



OSWEGO

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

We empower all students to guarantee their successful future

BUDGET NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

OVERVIEW OF THE 2025-26 BUDGET

SCHOOL VOTE

PROPOSITIONS AND CANDIDATES

BUDGET NOTICE & BASIC STAR

Dear OCSD community members,

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the students, families, faculty, staff, and community partners for your ongoing support for the well-being of all in our school community throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

A school district budget should be designed to meet the unique needs of all its students and address the concerns and the priorities of the school community. The 2025-2026 proposed budget aligns resources to focus on student learning from pre-k through grade 12 while supporting all curricular areas. This budget also supports the priority areas of providing a safe learning environment, supporting student emotional and mental wellness, while maintaining all current levels of programming.

The school budget is the biggest investment the community collectively makes with its tax dollars. I want to thank the Board of Education for their vision and work to ensure our students and staff have the resources necessary to move the district forward while minimizing the impact on our local taxpayers.

Oswego City School District's \$116,640,154 proposed 2025-2026 budget, adopted by the Board of Education on April 22, reflects careful stewardship and foresight on the long-term fiscal health of the district and future needs of our students. This includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project to finish the facility security upgrades at Charles E. Riley Elementary School, which includes the replacement of several exterior doors.

Our commitment to long-range financial planning and fiscal responsibility remains strong. Among the cost-saving measures in the budget are our energy performance contract, shared services and cooperative purchasing with BOCES, and operational efficiencies in building maintenance, information technology and transportation. This budget also supports the long-range facility plan that will address the many needs of the district's aging schools and facilities.

The Board of Education and I are proud to offer a budget to our community that maintains all programs and activities while continuing to expand resources dedicated to supporting our students with no tax levy increase!

The Board of Education and I encourage our entire community to vote on the school budget Tuesday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sincerely,

Raymond W. Kilmer III, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$116,640,154

TAX LEVY CHANGE

\$0 – 0%

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Polls Open 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

FAST FACTS:

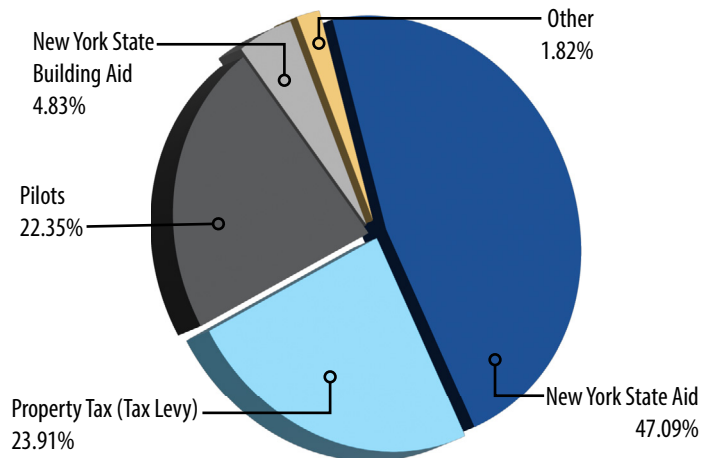
- ✓ **0% TAX LEVY CHANGE**
- ✓ **MAINTAINS ALL PROGRAMMING**
- ✓ **PRIORITIZES IMPROVED SAFETY AND SECURITY**
- ✓ **PRIORITIZES CAPITAL/ INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

OSWEGO SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

OVERVIEW OF 2025-2026 BUDGET

Where does the school budget money come from?

New York State Aid	\$54,930,503
New York State Building Aid	\$5,638,831
Pilots	\$26,067,135
Property Tax (Tax Levy)	\$27,883,685
Other	\$2,120,000
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$0



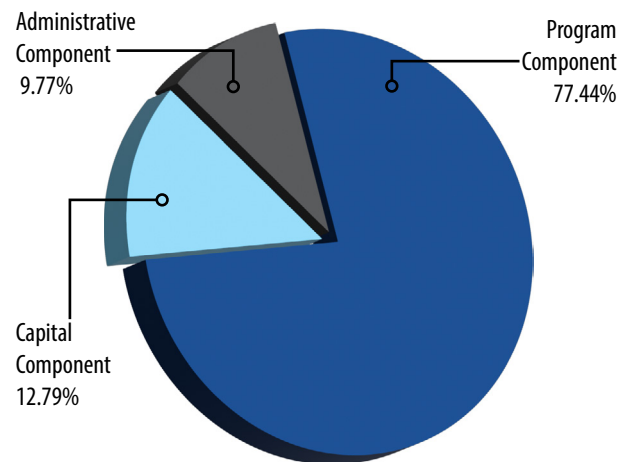
REVENUE

	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	2024-2025 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE
Property Taxes	27,883,685	27,883,685	0
PILOTS	26,067,135	25,244,378	822,757
State Aid	60,569,334	56,905,932	3,663,402
Other Sources	2,120,000	2,120,000	0
Fund Balance/Reserves	0	0	0
TOTAL	116,640,154	112,153,995	4,486,159

PROGRAM COMPONENT: At 77.44% of the total budget, it includes regular instruction, special education, occupational education, curriculum and staff development and summer school as well as pupil services such as health, guidance, library, co-curricular activities, athletics and transportation.

CAPITAL COMPONENT: This represents 12.79% of the total budget, including expenses for the operation and maintenance of district facilities, building renovation costs, property tax refunds and employee benefits attributable to salaries for these functions.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT: This represents 9.77% of the total budget, including expenses for instructional supervision, curriculum development, the Board of Education, school information officer, central administration, director of facilities, director of transportation, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing and employee benefits attributable to salaries for these functions.



EXPENDITURE COMPONENT BUDGET

	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	2024-2025 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE
Program	90,320,505	84,131,927	6,188,578
Administrative	11,399,335	10,615,750	783,585
Capital	14,920,314	17,406,318	- 2,486,004
TOTAL	116,640,154	112,153,995	4,486,159

SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 20, 2025

PROPOSITION NO. 1 Annual Budget of the School District

To adopt the Annual Budget of the School District of **\$116,640,154** for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 Purchase of Student Transportation Vehicles

Shall the Bond Resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Oswego (the "School District") on March 18, 2025, which authorizes (a) the purchase of student transportation vehicles, at a total combined maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$1,500,000; (b) the issuance of up to \$1,500,000 serial bonds of the School District to pay the cost thereof; (c) the pledge of School District's faith and credit for payment of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; and (d) the levy of taxes on the taxable real property in the School District to be collected in annual installments to pay debt service on such obligations, be approved?

PROPOSITION NO. 3 Oswego City Public Library

Shall the Board of Education of the Oswego City School District be authorized to levy and collect taxes annually in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Nine Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$1,509,395), an amount separate and apart from the annual school district tax levy, and to pay over such monies to the Trustees of the Oswego S.D. Public Library for the continuing support and maintenance of the Oswego S.D. Public Library. The budget amount will continue on an annual basis until such time as the amount is amended by a future vote of electors of the Oswego City School District?

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION *Vote for up to two*

**James
MacKenzie**

**Tim
Rice**

**Jennifer
Solazzo**

LIBRARY TRUSTEE *Vote for up to two*

Zachary Vickery

Katherine Carr

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

Three factors that determine the tax rate on your home include tax levy, equalization rates and property assessment. The tax levy is set by the school district in May; equalization rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Services in August and each respective town establishes assessments and equalization rates, but these are just estimates. Therefore, tax rates are not finalized until late August, at which time school tax bills are printed and mailed. Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based

on a Hypothetical Home

Within the School District with
a Full Value of One Hundred
Thousand Dollars (\$100,000).

Budget Proposed for the
2025-2026 School Year

Basic STAR Tax Savings¹

\$520

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

POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.

On Tuesday, May 20, voters throughout the Oswego City School District will be going to the polls to decide upon the proposed 2025-2026 budget and elect two members to the Oswego City School District Board of Education.

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1

Location of polling place:
SCRIBA FIRE STATION

5618 State Route 104E

Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here:

Scriba and Volney
(Oswego City School District
residents only)

ELECTION DISTRICT NO.2

Location of polling place:
ANTHONY J. CRISAFULLI RINK
(FORT RINK)

32 Fort Ontario Road

Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here:

Ward 2, Ward 4 and Ward 6

ELECTION DISTRICT NO.3

Location of polling place:
ELIM GRACE CHURCH

340 W. First Street

Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here:

Ward 1, Ward 3, Ward 5
and Ward 7

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 4

Location of polling place:
OSWEGO TOWN HALL

2320 County Route 7

Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here:

Oswego Town and Town Of Minetto
(Oswego City School District
residents only)

Can I Vote?

TO BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THE OSWEGO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT A PERSON MUST:

1. Be a citizen of the United States
2. Be 18 years of age or older
3. Be a resident of New York State and the Oswego City School District for 30 days preceding the May 20, 2025 voting day
4. Be a registered voter in their school election district

Anyone with questions regarding voting and budget information should contact Superintendent Raymond W. Kilmer Ed.D. at (315) 341-2001 or rkilmer@oswego.org, or District Clerk Diane Schrader at (315) 341-2001 or dschrade@oswego.org.



OHS students and staff brought the energy during this year's winter/spring pep rally!

Varsity athletes were recognized and everyone enjoyed spirited competitions and games that had the whole crowd cheering.



Leighton Hosts Family Literacy Night with Ice Bucket Challenge



Families participate in different activities during literacy night.

Leighton Elementary students recently participated in a reading challenge, and they celebrated their achievement during this year's family literacy night.

Students were tasked with reading a combined total of 65,000 minutes as part of the challenge, and they stepped up in a big way. They met their goal en route to reading more than 70,000 minutes while raising nearly \$5,000. To celebrate their achievement, they had an opportunity to douse Principal Stephanie Griffin with a bucket of ice water

during this year's Family Literacy Night.

The event brought students, families, and the local community together to celebrate the power of reading. The evening was packed with engaging games, exciting raffles, and a variety of community agencies and resources, all aimed at promoting literacy and family involvement.

"Our students worked incredibly hard, and this event was the perfect way to recognize their dedication," said Principal Griffin. "It was wonderful to see our school community come together, and we are so grateful to everyone who made this event such a success."

The event was made possible by the generosity of many donors and presenters, including: Home and School Association, The Rooftop, Mrs. Campbell, River's End Bookstore, Oswego Cinema 7, Oswego Public Library, Texas Roadhouse, Nikki Cary VandenBerg, Maggie Henry, ConnexCare, NY Connects, Oswego Bookmobile, YMCA, National Honor Society, Walmart, Oswego Police Department, Fajita Grill, and the entire Leighton Elementary faculty and staff.

Area educators and agencies team up for STEAM Night at KPS

Kingsford Park Elementary School recently hosted its annual STEAM Night, providing students and families with hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

The event featured collaborations with numerous local and regional organizations, including SUNY Oswego Science Departments; the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation; Oswego County Health Department; OHS and OMS Technology Departments; TEQ, the YMCA; and KPS staff members.

Attendees had opportunities to build, learn, play, problem-solve and work together in activities such as robotics, operating drones, assembling blocks, and using interactive technology.

"This event continues to be a highlight for our students and their families," said KPS teacher Kelly Moxley, who helps organize the event. "STEAM Night provides a unique opportunity for students to engage with science and technology in a fun and meaningful way while connecting with community organizations that support STEAM education."

Event organizers extended their gratitude to all participating organizations, volunteers, and staff members who made this event a resounding success.



At the Citi BOCES drone station, a KPS student operates a VR drone.



KPS students explore the OMS robotics setup during STEAM Night.

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The Oswego City School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, employment, and admissions, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Jacklyn Beck, District Coordinator. She can be reached by calling (315) 341-2014 or by mail at 1 Buccaneer Boulevard Oswego, NY 13126. Inquiries concerning the application of the OCSD non-discrimination policies may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, telephone (646) 428-3800 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TTY).



Fitzhugh Park Elementary Hosts Annual Career Day

Fitzhugh Park Elementary School recently hosted its annual Career Day, giving students an exciting opportunity to explore a wide variety of careers and engage with local professionals from across the Oswego community.

Dozens of booths filled the gymnasium, each offering students hands-on experiences, engaging demonstrations, and real-world insight into possible future careers. From public service to science, business, and skilled trades, students were encouraged to ask questions, participate in activities, and imagine their own futures.

Participants included Cherie Beck and Mary Beth Fierro, professors from SUNY Oswego; Larry Miller, owner of GJP; representatives from Good Guys Barber Shop; Richie Burritt, of Burritt Motors; Tim Kirwan, judge; Mayor Robert Corradino and two city councilors; Lt. Merron, of the Oswego Fire Department; members of the Oswego Police Department; Jennifer Losurdo, of Catholic Charities; Jessica Dickquist, of 911 Emergency Services; Chris Aloï, business presenter; a local veterinarian; representatives from Novelis and Constellation Energy; employees of Compass Federal Credit Union – Bank at School Program; Serena Muckey, cosmetologist at Serene.styles315; and Beth Serow, dental assistant.

“Our goal is to show students the wide range of opportunities that exist right here in our community,” said Fitzhugh teachers and event organizers Erin Sabatini and Mary Kate Vashaw. “It’s about planting seeds for the future and helping our students discover what excites and inspires them.”

Career Day continues to be one of the school’s most popular annual events, fostering curiosity, sparking ambition, and strengthening connections between the school and the broader Oswego community.

“We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated their time, energy, and expertise to make this event possible,” Sabatini and Vashaw said.



SRO Ben Miller lets a student wear his vest during Career Day.



Fitzhugh students show off their finest business attire at Career Day.

Charles E. Riley Elementary School Hosts Pirate Night



Two Charles E. Riley Elementary School students enjoy the company of a therapy dog during the recent Pirate Night.

As part of a family engagement effort, Charles E. Riley Elementary School recently transformed into a swashbuckling adventure as families gathered for the second annual Pirate Night.

The event featured engaging classroom activities, raffles, food, and an

opportunity for families to explore different learning experiences together. Students and their families embarked on an interactive journey and completed fun challenges throughout the school.

In addition to the pirate-themed festivities, local community agencies were on hand to provide valuable resources and support for families. Their presence reinforced the school’s commitment to fostering strong community partnerships and ensuring families have access to important services.

“We are thrilled with the turnout for Pirate Night and the enthusiastic participation from our students and families,” said Tracy Eygnor, principal of Charles E. Riley Elementary. “This event was a fantastic way to bring families together, support student learning in an engaging way, and connect with community resources that benefit our families.”



A CER student shows off her pirate hat while finishing up a classroom activity during Pirate Night.

KPS Celebrates ‘QU Wedding’ to Teach Kindergartners Letter Pairing

Kindergarten students at Kingsford Park Elementary School in Oswego donned their finest attire recently to participate in the school’s “QU Wedding,” a fun event designed to teach the important relationship between the letters Q and U.

The event featured a parade where students dressed up as wedding guests, and held pictures of their classmates, dressed as Q and U. The children sang songs, learned new words beginning with “qu,” and enjoyed snacks and refreshments based on the letters.

“This is such a fun opportunity for our students, while remaining educational,” said Mary Lynn Maxwell, a teacher at KPS. “It really helps students learn about how these two letters go together.”





1 Buccaneer Boulevard • Oswego, NY 13126

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. James MacKenzie, *President*
 Mr. Tom Ciappa, *Vice President*
 Mr. Sean Callen
 Mrs. Julie Chetney
 Mr. David Crisafulli
 Ms. Kristin Norfleet
 Mr. Sean Ohnmacht
 Amanda Connelly, *Student Representative*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Raymond Kilmer III

Non-Profit Organization
 Carrier Route Sort

**BULK RATE
 POSTAGE
 PAID**

Permit No. 315
 Oswego, NY 13126

Postal Patron

2025-26 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adjusted for the 2024-25 School Year**	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 112,153,995	\$ 116,640,154	\$ 116,177,154
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 4,486,159	\$ 4,023,159
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.99 %	3.58%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.20%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 27,883,685	\$ 27,883,685	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 27,883, 685	\$ 27,883, 685	\$ 27,883,685
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,919,414	\$ 2,544,432	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 24,964,271	\$ 25,339,253	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$24,964,271	\$ 25,339,253	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 10,615,750	\$11,399,335	\$ 11,289,335
Program Component	\$ 84,131,927	\$ 90,320,505	\$ 90,151,819
Capital Component	\$ 17,406,318	\$ 14,920,314	\$ 14,736,000

*Should the Budget be defeated, all new equipment that does not constitute ordinary contingent expenses will be eliminated. These include, no new capital expenditures except in emergency situations; no non-essential maintenance would be allowed and outside organizations would have to pay for facility use.