



Orchard Park Central School District

2025 Budget/Vote Edition

Community Report

Ellicott's STEAM Night Sparks Curiosity and Excitement

Ellicott Elementary was buzzing with excitement during its annual STEAM Family Night, hosted by the PTO to celebrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The event brought together more than 400 students, families, educators, and community partners for an evening of creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning.

More than 50 students showcased innovative projects, from science-themed art to cutting-edge tech designs, highlighting both their talent and the power of STEAM education to spark curiosity and inspire future careers.

Over 20 local organizations supported the event with interactive exhibits spanning fields like engineering, emergency services, and environmental science. Students engaged with professionals, asked questions, and tried real-world tools and techniques. A special thank you to MOOG for sponsoring the event and helping to make this experience possible.

Families enjoyed a wide range of career-connected activities: high schoolers led birdhouse-building sessions, the OP Fire and EMS teams hosted drone flights, kids planted vegetable seedlings with supplies from Lowe's, and Mrs. Vivian ran the indoor Star Lab and took attendees on a tour of the night sky.

Student-led exhibits reinforced how classroom learning connects to real-world opportunities, showing how today's passions can grow into tomorrow's professions. STEAM Night was a true community effort, celebrating innovation, encouraging exploration, and inspiring students to see the future in their interests.



Ellicott Elementary's STEAM Night brought learning to life for students and families!

Orchard Park High School Goes Bald for a Cause



Twelve participants went Bald for Bucks in an effort to raise funds for cancer research.

Orchard Park High School once again rallied together for a cause that hits close to home. Organized by Mrs. Downs' Leadership Class, this year's Bald for Bucks fundraiser brought students, staff, and community members together in support of cancer research at Roswell Park.

The event offered more than just haircuts, participants could shave, cut, or style their hair while enjoying lighthearted moments like seeing teachers get a pie in the face, along with a basket raffle and bake sale. Thanks to the enthusiastic turnout and community spirit, the school raised over \$10,000 for this great cause. Orchard Park High School's annual participation in this event demonstrates the school's long-standing commitment to supporting cancer patients and research.

2025-2026 Annual School Vote and Election May 20, 2025

Investing in Our Students, Supporting Our Community

David Lilleck
Superintendent of Schools



It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the 2025-26 school budget to our Orchard Park families and community members. In partnership with the Board of Education, this budget reflects months of thoughtful planning centered on what matters most - maximizing the potential of every student while maintaining our strong tradition of fiscal responsibility and community collaboration.

At Orchard Park Central School District, our schools are more than just buildings, they are the heart of our community. They are where students grow, families connect, and lifelong memories are made. We remain committed to providing a well-rounded and rigorous education that values academic achievement, inclusive practices, the arts, athletics, and most importantly, a sense of belonging for all.

On April 8, 2025, the Board of Education approved a proposed 2025-26 school budget of \$126,697,638, representing a 2.07% year-to-year increase. This budget is thoughtfully designed to support key district priorities that reflect our continued commitment to student learning, safety, and responsible financial stewardship.

- Aligning with our Strategic Plan and Board of Education goals
- Continuing to expand inclusive and academically rigorous programming from Pre- K through grade 12
- Preserving and strengthening programs that support the whole child - academically, socially, and emotionally
- Presenting a balanced budget that remains within the tax levy cap (1.6% below the tax levy cap at 4.6%)

Our district continues to be a leader in fiscal responsibility. Among the 39 school districts in Erie and Niagara counties, Orchard Park ranks as the 5th lowest in per-pupil spending, all while continuing to deliver excellent outcomes and a comprehensive educational experience for every student.

In addition to the proposed Operating Budget (Proposition I) above, voters will also consider: Proposition II: Annual Bus Replacement Plan. As part of our long-term transportation plan, this proposition supports the purchase of six new diesel school buses to replace aging vehicles. This initiative is cost-neutral as it is funded through state aid and savings from retired bus debt, and has no additional impact on the tax levy.

We take great pride in being part of the Orchard Park community and remain committed to fostering a positive, inclusive school culture, one where every student is known, supported, and challenged to reach their full potential. Our focus remains firmly on student learning and achievement, and we deeply value the strong partnerships we have with families and our broader community. Together, we're creating and supporting the conditions for all students to succeed and grow into their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at Orchard Park High School on May 20, 2025, as we work together to invest in what matters most - our students and their future!

May 20, 2025 Ballot

Proposition # 1 Proposed Operating Budget

The 2025-26 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District is \$126,697,638. This budget is under the allowable tax cap.



Scan the QR code to
learn more.

Proposition # 2 Purchase and Financing of Buses, Related Equipment

Voters will decide on the purchase of five (5) seventy-seven (77)-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$195,000 each; one (1) seventy-seven (77)-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$210,000. These buses will be funded through state education department reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions over the last 20 years; and, if approved, will have no new tax levy impact.

Election of Two Candidates to the Board of Education

Scan the QR code to below or see pages 6 & 7 for Candidate Profiles.



Scan the QR code to
learn more.

Total Budget Expenditures

Components	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Program	\$92,018,730	\$93,820,632	\$1,801,902
Capital	\$18,399,670	\$20,180,097	\$1,780,427
Administration	\$13,708,280	\$12,696,909	-\$1,011,371
TOTAL	\$124,126,680	\$126,697,638	\$2,570,958

Program Expenditures

Proposed Operating Budget - Program Component

The program or instructional component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for the district's over 5,072 students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies, textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for employees assigned to this category are reported here.

Program	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Regular Education	\$48,074,614	\$50,139,622	\$2,065,008
Special Education	\$15,109,000	\$14,540,000	-\$569,000
Transportation	\$5,691,116	\$5,860,510	\$169,394
Benefits	\$23,144,000	\$23,280,500	\$136,500
TOTAL	\$92,018,730	\$93,820,632	\$1,801,902

Capital Expenses

Proposed Operating Budget - Capital Component

The capital component of the budget includes maintenance and upkeep of the district's facilities and property including electricity, gas, water, sewer, and telephone services. It also includes principal and interest payments on capital projects and salaries and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

Program	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Operations & Maintenance	\$7,731,890	\$7,945,045	\$213,155
Debt Service	\$7,472,780	\$8,415,552	\$942,772
Benefits	\$3,195,000	\$3,819,500	\$624,500
TOTAL	\$18,399,670	\$20,180,097	\$1,780,427

Administrative Expenses

Proposed Operating Budget - Administrative Component

The administrative component of the budget provides for overall general support and management activities including the Board of Education, the superintendent's office, business and personnel departments, curriculum and staff development, and supervision and support in each of the six schools. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance, BOCES administrative costs, and salaries and benefits for all staff in the administrative offices.

Program	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Board & District Office	\$7,824,780	\$6,484,409	-\$1,340,371
Building Supervision	\$2,597,000	\$2,828,000	\$231,000
Benefits	\$3,286,500	\$3,384,500	\$98,000
TOTAL	\$13,708,280	\$12,696,909	-\$1,011,371

Our District In Action



In April, the High School Unified Basketball team played an exciting game with the whole school in attendance. Players were cheered on by fellow students and worked together to put on an amazing display of teamwork.



This spring, Windom first graders celebrated reading and writing with an animal adventure! Students researched an animal, wrote a nonfiction book, crafted clay sculptures, and filmed green screen videos. Families were invited to watch their students "step into" their diorama scenes!



OPMS Patriot's Pen participants were honored at a reception this spring, by Legion representative Mr. Chuck Solfrank, who praised the powerful impact of their essays.

Estimated Revenue

School Districts are funded through State Aid, property tax, and other revenue sources including sales tax and fund balance.

Source	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$72,048,709	\$75,362,950	\$3,314,241
PILOTS	\$600,000	\$650,000	\$50,000
State & Federal Aid	\$33,814,971	\$34,296,688	\$481,717
Erie County Sales Tax	\$7,300,000	\$7,500,000	\$200,000
Other Revenues	\$1,263,000	\$1,488,000	\$225,000
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$9,100,000	\$7,400,000	-\$1,700,000
TOTAL	\$124,126,680	\$126,697,638	\$2,570,958

Investing in Literacy: A Stronger Foundation for All Learners



Sarah Hornung, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Innovation & Pupil Services

In our district, we believe that every child can learn to read—and it's our responsibility to provide the instruction, resources, and support to make that happen. That belief has guided our two-year effort to strengthen literacy instruction, grounded in the Science of Reading and aligned with our commitment to equity and excellence for all students.

Following an extensive pilot involving over 70 teachers, we are excited to announce the adoption of new English Language Arts (ELA) programs for the 2025/26 school year:

- Grades K-3: Fishtank ELA, used alongside UFLI for phonics instruction
- Grades 4-5: Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)
- Grade 6: Amplify ELA

These programs were selected for their evidence-based practices, strong instructional routines, and support for building foundational skills and background knowledge. In grades K-3, we are proud to continue our commitment to UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) as our Tier 1 phonics program. UFLI's structured approach to phonics will remain a critical part of our early literacy strategy.

This adoption reflects more than just new materials—it represents a deep investment in student success. Teachers will receive professional development this summer and throughout the school year, along with new curricular resources and ongoing coaching to support effective implementation.

We extend our sincere thanks to the pilot teachers who opened their classrooms, provided feedback, and helped lead this work. Their insights were instrumental in shaping our decision and ensuring that our next steps are grounded in both research and real classroom experience.

Literacy is the foundation of learning, and this investment ensures that every student, regardless of background or ability, has the opportunity to become a confident, capable reader. Together, we are building a stronger, more equitable literacy experience for all students.

Our District In Action



Eggert's fourth annual International Night welcomed over 400 students and families for an evening of cultural celebration, crafts, food, art, and fun!



South Davis students celebrated Arbor Day with a trip to the train depot, learning about trees and planting one with members of the Orchard Park Tree Conservancy and representatives from the Town, Village, and Erie Cattaraugus Rails to Trails.



On Wednesday, April 23, fifteen Orchard Park High School seniors committed to college athletic teams during the spring signing. Congratulations athletes!



Stay Connected On Social Media!

Stay connected with the latest news, events, and celebrations from Orchard Park Central School District by following us on social media. Join our community on Facebook at @opcsd and Instagram at @opschools to see what's happening across our schools. We can't wait to share our story with you!



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	\$ 124,126,680	\$126,697,638	\$123,383,397										
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 2,570,958	-\$ 743,283										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.07 %	-0.60 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95 %											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 72,048,709	\$ 75,362,950											
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)	\$ 72,048,709	\$ 75,362,950	\$ 72,048,709										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,603,204	\$ 5,722,917											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 68,445,505	\$ 70,838,065											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 68,445,505	\$ 69,640,033											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 1,198,032											
Administrative Component	\$ 13,708,280	\$ 12,696,909	\$ 12,696,909										
Program Component	\$ 92,018,730	\$ 93,820,632	\$ 90,770,391										
Capital Component	\$ 18,399,670	\$ 20,180,097	\$ 19,916,097										
<p>* 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.</p> <p>The exact change to the 2025-26 budget would still need to be determined, however, there would be employee positions eliminated and all equipment purchases would be eliminated, with the exception of state aided computer hardware and equipment essential to assist children with special needs.</p>													
<p>** 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)</p>													
		<table><tr><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2025 Tax Impact)</td><td>\$ 1,185,000</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr></table>		Description	Amount	Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2025 Tax Impact)	\$ 1,185,000		\$		\$		\$
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	\$												
	\$												
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*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

\$ 433

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Orchard Park Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at Orchard Park High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Orchard Park 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.



A Word From the Board President

Dr. Jennifer Rogers

As we near the end of another school year, it is important to recognize the accomplishments and progress made throughout the district. The Orchard Park Central School District has experienced meaningful growth and success in many areas this year, both in and out of the classroom. This has been made possible through the steady leadership of Superintendent Lilleck and the administrative team, as well as the ongoing commitment of our teachers and staff, who consistently support and encourage their students.

At a recent meeting, the Board of Education voted to adopt the 2025–2026 school budget, which will appear as Proposition 1 on the ballot during the upcoming vote on May 20. Despite ongoing uncertainties in state funding, we firmly believe this budget reflects the district's strategic plan and the Board's goals. This budget sustains inclusive programming and current academic offerings from Pre-K through grade 12, while remaining under the state-mandated tax levy cap. Once again, the Board has unanimously supported keeping the tax levy increase below the allowable cap.

Proposition 2 pertains to the purchase and financing of six new school buses. This annual initiative is part of the district's long-term strategy to modernize our transportation fleet, ensuring student safety and managing maintenance costs. New York State Transportation Aid will be used to support this purchase, meaning there will be no tax impact associated with this proposition.

Proposition 3 concerns the election of two Trustees to the Board of Education. Effective school boards play a vital role in the success of any district. Our Trustees are community volunteers who bring diverse experiences and a shared commitment to our students and schools. This year, four candidates are running for two open seats.

We encourage all residents to stay informed about the proposed budget and the propositions on the ballot. Please remember to vote on **May 20, 2025**.

The Role of a Board of Education Member

The Board of Education is elected by District voters to govern schools and determine educational policies. Technically, Board of Education members are Local Officials, their authority and duties are defined by the state and federal constitutions and laws, as well as by rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Regents and commissioner of education and other regulatory agencies. Members of the Board of Education are volunteers and receive no salary for their work. They do not have the day-to-day duties of running a school district, rather their role is oversight and setting policy; the Superintendent is responsible for all aspects of the district and he reports to the Board. Information regarding the Board of Education candidates is available below.

Board of Education Candidates – Elect Two

Below are the candidates running for the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education. They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot. District residents will elect two candidates to the Board. This information was provided by the candidates.

1A On The Ballot – Tom Provost



Candidate Address: 53 Deer Run, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Family Information: Dr. Karin Provost is my wife and we have three children, Abby who is a senior at OPHS, and Ellie and Tommy who are both 7th graders at OPMS.

Career: I retired from the FBI in May 2022, after working 20 years as a Special Agent investigating healthcare fraud, general financial crimes, and civil rights violations. Since June 2022, I have worked in the Financial Investigations Unit of M&T Bank where I investigate fraud schemes targeting elderly and at-risk adult customers and write reports that identify suspects for law enforcement action.

Reasons for Running: I am running for re-election to continue the work I have done to provide Orchard Park students with the resources they need for an excellent education, and to do so in a financially responsible way for the taxpayers of our school district. I am proud of the work I have done on the School Board and on

the District Safety Committee to help ensure that there is now a School Resource Officer at each of our schools. I am also proud to have supported the expansion of services the district offers, which not only has allowed more special education students to return to schools in Orchard Park, but will soon provide universal pre-K to all families in our district. The dedication and hard work of the administrative staff, teachers, and school related professionals has been integral to our work and with your support, I hope to continue to work with them to provide our students the outstanding instruction and skills that are a foundation for a lifetime of success.

Thank you.

2A On The Ballot – Ryan Anderson



Candidate Address: 4303 Freeman Rd. Orchard Park, NY

Family Information: I am married to Alexandra Anderson and we have four children: Samuel, Anneliese, Owen, and Eric.

Career: I graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology with a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2009. I have worked as a Mechanical Design Engineer for 15 years, at Cobham Mission Systems (Now Eaton) from 2009 to 2022, and at Moog Space and Defense since 2022.

Reasons for Running: It has been my honor to serve on the Orchard Park Board of Education for the past three years, two as Vice President. I treasure my responsibility to listen to our community, to advocate for the issues that are important to us, and to help set our district priorities to maintain and grow our excellence in maximizing all our students' potentials.

During my term, I've advocated for important academic improvements such as the Science of Reading, data-driven decisions, and supporting our marginalized and special needs students. I've been extremely encouraged by the recent strides Orchard Park has made in these areas.

I've also emphasized transparency and communication with our community, working with the administration to create the Board Report emailed after every BOE meeting, with information about what our district is doing and links to helpful resources.

As there is still so much more to do, I'm asking for your vote on May 20th so I may use my experience to continue advocating for our community and students for the next three years.
TogetherforOPSchools.com

3A On The Ballot – Luis Jesus Villalpando



Candidate Address: 4648 Brompton Dr. Blasdell, NY 14219

Family Information:

Mom: Martha Villalpando

Dad: Jose Villalpando

Brothers: Kevin and Gale Villalpando

Sister: Samantha Villalpando

Career: El Canelo server: 2017-present

Reasons for Running: Greetings to all readers, my reason for running for the board of education is because we need a person who knows what students and the community need right now. I'm currently a student at the University at Buffalo majoring in biomedical sciences. I'm also a certified EMT for New York State. I know

you might be wondering why you should vote for me the reason is I can bring things from the university to make the community more diverse and more inclusive. I want to make sure that everyone is getting the highest quality of education. I want to make sure another school in the OPCS D gets another blue ribbon. A school system shouldn't be so divided. I want to make sure we can all lend a hand because once we do, we will become united and one. I promise I will always be there to listen and respectfully answer any questions no matter what. I really hope I can count on your vote on May 20th, 2025. Together we can make a difference.

4A On The Ballot – Tijuana Klas



Candidate Address: 36 Cherry Tree Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Family Information: Married (17 years) with one child (9 years old) and one dog

Career: (Retired) Criminal Investigator/Special Agent with a Federal law enforcement agency for 23+ years

Reasons for Running: I am running for the school board so that I can support the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education's mission to maintain "an atmosphere of excellence and accountability." As a parent of a student in the Orchard Park School District, I have a vested interest in fostering a high-quality education that prepares students for future success. As a retired federal agent, I have more than 23 years of experience analyzing and interpreting laws and policies, ensuring their consistent and fair application, and providing guidance for stakeholders. I am excited for the opportunity to lend these skills to promote accountability, transparency, and fairness at all levels—students, teachers, and administrators alike. I also see this as an opportunity to stay engaged and give back to my community by using my experience in leadership and problem-solving to

create positive change. With a commitment to upholding the values that make our schools strong, I ask for your support in helping to shape a school system that prioritizes excellence, fairness, and the best interests of every student.

Resident

Date, Time, and Location of Public Vote

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Orchard Park High School Gymnasium,
4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127
(Use Freeman Road Entrance)**

Voter Eligibility

- At least 18 years of age.
- A United States citizen.
- A District resident for at least 30 days before the date of the vote.

**Please bring proof of residency. (i.e. drivers license)*

On The Ballot

Proposition I: Operating Budget

- The 2025-26 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District is \$126,697,638. This budget is under the allowable tax cap (of 6.26%) at 4.6%.

Proposition II: School Bus Purchase

- Continues the 20 year Bus Replacement Program (no new tax levy impact)

Election of Two Board Members

(They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot)

- 1A On The Ballot – Tom Provost
- 2A On The Ballot – Ryan Anderson
- 3A On The Ballot - Luis Jesus Villalpando
- 4A On The Ballot - Tijuana Klas

Dinner & Dessert To Support Post Prom

The Orchard Park High School Post Prom is hosting a BW's Barbecue Dinner at the Vote. All proceeds benefit Post Prom, a PTO-sponsored drug and alcohol free party for seniors and their dates following the Prom. Order at the door or place your pre-sale order using the QR code below.

- Chicken Dinners are \$14 and include a 1/2 chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and a roll. Rib Dinners are \$15 and include a 1/4 rack ribs, potato salad, coleslaw, and a roll
- Dozen Krispy Kreme Donuts \$13



Absentee Ballots and Early Mail Voter Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots or early mail voter ballots for the 2025-26 Annual School Vote may be obtained at the District Clerk's Office, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY, 14224. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or no later than the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered by the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on May 20, 2025. Absentee Ballot and early mail voter ballot applications are also available on our District website: www.opschools.org. For more information on absentee ballots or early mail voting, please contact the District Clerk at 716-209-6280.

Mark Your Calendar!

The district's annual ArtSplash exhibit will open on Friday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Orchard Park Public Library (4570 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, NY 14127).

ArtSplash showcases the creativity of Orchard Park students from elementary through high school, providing an authentic opportunity for students to share their talents. This event reflects the strong partnership between the district and the community. We are proud of our students and the outstanding art teachers who guide and inspire them to realize their creative potential.

Student artwork will remain on display at the Orchard Park Public Library through June 8. ArtSplash is sponsored by the Orchard Park Visual Art Boosters (OPVAB), which supports visual arts and creative opportunities for all Orchard Park students.

Orchard Park Central Schools presents **2025 ArtSplash**



Student Art Exhibit
Featuring selected works from artists in grades PreK-12
May 16 - June 8, 2025
On view at the
Orchard Park Public Library
4570 South Buffalo Street,
Orchard Park, NY

Generously supported by 

