



**SWEET HOME CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# **2024-25 Budget Study Session #1**

**February 10, 2024**  
**Vergils Community Center**  
**8:00 AM**

**2023-2024**  
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# Budget Process & School Board Elections

## Important Dates

| Detail                                           | Deadline         |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Final Tax Cap Calculations Due to the State      | March 1, 2024    |
| School Board Candidate Nominating Petitions Due* | April 22, 2024   |
| Last Day for BOE Adoption of Proposed Budget     | April 26, 2024   |
| Property Tax Report Cards Due                    | April 29, 2024   |
| Required Public Hearing on Proposed Budget       | May 7 - 14, 2024 |
| Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election       | May 21, 2024     |

*\*Term of Joshua Feldmann expires on June 30, 2024*

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# 2024-25 Budget Development Process

## Sweet Home Dates

| Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Date(s)                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Budget Development:</b> Update State Aid & Property Tax Cap Calculation, Meet with Administrators & Department Heads to review Budgetary Needs, Initial BOCES participation meeting, Meet with Financial Advisor to review aid projections & debt service | <b>January 2024</b>      |
| <b>Budget Study Session #1:</b> Program Maintenance Budget based on Executive Proposal / Budget Development Objectives & Priorities                                                                                                                          | <b>February 10, 2024</b> |
| <b>Budget Study Session #2:</b> Preliminary Budget / Estimated Revenues & Updates / Staffing Recommendations                                                                                                                                                 | <b>March 12, 2024</b>    |
| <b>Budget Study Session #3:</b> Budget Update Discussion / NYS Budget Completion & Final State Aid runs                                                                                                                                                      | <b>April 9, 2024</b>     |
| <b>Budget Hearing / BOE 2024-25 Budget Adoption</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>April 16, 2024</b>    |
| <b>Annual Budget Vote &amp; School Board Election</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>May 21, 2024</b>      |



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# Building a Budget

## ★ Establish Boundaries

- *Programmatic: Sweet Home Core (class sizes, art, music, athletics, AIS, etc)*
- *Fiscal – Create budget that falls **BELOW** tax cap.*

## ★ Project Revenue

- *State Aid*
- *Tax Receipts*
- *Other Income*

## ★ Project Expenses

- *Enrollment / Staffing*
- *Salaries, Benefits & Assumptions*
- *Other Expenses with major budgetary impact*

## ★ Project the Bottom line & Consider Alternatives / Set priorities

- *What are some potential reductions or additions to the budget based on needs and goals of the Board and District*

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# Program Maintenance Budget

## ★ Goals for Today's session:

- *Present a program maintenance budget with best estimates to date*
- *Pinpoint revenue projections / Tax Cap discussion / Use of reserves*
- *Isolate major expenditure increases from present school year*
- *Discuss staffing & impact of potential retirements*
- *Discuss priorities and next steps*
- *Questions and answers at any time*

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# A Closer Look: Revenue

## ★ Four Major Areas that impact revenue side of budget:

- *State Aid*
- *Real Property Taxes (Tax Cap) / PILOTs*
- *Sales Tax*
- *Use of reserves to close potential budget gaps*

## ★ New York State promised to fully fund Basic Foundation Aid by 23-24

| Foundation Aid 23-24<br>Enacted Budget | Foundation Aid 24-25<br>Fully Funded | Foundation Aid 24-25<br>Executive | Difference  |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| \$21,764,913                           | \$23,856,725                         | \$23,536,375                      | (\$320,350) |

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# A Closer Look: State Aid Year-to-Year Comparison

| Aid Category                            | 2023-24             | 2024-25             |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Basic Foundation Aid                    | \$21,675,000        | \$23,500,000        |
| Excess Costs / Transportation           | \$5,150,000         | \$5,700,000         |
| Building Aid                            | \$3,300,000         | \$3,400,000         |
| BOCES Aid                               | \$1,600,000         | \$1,650,000         |
| Textbook Aid                            | \$219,000           | \$222,000           |
| Computer Hardware Aid                   | \$51,000            | \$53,000            |
| Computer Software Aid                   | \$59,000            | \$62,000            |
| Library Aid                             | \$22,000            | \$25,000            |
| Other Aid (State UPK Competitive Grant) | \$0                 | \$540,000           |
| <b>TOTAL AID IN BUDGET</b>              | <b>\$32,076,000</b> | <b>\$35,152,000</b> |

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# A Closer Look: Tax Cap Legislation

New York's property tax cap law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. School districts are then allowed to take certain exemptions that may boost their tax levy limits to more than 2 percent or the inflation rate.

| Inflation Factors and Allowable Levy Growth Factors by Fiscal Year |                        |                              |                  |                              |                  |                              |                  |                              |                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Fiscal Year                                                        | Fiscal Years Beginning |                              |                  |                              |                  |                              |                  |                              |                      |                              |
|                                                                    | 2020                   |                              | 2021             |                              | 2022             |                              | 2023             |                              | 2024                 |                              |
|                                                                    | Inflation Factor       | Allowable Levy Growth Factor | Inflation Factor | Allowable Levy Growth Factor | Inflation Factor | Allowable Levy Growth Factor | Inflation Factor | Allowable Levy Growth Factor | Inflation Factor     | Allowable Levy Growth Factor |
| Jan 1 - Dec 31                                                     | 2.07%                  | 1.0200                       | 1.56%            | 1.0156                       | 2.30%            | 1.0200                       | 7.17%            | 1.0200                       | 6.26%                | 1.0200                       |
| Mar 1- Feb 28                                                      | 1.90%                  | 1.0190                       | 1.46%            | 1.0146                       | 3.00%            | 1.0200                       | 7.69%            | 1.0200                       | 5.43%                | 1.0200                       |
| Apr 1 - Mar 31                                                     | 1.85%                  | 1.0185                       | 1.43%            | 1.0143                       | 3.33%            | 1.0200                       | 7.92%            | 1.0200                       | 5.06%                | 1.0200                       |
| Jun 1 - May 31                                                     | 1.78%                  | 1.0178                       | 1.31%            | 1.0131                       | 4.23%            | 1.0200                       | 8.06%            | 1.0200                       | 4.37%                | 1.0200                       |
| Jul 1 - Jun 30                                                     | 1.81%                  | 1.0181                       | 1.23%            | 1.0123                       | 4.70%            | 1.0200                       | 8.00%            | 1.0200                       | 4.12%                | 1.0200                       |
| Aug 1 - Jul 31                                                     | 1.89%                  | 1.0189                       | 1.14%            | 1.0114                       | 5.21%            | 1.0200                       | 7.91%            | 1.0200                       | Coming February 2024 |                              |
| Sep 1 - Aug 31                                                     | 1.96%                  | 1.0196                       | 1.09%            | 1.0109                       | 5.72%            | 1.0200                       | 7.75%            | 1.0200                       |                      |                              |
| Oct 1 - Sep 30                                                     | 1.93%                  | 1.0193                       | 1.18%            | 1.0118                       | 6.22%            | 1.0200                       | 7.45%            | 1.0200                       |                      |                              |

As defined in law, the allowable levy growth factor is the lesser of one plus the inflation factor or one and two-one-hundredths. For periods where the inflation factor is less than 2 percent, the allowable levy growth factor is equal to one plus the inflation factor.

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# A Closer Look: Tax Cap

## Increase from 23-24:

→ \$2,477,035 // 4.65%

## Key Factors / Notes:

- Growth factor 1.0160 for this year / 1.0221 last year
- District 23-24 Budget was **tax neutral**
- Town of Amherst went above cap
- Bus purchases & electric bus funding

## Tax Levy Threshold Calculation-OSC-DRAFT

2/10/2024

|    |                                                                     |                     |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|    |                                                                     |                     |
|    |                                                                     |                     |
| A. | Total Real Property Tax Levy for Base Year                          | \$53,321,588        |
| B. | Tax Base Growth Factor (minimum of 1.0)                             | 1.0160              |
| C. | Product of A * B                                                    | \$54,174,733        |
| D. | Base Year PILOTS                                                    | \$590,000           |
| E. | Sum of C + D                                                        | \$54,764,733        |
| F. | Base Year Capital Tax Levy                                          | \$5,005,816         |
| G. | Difference of E - F                                                 | \$49,758,917        |
| H. | Allowable Levy Growth Factor based on CPI                           | 1.0200              |
| I. | Product of G * H                                                    | \$50,754,096        |
| J. | Budget Year PILOTS                                                  | \$505,000           |
| K. | Difference of I - J                                                 | \$50,249,096        |
| L. | <b>Equals Tax Levy Limit</b>                                        | <b>\$50,249,096</b> |
| M. | Budget Year Torts and Judgements above 5% of Levy                   | \$0                 |
| N. | Budget Year Capital Tax Levy                                        | \$5,549,527         |
| O. | Budget Year Pension Expense above 2% increase in rate               | \$0                 |
|    | Eligible Prior Year Carryover                                       | \$0                 |
| P. | <b>Tax Levy Limit Adjusted for Transfers + Exclusions (Sum L-O)</b> | <b>\$55,798,623</b> |
|    |                                                                     |                     |
| W. | <b>Total Tax Levy Percentage Increase</b>                           | <b>4.65%</b>        |

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# A Closer Look: Sales Tax Revenue

| Sales Tax by Quarter  | 2022-23            | 2023-24     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Quarter 1 (September) | \$813,667          | \$975,710   |
| Quarter 2 (December)  | \$1,335,024        | \$1,372,317 |
| Quarter 3 (March)     | \$1,342,082        | ??          |
| Quarter 4 (June)      | \$1,653,548        | ??          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$5,144,321</b> | <b>??</b>   |

***\*Currently estimating sales tax receipts for 2024-25 at \$5,000,000***

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# A Closer Look: Total Revenue

**2024-25 Revenue: \$102,690,623 / Increase: \$5,804,035 / 6.0%**

| ACCOUNT CODE | ACCOUNT NAME                           | 2020-21 BUDGET      | 2021-22 BUDGET      | AMOUNT CHANGE      | PERCENT CHANGE | 2022-23 BUDGET      | AMOUNT CHANGE      | PERCENT CHANGE | 2023-24 BUDGET      | AMOUNT CHANGE      | PERCENT CHANGE | 2024-25 BUDGET       | AMOUNT CHANGE      | PERCENT CHANGE |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1001.0       | REAL PROPERTY TAXES                    | \$49,532,205        | \$51,105,559        | \$1,573,354        | 3.2%           | \$53,321,588        | \$2,216,029        | 4.3%           | \$53,321,588        | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$55,798,623         | \$2,477,035        | 4.6%           |
| 1040.0       | APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE              | \$2,420,000         | \$2,420,000         | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$2,420,000         | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$2,420,000         | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$2,420,000          | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 1040.1       | USE OF RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE | \$825,000           | \$50,000            | (\$775,000)        | -93.9%         | \$50,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$50,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$50,000             | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 1040.2       | USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE            | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                  | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 1040.3       | USE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LIAB. RESERVE | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$1,100,000         | \$1,100,000        | 0.0%           | \$1,100,000          | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 1040.4       | USE OF WORKERS COMP. RESERVE           | \$75,000            | \$75,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$75,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$75,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$75,000             | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 1040.5       | USE OF TAX CERTIORARI RESERVE          | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                  | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 1040.6       | USE OF DEBT SERVICE RESERVE            | \$900,000           | \$490,000           | (\$410,000)        | -45.6%         | \$705,000           | \$215,000          | 43.9%          | \$800,000           | \$95,000           | 13.5%          | \$515,000            | (\$285,000)        | -35.6%         |
| 1081.0       | PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES               | \$495,000           | \$589,000           | \$94,000           | 19.0%          | \$558,000           | (\$31,000)         | -5.3%          | \$558,000           | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$505,000            | (\$53,000)         | -9.5%          |
| 1120.0       | NON-PROP TAXES-SALES TAX               | \$3,120,000         | \$3,620,000         | \$500,000          | 16.0%          | \$3,900,000         | \$280,000          | 7.7%           | \$4,500,000         | \$600,000          | 15.4%          | \$5,000,000          | \$500,000          | 11.1%          |
| 1315.0       | COMM ED TUITION & FEES                 | \$115,000           | \$115,000           | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$115,000           | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$95,000            | (\$20,000)         | -17.4%         | \$95,000             | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 2230.0       | TUITION-OTH DIST-FOSTER                | \$75,000            | \$75,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$75,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$100,000           | \$25,000           | 33.3%          | \$100,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 2230.2       | TUITION-OTHER DISTRICTS                | \$575,000           | \$575,000           | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$575,000           | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$300,000           | (\$275,000)        | -47.8%         | \$300,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 2401.0       | INTEREST / POTENTIAL FEMA              | \$200,000           | \$220,000           | \$20,000           | 10.0%          | \$150,000           | (\$70,000)         | -31.8%         | \$140,000           | (\$10,000)         | -6.7%          | \$165,000            | \$25,000           | 17.9%          |
| 2413.0       | RENT REAL PROPERTY-BOCES               | \$420,000           | \$430,000           | \$10,000           | 2.4%           | \$440,000           | \$10,000           | 2.3%           | \$455,000           | \$15,000           | 3.4%           | \$490,000            | \$35,000           | 7.7%           |
| 3101.0       | STATE AID-BASIC FORMULA                | \$15,005,000        | \$15,966,000        | \$961,000          | 6.4%           | \$17,500,000        | \$1,534,000        | 9.6%           | \$21,675,000        | \$4,175,000        | 23.9%          | \$23,500,000         | \$1,825,000        | 8.4%           |
| 3101.0       | STATE AID-BUILDING AID                 | \$2,956,000         | \$2,973,000         | \$17,000           | 0.6%           | \$2,050,000         | (\$923,000)        | -31.0%         | \$3,300,000         | \$1,250,000        | 61.0%          | \$3,400,000          | \$100,000          | 3.0%           |
| 3101.1       | ST AID-EXCESS COST                     | \$4,069,000         | \$4,500,000         | \$431,000          | 10.6%          | \$4,555,000         | \$55,000           | 1.2%           | \$5,150,000         | \$595,000          | 13.1%          | \$5,700,000          | \$550,000          | 10.7%          |
| 3103.0       | BOCES AID                              | \$1,280,000         | \$1,450,000         | \$170,000          | 13.3%          | \$1,600,000         | \$150,000          | 10.3%          | \$1,600,000         | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$1,650,000          | \$50,000           | 3.1%           |
| 3104.0       | STATE AID-CHAPTER STUDENTS             | \$50,000            | \$50,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$50,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$50,000            | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$50,000             | \$0                | 0.0%           |
| 3260.0       | TEXTBOOK AID                           | \$205,000           | \$205,000           | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$210,000           | \$5,000            | 2.4%           | \$219,000           | \$9,000            | 4.3%           | \$222,000            | \$3,000            | 1.4%           |
| 3261.0       | COMPUTER HARDWARE AID                  | \$47,000            | \$45,000            | (\$2,000)          | -4.3%          | \$49,000            | \$4,000            | 8.2%           | \$51,000            | \$2,000            | 3.9%           | \$53,000             | \$2,000            | 3.8%           |
| 3262.0       | COMPUTER SOFTWARE AID                  | \$56,500            | \$55,000            | (\$1,500)          | -2.7%          | \$57,500            | \$2,500            | 4.5%           | \$59,000            | \$1,500            | 2.6%           | \$62,000             | \$3,000            | 5.1%           |
| 3263.0       | LIBRARY AID                            | \$26,500            | \$20,000            | (\$6,500)          | -24.5%         | \$20,500            | \$500              | 2.5%           | \$22,000            | \$1,500            | 7.3%           | \$25,000             | \$3,000            | 13.6%          |
| 3289.0       | STATE AID-OTHER                        | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$0                 | \$0                | 0.0%           | \$540,000            | \$540,000          | 0.0%           |
| -----        | Other Receipts                         | \$900,485           | \$895,000           | (\$5,485)          | -0.6%          | \$875,000           | (\$20,000)         | -2.2%          | \$846,000           | (\$29,000)         | -3.3%          | \$875,000            | \$29,000           | 3.4%           |
|              | <b>DISTRICT TOTALS</b>                 | <b>\$83,347,690</b> | <b>\$85,923,559</b> | <b>\$2,575,869</b> | <b>3.09%</b>   | <b>\$89,351,588</b> | <b>\$3,428,029</b> | <b>4.0%</b>    | <b>\$96,886,588</b> | <b>\$7,535,000</b> | <b>8.4%</b>    | <b>\$102,690,623</b> | <b>\$5,804,035</b> | <b>6.0%</b>    |

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# A Closer Look: Expenses

## ■ Known Budgetary Impacts :

- *Collective Bargaining Agreements*
  - SHSEA ( Service Employees /  
Confidentials) – 6.0% Annual Increase
  - SHASA (Administrators &  
Supervisors) – 4.0% Annual Increase
  - SHEA (Teachers) - 3.0% Annual  
Increase
- *Bus Purchases - \$253,000 Increase*
  - \$738,000 to \$991,000
- *Debt Service*
  - Increase of \$82,000
- *Safety & Security Guards / SRO*
  - Increase of \$75,000

## School Tuitions

- Special Ed increase of \$200,000
- Legal Services
  - Increase of \$40,000
- Utilities Across the District
  - Increase of \$175,000
- BOCES
  - Increase of \$110,000 Occupational Education
- Teacher Retirement Incentive
  - Increase of \$550,000

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# A Closer Look: Expenses

## ■ Unknown Budgetary Impacts :

- *Collective Bargaining Agreement*
  - SHEA (Teachers) – Retirement Incentive / Impact on Staffing
- *NY 44 Trust Health Insurance*
  - Increase yet to be determined
  - Increase close to 3% in 2023-24/ Estimate a 3% increase in 23-24 ~ \$416,000
- *BOCES Participation – still finalizing that*
  - Administrative Costs yet to be released
  - Increased 13% in 2022-23
  - Budgeting for 14% increase ~ \$51K

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# Program Maintenance Budget

## 2024-25 Snapshot

| Revenue Summary   | 2023-24      | 2024-25       | 2024-25 Percent Increase |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Budgeted Revenues | \$96,886,588 | \$102,690,623 | 6.0%                     |
| Local Tax Levy    | \$53,321,588 | \$55,798,623  | 4.6%                     |

| Expenditure Summary | 2023-24      | 2024-25       | 2024-25 Percent Increase |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Budgeted Revenues   | \$96,886,588 | \$101,368,888 | 4.6%                     |

Surplus: \$1,321,735

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# Program Maintenance Budget 2024-25 Snapshot / Tax Rates

**Assumptions:**

- **Assessed Values remain at 2023 levels**
- Amherst Equalization Rate reduced from 74% to 62%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate reduced from 29% to 24%
- Rates based on going to the tax cap limit of \$55,798,623

| School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home |           |           |           |          |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|                                              | Amherst   |           | Tonawanda |          |
|                                              | 2023-24   | 2023-24   | 2022-23   | 2023-24  |
| Equalization Rate                            | 62.0%     | 62.0%     | 24.0%     | 24.0%    |
| Assessed Value                               | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$55,500  | \$55,500 |
| Tax Rate                                     | \$15.47   | \$16.19   | \$40.11   | \$41.98  |
| Calculated Tax Bill                          | \$2,321   | \$2,428   | \$2,226   | \$2,330  |
| Estimated Increase                           |           | \$107     |           | \$104    |



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# **2024-25 Budget Next Steps / District Work**

- **Determine if BOE wants to go to Tax Cap & Use of Reserves**
- **Work through retirements / impact on staffing & budget**
- **Prioritize any additional staffing needs – get in budget**
- **Monitor any updates on State Aid (Foundation Aid), Sales tax projections**
- **Work to solidify bus purchase funding**
- **Examine / solidify salaries / work through budget line-by-line**
- **Finalize BOCES participation numbers**
- **Information on NY 44 Trust Health contribution increase, if any**
- **Adjust budget and report back to BOE at March 12 Study Session**



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# Questions from the Board



**ANY  
QUESTIONS?**



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# Capital Project Update / Discussion

**DRAFT**  
**SWEET HOME CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE  
LONG TERM PLAN





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# Capital Project Update / Discussion

## Options



Option 1: Reutilization of Existing Elementary Schools

Option 2: Utilization of Dexter Terrace

Option 3: Additions at each Elementary School





**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY,  
READY FOR THE FUTURE.**

# Capital Project Update / Discussion

## Program



The program that was tried to fit into each elementary school

- 4 Classrooms for each grade level (K-5)  
SED min. classroom size +/- 800 SF
- 3 Pre-K Classrooms  
SED min. classroom size +/- 1000 SF for Pre-K & Kindergarten
- 2 Special Education Classrooms
- 1 of each Art & Music Classroom
- 1 Speech Classroom
- 1 English Second Language Classroom
- 1 OT/PT Room
- 1 Stem Classroom

