

## Budget Glossary

**Credit Rating:** A [credit rating](#) is an independent assessment of the probability of default and severity of loss of a bond issuer. The credit rating influences the price at which a municipality, such as a school district, can issue bonds to finance its needs.

**Equalization Rate:** The [equalization rate](#) is the percentage of full value at which taxable real property in a county, city, town or village is assessed as determined by the [New York State Board of Real Property Services](#).

**ERS:** the New York State [Employment Retirement System](#). More information may be found [here](#).

- Employer Pension Contribution Rates (as a percent of salary)

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Projected 2022-23
TRS	9.80%	10.62%	8.86%	9.80%	10.0% - 10.5%
ERS (avg.)	14.95%	14.54%	14.46%	14.30%	15.0%-16.0%

- Requested and mandated additions to the budget.
- ERS/TRS – increase due to the increase in the # of retirees, increase in younger age of retirees and a drop in the assumed rate of return (TRS only).

### Financial Implication Reminders

Budget – Each \$1.67 million represents a 1% increase  
Tax Levy – Each \$1.54 million represents a 1% increase

Source: [Budget Development and Staffing Recommendations, January 9, 2022](#).

**Fund Balance:** Fund balance is [the reserve](#) the District maintains to protect education programs and to avoid property tax spikes when state aid is reduced or when unexpected contingencies occur.

**GASB:** [GASB](#) stands for Governmental Accounting Standards Board. GASB sets the accounting rules for all governmental entities, including school districts. The Office of the New York State Comptroller has an [Accounting and Reporting Manual](#) for school districts in New York State.

**NY State Property Tax Cap:** New York State's [property tax cap](#) law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2 percent, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a

multi-step formula. Further details about NY's property tax cap may be found in [The Property Tax Cap: Guidelines for Implementation](#).

**NYSTRS:** The [New York State Teachers' Retirement System](#) (NYSTRS) directs a defined benefit plan. In addition to a [service retirement pension](#), this includes disability and death benefits, the ability to borrow from member contributions, and in some cases, coverage for beneficiaries. Eligibility for benefits generally is based on factors such as age, years of service, final average salary and tier of membership. Payments to eligible members and beneficiaries are guaranteed by law and cannot be diminished or impaired under New York's current constitution.

**Tax Levy:** The [tax levy](#) is the amount of money a school district can raise through property taxes.

**Tax Rate:** The [tax rate](#) is the amount an individual will pay to contribute to the levied amount. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another, based on equalization rates and assessed property values.

## Special Education Glossary

**504 Plan:** A [504 plan](#) is based on [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#), a civil rights law that ensures all children have equal access to an education. The 504 plan is a legal document. It is designed to provide modifications, accommodations, or related services to assist students with special needs who are in a regular education setting.

A 504 plan is not an [Individualized Education Plan \(IEP\)](#) as is required for special education students. Additional information about the 504 plan may be found at the [U.S. Department of Education](#), [Advocates for Children](#), [Parent to Parent](#), and in the Scarsdale School District's [Elementary Support Services Handbook](#) and the [Secondary Support Services Handbook](#).

**Bridge Program:** [Bridge Program](#) students split their time between an inclusive and a special education classroom. Students are included, with support, as mandated by their IEP.

**CPSE:** The responsibility of the [Committee on Preschool Special Education \(CPSE\)](#) is to determine if students ages 3-5 are eligible for special education or related services. A child can only be referred to the CPSE by his/her parents. CPSE evaluations are usually conducted in the areas of cognition, speech/language, social/emotional functioning, adaptive functioning, and motor development. Your child must be registered in the Scarsdale Union Free District to be referred to CPSE.

**CSE:** [Committee on Special Education](#) provides services to students from the age of 5 to 21. Frequently used acronyms related to special education may be found [here](#). Contacts for the Scarsdale's Special Education Department are [here](#).

**ICT:** [Integrated Co-Teaching \(ICT\)](#) for grades K-5 is a full inclusion model. Special education children are educated with their general education peers for the entire school day.

**IDEA:** [IDEA](#) is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which authorizes [formula grants](#) to states and [discretionary grants](#) to higher-education institutions and other nonprofit organizations to support research, demonstrations, technical assistance and dissemination, technology and personnel development, and parent-training and information centers. For further information about IDEA and about the American IDEA Rescue Plan Funds, please click [here](#).

**IEP:** An IEP is an [Individualized Education Plan](#). An IEP is a legal document, which components are mandated by [federal](#) and [state](#) law. It is a plan developed to ensure that a child with an identified disability who is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives specialized instruction and related services.

More information about IEP may be found at the [U.S. Department of Education](#), the [New York State Education Department](#), the [New York State Parent Teachers Association Special Education Resources Site](#), and on the Scarsdale School District's [IEP page](#).

**Inclusion:** [Inclusion](#), from an educational perspective, is the idea that many students with disabilities and general education students can be effectively taught within the general education classroom when appropriate resources are provided. This approach contrasts with the past, when special education often meant segregating students with disabilities and providing them with instruction in isolation from their general education peers.

Note: Words that are underlined contain hyperlinks to relevant sources and additional information. All questions about this FAQ may be directed to [PTC Budget Co-Chairs](#) Mayra Kirkendall-Rodríguez and Laura Liu.

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