

WHAT'S HAPPENING

DEEP ROOTS | CORE VALUES | BRIGHT FUTURES

**2025-26 BUDGET:
\$29,126,665**

- 2024-25 Budget to 2025-26 Budget \$ Change: \$436,765
- 2024-25 Budget to 2025-26 Budget % Change: 1.52%
- Percent Increase on Levy: 2.8% (\$341,250)

DEAR WCS COMMUNITY:

A district's vision, hopes and aspirations for their students are embodied in the school budget. The school budget reflects the "mathematical expression" of our work, encapsulating intentional short and long term planning for the future of our students, the local community and larger global society. The proposed 2025-2026 Williamson Central School District Budget is structured to sustain the district's current educational programming and services. It reflects planning efforts in alignment with district priorities including:

- Student Achievement
- A Safe Learning Community for All
- Community Connections
- Fiscal Responsibility

In preparing the proposed budget, the district made adjustments to align expenditures with available resources. These adjustments include the use of administrative reconfiguration, attrition, breakage,

and right-sizing of expenditures in response to a fiscal environment where the rate of expenditure growth continues to exceed revenue growth.

The Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget that includes a 1.52% increase in total expenditures compared to the current year. The proposal includes a 2.8% increase in the tax levy, which remains within the allowable limit established by New York State's property tax cap.

The WCS Budget Newsletter is intended to provide factual information about the proposed budget. For additional details, including voting information and budget documents, please visit the Williamson Central School District website (<https://www.williamsoncentral.org/> ~ District ~ Budget ~ 2025-26 Budget).

Sincerely,

E. Bridget Ashton

Superintendent of Schools



VOTE AND HEARING INFORMATION

**Public Hearing and
Meet the Candidate Night:
May 7, 6:30PM
WCS Board of Education
Conference Room**

Budget Vote:

May 20, 1:00PM - 9:00PM

LOOKING AHEAD: DISTRICT PRIORITIES FOR 2026 AND BEYOND



As we look towards the future, the Williamson Central School District, the Board of Education remains deeply committed to doing what is best for our students, our staff, and our community. Change is never easy – it brings with it uncertainty, challenges, and tough conversations. But it also brings opportunity, growth, and the ability to shape a stronger future.

Within the first month of working with our new superintendent, Bridget Ashton, we dedicated many hours to reviewing and refining our district's strategic plan. Together, we aligned it more closely with our top priority: student achievement. Simply put, the status quo does not move the needle. In today's world, our students need more – more opportunity, more innovation, and more support to thrive in and beyond the classroom.

At the same time, we continued to prioritize fiscal responsibility. As a small, rural district, we recognize the growing importance of collaboration and resource sharing. These two priorities – student success and financial stewardship – naturally led us to explore new possibilities. One such possibility was a potential merger with our neighbors in the Marion Central School District.

Though the idea of a merger has long been a topic of local conversation, the time felt right to begin formal discussions. With guidance from Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, we began the early steps of this process, engaging in honest and thoughtful dialogue about what the future might look like.

As we progressed, one truth became increasingly clear: our focus must remain on providing additional opportunities for our students. While a merger might one day be a pathway to that goal, we believe it is critical to fully explore every option first – especially those that enhance collaboration and shared services between our districts without immediately moving toward consolidation.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, we remain focused on what matters most: ensuring every Williamson student has access to the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed. We will continue to engage our community, work transparently, and make decisions rooted in student success and fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership as we navigate this important journey together.



Board of Education Members: Francis Gasparri, Angela DeFisher, Jamie Sonnevile, Geoffrey Governor

ANNUAL BUDGET NOTICE AND TAX INFORMATION

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	\$ 28,689,900	\$29,126,665	\$28,785,415
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 436,765	\$ 95,515
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.52%	0.33%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,207,395	\$12,548,645	
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)	\$ 12,207,395	\$ 12,548,645	\$ 12,207,395
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 3,106		
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 12,204,289	\$ 12,548,645	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$ 12,204,289	\$ 12,548,645	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval –	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,381,847	\$ 3,392,814	\$ 3,343,605
Program Component	\$ 20,558,945	\$ 20,722,048	\$ 20,615,007
Capital Component	\$ 4,749,108	\$ 5,011,803	\$ 4,826,803
<i>*This is an estimate. The Board of Education may submit the budget to the voters no more than two(2) times. If the proposed 2025-26 Bud get is not passed on May 20, 2025 the Board has three options. It may choose to resubmit the same budget or submit an adjusted budget for a second vote (on June 17, 2025), or immediately adopt a contingency budget. If the same budget, or an adjusted budget, is not passed by the voters on June 17, 2025, the Board is mandated to adopt a contingency budget. NYS Education Law allows 0% increase to the local tax levy under a co ntingency budget. Therefore, a contingency budget will usually necessitate reductions in order to meet the spending limitations imposed by law. The contingent budget estimate shown above conforms to Education Law requirements. Component totals may change based on priorities determined by the Board of Education during development of a contingency budget.</i>			
**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
	Capital Bus Purchases Proposition - Diesel/Gas		\$660,620
			Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$ 586		

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Williamson Central School District, Wayne County, New York, will be held at Williamson Central School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Middle School Cafeteria, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

2025-2026 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Williamson CSD 3 Part Budget

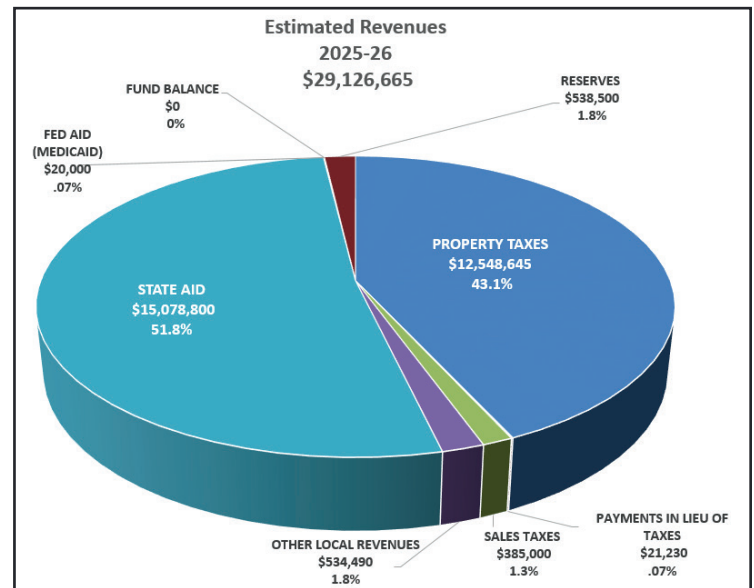
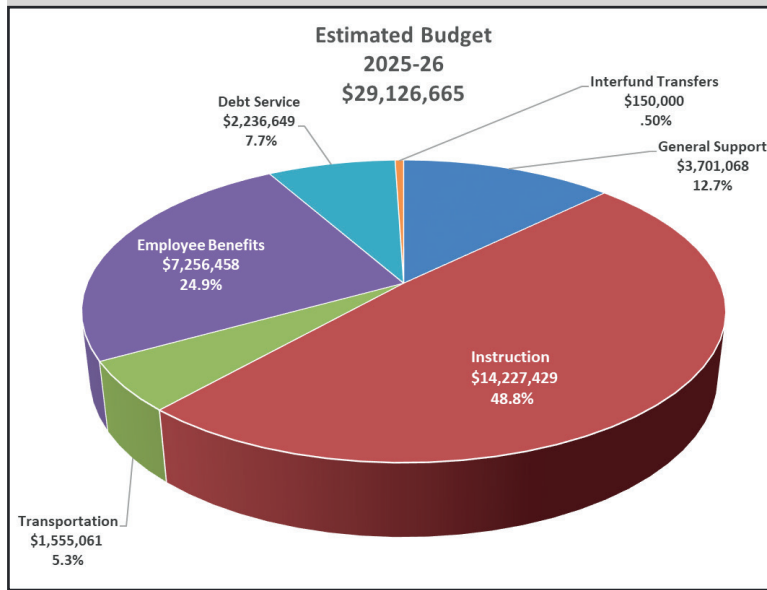
The following provides a comparison of the 2025-26 proposed budget with the 2024-25 budget. Copies of the proposed budget and attachments are available in each school building Monday-Friday. Copies of the proposed budget and additional information may be obtained from the District website at www.williamsoncentral.org or by calling the District Office at (315) 589-9661.

	2025-26 Proposed Budget	2024-25 Enacted Budget	Year-To-Year Change
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT			
Board of Education	\$35,028	\$33,290	\$1,738
Central Administration & Finance	\$695,175	\$677,005	\$18,170
Legal Services, Personnel, Public Information	\$172,587	\$166,180	\$6,407
Central Services and Special Items	\$634,082	\$610,610	\$23,472
Curriculum Development and Supervision	\$993,992	\$1,009,680	-\$15,688
Benefits	<u>\$861,949</u>	<u>\$885,082</u>	<u>-\$23,133</u>
TOTAL - ADMINISTRATIVE	\$3,392,814	\$3,381,847	\$10,967
Percent of Total Budget	11.65%	11.79%	0.04%
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM COMPONENT			
Teaching - Regular School	\$6,234,880	\$6,197,365	\$37,515
Programs for Students with Disabilities & Occ Ed	\$4,182,658	\$3,996,650	\$186,008
Special Services, Instructional Media, and Pupil Services	\$2,364,467	\$2,324,791	\$39,676
Co-curricular and Athletics	\$486,657	\$441,630	\$45,027
Transportation	\$1,555,061	\$1,536,870	\$18,191
Benefits	<u>\$5,898,325</u>	<u>\$6,061,639</u>	<u>-\$163,314</u>
TOTAL - PROGRAM	\$20,722,048	\$20,558,945	\$163,103
Percent of Total Budget	71.14%	71.66%	0.57%
CAPITAL COMPONENT			
Operation of Maintenance of Plant	\$2,128,971	\$2,029,581	\$99,390
Benefits	\$496,183	\$460,748	\$35,435
Capital Outlay	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Debt Service and Transfers	<u>\$2,286,649</u>	<u>\$2,158,779</u>	<u>\$127,870</u>
TOTAL - CAPITAL	\$5,011,803	\$4,749,108	\$262,695
Percent of Total Budget	17.21%	16.55%	0.91%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$29,126,665	\$28,689,900	\$436,765

2025-2026 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

EXPENDITURES

DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGET 2024-25	PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 2025-26	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
General Support	\$3,551,166	\$3,701,068	\$149,902	4.22%
Instruction	\$13,935,615	\$14,227,429	\$291,814	2.09%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,536,870	\$1,555,061	\$18,191	1.18%
Employee Benefits	\$7,407,470	\$7,256,458	\$(151,012)	-2.04%
Debt Service	\$2,108,779	\$2,236,649	\$127,870	6.06%
Interfund Transfers	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$-	0.00%
TOTAL	\$28,689,900	\$29,126,665	\$436,765	1.52%



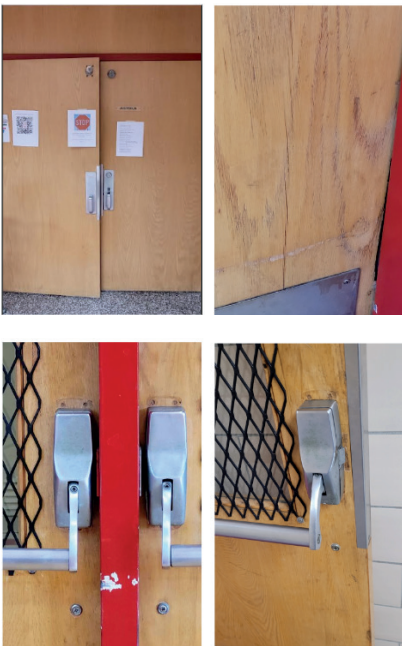
REVENUES

DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGET 2024-25	PROJECTED REVENUES 2025-26	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
PROPERTY TAXES	\$12,207,395	\$12,548,645	\$341,250	2.80%
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$20,800	\$21,230	\$430	2.07%
SALES TAXES	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$0	0.00%
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES	\$544,990	\$534,490	-\$10,500	-1.93%
STATE AID	\$14,631,715	\$15,078,800	\$447,085	3.06%
FED AID (MEDICAID)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
FUND BALANCE	\$275,000	\$0	-\$275,000	-100.00%
RESERVES	\$605,000	\$538,500	-\$66,500	-10.99%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$28,689,900	\$29,126,665	\$436,765	1.52%

2025-2026 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

The Williamson Central School District seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the district tax dollars.

Continuing a strategy from last year, a mini-renovation project is again being proposed this year that will include work at the High School including replacement of select interior/exterior doors, door hardware, and associated construction due to existing deteriorating conditions, security, and performance. 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 \$84,300 in additional aid during the 2026-27 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 budget.



BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It has been a great year in the elementary school this year! Students continue to grow as learners, while focusing on developing strong peer relationships and building a sense of school community. We continue to focus on PRIDE behaviors at our school and students have done a wonderful job of showing their PRIDE. We continue to celebrate our school community through special events such as spirit weeks, assemblies, and clubs.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

During the middle years, we encourage students to explore their interests and passions. Both during and after the school day, students engage in activities that explore their interests. Many of our students express their talents through the Fine Arts. We have a robust Fine Arts program. Students can participate in both choir and band during school day, but we also have a range of activities after school as well. Mr. DeGrave oversees a jazz band ensemble while Mrs. Baldwin supervises Art Clubs. In the art club, students work with a range of mediums to explore their artistic side. Mrs. France, Mr. DeGrave and Mrs. Baldwin take great efforts to showcase their students' abilities. During forum, students have the opportunity to play for an audience. Mrs. Baldwin works to display all the artwork throughout the entire school. It enhances the atmosphere of the building.



We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Fine Arts Festival on the evening of May 20th. The festival will coincide with our 5th and 6th grade Spring Concert. Families are invited to tour the building and peruse our visual arts. Mrs. Baldwin will also be providing refreshments in the art room. Families can conclude their evening at the spring concert.

Please join us for an evening of refreshments and the amazing artistic endeavors of our Middle School students!

HIGH SCHOOL

It's been a lively and memorable few months at the High School. In February, our Girls Indoor Track team capped off a phenomenal season by securing their fourth consecutive Section V title—an incredible achievement! March brought the magic of the stage as our Drama Club wowed audiences with their production of Anastasia, a beautifully performed show that drew hundreds of community members.

Our Music Department has also been shining. In March, students shared their talents during Music in Our Schools Month, and on April 10th, our Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted the annual Prism Concert, highlighting the wide range of musical talent in our district.

We've also celebrated some cherished traditions this season, including our annual Pi Day festivities and the always-popular Senior Egg Hunt. With so much happening, it's a great time to be a Marauder!



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION

SARAH SCHEMBRI



My name is Sarah Schembri. My husband, three children and I have lived in Williamson for just about 11 years now. We moved to the area from New Orleans where my husband and I both worked tirelessly as a part of the initiatives to revitalize New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. During our time there, I worked as a geotechnical consultant and construction materials testing project manager on the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers. I earned a master's degree in public administration and spent a year of service as a classroom teacher in the New Orleans Recovery School District the year it reopened.

Williamson was exactly what our young family needed after such endeavors. It provided us with quiet, wide-open spaces and community. When our children, Juniper, Morgan and Johanna were younger, Williamson offered them a deep connection with nature, whether it be the space to grow a garden, apples to pick, creeks to explore, or the excitement of watching a storm roll in over the Lake. Even

though it feels like just yesterday that the oldest was heading off to her first day of UPK at Williamson Elementary, our kiddos are now in the 9th, 8th and 5th grades. Through the years, Williamson Central School District with Williamson Rec and other community partners have continuously offered programming and experiences that have shaped our children's interests, provided them with varied ways to strengthen and express their talents and developed their sense of identity and belonging. For this, we are eternally grateful.

Since moving to Williamson, my husband and I have started several businesses. For the last five years, however, I have been a classroom teacher, and for the last three years, I have worked as a high school earth science teacher for the Rochester City School District. My work there has been very fulfilling and purposeful and has included working with a small team of teachers to develop a district-wide curriculum aligned to the most recent New York State Learning Science Standards. While I cherish the work I do outside of Williamson, it has

required investing in communities and schools outside of our own, and so, I am compelled to run for a seat on the School Board as a way to redirect my energy and expertise back to our community.

These days, our children keep our schedule full with all the extracurriculars they enjoy. As we spend our nights picking up and dropping off this one and that one, here and there, we can't help but to feel great reverence for all the educators and community members that put in the time to make these programs possible and well attended. As a former Girl Scout leader, one of the organizers of the Pultneyville Illumination, and a wife and friend to people that lend a hand to anyone that needs it, I believe that one of Williamson's greatest assets are the community members that care about and for our Town and its people. With your vote, I will join you in your efforts and momentum. I will listen to you with an open mind and open heart. With your vote, you can trust that I will relentlessly advocate for the well-being and growth of students and educators and champion innovation, partnership and best practices.

RAE VERBRIDGE



My name is Rae Verbridge, and as a proud resident of Williamson for the past 18 years, I am excited to run for a position on the WCSO school board!

In my professional life, I am currently an Account Manager for a telecom software company. Prior to this role, I worked as a local real estate agent, proudly helping many families find their homes right here in our community – an experience that allowed me to build lasting connections with the people of Williamson and gain a deeper understanding of their needs and values.

I also served as a Girl Scout troop leader, a role that gave me the rewarding opportunity to guide and mentor young girls as they developed leadership skills, confidence, and a strong sense of

community involvement.

In my personal life, I am a mother of two daughters who are deeply involved in sports and various extracurricular activities. I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that these programs have on students' personal growth, teamwork, and academic success. I believe that such experiences are vital in shaping well-rounded individuals and am passionate about ensuring that all students have access to diverse opportunities.

My vision for the school board centers on creating an environment where parents, teachers, and community members are actively engaged in decision-making processes. I advocate for clear and consistent communication channels between the board and

stakeholders, aiming to build trust and collective responsibility. My approach will emphasize the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that every voice is heard and considered in shaping the future of the district.

Understanding the crucial role that a strong school board plays in the success of educational institutions, I am committed to policies that support both academic excellence and the holistic development of students. A main focus of mine is to prioritize student outcomes by fostering growth in both knowledge and skills. My firsthand experience as a parent, coupled with my dedication to community involvement, positions me as a candidate ready to advocate for the needs and aspirations of all students and families in Williamson.



PATRON - LETTER CARRIER ROUTE
RURAL BOXHOLDER
PO BOXHOLDER

On the Ballot | Tuesday May 20 | 1p.m.-9p.m | MS Cafeteria

Proposition #1 Budget	<i>Shall the proposed school budget for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$29,126,665 be approved?</i>
Proposition #2 Bus Purchase	<i>Shall the Board of Education of the Williamson Central School District hereby be authorized to purchase two (2) 64-passenger school buses and two (2) 35-passenger school buses for the purpose of providing student transportation, and one (1) AWD Chrysler Pacifica including original equipment and incidental expenses for the foregoing purpose, at a total estimated cost after taking into account state aid and trade-in value and rebate not to exceed \$660,620.28; and that such sum or so much thereof as the Board may deem appropriate, in its discretion, shall be paid from the 2021 Transportation Vehicle Replacement Reserve Fund to the extent they are funded?</i>

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You do not need to own property in the district

Absentee Ballots:

A qualified voter of the Williamson Central School District is eligible to vote by absentee ballot under the following circumstances:

- Voter is out of the country or city while the polls are open;
- Voter is confined in a hospital or jail;
- Voter has a physical disability or illness;
- Voter is on vacation (includes retirees).

To receive an absentee ballot, an applicant must submit an application to Kelly Dixon, District Clerk. The application must be received seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Applications may be obtained from Kelly Dixon, the District Clerk by phone at 589-9661 or by email at kdixon@williamsoncentral.org.