** My philosophy on education is that the school district has a responsibility to ensure students demonstrate a proficiency and understanding of the core curriculum. By doing so, students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in order to make them college or career ready.

I also believe every child is different with unique interests and talents. It is the responsibility of the school district to offer a curriculum of courses that fosters these interests and talents. When students have choices in their own education they take ownership and work harder to master the skills necessary to reach their individual goals.

A school board member should support the objectives of the district while representing the interest and voice for the community they serve.