



YOUR | SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION 2026 SCHOOLS



VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Niskayuna High School

Budget Snapshot

\$121,302,975

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$5,181,694 (4.46%)

SPENDING INCREASE

\$1,637,000 (2.47%)

TAX LEVY INCREASE

Proposed budget maintains program advancement, stays within tax levy limit

On Tuesday, May 19, the residents of the Niskayuna Central School District will vote on a proposed \$121,302,975 budget for the 2026-27 school year. District leaders have taken a careful look at areas where they can reduce spending in order to account for increased costs and implement additional programming.

The budget adds a middle school project-based learning teacher for next year and supports the expansion of special education programming and business education, with an Advanced Placement Business with Personal Finance course to be introduced at the high school.

In addition to the proposed budget, residents will vote to elect two members to the Board of Education and to approve the purchase of nine school buses as part of the district's ongoing Bus Replacement Plan, for a total of \$1,828,479.

The proposal addresses the diverse needs of students while minimizing its financial impact on taxpayers. It calls for a 2.47% increase in the tax levy for next year – at the district's legal limit, as defined by New York's tax levy cap legislation. Because the tax levy increase remains at the district's legal limit, a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) is needed to pass the budget.

"We believe this is a thoughtful and carefully crafted budget proposal," said Superintendent of Schools Carl Mumenthey. "We have considered cost savings across the district and made intentional choices about funding new programs. We know the future may present additional challenges as inflation continues to outpace the amount of aid we receive from the state."

The proposal also aligns with the district's 2026-27 budget priorities, shaped by community input gathered through this year's ThoughtExchange prompt.

Proposed staffing changes

The proposed budget would:

- Add 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) middle school project-based learning teacher.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NISKAYUNA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Also on the Ballot

Bus Purchase Proposition

\$1,828,479 to go toward the purchase of nine buses, two of which would be electric. More details on page 2.

Board of Education Election: Three Candidates for Two 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 19. If you are not already registered to vote, you can register at the polls on May 19. 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

Applications for absentee and early mail ballots are available at the District Office or on the website. Call the district clerk at (518) 377-4666, ext. 4 to obtain an application, with questions or for deadlines.

www.niskyschools.org

- Add 1.0 FTE middle school special education teacher (budget neutral).
- Add 1.0 FTE high school special education teacher.
- Add 0.5 FTE high school social worker (grant funded).
- Add 0.2 FTE high school business education teacher.
- Reduce 4.0 FTE vacant teaching assistant positions throughout the district.

Additional reductions helped balance budget

In order to balance the budget for the upcoming school year, the district reduced approximately \$550,000 through careful consideration. Money saved through these reductions will be reallocated strategically to support high-priority investments. The district worked to keep programs for services and students intact and reduced money in areas including special facilities projects, classroom furniture and underutilized software.

Bus Purchase Proposition

The second ballot proposition asks voters to approve \$1,828,479 to go toward the purchase of nine new buses, including two 30 passenger wheelchair diesel buses, one 36 passenger diesel bus, four 77 passenger full size diesel buses and two 70 passenger electric buses.

The district will be reimbursed by the state for approximately 73.4% of the bus purchase cost of the buses, and in addition receive a total of \$441,000 in state incentives for the electric buses from the New York State Energy Research Development Authority.

The proposition is part of the district's annual bus replacement plan, which replaces older 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 as part of the May 2024 budget vote, in anticipation of the approaching 2027 state mandate which will require every bus purchase to be an electric vehicle (EV). These buses were added

Expenses

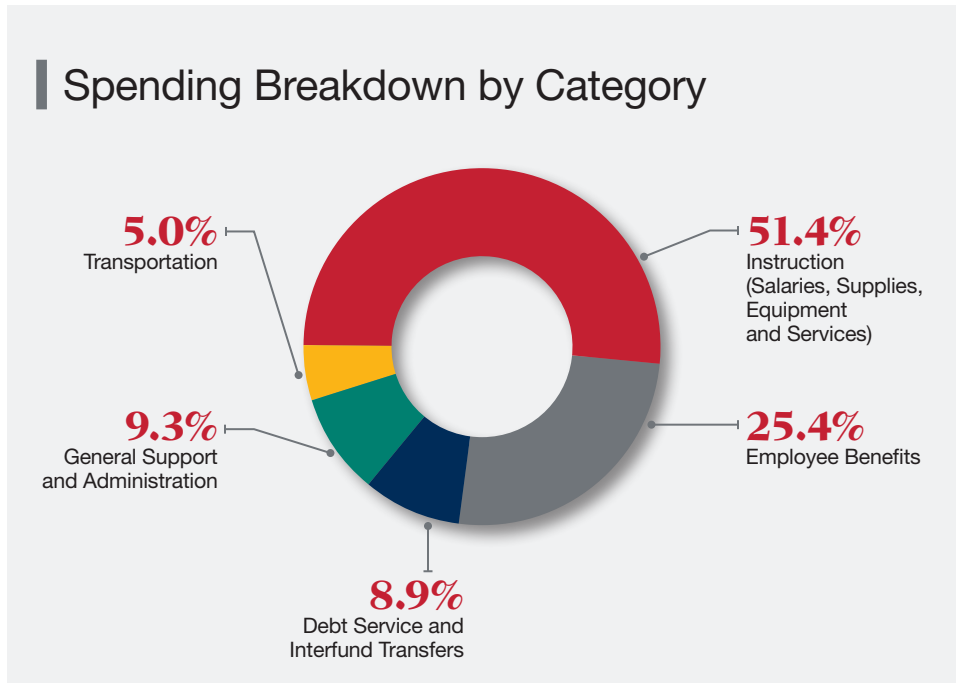
Three-Part Budget Summary

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

	2025-26 BUDGET	2026-27 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	% OF 2026-27 BUDGET
Program	\$86,538,449	\$89,743,596	\$3,205,147	74.0%
Administrative	\$11,967,341	\$12,448,923	\$481,582	10.3%
Capital	\$17,615,491	\$19,110,456	\$1,494,965	15.7%
TOTAL	\$116,121,281	\$121,302,975	\$5,181,694	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.



to the fleet as part of a pilot program during the current school year.

Our Niskayuna buses transport more than 4,000 students on 62 morning routes and 63 afternoon routes. The school district buses travel more than 4,200 miles daily. Niskayuna Central School District covers 20 square miles.

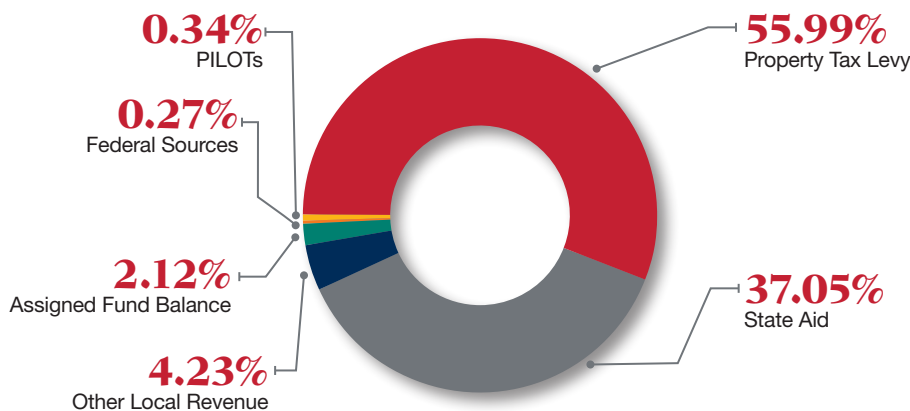
Follow the QR code to read more information about the proposed 2026-27 budget online.



Revenues

Breakdown by Category

	2025-26 BUDGETED REVENUE	2026-27 PROPOSED REVENUE	CHANGE
State Aid	\$41,869,257	\$44,942,741	\$3,073,484
Federal Sources	\$325,000	\$330,000	\$5,000
Property Tax Levy	\$66,280,014	\$67,917,074	\$1,637,060
PILOTs (Payments-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes)	\$448,032	\$411,855	(\$36,177)
Other Local Revenue (Incl. Charges, Interest, Rentals)	\$4,623,085	\$5,125,412	\$502,327
Assigned Fund Balance	\$2,575,893	\$2,575,893	\$0
TOTAL	\$116,121,281	\$121,302,975	\$5,181,694



Niskayuna High School graduation rate reaches 97%

Leaders point to revamped programming as key factor in overall improvement

The journey to graduation for Niskayuna students has more options than ever before. The district's strategic investment in both rigor and opportunity has bolstered the district's graduation rate to a recent high of 97%, significantly higher than the state average of 85%.

Between earning New York state seals, attending a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, or participating in alternative education programs, there is a unique pathway for all Niskayuna students.



Proposed Budget Tax Bill Impact

The figures below are estimates only for houses with market values of \$300,000, \$400,000 and \$500,000 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 WITH A MARKET VALUE OF \$300,000	HOUSE WITH A MARKET VALUE OF \$400,000	HOUSE WITH A MARKET VALUE OF \$500,000
Annual	\$109.55	\$146.07	\$182.59
Monthly	\$9.13	\$12.17	\$15.22

School community puts a personal stamp on the new VA

Squeals of excitement echoed down a packed Dexter Street as Van Antwerp Middle School sixth graders watched a piece of school history rise into the sky. With an EPIC Niskayuna banner attached, a steel beam signed by students and staff was lifted by a crane into the frame of the school's new addition. (See photo on back.)

The beam placement marked a significant step forward toward a state-of-the-art Van Antwerp. Read more about the ongoing capital project work at www.niskayunaschools.org/our-schools-our-future/.



Since the 2021-22 school year, enrollment in BOCES CTE programs has increased from 46 to 71 students.

Follow the QR code to read the full story.



Niskayuna

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EMPOWER • PERSEVERE • INNOVATE • CONNECT

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School Board election on the May 19 ballot

Three candidates running for two seats

Candidates, in ballot order, are My'Lisse Kochan, Jessica LaFex and Jonathan Vaillancourt. Board members are volunteers elected to three-year terms. The terms of the individuals elected this year will begin on July 1, 2026. Biographical information is provided by the candidates. A "Meet the Candidates Night" will be held at 7 p.m. on May 5, in the District Office Board Room. A brief community budget presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m.

Follow the QR code for information
about each of the candidates.



My'Lisse Kochan

My'Lisse Kochan is running for her first term on the board of education. She is a 30-year resident of the district and has three children. Two attend Niskayuna schools and one attends preschool.



Jessica LaFex

Jessica LaFex is running for her second term on the board of education. She is a 13-year resident of the district and has three children who attend Niskayuna schools.



Jonathan Vaillancourt

Jonathan Vaillancourt is running for his first term on the board of education. He is a 12-year resident of the district and has two children who attend Niskayuna schools.

Community Budget Presentations

District leaders will be presenting at a number of community events prior to the vote. Visit our website for a schedule.