THE RAIDER RUNDOWN

ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT 2025-2026 | MAY 2025

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

TUESDAY,
MAY 13, 2025
MS/HS LIBRARY
AT 6 PM

VOTE! 2025

TUESDAY, MAY 20,2025

MS/HS
AUDITORIUM
FOYER

9 AM -9 PM

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Eden School Community,

As we look ahead to the upcoming fiscal year, we'd like to share some highlights of our proposed budget and how it reflects our continued commitment to supporting the success and well-being of every student. School budgets are built on a combination of State Aid and local school taxes, both of which are essential to maintaining the programs and opportunities that help our students thrive. Like districts across New York State, we're working to finalize a budget that is both balanced and timely.

We're pleased to share that the Governor's proposed budget brings encouraging news for our community. If the final State budget aligns with the Governor's recommendation, Eden is projected to receive a 5.06% increase in Foundation Aid. This potential increase is due to updates in the formulas used to calculate State Aid, which now better reflect the needs of our district. These changes acknowledge that Eden faces greater economic challenges than previously recognized and helps to ensure more equitable support for our students.

While we are grateful for the modest increase in Foundation Aid, just like every household in our community, the District is grappling with increased costs in all areas, including wages, benefits, liability insurance, and utilities. The Board of Education directed the creation of a budget that maintains programming, including class sizes, but is also simultaneously cognizant of the community's economic needs. Our budget is designed with the future of our students, our schools, and our community in mind.

Budget Highlights at a Glance:

Stable Tax Levy

We understand the importance of maintaining financial stability while providing the resources necessary to support our students. The tax levy in this budget remains within the state-mandated tax cap, ensuring a responsible and balanced approach to funding our schools, without burdening local taxpayers. We are continuing to use our solid financial position and increase in State Aid to strategically control the growth of our tax levy. For next year, our "2%" property tax cap calculation comes to 2.58%. Although we cannot provide the specific tax rate without having the town-wide assessments, we are estimating our proposed tax levy increase to be 2.58%. The District is proud that since the 2% tax cap was put into law in 2012, we have been below the cap every year. In total, our tax levy is 11.86% below where we could have been had the District sought a levy that was at the cap maximum each year. Provided below is a chart that outlines the last five years of enacted tax levies compared to what the maximum tax levy could have been, also known as the tax cap.

School Year	School Tax Levy	Tax Levy Increase (%)	Tax Cap (%)
2020-2021	$15,164,827	1.82%	2.07%
2021-2022	$15,164,827	0.00%	1.17%
2022-2023	$15,460,541	1.95%	2.13%
2023-2024	$15,769,751	2.00%	7.49%
2024-2025	$16,085,148	2.00%	4.26%
2025-2026	$16,500,419	2.58%	2.58%

It is important to remember that the District utilized Federal grant money, provided during and after the pandemic, to minimize the impact on local taxpayers. The District strategically utilized grant funds to offset the need to tax to the cap. Federal pandemic relief funds are no longer available for District use.

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Superintendent Message Continued

Student-Focused

Our top priority remains the academic success and overall well-being of our students. This budget ensures that every child receives a comprehensive, well-rounded education that supports both their intellectual and emotional growth. We continue to invest in programs and services that nurture the whole child, preparing them for success in school and beyond. Furthermore, this budget maintains class sizes, supports academic exploration, ensures continued mental wellness programming and continues Eden CSD's commitment to the Arts, Music, Career/Technical education, and Athletics. Eden is unique in that the District offers hands-on courses in small engine repair and diesel mechanics while also ensuring our students have advanced placement coursework in which they can earn college credits while in high school.

Staff Support

Investing in our educators and staff is essential to the success of our students. This budget provides for professional development opportunities, fair compensation, and ongoing support to ensure that our educators and staff have the resources they need to continue delivering excellence in the classroom and safe travel to and from school.

Transparency

We believe in providing clear, accessible information to all stakeholders. The details of the budget are available for review in this newsletter, and we encourage everyone to engage in discussions and ask questions. We are committed to keeping the community informed every step of the way.

We are excited about the opportunities this budget will bring for our students and our community. Together, we will continue to build a future where every child has the opportunity to succeed, thrive, and reach their full potential.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school district.

Eden Chopper Club Showcases Custom Harley at Donnie Smith Bike Show

This spring, the Eden Tech/Chopper Club had the exciting opportunity to attend the Donnie Smith Bike Show in St. Paul, Minnesota—one of the largest custom motorcycle shows in the midwest. Representing Eden with pride and professionalism, the students showcased their fully customized 1987 FLT Harley Davidson motorcycle, a project they've been passionately working on since the beginning of the year.

What began as a donated stock bike quickly transformed into a bold expression of craftsmanship and creativity. Over several months, students disassembled the engine, transmission, suspension, and frame, powder coated and rebuilt each system, and reassembled the bike piece by piece with a vision all their own.

At the show, the students had the chance to display their hard work alongside professional builders, industry leaders, and fellow enthusiasts. Attendees and judges alike were impressed not only by the bike's design but also by the knowledge and enthusiasm shown by the Eden team. This experience offered students an incredible platform to showcase their skills, gain exposure to the custom motorcycle industry, and connect with others who share their passion for building.

We're proud of the hard work, dedication, and professionalism our students displayed throughout this entire journey—both in the shop and on the show floor. Eden was well-represented, and the future looks bright for our young builders.

Eden High School Musical Presents ‘Freaky Friday’

Eden High School’s talented cast and crew brought the stage to life with their unforgettable production of “Freaky Friday.” The musical, based on the beloved story of a mother and daughter who magically swap bodies for a day, delighted audiences with its humor, high-energy music, and heartfelt message about family, understanding, and self-discovery.

Under the direction of Eden’s dedicated theater team, students delivered outstanding performances, showcasing their hard work and talent through impressive choreography, powerful vocals, and engaging storytelling. The production featured lively musical numbers, quick-witted dialogue, and stunning stagecraft that left the audience thoroughly entertained.

With each performance, the cast captivated the crowd, earning enthusiastic applause and praise from the community. Eden’s theater program once again demonstrated its ability to produce professional-quality shows that bring people together and highlight the incredible talents of its students. Bravo to the cast, crew, and directors for making “Freaky Friday” an unforgettable success!

Eden GLP joins Buffalo Sabres for Student of the Game Program

Our second-grade students had an unforgettable experience recently thanks to the Buffalo Sabres' "Students of the Game" program! During their PE classes, students participated in a hands-on hockey session led by four enthusiastic and knowledgeable Sabres interns. The gym was full of energy and excitement as our students rotated through fun and engaging hockey activities, learning the basics of the game while also building important skills like teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship.

The smiles on their faces said it all. This was a day they won’t soon forget! From stick-handling drills to goal-scoring games, every moment was designed to get students moving, learning, and having fun.

As part of this incredible experience, each child received their very own Sabres "Students of the Game" t-shirt and a ticket to an upcoming Buffalo Sabres game, a generous gift that added to the excitement and made each student feel like an MVP.
We’re truly grateful for our growing partnership with the Buffalo Sabres and the unique learning opportunities it provides. Programs like this not only promote physical activity and healthy habits but also help inspire the next generation of athletes and fans.

Thank you to the Buffalo Sabres for making this such a special day for our students!

BUDGET INFORMATION

EDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSED 2025-26 BUDGET "AT A GLANCE"

	2025-2026		2024-2025	
Salaries	$ 18,838,696	47.01%	$ 18,331,073	48.59%
Equipment	$ 102,706	0.26%	$ 106,906	0.28%
Contractual	$ 4,183,545	10.44%	$ 4,257,157	11.29%
Materials & Supplies	$ 489,803	1.22%	$ 464,357	1.23%
BOCES	$ 3,733,208	9.31%	$ 3,907,187	10.36%
Benefits	$ 8,202,823	20.47%	$ 7,761,885	20.58%
Debt Service	$ 4,322,459	10.78%	$ 2,728,850	7.23%
Transfers	$ 203,529	0.51%	$ 165,570	0.44%
Total Budget	**$ 40,076,769**	**100.00 %**	**$ 37,722,985**	**100.00 %**

BUDGET & TAX LEVY HISTORY

School Year	Proposed Budget		Proposed Levy		Allowable by Law	
	Budget Total	% Change	Tax Levy	% Change	% Change	% Below
2025-26	**$40,076,769**	**6.24%**	**$16,500,419**	**2.58%**	**2.58%**	**0.00%**
2024-25	$37,722,985	3.61%	$16,085,148	2.00%	4.26%	2.26%
2023-24	$36,409,963	7.61%	$15,769,751	2.00%	7.49%	5.49%
2022-23	$33,836,483	3.67%	$15,460,541	1.95%	2.13%	0.18%
2021-22	$32,637,781	4.32%	$15,164,827	0.00%	1.17%	1.17%

The 2025-26 PROPOSED budget totals $40,076,769, which is an increase of $2,353,784 or 6.24% over the 2024-25 budget. The TAX LEVY is the total amount in revenue raised by property taxes in the Eden Community. The 2025-26 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY is $16,500,419, an increase of 2.58% over the 2024-25 tax levy. The district is allowed by law to increase the TAX LEVY by as much as 2.58% for the 2025-26 school year, per NYS tax cap legislation.

As you can see from the chart above, the Eden Central School District has set the tax levy at or below the State's allowable limit in each of the last 5 years, and has done so since the inception of the tax cap legislation.

If you are interested in more detailed information about the budget figures and the budget development process, please refer to the Business Office, Budget Information section of the District website at Edencsd.org or use the QR code provided.

A complete copy of the Public Budget Document is available on the District website or in the District Office.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

EDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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	$ 37,722,985.00	$ 40,076,769.00	$ 39,661,498.00
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		$ 2,353,784.00	$ 1,938,513.00
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.24%	5.14%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$ 16,085,148.00	$ -	
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)	$ 16,085,148.00	$ -	$ 16,085,148.00
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$ -	$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$ 16,441,144.00	$ 16,500,419.00	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$ 16,085,148.00	$ -	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	$ 355,996.00	$ 16,500,419.00	
Administrative Component	$ 4,015,986.00	$ 4,124,212.00	$ 4,075,330.00
Program Component	$ 27,836,860.00	$ 28,650,129.00	$ 28,386,754.00
Capital Component	$ 5,870,139.00	$ 7,302,428.00	$ 7,199,414.00

*Should the District be required to adopt a contingency budget, $415,271 of student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries would need to be removed from the budget. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

Separate Propositions:

Description	Amount
Proposition #2 Bus and Equipment Reserve	$ 1,182,000.00
This proposition has no taxpayer impact.	

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]: Boston	$ **418**
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]: Concord	$ **389**
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]: Eden	$ **404**
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]: Evans	$ **392**
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]: North Collins	$ **393**

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

MEET THE CANDIDATES

DONALD SUTFIN

My interest in the open position for the Eden Central School Board of Education is all about recognizing all of the many challenges the board has in this fast pace world of evolving technologies. I understand this seat needs to include balancing the responsibility to the community, the students, and the teachers, all within the current imposed government regulations. It is the Board's responsibility to try to stay current with the advancing technologies in this global environment while providing this community with the best chance to succeed in whatever future endeavors our students choose.

JENNIFER DELLAPENTA

I have lived in the Eden School District my entire life, graduating from Eden in 1999. I have 5 children currently attending Eden Schools. I have served on the Board for the past 3 years, and hope to continue advocating for our students and District.

MARLENE GRUNDER

I have been a resident of Eden for 14 years. My two children graduated from Eden schools. I have a background in education and taught kindergarten and preschool for many years. Teaching gave me the perspective of the importance of small class sizes and having the needed resources for teachers to teach effectively. For the last 9 years, I have been proud to serve on the Eden School Board.

Eden Elementary Chess Club: Made All the Right Moves!

The Eden Elementary Chess Club wrapped up a fantastic season filled with strategy, learning, and fun! Open to students in grades 3–6, the club met weekly throughout the year to build skills, practice gameplay, and develop a love for chess.

With support from staff and volunteers, students learned the fundamentals of the game, engaged in friendly matches, and demonstrated great sportsmanship. For many, it was their first experience with chess—and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm.

Beyond mastering moves and planning checkmates, students built confidence, patience, and critical thinking skills that will serve them well beyond the board. We're proud of all our players and look forward to another great season next year!

VOTING DETAILS

EDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITION NO. 1

ANNUAL BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of Eden Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the proposed 2025-2026 Budget in the amount of $40,076,769 and to levy the necessary tax?

☐ Yes ☐ No

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Use of Capital Reserve Funds for Diesel Bus Purchases, Transportation and B&G equipment $1,182,000.

No taxpayer impact

☐ Yes ☐ No

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Proof of Residency is Required to Vote

All eligible voters will need to provide proof of residency in order to cast their ballots at the budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

According to Chapter 775 of the Laws of New York, 1990, voters must present one form of proof, which testifies to their legal address. The form of proof must be one of the following:

- **Board of Elections card**
- **Drivers License**
- **Non-driver identification**
- **Rental/lease receipt**

What You Will Need to Vote

You must:

- **Provide proof of residency**
- **Be at least 18 years old**
- **Be a U.S. Citizen**
- **Not otherwise be prohibited from voting under provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law**
- **Be a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the budget vote date (Tuesday, May 20,2025)**

You need not:

- **Be a registered voter**
- **Be a homeowner**

VOTING DATE, PLACE & TIME

2025-2026

BUDGET & BOARD ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
MS/HS Auditorium Foyer
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Eden Central School District
8289 N. Main St.
Eden, NY 14057

Board of Education:
Donald Sutfin, President
Jennifer Horschel, Vice President
Cheryl Carpenter
Jack Cuddihy
Jennifer DellaPenta
Marlene Grunder
Allan Silver

Superintendent of Schools:
Jeffrey A. Sortisio

Assistant Superintendent:
Frances May

Eden Central School District Residents
Annual Budget Vote—Notice of Important Information

The process for the District's Budget Vote and Board of Education Member election for the 2025-2026 school year to be held at Eden Middle & High School, 3150 Schoolview Rd., Eden, NY will be as follows:

Date of Annual Budget Vote and Board Member Election: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Please note that the District's budget vote and Board of Education member election will be held in-person and by absentee or early ballot. Anyone wishing to receive an absentee or early ballot, must complete an Absentee or Ballot Application, which may be requested either in-person, by mail to Amanda Pachucinski, District Clerk, 8289 N. Main St., Eden, NY 14057 or by e-mail to absenteeballot@edencsd.org. If the application is approved, **the District Clerk will hand a ballot to the voter only** or mail the absentee/early ballot with postage-due return envelopes. Any qualified voter who is not registered to vote with the Erie County Board of Elections may request a ballot by contacting the District Clerk, Amanda Pachucinski, at absenteeballot@edencsd.org.

School Budget Voting is by Electronic Poll Books! Please be prepared to have your license or Board of Elections card scanned upon arrival. If you do not have either of those, you can still vote by completing a voter affidavit and providing proof of residency—i.e. utility bill in your name. Scanning is quick and easy!