



# Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School

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Dear Binghamton Families,

The Binghamton City School District has recently finalized its proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year. The budget newsletter can be viewed on our [website](#). The \$123,683,883 budget represents an increase of 1.78 percent from the 2019-2020 school year. If approved by voters, it would result in a tax levy of 1.95 percent, which is the tax levy limit. Voters will also be voting on two open seats on the board of education. All voting will be done by absentee ballot.

The 2020-2021 school budget seeks to sustain the programming and resources that our children need and deserve. The district remains committed to being fiscally responsible to taxpayers, in both the short and long term. We've had to make difficult budgetary decisions due to the financial crisis school districts around the state are currently facing. We are also mindful of potential additional cuts in the event New York State does not receive federal stimulus funding for education due to COVID-19. As with many small city school districts, Binghamton is more dependent on state aid than other districts in the state. The reduction in state aid is devastating, and we continue to fight for equitable decisions.

As with every decision we make as educators, our first and foremost priority while crafting this budget was the well being of our students. We are striving to support student success and maintain strong educational programs. To minimize the impact of reductions on any single program, we looked across the three-part budget and made equitable reductions across the board. There are 59 positions in this budget that have been eliminated, more than half of which will be through attrition. While these cuts are significant, we worked diligently to minimize the impact on instructional programs as much as possible. We reconfigured administrative responsibilities to make them more efficient and eliminated non-mandated aide positions for some programs. These reductions were made while preserving student safety and success. Also included under the capital component is funding for a secure vestibule at Horace Mann Elementary School.

This pandemic has affirmed the vital role schools play in our communities. BCSD schools are true community schools. Our buildings provide more than academic programming – through community partnerships and collaboration, we're able to connect our families with resources that support the learning and wellbeing of our students, families, and neighborhoods. Binghamton students receive a diverse, high-quality public education that will provide them college and career readiness. They have access to a vast array of athletic, fine arts, and extracurricular activities. Our children continue to progress, thrive, and excel. They are shining examples of the impact of the rigor, programs, and opportunities that are found within our district, and we look forward to continuing that great work. Thank you for your continued care for our students and schools.

With Patriot Pride,

Dr. Tonia Thompson  
Superintendent of Schools

***Educating, empowering and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.***