

2026-2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP BUDGET OVERVIEW

February 10, 2026



OSWEGO
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

We empower all students to guarantee their successful future.

MISSION

We empower and engage students to guarantee their successful future.

VISION

Our school community is dedicated to equity and excellence for each student.



CORE VALUES

RESPECT: Treat everyone with dignity.

LEARNING: Is the foundation for a productive and fulfilled life.

INTEGRITY: Uphold truthfulness and transparency in all interactions. Maintaining moral and ethical principles in decision-making and actions.

CARING: Demonstrate empathy, compassion, and genuine concern for the well-being of students and community members.

INNOVATION: Foster creativity, exploration, and continuous improvement in education practices.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Foster strong connections and partnerships with the community to enhance learning opportunities and support all.

COLLABORATION: Promote teamwork, cooperation, and synergy among educators, students, families, and community stakeholders.

SAFETY: Prioritize creating a physically and emotionally safe environment conducive to learning and personal growth.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING: Address and support the social and emotional needs of students through comprehensive programs and services.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY: Celebrate diversity and ensure equitable access to educational opportunities for all students.

Agenda



- Budget Guidelines
- School Budget Timeline & Process
- Major Components of Revenue
 - Tax Cap/Tax Levy/State Aid
- Executive Budget Highlights
- State Aid – Executive Budget Overview
- Appropriation Forecasting
- Future Work & Meetings

Financial information prepared for this presentation is preliminary and contains estimates and projections that are subject to change throughout the budget process

Budget Guidelines



Develop a student-based budget focused on:

- Implementation of rigorous, engaging, equitable, and authentic curriculum, instruction, assessments, and resources.
- Maintaining excellence while supporting responsive and relevant course offerings.
- Providing experiences, both curricular and extracurricular, that support the varied interests and abilities of the whole child.
- Supporting the diverse academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of all students.

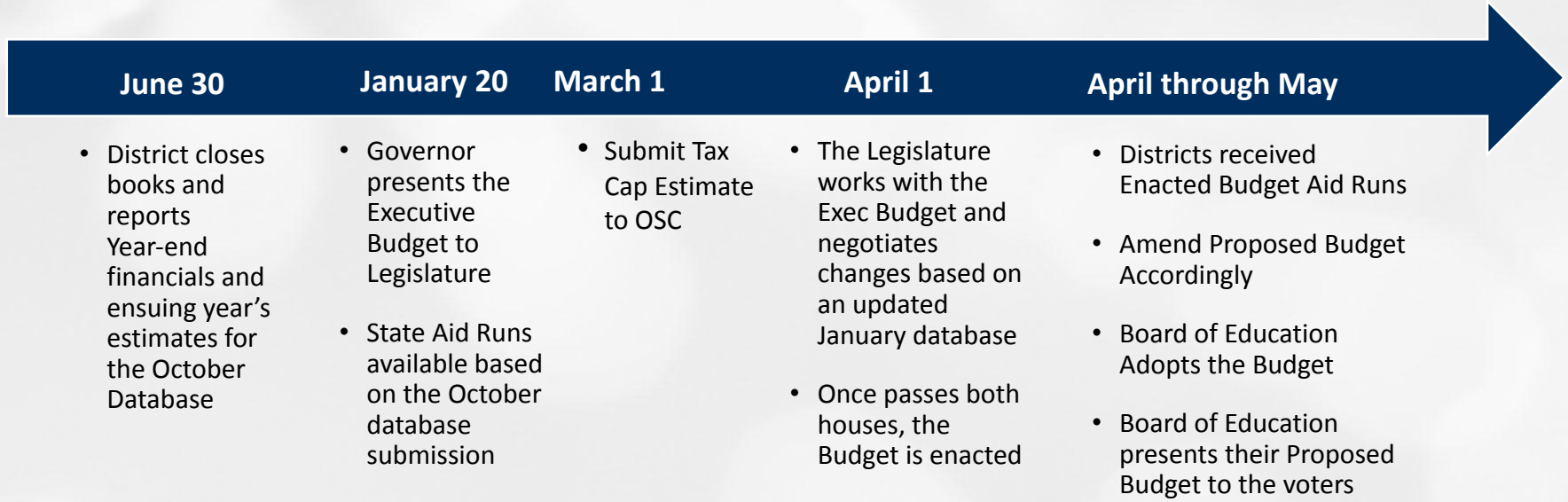
Budget Guidelines



Balance the investment in education with sensitivity to limited community resources by:

- Balancing community expectations for services and programs, with the need to be cognizant of changes in property values, income levels, new state/federal tax laws, and a fluctuating economic landscape.
- Engaging in thoughtful short- and long- range financial planning.
- Engaging legislators to increase NYS Foundation Aid.
- Recruiting, hiring, and retaining diverse employees of the highest caliber.
- Seeking cost efficiencies to further mitigate the financial impact of underfunded and unfunded mandates.

School Budget Timeline & Process



Budget Development Overview

Stable Revenue Assumptions

- Nuclear Pilots are Settled
- Local Assessed Values are Stable

Revenue Variabilities

- Tax Cap Limitations
- NYSED Aid – Conservative
Foundation Aid increases expected
for the District

Stable Cost Assumptions

- Major Labor Contracts Settled for
the 2026-27 year

Cost Variability Challenges

- Utilities – Power, Gas, Fuel
- Insurance – Health, Liability
- Service Contracts (Tariffs)



School Budget Revenues



Major Sources of Revenue for School Districts:

- Tax Levy (amount of money collected in taxes)
- State Aid (provided by New York State)
- Other Sources (PILOT, county sales tax, interest earnings, gifts, sale of equipment, etc.)

Tax Levy



- The tax levy accounts approximately for 25% of the District's Revenue budget
- Now “capped” by the Property Tax Cap Legislation

“The State Legislature and the Governor enacted legislation that establishes a property tax cap which limits growth in the property tax levy to 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, with some exclusions.”

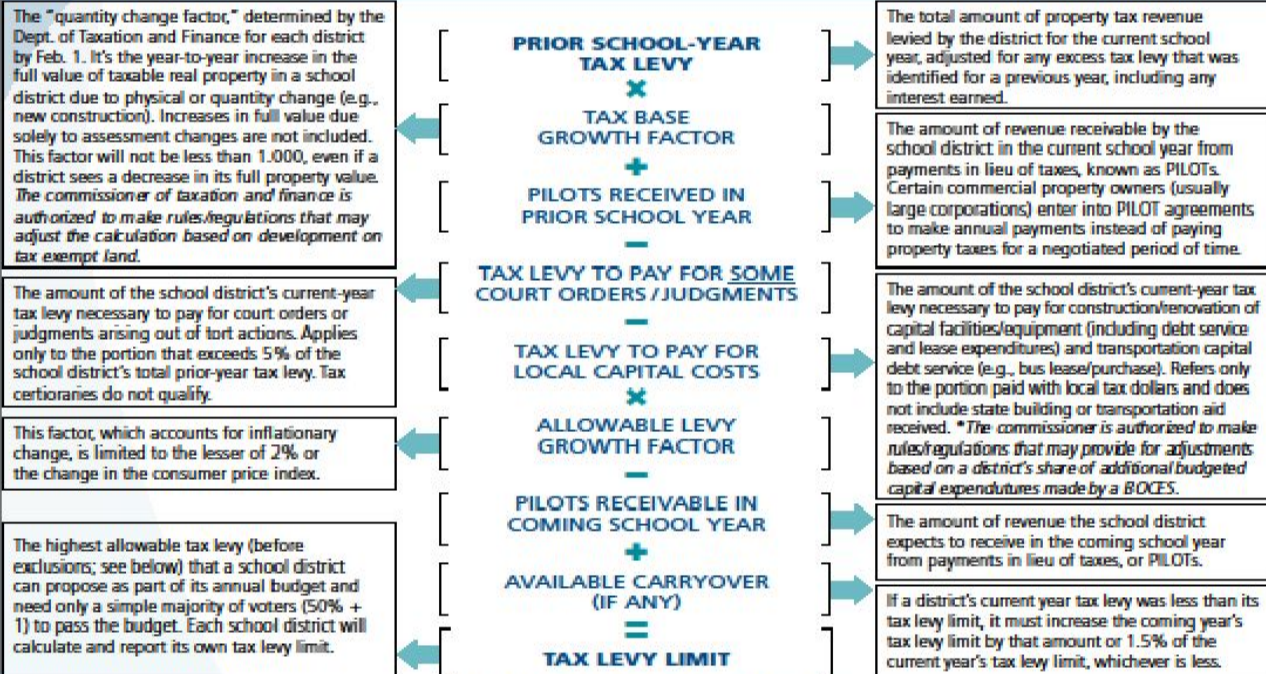


Calculation of the Property Tax Cap

New York's Tax Levy "Cap" Formula: How does it add up?

Although often referred to as a "2 percent tax cap," New York's tax levy "cap" law does not restrict any proposed tax levy increase to 2 percent. Pursuant to the law, each school district must follow an 8-step calculation, outlined below, to calculate its individual "tax levy limit." That limit then determines what level of voter support is required for budget approval.

THE BASE FORMULA





Calculation of the Property Tax Cap

EXCLUSIONS TO BE ADDED

The law excludes certain portions of a school district's tax levy from the calculation above. A district can add these exclusions (described below) to its tax levy limit, increasing the amount of taxes the district is allowed to levy while still needing only a simple majority of voters for budget approval.

+

TAX LEVY TO PAY FOR SOME PENSION CONTRIBUTION COSTS

Applies only when the employer contribution rates set by the statewide pension systems (TRS and ERS) increase by more than 2 percentage points from one year to the next. Even with this exclusion, most if not all pension costs must be funded within a school district's tax levy limit.

+

TAX LEVY TO PAY FOR SOME COURT ORDERS/JUDGMENTS

The amount of the school district's coming-year tax levy necessary to pay for court orders or judgments arising out of tort actions. Only the amount that exceeds 5% of the school district's prior year total tax levy can be excluded from the tax levy limit. Tax certioraries cannot be excluded.

+

TAX LEVY TO PAY FOR SOME LOCAL CAPITAL COSTS

The amount of the school district's coming-year tax levy necessary to pay for construction/renovation of capital facilities or equipment (including debt service and lease expenditures) and transportation capital debt service. This exclusion refers only to the portion paid with local tax dollars (i.e., does not include state building or transportation aid received).*

=

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TAX LEVY

The tax levy limit plus exclusions. This is the highest total tax levy that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% +1) is required.



Produced by the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service (<http://www.capitalregionboces.org>). In consultation with the Questar III BOCES State Aid and Financial Planning Service. Published January 2016.





New York State School Boards Association

2026-27 Foundation Aid Analysis

OSWEGO

2026-27 Governor's Budget Proposal	2025-26 Public School Enrollment Est.	2025-26 Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*	2026-27 Economically Disadvantaged	2026-27 Total Foundation Aid	Foundation Aid Dollar Change	Foundation Aid Percent Change
	3,494	22.49%	54.31%	\$42,442,822	\$420,225	1.00%
2025-2026 Enacted Budget	2024-25 Public School Enrollment	2025-26 Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)	2025-26 Economically Disadvantaged	2025-26 Total Foundation Aid		
	3,486	22.49%	57.76%	\$42,022,597		

* 2026-27 data will be produced by the state in February 2026

**2026-27 Executive Budget Estimates of General Support for Public Schools for the
Oswego City School District**

	2025-26	2026-27	Change	%
Foundation Aid	\$42,022,597	\$42,442,822	\$420,225	1.00%
Expense-based Aids				
Building Aid	\$5,248,738	\$4,883,636	(\$365,102)	-6.96%
Transportation Aid*	\$3,274,917	\$4,110,611	\$835,694	25.52%
BOCES Aid	\$6,674,159	\$8,020,639	\$1,346,480	20.17%
Public High Cost Excess Cost Aid	\$1,052,727	\$924,954	(\$127,773)	-12.14%
Private Excess Cost Aid	\$198,641	\$224,177	\$25,536	12.86%
Special Services Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Instructional Materials Aids				
Software Aid	\$54,378	\$54,542	\$164	0.30%
Hardware & Technology Aid	\$69,311	\$68,287	(\$1,024)	-1.48%
Textbook Aid	\$212,380	\$213,137	\$757	0.36%
Library Materials Aid	\$21,886	\$22,756	\$870	3.98%
Aid for Early Childhood Education				
Full Day Kindergarten Conversion Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Universal Prekindergarten Aid**	\$499,184	\$647,736	\$148,552	29.76%

2026-2027 Revenue



	Current 2025-26	Expected 2026-27	Year-to-Year
PILOTS	26,067,135	26,067,135	-0-
Foundation Aid	42,022,597	42,442,822	420,225
Expense Based Aid	16,449,182	18,164,017	1,714,835
Tax Levy	<u>27,883,685</u>	<u>Up to 2%</u>	<u>????</u>
Total			?????

Revenue Assumptions



- Modification Student Counts
- Increases in Foundation Aid (Governor's proposal is 1% increase)
- Tax Cap (Current Base is 2%)

Highlights of Executive Budget



State Budget - increase to \$260 billion in all funds from \$252 billion

- Projected budget gaps projected of \$6 and \$9 billion (reduced from \$10 and \$12.5 billion)

Summary of School Aid for 2026-27:

- Traditional School Aid increased by \$1.3 billion or 3.6%
- When adding in non-traditional funds, the total is \$1.6 billion or 4.3%

Foundation Aid Changes:

- Total increase of \$779 million – \$26.3 million to \$27.1 million or 2.96%

Universal Prekindergarten

- Increase of \$431 million – \$1.068 million to \$1.499 million – **which is a 40.32% increase**

Lunch/Breakfast program – total of \$395 million (increase of \$55 million)

- Shortfall of \$43 million in current year budget

Highlights of Executive Budget



- All 4-year-olds would be eligible for prekindergarten through a requirement that by 2028-29 districts provide a full-day slot to any 4-year-old child whose parents have requested it. This requirement can be met through either district- or CBO-operated programs.
- Increase in building aid for renewable energy projects.
- Summer Food Program – \$3.05 million for summer food programs.
- STAR program School tax relief reduced to \$1.294 million as it becomes a tax credit instead of a direct reimbursement.
- State Aid Database Freeze – aid restricted to Executive proposal (typically rejected).
- Prior Year Claims – would prohibit Commissioner of Education from making payments on aid claims other than those in the prior year.

Next Steps of the Budget Process



- Work with budget originators and Board of Education as budgets are refined and presented
- Solidify Tax Cap components (debt service schedule increasing)
- Continue to evaluate staffing and retirements
- Make budget adjustments based on replacement plans for technology, transportation, custodial/maintenance
- Evaluate BOCES services
- Adjust State aid based on the Legislative budget
- Monitor State Budget progress and continue advocacy efforts

Upcoming Meetings



March 1 – Tax Cap Report to NYS Comptroller

March 3 – Board Budget Workshop Session #2

March 17 – Board Budget Workshop Session #3

April 7 – Final Budget Presentation

April 21 – Board Adopts Budget

May 5 – Public Budget Hearing

May 19 – Budget Vote and Board Election



Q & A

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS