

news from Glens Falls

CITY SCHOOLS

VOLUME 14 ■ ISSUE 1 ■ 2025-26 BUDGET PROPOSAL



Budget facts:

2.63%

Proposed tax levy increase

• SEE PAGE 5 •

\$60,782,223

Total spending proposal for
2025-26 school year at GFSD

• SEE PAGE 4 •

Sanford St.

All voting will take place at
Sanford Street School

• SEE PAGE 6 •

May 20

School budget vote and Board
of Education elections, Noon—
9 p.m. at Sanford St. School

• SEE PAGE 2 •



Budget vote at Sanford St. School on May 20

Connect, Create, Belong: Building a Budget for Every Learner

With the goal of enhancing learning outcomes for all students, the Board of Education has adopted a \$60.7 million budget proposal for the 2025-26 school year that enhances current programs and student supports while staying within the property tax cap.

If approved by the voters on Tuesday, May 20, the spending plan would increase the tax levy by 2.63 percent, which is the district's maximum allowable without a super majority vote. The proposed budget would increase the tax levy by \$631,900 over the current year budget.

Voting takes place from noon to 9 p.m. in the Sanford Street School gym on May 20th.

The spending plan includes:

- District-wide initiatives to boost math skills, comprehension, and numeracy.
- Continued support for summer academic intervention services that keep students learning and growing.
- Continued funding for our successful and data-driven Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS), including foundational skill development for students.
- Enhanced support for Arts in Education funds that provide important academic enrichments and experiences for a well-rounded education.



A senior and kindergartner share a smile while walking under the arch together at the "First and Last Hundred Yards," a new tradition celebrating the beginning and end of students' educational journeys.

- Professional development for teachers focused on the creation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC).
- Mental health services that include a range of supports for students, both in-person at school and via telehealth options.
- Swim lesson safety program for elementary students.

"Our budget reflects our unwavering commitment to our mission: to educate, support, and inspire all students as they learn to become productive and engaged members of their community," says Dr. Krislynn Dengler, Superintendent of Schools. "We are proud to offer a wide range of opportunities that nurture academic achievement, creativity, leadership, and personal growth for every student we serve."

See inside for more details on the 2025-26 plan.

Board of Education candidates

The Board of Education of the Glens Falls City School District is made up of nine members who are elected by qualified voters of the district. They serve without pay for five-year terms. The Board of Education, in serving its role as trustee of the district's five schools, is responsible for the development of the policy through which the Superintendent administers the educational program, and provides leadership for the students and the staff.

The Board of Education is committed to building a dynamic and inclusive school community that supports every student's path to graduation by offering diverse learning opportunities and engaging experiences. The Board encourages all citizens to take an active role in the development of our schools.

This year, there are two candidates running for two open seats on the Board of Education, with terms beginning July 1, 2025. All Board members serve "at large" and represent the entire district.

Stephen Babson II, of 9 Haviland Avenue, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is a Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Investments.



"Why am I running for school board? I had several people that I admire and respect ask if I was interested and I replied 'no' several times. I was not interested in taking focus away from my family. However, as I kept thinking about our community and the school system overall I repeatedly returned to the same conclusion...I could probably

help and I want to.

I like to listen (though I tend to ramble on sometimes) and am looking forward to hearing from other people that care about our community as well."

Timothy Graham, of 4 Elizabeth Street, is seeking his third term on the Board of Education. He is a retired educator.



"I look to continue working hard for the people of Glens Falls to insure a comprehensive and appropriate education for all our children."

Return on Investment in GF Nation

- 9 of Glens Falls' fall sports teams achieved scholar-athlete designation: Cross Country, Golf, Boys Soccer, Field Hockey, Football, Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming/Diving, Girls Tennis, and Girls Volleyball. And 8 of our winter sports teams achieved scholar-athlete status: Alpine Skiing, Boys Basketball, Bowling, Boys Ice Hockey, Nordic Skiing, Boys Swimming/Diving, Girls Basketball, Girls Ice Hockey, and Girls Wrestling. Student-athletes **Ava Larson** and **Kellen Driscoll** earned the Section 2 Basketball Scholar Athlete Awards for outstanding achievement in the classroom.
- Musical performers **Sophia Plante, Shane LaBounty, and Macklin McGrath**, captured three of just 11 Outstanding Lead Performer nominations across 21 high school shows in the region-wide High School Musical Theater Awards competition out of Proctor's in Schenectady. They were nominated for their incredible performances in the GFHS production of *"The Prom."* The musical was also nominated for the awards of Outstanding Musical Tier A, and Backstage Excellence.
- The Big Cross 3rd Grade Battle of the Books team took second place at this year's regional competition! **Aaliyah Johnson, Annika Hughes, Samera Nuhu, Nolan Viger, Emmy Gillingham, Emersyn Parker, and Averie Pickering** from **Mrs. Jenna Sanders'** class brought home the banner, thanks to their super reading comprehension skills!



2025's Top 10 students



Huge congratulations to the Top Ten students in the GFHS Class of 2025: Emma Canale, Ava Rowland, Parker Welch, Ava Larson, Norah Shaffer, Tevyn Owira, Natalie Frasier, Luke Stevens, Caroline Lieberth, and Samantha Solari!

Champions abound in Glens Falls City Schools

The High School earned **Unified Champion School** status with a national designation from Special Olympics! GF Nation has met 10 standards of excellence set by Special Olympics North America, focusing on Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement. We're super proud to be recognized, and even more proud of our students! Watch the full video on gfsd.org to hear directly from some of our student-athletes.



GFHS senior **Jordan Phillips** won the Entrepreneurship division in New York State's SkillsUSA competition with his team from the Early College Career Academy (ECCA) Business and Entrepreneurship program! They developed and presented a comprehensive business plan for a start-up

company, RestNest — an innovative concept aimed at renting private sleeping pods to travelers in airports during layovers. Senior **Cayden Roberts** placed 2nd in the state in the Culinary Action Skills Basic division! Cayden demonstrated how to properly assemble, roll and plate



Sushi, with expert demonstration and explanation techniques. And senior **Alexis Park** placed 2nd in the state in the Animal Science division! Alexis shone in the areas of life sciences related to animal health care, communication skills, employability, law and ethics, and work safety practices.



GFMS Principal **Carrie Mauro** was named Principal of the Year, and Board of Education members **Tim Graham** and **Kelly Culliton** were honored for Excellence in School Board Leadership by the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA)! These region-wide awards show how dedicated and enthusiastic each of these leaders are. A hallmark of Ms. Mauro's leadership is her commitment to make all students and staff



feel valued. Mr. Graham has participated in the development of the district's strategic plan, capital projects, and multiple additional initiatives while exhibiting integrity, bravery, and unbeatable community involvement. Mrs. Culliton has dedicated 10 years of service to the Glens Falls City School District Board of Education, after volunteering as a member of the PTA and serving as President throughout her children's school careers.

Glens Falls Black Bears brought home three NYSPHSAA championships this year! **Forrest Slingerland** took a state championship victory in the 7.5-kilometer boys race at the State Nordic Skiing Championships with a time of 25 minutes 0.7 seconds.



The Adirondack United Girls Ice Hockey Team won its second straight state championship this season. Glens Falls players on the combined team include **Caroline Lieberth, Maddie Oliver, Aurora Graham Hayes, Morgan Oliver, Ella Bray, Grace Herrick, and Ella Carner.**



And the Glens Falls Boys Basketball Team of **Kellen Driscoll, Oscar Lilac, Brody Holcomb, Bryce McClenning, Collin Woodell, Jacob Barber, Luke MacDougall, Jake Burns, Ralph Maldonado, Michael Blakely, Jordan Baker, Jeff Woodell, Chase McTague, Aiden Prunty, and team manager Claire Cygan** won their state championship for the second year in a row, capping an undefeated season and now 53 games without a loss.

Swimming lessons a huge hit!

As an equity and wellness initiative, GFSD offered a learn-to-swim program in March for all 1st-4th grade students in Abe Wing, Big Cross, Jackson Heights, and Kensington elementary schools. The program, now in its second year, has been so successful that it is being included as a permanent addition to the school budget.

160 kids registered for the lessons, which were held at the Glens Falls High School Pool on Wednesday and Thursday evenings during March. There was no cost for families, and swimsuits and towels were provided



to any child. Instructors were mostly Glens Falls High School students, with lifeguards and chaperones on hand to make it a great experience for all children. Lessons involved water safety instruction (including life jacket demonstrations), stroke development, and breath control in the water. The district is focused on equity for all students, and providing free swim lessons is one more way to boost their well-being, safety, and growth as school community members.



For the third year in a row, all students in grades 9-12 rotated through the Black Bear Job Fair and into several of 24 different career workshops in partnership with Warren Co. Workforce Development and dozens of local businesses.



Kensington Road School 4th graders raised \$822.71 for Wait House, in the spirit of "empathy," a Character Strong focus trait.



The GFHS Theatre Ensemble production of "The Prom: School Edition" involved more than 50 students as actors, singers, dancers, crew members, and pit musicians!



The Middle School's "High Voltage" VEX robotics team made it to finals and finished 6th in the State Championships!



Jackson Heights 1st and 3rd graders made snack bins for GF Police and Fire departments with the message: "You help us feel safe at school, at home, and everywhere we go."



Big Cross 4th graders won 3rd place in the region-wide Special Olympics New York "Opening Doors for Inclusion" door decorating contest!

The 2025-26 budget proposal in three-part format

All public schools in New York State are required to report appropriations in three official categories: program, capital, and administrative. The following data shows how Glens Falls' budget breaks down under this formula:

THE PROGRAM BUDGET INCLUDES:

The salaries and benefits of all teachers, school counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and speech therapists. Also included are textbooks and equipment, library costs, transportation, co-curricular programs and interscholastic athletics.

PROGRAM BUDGET 2024-25: \$42,794,217
PROGRAM BUDGET 2025-26: \$43,958,164

THE CAPITAL BUDGET INCLUDES:

Operations and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits for custodial staff, debt service on buildings, utilities, cleaning supplies, tax certiorari, and court-ordered costs.

CAPITAL BUDGET 2024-25: \$8,977,246
CAPITAL BUDGET 2025-26: \$10,739,975

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET INCLUDES:

The salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing, curriculum and staff development, school board-related costs, tax collection, and legal services.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET 2024-25: \$5,170,227
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET 2025-26: \$6,084,084

THE THREE-PART BUDGET AS A PERCENTAGE OF WHOLE



Summary of Proposed Revenues

	Adopted 2024-25	Projected 2025-26	Dollar Variance	Budget Variance
State Aid	\$25,303,949	\$28,475,639	\$3,171,690	12.53%
Tax Levy	24,050,700	24,682,600	631,900	2.63%
Other	3,587,426	3,778,575	191,149	5.33%
Appropriated Fund Balance				
Capital Project/Debt	492,609	565,409	72,800	14.78%
Employee Retirement Service Reserve	613,507	600,000	(13,507)	(2.20%)
Unassigned Fund Balance	2,893,500	2,680,000	(213,500)	(7.38%)
Total Revenues	\$56,941,691	60,782,223	3,840,532	6.74%

Summary of Proposed Expenditures

	Adopted 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Dollar Variance	Budget Variance
Salaries	\$27,709,152	\$28,157,617	\$448,465	1.62%
Equipment	986,058	961,072	(24,986)	(2.53%)
Contractual	4,670,389	6,557,323	1,886,934	40.40%
BOCES	6,067,665	5,530,449	(537,216)	(8.85%)
Materials & Supplies	1,179,598	1,550,313	370,715	31.43%
Debt Service	3,759,025	4,698,207	939,182	24.98%
Employee Benefits	12,369,804	13,127,242	757,438	6.12%
Interfund Transfers	200,000	200,000	0	0%
Total Expenditures	\$56,941,691	60,782,223	3,840,532	6.74%

What are the key factors affecting the budget?

Overall, a consistent consumer price index increase of 2.95% in 2025 resulted in increases for contractual services and materials/supplies throughout the budget. Two other areas resulting in increases in expenditure codes were transportation and debt service.

Student special education placements resulted in an increase in contractual codes and decreases in the BOCES expenditure codes.

"The \$716,293 transportation equipment expenditure within the transportation budget is due to the fact that we are purchasing six buses within the general fund budget," says Assistant Superintendent for Business Anthony Cammarata. "The planned purchase includes three new 64-passenger buses, and the residual buy-out of three existing 65-passenger buses from previous voter-approved bus leases. The district will fund the outright purchase of the new buses using state aid received on previous year's bus purchases and available fund balance.

"The 25% increase in debt service is a planned increase, which aligns with the district's long-range capital plan. The proposed 2025-26 year includes budgeted principal and interest payment for a serial bond that finances the current capital improvements project. Moving into the 2025-26 school year, we realize a budget to budget increase of \$939,182 due to the new debt service payments to pay for the December 2021 voter-approved capital improvements, which is offset by the large revenue increase in state building aid that the district will receive for the project."

Most of the current project involved renovations at the Middle School, including ceiling tile and door replacement, renovation of the Large Group Instruction room into a 21st century classroom space, and refurbishing science classrooms, and replacement of the High School's track and turf sports field — all of which have been completed. The next phase of the project includes renovations to the High School's chorus/music rooms, fitness room reconstruction and expansion, and parking lot resurfacing at the Middle and High Schools. The Middle School's parking lot will be reconfigured to include a bus loop and additional parking spaces."

Where do I vote?

All Glens Falls City School District voters, including parts of the town of Queensbury within Glens Falls City Schools—regardless of where they live—will cast their votes at **Sanford Street School**.

Voting on the school budget and Board of Education elections takes place from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20.

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 20, 2025 election, be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years of age, and be registered to vote with the school district.

What if I can't get to the polls on Tuesday, May 20th?

Residents who will not be able to go to the polling location on May 20 may apply for an **absentee ballot** at the district office (15 Quade Street, Glens Falls). If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 19.

Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on May 20.

Where can I find more details on district financials?

Budget books—which include detailed information on the District's NYSED Report Card, Required Budget Notice, Property Tax Report Card, Salary Disclosure Notice, and Exemption Reporting for Taxing Jurisdictions—are available to any district resident at Crandall Public Library, all school buildings, and the district office.

Each item in the budget books is also available online at www.gfsd.org, under "Budget and Finance -> School Budget."

STATE-REQUIRED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

	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	\$56,941,691	\$60,782,223	\$58,983,151
Increase (decrease) for the 2025-26 school year		\$3,840,532	\$2,491,460
Percentage increase (decrease) in proposed budget		6.74%	4.41%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$24,050,700	\$24,682,600	
B. Levy to support library debt, if applicable	N/A	N/A	
C. Levy for non-excludable propositions, if applicable	N/A	N/A	
D. Total tax cap reserve amount used to reduce current year levy	N/A	N/A	
E. Total proposed school year tax levy (A + B + C - D)	\$24,050,700	\$24,682,600	\$24,682,600
F. Total permissible exclusions	\$587,569	\$683,040	
G. School tax levy limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions	\$22,843,503	\$24,000,561	
H. Total proposed school year tax levy, excluding levy to support library debt and/or permissible exclusions	\$22,843,503	\$24,000,561	
I. Difference: G-H (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$5,170,227	\$6,084,084	\$5,240,584
Program Component	\$42,794,217	\$43,958,164	\$43,796,486
Capital Component	\$8,977,246	\$10,739,975	\$9,946,081

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Glens Falls City School District, Warren County, New York, will be held at the Sanford Street Elementary School gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

** The contingency budget is based on the following projected assumptions:*

1. The tax levy cannot increase from the prior year.
2. Non-contingent expenses such as equipment are excluded.
3. The ratio of the administrative component to the sum of the administrative and the program component cannot exceed certain parameters.

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

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Under the budget proposed for the 2025-26 school year

\$466

National Honor Society is now 83 members strong!



We are so proud of our students newly accepted into the Glens Falls High School chapter of National Honor Society! Big congratulations to: Adam Avery, Jordan Baker, Ella Bray, Sue Braymer, Carson Brown, Lance M. Carrol, Ella Rosa Quillen Cavas, Vivienne Marie Cerro, Brett Chambers, Sarah Conduzio, Andrew Crandall, Ava Della Bella, Mylo DeMello, Riley Catherine Donlon, Audrina Downey, Lillian Dybas, Piper Eddy, Claire Fisher, Ana Frankenfeld, Mary Patricia Giblin, Maggie Kathleen Goodwin, Ben Hoffman, Riley Johnson, Sean Layden, Grant Levin, Oscar Lilac, Rohan MacNaughton, Isabella McMahon, Rebecca McPhee, Zachary T. Moore, Jillian O'Brien, Abbey O'Hara, Julien Kennedy Oswald, Sadie Palmer, Joanie Polhemus, Cavanagh James Powers, Sofia Rice, Nick Rivers, Anya Shaffer, Sylvia Slingerland, Rowan Elizabeth Stimpson, Hailey Sutliff, John E. Tallon, Frederick Wilson, Lillian Wright, Chloe Wright, and Natalie Zachar, who were inducted into NHS during a ceremony this spring.

We also celebrated the senior members of NHS: Eva Burr, Emma Canale, Lillian Canale, Vincent Clohesy, Claire Cygan, Lucas Doherty, Kellen Driscoll, Brooke Eggleston, Isabella Feliciano, Henry France Miller, Josef Frankenfeld, Natalie Fraser, Addison Gorton, Brady Gross, Jason Hall, Cameron Hamell, Cara Harrington, Emma Harten, Ariana Harvey, Ava Larson, Caroline Lieberth, Bryce McClenning, Allison McCoy, Molly Mulholland, Jackson Murphy, Tevyn Owria, Sophia Plante, Schuyler Quartiers, Gavin Rittenhouse, Ava Rowland, Norah Shaffer, Forrest Slingerland, Samantha Solari, Hayley Stafford, Luke Stevens, and Parker Welch!

National Honor Society members have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, demonstrate service and leadership in our school and community, and are charged to act as role models of good character.

Glens Falls artists shine in Hyde's High School Juried Show

A talented group of Glens Falls High School student artists had their work featured in The Hyde Collection's prestigious High School Juried Show in the Wood Gallery.

Congratulations to Indira Brechko, whose pieces "Complexities," "A Young Moby Dick," and "The Depths" were selected; Lillian Wright for "Shino Shell" and "Eyes are the Window;" Elizabeth Stevens—North Country Arts Award winner—for "Central Park;" Sylvia Slingerland for "Sweet Bee Honey Jar;" Lydia Leigh for "Mushrooms;" Rohan MacNaughton for "Frozen Autumn;" Rebecca McPhee for "The Taste of Summer;" Liam Byrne-Smith for "Kaonashi;" Ella Harris for "Ebbs and Flows;" Tairah Grant for "Unforeseen Colors;" Caydence Flint for "Melting Floral;" and Jill Brown for "Corporate Marionette!"



"Each student involved in this prestigious art show, and all those who submitted work, should feel extremely proud of themselves!" said GFHS Art Teacher Miranda Kent. "Within the Art Department here in the High

School, we construct our classes around building personal rigor and creative aesthetic formation in order for our students to grow into their strongest and best selves as artists and makers. The Hyde High School Juried Show is an unmatched opportunity for our High School students to show real jurors and museum professionals or other art professionals in the area what they are made of."

"We are particularly proud of our students this year who submitted work that was centered around their interests, lived experiences, and/or represents concepts or themes that are meaningful to them," contin-

ued Mx. Kent. "It can be intimidating to put ourselves out there sometimes, but conquering this fear and attempting to make artistic contact with our community despite what the outcome may be is a lifelong skill. All the hard work that went into the work that was chosen for the Finalist round, the Semi-Finalist round, and even those who submitted and did not make it into the next round, does not go unnoticed!"

Special recognition also goes to GFHS art teachers Miranda Kent, Katie Hjelm, and Emily Ziegler for their guidance and support.



Board of Education

Matthew Levin, Pres.
Catherine Fitzgerald, VP
Kelly Culliton
Sara DiLandro
Timothy Graham
Katie Johnson
Laura Kennedy
Noel Quivey
Jason Rivers
Superintendent
Dr. Krislynn Dengler

News From Glens Falls City Schools is produced by
the GFSD Communications Office

Glens Falls CITY SCHOOLS

15 Quade Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801

POSTMASTER: DELIVERY REQUESTED BY 5/18/25

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLENS FALLS, NY
PERMIT #110

**ECR WSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

BUDGET *news from* **Glens Falls** CITY SCHOOLS

mark your
calendar



VOTE
on May 20!



**SCAN HERE FOR PRE-K
AND KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION DETAILS!**



Kindergarten Registration Scheduled in May; Universal Pre-Kindergarten waiting list available

The Glens Falls City School District has a vibrant academic program for our youngest students, designed to foster a love of learning that carries them all the way to graduation and beyond. We welcome new families into this educational journey!

If your child lives within the Glens Falls City School district boundaries and will be **4 years old** by December 1, 2025, then they're eligible to enter the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) lottery! UPK is a free, full day, academic-year program focused on teaching the fundamentals of literacy and beginning math—all in a creative and stimulating environment, and taught by highly qualified and caring educators. UPK students also receive free breakfast and lunch meals at school!

Please note: Students who are age-eligible to enroll in traditional kindergarten (5 years old by December 1, 2025) are not eligible for UPK. Transportation to and from the program is the parents' responsibility. We have UPK classrooms at each elementary school: Big Cross, Jackson Heights, and Kensington Road.



Entry into the UPK class is determined by lottery each spring. Families will be notified by mail of the lottery results in mid-May. The district is currently accepting UPK applications for students to be placed on the waiting list to be able to join a class.

Questions can be directed to Amanda Simmes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at 518-792-0107 ext. 2003.

If your child will be **5 years old** by December 1, 2025, then we're ready to welcome them to kindergarten! Registration for new kindergarten students will be held during the final week of May. Kindergarten Round-Up and screening appointments will be held on the following days:

Kensington Road School: May 22, 2025

- Call Assunta Moore at 518-793-5151 to make your appointment

Jackson Heights School: May 29, 2025

- Call Stacy Frandsen at 518-792-1071 to make your appointment

Big Cross Street School: May 28, 2025

- Call Bobbi Harris at 518-792-2619 to make your appointment