



Budget Issue 2025

HENDRICK HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT SOUNDINGS

BUCHANAN-VERPLANCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • FRANK G. LINDSEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • FURNACE WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
• BLUE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL • HENDRICK HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL

Letter from the Superintendent

To the Hendrick Hudson Community:

On April 2, 2025, the Board of Education adopted a budget reflecting our District's commitment to providing exceptional education while remaining fiscally responsible. This budget will now be presented to the community for consideration at the public vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

A school budget is not simply a projection of revenues and expenses; it is a reflection of our educational values and priorities. The proposed budget further advances our ability to live out our mission, ensuring that each student has the opportunity to thrive in a dynamic, innovative and supportive educational community. To assist in achieving that mission, the budget adopted by the Board of Education has been crafted within the following parameters:

- Ensuring compliance with New York State Property Tax Cap Limits
- Supporting a responsive and adaptable instructional program, effectively meeting the diverse needs of all students
- Including provisions for contingent positions to address potential increases in student enrollment or emerging programmatic needs
- Enhancing athletic offerings and support to promote student engagement and well-being
- Allocating resources to maintain and improve district facilities, buildings and grounds
- Positioning the district to comply with state-mandated requirements for transitioning to an electric bus fleet

To support the above-mentioned items, the budget reflects an overall spending plan of \$96,232,500. This represents a proposed tax levy increase of 4.58% from the 2024/2025 adopted budget. Importantly, this proposal remains within the allowable tax cap, ensuring fiscal responsibility while meeting the needs of our district.

This budget provides our children with the opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that supports their academic, social, emotional, and physical development. It also ensures they continue to explore their roles as citizens and plan for their futures beyond graduation.

Continued on page 4

Budget Summary

2025-26 Proposed Budget..... \$96,232,500

2024-25 Adopted Budget + NYSEDA Grant\$93,559,145

Budget-to-Budget Increase..... 2.86%

Tax Levy Increase for 2025-26..... 4.58%

Estimated Cortlandt Tax Rate Increase4.37%

Estimated Peekskill Tax Rate Increase 4.43%

Proposition #1
School Budget..... \$96,232,500

Proposition #2
Capital Reserve - Gives voters permission to deposit funds remaining from unexpected budgetary appropriations and cannot be accessed without voter approval

Proposition #3
Purchase Bus/Vans/Vehicle Equipment Financing not to exceed.....\$750,000
(Paid back over average of 5 years)

Proposition #4
Library Budget \$1,420,913

Proposition #5
Vote for three (3) trustees to serve 3-year terms

¡Versión en español del boletín del presupuesto en las páginas 9 a 16!

**SCHOOL BUDGET
VOTE**

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Frank G. Lindsey School Gymnasium, 57 Trolley Road, Montrose, NY

Letter from the Board President

Dear Hendrick Hudson Community,

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, I want to express our deep gratitude for your continued partnership and share the careful planning behind the 2025-2026 proposed budget. This budget reflects our shared commitment to excellence, student success, and fiscal responsibility.

The proposed budget includes key enhancements that align with the district's mission to ensure students are engaged, passionate learners who achieve their maximum potential and contribute to society. Every budget item is designed to strengthen the dynamic educational environment at Hendrick Hudson, ensuring that all students have a well-rounded academic experience that prepares them for success.

Our schools are the heart of our community, where students and staff thrive because of your ongoing support. From the excitement of Friday night games to the standing ovations at musical events, these moments are a testament to the energy, talent and passion nurtured within our classrooms. If you haven't attended an event recently, we encourage you to join us and see firsthand how your investment is helping our students translate what they learn in the classroom into real-world achievements and successes.

Budget Highlights:

Program Funding: We will enhance funding for key initiatives that support student well-being and academic success. These initiatives include increased support for mental health services; expanded reading and math programs; the continued growth of STEAM education, music and arts programs; and the development of innovative curricula. We will also expand athletic programs to ensure a balanced experience for all students.

Cost-Saving Measures: Through ongoing analysis of staffing, enrollment trends, and program efficiency, we will maintain our diverse offerings while being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

Capital Projects: Planned upgrades to HVAC systems, school security and learning spaces will improve our operational efficiency. Work from the 2024-2025 Capital Bond proposal will begin this summer.

Safety, Security, and Technology: We will continue to prioritize student and staff safety by allocating funds for enhanced safety measures, including upgraded security systems and digital monitoring tools.

Reserve Funds: Proper allocation of reserve funds is crucial to maintaining our financial stability. These reserves act as a safeguard against unexpected challenges, allowing us to respond effectively without compromising educational quality. By setting aside funds, we will continue to ensure we are prepared for unforeseen expenses, protecting our critical programs and services.

Your voice continues to be vital in helping to shape this budget and the future of our district. We encourage you to review the full budget book, which is available on the district website, at our school building main offices, at the district office, and at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library. We welcome your input anytime via email or during public comment at Board of Education meetings.

Together, we will build a bright, balanced future for our students — one that is reflective of the strength of our schools, which are at the heart of our community.

Sincerely,

Erica Mills

President, Board of Education



Frequently Asked Questions about the 2025-26 School District Budget

Q: Where does the money come from?

A: Hendrick Hudson receives funding from a variety of sources. The majority of revenue, 56.6%, comes from the local tax levy. The next largest sources are State Aid (15.6%) and the NYS Power Plant Cessation Fund (9.0%). Additional revenue includes PILOTs (6.1%) and other funding sources.

Q: Where does the money go?

A: Our school budget is divided into three major categories: Program/Instruction (83.3%), Capital (9.3%), and Administrative (7.4%). Instruction, the largest budget component, comprises costs associated with educating our students, including teacher salaries and instructional support. Capital reflects the funds needed to run our schools — energy, maintenance, facilities, and debt service. Administrative covers expenses such as district/school administrators and support staff, legal fees, and school board meetings and fees.

Q: What were the parameters for building this budget?

A: Our adopted budget accomplishes the following goals: It does not exceed New York State Property Tax Cap limits; supports a responsive and adaptable instructional program; includes provisions for contingent positions to address potential increases in student enrollment or emerging programmatic needs; enhances athletic offerings; allocates resources to maintain and improve district facilities, buildings and grounds; and positions the District to comply with state-mandated requirements for transitioning to an electric bus fleet.

Q: What happens if the budget fails on May 20?

A: If the budget fails on May 20, there are two options available to the Board of Education: (1) Bring voters a new budget that is substantially lower. This will require reductions in staff and increases in class size. Or: (2) Adopt a Contingent Budget, which would be characterized by reductions in staff, increases in class size, and only ordinary expenses being allowed. There would be no equipment purchases allowed and no transportation other than from home-to-school-to-home, and no outside organizations would be allowed to use school facilities without paying a fee. A contingent budget reduces tax revenue to the district that would otherwise be available through the NYS tax cap formula. This would compound future reductions for programmatic needs & would negatively impact instructional programs as well as infrastructure needs

Q: Will there be anything else on the ballot?

A: Yes. There are five propositions in total.

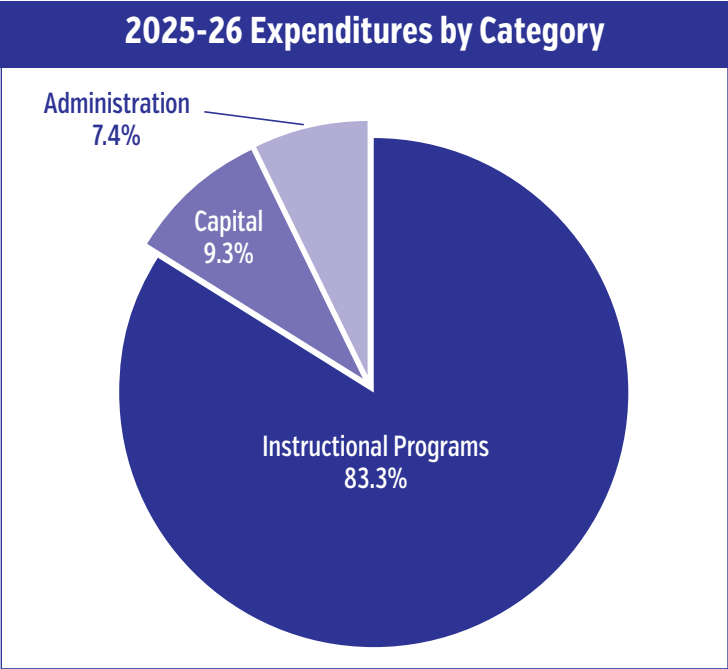
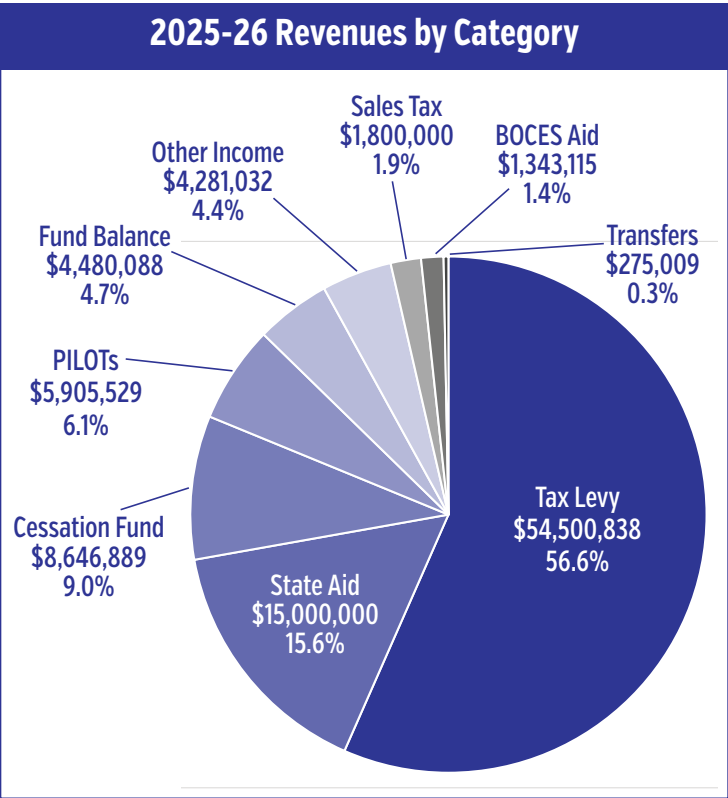
Proposition #1 is the school district budget.

Proposition #2 asks voters to approve a Capital Reserve, which is a mechanism to reserve unexpended budgetary appropriations in an account that can only be used for future capital projects. This would allow the District to plan for future infrastructure updates with less impact on taxpayers and, in turn, reduce future debt. Money is not being budgeted to fund this reserve. Money placed in the Capital Reserve can only be accessed through future voter approval.

Proposition #3 asks voters to authorize an expenditure of no more than \$750,000 as needed for District operations and home-to-school vehicle purchases to be financed over 5 years.

Proposition #4 asks voters to authorize \$1,420,913 to be applied to the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, which is not affiliated with the district.

Proposition #5 allows voters to choose up to three (3) new trustees to serve three-year terms on the Board of Education.



Letter from the Superintendent

Continued from page 1

As stewards of public funds, we are committed to transparency and accountability in every aspect of the budgeting process. This budget reflects our dedication to delivering an exceptional educational experience for all students while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The public will have an opportunity to vote on five propositions that will benefit our schools, our students, and our community.

Proposition 1: The 2025/2026 Budget. \$96,232,500.

Proposition 2: Capital Reserve Fund. This proposition would allow the district to create a Capital Reserve Fund to proactively plan for improvements to our aging facilities. The goal is to ensure that students and the community continue to benefit from safe, high-quality learning and community spaces for years to come. The fund would have a maximum limit of \$5 million, plus any interest earned, and would remain in place for a probable term of 10 years. Importantly, this proposition authorizes the creation of the fund only and does not involve any new or additional taxes. The reserve may be funded through unexpended appropriations derived from fiscally responsible spending.



Proposition 3: School Buses, Vans and Vehicle-Related Equipment. The district is seeking approval to spend up to \$750,000 to purchase new school buses and vehicles. This funding would be obtained through the issuance of bonds, which allows the district to borrow the money and pay it back over time. Adding newer buses to our fleet will improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of student transportation. The District will pilot two electric buses as we begin to transition to mandated electrification of our fleet. Electric buses are purchased using vouchers provided through the NYS school incentive program, in turn reducing the cost of the vehicle. These upgrades will reduce the likelihood of breakdowns, enhance safety features, and provide a more comfortable ride for students. Investing in modern vehicles also supports better efficiency and reduces our environmental impact, helping us serve students and the community more effectively now and in the future.

Proposition 4: Hendrick Hudson Free Library Budget. This proposition asks the community to vote on the public library's proposed budget of \$1,420,913.

Proposition 5: There are three (3) open seats on the school board with terms ending in June of 2028. The community will vote for up to three (3) members for the Board of Education to serve three-year terms.

I want to thank our entire administrative and educational leadership team for their efforts in our budget development process. Our educators have provided constant input on the development of this budget. From the start, we asked them to create a budget that was aligned with our district's Strategic Plan in an effort to ensure our expenditures supported our beliefs and values. I am especially grateful for the efforts of Ms. Jill Figarella, our Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, for her detailed and thorough efforts to look for efficiencies in spending across all areas of our budget while working with our educators and staff to ensure that the budget remains focused on our students' needs.



Our Board of Education has been a true partner in the process of creating this proposed budget. Over the course of public presentations on program budget proposals and throughout the full-day, line-by-line review of the budget, our Trustees provided constant feedback and guidance as we worked to present a budget to our community that reflected a balance between providing a high-quality education for all students and a spending plan that our community can support.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our shared commitment to educational excellence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael A. Tromblee'.

Michael A. Tromblee
Superintendent of Schools

VOTER INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

To vote in the Hendrick Hudson School District election, you must be registered. If you are registered to vote in the general election and have voted within the last four years, you are also registered to vote in the school district election. If you wish to register for only the school district election, you may register in person with Carmen Koch, District Clerk, at the School District Administration Building, 61 Trolley Road, Montrose, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., up to five days before the vote. If you are not sure if you are registered, please call Carmen Koch at (914) 257-5112.

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

A person must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least 18 years old by the time of the vote
- a resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the vote
- registered to vote in the general election and/or the school district elections
- not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction (unless the parolee is pardoned or restored rights of citizenship)
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere

MILITARY VOTERS

In order for a military voter to be issued a military ballot, a valid military ballot application must be returned to the district by mail or in person, no later than 5 p.m. on the 26th day before the election.

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING BALLOTS

Applications for absentee and early ballots are available for registered voters who will not be able to vote in person on May 20, 2025. You may apply in person at the School District Administration Building, 61 Trolley Road, Montrose, or by downloading the Absentee/Early Ballot Application on the district website under Board of Education/Budget Vote Information.

The application must be submitted at least seven days before the vote/election (May 12, 2025) if the ballot will be mailed to the voter and by the day before the vote/election (May 19, 2025) if the ballot will be personally picked up by the voter. Absentee and Early Voting ballots will be sent to individuals on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Absentee/Early ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025, in order to be counted. Applications may not be submitted more than 30 days prior to the election.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEE ELECTION

Voters will elect three (3) trustees, each for a three (3)-year term.



Keep up with Hendrick Hudson School District news!

Sign up to receive the Hendrick Hudson District News e-newsletter and other electronic communications on Parent Square by using the QR code on the left.



HENDRICK



HUDSON 2024 2025

COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS

22

Advanced
Placement
Courses



17

College-
Level
Courses



OF STUDENTS

≈ 2,264



AVERAGE ELEMENTARY CLASS SIZE



20

In 2022, HHSD launched a Strategic Plan, set to run through 2027. This plan outlines shared values and outcomes to guide our collective focus. It features four “Pillars” that emphasize student engagement, real-world learning experiences, shared decision-making, and improved communication within and across the district. This forward-thinking vision promises exciting opportunities for students, staff, parents and the entire community.

OF HS COURSES OFFERED TO EIGHTH GRADERS



TECHNOLOGY



100%
of K-12 core academic
classrooms equipped
with interactive
whiteboards and
projectors



100%

Wi-Fi access in all
school buildings



1:1

Student to
Mobile Device
Ratio

TAX INFO

4.58%



Tax Levy
Increase for
2025-26

Inspire. Explore. Discover. Visit our website at www.henhudschools.org

Hendrick Hudson HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **Hendrick Hudson High School** seniors Catherine Wright and Simon Eichenholtz were named the Class of 2025's Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively.
- ★ Seniors Alec Elkin, Castalia Litos and Alexandra Pappas were named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- ★ **Hendrick Hudson High School** was selected for the 2024 AP School Honor Roll and an AP Access Award. The school was recognized for providing students the opportunity to pursue college-level work and potentially earn college credit and placement.
- ★ **Hendrick Hudson High School** began a new peer mediation program, led by teacher and transition specialist Christina Feal. The school became one of only 10 schools statewide selected to receive peer mediation training through the state's Community Dispute Resolution Center and Department of Education.
- ★ **Hendrick Hudson High School** was named a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for the eighth consecutive year, the only high school in New York State to receive this distinction.
- ★ The school also received an AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award from the College Board for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles.
- ★ Lena Pfeiffer, a senior in the Science Research program, earned the Visionary Engineering Award at the 2025 Regeneron Westchester Science & Engineering Fair (WESEF).
- ★ **Hendrick Hudson School District** was named a Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants for the ninth year in a row. HHHS remains the only high school in New York State offering the United Sound program for students with special needs.
- ★ The **Music Department** had four students accepted into the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Honor Choir, which performed in Dallas. Other honors included: senior Alec Elkin was chosen for the NYSSMA All-State Mixed Choir at the iconic Eastman Theater in Rochester; 16 HHHS students were selected for the NYSSMA Area All-State Festival; and 17 musicians from various Hendrick Hudson schools performed in the Westchester All-County Festival.
- ★ Junior Alexandra Numeroff was accepted into the Worldstrides Honors Performance Program as a member of the Honor Choir and has performed at Carnegie Hall and will perform at the Sydney Opera House in July.
- ★ Various **Hendrick Hudson High School** athletic teams, along with individual student-athletes, won Section One Championships and advanced to a number of New York State championship competitions. Track and field coach Marcia Bailey, who has coached the team for over 50 years, was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame at the Armory in New York City.
- ★ The **Theatre Department** produced two exciting spring musicals. **Hendrick Hudson High School** students performed "Hello, Dolly!" while **Blue Mountain Middle School** performed "13 Jr."
- ★ The **Hendrick Hudson School District** held its third-annual STEAM Innovation Day, which was sponsored by the Hendrick Hudson Community Educational Foundation and spotlighted STEAM initiatives and activities taking place in K-12.
- ★ **Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School** hosted its first STEAM Career Day, with 16 presentations on topics that included engineering, athletic training, music, forensics and much more.
- ★ Students at **Buchanan-Verplanck Elementary School** and **Furnace Woods Elementary School** received a virtual author visit from Peter H. Reynolds, and each student received a copy of Reynolds' book, "Say Something!," courtesy of the Hen Hud Elementary PTA.
- ★ Teachers throughout the District have received professional development on HMH Into Reading, the all-encompassing English Language Arts program in use throughout Hendrick Hudson for the first time this school year.
- ★ The **Hendrick Hudson School District** purchased SchoolAI, an AI-powered educational platform for students of all ages. SchoolAI protects the personal information of students and creates a space for teachers to customize learning experiences.
- ★ The **Guidance Department** continued to connect students and families with important resources. The department hosted its annual College Fair and Career Fair, and also added a Community Fair, which was designed to connect new and immigrant families with important community resources.



School District Budget Notice

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, plus NYSEDA Grant (\$500,000)	\$93,559,145	\$96,232,500	\$93,846,662
Increase/decrease for the 2025-26 school year		\$2,673,355	\$2,385,838
Percentage increase [decrease] in each proposed budget		2.86%	0.38%
Change in the consumer price index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$52,115,000	\$54,500,838	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy [A + B + C - D]	\$52,115,000	\$54,500,838	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,629,709	\$3,527,672	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$49,490,106	\$50,981,166	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions [E - B - F + D]	\$49,485,291	\$50,973,166	
I. Difference: G - H [Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions] **	\$4,815	\$8,000	
Administrative Component	\$6,514,140	\$7,077,460	\$7,077,460
Program Component	\$78,169,682	\$80,147,171	\$77,883,833
Capital Component	\$8,875,323	\$9,007,869	\$8,885,369

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated: Computer equipment; all other equipment and furniture; all capital expenditures and some supplies for students and staff will be eliminated. Staff could be reduced and class size might increase. Instructional and athletic programs could be reduced in size or eliminated.

** 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)

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$750,000
Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,283

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Hendrick Hudson School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at F.G. Lindsey Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time in the F.G. Lindsey Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.