



LANSINGBURGH

— CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT —

BUDGET EDITION • MAY 2024

District Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 21

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Lansingburgh Central School District residents will vote on the proposed budget adopted by the Board of Education on April 8, 2024. The proposed budget of \$64,741,554 reflects a spending increase of \$4,200,484, or a 6.94% increase over the current school year. It also includes \$3,159,785 in additional State Foundation Aid. This increase represents the full funding of the district's Foundation Aid according to the formula.

The estimated tax levy increase is 0.9%. The school tax bill increase for the homeowner will vary, depending on equalization and STAR. The increase on a home with the full market value of \$100,000 would be an estimated \$19.02.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposed tax levy for the 2024-25 Budget is below the allowable tax cap. The allowable tax cap is 1.1% for the 2024-25 School Year, and the district is asking for a 0.9% increase. This budget's state aid revenues are based upon the New York State Budget estimates published on April 16, 2024. The proposed budget focuses on two key areas.

1. **Student Support** - The district *plans to fund the purchase of all student school supplies* as in the past. However, student school supplies are not a contingent item and the district will not be able to pay for them if voters reject the budget. The district also plans to continue

its Summer Academy, multiple afterschool clubs and all Academic Intervention Services support staff that were previously funded using federal American Rescue Plan grants. This budget also includes the costs of reorganizing the Special Education and Technology Departments to better align them with the evolving needs of Lansingburgh students.

2. **Safety & Security** – The district is seeking approval for an additional School Resource Officer – for a total of two in the district – which this budget includes the cost of. The budget also includes the transfer of funds to improve secure entryways for the middle school and high school.

PUBLIC HEARING

MEET THE CANDIDATES: There will be a “Meet the Candidates” forum giving residents an opportunity to meet the candidates running for the two five-year term Board of Education positions to be filled effective July 1, 2024. Meet the Candidates and a public hearing on the budget will take place on May 7, 2024, at Turnpike Elementary School.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES:

May 7, 2024:

- Voter Registration – 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

May 7, 2024:

- Meet the Candidates & Budget Public Hearing – 6:00 p.m.

May 21, 2024:

- Budget Vote & Board Election – 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration will be held on Tuesday, May 7, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the District Office (55 New Turnpike Road, Troy)

If you are not registered to vote, you must register for the school budget vote and board election. When registering, bring a valid driver's license. If you do not have one, bring other proof of date of birth and residence.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS & EARLY VOTING

Applications for absentee ballots and early mail ballots are obtainable from the District Clerk at the District Office (55 New Turnpike Road, Troy) between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. Any qualified voter may request an early mail ballot. See the back page for more about absentee ballots and early voting.

VOTING LOCATIONS

Voting will take place at the following locations from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Lansingburgh High School – 320 7th Avenue, Troy, NY 12182
- Turnpike Elementary School – 55 New Turnpike Road, Troy, NY 12182



BUDGET VOTE

**TUESDAY
MAY 21, 2024**
Absentee Ballots
Due by 5 p.m.

School Budget Ballot 2024-2025:

✓ **YES or NO**

Budget
Proposed

RECOMMENDATION: Be it resolved, that the detailed Proposed Budget in the amount of \$64,741,554 be adopted with an anticipated income exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$47,921,636; and the amount to be raised by taxes of \$16,819,918; and that this budget will be referred to as the **Basic Budget**.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Two (2) individuals are running for the two (2) seats opening on the Lansingburgh Board of Education. Each seat is for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2029.

The names of the board candidates shall appear on the ballot as follows:

1. Thomas Zakrzewski
2. Catherine Curtis

More information about this year's candidates is available on www.lansingburgh.org

Copies of the Budget... are available in the district office, 55 New Turnpike Road, and in the main office at each of the four schools, at the Lansingburgh Branch of the Troy Public Library and on the district website, www.lansingburgh.org

Copies also will be available at the public hearing.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

| | BUDGET 2023-2024 | PROPOSED 2024-2025 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General Support | \$ 6,509,801 | \$ 6,862,083 |
| Instruction | 32,758,646 | 34,273,893 |
| Transportation | 4,962,154 | 5,208,389 |
| Community Service | 900 | 900 |
| Employee Benefits | 12,023,293 | 13,374,320 |
| Transfer to Other Funds/Debt Services | 4,286,275 | 5,021,969 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$ 60,541,069 | \$ 64,741,554 |

SUMMARY OF REVENUE

| | BUDGET 2023-2024 | PROPOSED 2024-2025 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$ 350,000 | \$ 435,000 |
| State Aid | 42,912,433 | 46,812,831 |
| Charges for Services | 22,500 | 14,000 |
| Use of Money & Property | 68,000 | 36,000 |
| Refund Of Prior Years Expenditures | 430,000 | 295,897 |
| Federal Affected Areas | 0 | 0 |
| Interfund Revenues | 0 | 150,000 |
| Payment in Lieu Of Tax/Penalties | 89,000 | 177,908 |
| Property Tax | 16,669,136 | 16,819,918 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$ 60,541,069 | \$ 64,741,554 |

ESTIMATED ASSESSED VALUE TAX PER THOUSAND

| | LANSINGBURGH | BRUNSWICK | SCHAGHTICOKE | PITTSTOWN |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 2023-2024 | \$21.01 | \$76.44 | \$91.64 | \$31.84 |
| 2024-2025 | \$21.20 | \$77.13 | \$92.47 | \$32.12 |



Message from the Superintendent

To the Lansingburgh School Community:

As we near the end of the 2023-24 School Year and begin to prepare for the 2024-25 School Year, I wanted to thank our entire school community for their continuous support. To date, it has been a year of growth and development, making our district a leading education institution in the Capital Region. We are in the final phase of our Capital Project and have been doing our best to provide monthly progress reports to the community. Completion of the project is expected before our students return in September. Also, this year, in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and first responders, the district participated in an active shooter/reunification drill. We were able to gather useful feedback and are in the process of planning future safety and security upgrades as soon as this summer. Additionally, despite federal CARES and American Rescue Funding being phased out this school year, the district can maintain all its current staffing levels.

Our Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget of \$64,741,554 to present to the voters for the 2024-25 School Year. This represents an overall increase in spending of \$4,200,485 (6.94%). The Board of Education understands that investment in our children’s education benefits our community in the future and asks for your support in continuing to provide a high-quality education for them.

Included in this plan is a tax levy increase of \$150,782 (0.9%), which **DOES NOT EXCEED** our maximum allowable tax cap, which is 1.1% this year. Through the budget development process, we have been careful to ensure this budget is representative of the district’s mission statement to “provide a safe and nurturing educational environment where high expectations, rigor, life-long learning and civic responsibility are developed and encouraged.” **If passed, this budget will allow the district to maintain all its current programs.**

As in years past, our district continues to avoid any erratic tax levy changes, while providing the highest quality education for the children of the Lansingburgh community. If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the budget, please feel free to email me (aabitabile@lansingburgh.org) or call me at 518-233-6850 and I will be more than willing to talk.

Ever Upwards,

Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed. D.
LCSD Superintendent

School District Budget Notice

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year * |
|---|--|---|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$ 60,541,069 | \$64,741,554 | \$63,125,240 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year | | \$4,200,485 | \$ 2,584,171 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 6.94 % | 4.26% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 4.12% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$16,669,136 | \$16,819,918 | |
| 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) | \$16,669,136 | \$16,819,918 | \$16,669,136 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$ 504,272 | \$ 424,407 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$16,233,290 | \$16,427,936 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D) | \$16,164,864 | \$16,395,511 | |
| I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | \$ 68,426 | \$ 34,425 | |
| Administrative Component | \$ 5,599,367 | \$ 6,252,300 | \$ 65,904,346 |
| Program Component | \$46,466,678 | \$49,025,226 | \$48,762,034 |
| Capital Component | \$ 8,475,023 | \$ 9,464,027 | \$ 8,458,860 |

*Under a contingency budget, the District may not raise the tax levy over the prior year. In addition, the District cannot purchase any equipment, student supplies and materials, transfer funds to the Capital fund, allow buildings and grounds to be used by the public, or provide salary increases to non-contractual personnel.

** 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 |
|-------------|--------|
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |

| | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year |
|---|---|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ | \$ 479 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Lansingburgh Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Lansingburgh High School and Turnpike Elementary school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 11:00 am and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the locations listed above, 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.



BUDGET Q & A

Q: What happens if the budget fails?

A: If the budget is not approved, then the Board of Education has the option to; 1. Put up the same budget for a revote 2. Put up a new budget for revote 3. Adopt a Contingent Budget

Q: What if the second vote fails?

A: If the budget were to fail a second time, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget.

Q: What is a contingent budget?

A: A contingent budget is one where the Tax Levy cannot exceed that of the previous year. In addition, the administrative portion of the budget must be equal to or less than the percent from the previous year's budget, and all non-contingent items cannot be included in the budget.

Q: What are contingent items?

A: Legal Expenses: Debt Service, Principal, and Interest Judgements

Other Legal Obligations: Social Security and other payroll taxes and assessments, and Preexisting contractual obligations.

Expenditures specifically authorized by statute: Transportation, Textbooks, Supplies for Loan to Pupils, Membership in NYS School Board Association, Convention and Conference Expenses, District's Share of Services Provided by BOCES, Health Services, Student Accident Insurance, In-Service Training for Teachers, Child Nutrition Programs, and other items necessary to maintain Lansingburgh educational programs.

Q: What are Non-Contingent Items?

- A: - Rental of office equipment
- Use of school buildings by outside organizations except where there is no identifiable extra cost to the district, or such cost is fully paid by a donation before the activity occurs
- Capital expenditures (except in an emergency)
- Transportation and maintenance of interscholastic athletic teams
- Equipment purchases
- Pupil uniforms whether for athletic activities or otherwise.
- Student Supplies

None of the items listed above would be allowed under a contingent budget

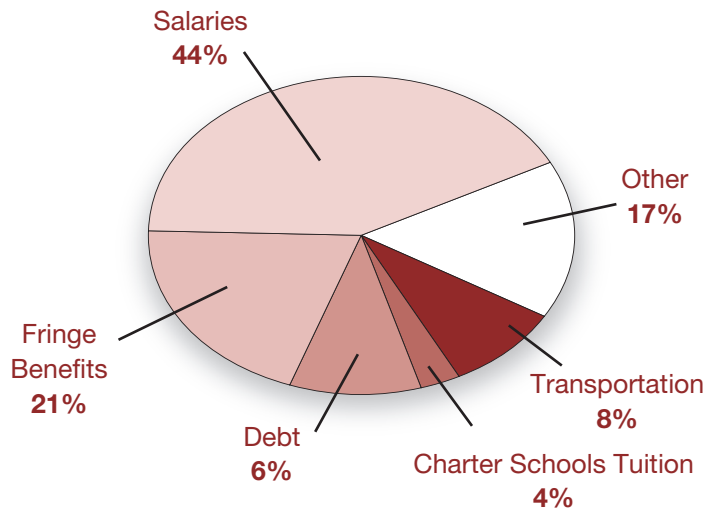
Senior Citizen School Tax Exemption Information

| Annual Income | Percentage Assessed Valuation Exempt From Taxation |
|---------------|--|
| \$29,000 | 50 percent |
| \$30,000 | 45 percent |
| \$31,000 | 40 percent |
| \$32,000 | 35 percent |
| \$32,900 | 30 percent |
| \$33,800 | 25 percent |
| \$34,700 | 20 percent |
| \$35,600 | 15 percent |
| \$36,500 | 10 percent |
| \$37,400 | 5 percent |

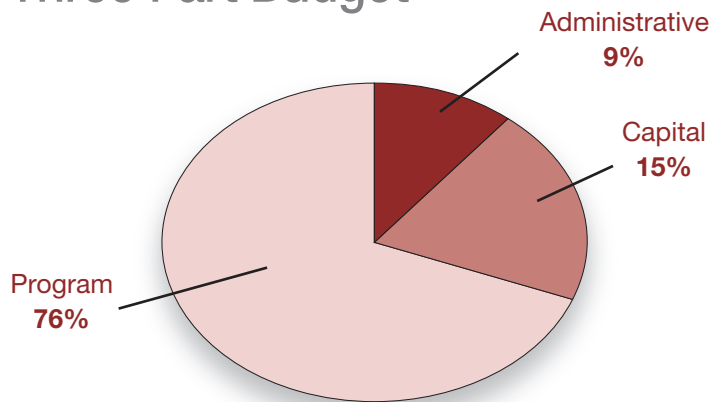
The Lansingburgh School District will allow a percentage school tax exemption on real property owned by persons 65 years of age or over. Taxpayers must meet the statutory qualifications set forth in Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York. The annual income scale and the tax exemption percentage are listed to the left.

Note: Applications approved by the city or town tax assessor's office will automatically be applied to your school district taxes.

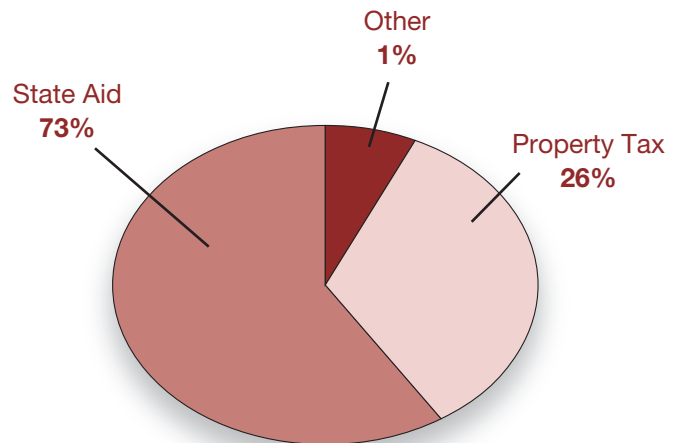
2024 – 2025 Proposed Budget



Three Part Budget



2024 – 2025 Revenue





Enhancing School Safety: District Holds Active Shooter and Reunification Drills

In its ongoing efforts to strengthen school safety measures, on March 15, 2024, the Lansingburgh Central School District conducted a full-scale realistic active shooter drill at Turnpike Elementary School in collaboration with multiple agencies. It was followed by a reunification drill at Tamarac Middle/High School in the Brunswick-Brittonkill Central School District. Both drills were the first of their kind to be held in Lansingburgh.

Among the agencies that participated in the drills were the Troy Police Department, the Troy Fire Department, Questar III BOCES, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office, the City of Troy, the New York State Police and the Brunswick Central School District.

The active shooter drill simulated what

would occur if there was an active threat inside a Lansingburgh school that would require a coordinated response by the school, the district and local emergency services. The reunification drill simulated how students would be evacuated from the school and relocated to a reunification site to meet their families.

The drills took place on a professional development day, so no classes were in session and no students were present. Instead, nearly 200 district faculty and staff volunteered for the drill, with many roleplaying as students.

"This was part of our ongoing efforts to provide the safest learning environment for everyone," said Dr. Antonio Abitabile, Superintendent of Schools. "We're grateful for the assistance of the many agencies who

partnered with us, and we collaborated with them for nearly a year to prepare."

"No one likes to think of these events happening in real life, but unfortunately sometimes they do. In the unlikely event something like this were to happen, we'd need to react immediately with no notice. We wouldn't have time to think about the best course of action; we'd already have to know it. It was important our employees and emergency service providers experience this controlled scenario so we could plan how to effectively manage the unpredictability of the real thing. Ultimately, this made our schools safer. It helped us identify the existing strengths in our safety procedures and, even more importantly, find areas for improvement."

December 2021 Capital Improvement Project Update

In December 2021, Lansingburgh Central School District voters approved a \$16,664,405 Capital Improvement Project. This project includes necessary maintenance, renovations, and improvements, primarily for Rensselaer Park Elementary and the district's athletic facilities.

Bidding for construction, the awarding of contracts and final plan approval with New York State took place throughout 2022 and construction began in 2023. The district expects construction on all project components to be completed before students return for the 2024-2025 School Year. Below are some of the major completed components and those still in progress.

Completed Components

Athletic Facilities

- Middle School/High School Track Resurfaced
- Shot Put/Discus Throwing Areas Relocated

Rensselaer Park Elementary

- New Playground
- Art Classroom Renovation
- Music Classroom Renovation
- Band Practice Room Renovation
- Speech Room Renovation
- New LED Lighting and Dividing Curtain in Gym
- Additional Multiuse Classroom Space

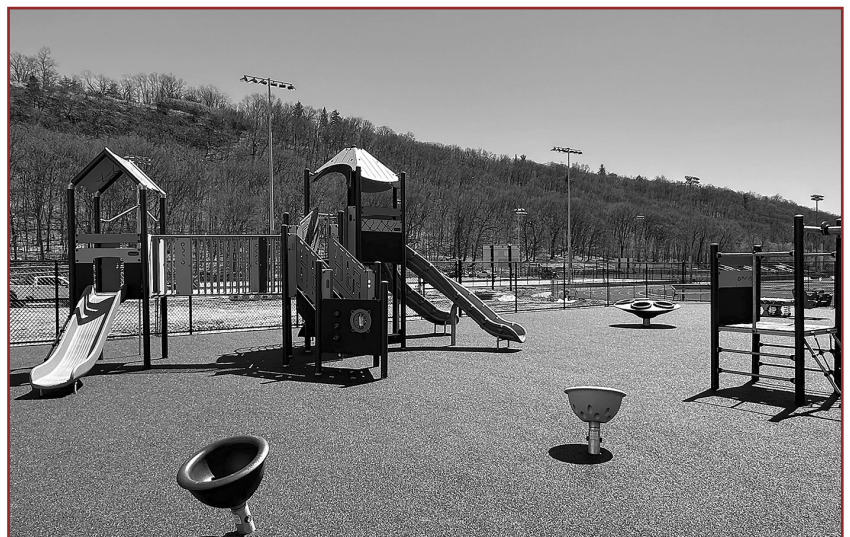
Knickerbacker Middle School

- New Boiler

In Progress Components

(All Expected Completed by Sept. 2024)

- New Cafeteria/Kitchen at Rensselaer Park
- Outdoor Classroom Space at Rensselaer Park
- Parking Lot Renovation at Rensselaer Park
- Multisport Synthetic Turf Field & Softball Field



New Rensselaer Park Elementary Playground



LANSINGBURGH
— CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT —

55 New Turnpike Road
Troy, New York 12182

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BUDGET VOTE

BUDGET AND
BOARD OF
EDUCATION
VOTE

TUESDAY
MAY 21, 2024

This newsletter is published by the B.O.E as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. Board of Education, 55 New Turnpike Road, Troy, New York, 12182. Phone: (518) 233-6850.

Lansingburgh Voting Districts

Voting District 1:

Lansingburgh High School Gym (320 7th Ave.)

The voting location for those living north of 101st St to the south of 118th St.

Voting District 2:

Turnpike Elementary School Gym (55 New Turnpike Rd.)

The voting location for those living north of 118th St to the end of Pleasantdale; Northern Drive; Corliss Park; Miami Beach Estates; Highpointe; all of Brunswick 7; and all of Speigletown.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots and early mail ballots are obtainable from the District Clerk at the District Office (55 New Turnpike Road, Troy, NY). Any qualified voter may request an early mail ballot. Completed ballot applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots and early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on May 21, 2024.

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