

We Are Sweet Home

Tonight's Meeting

- Public Hearing on Volunteer Firefighter/Volunteer Ambulance Worker 10% Tax Exemption
- Budget Public Hearing
- Meet the Candidates Night
- Board Study Session
- Superintendent Update





SWEET HOME

"EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE."

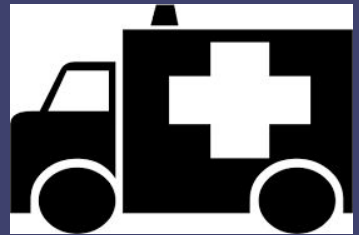
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER / EMT PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Real Property Tax Law § 466-a

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

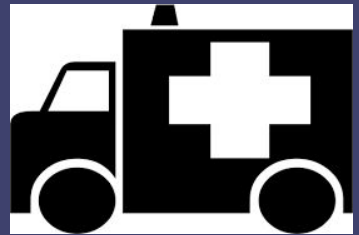
Legislation Highlights

- Provides up to a 10% property tax exemption of assessed value for volunteer firefighters and/or ambulance workers.
- Tax exemptions is available to all taxing jurisdictions, including school districts
- Signed into law as a recruitment and retention tool for the first-responder community.



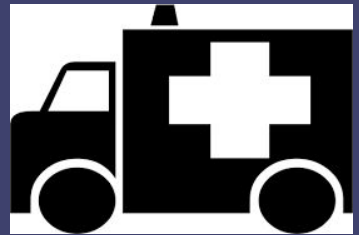
Eligibility Requirements

- Property must be:
 - *Primary residence and owned by the volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker*
 - *Located within the jurisdiction served by the fire company, fire department or ambulance entity*
- Volunteers must have at least two years of volunteer service to qualify
- Fire district/ ambulance company must certify eligible volunteers of that organization and that service requirements are met
- Individual must fill out exemption application with Town



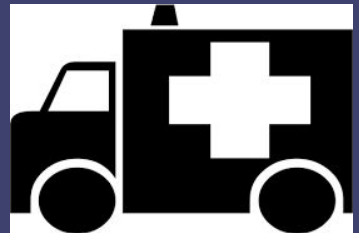
Additional Benefits of Legislation

- Property tax exemption permanency after 20 years of service so long as the residence remains the volunteer's primary residence
- Property tax exemption is extended for the lifetime of a surviving, unremarried spouse of a deceased volunteer if the deceased volunteer served at least 20 years
- Line-of-Duty Death (LODD) event allows for the continued tax exemption for an unremarried spouse.



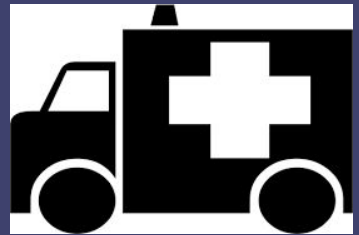
Fiscal Impact

- Sweet Home Central School District:
 - *Many other area school districts considering (Williamsville CSD adopted in March)*
 - *No direct fiscal impact to the District*
 - *Does not negatively impact the District's ability to levy or collect property taxes to fund operational needs and requirements*
- Property Taxpayers:
 - *The exemption decreases overall, taxable assessed value within the SHCSD jurisdiction*
 - *The District's tax levy would be distributed among the remaining taxable assessed value resulting in a slightly increased tax rate*
 - *Real impact to taxpayers would be negligible.*

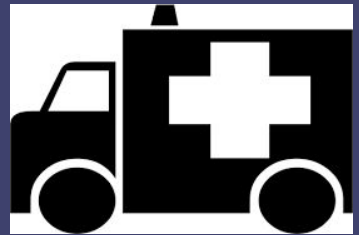


Board of Education Action

- Resolution opting into the Property Tax Exemption specifying:
 - *Tax Exemption Percentage (10%)*
 - *Years of Volunteer Service Requirement to be eligible for the Exemption*
 - *Certifying the individual for the exemption (BOE resolution & Local Assessor)*
- Public Hearing on the Exemption – May 2



Questions??



2023-24 Budget Hearing & Meet the Candidates Night

MAY 2, 2023

SWEET HOME BOARD OF EDUCATION

2023-24 Budget Summary

2023-24 Proposed Budget: \$96,886,588

Maintains current programming at all levels and school configurations

Adds staffing to address instructional needs across the District:

- Adds: Elementary special education teacher, District-wide Behavioral Specialist, part-time ENL teacher, part-time high school tech teacher, one full-time and one part-time social worker, and a full-time public relations professional.

Maintains annual bus purchase (2023-24: 6 new busses)

Tax neutral: Meaning tax levy remains at current level: \$53,321,588

- Includes use of \$1.1 million in reserve funds to make budget tax neutral

2023-24 Proposed Budget: \$96,886,588

2022-23 Budget: \$ 89,351,588

Budget-to-Budget Increase: \$7,535,000

Percentage increase: 8.4%

Three-Part Budget

Budget must be presented in three (3) parts:

Administrative - The administrative component of the budget provides for the overall general support and management activities including the Board of Education, superintendent's office, curriculum and staff development, printing and publishing and supervision and support in each of the six schools. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance and salaries and benefits for the administrative staff.

Program - The instructional component accounts for instruction and educational support for the district's 3,400 students. Salaries of teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, coaches, therapists, teachers aides, computer technicians and related clerical/support staff are included, as are their fringe benefits. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies and textbooks, special education services and expenses for summer school are included in this component.

Capital - Includes buildings and grounds salaries, equipment, vehicles, utilities, repairs, rentals, contracts and supplies for all the custodial, grounds, and maintenance of all district buildings. Includes judgments and claims and refund of prior year property taxes due to reassessments and/or town clerical errors. Includes debt service principal and interest and interfund transfers for existing capital projects. Includes all fringe benefits for above employees.

Three-Part Budget

Total Budget: \$96,886,588

Administrative

2022-23: \$7,129,972

2023-24: \$7,486,677

Program

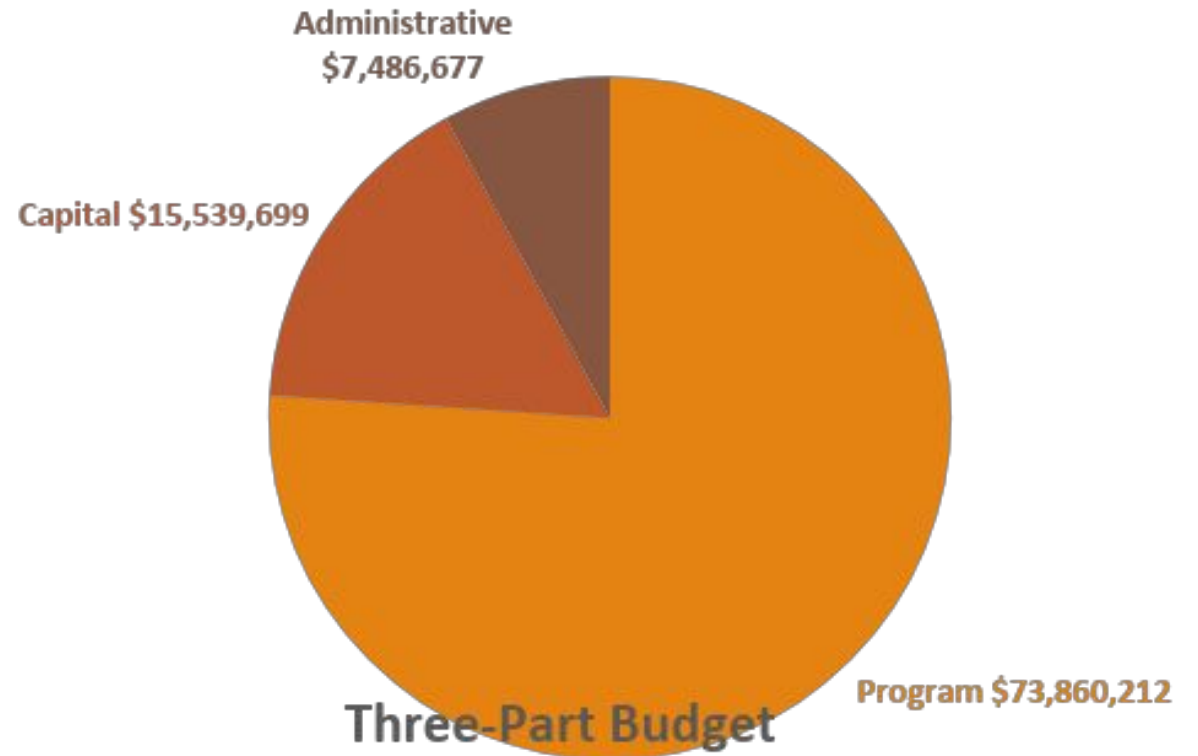
2022-23: \$68,646,616

2023-24: \$73,860,212

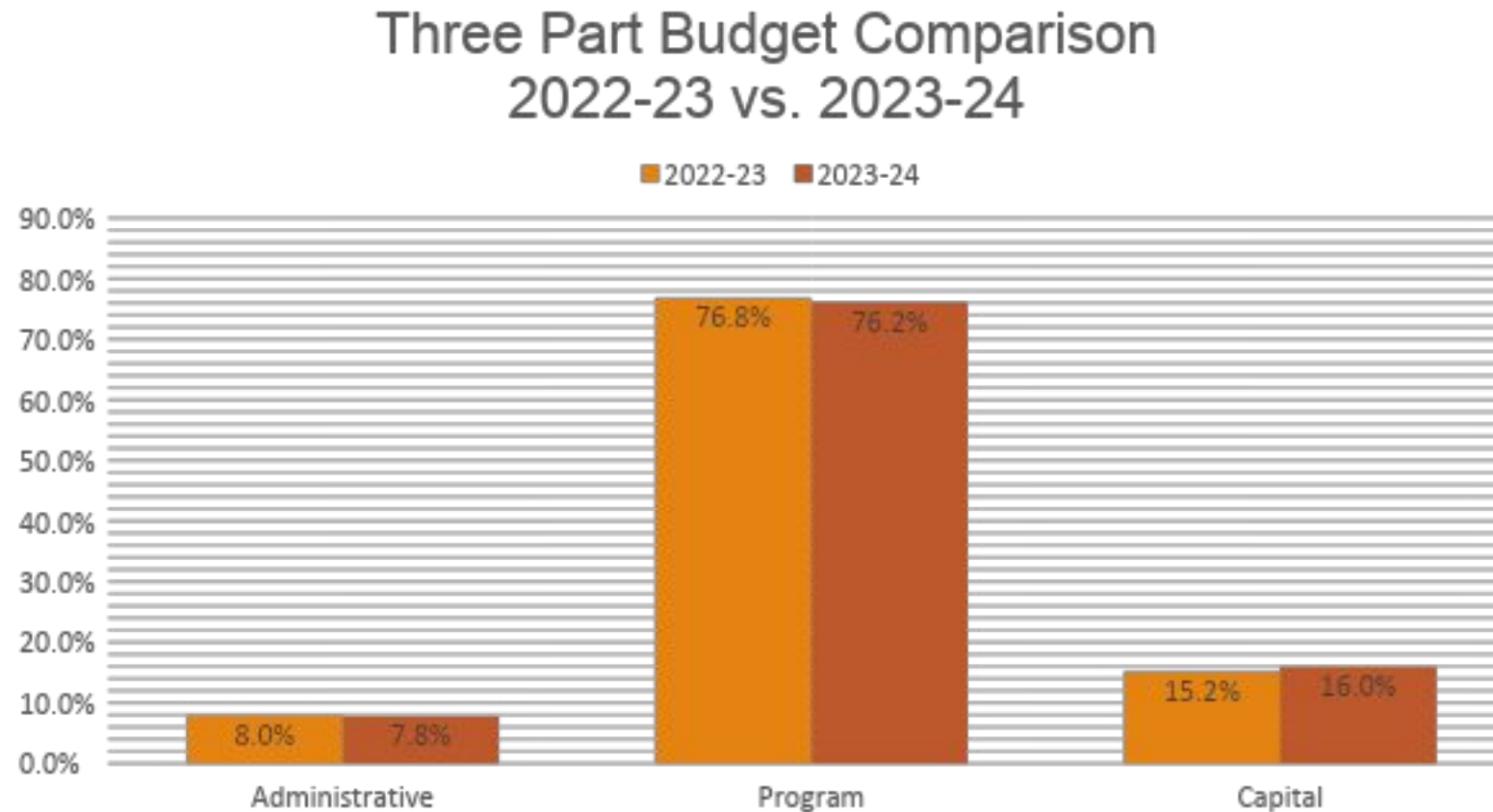
Capital

2022-23: \$13,575,000

2022-23: \$15,539,699



Three-Part Budget Comparison



Revenue Budget: \$96,886,588

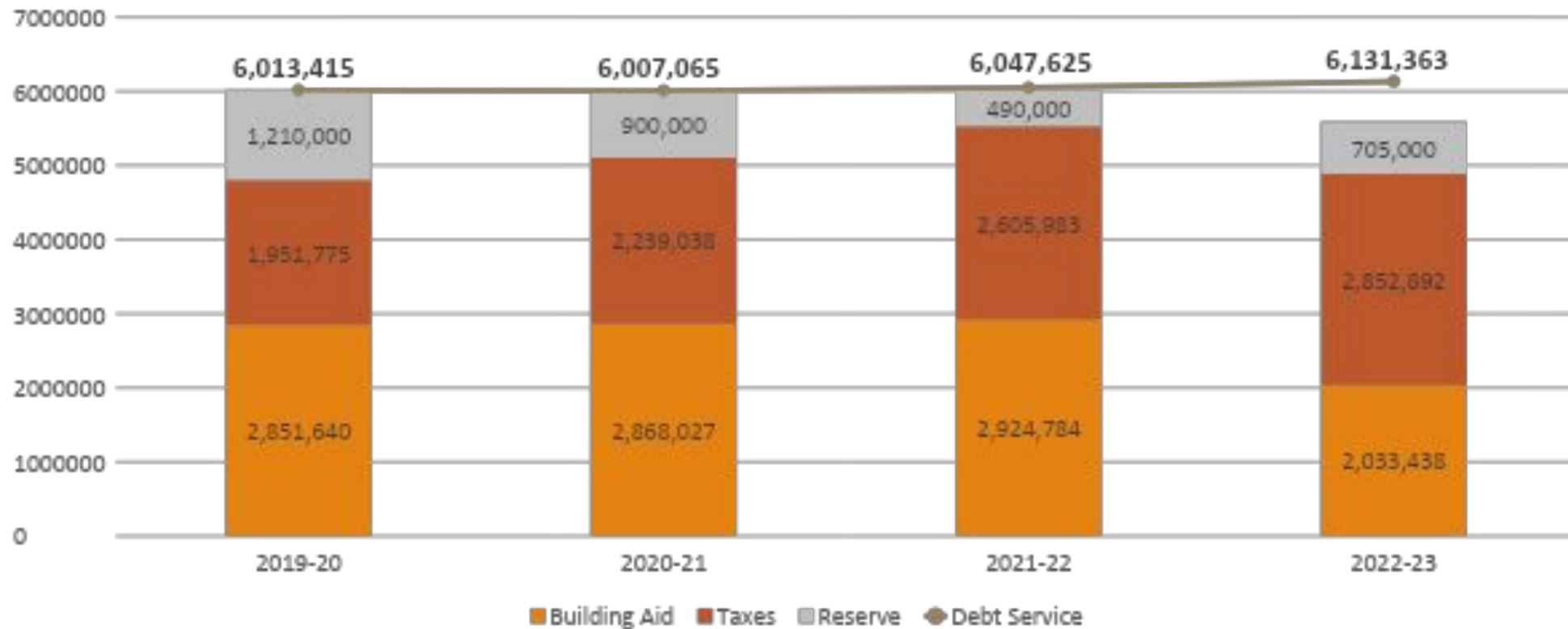
Revenue	Budget Percentage
Real Property Taxes	55.0%
State Aid	33.2%
Reserves & Fund Balance	3.8%
Debt Reserve	0.8%
Sales Tax	4.6%
Other (PILOTs, Tuitions, Interest)	2.6%

2023-24 Revenue Impacts:

- \$5.4 million increase in Foundation and expense driven aids
- \$600,000 increase in sales tax projections from current year
- \$1.1 million is reserve usage to close gap and make 23-24 budget tax neutral

Debt Service Funding

Debt Service Funding



2023-24 Proposed Tax Levy

Proposed Tax Levy	\$53,321,588
Tax Levy increase	\$0
Tax levy Percentage Increase	0.0%

2022-23 proposed tax levy falls within the NYS Tax Cap. Proposed budget only needs a simple majority to pass on May 16, 2023.

- Allowable Tax Cap: 7.12%

Sweet Home 2023-24

Proposed Budget: Tax Effect on Average Home

**74.0% Equalization Rate – Amherst

**29.0% Equalization Rate – Tonawanda

****Assessed Values- at 2022-23 levels**

****Average Assessed Value Home**

Important Information:

- Equalization rates for 2023-24 **are not final** as of tonight. Amherst dropped to 74%, Tonawanda dropped to 29% in 2021-22.

May 2022 Amherst estimation: \$15.36

August 2022 Amherst final: \$15.68

Amherst STAR savings: \$397

May 2022 Tonawanda estimation: \$41.19

August 2022 Tonawanda final: \$40.25

Tonawanda STAR savings: \$391

	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
Assessed Value	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$55,500	\$55,500
Estimated Tax Rate/Thousand	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$40.25	\$40.25
Estimated Tax Bill	\$2,352	\$2,352	\$2,234	\$2,234
Estimated Change In Tax Bill for 2023-24	\$0		\$0	

2022-23 Voter Propositions

Proposition #1: Approval of \$96,886,588 2023-24 Budget

- Budget increase of 8.4% // Tax neutral budget

Proposition #2: Elect one (1) Board of Education member to five (5) year term expiring on June 30, 2028

- Term of the following Board members expiring:
 - Scott Johnson

Questions?

Meet the Candidates for the Sweet Home Board of Education



- Voters will elect one (1) members to the Sweet Home Board of Education on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.
- Term of Scott Johnson expires on June 30, 2023.
- Three (3) candidates are running for one open seat:
 - Brandon Bechkinghausen
 - Scott M. Johnson
 - Dawn L. Scott-Iverson
- Top vote getter will be elected to a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Proposed Calendar 2023-24



May 2023
JoAnn Balazs, Assistant Superintendent

District Calendar Committee

Parents: *Liz Bechtel (HS PTA), Lisa Cazes (HS PTA), Mallory Piwtorak (GL PTA), Michelle Thorpe (MS PTA), Julie Thompson (MM PTA), Deepa Saini (WR PTA)*

SHEA: *Lisa Feyes (HS), Kristin Garnatt (MS), Paul Szymendera (SHEA), Jessica Wander (ELE)*

SHSEA: *Ron Farleo, Dan Fularz*

SHASA: *Bob Polino*

District: JoAnn Balazs, Don Feldmann

Calendar Considerations

- ☐ NYSED Regulations
- ☐ NYS Assessments & Regents Exams
- ☐ Legal Holidays
- ☐ Contractual Language
- ☐ Stakeholder Interests
- ☐ BOCES Calendar
- ☐ Emergency Closures

NYSED Regulations

NYSED Ed Laws 1704(2) & 3604(7): Must be in session at least **180 days** to maximize Foundation Aid allocations.

Commissioner's Reg 175.2 & 175.5: Days based on on Annual Aggregate Minimum Hours:

- Grades K-6: 5 hours x 180 days = **900 hours**
- Grades 7-12: 5.5 hours x 180 days = **990 hours**

Permits half days or shortened days of student attendance to count toward total annual aggregate hours

NYSED Regulations (Cont.)

“Annual Aggregate Hours” includes:

Days in which student attendance is taken

Days for Regents Exams/State Assessments

Up to 4 Super’s Conference Days (SCD):

- Before or on the first day of instruction
- Any instructional day during the school year
- On the last day of instruction/Rating Day
- Parent-Teacher Conference Days can be counted as SCD
- SCD may be held in the last 2 weeks of August, subject to CBAs
- SCD may not be claimed on Saturdays or legal holidays

NYSED Exams/Assessments

Regents Exams:

- January 23–26, 2024
- June 14–25, 2024

NYS Assessments:

- Grades 3-8 ELA April 10–12, 2024
- Grades 3-8 Math May 7–9, 2024
- Computer Based Testing April 8–May 17, 2024

Legal Holidays

Districts may not schedule on Saturday or a legal holiday (except Election Day, Washington's or Lincoln's Birthday)

- ☐ Labor Day
- ☐ Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
- ☐ Veterans Day
- ☐ Thanksgiving Day
- ☐ Christmas Day
- ☐ New Year's Day
- ☐ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ☐ Presidents Day
- ☐ Memorial Day
- ☐ Juneteenth
- ☐ Independence Day

SHEA Contractual Parameters

- **186 Teacher days** (incl. 4 Super Conf Days)
- **First day:** Day after Labor Day
- **Last day:** First day following Regents Rating Day
- **Two (2) half-days:** near last week of the first two trimesters for report cards
- **Two (2) half days** of elementary student attendance last 2 days of school
- **Parent-Teacher Conference Days:**
 - **Elementary:**
 - **One full-day**
 - **One extended day** by 4 hours
 - **Middle School and High School Teachers**
 - **One extended day** by 4 hours

Additional Stakeholders Considerations

Annual Goals:

- Maximize instructional days/hours for students
- Align with Erie 1 BOCES calendar
- Build in options for emergency closures
- Minimize half days of student attendance at the elementary level
- Provide evening hours for parent teacher conferences at all levels
- Continue Elementary Trimesters
- Provide elementary teachers with half days prior to conferences to get report cards to parents

Proposed Parameters for 2023-24

September 5	Staff Dev/Opening Day
September 6	First Student Day
November 7	Election Day/Staff Development Day
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Recess
December 1	Staff Dev/Elem Report Card Day
December 7	PM Parent/Teacher Conferences
December 8	Elem Parent/Teacher Conferences
December 25-29	Winter Recess
February 19-23	Mid-Winter Recess
March 8	Staff Dev/Elem Report Card Day
March 29	Spring Recess
April 1-8	Spring Recess (includes April 8 - Solar Eclipse)
June 24-25	Elementary Half Days
June 26	Rating Day/Staff Development

2023-24 Calendar Summary

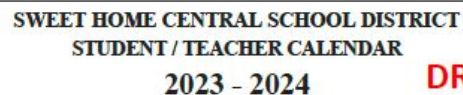
Teacher work days 186

Student Attendance Days as per SED:

- Elementary 183
- Secondary 186

Superintendent Conference Days

- September 5
- November 7
- December 1 (½ Elementary)
- March 8 (½ Elementary)
- June 26



DRAFT



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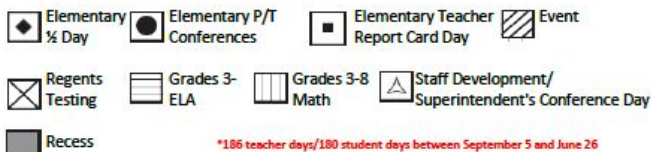
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JUNE					
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September	4	Labor Day
September	5	Staff Dev/Opening Day
September	6	First Student Day
October	9	Indigenous Peoples' Day
November	7	Election Day/Staff Development Day
November	10	Veteran's Day
November	22-24	Thanksgiving Recess
December	1	Staff Dev/Elem Report Card Day
December	7	PM Parents/Teacher Conferences
December	8	Elem Parent/Teacher Conferences
December	25-29	Winter Recess
January	1	New Year's Day Observance
January	15	Martin Luther King's Birthday
January	23-26	January Regents Exams
February	19-23	Mid-Winter Recess
March	8	Staff Dev/Elem Report Card Day
March	29	Spring Recess
April	1-8	Spring Recess
April	8-5/17	Computer Base Testing
April	10-12	Grades 3-8 ELA
May	7-9	Grades 3-8 Math
May	27	Memorial Day Observance
June	14-25	Regents Exams
June	19	Juneteenth Observance
June	24-25	Elementary Half Days
June	26	Rating Day/Staff Development



*186 teacher days/180 student days between September 5 and June 26

Erie 1 BOCES School Calendar 2023-2024

JULY 2023						
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Board Approved: February 8, 2023
BOE #1020

August

29-30 Staff Development Day

September

1 Labor Day Observance

4 Labor Day

5 First Day of School

October

9 Columbus Day

November

7 Staff Development Day

10 Veteran's Day Observance

8&9 Thanksgiving Recess

December

25-29 Winter Recess

January

1 New Year's Holiday

15 M. L. King Jr. Day

February

19-23 Mid-Winter Recess

March

8 Staff Development Day

29 Spring Recess

April

1-8 Spring Recess

May

24 Memorial Day Observance

27 Memorial Day

June

19 Juneteenth

26 Rating/Closing Day
(LAST TEACHER DAY)

CALENDAR DAYS					
	T	S		T	S
July	0	0	Jan	21	21
Aug	2	0	Feb	16	16
Sept	19	19	March	20	19
Oct	21	21	April	16	16
Nov	18	17	May	21	21
Dec	16	16	June	17	16
TOTAL TEACHER DAYS = 187					
TOTAL STUDENT DAYS = 182					

JANUARY 2024						
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We Are Sweet Home

New York State Budget



We Are Sweet Home

Music Concert Season at Sweet Home

• May 8	6:45	Blue Orchestra Maplemere/Glendale	MS Aud
• May 8	7:45	Blue Band Maplemere/Glendale	MS Aud
• May 9	7:00	8th Grade - Orchestra, Girls Chorus, Band	MS Aud
• May 10	6:30	Blue Orchestra Heritage Heights/Willow Ridge	MS Aud
• May 10	7:45	Blue Band Heritage Heights/Willow Ridge	MS Aud
• May 11	7:00	Glendale Chorus, Hand Chimes	MS Aud
• May 15	7:00	MS Jazz, HS Jazz	MS Aud
• May 16	7:00	Gold Band, Gold Orchestra, Honors Ensemble	MS Aud
• May 17	7:00	7th Grade - Orchestra, Girls Chorus, Band, 7/8 Boys Chorus	MS Aud
• May 18	7:30	Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble	MS Aud
• May 23	7:00	6th Grade - Orchestra, Chorus, Band	MS Aud
• May 24	7:30	Concert Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra	MS Aud
• May 25	7:30	Mixed Chorus, Concert Chorale	MS Aud



We Are Sweet Home

Building Use Committee Update

May Meeting:

- Class Size Discussion
- Ideas for Improving Lunch Experience
- Ideas for Building Use for Special Program Services



We Are Sweet Home

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

May

Budget Hearing/District Vote (May 16)

Calendar Presentation

Art Show Recognition

Science and Math Curriculum Update

Safety/Code of Conduct Presentation and Hearing

June

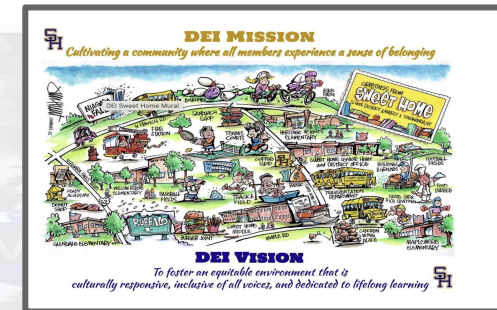
Strategic Plan

DEI Presentation

Retirement/Tenure Reception

Attendance and Wellness Presentation

Building Use Committee



We Are Sweet Home

Superintendent's Report

Questions from the Board??

