



YOUR | SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION 2025 SCHOOLS



Proposed budget expands programs, services while remaining below district's legal tax levy limit

On Tuesday, May 20, the residents of the Niskayuna Central School District will vote on a proposed \$116,121,281 budget for the 2025-26 school year. If approved, the proposed spending plan will continue all existing services and programs and offer \$2.45 million in new investments, resulting in the creation of 20.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

The proposed budget will enhance district-wide safety and security, strengthen academic services and programs, expand the district's special education continuum and provide additional support for students, teachers, staff and community.

In addition to the proposed budget, residents will vote to elect three members to the board of education and to decide on the purchase of nine school buses as part of the district's ongoing Bus Replacement Plan for a total of \$1,685,931.

The proposed budget addresses the diverse needs of students while minimizing its financial impact on taxpayers. It calls for a 2.29% increase in the tax levy for next year – well below the district's legal limit of 3.58%, as defined by New York's tax levy cap legislation. Because the tax levy increase remains below the district's legal limit, a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) is needed to pass the budget.

The proposal also aligns with the district's 2025-26 budget priorities, shaped by community input. Based on that feedback, new investments for the upcoming school year will include:

- **Enhanced safety and security across all campuses:** The district will restore its School Resource Officer (SRO) program by contracting with the Niskayuna Police Department for one full-time SRO at the high school and strengthen overall security coordination by hiring a part-time contractual security director to lead a district-wide security team. Staffing additions will include one full-time SRO, five full-time security monitors (one at each elementary school), and two full-time security monitors at the high school – converted from existing supervising clerical assistant (SCA) positions.

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VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Niskayuna High School

Budget Snapshot

\$116,121,281

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$5,350,512 (4.83%)

SPENDING INCREASE

\$1,486,549 (2.29%)

TAX LEVY INCREASE

Also on the Ballot

Bus Purchase Proposition

\$1,685,931 to go toward the purchase of nine buses. More details on page 3.

Board of Education Election: Three Candidates for Three Open Seats

See back cover for candidate information.

Voter eligibility

To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to May 20. If you are not already registered to vote, you can register at the polls on May 20. Although no pre-registration is necessary, personal identification may be requested at the polls. Questions? Please call the district clerk at (518) 377-4666, ext. 4.

Absentee and Early Mail Ballots

Absentee and early mail ballots are available at the District Office and will be issued upon request to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote at the polls due to illness or disability. Call the district clerk at (518) 377-4666, ext. 4, to obtain an application and for information about deadlines.

- **Increased academic program support:**

The district will add a full-time director of science and technology to oversee these programs, as well as one full-time teacher on special assignment at each elementary school (5 FTE total) to increase student, staff and family support. Other enhancements include a 0.6 FTE increase in occupational and physical therapy staffing, one full-time counselor and the adoption of a new elementary-level English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum.

- **Expanded special education offerings:**

The district will add two self-contained communication classrooms – one at the elementary level and one at Van Antwerp Middle School – to educate students within their home community. In addition, 1.2 full-time high school special education teachers will be added to support co-teaching and resource room programs.

- **Additional staff at Iroquois Middle School:**

As part of the next phase of the middle school reconfiguration, Iroquois will house all seventh and eighth grade students next year. To support this transition, the district will add a full-time school counselor to assist students and guide them through the high school entrance process, as well as one full-time cleaner to help maintain the expanded facility.

- **Continued K-5 Summer Learning Academy:**

The district will continue the K-5 Summer Learning Academy, originally funded through now-concluded federal COVID relief, to provide additional academic support for elementary students during the summer months.

- **Support for Distraction-Free Schools:**

To align with Governor Kathy Hochul's K-12 initiative, the district will allocate funding to implement strategies that reduce learning disruptions caused by student cell phone use during the school day. District leaders will continue to engage students, staff and the community on the best solution for our district that aligns with state guidance.

- **Improved faculty, staff and community support:**

The district will hire a full-time coordinator of professional learning and community education to oversee professional development for staff and

Expenses

Three-Part Budget Summary

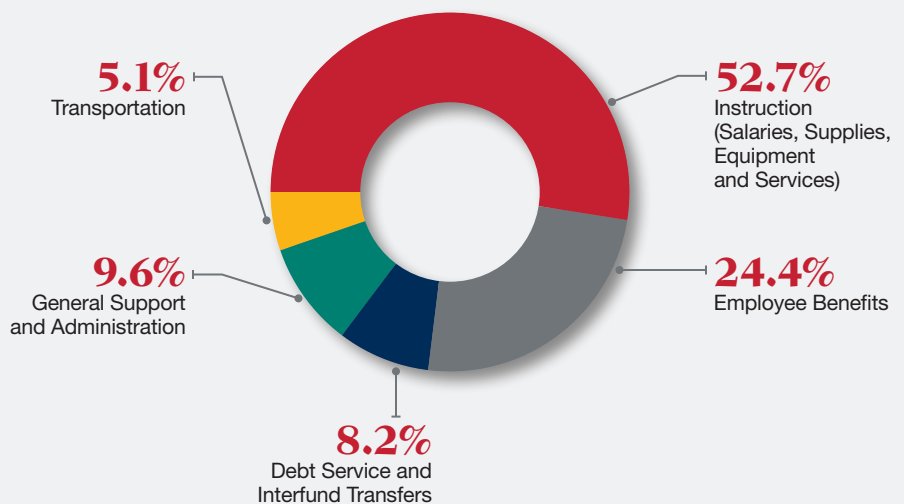
All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital.

	2024-25 BUDGET	2025-26 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	% OF 2025-26 BUDGET
Program	\$83,160,455	\$86,538,449	\$3,377,994	74.5%
Administrative	\$10,959,439	\$11,967,341	\$1,007,902	10.3%
Capital	\$16,650,875	\$17,615,491	\$964,616	15.2%
TOTAL	\$110,770,769	\$116,121,281	\$5,350,512	100%

Three-part budget definitions

- **Program** includes salaries and benefits of teachers, school counselors, aides, nurses, etc.; teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks; library and instructional computer funds; athletics expenses; and transportation costs (except bus purchases).
- **Administrative** includes salaries and benefits of administrators who spend most of their time performing supervisory duties; insurance costs; legal expenses; public information; and board of education expenses.
- **Capital** includes debt service on buildings; bus purchases; tax certiorari and court ordered costs; custodial costs including salaries and benefits of maintenance workers; and all facilities costs, including supplies, utilities, repairs and renovations.

Spending Breakdown by Category



adult learning programs for the community. Two additional days of staffing will also be added to the communications office to enhance the delivery of essential district- and school-level updates.

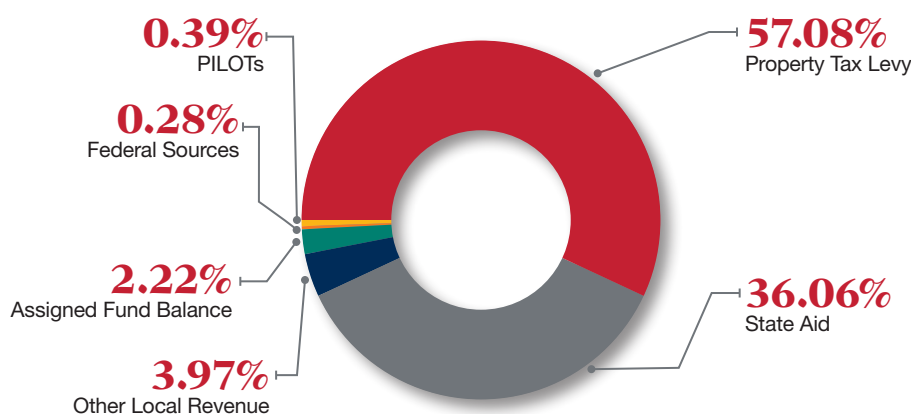
- **Additional investments in operations and technology:** Operational improvements include the addition of a full-time, district-wide grounds worker to maintain athletic fields

and outdoor facilities. The transportation department will receive technology upgrades, including mounted tablets for bus drivers and a geo-based alert system, to improve safety and route efficiency.

Revenues

Breakdown by Category

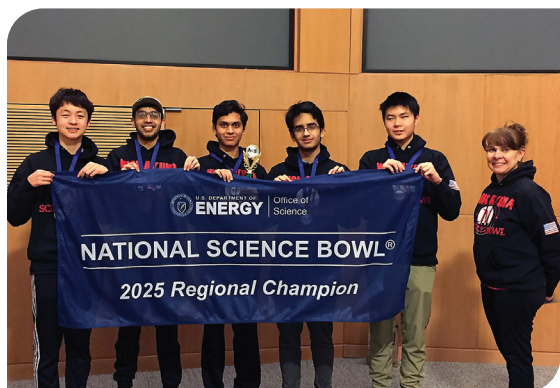
	2024-25 BUDGETED REVENUE	2025-26 PROPOSED REVENUE	CHANGE
State Aid	\$38,347,302	\$41,869,257	\$3,521,955
Federal Sources	\$345,000	\$325,000	(\$20,000)
Property Tax Levy	\$64,793,420	\$66,280,014	\$1,486,594
PILOTs (Payments-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes)	\$432,233	\$448,032	\$15,799
Other Local Revenue (Incl. Charges, Interest, Rentals)	\$4,276,921	\$4,623,085	\$346,164
Assigned Fund Balance	\$2,575,893	\$2,575,893	\$0
TOTAL	\$110,770,769	\$116,121,281	\$5,350,512



Proposed Budget Estimated Tax Bill Impact

The figures below are estimates only for houses with market values of \$200,000, \$300,000 and \$400,000 across the district. Tax rates and tax bills for property owners in the four towns in the district are set in August after assessment rolls and equalization rates are finalized by the state. This means that the tax bill impact for individuals may differ from what is shown here as an estimate.

	HOUSE ASSESSED AT \$200,000	HOUSE ASSESSED AT \$300,000	HOUSE ASSESSED AT \$400,000
Annual	\$73.58	\$110.37	\$147.15
Monthly	\$6.13	\$9.20	\$12.26



For the second straight year, the Niskayuna High School Science Bowl Team qualified for the National Science Bowl Competition this spring, held in Washington, D.C.

Scan to watch the buzzer techniques that helped them get there!



Propositions on the Ballot

Bus Purchase Proposition

The second ballot proposition asks voters to approve \$1,685,931 for the purchase of nine new buses, including one 30 passenger wheelchair diesel bus, two 36 passenger diesel buses and six 77 passenger, full size diesel buses.

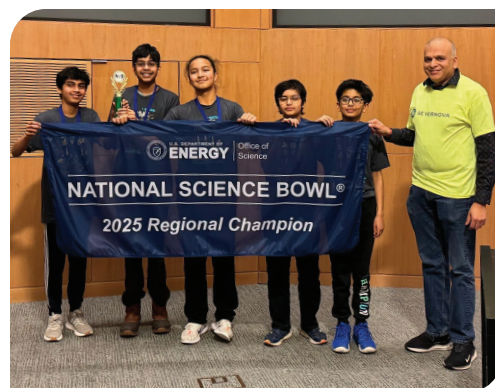
The district will be reimbursed by the state for approximately 73.4% of the bus purchase cost.

The proposition is part of the district's annual bus replacement plan, which replaces the oldest buses each year in order to maintain a safe and operational fleet, and controls the maintenance costs that come with keeping older buses on the road.

Voters approved the purchase of two electric buses last year in anticipation of the approaching 2027 state mandate which will require every bus purchase to be an electric vehicle (EV). These buses will be added to the fleet this spring.

Implementing some electric buses now gives the district the opportunity to learn more about the needs and requirements for operation/upkeep. The district is also currently working with an engineering firm on a full fleet electrification study in light of the state requirement.

Our Niskayuna buses transport approximately 4,917 students on 70 morning runs and 63 afternoon runs. The school district buses travel more than 4,000 miles per day. Niskayuna Central School District covers 20 square miles.



Niskayuna's Van Antwerp Science Bowl Team also qualified for the national event this spring!

Niskayuna

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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YOUR SCHOOLS SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION 2025

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VOTE

Tuesday, May 20
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Niskayuna High School



School Board election on the May 20 ballot

Three candidates running for three seats

Candidates, in ballot order, are Kimberly Tully, Judith Tomisman and Elisabeth Cococcia. Board members are volunteers elected to three-year terms. The terms of the individuals elected this year will begin on July 1, 2025. Biographical information is provided by the candidates.



Kimberly Tully

Kimberly Tully is seeking a third term on the board of education. Tully volunteers for several organizations, including as a volunteer humane law enforcement officer with the Schenectady County SPCA and is a member of the board of directors. She is also a board member of the Capital Region

BOCES board of education. Tully works as director of educational advisement at Tully Rinckey PLLC, and has been a Niskayuna resident for 20 years. Tully and her husband Mathew have three children who attend Niskayuna schools: Kevin, 18, Brendan, 15, and Annamae, 12.



Judith Tomisman

Judith “Judy” Tomisman is seeking a second term on the board of education. Judy has served in numerous volunteer roles within the community and has served in a leadership capacity with several organizations, including NCF and N-CAP. She has helped to coach various basketball, softball and cheer teams through the town and worked on a variety of district committees. She is retired from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services where she worked for more than 40 years. Tomisman has lived in Niskayuna for more than 30 years and is a 1978 graduate of Niskayuna HS. She has four children, Justin, Jocelyn, Jackie and Jeremy, who are all Niskayuna graduates.



Elisabeth Cococcia

Elisabeth “Libbie” Cococcia is seeking a second term on the board of education, where she currently serves as president. Libbie was involved in the Birchwood PTO (including the role of co-president), and has worked with the Niskayuna Farmers Market, where she has served as chairperson since its founding in 2016. Professionally, Libbie is an electrical engineer with a focus in the renewable power sector, specializing in wind and solar energy. A Niskayuna resident for over 20 years, Libbie and her husband John are the proud parents of two children—Mirabella, 14, and Cameron, 12—both students in the district.