



OSWEGO

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*We empower and engage students
to guarantee their successful future.*

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

OVERVIEW OF THE 2026-27 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 our school community.

A school district budget should be designed to meet the unique needs of all students while addressing the concerns and priorities of the community. The proposed 2026–2027 budget aligns resources to support student learning from pre-K through grade 12 across all curricular areas. Despite receiving less foundation aid from the state, this budget reflects a strong commitment to maintaining all current programming levels, both academic and extracurricular, while continuing to prioritize a safe learning environment and the emotional and mental wellness of our students.

The school budget represents the largest collective investment our community makes with its tax dollars. I would like to thank the Board of Education for their vision and dedication to ensuring that our students and staff have the resources necessary to move the district forward while remaining mindful of the impact on local taxpayers.

The Oswego City School District’s proposed 2026–2027 budget of \$121,805,470, adopted by the Board of Education on April 21, reflects careful stewardship and long-term fiscal planning to meet both current and future student needs. This includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project to complete facility security upgrades at Charles E. Riley Elementary School, including the replacement of several exterior doors.

Our commitment to long-range financial planning and fiscal responsibility remains strong. Cost-saving measures within the budget include our energy performance contract, shared services and cooperative purchasing through BOCES, and operational efficiencies in building maintenance, information technology, and transportation. This budget also continues to support the district’s long-range facility plan, addressing the needs of our aging schools and facilities.

The Board of Education and I are proud to present a budget that maintains all existing programs and activities, even in the face of reduced state aid, while continuing to invest in supports for our students — all with 2.9% increase to the tax levy.

We encourage all members of our community to participate in the budget vote on Tuesday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sincerely,

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

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$121,805,470

TAX LEVY CHANGE

\$808,627 – 2.9%

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Polls Open 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

FAST FACTS:

✓ **2.9% TAX LEVY CHANGE**

✓ **MAINTAINS ALL STUDENT PROGRAMMING, ACADEMIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR**

✓ **CONTINUES TO PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND SECURITY**

✓ **FOCUSED ON SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM FISCAL HEALTH**

OSWEGO SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026



Career Day Inspires Future Pathways at Fitzhugh Park School

Fitzhugh Park School hosted its annual Career Day, giving students the opportunity to explore a wide range of future career paths.

Students arrived dressed for success, representing their future career interests and took part in a Career Fair held in the school gym. Community members hosted tables throughout the gym, sharing information about their professions and answering student questions. The event provided students with meaningful, real-world insight into different careers and the skills required in each field.

In addition, fifth- and sixth-grade students attended career presentations held throughout the building. These sessions highlighted a variety of occupations and helped students better understand the many opportunities available to them as they continue to grow and learn.

The event was coordinated by Erin Sabatini and Mary-Kate Vashaw, teachers at FPS, whose efforts helped bring the day together successfully for students and staff.

“The reason we do this is because we like to connect to the community and teach our students how to have life skills, be able to go on interviews and understand what it entails to be in a career,” said Sabatini.

“The most exciting part about this day for me is to see the smiles on the kids’ faces. They just love this day; they look forward to it.”

A heartfelt thank-you is extended to all community members and volunteers who took time out of their busy day to be present for the children in our community and to share their experiences and expertise.



Erin Sabatini smiles with a staff member and students at FPS Career Day.



Left: A cosmetology professional presents to a class.



Right: A student lighthouse leader poses in front of their trifold poster.

Oswego Students Turn Page to Success in Battle of the Books

From classroom reading challenges to district matchups and a final showdown at the county level, students from the Oswego City School District showed strong teamwork and a love of reading throughout this year’s Battle of the Books.

The annual event challenges students to read a selected list of books and compete in fast-paced question rounds that test recall, comprehension and teamwork.

District-level winners included Kingsford Park Elementary School’s grades 3/4 team of Sawyer Boeckmann, Somahng Lee and Dillon Mumm; Frederick Leighton Elementary School’s 5/6 team featured Merrick Buck, Alea Casper and Caitlyn Joyce; Oswego Middle School’s 7/8 team Grace Natoli, Nicole Schrouder and Margaret Tesoriero.

That dedication carried through to the county competition, where Oswego teams earned top honors.

The grades 3/4 team captured first place, while the grades 7/8 team earned second place after a strong run through the competition season.



First place third and fourth grade county battle winners from KPS. Left to right: Sawyer Boeckmann, Dillon Mumm and Somahng Lee



Second place seventh and eighth grade county battle competitors from OMS. Left to right: Nicole Schroeder, Grace Natoli and Margaret Tesoriero

Slime, Stories and School Spirit Energize FLS Literacy Night

Frederick Leighton Elementary School held its fifth annual “Bucs, Books and Baskets” Literacy Night, bringing together students, families and community members to celebrate reading and the success of its schoolwide Read-A-Thon.

The event took place at FLS and featured games, popcorn, candy and a visit from Texas Roadhouse’s Andy Armadillo, along with an author appearance by Christie Casciano. Casciano shared her latest installment in “The Puck Hog” series, signed books and talked with students about what inspires her stories.

“We kick off our Read-A-Thon at the beginning of March and each year I challenge the students to reach a reading goal for the building,” said Principal Stephanie Griffin. “This year it was 75,000 minutes, and when they reached this goal, I had to ‘Walk the Plank’ and slide down into a pool of slime and water balloons! We are thankful for all of our community partners for working as a team to support the love of reading at Leighton!”

The event promotes literacy and builds school-community connections, reinforcing that learning is the foundation for a productive and fulfilling life and that community partnerships enrich student learning.



Christie Casciano gives students copies of her books.

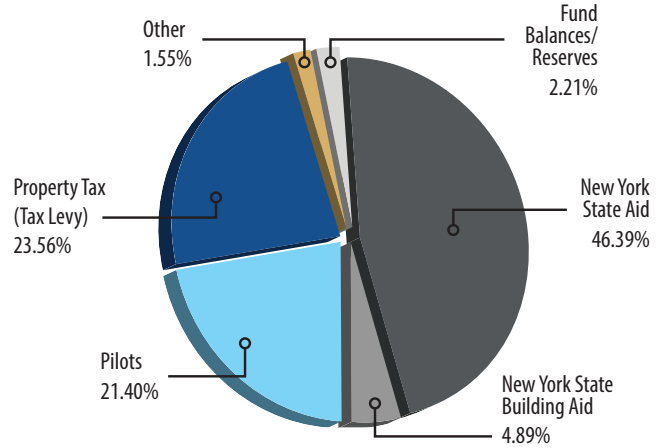


Stephanie Griffin “walks the plank” into a slime bucket.

OVERVIEW OF 2026-2027 BUDGET

Where does the school budget money come from?

New York State Aid	\$56,502,151
New York State Building Aid	\$5,961,515
Pilots	\$26,067,135
Property Tax (Tax Levy)	\$28,692,312
Other	\$1,889,560
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$2,692,797



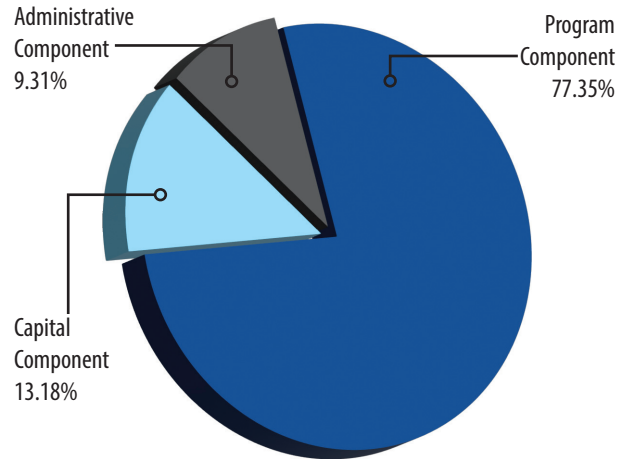
REVENUE

	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE
Property Taxes	\$27,883,685	\$28,692,312	\$808,627
PILOTS	\$26,067,135	\$26,067,135	\$0
State Aid	\$60,569,334	\$62,463,666	\$1,894,332
Other Sources	\$2,120,000	\$1,889,560	-\$230,440
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$0	\$2,692,797	\$2,692,797
TOTAL	\$116,640,154	\$121,805,470	\$5,165,316

PROGRAM COMPONENT: At 77.35% 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 13.18% 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 9.31% 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.



READ MORE ABOUT BUDGET FAQs ON PG. 5

EXPENDITURE COMPONENT BUDGET

	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE
Program	\$90,320,505	\$94,216,734	\$3,896,229
Administrative	\$11,399,335	\$11,339,142	-\$ 60,193
Capital	\$14,920,314	\$16,249,594	\$1,329,280
TOTAL	\$116,640,154	\$121,805,470	\$5,165,316

SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 19, 2026

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Annual Budget of the School District

To adopt the Annual Budget of \$121,805,470 for the School District for the 2026-2027 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 17, 2026, which authorizes (a) the purchase of student transportation vehicles, at a total combined maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$1,600,000; (b) the issuance of up to \$1,600,000 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 Forty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Five Dollars (\$1,548,205), 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 three

Sean Callen

James MacKenzie

Julie Chetney

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Vote for up to three

Erik Wade

Eve Phillips

Jennifer 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
2026-2027 School Year

Basic STAR Tax Savings¹

\$360.60

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 19, voters throughout the Oswego City School District will be going to the polls to decide upon the proposed 2026-2027 budget and elect three 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 19, 2026 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.



BUDGET FAQs

1. Should the District not complete a Capital Outlay Project and stop current/future capital projects?

If planned appropriately, capital projects and capital outlay projects can be “budget neutral” or have minimal impact on the annual budget. School districts receive building aid on capital projects through NYSED, which offsets some of the debt service obligations. Our current long-range facility plan relies on capital reserve to pay the “community share” of capital projects.

The Oswego City School District’s building aid ratio is 88%.

Capital projects update facilities and modernized infrastructure to help with efficiencies and keep instructional spaces optimal for students and staff.

2. Should the District use more reserves to balance the budget?

The district must use reserves carefully, as they are one-time funds and cannot sustainably support ongoing expenses without creating future budget gaps. Limiting the use of reserves in any single year helps preserve long-term fiscal stability and protects the district from more significant financial challenges in the future.

3. How would the proposed budget affect my taxes?

While final tax rates are calculated by each local municipality and finalized in summer, the district estimates the tax rate will increase by approximately \$34 in the City of Oswego, \$52 in the Town of Minetto, \$55 in the Town of Oswego, \$56 in the Town of Scriba, \$34 in the Town of Sterling, and \$58 in the Town of Volney per \$100,000 of assessed value using prior year assessment equalization rates.

PAWS of CNY Bring Smiles and Wagging Tails to Minetto Elementary

Once a month, first graders at Minetto Elementary School take part in a special visit through the PAWS of CNY program, creating a supportive space to build reading skills and confidence.

Students read aloud alongside therapy dogs, helping reduce anxiety and encouraging participation. The experience supports both literacy development and social-emotional well-being, aligning with the Oswego City School District’s focus on caring, learning and creating a safe environment for all students.

Kelly Cullinan of SUNY Oswego, who visits with her dog Clover, said the connection with students is what makes the program meaningful.

“Education is a community contribution, and reading with the first graders is such a fun connection to our kids. Clover genuinely gets excited to go to school, trotting down the hallway, greeting all the students,” Cullinan said. “I always leave with a new story; first graders are too funny. Clover and I are so very fortunate to be PAWS of CNY members who get to go every month.”

For students, the visits have become a highlight of the school month, combining reading practice with encouragement and a sense of community that supports their growth both in and out of the classroom.



Minetto students read to the PAWS of CNY pets.

Oswego High School Hosts Trades and Unions Expo to Showcase Career Pathways

Students at Oswego High School explored career opportunities during the Trades and Unions Expo, which connected them with local trades and labor unions and explored pathways for after graduation.

The program included remarks from Sara Broadwell of the Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Robert Corradino, informational sessions with trade representatives, and a library tabling session where students asked about apprenticeships, certifications and job opportunities.

For many students, the experience broadened their understanding of what careers in the trades can offer.

“I am here today to explore my future options for after high school, whether that’s going to college or possibly something outside of college. I am kind of exploring my options so I have a broader sight of what I can actually do,” said Erik Velez, a junior at Oswego High School.

The event was coordinated by Ashli Jaquin, an English teacher at Oswego High School, and Amy Rapin, the school’s work-based learning coordinator. Additional support was provided by the Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, the Oswego High School counseling department, Dr. Kilmer and members of the Oswego City School District Board of Education.

By connecting students with professionals in the field, Oswego High School engages and empowers the exploration of skills and opportunities in the trades, helping pave the way for a successful future.



Community partners and OHS staff gather for a group photo in celebration of trades and unions.



Capital Project Work Progresses Across Oswego Schools

Work on the Oswego City School District’s capital improvement project is progressing steadily this spring, with upgrades taking shape across multiple buildings.

Phase 1 construction remains on track for completion by the fall. Current work includes improvements to the transportation center fire alarm system, upgrades to the Oswego High School pool chemical room, generator installations at several elementary schools, and a boiler replacement at Leighton Elementary. Elevator upgrades at Kingsford Park and Fitzhugh Park were successfully completed in summer 2025.

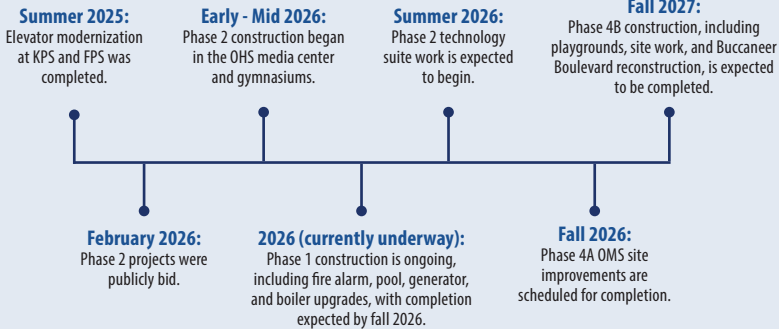
Phase 2 projects, bid earlier this year, are now underway. Renovations have begun in the Oswego High School media center and

gymnasiums, with work in the technology classrooms expected to start this summer. Additional improvements will enhance learning and support spaces at Kingsford Park, Fitzhugh Park, Oswego Middle School and Minetto Elementary.

Construction is also ongoing in Phase 4B, which includes site improvements, a new playground at Leighton Elementary, tennis court upgrades and reconstruction of Buccaneer Boulevard. This phase is expected to wrap up in fall 2027. Phase 4A site work at Oswego Middle School remains on schedule for completion by fall 2026.

The coordinated, multi-phase effort continues to bring meaningful upgrades to facilities across the district.

Renovation Rundown



Lauzon Earns National Athletic Administration Certification



Cynthia Lauzon

Cynthia Lauzon, director of physical education and athletics for the Oswego City School District, has earned Certified Master Athletic Administrator designation from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

The certification recognizes advanced knowledge, leadership and professional development in interscholastic athletic administration. Candidates complete a rigorous process that includes leadership training, professional evaluation and a final project. Lauzon is among a select group of administrators worldwide to receive the honor.

“Obtaining the Certified Master Athletic Administrator has been a career highlight,” Lauzon said. “This designation validates expertise in school-based athletic leadership by completing rigorous leadership training courses and finishing a

written/oral project. Seeing my personal work and vision translate into a meaningful contribution that my colleagues in the league (Salt City Athletic Conference) and section (Section III Athletics) can apply . . . is something that I am very proud of.”

“I am a firm believer that we should always continue to learn and grow,” she added. “I feel that obtaining this certification allows others to see that I truly practice what I preach.”

Lauzon’s achievement reflects the Oswego City School District staff’s commitment to learning, leadership and continuous growth, exemplifying the district’s mission to empower students and its core values of integrity, innovation and collaboration.

STEAM Night Showcases Authentic Learning at Kingsford Park Elementary

Kingsford Park Elementary School welcomed students and families for an engaging STEAM Night focused on experiential, authentic learning.

“STEAM Night brings learning to life by giving students and families the chance to explore, create and discover together in meaningful, hands-on ways,” said KPS Principal Jennifer Petralito. “It strengthens the home/school connection while inspiring curiosity, problem-solving and a love of learning beyond the classroom.”

Families explored interactive stations spanning science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Activities included Wow of Optics, Oswego County Help Me Grow,

School-Based Health Center resources, and oral hygiene education from the Department of Health, along with additional STEAM experiences.

Students participated in hands-on stations such as drones, VEX robotics, cup stacking and 3D printing, along with immersive creative challenges like creating paper birds, learning about physics, viewing cells, receiving planting projects, operating OzoBots and more.

The event reinforced how school and community partnerships can enrich student learning in meaningful ways.

Kingsford Park Elementary thanks its staff and community partners for supporting the event.



Students learn authentically at KPS STEAM Night.



Pirate Night: Math, Literacy and Buccaneer Fun

Charles E. Riley Elementary School welcomed students and families for an engaging evening of hands-on activities during this year's third annual Math and Literacy Pirate Night.

"Events like this bring literacy and math to life by engaging students in authentic, hands-on activities that extend beyond the classroom," said Principal Tracy Eygnor. "By fostering these partnerships, we strengthen the home-school connection, increase student motivation and create opportunities for a real-world application of essential skills."

The event created opportunities for connection while supporting student growth through authentic learning experiences.

"Families had the opportunity to engage in interactive math and literacy activities designed to reinforce classroom learning in fun and meaningful ways," said Riley kindergarten teacher Elizabeth Komuda.

Throughout the evening, families explored a range of activities throughout the building, including multiplication-based games, a photo booth, obstacle courses in the gymnasium, food and more. Students demonstrated their skills while

discovering new concepts alongside their loved ones in a fun, welcoming environment.

Community organizations were also on hand to connect with families and share valuable resources. Participating vendors included ConnexCare, Oswego Fire Department, Friends of Oswego Library, CMOO, Oswego Bookmobile, Oswego County Head Start, Oswego County 4-H, Oswego Health Department, Oswego Health, Oswego County Federal Credit Union, Oswego Police Department and the Riley Home & School Association.

A special highlight of the evening was a visit from the Buc mascot, who brought excitement and school spirit to students throughout the event.

In addition, door prize donations from JP Jewelers, Heagerty's Hot Spot, Stone's Candy, Oswego Cinema and the CER HSA added excitement to the evening.

Events like the Math & Literacy Pirate Night highlight the strength of Charles E. Riley school community and its commitment to supporting student success both inside and outside the classroom.



A meaningful learning moment shared by a staff member, guardian and student.



Students smile at CER Math & Literacy Pirate Night.

OMS Students Explore Broadcasting

Students at the Oswego Middle School are getting hands-on experience in broadcasting through the school's technology program, where they are learning production and communication skills used in the industry while embracing the district's core values of innovation and learning.

Technology teacher Eric McCrobie said the program encourages students to think creatively and solve

problems as they work with professional-style equipment.

"A lot of the things that we try to teach these kids in class are a lot of problem solving, critical thinking skills and real-world scenarios where they have to think on their feet," McCrobie said.

By exploring broadcasting technology and production, students gain experience with tools used in the field and

are introduced to possible pathways they could continue in high school and beyond.

"Their ability to be working on something new and exciting and to be working on equipment that they use within the industry is just a really cool opportunity for them," McCrobie said. "They're able to learn a potential pathway that they could continue in high school and into graduation and potentially into a future career."



Students explore broadcasting at OMS.

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).



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Raymond Kilmer III

Postal Patron

2026-27 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year**	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$116,640,154	\$121,805,470	\$120,996,843
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$5,165,316	\$4,356,689
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.43%	3.74%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$27,883,685	\$28,692,312	
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	\$28,692,312	\$27,883,685
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,544,432	\$2,715,285	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$25,339,253	\$29,241,937	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$25,339,253	\$29,241,937	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$11,399,355	\$11,339,142	\$11,319,142
Program Component	\$90,320,505	\$94,216,734	\$93,628,107
Capital Component	\$14,920,314	\$16,249,594	\$16,049,594

*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.