

VOTE

Tuesday
May 21, 2024
12-9 p.m.

DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD OF
EDUCATION ROOM



BUDGET At a Glance

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$39,368,542

BUDGET INCREASE

2.62%

TAX LEVY INCREASE

2.51%

ALSO ON THE BALLOT

- { District Board of Education election
- { Schuylerville Public Library Budget
- { Schuylerville Public Library Board of Trustees election



Schuylerville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

News and Information

2024-25 BUDGET VOTE

Voters to decide on \$39.4 million budget proposal, elect two Board of Education members

Qualified voters of the Schuylerville Central School District will vote on a \$39.4 million proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year on Tuesday, May 21 from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education room. The \$39.4 million proposed budget calls for a 2.62% spending increase and an estimated tax levy increase of 2.51%, which is the district's allowable tax cap. Tax rates for individual properties will be determined over the summer once equalization rates and assessments are available for the district's seven towns.

Year to year, the budget always includes previously-agreed upon salary increases from all current contracts (for example, administration and management contracts, which were ratified last year). The budget also always includes minor increases or decreases to other expenses depending on the needs of the district. One example of this is testing supplies, as a result of switching to computer-based testing.

Proposed budget decreases

- ▶ The shared HR Service with NERIC that was recommended by an internal control audit, was not implemented.
- ▶ BOCES Public Information: last year, this was increased to include the new branding and website redesign. Both initiatives will be completed by year-end.
- ▶ An elementary school teacher with an individualized Memorandum of Agreement is not being replaced.
- ▶ Tuition to Other Schools decreased, due to a student returning to the district.
- ▶ BOCES Technology Services due to the department taking on more work and only utilizing one part-time BOCES staff.

Proposed budget increases

- ▶ 17.25% increase to health insurance.
- ▶ Salary increases per the ratified STA contract.
- ▶ Estimated salary increases for the CSEA contract.

- ▶ BOCES Special Education: there are two students on a waiting list; program costs were increased between 2% -3.5% (increase of \$120,000).
- ▶ Two Special Education Teachers from the ESSER grant.
- ▶ Career and Technical Education tuition was increased by 3%; 12 students previously covered in the ESSER grant were added to the budget (increase of \$171,000).
- ▶ Two counselors from Saratoga Center for the Family have been built into the budget; they were previously funded from the ESSER grants.
- ▶ Increase to NYSERS of 2.10%
- ▶ Increase to NYSTRS of 0.27%
- ▶ 9% increase to package, auto and umbrella insurance.

Foundation Aid

In Governor Hochul's January executive budget proposal, Schuylerville was projected to lose 17.23% of its foundation aid from the previous year, leading to a projected 5.71% decrease in overall revenue from the 2023-24 budget. The district participated in advocacy efforts to restore the "Hold Harmless" provision in the state budget, which has historically guaranteed school districts receive no less foundation aid than they did the previous year.

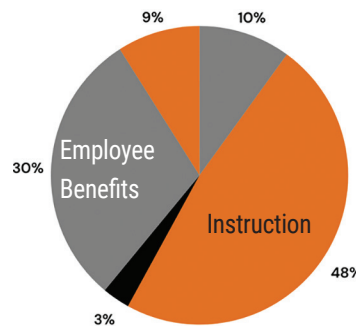
With the approval of the New York State budget, there is a temporary agreement to preserve Hold-Harmless for the 2024-25 year, but with an additional understanding that the policy will be reconsidered going forward, with the Governor's intent to eliminate it in the future. However, despite the Hold Harmless provision being restored, Schuylerville CSD still has a \$1.8 million budget deficit for the 2024-25 school year (detailed by the projected expenses listed above.)

▶ schuylervilleschools.org

Proposed Expenditures

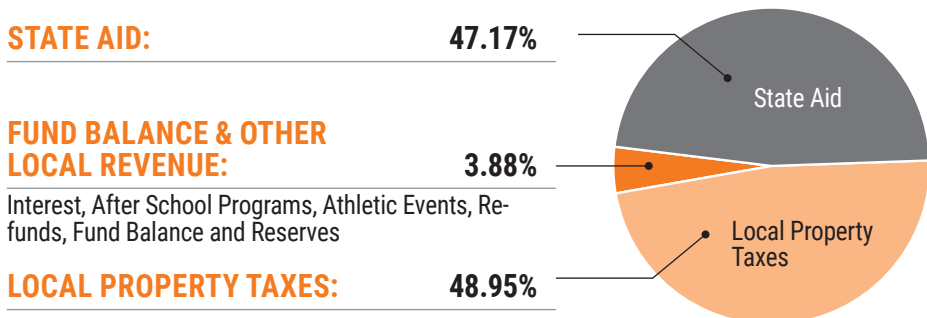
BUDGET CATEGORY	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Difference
General Support	\$4,124,406	\$4,139,903	\$15,497
Instruction	\$18,521,967	\$18,872,130	\$350,163
Transportation	\$1,137,700	\$1,085,800	-\$51,900
Employee Benefits	\$10,847,312	\$11,679,671	\$832,359
Debt Service/Transfers	\$3,733,612	\$3,591,038	-\$142,574
Total Expenses	\$38,364,997	\$39,368,542	\$1,003,545

DEBT SERVICE TRANSFERS	9%
INSTRUCTION	48%
GENERAL SUPPORT	10%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	30%
TRANSPORTATION	3%



Proposed Revenues

INCOME SOURCES	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Difference
Local Property Taxes	\$18,799,336	\$19,270,629	\$471,293
State Aid	\$18,814,661	\$18,569,113	-\$245,548
Interest Earnings, Tax Penalties, Medicaid Reimbursements	\$136,000	\$156,000	\$20,000
Misc. Charges for Services	\$390,000	\$372,800	-\$17,200
Appropriated Reserves	\$225,000	\$1,000,000	\$775,000
Total Revenues	\$38,364,997	\$39,368,542	\$1,003,545



Three-Part Budget

Under NYS law, school budgets are broken down into three categories:

Administrative: 9.74%

- Covers expenses related to the management of the district. This includes: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; insurance costs; legal expenses, and Board of Education expenses.

Capital: 18.46%

- Covers costs of operating the facility of the district. This includes: debt service on buildings; bus purchases; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; operation and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits of custodial staff; supplies; utilities; repairs, and renovations.

Program: 71.80%

- Covers costs directly related to student instruction. This is the majority of the overall budget, which includes: salaries and benefits of teachers, school counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and speech therapists; teaching supplies; equipment and textbooks; library and instructional computer funds; athletics, and transportation (except bus purchases.)



Elementary students participate in Autism Awareness Acceptance Week.



Middle School students participate in the annual Color Run, a grades 6-8 initiative.

2024-25 Budget Cuts

Administration:

2 FTEs (cuts)

8.72% of administrator salaries

- ▶ Dean of Students (cut)
- ▶ Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development (cut)

Clerical & Support:

3 FTEs (1 retirement, 2 vacancies)

- ▶ CSE Secretary (retirement)
- ▶ Two educational aides (vacancies)

Building & Grounds:

2 FTEs (2 vacancies)

5.71% of buildings/grounds salaries

- ▶ Two cleaners (vacancies)

Program (Classroom):

4 FTEs (3 cuts, 1 vacancy)

1.56% of program salaries

- ▶ Three elementary school teachers (cuts)
- ▶ One high school teacher (retirement/vacancy)

Program (Athletics):

12.68% of athletic program salaries

- ▶ Athletic Program Assistant Coaches
- ▶ Intramurals at all levels

Contingency Budget Cuts

The contingency budget would include all of the cuts previously listed, plus an additional \$471,293 in reductions.

If the district adopts a contingency budget, there can be no increase to the tax levy from the prior year. Ordinary contingent expenses may also have to be reduced to ensure no increase to the tax levy. Adopting a contingency budget immediately prohibits a district from spending any money in certain areas, including:

- ▶ Community use of school facilities (unless ALL costs are reimbursed to the district)
- ▶ New equipment purchases
- ▶ Non-essential maintenance
- ▶ Capital expenditures (except in the case of emergencies)
- ▶ Salary increases for non-instructional employees who are not members of a collective bargaining unit
- ▶ Salary increases for employees designated by the Public Employment Relations Board as management or confidential

The 2024-25 Contingency Budget will also result in the following cuts:

- ▶ A reduction to administration (reducing one employee from 12-months to 11-months)
- ▶ Cuts: two additional teachers and Student Services Staff
- ▶ Reduction of some co-curriculars
- ▶ Reduction of summer program days for school counselors and psychologists

"It is gut wrenching for the Board of Education to make reductions, but these choices were made after careful consideration of all options, as well as the bleak Foundation Aid outlook for next year. A combination of budget cuts and the use of \$1 million in reserves, while not ideal, takes into account all stakeholders in the district, including the taxpayers. Our community has always demonstrated a great commitment to supporting our school district at every opportunity, even in the tough times. The Board believes that while extremely difficult, approving this budget is in the best interest of all stakeholders, especially our students, as a contingency budget will only result in deeper cuts."

-Michael Bodnar, Schuylerville Central School District Board of Education President

"Despite a \$1.8 million deficit, the passage of the proposed budget will maintain a comprehensive academic and student support program at the elementary and middle school, and still provide challenging and diverse opportunities for students in the high school. A contingency budget will unfortunately begin to affect academic programming throughout the district, by reducing additional staff and eliminating student engagement opportunities, including co-curriculars."

-James Ducharme, Schuylerville Central School District Acting Superintendent

Schuylerville Public Library Information

As part of the May 21 vote, residents will vote on a proposition for the Schuylerville Public Library. By law, the district must offer the library proposition. However, the library expenditures are not part of the district's operating budget. Residents will also vote in the Board of Trustees election for the Schuylerville Public Library.

Schuylerville Public Library Board of Trustees election

The Schuylerville Public Library is holding elections for three seats on its Board of Trustees this year. The three candidates who receive the highest total number of votes cast in their favor shall each fill a three-year term ending in 2027, created by the expira-

tion of the current terms of Trustees Dennis Kagel, Patricia Partello, and Katie Brunson. For more details on the library elections or for nominating petitions, please visit the library's website (schuylervillelibrary.sals.edu) or call 518-695-6641.

Please note: the election for the library's Board of Trustees is separate and distinct from the school district's Board of Education election.

Proposition: Schuylerville Public Library budget appropriation

Voters will determine if the Schuylerville Public Library can increase its annual budget appropriation by \$12,000 to \$377,000. According to library officials, the increase would

allow the library to maintain its resources with rising costs. The Schuylerville Public Library is committed to offering unique and educational programs for the community; all of its programs are free and open to the public. Each year, the library serves thousands of people and hosts hundreds of programs.

This cost is not part of the school district's budget, and the district does not participate in the development of the public library budget. If approved, taxes raised would be spread among all taxable properties in the district.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 38,364,997	\$39,368,542	\$38,897,249										
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,003,545	\$(471,293)										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.62 %	1.39%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$18,799,336	\$19,270,629											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$	\$											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$	\$											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$	\$											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$18,799,336	\$19,270,629	\$18,799,336										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,373,507	\$1,378,494											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,837,037	\$17,892,135											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$17,425,829	\$17,892,135											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$411,208	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$3,942,301	\$3,833,270	\$3,772,575										
Program Component	\$27,191,075	\$28,265,850	\$27,952,035										
Capital Component	\$7,231,621	\$7,269,422	\$7,172,639										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>				Description	Amount		\$		\$		\$		\$
Description	Amount												
	\$												
	\$												
	\$												
	\$												

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$514

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Schuylerville school district, Saratoga County, New York, will be held at Schuylerville CSD school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Schuylerville Board Room school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Voters to elect two Board of Education members

In addition to considering the proposed 2024-25 school budget, residents will vote in the district's Board of Education election. Voters will elect two people to two, five-year terms beginning July 1, 2024. The seats are currently held by Joanna Crowley and Shaun Cumm. Full candidate profiles can be read on the district website, [schuylervilleschools.org](https://www.schuylervilleschools.org). Candidate quotes and photos are listed below in the order which their names will appear on the ballot.

Robert Thivierge

"I am running for the Board of Education to ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability. I strive to advocate for quality education, to empower educators and all staff, and to shape a future where excellence, innovation, and opportunity are at the core of our educational system at Schuylerville Schools."



Robert Thivierge

Jonathon Procter

"I am a graduate of the district who is raising my family in the district. I have a lot of pride in our wonderful community and would be honored to be part of voicing the opinions and concerns of the people that the Board of Education serves."



Jonathon Procter

Joanna Crowley

"Effective school board members balance the needs of a variety of different stakeholders to reach decisions that are in the best interest of the district as a whole, and most importantly our students. With two daughters in the district, I have a pulse on the students' needs, activities taking place on campus, and an availability to parents, students, teachers and staff. The upcoming challenges that we face require experience, knowledge of the issues, and a real commitment to finding solutions. I am proud of the work that I've put in over the past five years and hope to have the opportunity to continue that work. I look forward to serving another 5 years as a member of the Board of Education."



Joanna Crowley

Jennifer Moreau

"Almost 30 years ago, my husband and I intentionally built a house in this community so that our future children would benefit from an education in the Schuylerville Central School District. Now, as parents of two SCS graduates, we are so grateful for that decision. I am proud to say that I was a teacher in Schuylerville, but even more proud to say that both of our daughters are SCS graduates. Their positive experiences in the classroom, in extra-curricular activities, and as student athletes prepared them well for college and helped shape who they are today as individuals. Schuylerville has amazing students, families, teachers, administrators and support staff. I look forward to working with the other members of the Board of Education in supporting the hard work of our faculty, staff and students, while maintaining a positive and engaging relationship with the community."



Jennifer Moreau

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael Bodnar
President

Joanna Crowley
Vice President/ Audit Committee Chairperson

Bernie Buff
Legislative Liaison

Katie Brunson

Shaun Cumm

Jamie Martin

Michele Renner

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

James Ducharme

Editor: Taryn Kane
Communications Director



Schuylerville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

14 Spring Street
Schuylerville, NY 12871-1098

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 10
Schuylerville, NY
12871

****ECRWSSSEDDM****
Postal Customer

6 Schuylerville News and Information

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-25 BUDGET VOTE

VOTE

**Tuesday
May 21, 2024
12-9 p.m.**

DISTRICT OFFICE
BOARD OF EDUCATION ROOM
Enter through the
concession stand entrance

2024-25 Budget Vote Information



Mr. Zielnicki's AP English students collaborated with Ms. Ekblom's first grade students on a non-fiction writing unit. Students shared their chapter books and showed off their hard work!

Who is eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote, a person must be 18 years old, a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote and a U.S. citizen.

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 12-9 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room, 14 Spring St. (enter through the concession stand entrance).

What will I be voting on?

The proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year, candidates to fill two seats on the Schuylerville CSD Board of Education, Schuylerville Public Library's budget, and the Library's Board of Trustees election.

Is the district using fund balance to help balance the budget?

Yes. The district will be using funds from the reserves to offset expenditures.

What if the proposed budget is voted down?

The Board of Education has the option of putting another budget (revised or not) up for a vote in June or immediately adopting a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful votes, a district must adopt a contingent budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, with no exclusions.

Can I vote early or by absentee ballot?

If you would like an early voting or absentee ballot application, please call the Superintendent's Office at 518-695-3255, extension 3242. Ballots must be returned to the district office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21.

How can I get more information about the budget proposal?

If you'd like more details, please call the Superintendent's Office at 518-695-3255, extension 3242 or visit the district website (schuylervilleschools.org/budget). The district's plain-language budget and the School Report Card are available at the district office located inside Schuylerville High School at 14 Spring Street, Schuylerville.