



2025-2026 First Draft Comprehensive Pre-K - 12 Program Operating Budget

Board of Education Meeting
February 11, 2025

Veritas Et Sapientia - Truth & Wisdom

Investing in Our Pre-K - 12 Comprehensive Program

Budgeting Goals:

- Align with the DCIP and Board Goals
- Support current programs
- Remain within tax cap levy requirement



Budget Process and the Board of Education

The Board of Education should establish the general parameters (levy, cap, overall focus of the instructional program), but day to day operational pieces- i.e.- how the district will staff or allocate resources to accomplish the instructional focus, is the responsibility of the administration, under the direction of the Superintendent.

From the **Center for Public Education, *Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards:***

"Boards held the superintendent and his or her colleagues accountable for progress but did not engage in the daily administration of schools. Explained one board member: 'I am not a professional educator... [The superintendent and her staff] are the professionals, and we say to them, 'These are the results we want to see; you are in charge of how to do it.'"



Investments Since 2020:

- ✓ In District Special Education
- ✓ Inclusive Programming
- ✓ Increased Athletic Opportunities
- ✓ Clubs/Activities
- ✓ Class Size Guidelines Reduced
- ✓ Tiered Remedial Support
- ✓ Elementary Wellness Class
- ✓ Project Lead the Way Electives at OPHS
- ✓ Elementary STEM Class
- ✓ Enhanced Safety, SRO in Each School
- ✓ Enhanced Technology
- ✓ Family Solutions Center at Bank Street



Revenues

State Aid (Governor's Proposal):

- State budget to be adopted by April 1st. Current proposal has us receiving a 2% increase to foundation aid.

Fund Balance & Reserves:

- We will recommend the amount of fund balance and reserves to allocate during the budget development process.
 - March 11 BOE meeting

Property Taxes:

- Estimated allowable Tax Levy Cap increase for Orchard Park CSD for 2025-26 is 6.26%



Estimated Tax Levy Cap Calculation

• Base Year Tax Levy Base Year (2024-25)	\$72,048,709
(x) Tax Base Growth Factor (min. of 1.0)	<u>x 1.0115</u>
• Adjusted Tax Levy Subtotal	72,877,269
(+) Base Year PILOT Payments	<u>+ 658,043</u>
• Base Year Adjusted Levy plus PILOTS	73,535,312
(-) Base Year Torts & Judgments > 5% of Levy	- 0
(-) Base Year Capital Expenditures Net of Aid	<u>- 3,588,060</u>
• Levy Less Base Year Torts & Capital	69,947,252
(x) Levy Growth Factor based on CPI (2.95%) (max 2%)	<u>x 1.02</u>
• Levy Including Growth Factor	\$71,346,197



Estimated Tax Levy Cap Calculation (cont.)

• Levy Including Growth Factor	\$71,346,197
(-) Budget Year PILOTS Receivable	<u>- 508,132</u>
• Tax Levy Limit Before Exclusions	\$70,838,065
• <u>Budget Year Exclusions:</u>	
(+) Capital Expenditures Net of Aid	+ 5,722,917
(+) Pension Expenditures above 2%	+ 0
(+) Torts & Judgments > 5%	+ <u>0</u>
• Total Exclusions	5,722,917
• Total Tax Levy Including Exclusions	<u>\$76,560,982</u>
Maximum Tax Levy	\$4,512,273 (+6.26%)



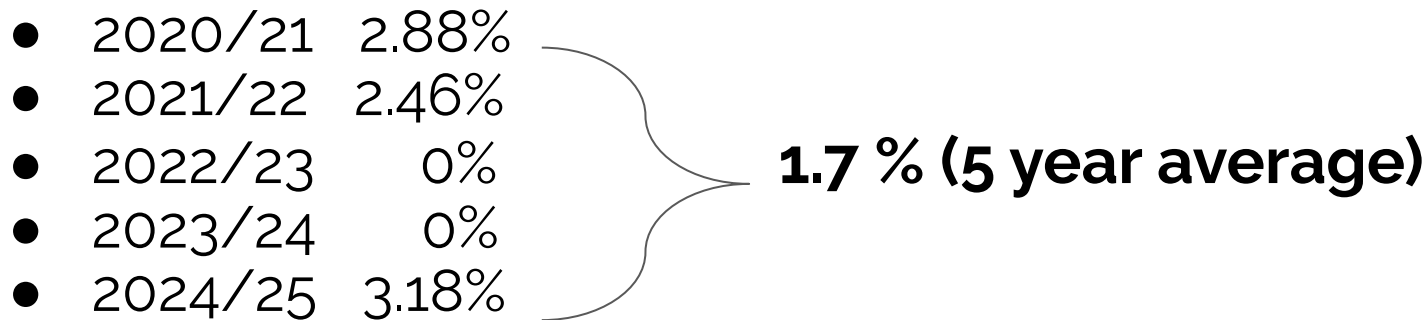
Draft School Operating Expenditures

1st Draft Budget = \$129,580,048 Increase = \$5,453,368 (4.39%) **Budget Gap = \$1,544,000**
(to tax cap budget)

Changes in 2025-26 Budget:

Contractual Salary Increases & FICA	\$3,865,348
Retirement Systems	205,000
Utilities	32,000
Legal	-50,000
BOCES	81,948
Special Education Tuitions	-80,000
Workers Comp & Liability Insurance	51,300
Health Insurance	2,305,000
Debt Service	942,772
Property Purchase	-1,500,000
Retirement Benefits	-500,000
Contractual, Equipment & Supplies	100,000
<u>Total Budget to Budget Change (4.39%)</u>	<u>\$ 5,453,368</u>

Tax Cap History in Orchard Park CSD



If we stayed at the legal tax cap for the 2025-26 budget, our average annual increase over a 6 year period would be 2.46%

The 5 year average school tax rate increase in Orchard Park has been .81% per year



Next Steps

- The administrative team will be working to implement necessary budget adjustments to have a balanced budget
- The Board and Superintendent will continue to work to determine the direction with the tax levy cap, staying within the allowable tax levy cap
 - For every percentage point under 6.26%, we must reduce expenditures by \$721,000
- Next budget presentation will be the March 11, 2025 Board meeting
- Board adoption will be during the April 8, 2025 Board meeting



School Bus Replacement Purchase

- District's cost-effective, long-range plan to replace aging transportation vehicles (8 buses per year for 10 year replacement schedule)
- Will plan to purchase 8 buses in 2025-26
 - Electric Bus Update:
 - Timeline and requirement per NYS still in place (beginning in 2027)
 - NYSEERDA study as a District
 - Infrastructure capabilities
- **No new tax levy impact... funded by state aid reimbursements and previous bus purchase debt payoff**



Questions from the Board of Education?



2024-2025 Board of Education

