

# BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET 2025

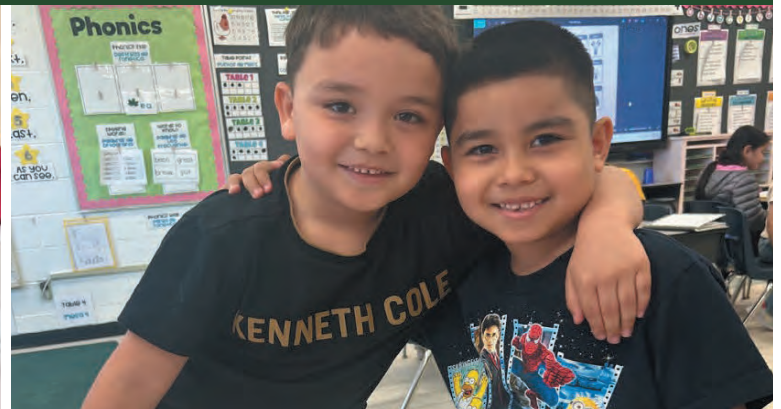
## 2025-2026 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET



**VOTE • May 20, 2025**  
**2025-2026 School Budget Vote**  
**& Trustee Election**  
**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
**@ District Elementary Schools**  
**(See Page 4 for schools)**

### The proposed budget:

- Preserves all programs & services for students
- Provides increased support for alternate pathways for graduation through Graduation PLUS+ initiatives
- Carries a tax levy increase within allowable tax cap



*This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.*

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# A Message from your Board of Education

Dear Resident,

This year has been filled with meaningful accomplishments, memorable events and continued growth across our school community. Thanks to our ongoing collaboration with Brentwood's administrative team, we are proud to present a proposed 2025-26 school budget that maintains all existing programs while keeping the tax levy increase well below our allowable tax-cap limit. This responsible budget reflects our commitment to both fiscal stability and educational excellence.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find updates on the progress we're making in improving school facilities and expanding educational opportunities. We encourage you to take a moment to explore our points of pride, which offer just a glimpse into the many outstanding achievements of our students and staff.

In addition to our proposed budget, residents will be asked to vote for two seats on the Board of Education – the ones currently occupied by Maria Malave and Hassan Ahmed. Residents will also be asked to vote on a special proposition which would increase the number of board members from seven to nine. We hope you will join us at the polls on Tuesday, May 20, between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Sincerely,

Eileen Felix, *President*

Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*

Cynthia Ciferri, *Second Vice President*

Hassan Ahmed, Brandon Garcia, Eileen Harman, and Maria Malave, *Trustees*



## Board Candidate Bios

### Seat 1: Maria Malave (incumbent) versus Kendra Cornejo Muñoz



**Maria Malave:** *During my tenure as a Board of Education member, I have advocated for students, parents, staff, and the Brentwood school community. As a former special education teacher for 26 years, I continue to believe that all students are deserving of an educational system that addresses each child's unique way of learning by supporting district initiatives including the Graduation Plus+ vision and mission, which prepares students for college and career and fosters opportunities for all students to succeed. This year it was an honor to be a recipient of the SCOPE School Board Service Award for Excellence. In my coming term, I am committed to continuing my mission of ensuring that every student has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.*



**Kendra Cornejo Muñoz:** *Kendra Cornejo Muñoz is the daughter of immigrants and a proud Brentwood alum. Kendra graduated from Brown University and she works as a youth organizer building power with youth to improve their educational experiences on a local, state and national level. All students deserve to feel safe in schools, regardless of immigration status or gender identity. Kendra is ready to serve Brentwood and be a fierce advocate so all students feel safe, supported and seen.*

### Seat 2: Ana Flores Acosta versus Hassan Ahmed (incumbent)



**Ana Flores Acosta:** *Ana Flores Acosta is a Brentwood homeowner and a Brentwood Alumni. With her 5 years of activism and 7 years of mental health experience, she is looking to bring in her perspective to better educate decisions with more sensitivity towards mental health and harnessing communication with the community. As a mental health therapist, she is ready to bring her experience and the barriers that are shared with her from the therapy room to the board room.*



**Hassan Ahmed:** *Over the past three years, we have come together to champion innovative programs, enhance academic resources, and create a nurturing environment for our students and staff. Our commitment to transparency and community engagement has strengthened our schools. Together, we can unlock even more educational opportunities, ensuring that every child not only learns but thrives. Your support is vital as we continue this journey and shape a brighter future for our children. Please vote May 20th to ensure our shared vision.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are there any capital projects included in the budget?

Yes, there is \$39 million in the transfer to capital line which will allow the District to install air conditioning in all large areas within the schools. This includes cafeterias, gyms, auditoriums and libraries. In addition, the auditoriums in East and West Middle Schools will be renovated.

### Are there any special propositions on the ballot?

Yes, there is a second proposition to expand the number of trustees on the Board of Education from seven to nine.

### What is a contingency budget?

A contingency budget is the maximum amount authorized by law that a district can impose on the community if the school budget is voted down. If the district were required to adopt a contingency budget, that would require \$40,341,200 to be cut from the proposed budget. The district

would also be forced to uphold certain expenditure caps, and the state would impose controls on all capital projects and restrictions on the use of school facilities by community members. The Board of Education may choose to make reductions or eliminate programs, which could include the summer recreation program, instrumental music and extracurricular activities.





# Points of Pride

- Brentwood High School welcomed New York State Education Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa and top state education officials for a tour of the district's groundbreaking Graduation PLUS+ initiative, highlighting Brentwood as a leader in postsecondary readiness.
- Graduation PLUS+ was featured on Robert Vecchio's "Spotlight on Long Island Schools" podcast, further amplifying Brentwood's innovative approach to preparing students for college, careers, and community leadership.
- Districtwide renovations and beautification projects improved learning environments across the district—highlighted by a new turf athletic facility, upgraded playgrounds, science classrooms, cafeterias, bathrooms, and modernized infrastructure.
- Brentwood High School senior Olivia Harris was elected Governor of the 2025–2026 NYS Youth and Government Program, standing out among more than 800 students and set to represent New York at the national conference in Washington, D.C.
- Brentwood student-athletes made headlines at the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championship:
  - Jason Kwaak earned the title of State Champion in the 160-pound division with a perfect 41-0 record.
  - John De LaRosa placed fifth in the 152-pound weight class.
- The girls varsity basketball team captured the Suffolk County AAA Championship, showcasing athletic excellence and Brentwood pride.
- Academic enrichment expanded, with new initiatives like the LEGO Academy, alongside the popular Saturday Academy and Language Immersion Saturday Program.
- Brentwood's Unified Sports program continues to promote inclusion and teamwork. The Unified Bowling team entered its second season, and Unified Basketball its third—empowering students with special needs through sports.
- Elementary and middle school students engaged in hands-on STEM learning, thanks to partnerships with Plant Up and Northwell Health, which brought aeroponic towers into classrooms.
- New culturally diverse menu items—including pupusas, empanadas, jerk chicken, and halal meals—were introduced to better reflect and celebrate Brentwood's community.
- Continued emphasis on our robust educational programs, initiatives and student support services has produced the highest graduation rate in district history.
- Our Family Welcoming Center and centralized registration hub continues to successfully support families, streamline enrollment and provide resources to strengthen the home-school connection.
- Brentwood is proud to offer one of the most comprehensive bilingual programs in New York State. The dual language program at Twin Pines Elementary School stands as a model of excellence and reflects our deep commitment to bilingual and bicultural education. In addition, we have significantly expanded enrollment in ESL courses for adults at the Evening High School. Through continued partnerships with My Learning Connection, the Brentwood Library, and Pronto, we are making these valuable learning opportunities more accessible to our community.



## The Proposed 2025-2026 Budget Includes:

- Continued investment in Graduation PLUS+, including:
  - Expansion of staff and partnerships with colleges, universities, and local organizations such as the Brentwood Fire Department and Local Laborers 66.
  - Enhanced community service and civic readiness opportunities.
  - Implementation of skilled trade certification programs to prepare students for immediate workforce entry.
  - Development of alternative graduation pathways and revitalization of secondary education.
- Expansion of robust K–12 summer enrichment programs to keep students engaged in learning year-round.
- Increased access to high-dosage tutoring before and after school, providing targeted academic support to accelerate student learning.
- Adoption of new core reading (K–5) and elementary math programs to strengthen foundational academic skills districtwide.
- Expansion of mental health services, including additional interventionists, two social workers, one psychologist, and enhanced collaboration with external mental health agencies.
- Extension of the Performing and Fine Arts Department's instrumental music program to sixth grade, allowing students to begin band and orchestra instruction during the school day.
- Introduction of a new American Sign Language course at the Freshman Campus to support World Language Instruction graduation requirements.
- Expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten offerings to include early intervention services and integrated co-teaching models, supporting diverse learners from the earliest grades.
- Addition of elementary library media specialists and middle school digital literacy teachers to support reading, research, and responsible technology use.
- Launch of a Safety Center at the Freshman Campus, providing centralized monitoring of district cameras and safety alerts to enhance school security.
- Initiation of the first phase of air conditioning installations across school buildings to improve comfort and learning conditions.
- Maintenance of sports clinics for baseball, volleyball, and basketball, promoting youth development through athletics.
- Strengthening of Wi-Fi infrastructure and implementation of cybersecurity upgrades to ensure safe, seamless digital access for students and staff.
- Remodeling of the district radio station to expand educational opportunities, including podcasting as part of student communication and engagement initiatives.

# Brentwood Union Free 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	\$603,274,281	\$688,525,221	\$648,184,021
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$85,250,940	\$44,909,740
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		14.13%	7.44%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$114,358,027	\$115,501,607	
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)	\$114,358,027	\$115,501,607	\$114,358,027
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$117,616	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$115,732,644	\$118,571,206	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$114,240,411	\$115,501,607	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,492,233	\$3,069,599	
Administrative Component	\$64,589,314	\$69,588,269	\$69,158,269
Program Component	\$484,594,478	\$538,076,188	\$537,614,988
Capital Component	\$54,090,489	\$80,860,764	\$41,410,764

\* Should the budget be defeated, all equipment and funds for capital projects will be removed from the budget. In addition, the District will be required to charge a fee for building usage.

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions is not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.)

Description	Amount
At a cost of approximately \$28,000.00 for a special meeting, shall the Board of Education of the Brentwood Union Free School District: (i) establish two (2) additional seats on the District's Board of Education, thereby increasing the number of board members from seven (7) members to nine (9) members, with such new board members each to be elected to a term of office of three (3) years; and (ii) call a special meeting not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days following the District's annual meeting of May 20, 2025 for the purpose of electing such new board members; and Shall the Board of Education of the Brentwood Union Free School District be authorized to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the increase of the number of board member positions from seven (7) members to nine (9) members?	

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$641

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Brentwood School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Hemlock Park, Laurel Park, Loretta Park, North Elementary, Northeast, Oak Park, Pine Park, Southeast, and Southwest school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Brentwood School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.