



2025-2026 Budget

Educational Program Continuation Increases March 19th, 2025

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Objective



To strategically utilize the district's fiscal resources to support student educational outcomes for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond in a fiscally responsive manner.



Budget Presentation Goals



Legislative Budget Priorities

- Senate & Assembly vs Executive
- Updated NYSSBA Guidance

Historical and Projected 9-12 Regents Course Enrollment

- Historical Regents Courses Average Class Size
- Projected Regents Course Enrollment

Industry Consultants

- Financial Advisors – Bond Refinance
- PERMA – Worker's Compensation
- Lawley – Health Insurance

Budget Highlights

- Program
- Facilities & Services

Updated Budget

- Expenses
- Tax Levy Scenarios
- Revenues
- Working Budget Gap





Legislative vs Executive Budget Priorities



State Budget Proposal Comparisons

Source: New York State School Boards Association



Proposal	Governor's Budget	Senate's Budget	Assembly's Budget
Foundation Aid	<p>2% minimum increase for all districts</p> <p>Formula updates to student poverty factors</p>	<p>3% minimum increase for all districts</p> <p>Formula updates to student poverty factors and regional cost index</p>	<p>2.9% minimum increase for all districts</p> <p>Formula updates to student poverty factors, regional cost index, ELL weighting and <i>Income Wealth Index</i></p>
BOCES & CTE	No proposals	Increase aidable cap from \$30K to \$60K over the next 4 years	Increase aidable cap from \$30K to \$60K over the next 3 years
Retiree Earning's Limit	No proposals	Extending waiver until 2027; increase annual limit	No proposals

State Budget Proposal Comparisons

Source: New York State School Boards Association



Proposal	Governor's Budget	Senate's Budget	Assembly's Budget
School Meals	Universal School Meals	Universal School Meals; enhanced farm-to-school incentive program.	Universal School Meals; enhanced farm-to-school incentive program.
Capital Outlay	Current \$100,000 limit	Proposed increase to \$250,000	Proposed increase to \$250,000
Zero-Emission Buses	No change, current timeline	Granting SED expanded waiver authority	No change, current timeline
Student Use of Smart Devices	Maintain bell-to-bell prohibitions	All districts to adopt local policies for non-instructional time	Reject Executive Budget proposal, allow districts to create their own policies, provide \$25 million to support policy implementation

Updated NYSSBA Guidance

Robert S. Schneider, Executive Director of New York State School Boards Association (3/16/25)



- U.S. Department of Education (federal) recently reduced nearly 50% of its workers.
- Reduction in staffing may impact Title Programs, IDEA (special education), civil rights cases, and research.
- On Friday 3/14/25, Congress finalized a budget agreement through September 30th, 2025.
 - In general, Title I and IDEA funds are projected to remain stable.
 - Title I and IDEA funds account for approximately 61% of the district's federal grant program.
 - Title II, III, and IV funds remain at risk for reduction or elimination.
 - Title II, III, and IV funds account for approximately 10% of the district's federal grant program.





Historical and Projected 9-12 Regents Course Enrollment

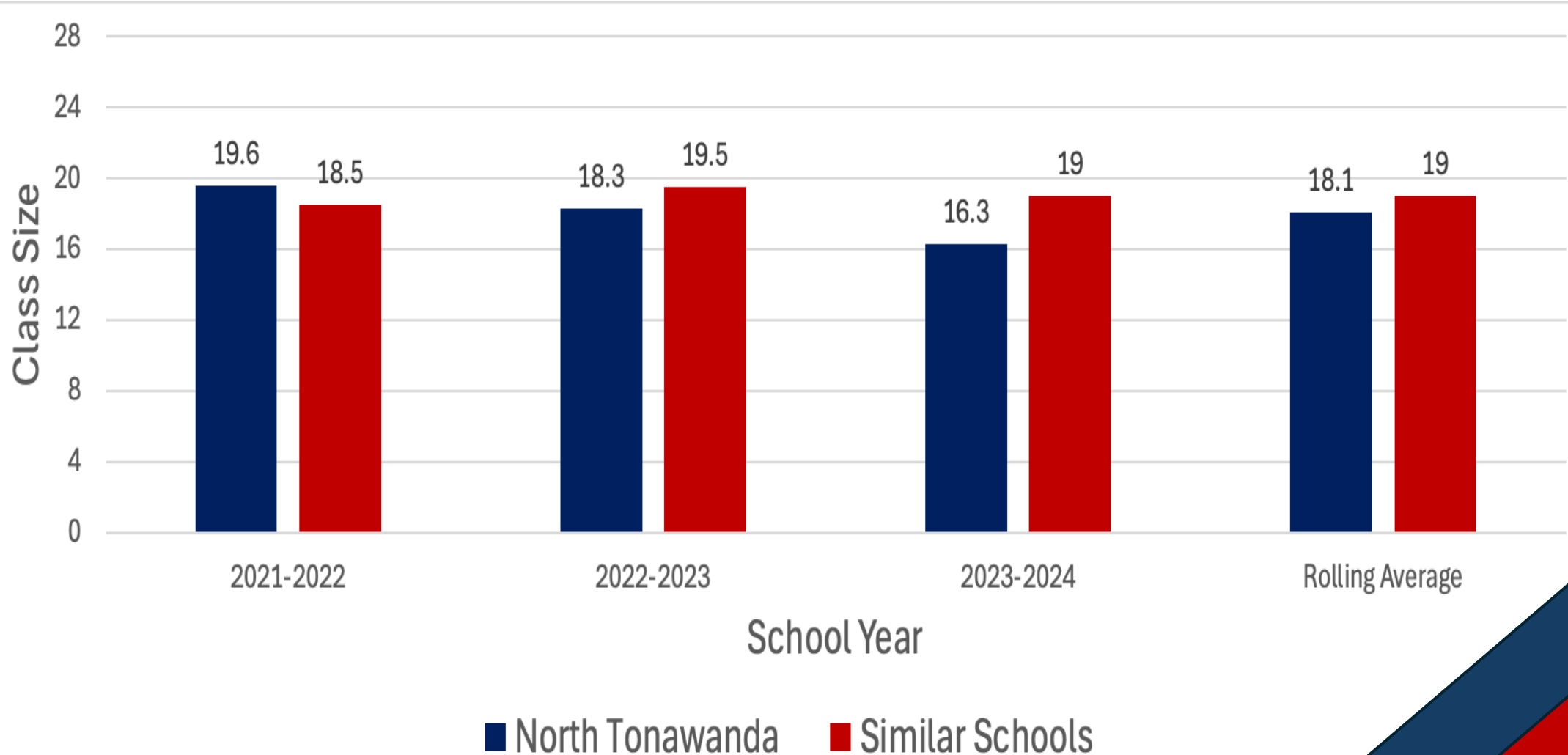


Historical Average High School General Education Regents Class Size

North Tonawanda vs Similar Schools



Source: Frontline Analytics; NYSED Master Personnel File



Historical programs such as *REACH* have the effect of lowering average class sizes.

The classes of 2027 and 2028 are smaller cohorts impacting NT's historical average class sizes during this time span.

Projected Regents Core Class Sizes

*Figures include special education inclusion as well as Honors and AP equivalents



Course	2024-2025 Sections	2024-2025 Average Class Size	Anticipated 2025-2026 Sections	Anticipated 2025-2026 Class Size
ELA (9-11)	31	21.6	27 - 29	22.3 - 23.6
Math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II)	19	23.1	21 - 23	23.1 - 23.5
Social Studies (Global I, Global II, US History)	29	23.2	28 - 29	22.8 - 24.3
Science (Living Environment, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics)	21	21.5	20 - 22	23.1 - 23.5
Spanish & French (Level 1, 2, 3)	14	18.3	12 - 13	23.3 - 24.5
Building- Wide Total/Average	114	21.8	108 - 116	22.9 - 23.9

*Figures do not take into consideration average class sizes in elective areas and non-mandated course offerings.





Industry Consultants



Industry Consultants



Capital Projects Interest Rates

- The district has confirmed with their fiscal advisors, *Capital Market Advisors*, that the current debt cannot be refinanced to a lower rate.

Worker's Compensation Rates

- The district has confirmed with our 3rd party provider, *PERMA*, that the anticipated budgeted amounts are consistent with expected needs.

Health Insurance Rates

- The district continues ongoing collaboration with our consultants, *Lawley*, to narrow down the expected rate increases for the upcoming school year.
 - o Anticipated rate increases are forecasted to be between 5.5% and 8.0%; slightly better than previously projected.





Budget Highlights



Budget Highlights Academic Program



Elementary

Maintain the K-6 STEAM teacher, *Gifted & Talented* (NTI) and AIS math specialist at NTI.
Piloted expansion of the UPK program to Spruce Elementary school.
Establishment of a series of kindergarten academic summer screening opportunities.

Secondary

Maintain the STEAM TOSA, Academic Learning Center, and *Reading Plus* opportunities at NTHS.
Maintain the Work-Based Learning community experiences for special education students.

District-Wide

Comparable and stable core class sizes throughout K-8 consistent with year over year enrollment fluctuations. Similar Regents bound course class sizes.
Maintain the K-12 Fine Arts TOSAs and Family Resource Center positions.

Academic Program

Budget Highlights Facilities & Services



Facilities	The annual capital outlay project will focus on K-3 playground fencing.
Food Service	Forecasted student participation in the breakfast and lunch programs will support the purchase of new student cafeteria tables at NTI.
Transportation	Through efficiencies, the walking radius will reduce from 2.0 miles to 1.75 miles (2025-2026 pilot) for secondary students.
Athletics	Establishment of annual allotments for K-6 before school intramurals and confirm 7-12 weight room supervision opportunities after school.
Music	Dedicated set aside funds for annual instrument purchases.
Field Trips	Current annual per-building allocation maintained.





Updated Budget



Expense Reduction Efforts



Category	Net Change	Description
Employee Salaries	(\$144,582) (\$15,000) (\$25,000)	Reduction of K-3 AIS per diem substitutes and associated off-day subbing Anticipated attrition of 1 clerical position through a mid-year retirement Reduction of 1 unfilled cleaner position
	(\$184,582)	Total
Employee Benefits	(\$28,552) (280,742)	Associated benefit reduction from reduced salary. Reduction in anticipated health insurance costs from previous projections.
	(\$309,294)	Total



March Program Continuation Net Changes



Category	Net Change	Description
Employee Salaries (Includes retirement attrition)	\$409,775	Contractual increases net retirement attrition
Employee Benefits (Includes retirement attrition)	\$1,644,508	Mandated benefits per salary increases and contractual agreements
Instructional Supports (Supplies & Equipment)	\$75,857	Supports net BOCES conversions
BOCES Support Services	(\$212,690)	Additional BOCES expenses due to contractual program conversions to BOCES.
Debt Service	(\$2,247,450)	Past capital projects have been paid
Total	(\$330,000)	Program Continuation Expense Budget (March)



2025-2026 Tax Levy Scenarios



Assessed Home Value	1.99%		2.49%		2.74%	
	(Monthly)	(Yearly)	(Monthly)	(Yearly)	(Monthly)	(Yearly)
\$100,000	\$3.88	\$46.61	\$4.86	\$58.32	\$5.35	\$64.17
\$150,000	\$5.83	\$69.91	\$7.29	\$87.48	\$8.02	\$96.26
\$200,000	\$7.77	\$93.21	\$9.72	\$116.63	\$10.70	\$128.34
\$250,000	\$9.71	\$116.52	\$12.15	\$145.79	\$13.37	\$160.43



Tax levy scenarios are based off the current fiscal year tax levy of \$30,730,000 and a 2024-2025 assessed city tax base of \$1,312,102,903.

Forecasted Total Revenue



2025-2026 (March) Budgeted State Revenue	\$44,503,541
2025-2026 (March) Budgeted Other Revenue	\$33,696,953*
2025-2026 (March) Budgeted Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserves	\$4,331,700**
2025-2026 (March) Draft Working Revenue Budget	\$82,532,194



*Draft working revenue budget assumes a recommended tax levy of 2.74%.

**Draft working revenue budget does not consider any potential use of reserves beyond the Debt Service and EBALR reserves.

March 19th Working Budget



2025-2026 (March) Draft Working Expense Budget	\$83,180,000
2025-2026 (March) Draft Working Revenue Budget	\$82,532,194
2025-2026 (March) Working Budget Gap	(\$647,806)



Important Next Steps – April 2nd



- Identify additional action steps to balance the budget.
- Finalize the 2025-2026 budget.





Thoughts and Reflections?

