



Wildcat Connections

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

2025-26 Budget

Superintendent's Message

Dear Wheatland-Chili Community,

As I get ready to retire at the end of this school year, I find myself reflecting on my time here at Wheatland-Chili. Serving as your superintendent has been a tremendous honor. I have witnessed firsthand the power of a close-knit school community where students are seen, supported and celebrated every day. Our small size is truly our strength — it allows every student to be known as an individual and every success to be shared.

While this school year is winding down, our commitment to the future remains strong. Planning for the 2025-26 school year is well underway, and an essential part of that process is the development of our annual school budget. This year's budget was developed with great care to ensure that every dollar directly supports student learning and well-being — from maintaining small class sizes to offering a broad and enriching curriculum. As always, we aim to provide high-quality opportunities for our students while remaining mindful of the financial impact on our taxpayers.

On May 20, you will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed spending plan and elect two members to the Board of Education. This newsletter provides you with everything you need to know to make an informed decision, including budget highlights and candidate profiles.

I want to thank you for the trust and support you have shown throughout my time as superintendent. Wheatland-Chili is a special place, and it has been a privilege to serve this community. The future is bright for our Wildcats, and I am confident that — together — we will continue to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,

Lynda Quick, Esq.
Superintendent of Schools



Tuesday
May 20, 2025
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

★ ★ **VOTE** ★ ★

Middle/High School Gym



Inside this issue:

- 2025-26 Proposed Budget
- Capital Project Update

- Board of Education Candidates
- Upcoming Events

Budget Basics

Proposed 2025-26 Operating Budget	\$23,599,197
Budget-to-Budget Increase	\$811,456
% Budget-to-Budget Increase	3.56%
Estimated Tax Levy	\$10,820,086
Estimated % Change in Tax Levy	2.28%
2024-25 Blended Tax Rate per \$1,000/Assessed Value	\$17.44
2025-26 Projected Blended Tax Rate per \$1,000/Assessed Value	\$17.89*
Estimated % Change in Tax Rate	2.58%

* Dependent on final assessed valuations provided by towns of Brighton, Chili, Wheatland and Caledonia.



Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories: administrative, program and capital.

Total Budget:	\$23,599,197	
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Administrative	2024-25	2025-26
Amount	\$2,955,903	\$3,191,650
Percentage of Budget	12.97%	13.52%

Provides overall general support and management services, including employee benefits for administrative and clerical support staff, costs for administration and supervision of T. J. Connor Elementary and the Middle/High School, staff development, business operations, central administration, BOCES administrative costs and administrative computing.

Program	2024-25	2025-26
Amount	\$16,330,150	\$16,964,040
Percentage of Budget	71.66%	71.88%

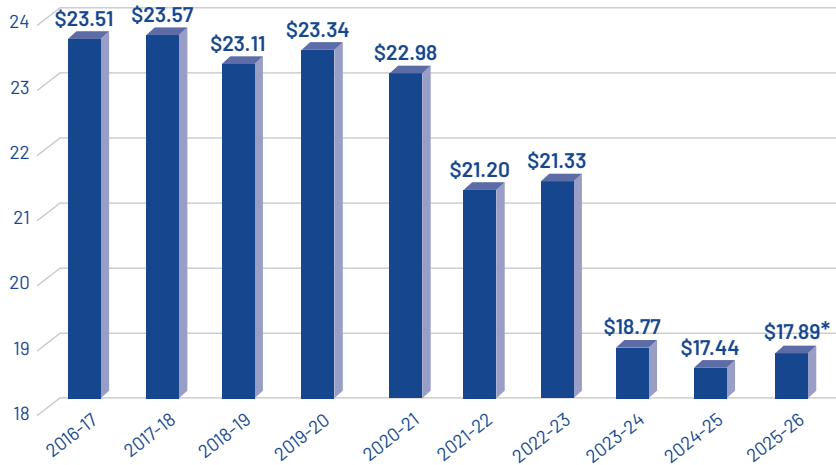
Provides overall instruction and educational support services for the District's students. This includes transportation costs, special education services and benefits for instructional and non-instructional program staff.

Capital	2024-25	2025-26
Amount	\$3,501,688	\$3,443,507
Percentage of Budget	15.37%	14.59%

Provides maintenance and custodial services for T. J. Connor Elementary and the Middle/High School. It includes the costs associated with the surrounding property, utility services, debt service payments and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

Administrative	13.52%
Program	71.88%
Capital	14.59%

Full Value Tax Rates (Blended)



*Projected



Projected Tax Bill Changes

Hypothetical home with \$100,000 assessed value

Impact on Homeowners <i>Blended rate for Brighton, Chili, Wheatland and Caledonia</i>	Per Year	Per Month
Increase on tax bill (full value on \$100,000)	\$45.00	\$3.75
Increase on tax bill (full value with STAR on \$100,000)	\$31.50	\$2.63

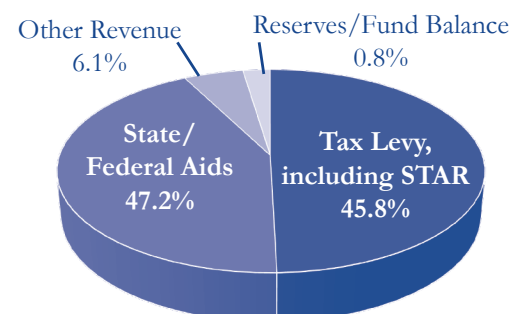
Projected Revenue Summary

	2024-25 Adopted Revenue	2025-26 Budgeted Revenue
Property Tax Levy	\$10,578,888	\$10,820,086
State/Federal Sources	\$10,651,746	\$11,149,611
Other Sources	\$1,357,107	\$1,429,500
Appropriated Reserves	\$100,000	\$100,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$22,787,741	\$23,599,197

VOTE



Utilice el código QR para acceder a la traducción al español de nuestro aviso de presupuesto.



2025-26 Proposed Budget

Administrative Budget	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Board of Education	\$50,707	\$65,413	\$14,706
Central Administration	\$320,462	\$326,956	\$6,494
Finance	\$386,901	\$423,635	\$36,734
Legal, Personnel, and Information	\$201,467	\$213,138	\$11,671
Central Data Processing	\$182,684	\$211,489	\$28,805
Insurance, BOCES Administrative/Capital	\$342,006	\$369,401	\$27,395
Instruction, Administrative	\$529,708	\$568,584	\$38,876
Curriculum	\$215,517	\$222,851	\$7,334
Employee Benefits	\$726,451	\$790,183	\$63,732
Total Administrative (7.98%)	\$2,955,903	\$3,191,650	\$235,747

The **ADMINISTRATIVE** component provides for overall general support and management of the operations of the District and includes:

- Board of Education costs
- Central and school administration
- Finance, including tax collection, purchasing, legal and auditing expenses
- Curriculum development
- BOCES administrative expenses

Program Budget	2024-25	2025-26	Change
In-Service Training	\$58,221	\$66,620	\$8,339
Instruction, Other than Administrative	\$8,513,427	\$8,724,692	\$211,265
Library and Computer Instruction	\$1,104,391	\$1,200,230	\$95,839
Counseling, Support and Health Services	\$784,395	\$652,806	\$(131,589)
Co-Curricular and Athletics	\$423,465	\$456,163	\$32,698
Pupil Transportation	\$1,145,590	\$1,168,940	\$23,350
Employee Benefits	\$4,185,765	\$4,577,744	\$391,979
Special Aid and Food Service Transfer	\$114,896	\$116,845	\$1,949
Total Program (3.88%)	\$16,330,150	\$16,964,040	\$633,890

The **PROGRAM** component is the largest portion of all planned expenditures for instruction and support services and includes:

- Instructional, co-curricular and athletic programs
- Counseling and health services
- Pupil transportation

Capital Budget	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Central Services, Maintenance and Operations	\$1,306,508	\$1,270,494	\$(36,014)
Employee Benefits	\$339,692	\$341,221	\$1,529
Debt Service, Energy Performance Contract	\$1,855,488	\$1,831,792	\$(23,696)
Total Capital (-1.66%)	\$3,501,688	\$3,443,507	\$(58,181)

The **CAPITAL** component includes costs associated with maintaining facilities and grounds:

- Building and equipment repairs
- Custodial and maintenance supplies
- Utilities
- Debt service

Total Budget	\$22,787,741	\$23,599,197	\$811,456 (3.56%)
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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	\$22,787,741	\$23,599,197	\$23,063,227
Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$811,456	\$275,486
Percentage Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.56 %	1.21%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,578,888	\$10,820,086	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$10,578,888	\$10,820,086	\$10,578,888
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$197,132	\$198,559	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,460,181	\$10,656,431	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$10,381,756	\$10,621,527	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$78,425	\$34,904	
Administrative Component	\$2,955,903	\$3,191,650	\$ 3,056,569
Program Component	\$16,330,150	\$16,964,040	\$16,723,346
Capital Component	\$3,501,688	\$3,443,507	\$3,283,312

* 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.

The contingency budget was calculated under NYS Education Law, section 2023. Actual line item appropriations under a contingency budget will be determined by the Board of Education. Certain equipment purchases and capital projects not necessary to maintain the health and safety of the students, and some raises for non-union employees, must be eliminated under the Education Law. (For the Wheatland-Chili Central School District, that would mean a minimum \$535,969 reduction in the budget.)

** 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)

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$ 295,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$487
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held in the district's gymnasium at the High School on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., 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.

Little Women Lights Up Stage

This spring's production of "Little Women" was a complete theatrical experience, bringing laughter, tears and hope. The Middle/High School Drama Club staged three performances of the musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's coming-of-age novel in late March. The production featured a total of 34 students in the cast, crew and pit band.



A Celebration of Sound: Districtwide Concert Showcases Musical Talent

Wheatland-Chili celebrated Music in Our Schools Month in March with a districtwide concert. Audiences packed the Middle/High School gym for the show featuring elementary, middle and high school band and chorus members. With each of the groups performing a selection, it was a wonderful opportunity for student-musicians to show off their talents. Now, they prepare for their upcoming spring concerts. Check the back cover of this newsletter or wheatlandchili.org for concert dates.



What's on the Ballot

Proposition 1:

Budget Resolution

SHALL the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to spend for school purposes during the 2025-2026 fiscal year \$23,599,197 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2:

School Transportation Purchases

SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to withdraw and expend from the District's existing "Capital Reserve Fund 2018 (Bus and Grounds Equipment)" a sum of money up to Two Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$295,000), less trade-in allowance, to be used for the purchase of two (2) replacement vehicles for the transportation of District students; those vehicles being one (1) 30-passenger wheelchair bus and one (1) 35-passenger bus.

Proposition 3:

Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund 2025 (Bus And Grounds Equipment)

SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a reserve fund pursuant to N. Y. Education Law § 3651 to be known as the "Capital Reserve Fund 2025 (Bus and Grounds Equipment)"; the purpose of such fund shall be to finance the purchase of vehicles for student transportation and other equipment; the probable term of such fund be ten years from the adoption of this Proposition, but such fund shall continue in existence for its stated purpose until liquidated according to Education Law or until its funds are exhausted; the ultimate amount of such fund to be (One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars) \$1,800,000, plus accrued interest; and the sources from which funds shall be obtained are: (1) current and future unappropriated balance as directed by the Board of Education; (2) amounts from budgetary appropriations; (3) transfers from other reserve funds as authorized by law; (4) New York State building aid as directed by the Board of Education; and (5) interest earnings.

Annual Budget Vote

BUDGET INFORMATION

Copies of the budget document will be available in the District, T. J. Connor Elementary and Middle/High School offices.

Additional questions may be addressed to Superintendent Lynda Quick by phone at 585-889-6246 or email at lynda_quick@wheatlandchili.org.

School Board members are also eager to help constituents understand the spending plan and revenue picture and will be pleased to talk with community members.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Voters must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least eighteen years of age
- A legal resident within the District for at least 30 days prior to vote

RESIDENTS UNABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE OF MILITARY SERVICE

Residents unable to vote because of military service (as defined under the Commissioner's Regulation Part 122, and by reason of such military service, is absent from the school district in which he or she is qualified to vote on the day of registration or election; or a spouse, parent, child or dependent of a voter as described above, accompanying or being with such voter, if a qualified voter of the State of New York and a resident of the District) may request applications for absentee ballots.

Applications may be requested from District Clerk Diane Stocking by phone at 585-889-6247 or email at diane_stocking@wheatlandchili.org. Applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 25 days prior to the vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Residents who may qualify can vote by absentee ballot in the budget vote to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Residents unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel or other reasons listed as valid under Election Law, may request applications for absentee ballots by contacting District Clerk Diane Stocking by phone at 585-889-6247 or in person at 13 Beckwith Avenue, Scottsville, NY 14546 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Requests for applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote if mailed and the day prior to the vote if in person. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Applications for early mail ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the Clerk of the District at the District Office, 13 Beckwith Avenue, Scottsville, NY 14546. Requests for applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote if mailed and the day prior to the vote if in person. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Middle/High School Gym

Board of Education Candidates

Two candidates will be elected to the Board of Education during the District's annual vote on Tuesday, May 20. The two candidates with the highest number of votes will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

Below are statements from each candidate in ballot order.



Adria Gallery

Background: My husband and I have been Wheatland residents for approximately 9 years. We made our home here because of the small-town community and felt it would be a good place to raise our family. I am a mother to two daughters who attend T. J. Connor Elementary and own a business in the community. I have been in the legal field for close to 20 years in various roles collaborating directly with attorneys and

their clients, often in management and overseeing junior staff. My career has given me the ability to be analytical, stay calm in tense situations and communicate effectively.

Why are you running? I'm raising my children to understand their impact on society and those impacts are through contribution/service to others. Parents of enrolled students play a vital role on the Board as they have voices that align with the children(s) day to day experiences. It has been an

honor sitting on the Board this past year, in that time I attended state and national conferences and completed all fiscal and new Board member training with roles on the policy and legislative committees and in the hiring of our new Superintendent. I am running to support our District and our community through service.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the Wheatland-Chili Central School District over the next three years? The demographic of the Wheatland-Chili school District is changing, with this comes new and different challenges that our District has not previously had to overcome. I participated in a poverty simulation that helped me better understand the struggles families in our District go through each day to make ends meet. It is imperative that we provide all students in the District with the resources necessary to excel academically and socially. My current term has given me a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member and the work ahead in confronting these and other challenges.



Gregory Berl

Background: My wife, three children and I have been part of the Wheatland-Chili Community for over 30 years. All 3 of our daughters graduated from WCCSD and are all pursuing successful careers. I have been involved in several aspects of our community such as Chairman of the Village Planning Board and Co -Chair of the Zoning board, President of Scottsville Athletic Association, Soccer Coach for SAA and The Board of Education Trustee

for 9 years. My career in the Surveying and Construction field has spanned over 40 years. My work experience has helped give me insight into many of the Capital improvement projects in our District.

Why are you running? I am running for the Board because I would like to provide experience and continuity to make a seamless transition for our new Superintendent. I would like

to help set new standards for improving Math and Reading scores which would greatly help the overall student and parent education experience at WC. I believe that our school is a vital part of the Community and our most valuable resource I would like to stress the positive points of our School Community. My wife and I enjoy attending the athletic events, plays and concerts throughout the year and want to increase their attendance.

What do you see as the major challenges facing the Wheatland-Chili Central School District over the next three years? I see the increasing poverty level in our District as the biggest challenge that we are currently facing. We need to focus on ways to reach out to ALL different levels of students and families in our area. Another challenge would be to satisfy the new and ever changing regulations from New York State Education Department. Lastly, we need to focus on making our students feeling safe in our schools at all times.



Wheatland-Chili Central School District

13 Beckwith Avenue
Scottsville, NY 14546
585-889-6247

Board of Education (2024-2025)

James Musshafen, President
Shanna Fraser, Vice President
Gregory Berl
Adria Callery
Stephanie Ely
Courtney Panek
Heather Woerner

Superintendent

Lynda Quick, Esq.

School Business Official

Jessica Jackson

Contributors

Abbey Noble

Graphic Design

Betsy Martin

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Henrietta, N.Y.
Permit No. 7

Upcoming Events

Check out the online calendar at wheatlandchili.org for a full list of events

May

20	Budget Vote and Board Election	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
20	Elementary Spring Concert	7 p.m.
21	Kindergarten Information Night	6 p.m.
23	Grade 6 Early Dismissal	10:40 a.m.
23	Elementary Early Dismissal	11:20 a.m.
26	Memorial Day — No School	
28	PreK Information Night	6 p.m.
29	HS Awards Night	7 p.m.

June

2	MS Honor Society Induction	6 p.m.
3	Athletics Awards	6 p.m.
5	Grades 6/7 Band Exchange	1 p.m.
5	MS and HS Art Shows	6 p.m.

5	MS Awards Night	7 p.m.
10-11	Regents Exams	
17-18		
20		
24-25		
16	Last Day of Classes for Grades 7-12	
19	Juneteenth — No School	
24-26	Grade 6 Early Dismissal	10:40 a.m.
24-26	Elementary Early Dismissal	11:20 a.m.
26	Last Day of School for PreK-6	
26-27	Regents Rating Day	
26	Senior Recognition Night	6:30 p.m.
27	WCFT Senior Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
27	Graduation Rehearsal	10 a.m.
29	Graduation Ceremony	2 p.m.

MINI-RENOVATION PROJECT

Wheatland-Chili CSD seeks to maximize state aid to make the most of the District's tax dollars. The proposed 2025-26 mini-renovation project will include tiling the Middle/High School corridors to match the front hallway tiling completed as part of the capital improvement project approved by voters in 2022. This mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project,

the District would incur the full cost of the work. By including the \$100,000 budget for this work in a mini-capital project within the proposed annual budget, the District will receive approximately \$74,800 in additional aid during the 2025-26 school year. This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the District's budget.