

WEST CANADA VALLEY HIGHLIGHTS



BUDGET HEARING

May 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Streamed live from the High School Library

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

May 20, 2025

12p.m.— 8p.m.

High School Lobby

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots must be received at least 7 days prior to election, if it is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if it is to be personally delivered and is due back in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the election.

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Must be a United States citizen who is at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the election. Must be a legal resident of the West Canada Valley Central School district for at least 30 days prior to the election. You need not be a registered voter.

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Dear Community Members,

We are pleased to present the 2025-2026 budget for your consideration. The annual budget hearing will take place, in person and virtually, on May 12th followed by the budget vote on May 20, 2025. The following information reflects a continued commitment to supporting instructional programs and facilities.

The proposed budget has been developed with a strong understanding of the current fiscal challenges while looking ahead to anticipated challenges in the years to come. The district seeks to maintain continued financial stability while supporting opportunities for our students. As we prepare our students to become College and Career Ready, the district continues to review our current educational plan. This reflective review allows the district to improve upon our current offerings and seek new strategies/opportunities that will enhance the educational experience for West Canada Valley students. This financial plan provides for these opportunities while maintaining stability in the rate of growth in the budget and the tax levy.

In the following pages we further detail the administrative, program and capital components of the budget and their respective increases. Again, this information will be shared with the public, in person and virtually, at the budget hearing of the Board on May 12th at 6:00pm in the High School Library. The public hearing will be streamed through the district website with opportunity for questions at the conclusion of the presentation. Taken in combination, this information is provided so that each member of the community may cast an informed vote on May 20th.

Also at that time, district residents will elect three members to the Board of Education. In addition, there will be a separate proposition for the purchase of four school buses.

We look forward to you viewing the presentation on May 12th and encourage you, and your neighbors, to vote on May 20th.

If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Jeremy Siddon, Superintendent, at (315) 845-6800, or via email at jsiddon@westcanada.org. For absentee ballots, please contact Daphne Raymo, District Clerk, at (315) 845-6800, extension 3380.

Thank you.

The West Canada Valley Board of Education



PROPOSED BUDGET

2025-2026

SUMMARY

	2024-2025	2025-2026
ADMINISTRATION	\$3,094,370	\$3,084,912
PROGRAM	\$15,113,574	\$15,636,614
CAPITAL	\$3,690,294	\$4,104,490
TOTAL	\$21,898,238	\$22,826,016

I. ADMINISTRATION

	2024-2025	2025-2026
Board of Education Board of Education Expenses incurred by Board members for travel and conferences: by the District Clerk and by the District for advertising meetings, the Annual Meeting and elections.	\$11,400	\$11,550
Central Administration Salaries, travel, conferences, equipment and materials & supplies for the Superintendent and Secretary.	\$199,145	\$211,791
Finance Salaries, travel, conferences, equipment maintenance, postage, computer services and materials and supplies for the Business official/treasurer and staff, auditing, tax collection and contractual expenditures.	\$589,771	\$598,954
Staff Legal services, BOCES personnel services and public information costs.	\$44,003	\$44,537
Special Items Unallocated insurance and BOCES administrative & capital expenses.	\$1,186,709	\$1,053,625
Administration and Improvement Salaries, travel, conferences, equipment maintenance, curriculum development and materials and supplies for the school building principals and school building clerical staff.	\$525,307	\$551,261
Fringe Benefits State Employee and Teacher Retirement System costs, social security, workers compensation, hospital & medical insurance, and unemployment insurance for all employees in the administrative section of the budget.	\$538,035	\$613,194
TOTAL	\$3,094,370	\$3,084,912

II. PROGRAM

	2024-2025	2025-2026
Legal		
Services related to students with disabilities.	\$5,000	\$5,000
In-service Training		
Professional development for instructional personnel.	\$2,500	\$0
Teaching, Regular School		
Salaries and other expenses including materials and supplies related to teachers, substitute teachers, teacher assistants, teacher aides, and monitors.	\$4,747,965	\$4,911,960
Program for Students with Disabilities		
Expenses related to services of students with disabilities including instructional salaries, speech, occupational & physical therapy, resource room, BOCES and other public and private school placements.	\$2,226,358	\$2,247,335
Occupational Education		
Expenses for students at Herkimer BOCES Career Tech Education Program.	\$616,602	\$682,000
Special Schools		
Expenses related to instruction other than regular school (BOCES Summer School).	\$16,000	\$16,000
Instructional Media		
Salaries and expenses for operating the school libraries, audiovisual equipment, materials & supplies, and the school's computer assisted instruction program.	\$579,297	\$585,073
Pupil Services		
Expenses related to guidance, counseling, health services, testing, equipment maintenance and scoring services. Also included are co-curricular and interscholastic athletics.	\$872,744	\$908,979
District Transportation Services		
Expenses incurred for student transportation program including salary, repairs, fuel and operation & maintenance of the garage building.	\$1,316,290	\$1,314,289
Fringe Benefits		
State Employee and Teacher Retirement System costs, social security, workers compensation, hospital & medical insurance and unemployment insurance for all employees in the program section.	\$4,651,614	\$4,931,378
Interfund Transfer		
Transfers to the Special Aid and School Lunch Funds.	\$79,204	\$34,600
TOTAL	\$15,113,574	\$15,636,614

III. CAPITAL

	2024-2025	2025-2026
<p>Central Services Operation and maintenance of plant including fuel & utilities, salaries, contractual expenditures, material and supplies and BOCES services.</p>	\$1,522,304	\$1,523,240
<p>Refund of Real Property Taxes</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000
<p>Fringe Benefits State Employee Retirement System cost, social security, workers compensation, hospital & medical insurance and unemployment insurance for all employees in the capital component.</p>	\$583,517	\$547,428
<p>Debt Service Expenditures for Principal and Interest on Bonds for School Construction Projects, Statutory Installment Bonds for School Bus Purchases and Revenue Anticipation Notes that have been issued.</p>	\$1,575,473	\$2,024,822
<p>Transfer to Capital Fund The annual fully state-aided security camera purchases are included in this section of the budget.</p>	\$6,000	\$6,000
<p>CAPITAL TOTAL</p>	\$3,690,294	\$4,104,490



ESTIMATED REVENUES

SOURCE	2024-2025	2025-2026
<p>Real Property Taxes This estimated amount is determined after all other sources are accounted for.</p>	\$5,346,987	\$5,560,866
<p>Other Payments in Lieu of Taxes This is the estimated amount to be received for the PILOTS that are currently in effect: Atlantic Wind Project.</p>	\$321,522	\$329,560
<p>Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes This is the estimated amount to be received for late payment of Property Taxes.</p>	\$20,000	\$25,000
<p>Charges for Services This is the estimated amount to be received for Admissions, Student Tuitions, Fees & Charges and Services for BOCES.</p>	\$69,500	\$69,500
<p>Use of Money and Property This is the estimated amount to be received for Interest Earning and Rental of Real Property.</p>	\$23,848	\$26,848
<p>Sale of Property This is the estimate amount to be received from the Sale of Scrap & Excess Materials and Used School Buses.</p>	\$4,500	\$4,500
<p>Miscellaneous Estimated Reimbursement for Medicare Part D and Refunds for prior years BOCES Expenditures.</p>	\$150,000	\$170,000
<p>State Aid Basic Formula Foundation Aid, Transportation Aid, Excess Cost Aid, Less the Gap Elimination Adjustment, plus BOCES, Textbook, Computer Software & Hardware and School Library Aid. Includes aid on the BOCES capital project.</p>	\$12,039,976	\$12,238,391
<p>State Aid Building Aid</p>	\$1,028,453	\$1,426,380
<p>Federal Aid Medicaid Reimbursement for Special Ed. Expenditures, Federal CARES funding, E-Rate</p>	\$55,000	\$55,000
<p>Interfund Transfers This is a transfer of other funds from the Special Aid Fund for summer special education transportation expenses and transfer from the Debt Service Fund of interest received on Capital Funds to offset capital project debt service.</p>	\$4,000	\$8,000
<p>TOTAL REVENUE ITEMS</p>	\$19,063,786	\$19,914,045
<p>Projected Appropriation of Fund Balance and Reserves While this is not actually a revenue, this is the projected amount of the estimated Fund Balance and Reserves to be used to offset the total tax levy.</p>	\$2,834,452	\$2,911,971
<p>TOTAL</p>	\$21,898,238	\$22,826,016

BUDGET SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

PERCENTAGE OVER PRIOR YEAR

SCHOOL YEAR	GENERAL FUND BUDGET	% OVER PRIOR YEAR
21-22	\$18,988,571	0.70%
22-23	\$19,671,986	3.6%
23-24	\$21,212,431	3.09%/4.74%
24-25	\$21,898,238	3.2%
25-26	\$22,826,016	4.24%

TAX ON TRUE:

PERCENTAGE OVER PRIOR YEAR

SCHOOL YEAR	TAX ON TRUE VALUE	% OVER PRIOR YEAR
21-22	\$16.07	-4.85%
22-23	\$14.19	-11.67%
23-24	\$12.04	-15.194%
24-25	\$11.59	-3.68%
25-26	\$12.05*	4.00% *

BUDGET QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What new challenges are facing the district and how are they being handled?

A: As a district that is heavily reliant on foundation aid, we continue to develop budgets that plan for the uncertain funding each year from State government. In addition, the district continues to maximize the use of both grant opportunities and state aid.

Q: How is the District handling a minimal state aid amount increase this year?

A: The District will be using money from our current Retirement and workers compensation reserves to help offset a larger property tax increase.

Q: What is the long term financial outlook for the district?

A: Although the financial outlook is unsure at this time. Long-term financial planning continues to come with many unknowns. With that said, the district continues to receive a high fiscal score, as determined by the state comptroller. Under the current fiscal times, the District will need to continuously monitor and remain ready to react to any change in the level of support from Albany. This coupled with strong long-term fiscal planning allows the district to remain positive regarding our financial future.

Q: Will there be staff reductions or increases next year?

A: At this time, we do expect a slight staff reduction in areas that least impact students.

Q: Will there be any additional propositions?

A: Yes, there is a proposition for the purchase of 4 new buses as part of the district's five-year bus replacement plan. Please see information on page 7.

Q: Are there any Board seats available this year?

A: Yes, as noted on page 1, three seats are available for the 2025-2026 year.

Q: What if I have more questions before the budget vote?

A: View the Budget hearing on May 12th through the website and/or contact Mr. Siddon, Superintendent.

WCV BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION

PUBLIC HEARING:

May 12, 2025, 6:00pm High School Library

VOTE DATE:

May 20, 2025 High School Lobby—Time: 12pm-8pm

PUBLIC SUPPORT IS CRITICAL...

The Background: Since the inception of the West Canada Valley School District, the community has continually shown its’ support for the programs offered and the budgets that support them. We are once again asking for your support in replenishing our bus fleet. The average annual mileage on a WCV bus is 13,714. With 21 buses in our fleet, this equates to a combined average of 288,000. If we did not replace a portion of our fleet each year, it would be impossible to keep the buses on the road due to high mileage and subsequent mechanical failures.

The Purchase: This proposition calls for purchasing three (3) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 30-passenger bus.

THE COST OF A 66 PASSENGER BUS:		THE COST OF A 30 PASSENGER BUS:	
66 Passenger	\$164,332	30 Passenger- wheelchair	\$105,481
Trade in value (5 years)	<u>\$40,000</u>	Trade in value (5 years)	<u>\$13,000</u>
Balance	\$124,332	Balance	\$92,481
State Aid return (approx.)	<u>\$109,412</u>	State Aid return (approx.)	<u>\$81,383</u>
Final Cost per bus	\$14,920	Final Cost per bus	\$ 11,098

TOTAL COST TO TAXPAYERS OVER 5 YEARS \$55,858
TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF PURCHASE TO TAXPAYERS = \$11,172

Q: What exactly are we voting on?

A: You are voting to authorize the District to borrow the money at a total not to exceed \$598,479. This amount reflects a potential tariff of 12%. The District will only borrow the actual amount needed for the purchase.

Q: How does the District pay for buses?

A: Buses are paid for over a five-year period.

Q: What does the timeline look like for purchasing buses?

A: First, voters are asked to approve the financing. Then, the buses are ordered and delivered. At this point, money is borrowed to pay for the buses. The following year, the loan comes due and payments begin for a five (5) year period. Each year thereafter, state aid payments are received on the principal and interest paid.

Q: How can I get more information on the proposition and bus replacement plan?

A: Attend the public hearing or watch the live stream on Monday, May 12, 2025.



5 YEAR PLAN BENEFITS

- Reduction of our out-of-service rate (saves money!)
- Maintain full compliance with Department of Transportation regulations
- Having enough “road ready” buses to service all of our runs
- Reduction of repair costs
- More time for preventive maintenance
- Guaranteed trade in value of purchased buses
- Predictable costs

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS:

WCV Transportation Aid Ratio	88%+/-
Number of WCV buses	21
Number of buses out of service at any point	2
Average annual miles on a WCV bus (approx)	13,714
Number of full-time bus garage staff	3
Number of WCV bus drivers—full time	16
Current WCV student population	675

**West Canada Valley
Central School
5447 State Route 28
PO Box 360
Newport, NY 13416**



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District Office

Mr. Jeremy Siddon
Superintendent

Mrs. Daphne Raymo
District Clerk
315-845-6800
Ext. 3380

Business Office

Ms. Kelley Crossett
Business Manager
315-845-6800

Elementary School

Ms. Christine Nofri
Principal

Middle/High School

Mr. Glenn Broadbent
Principal

Reminder: Budget Vote and Board Election

May 20, 2025
12pm - 8pm

High School Lobby

Board of Education Candidates

Listed as they will appear on the 2025-2026 ballot,
as per required drawing held on April 24, 2025:

Shannon (Markey) Crocker

Perry Clark

Roger Kemler

Shauna Harrington

Carson Marko

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON OUR BOARD CANDIDATES
WWW.WESTCANADA.ORG**