Commitment to Excellence

Shenendehowa Central School District

The $223,237,339 budget for the 2025-2026 tax levy is aligned with the New York State Tax Cap.

The Future is Now: Defining Tomorrow by Actions Today

"The 2025-2026 Budget preserves quality programs, ensuring continued opportunities for student growth and success. The actions we take today will positively impact their future." - Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

2025-2026 BUDGET VOTE

May 20, 2025 • 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	$223,237,339
Spending increase:	4.43%
NYS Tax levy limit cap:	3.29%
Proposed Budget Tax Levy Amount:	3.29%
Difference BELOW the tax cap:	0.00%
Est. true value tax rate change:	0.89%

A property valued at $300,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of $2.

BUS PURCHASE RESOLUTION

(11) 66-passenger Type "C" Buses
(2) 66-passenger Type "C-EV" Buses*
*NYSBIP Funding RECEIVED to off-set cost of EV buses at $220,500.00 per bus
(5) 30-passenger Type "A" Buses
(2) 24-passenger w/3 WC Type "C" Buses

Total Cost Not to Exceed: $3,486,700

CAPITAL PROJECT RESERVE RESOLUTION

Authorization to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of Education Law, to a limit of $15,000,000.

CAPITAL PROJECT RESOLUTION

Proposed Cost of Capital Project: $85.5 Million
Capital Reserve Offset - $5 Million
Balance to Borrow $80.5 Million
Building Aid: 69.6%
*See page four for details regarding what this resolution encompasses

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Three seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Deanna Stephenson, Petra Holden, and Tom Templeton. Deanna Stephenson and Petra Holden are running for reelection. Another board candidate, Andrea Gallo, is also running for a three-year term.

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 20 on a proposed $223,237,339 budget for 2025-2026 that includes a spending increase of 4.43%. The tax levy of 3.29% is aligned with the calculated New York state tax cap of 3.29%. The estimated true value tax rate would increase by an estimated 0.89%. A property with an estimated market value of $300,000 would see an estimated increase of approximately $2 in its tax bill.

Shenendehowa always takes a measured approach to the development of the school budget. It's essential to create future prosperity that will preserve what is important to students because we define tomorrow by our actions today.

This year, we have focused on maintaining the stability of our programs, ensuring that the District is positioned to meet the evolving needs of students. This budget preserves academic supports, in all areas, but specifically addresses needs within Special Education, Academic Intervention, & Enrichment Services. It supports mental health initiatives and social-emotional learning needs like systematizing de-escalation training, and enhances the evolving needs of enrichment opportunities like Elementary summer enrichment, 6th grade summer orientation, and our High School Writer in Residence Program, all while continuing to prioritize safety, address technology obsolescence, and continuing the construction and design of our new Early Learning Center at 5 Maxwell Drive.

Enhancing Special Education Offerings: Building Inclusive and Effective Learning Environments

In today's diverse educational landscape, school districts face the critical responsibility of ensuring that every student receives the support necessary to succeed. Among the most vital components of this effort is the continuous enhancement of Special Education programs. By focusing on equity, individualized instruction, and collaboration, Shen creates inclusive learning environments where all students have the opportunity to thrive.

Special Education serves students with a wide range of needs. As the student population becomes more diverse and the understanding of how to best show up for our Special Education students grows, our school district must evolve their practices to meet these changing demands.

Ongoing training for teachers and support staff is essential. Topics include specialized reading instruction, therapeutic crisis response/de-escalation, and curriculum resource alignment.

At Shen we know that inclusion doesn't mean placing students in general education settings without support- it means modifying the environment so that all students can participate meaningfully.

Families are essential partners in education as well. We work hard to maintain open lines of communication, and we provide access to as many community supports as possible.

When school districts commit to strengthening their Special Education services, the benefits are far reaching. Students with disabilities gain greater independence, academic achievement, and social integration. Teachers and support staff feel more equipped and supported in their roles. Most importantly, schools become more inclusive, empathetic spaces where every learner is valued.

Focusing on our Special Education offerings is not a one-time initiative but rather an ongoing process that requires dedication, resources, and collaboration. By adopting best practices and maintaining a focus on student-centered outcomes, we are adhering to our promise of a commitment to excellence for ALL students.

"As the needs of our students with disabilities continue to evolve, our goal is to ensure that our practices, protocols, and programs are as well aligned as possible to meet their needs. This year the district participated in a review of our Special Education programs. The district will use the findings from this review to effectively design professional learning for special education staff, and allocate programs and resources that continue to enhance the learning experience of our students with disabilities."

- Deputy Superintendent Dr. Cecily Wilson-Turner

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and have been a Shenendehowa District resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No preregistration is required. Official personal identification with a photo is required at the polls. It is a crime to falsify votes (i.e. voting twice or using false identification).





A building once used for our Operations department has been transformed into our "Green House," a space where students engage in real-world community programming.

Three Candidates Vie For Three Seats On The Board Of Education

Three seats on Shenendehowa's Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Deanna Stephenson, Petra Holden, and Tom Templeton. Tom Templeton is not running for reelection. Board members are unpaid and run at large. The following candidates submitted petitions with the required number of signatures to run. They are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot, based on names chosen by lot (blind drawing), as follows:

Deanna Stephenson



Deanna Stephenson, of Halfmoon, is currrently serving her third term. She is employed at Fidelis Care as Director of Provider Relations. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology and forensic science from SUNY Oswego, and is in the process of earning a master's degree in health care administration from Union College. She and her spouse have two children one currently attending Shenendehowa, and the other a Shenendehowa graduate.

Petra Holden



Petra Holden, of Ballston Lake, is currenly serving her first term on the Board of Education. She is a currently the Assistant County Attorney for Saratoga County. She holds a bachelor's degree in english literature from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Virginia School of Law. She and her spouse have three children who attend Shenendehowa.

Andrea Gallo



Andrea Gallo, of Ballston Lake, is running for her first term on the Board of Education. She is currently a Therapeutic Area Specialist with Bristol Myers Squibb Biopharmaceutical Company. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Pennsylvania State University, and a master's degree in clinical social work from Syracuse University. She and her spouse have two children currently attending Shenendehowa.

Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence

This year marks a historic milestone for Shenendehowa as we celebrate our 75th anniversary—a momentous occasion honoring decades of academic achievement, community involvement, and educational innovation. Founded in 1950, Shenendehowa began as a small network of schools with a simple mission: to provide quality education to every student in the community. 75 years later, the district has grown into a dynamic educational system, serving over 9,000 students from diverse backgrounds.

To commemorate this milestone, the district is hosting a community event on May 17th, starting at 10am at High School East. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Celebrations include student showcases, a time capsule, food trucks, student-led tours, presentations, performances, giveaways, an alumni choir, a showcase of historical items, and more!

This anniversary is not just about our history, but about the generations of teachers, staff, students, families, and community members who have built this district into what it is today. We're proud of what we've built thus far and excited about where we're headed.

The district's journey over the years has seen many changes: technological advancements in classrooms, the construction of new buildings, curriculum reforms, and a dedicated focus on inclusivity and student well-being.

Join us in celebrating the past 75 years, and in helping us plant the seeds for 75 to come.

As part of this celebration we're collecting donations for our Bountiful Backpack Program that helps to support families in our district. Monetary donations, non perishables, hygiene products, can openers, etc. would all be incredibly appreciated.

For more information about this event visit https://sites.google.com/shenschools.org/shen-75th-anniversary

Bus Purchase Resolution

(11) 66-passenger Type "C" Buses
(2) 66-passenger Type "C-EV" Buses*
*NYSBIP Funding RECEIVED to off-set cost at $220,500.00 per bus
(5) 30-passenger Type "A" Buses
(2) 24-passenger w/3 WC Type "C" Buses
Total Cost Not to Exceed: $3,486,700

Capital Project Reserve Resolution

Pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law there is hereby established a capital reserve fund for the Shenendehowa Central School District, New York, which shall be designated as the "2025 Building Capital Reserve Fund" of said School District. The ultimate amount of such Fund shall be $15,000,000 plus earnings thereon. The probable term of such a Fund shall be ten years.

Capital Project Resolution

This capital project resolution includes the following:
- Building Condition Repairs and Upgrades including: water pipe upgrades, pavement updates, roof repairs
- Safety Audit Upgrades including: HSW office and foyer reconfiguration, generators, and PA system updates
- Bus Electrification (infrastructure): paving, electrical infrastructure, transformers
- Academic Program Enhancements: conversion of locker rooms, robotics building, classroom upgrades, athletic field updates

Proposed Cost: $85,500,000
Capital Reserve Offset: $5,000,000
Balance to Borrow: $80,500,000
Building Aid: 69.6%



An EV-bus uses a portable charger at the Shenendehowa Transportation Facility.

Help Shape the Lives of Future Generations!

Now hiring for the 2025-26 school year!

All different positions - teaching, transportation, substitutes, and more!

Scan the QR Code or visit shenet.org/employment to make a difference in the lives of our students, today.

Projected tax impact on homeowners

The following figures are based on estimated taxable assessment values (using the five year average). Property assessments are determined by the towns. Final data on assessments and equalization rates are not available to the district until August, prior to setting the tax levy and printing tax bills. These are merely estimates of the potential impact.

Town	Full Market Value*	Equalization Rate**	Taxable Assessed Value***	Est. Tax Rate Per $1,000	Est. Total Tax Bill
Clifton Park	$300,000	37.00	$111,000	$33.89	$3,762
Halfmoon	$300,000	39.75	$119,250	$31.54	$3,762
Malta	$300,000	100.00	$300,000	$12.54	$3,762
Waterford	$300,000	75.00	$225,000	$16.72	$3,762
Ballston	$300,000	65.67	$197,010	$19.09	$3,762
Stillwater	$300,000	63.00	$189,000	$19.90	$3,762

*Full market value is the estimated potential selling price of a home.
**Equalization rates used above are the 2024-25 equalization rates. These rates are established by the NYS Office of Real Property Services and used to determine the percentage of the total tax levy each town must pay. They are usually finalized in August.
***Taxable assessed value is the amount used in calculating the actual tax bill once the equalization rates have been applied.

Continued Stability in Programs and Investing in our Students' Futures

Through the prudent allocation of funds, Shenendehowa continues to maintain and grow programs and services. When educators and families can rely on the continuity of resources and support, it builds a strong foundation for academic success and fosters an engaged school experience for students.

The budget is an investment in our students' futures. By dedicating resources to developing our Program of Studies, adding courses to our offerings such as AP Computer Science and Digital Audio Production, and creating a website dedicated to our programs and the ways students can navigate course pathways at Shen, we are able to build even more options for students to excel. Through investment in our mental health services, de-escalation training, and special education programs and resources, the district provides students with the skills and support they need to thrive in a changing world.

Budget decisions that prioritize equity and innovation open doors for all learners. Ultimately, our forward-thinking budget reflects the district's commitment to preparing students for success beyond the classroom, and beyond Shen upon graduation.



Members of the High School orchestra perform for Shenendehowa High School graduation.



Kindergarten students participate in collaborative learning activities.



A teacher takes a moment to help show a student to their classroom.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) at Shen

Social-emotional learning (SEL) equips students with the skills to understand and manage emotions, set goals, show empathy, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. It is for these reasons Shenendehowa has made strong commitments to developing the social-emotional wellbeing of our students.

We begin this process at the Elementary level and continue to build upon these skills throughout both Middle and High School. We focus on the CASEL competencies throughout our curriculum. These include: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision-Making. As students progress into Middle and High School, we build upon those competencies by incorporating goal setting, self-management, responsible decision-making, and mental wellness in their curricula.

Integrating SEL into our curriculum at all levels helps to foster a supportive and inclusive environment where students feel safe and connected. Schools prioritizing SEL see improved student behavior, reduced bullying, a decline in chronic absenteeism, and higher academic performance.

Our teachers also benefit, as SEL contributes to stronger classroom management and healthier educator-student relationships.

Beyond academics, SEL prepares students for life. It improves emotional intelligence, teamwork, and adaptability, and it also helps to lay the groundwork for future success in college, trade careers, and communities.

State-required School District Budget Notice

State law requires school districts to distribute this state-designed budget notice to district residents after the public hearing, but no later than six days prior to the school budget vote.

Overall budget proposal	Budget 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	$213,771,893	$223,237,339	$218,606,302
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-2026 School Year		$9,465,446	$4,834,409
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.43%	2.26%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.80%	
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	$140,822,711	$145,453,747	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	NA	NA	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	NA	NA	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	$0	$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	$140,822,711	$145,453,747	$140,822,711
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	$3,738,479	$4,254,061	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$137,084,232	$141,199,686	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)	$137,084,232	$141,199,686	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval (See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	$0	$0	
Administrative component	$19,440,220	$20,346,740	$19,924,649
Program component	$167,569,562	$174,695,423	$171,071,383
Capital component	$26,762,111	$28,195,176	$27,610,271

**Separate Propositions

Description	Amount
Bus Purchase	$3,486,700
Capital Project	$85,500,000
Capital Project Reserve	$15,000,000



Elementary students take part in an outdoor reading activity.

* CONTINGENT BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS:

The contingent budget assumes no increase in the tax levy over the 2024-25 budget. Budget cuts would be pro-rated across all three component parts of the budget. Non-contingency items would be removed including: student supplies, community use of facilities, certain equipment purchases and certain non-contractual salary increases. In addition to this limitation, the percentage of the administrative component for the contingency budget cannot be greater than the percentage from the previous year.

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Average Basic STAR Tax Savings for 2025-26 Budget Proposal is $482.

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit

Using an 8-step formula developed by the Office of the State Comptroller, Shen's 2025-26 maximum allowable tax levy limit is 3.29%. The proposed 2025-26 budget is aligned with that NYS tax cap at 3.29%.

Proposed 2025-26 Expenditures

	Budgeted 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026
Program Budget: 78.26% of Budget		
Instruction	$103,545,461	$108,412,111
Pupil Transportation	12,872,636	12,917,240
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,701,438	1,743,120
In-service Training	431,571	602,145
Community Service	17,650	20,650
Transfers	500,0000	500,000
Employee Benefits	48,500,806	50,500,157
TOTAL	$167,569,562	$174,695,423
Capital Budget: 12.63% of Budget		
Operation & Maintenance	$12,694,343	$13,784,456
Tax Certiorari	100,000	100,000
Debt Service-Building/Buses	10,500,000	10,700,000
Employee Benefits	3,467,768	3,610,720
TOTAL	$26,762,111	$28,195,176
Administrative Budget: 9.11% of Budget		
Board of Education	$62,385	$60,440
Central Administration	535,741	556,924
Finance	1,492,970	1,546,124
Personnel/Records Mgmt	739,444	759,903
Central Svc & Legal Costs	986,551	1,075,424
Insurance	901,774	1,009,655
Public Information	154,634	232,362
Curriculum Development	471,886	491,272
School Supervision	6,437,251	6,602,703
Research/Evaluation/Planning	613,947	613,413
Employee Benefits	5,779,612	6,017,865
BOCES Administration/Facilities	1,256,525	1,373,155
Unclassified	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	$19,440,220	$20,346,740
Total Expenditures:	$213,771,893	$223,237,339



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Proposed 2025-26 Revenues

	Budgeted 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026
Property Taxes: 65.16% of Budget		
Property Taxes	$140,822,711	$145,453,747
State Aid: 30.34% of Budget		
Foundation Aid	$46,098,356	$47,478,805
Excess Cost Aid	1,576,178	1,538,026
Instructional Material Aid	919,128	927,387
BOCES Aid	3,215,609	3,225,388
Building Aid	3,571,885	3,370,083
Transportation Aid	10,969,351	11,093,348
Other State Aid	50,000	100,000
TOTAL	$66,400,507	$67,733,037
Other Items: 2.27% of Budget		
Interest Earnings	$2,000,000	$3,400,000
Tuitions & Admissions	259,175	235,175
Rentals, Sales, Refunds & Other	366,500	390,751
Federal Reimbursements	340,000	340,000
Other Tax Items	673,000	690,670
TOTAL	$3,638,675	$5,056,596
Fund Balance: 2.24% of Budget		
Appropriated	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Re-approp. Employee Benefits	660,000	660,000
Use of Retirement Reserve	750,000	2,833,959
TOTAL	$2,910,000	$4,993,959
Total Revenues:	$213,771,893	$223,237,339

BOARD of EDUCATION
Petra Holden, President
Tom Templeton, Vice Pres.
Naomi Hoffman
Mary Colleen Liburdi
Gusta Miller
Deanna Stephenson
Carla Thompson

Superintendent
Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Editor
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5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park, NY

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The complete budget complies with the regulations set by the NYS Education Department requiring school districts to include salary information as well as student achievement. Copies are available on Shen's website (shenet.org), in the main office of each school and at the district office. If you have questions, please call the Superintendent's Office at 881-0610.

When is the vote?

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
7:00 am to 9:00 pm
Gowana Middle School Gym

Who can vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and have been a Shenendehowa district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No pre-registration is required. Official personal identification with photo is required at the polls. Falsifying votes (i.e., voting twice or using false identification) is a crime.

Can't get to the polls?

Absentee ballots may be used by any resident who will not be available to come to the campus to vote. They are available at the District Office, 5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park. For information, call the District Clerk at 881-0623. By law, absentee ballots are mailed to any resident who is certified by Saratoga County as disabled. If you are disabled and did not receive one, please call the District Clerk's Office. Ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on May 20.

Directions to the polls

Gowana Middle School is located on Shen's main campus. Enter the campus using the Route 146 entrance and then bear left. Gowana is on the right. Follow the signs to the polling place entrance.

What's On The ballot?

Proposition 1

A $223,237,339 budget for 2025-2026 that includes a spending increase of 4.43%. The proposed budget is a tax levy of **3.29%,** which aligns with the New York State tax cap levy limit. The estimated true value tax rate would increase by an estimated 0.89%. A property value estimated at $300,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of $2.

Proposition 2

Three seats on the seven-member Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The incumbents are Deanna Stephenson, Petra Holden, and Tom Templeton. Deanna Stephenson and Petra Holden are running uncontested for reelection. The additional candidate running uncontested for election is Andrea Gallo.

Proposition 3

(11) 66-passenger Type "C" Buses
(2) 66-passenger Type "C-EV" Buses*
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Proposition 4

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Proposition 5

Proposed Cost of Capital Project: $85.5 Million
Capital Reserve Offset - $5 Million
Balance to Borrow $80.5 Million
Building Aid: 69.6%