



PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

May 2015

Proposed Budget Slated for May 19, 2015 Vote

Peru Central School District's Board of Education has established a **\$44,279,643 proposed expenditure plan** for voter consideration **noon until 9 PM, Tuesday, May 19, 2015** in the district's Junior/Senior High School gymnasium. The proposed budget calls for an **increase in spending of 4.45%**. This translates into an increase of \$1,886,057 compared to the current year's budget. **The tax levy is forecasted to increase 2.09%** which is below the tax levy limit. Details regarding the budget proposal are featured within this Community Report.



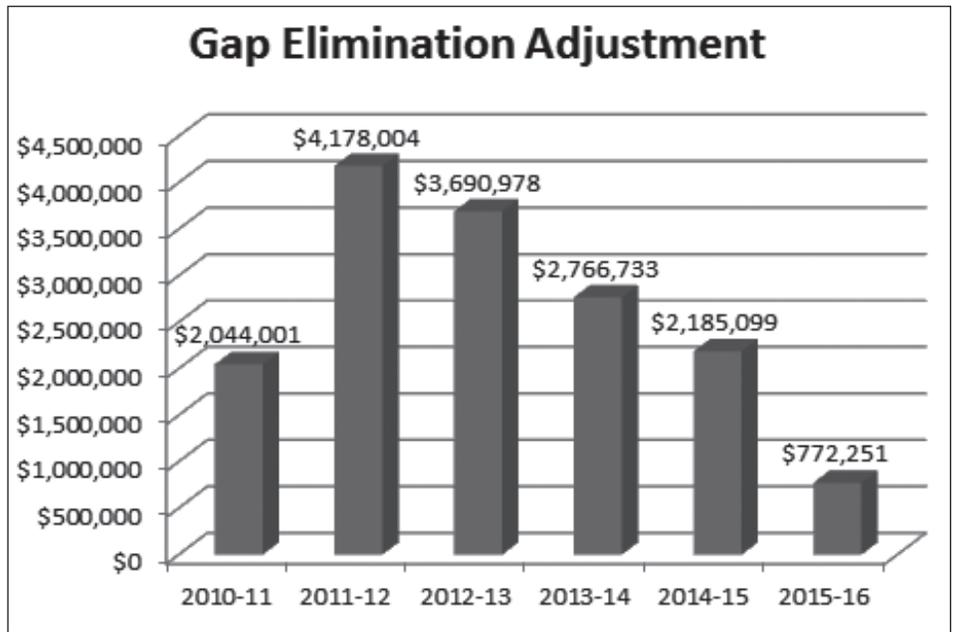
Budget Vote & School Board Election
Tuesday, May 19th
Peru Central Jr./Sr. High School Gymnasium
12-9 p.m.

A 2015-2016 Budget Overview Presentation can be found on the District's website, www.perucsd.org.

Previous Year Cuts and Reductions

Since the beginning of the "Great Recession," **Peru Central School District has reduced its operating budget by several million dollars and absorbed an over \$14.5 million dollar reduction in state-aid.** Introduced in the 2010-11 school year, the GAP Elimination Adjustment (GEA) has prevented funds from flowing into Peru Central School District. Although the GEA was significantly reduced in the 2015-16 Budget, over \$772 thousand dollars will remain.

Peru Central School District is proposing to maintain programs into next year and make some modest enhancements.



Proposed Enhancements to Existing Programs

A great deal of planning and discussion went into sustaining programs and support services into next year. Given the significant restoration of state-aid in 2015-16, Peru Central School District is proposing to maintain 2014-15 programs into 2015-16 and provide some modest enhancements. **The following represents a sample of enhancements slated for the 2015-16 Budget:**

1. Restore an Elementary Principal Position in a co-principal model.
2. A 1.0 FTE Elementary 12:1 Co-Teacher/Resource Teacher and a 0.4 Speech Pathologist.
3. Maintain a 7th Section of Kindergarten.
4. A 0.6 FTE Social Studies Intervention Teacher and a 0.4 FTE Business Teacher in the Junior/Senior High School.
5. K-6 English Language Arts textbooks and related instructional material in the Elementary.
6. A Before School Instructional Program for Math & English Language Arts.
7. Professional Development to support the implementation of a new Common Core aligned English Language Arts curriculum.
8. Training for teachers who will teach Advanced Placement Courses.
9. A Maintenance Vehicle to replace a 1999 Pickup and the replacement of a Floor Scrubber.



Estimated School Tax Bill Increase

| Assessed Value of Home | Enhanced STAR | Basic STAR |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|
| \$80,000 | \$4.99 | \$17.00 |
| \$100,000 | \$11.80 | \$23.80 |
| \$150,000 | \$28.80 | \$40.80 |
| \$200,000 | \$45.80 | \$57.80 |

Based on the state budget plan enacted by the Governor and Legislature, the school board estimates a 2.09% increase of the school district's total property tax levy for 2015-16. The proposal calls for an **estimated tax rate increase of 1.72% from \$19.80 to \$20.14** per assessed \$1,000 of property value. The adoption of this budget requires a **tax levy increase under the statutory tax levy limit** and therefore, must be approved by a simple majority of the qualified voters present and voting.

Proposed School Buses Proposition

Proposition # 2

The District proposes the purchase of three (3), regular, sixty-five (65) passenger, school buses at a total cost not to exceed \$348,000. The cost of this proposition would be largely offset by transportation aid which is approximately 82%.

Superintendent Budget Message

The proposed 2015-16 Peru Central School District budget marks a reversal to a multi-year pattern of cuts and reductions to educational programs compelled by diminished revenue, unfunded mandates, and increased costs. Our school district carefully navigated this fiscal storm with vision, program realignment, shared sacrifice, and a steadfast commitment to efficiently serve the students and our community. Peru CSD is now safely positioned to commit resources to enhance programs.

The tax levy associated with the proposed budget is well under the allowable limit, thanks in part to additional State support and the steady fiscal stewardship of the Peru CSD Board of Education. During the past three years, the school district has stopped deficit spending, enacted targeted efficiency plans, and was removed from a NYS fiscal stress index. Funding for enhanced student programs, professional development, and school improvement efforts will now position our school district for sustained success.

The budget proposal includes strategic enhancements to include a comprehensive English Language Arts curriculum that aligns instruction from kindergarten through grade 6 across the entire Elementary building, additional staff and programs to assist struggling learners, an additional administrator to promote a safe and positive school culture, and mechanical equipment to care for Peru CSD buildings and grounds.

Many enhancements came from Peru 2020 committee recommendations. Peru 2020 is the name of the strategic planning process that brings together parents, students, and employees from across the community. These stakeholders contribute their ideas to make Peru CSD our most valuable community re-

source. Membership on each of the five subcommittees remains open to anyone interested in participating in this community based initiative.

Peru CSD is committed to providing a quality education to every student at a reasonable cost. A leading school district does more than provide opportunity to students. It ensures the attractiveness of a community as the best place to live, raise a family, and to own a home. A national publication, Business Insider, recently distinguished Peru as the most affordable place to live in all of New York State. Quality schools and home affordability work together to attract new families who choose Peru when considering real estate options. A healthy school community benefits all.

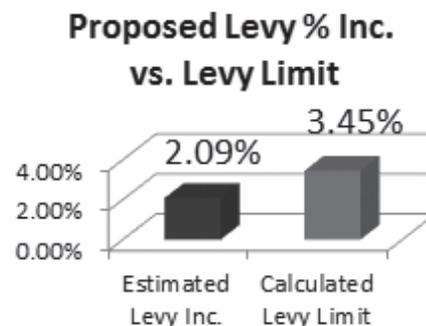
Mark your calendar to vote on Tuesday, May 19th between 12 noon and 9 p.m. Voting will take place in the Jr/Sr High School gymnasium. Your participation in the process serves to strengthen our schools and future decision making. In addition to the budget vote and bus purchase propositions, district residents will have the opportunity to elect two (2) Board of Education members to five year terms.



Tax Levy Increase vs. Calculated Levy Limit

School officials and the Board of Education worked very hard this year to keep under the calculated tax levy limit for the 2015-16 school year.

The calculated tax levy limit for Peru Central School District is 3.45 percent. The tax levy increase estimate of 2.09% compares favorably when aligned against the calculated tax levy limit.

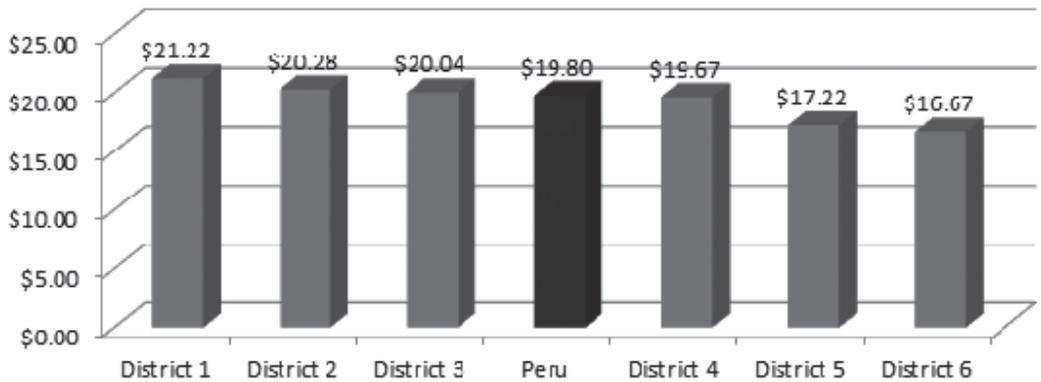


Property Tax Levy Limit and Tax Rates

The property tax cap limit is an annual calculation unique to each school district which accounts for new development within the District and incorporates some exclusions. The Board of Education has elected a levy increase of 2.09% - this is below Peru's 2015-16 Tax Levy Limit (3.45%). In addition, the Board of Education has worked to maintain a reasonable tax rate in relation to area school districts. The chart at right reflects the actual

2014-15 tax rates of area districts compared to Peru Central School District.

2014-15 Tax Rates of Area Districts



Annual Budget Hearing Tuesday, May 12, 2015 7 p.m., Community Room

Details on the proposed budget are available via school offices, the district clerk's office at 643-6002 and the school district's website at www.perucsd.org



COMMUNITY REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Patrick Brimstein
(518) 643-6000 • www.perucsd.org

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