IGNITE, INSPIRE, INNOVATE

UNIONDALE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

DISTRICT PROPOSES BUDGET PLAN TO MAINTAIN PROGRAMS WHILE ADDRESSING UNUSUAL TAX CAP CHALLENGE

As the Uniondale Union Free School District prepares its proposed 2026-2027 budget, District leaders are facing an unusual fiscal challenge: under New York State's formula, Uniondale's tax levy cap for the coming year is projected to be negative. In simple terms, remaining at the tax cap would mean starting the new school year with less revenue than the District had the year before.

At the same time, several factors outside the District's control are putting pressure on the budget. State Foundation Aid is expected to increase by just 1 percent, while costs for insurance, transportation, mandated payments to charter schools, and services for students with disabilities continue to rise.

To ensure that Uniondale scholars continue receiving the same high-quality educational opportunities, the District is proposing a 2 percent tax levy increase for 2026-2027. While this would technically exceed the tax cap due to this year's unusual circumstances, it is in line with the level of tax levy increases seen in Uniondale over the past decade.

The proposed budget maintains all core instructional programs, athletics, arts and music offerings, extracurricular activities, and after-school initiatives that families expect from Uniondale schools. During the planning process, District leaders also carefully reviewed enrollment trends and staffing needs, identifying efficiencies through thoughtful restructuring and by not filling certain vacated positions.

> ***"Our priority remains delivering an excellent education to every scholar we serve."***
>
> - Uniondale Board of Education

In the coming weeks, the District will continue discussing the proposal with the Board of Education and the community. Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed budget on May 19.

BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

At Your Local Elementary School

UNIONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT 2025-2026 ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Uniondale High School Earns AP School Honor Roll Distinction**

  Uniondale High School has been named to the AP School Honor Roll for the 2024-2025 school year, recognizing educators' commitment to expanding access to rigorous coursework and college readiness. Advanced Placement courses provide scholars with college-level academic exposure while still in high school, strengthening critical thinking and confidence. Research shows AP participation supports college enrollment and on-time graduation. This recognition reflects the dedication of students, families, teachers, counselors, and administrators who cultivate a strong college-going culture.

- **Healthcare Pathways in Action: Hofstra Interprofessional Day**

  Uniondale High School scholars participated in an engaging Interprofessional Day in partnership with Hofstra University. Through small-group discussions with faculty and students representing Nursing, BS/MD, Medicine, Occupational and Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant programs, scholars explored healthcare pathways. The experience expanded their understanding of careers in medicine and allied health fields while sparking interest in future healthcare studies. The District extends thanks to Hofstra University, Mrs. Gina Granger, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell for this opportunity.

- **Digital Literacy From Elementary to High School**

  Uniondale Public Schools prioritizes digital literacy across all grade levels. At the elementary level, students build foundational skills through coding platforms such as ScratchJr, Scratch, and Code.org, progressing from block-based activities to advanced problem-solving. Library instruction supports digital research skills, source evaluation, and exploration of themes that promote empathy and diversity. In middle and high school, instruction includes AI ethics, media literacy, and responsible digital citizenship. Scholars examine privacy, bias, fairness, and the real-world impact of technology, preparing them to navigate today's digital landscape thoughtfully.

- **Super Science Saturdays Inspire Young Engineers**

  Elementary scholars and families participate in hands-on learning during Super Science Saturdays held throughout the year. At California Avenue Elementary School, for example, a recent Super Science Saturday saw students complete a Table Sailboat Engineering Challenge,

exploring balanced and unbalanced forces. Using the engineering design process, scholars designed, built, tested, and refined wind-powered sailboats, analyzing how sail size and shape influenced motion. These experiences strengthen scientific thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills while making STEM learning engaging for families.

- **On-Site Admissions Events Yield Major College Success**

  The College & Career Room hosted successful on-site admissions events, welcoming representatives from Molloy University, Mercy University, SUNY Old Westbury, Nassau Community College, and Long Island University. More than 20 students earned $350,000 in merit scholarships from Molloy University totaling $1.4 million over four years. Scholars also received immediate admissions into competitive programs, including Nursing, Pharmacy, and Education. These events provided direct access to higher education opportunities and reinforced the District's commitment to college and career readiness.

- **Hofstra Uniondale Pathway Program (HUPP) Expands College Access**

  Now in its third year, the Hofstra Uniondale Pathway Program (HUPP) continues to expand opportunities through its partnership with Hofstra University. Each year, 15 scholars are selected through a competitive process to attend weekly college-level classes on Hofstra's campus. Participants strengthen skills in writing, research, communication, and media analysis while building independence and time management. Upon completion, scholars earn six transferable college credits. The program's impact is evident, with five scholars earning full college scholarships, including four HUPP scholarships to Hofstra University.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-2027

	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE (9%)				
BOARD OF EDUCATION	$ 245,487	$ 252,238	$ 6,751	2.75%
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE	509,001	541,883	32,882	6.46%
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	2,365,673	2,498,721	133,048	5.62%
LEGAL	370,000	455,000	85,000	22.97%
PERSONNEL OFFICE	666,460	689,815	23,355	3.50%
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	1,824,129	1,882,044	57,915	3.17%
UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	1,443,778	1,698,156	254,378	17.62%
BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,244,364	1,292,894	48,530	3.90%
CURRICULUM DEVEL & SUPERVISION	4,275,371	4,319,377	44,006	1.03%
SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL	6,926,230	6,746,670	(179,560)	-2.59%
BENEFITS	6,299,871	6,686,234	386,363	6.13%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	**$ 26,170,364**	**$ 27,063,032**	**$ 892,668**	**3.41%**
PROGRAM (80%)				
TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	104,516,538	103,080,280	(1,436,258)	-1.37%
TEACHING-SPECIAL SCHOOLS	38,987,071	42,040,866	3,053,795	7.83%
LIBRARY, MEDIA, INST. TECHNOLOGY	4,796,310	4,874,862	78,552	1.64%
GUIDANCE, PSYCH, SOCIAL WORK, HEALTH SVCS	10,329,717	10,333,388	3,671	0.04%
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	829,750	859,750	30,000	3.62%
INTERSCHOL ATHLETICS	1,452,599	1,777,616	325,017	22.37%
TRANSPORTATION	17,886,786	20,070,008	2,183,222	12.21%
RECREATION	102,950	104,990	2,040	1.98%
CENTRAL REGISTRATION	417,915	346,021	(71,894)	-17.20%
BENEFITS	49,918,978	53,334,106	3,415,128	6.84%
TRANSFER TO SPECIAL AID	325,000	325,000	0	0.00%
TOTAL PROGRAM	**$ 229,563,614**	**$ 237,146,887**	**$ 7,583,273**	**3.30%**
CAPITAL (11%)				
OPERATION OF PLANT	14,569,929	16,575,700	2,005,771	13.77%
BENEFITS	3,779,923	4,079,301	299,378	7.92%
DEBT SERVICE	11,977,275	11,945,524	(31,751)	-0.27%
TOTAL CAPITAL	**$ 30,327,127**	**$ 32,600,525**	**$ 2,273,398**	**7.50%**
TOTAL THREE PART FORMAT	**$ 286,061,105**	**$ 296,810,444**	**$ 10,749,339**	**3.76%**

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES 2026-2027

	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
TAX LEVY	$ 137,928,447	$ 140,687,016	$ 2,758,569	2.00%
PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes)	12,007,851	12,007,851		
INTEREST ON PROPERTY TAXES	15,000	15,000		
ADULT ED TUITION	10,000	10,000		
TEXTBOOK CHARGES	500	500		
NON-RES. STUDENT TUITION FEES	20,000	20,000		
ADMISSIONS FOR SWIMMING	1,000	10,000	9,000	900%
FOSTER TUITION/ PARENTALLY PLACED	150,000	150,000		
HEALTH SERVICES-OTHER DISTRICTS	1,750,000	1,750,000		
INTEREST AND EARNINGS	10,000	10,000		
RENTAL OF INSTRUMENTS	10,000	10,000		
SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY	5,000	5,000		
INSURANCE RECOVERIES	125,000	125,000		
REFUND OF PRIOR YEAR'S EXPENSE	500,000	500,000		
UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES	190,000	190,000		
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	2,000,000	2,000,000		
GROSS STATE AID	119,864,901	127,846,671	7,981,770	6.66%
ROTC-OTHER FEDERAL AID	90,000	90,000		
APPROPRIATED RESERVES	6,404,639	6,404,639		
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	4,978,767	4,978,767		
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 286,061,105**	**$ 296,810,444**	**$ 10,749,339**	**3.76%**

TAX INFORMATION

COMPUTATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Proposed Budget 2026-2027	$	296,810,444
Less Projected Revenues	$	(144,740,022)
Less Transfers from Reserves	$	(11,383,406)
Estimated Tax Levy	$	140,687,016
Budget Percent Increase		3.76%
Tax Levy 2026-2027	$	140,687,016
Dollar Change	**$**	**2,758,569**
Percent Change		**2.00%**

The 2026-2027 budget represents a 3.76% increase in spending over the 2025-2026 school budget. This results in a 2.00% tax levy increase. Tax rates and assessments are handled by the Nassau County Department of Assessment, not the school district. It is not possible to accurately predict the specific tax impact on an individual property, as assessments may vary from year to year.

FOR HOMEOWNERS, STAR TAX RELIEF PROVIDES ADDITIONAL SAVINGS

VOTER INFORMATION

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the proposed budget and related matters will be held on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Uniondale High School. Board members and administrators will be present to answer any questions.

BUDGET VOTE

Voting on the proposed budget proposition and for candidates to fill Board of Education trustee positions will take place on Tuesday, May 19, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at your local elementary school. Copies of the detailed statement of the proposed budget will be available in each school in the District and the business office during school days between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Copies will also be available in the office of the district clerk on Saturday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

In order to vote, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, and you must be a District resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Eligible voters include those who have voted in school district elections within the last four years, those who are registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections, and residents who registered during the District's registration periods.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND EARLY MAIL VOTING BALLOTS

Applications for absentee and early mail ballots must be received by the district clerk one week prior to the vote. If a voter intends to pick up the ballot in person, that application must be received at the district clerk's office at least one day before the election. All completed ballots must be filed with the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the vote. Persons designated by the Nassau County Board of Elections as "permanently disabled" need not make an application, since they will automatically receive an absentee ballot by mail.

REGISTRATION

Registration of voters will take place on Thursday, May 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at your local elementary school. If you registered and/or voted in this school district's election in the past four years, or in the general election, you need not re-register to vote on May 19.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE DISTRICT CLERK AT (516) 560-8945

PUBLIC HEARING:

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Uniondale High School

BUDGET VOTE:

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
At Your Local Elementary School