



Weedsport

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Inspiring Excellence,
Ensuring Success*

**Budget
Edition 2025**

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Weedsport Jr.-Sr. High School
2821 E. Brutus St.
Weedsport, New York 13166

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Budget Facts

Proposed Budget
\$24,206,031

Year Over Increase
\$705,997

Estimated Tax Levy
2.00 Percent

2025-2026 Budget Vote:

May 20, 2025

Dear Weedsport Community,

We are pleased to share our proposed 2025–2026 school budget. The budget development process spans twelve months, during which we meticulously analyze all expenditures to ensure that our resources are aligned with district goals in a fiscally responsible manner. Our focus remains on maximizing revenue and providing our students with the highest-quality education and experiences. This year marks our thirteenth consecutive year of drafting a budget that falls below the state tax cap. Our local projected tax cap for next year is 2.10%, and this year's budget of **\$24,206,031** requires a local tax levy of 2.00%, which is 0.10% below the projected cap.

The creation of the annual school budget comes with many challenges, as the majority of our funding (55%) relies on State Aid. State Aid fluctuates from year to year, making it difficult to maintain consistent revenue streams and programming. Our priority is always a student-centered approach, ensuring that revenue is directed toward student programs and opportunities. Many factors influence our ability to maintain or expand programming, and this year presented significant financial challenges. With State Aid increasing by only 2% (anticipated), we entered this budget cycle with a substantial deficit. Major contributors to the shortfall include double-digit increases in healthcare costs (10% this year), continued inflationary pressures where the cost of goods far exceeds revenue, and significantly rising energy expenses, which many of you are likely also seeing at home. These factors, combined with a modest aid increase, placed us in a deficit position as we began the budget season.

To help address these budgetary challenges, we have continued to monitor expenditures closely and have expanded our partnership with Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES to take advantage of their cost-saving services and the additional aid generated through BOCES-supported expenditures. After a thorough analysis and careful planning, we made targeted reductions that minimized across-the-board cuts. This meticulous approach allowed us to balance the budget while preserving all academic programming and student opportunities. We continue to evaluate every component of the budget to increase efficiency, reduce waste, and preserve the high-quality programs and opportunities available to our students.

This year's proposed budget remains aligned with our Strategic Plan, which supports our vision of becoming a premier and innovative school district that ensures excellence in academics, character, and community. We are committed to preparing every student for personal and professional success. Our staff continues to engage in professional learning around the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model, which will help us refine and improve learning outcomes for all students. In the coming months, we will launch our new five-year Strategic Plan, which will provide a roadmap for the future of Weedsport CSD.

On behalf of the Board of Education, administrative team, and entire faculty, we sincerely appreciate your continued support of our schools and our students. This year's proposed budget will maintain a competitive educational experience that prepares students for future success. Please take a few moments to review the budget details included in this document. We hope to see you at the annual budget vote on May 20. Best wishes for a successful 2025–2026 school year.

Gregory M. Stone,
Superintendent of Schools



www.weedsport.org

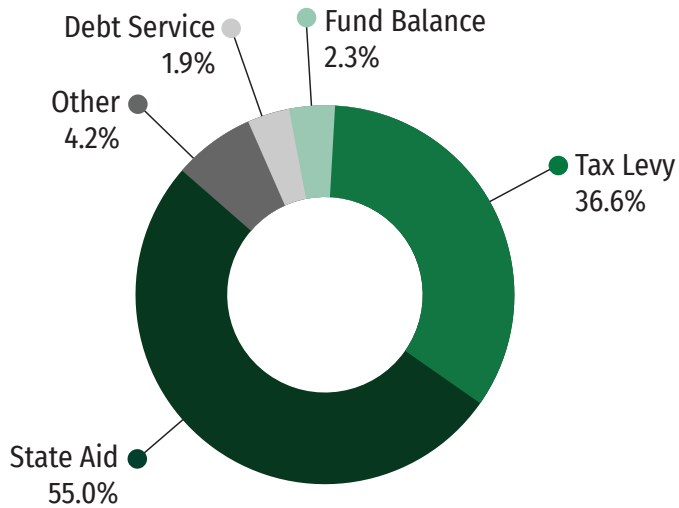


[@WeedsportCSD](https://www.facebook.com/WeedsportCSD)

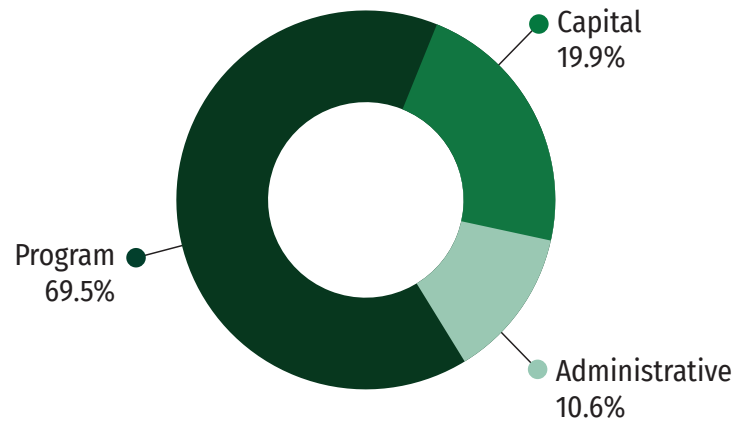


[weedsportschools](https://www.instagram.com/weedsportschools)

ESTIMATED REVENUES



3-PART BUDGET



ESTIMATED REVENUES

	Approved 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026	Dollar Change	Percent Change
State & Building Aid	12,791,857	13,311,600	519,743	4.06%
Fund Balance	564,500	564,500	-	-
Other Revenue (PILOTS, Federal Aid, Medicaid, BOCES -Refund of Prior Year Expenses, Interest)	941,000	1,028,700	87,700	9.31%
Transfer from Debt Service	525,000	450,000	(75,000)	(14.28%)
Sub Total	14,822,357	15,354,800	532,443	3.59%
Tax Levy	8,677,677	8,851,231	173,554	2.00%
Total	23,500,034	24,206,031	705,997	3.00%

BUDGET CHALLENGES

- Inflation/CPI
- Increased health insurance cost
- Delayed NYS Budget

- Contractual obligations
- Declining enrollment
- Tax cap
- Unfunded mandates
- Increased fuel and energy costs

EXPENDITURES DETAILS

	Approved 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Administrative	2,485,674	2,572,907	87,233	3.50%
Program	16,253,338	16,819,288	565,950	3.48%
Capital	4,761,022	4,813,836	52,814	1.11%
Total	23,500,034	24,206,031	705,997	3.00%

BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Safety
- Fiscally responsible and balanced budget
- Increased efficiency
- Appropriate funding of reserves
- Maintaining our high-quality staff (no staff cuts/layoffs)
 - similar teacher/student ratios
- Shared resources and BOCES services
- Professional learning: (Professional Learning Communities and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support)
- Expanded High School course offerings
- Comprehensive Academic, Fine Arts, Athletics and Extracurricular offerings

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Board of Education	22,800	27,700	4,900	21.49%
Central Administration	241,050	272,650	31,600	13.11%
Finance	355,450	375,800	20,350	5.72%
Legal Services	34,700	36,100	1,400	4.03%
Public Information	85,755	68,500	(17,255)	(20.12%)
Central Services	405,400	410,900	5,500	1.35%
Special Items	321,560	341,050	19,490	6.06%
Curriculum Development	56,450	60,300	3,850	6.82%
Supervision - Regular School	621,000	624,000	3,000	0.48%
Research/Planning/Training	103,800	107,700	3,900	3.76%
Employee Benefits	237,709	248,207	10,498	4.42%
Totals	2,485,674	2,572,907	87,233	3.51%

PROGRAM COMPONENT

	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Legal Services	44,000	44,000	-	-
Student Instruction	9,318,093	9,744,900	426,807	4.58%
Instructional Media	846,360	826,060	(20,300)	(2.39%)
Pupil Services	707,549	738,900	31,351	4.43%
Co-Curricular Activities	117,700	118,250	550	0.47%
Interscholastic Athletics	444,900	461,400	16,500	3.71%
Transportation/Bus Garage	874,540	813,340	(61,200)	(6.99%)
Community Services	0	0	-	-
Employee Benefits	3,900,196	4,072,438	172,242	3.48%
Totals	16,253,338	16,819,288	565,950	3.48%

CAPITAL COMPONENT

	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Operation of Plant	1,028,250	1,003,000	(25,250)	(2.46%)
Maintenance of Plant	269,050	285,050	16,000	5.95%
Tax Refunds	0	0	-	-
Employee Benefits	264,122	275,786	11,664	4.42%
Debt Service	3,099,600	3,150,000	50,400	1.63%
Capital Fund Transfer	100,000	100,000	-	-
Totals	4,761,022	4,813,836	52,814	1.11%

ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME*

2025-2026 Tax Impact

NYS Property Tax Cap: 2.10%

Weedsport CSD Tax Levy: 2.00%

This year marks our **thirteenth** consecutive year of drafting a budget that falls **below** the NYS tax cap.

What this means for a homeowner 2.0% Tax Levy

Full Value: \$100,000

Estimated Tax: \$2,305

Basic STAR: \$1,826

Enhanced STAR: \$990

Estimated annual increased cost to taxpayer: \$46 per 100,000 of assessed value



**This is an estimate, the final tax amount is based on tax rates of each municipality, which are determined using assessment values given to the District by the County, and the actual STAR values, which are set by NYS.*

FAQ

HOW IS THE SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPED?

The budget development process extends over 10 months and encompasses multiple stages. In July, it commences with a comprehensive assessment of anticipated expenses and revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. Input from administrators, department leaders, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent guides budget formation to align with district objectives. Throughout the process, the budget undergoes continuous refinement and adjustment as priorities evolve and new information surfaces. By January, the Board of Education and the Superintendent conduct a meticulous review of all budget components to ensure they align with district goals. Public sessions are held to gather feedback from the community and there is a school budget vote on May 20.

WHAT IS THE PROPERTY TAX CAP?

NYS has what is referred to as the "Property Tax Cap." In essence, the state uses an eight part formula to determine each school district's maximum tax levy requiring a 50%+ majority passing. If a school district's budget exceeds the tax cap, the budget requires a super-majority of votes to pass (i.e. 60%). This year, the Weedsport CSD tax cap is calculated at 2.10%. For the thirteenth consecutive year in a row, this budget comes in under the tax cap at 2.0%.

WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT'S BIGGEST BUDGETARY CHALLENGES?

The biggest challenges with this year's proposed school budget include

- high levels of inflation
- increased energy costs
- increased health insurance costs
- increased costs associated with unfunded federal and/or state mandates

WHY DO WE NEED MORE SCHOOL BUSES?

Safety is at the heart of our bus replacement plan. The average age of our school buses is almost six years. The typical lifespan of a school bus in the Central New York area is 8-10 years. Each bus purchase receives state aid of 88% making the cost of a \$170,000 bus approximately \$22,100. This is a sound replacement strategy to ensure our buses are well-maintained and safe for our students.

WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT?

Each year, many districts take advantage of the \$100,000 capital outlay project, allowing us to maximize state building aid that is reimbursed to the school district. By undertaking these annual improvement projects, we can better address facility needs continuously. This year, we are proposing to upgrade some safety and security features at the Jr./Sr. High School. See page 6 for additional details.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

If the budget is defeated, the Board of Education has two options: they may propose a new budget in June or move to a contingency budget. If a second budget proposal also fails to pass, the district would be required to adopt a contingency budget.

A contingency budget would mandate the school district to operate with the same school taxes as the previous year, resulting in a budget reduction of \$797,950 for the 2025-2026 school year. This reduction would impact various areas, including services, instruction, and operations.

Under a contingency budget, several measures would be implemented, including the elimination of: community use of facilities (except where there is no cost to the district), new equipment purchases, non-essential maintenance and improvements, and capital expenditures. Additionally, areas such as athletics, field trips, student supplies, music and art programs, computer equipment, school bus purchases, and science equipment could be affected. Furthermore, planned security upgrades may also be impacted.



LEARN MORE:

To view more budget information, please visit our website by scanning this QR code or visiting: weedsport.org/departments/budget-and-finance/

MISSION:

Our mission is to ensure every student learns, thrives, and is prepared to make meaningful contributions to society

VISION:

Our vision is to be a premier and innovative school district that inspires excellence in academics, character, and community, preparing every student for personal and professional success

PROPOSITIONS



PROPOSITION 1: PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$24,206,031

2026 Capital Outlay Project

The 2025–2026 school budget includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project. This project will focus on improvements at the Jr./Sr. High School, security enhancements and completion of interior renovations.



PROPOSITION 2: TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

One 65-passenger school bus and one 7-passenger SUV, with a total cost not to exceed \$275,000

Why do we need another school bus?

- Safety
- Average age 6.1 years
- Typical Lifespan: 8-10 years

- Corrosion (salt), mileage, upkeep
- Average mileage: 76,000
- Transportation Aid

Cost to taxpayers

- State Aid: 88%
- Estimated cost after Aid: \$33,000



PROPOSITION 3: LIBRARY LEVY

Proposal to increase annual funding for the Weedsport Free Library from \$89,819 to \$93,818 per year.

Total Increase: \$3,999 Percentage Increase: 4.45% Increase



VOTERS TO ELECT ONE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Incumbent
Norman Chirco
is running for
the open seat.

Residence: Village of Weedsport

Education: B.A. in Economics, Hobart College, Juris Doctor, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, Michigan

Occupation: Attorney, General Practice Law

Family: Wife, Amy; Three sons, David, Michael and Robert; one daughter, Elizabeth; one grandchild

Community and Board Experience:

Member, Weedsport CSD Board of Education (1995-present)

President, Weedsport CSD Board of Education (7 years)

Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals, Village of Weedsport (2010-present)

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

15

Varsity Sports

5

JV Sports

12

Modified Sports

100%

Proficiency Rate Regents Algebra II

95%

Proficiency Rate Regents Algebra I

99%

Proficiency Rate Regents Global History & Geography II

100%

Proficiency Rate Regents Chemistry

100%

Proficiency Rate Regents U.S. History & Government

716

Total Student Enrollment (PK-12)

\$24,206,031

Proposed 2025-26 Budget

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

The past year was a productive one on campus, as the district completed renovations to the track and stadium, the Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium, and a selection of windows at the Elementary School. The window upgrades, completed during the summer of 2024, had a noticeable impact, improving energy efficiency and indoor comfort while also enhancing the appearance of the building. Although only a portion of the windows were replaced, completing the full upgrade remains a priority for future capital work.

As we continue our long-range facilities planning, our focus remains on ensuring that Weedsport's infrastructure is well-maintained and modernized to support safe, welcoming, and effective learning environments for generations of students to come. Our facilities are maintained to a high standard, and we are committed to including stakeholders in conversations about future capital projects.

It is both common practice and fiscally responsible for school districts to time major capital projects to align with the retirement of existing debt. This strategy allows the district to make consistent improvements to our facilities while taking full advantage of State Building Aid. These reimbursements help reduce the local share of project costs and stretch district resources further. As debt from previous projects declines over the next four to five years, the district will be well positioned to consider the next phase of capital improvements that support long-term educational and operational goals.

As in previous years, the proposed 2025-2026 budget includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project to be completed during the upcoming school year. This type of project is eligible for State Building Aid, which provides reimbursement to the district in the following year. By completing these targeted projects each year, the district is able to address important facility needs in between larger construction efforts. For the coming year, proposed improvements include continued upgrades to security systems and interior renovations at the Jr./Sr. High School, including improvements to interior finishes.



2025-26 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted 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	\$ 23,500,034	\$24,206,031	\$23,408,081
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$705,997	(\$91,953)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.00%	(0.39)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,677,677	\$8,851,231	
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)	\$8,677,677	\$8,851,231	\$8,677,677
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,806,742	\$8,865,019	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,677,677	8,851,231	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$129,065	\$13,788	
Administrative Component	\$2,485,674	\$2,572,907	\$2,476,607
Program Component	\$16,253,338	\$16,819,288	\$16,262,638
Capital Component	\$4,761,022	\$4,813,836	\$4,668,836
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			
Description			Amount
School Bus Proposition			\$275,000
Library Proposition			\$93,818

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$491

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Weedsport Central School District, Cayuga County, New York, will be held at the Weedsport Jr.-Sr. High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Weedsport Jr.-Sr. High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Gregory M. Stone,
Superintendent of Schools

Melinda Ervay,
Assistant Superintendent of
Instruction

Stacie McNabb,
Business Manager

Sherri Monell,
Jr.-Sr. High School Principal

Timothy Cowin Jr.,
Elementary School Principal

Ann DeFazio,
Director of Special Programs

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Norman Chirco,
President

Wendy Bannister,
Vice President

Colleen Borza

Chad Mitchell

Renee Munn

BUDGET VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

12 P.M. - 9 P.M.

AT WEEDSPORT JR.-SR. HIGH SCHOOL

*Absentee ballots may be requested
through the District Office*

WHO CAN VOTE?

- ✓ must be a U.S. citizen
- ✓ and 18 years or older
- ✓ and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Personal identification/proof of residency is required (driver's license or utility bill, both with name and current address).



2821 E. Brutus St.
Weedsport, New York 13166
315-834-6637

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
Weedsport, NY 13166
Permit No. 12

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL
CARRIER PRE-SORT
WEEDSPORT, NEW YORK 13166



The Weedsport Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. Please direct all inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies to the District's Title IX Compliance Officers, Ann DeFazio, at 315-834-6685 (Phone). Weedsport Central School District Office, 2821 East Brutus Street, Weedsport, NY 13166 (Mailing).



LEARN MORE:

To view more budget information, please visit our website by scanning this QR code or visiting www.weedsport.org/departments/budget-and-finance/

ABSENTEE BALLOT NOTICE:

Qualified voters can request an absentee ballot if they will not be able to vote in-person due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless incarcerated for a felony), travel outside the voter's county or city of residence for employment or business reasons, studies, or vacation on the day of election.

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting the District Clerk at 315-834-6637 or stmcnabb@weedsport.org.