



THE CITY OF NEWYORK  
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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## Demystifying School Budgets

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The New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) today released a new [video series](#) it developed to enable students, parents, and advocates to navigate New York City public school budgets. The videos break down the school budget timeline as it relates to the overall City budget process, show users how to find relevant budget data and explain the particulars of how allocations are made to schools and how they can be used.

“One of the most important services IBO provides is helping the public to understand and participate in the budget process,” said **IBO Director Louisa Chafee**. “This video series is an invaluable tool for people who care about their public schools, enabling them to untangle what may seem like an impenetrable bureaucratic maze. It provides accessible step-by-step guidance for looking into a school’s budget and highlights points during the process when members of the public can become involved.”

Last week, the Department of Education (DOE) released preliminary school budgets for next school year. These videos are designed to help guide the public through those budgets and the related documents. The first video is an introduction to NYC’s budget timeline. The second offers a quick primer on how to locate an individual school budget. The series also explains how to read and understand school budgets and explains complex concepts including the various sources and use of funds for schools.

The video series is posted online [here](#). IBO’s education team is alerting Community and Citywide Education Councils, elected officials and education community groups to the availability of the videos. If you are involved with a school or community group and would like more information, please reach out to [education@ibo.nyc.ny.us](mailto:education@ibo.nyc.ny.us).

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## **New York City Independent Budget Office**

The New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) is authorized under the New York City Charter to provide nonpartisan budgetary, economic, and policy analysis for the residents of New York City and their elected officials. IBO helps to increase New Yorkers' understanding of and participation in the budget process.