



# The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District



## Grand Island Schools 2025-26 Budget Vote and Trustee Election

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

Grand Island High School Gym  
1100 Ransom Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

## Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the  
Professional Development Room at Grand  
Island High School, 1100 Ransom Road.

## Find Out More

Copies of the district's proposed budget  
will be available online, at the Grand Island  
Memorial Library, and in the District  
Office. Contact the district with questions  
about the budget development process.

Visit the district website at  
[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)  
for more information.

## Voter Registration Information

Electronic polling books will be used during  
this vote/election. If you have not registered  
for the primary or general election, please  
view resources on the district website,  
[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org), under the  
2025-26 budget information page.

## Message From Your Superintendent

Dear Grand Island families and community:

Over the last nine years, I have been continuously impressed with our  
incredible school system and the wonderful opportunities available for all  
of our students. I have also been impressed with our Board of Education  
and its commitment to the budget planning process. Each board member  
has been actively involved in the development of the budget, asking  
thoughtful questions and reviewing all aspects of our expenditures as well  
as anticipated revenues.

As a result of the extensive planning, analysis, and future projections,  
the Grand Island Central School District is committed to providing our  
families and community with the necessary budget information to make an informed decision  
on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**.

Our proposed budget balances the needs of both the taxpayers of the Grand Island school  
community and our students through the development of a fiscally responsible budget designed  
to provide our students with the best diversified educational program.

The 2025-26 budget total is **\$79,321,145**. This budget will result in a tax increase for Grand  
Island homeowners of **3.14%**, which is within the state's tax levy cap limit. The school tax  
bill on a \$185,000 home, with a basic STAR assessment reduction, will increase by **\$90.07**. It  
is important to note that the tax levy calculation includes capital expenditures from our 2019  
approved capital project as well as our prior approved capital projects. Furthermore, the tax levy  
calculation includes our bus purchases.

This fiscal plan upholds the goals of the Board of Education and maintains our current  
elementary class sizes; continues the implementation of our regular instructional program;  
maintains current transportation services; enhances our student support programs, improves  
upon a safe and secure campus and provides exceptional literacy support in our elementary  
schools. Moreover, it maintains the current interscholastic athletic and co-curricular programs  
and appropriates well-planned reserves to address potential future reductions in federal and state  
aid, while still considering the district's fiscal future.

Voting on the school budget, as well as the Board of Education candidates, will take place in  
our high school gymnasium on Tuesday, May 20. You may also request an absentee ballot by  
contacting our district clerk. All absentee ballots must be received on Tuesday, May 20, by  
5 p.m. You may also wish to review our budget presentation, which can be accessed on our  
website at [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org). Your consideration of the 2025-26 school budget is  
greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



*Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools*

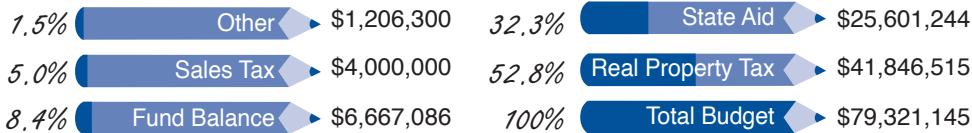
**The annual Community Perception Survey is on our website at [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)  
under the Our District tab. Click Board of Education from the drop-down menu.**

The Grand Island Board of Education supports this budget and encourages residents to call with questions or attend  
the regularly scheduled meetings. For further information call 716-773-8805 or visit [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org).

# 2025-2026 Budget Proposal at a Glance

	2024-2025	2025-2026	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ADMINISTRATION - 9%</b> <b>Consists of these examples and others:</b> Daily operating activities which indirectly provide a benefit to students and staff.	\$6,817,101	\$7,154,484	\$337,383	4.9%
<b>PROGRAM - 72%</b> <b>Consists of these examples and others:</b> Activities which directly benefit students.	\$56,410,420	\$57,354,934	\$944,514	1.7%
<b>CAPITAL - 19%</b> <b>Consists of these examples and others:</b> Activities involving maintenance and upkeep of district buildings.	\$14,704,734	\$14,811,727	\$106,993	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,932,254</b>	<b>\$79,321,145</b>	<b>\$1,388,891</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

## Where Does School Funding Come From?



## The 2025-26 Grand Island Central School budget propositions can be summarized this way:

### Proposition 1: Budget

- Maintains our current elementary class sizes
- Continues the implementation of our regular instructional program
- Continues the practice of a \$100,000 capital outlay project annually
- Maintains the safety and security of the campus and continues our security camera replacement and upgrade plan

### Proposition 2: Vehicle Purchase

- Maintains current transportation services
- Purchase of one 65-passenger bus
- Purchase of two 35-passenger buses
- Purchase of two Ford F350 4X4 - B&G Department

## Board of Education Trustee Election

Voters will elect to the Board of Education two (2) members to three-year terms commencing July 1, 2025, and concluding June 30, 2028.

### Candidates

1. Beth Crvelin 2. Jay Grover

Candidate biographies can be found at [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org).

(Select the Our District tab and click Board of Education from the drop-down menu.)



## Proposition No. 1 (2025-26 budget)

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Grand Island Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of **\$79,321,145**, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

☐ YES ☐ NO

## Proposition No. 2

Shall the following resolution be adopted?  
RESOLVED: (a) that the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District, in the County of Erie, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to acquire various school buses and similar vehicles for use in the transportation program of the District, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$675,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the amount of not to exceed **\$675,000** to finance such cost, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board of Education; (c) that the District is authorized to issue serial bonds and/or bond anticipation notes to finance all or part of such cost, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such bonds and/or notes as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) that, in lieu of such bonds or notes, the District is authorized to enter into one or more installment purchase contracts for the purchase of some or all of such buses and vehicles, for a term of not to exceed five (5) years; and a tax is hereby voted to pay each installment on any such contract.

☐ YES ☐ NO





## Upgrade your mailbox with visible address numbers



A few dollars can speed up the morning commute for all Islanders.

Grand Island Central School District Transportation Supervisor Theresa Alizadeh is advising Island homeowners to make sure they have visible mailbox numbers to speed up a safe pickup and drop-off of children for school.

Gui's Ace Hardware on Whitehaven Road sells mailbox numbers for cheap, Alizadeh said. "It's not a big purchase, but it would be so assistive to us, as school bus drivers are learning routes and the substitutes are covering new routes all the time."

Reflective house numbers allow drivers unfamiliar with a new route to find their stop faster, Alizadeh said. A new driver unfamiliar with a route is "already dealing with distracted drivers, already dealing with upset drivers who are late for work," Alizadeh said.

Some bus drivers pick up students at 6:15 in the morning, which can be dark during some parts of the school year.

She pointed out school bus drivers come in for trial runs in the daylight hours before school starts in an effort to familiarize themselves with the route.

"We are looking for numbers on the mailbox. That's our first sight that we are looking for, and whether the mailbox is near the house or if it's on the road, that is our first go-to visual," Alizadeh said.

And it's not a benefit to just school buses, but also to emergency vehicles and the post office, Alizadeh said.

## 2025-2026 Tax Information

	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Assessed Value *	\$2,270,136,165	\$2,289,649,584	\$19,513,419	0.85%
Equalization Rate	90%	100%	N/A	10%
Tax Levy	\$40,573,587	\$41,846,514	\$1,272,928	3.14%
Tax Rate	\$17.87	\$18.27	\$0.40	2.24%

### Tax Levy

The tax levy is the total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources including state aid. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rate for each of the cities, towns or villages that make up a school district.

### Tax Rate

Tax rate is determined by your property's assessed value divided by 1,000, and multiplied by the tax rate. This rate is established using the Town of Grand Island assessed value.

**\*The 2025-26 proposed tax rate is based on the estimated assessment. Final assessment values for calculation of the 2025-26 tax rate are not available at this time.**

## Contingent Budget Information

	Proposed Budget 2025-2026	Contingency Budget 2025-2026
Total Budget	\$79,321,145	\$78,048,217
Budget Increase/Decrease	\$1,388,891	\$115,963
% Increase/Decrease	1.78%	0.15%
Change in Consumer Price Index	2%	0%

### What happens if the proposed budget is not approved?

If a proposed budget is defeated by voters, a school district - as in the past - has two options: to put the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or to adopt a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, a district must adopt a contingent budget.

### Does the law make any changes to the requirements for a contingent budget?

Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect which prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, elimination of all proposed increases in staff, prohibit purchasing of new equipment (i.e. buses) and prevent any member of a bargaining unit which does not have a contract beyond June 30, 2025, from having an increase in salary in 2025-26. However, under the new law, a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount, which would impose, in effect, a zero percent cap. Districts will not be allowed to increase the tax levy to the extent needed to fund expenditures excluded from the tax cap (no growth factor, nor capital, court order/judgments, or pension expenditures.)





# Grand Island

## Central School District

1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, NY 14072  
www.grandislandschools.org

### Board of Education

Ashli Dreher, President  
Susan Marston, Vice President  
Roger Broeker  
Danielle Bruno  
Jay Grover  
Joy LaMarca  
Sherry Steffans

### Superintendent

Brian Graham, Ed.D.



## Resident

Non-profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 8  
Grand Island, N.Y.

## 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	\$77,932,254	\$79,321,145	\$78,048,217
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year	\$4,204,366	\$1,388,891	\$115,963
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget	5.70%	1.78%	0.15%
Change in the Consumer Price Index	2.00%	2.00%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$40,573,587	\$41,846,145	
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)	\$40,573,587	\$41,846,145	\$40,573,587
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,008,992	\$2,098,699	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$38,564,595	\$39,747,815	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$38,564,595	\$39,747,815	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$6,817,101	\$7,154,484	\$7,044,293
Program Component	\$56,410,420	\$57,354,934	\$56,867,197
Capital Component	\$14,704,734	\$14,811,727	\$14,136,727

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-2026 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law: The contingent budget is calculated using the NYS Contingent budget formula which excludes non-contingent budget items. In addition, a contingency budget would require the district to charge for the use of its facilities.

Separate Proposition for Vehicle Purchase	Description	Amount
	Vehicle Purchase	\$675,000
<b>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year</b>		
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings*	\$426	

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Grand Island Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the High School in said District on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. prevailing time in the High School Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

\*The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.