

The Southern Way

SYCSD 2018-2019 Proposed Final Budget

Changing the lives of our students ... one Warrior at a time!



Proposed Budget Approval – Summary

The Southern York County School District Board of Education approved a proposed \$57.2 million budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The proposed budget includes an assumption of no increased state funding, \$1.5 million use of fund balance, and a 2.48% real estate tax increase.

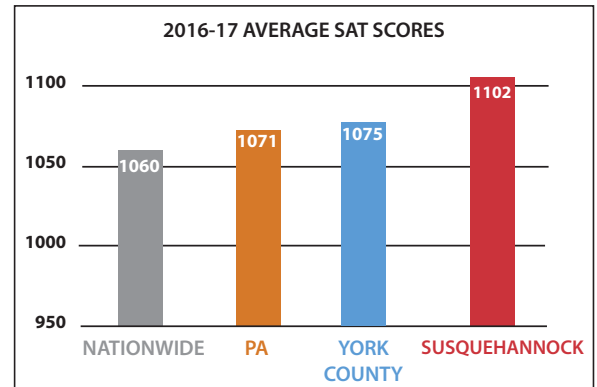
The proposed budget, approved by the Board of Education on April 19, 2018, is based upon the priorities of providing an excellent educational program to prepare our students for the 21st century while maintaining our outstanding facilities at a level our community supports. To meet these priorities, the budget includes restoration of several teaching positions, required funding for charter school and other placements, curriculum additions, and a phase-in of debt service for building renovations.

Superintendent Dr. Sandra Lemmon stated, “The Board and administration are pleased to present a budget that we believe provides the resources to prepare our students for the ever-changing world, while maintaining a culture of fiscal responsibility.”

Fiscal Responsibility – Return on Investment

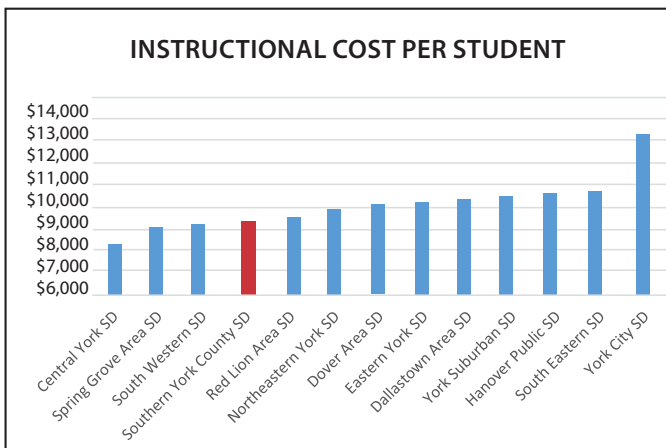
A primary responsibility of the School Board and Administration is to ensure that public funds are spent in a responsible and cost-effective manner. We have an impressive rate of return, especially considering our low tax rate and high student achievement, in comparison to other York County school districts. We pay careful attention to the proper use of all resources and implementation of the highest accounting and reporting standards.

Susquehannock students performed well beyond the national, state, and York County averages on the SAT even though the most recent instructional cost per student is one of the lowest in the County. These scores are a good indicator of overall student achievement from kindergarten through twelfth grade.



2018-19 Budget-at-a Glance

Funding of public education continues to be the most volatile issue in Pennsylvania politics. State and federal revenues fund less than one-third of the cost of education, requiring the majority of the cost to be funded at the local level. To balance the budget, it will be necessary to increase our real estate tax rate next year. Nevertheless, compared to other York County school districts in the Lincoln Intermediate Unit, our real estate tax rate is the lowest. Our extensive process to prioritize needs continues to be an effective way to control our expenditures. This approach requires annual review of every budgeted expenditure.



There has been much discussion in recent years about property tax reform and the role of real estate taxes. It is important to note that school real estate taxes assessed in Southern York County go directly to the District to fund the education of the community's students.

District	Millage 2017-18
York City	33.7361
Northeastern	26.0900
West York	24.2238
Dallastown	23.6600
Eastern	23.2600
York Suburban	22.7495
Spring Grove	22.6768
Red Lion	22.2791
South Eastern	22.2503
Hanover	21.9900
Dover	21.9340
South Western	19.4300
Central	19.3500
Southern	18.9200
Southern 18-19 2.48% (Proposed)	19.3900

Revenues

As noted, the majority of the revenue is from local sources, specifically real estate taxes. Growth in the real estate tax base is estimated at 0.70%. There is also expected growth of approximately 2% in earned income tax revenue. In addition, we have budgeted increases for realty transfer taxes and earnings on temporary investments. All other local revenue is basically unchanged for 2018-19.

The proposed budget includes a tax increase of 2.48%, which is below the allowable index of 2.9%. The tax rate has not been approved at this time. The tax rate is expected to be set at the May school board meeting. The Board passed a resolution that taxes cannot go above the index of 2.9%. The Board and administration seriously consider the impact an increase in taxes has on its community members. While many districts adhere to a policy of raising taxes to the allowable index each year, that is not the policy at Southern. While there are still many unfunded needs, it is understood that the tax burden must be factored into the decision.

Expenditures

The 2018-19 budgeted expenditures are \$1,902,967 or 3.44% higher than 2017-18. The majority of the increase is comprised of restoration of several professional and support staff positions, state-mandated retirement rate increases, and significant increases in other purchased services.

The budget priorities include:

1. Continue to build an outstanding educational program
2. Maintain overall teacher to student ratio
3. Maintain all educational programs, including co-curricular and extra-curricular activities

4. Continue to offer Advanced Placement educational programs for secondary students
5. Infuse technology into the educational program
6. Maintain outstanding physical plant and meet new safety code requirements
7. Restore staff and supplies/equipment where most needed
8. Continuous review and update of safety measures

Based upon the budget priorities, changes were made to the budget including, restoring two professional staff positions, a paraprofessional position, and a minimal portion of summer maintenance and custodial staff. With the addition of the two teaching positions, there will be 225 professional positions for 2018-19 compared to 248 in 2009-10. There are 23 less teachers than in 2009-10 even though enrollment district-wide is only lower by 41 students.

Other budget additions include a Digital Academy professional staff position, additional supplemental hours for Digital Academy teachers, and a contracted school resource officer. Enrollment in our Digital Academy has exceeded 50 students and to date we have not hired staff for the program. To grow the program and encourage families to utilize our internal program instead of an outside charter option, we felt it was imperative that we now hire staff for the program.

Additional Information

As a partner with our families and community, and stewards of our citizens' tax dollars, the Board of Education and the administrative team of the Southern York County School District embrace the importance of open, thorough, and regular communication with our citizens. A detailed copy of the budget

is on our website at www.sycsd.org. Please contact the School District at 717-235-4811, extension 7278 or susan.green@sycsd.org if you have any questions, concerns, or would like additional information related to the budget.

Excellence In and Outside the Classroom

Learning is a lifelong process that includes not only the intellectual but also the social, emotional, cultural, and physical development of the learner. For an amazing list of student accomplishments, please visit the District website at www.sycsd.org to view the District Annual Report.

SYCSD Calendar

May 9.....	SHS Awards Program 6:30 p.m.
May 10.....	Grade 6 Band and Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.
May 12.....	SHS Percussion Festival 6:00 p.m.
May 14.....	FES Spring Concert 7:00 p.m.
May 14-25	Keystone Exams at SHS
May 15.....	SHS Spring Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.
May 16.....	SMS Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.
May 17.....	6th Grade Party at SMS 4:00 p.m.
May 22.....	Elementary Band and Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.
May 23.....	SMS Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
May 24.....	School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 28.....	Holiday - Schools Closed
May 31.....	School in Session Full Day, grades K-12
May 31.....	Commencement 7:00 p.m.
June 1, 4, & 5.....	School in Session grades K-11
June 5	Early Dismissal, Last Day of School K-11

Susquehannock High School 5K Color Run May 19, 2018

Sponsored by
Crescent Industries

RACE TIMES:
10 a.m. = Competitive Race
10:30 a.m. = Family Fun Run

On May 19th, Susquehannock High School's Student Council is hosting their 3rd annual Color Run! The Color Run is an exciting and unique event that is open to the entire community where racers will get sprayed with washable color powder as they run past designated areas. The race is \$20 for ages 18 and younger and \$25 for adults 19 and older. All proceeds benefit cancer research and support. A registration flier is located on the school website, www.sycsd.org.