

Elwood Union Free School District

**2026-2027
BUDGET
WORKSHOP #2**



Date: January 15, 2026

**Presenter: Lorraine Dunkel,
Assistant Superintendent for Business**

AGENDA



1

2026-27 Budget Update

2

Three Part Component

3

What's Next



DISTRICT GOALS

I. Extraordinary Student Focus

We are committed to nurturing the whole child and maximizing every student's potential. This will be achieved through diverse, data-driven instruction that uses multiple assessments to address the unique needs of each learner, preparing them to be confident and capable for the future.

II. Financial & Operational Planning for Future Stability

Through strategic short and long-term financial planning, we are dedicated to maintaining safe, secure and environmentally responsible school facilities that support our community's well-being and future growth.

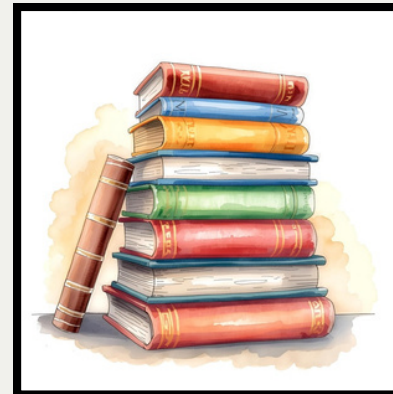
III. Enhancement of School-to- Community Partnerships

We commit to strengthening communication channels with parents, staff and the broader community to foster meaningful engagement and drive measurable growth in community involvement within our school district.

IV. Commitment to the Health and Safety of Our School Community

We are dedicated to the health and safety of our school community by strengthening district structures and routines while actively leveraging ongoing training, partnerships and available resources.

2026-2027 BUDGET PRIORITIES



Maintain current program



Propose a budget that is educationally sound and fiscally responsible



Continue developing long-term sustainability by reducing reliance on fund balance and reserves

WHAT WE KNOW



Revenue

- Governor's Proposal for Foundation Aid has not been released.
- Elwood's estimated state aid increase for the 2026/2027 school year is expected to be no less than the current year's amount of approximately \$19 million (excluding UPK funds).
- The Elwood
- The Tax Cap and Tax Levy have not been finalized at this time. However, the current estimate is approximately 3%

Expenditures

- Transportation – the transportation RFP responses are due back tomorrow and will be reviewed by district personnel. A recommendation to the Board is anticipated for the March 12th BOE meeting.
- Benefits – The 2026 health insurance premium rates have been received and increase is approximately 8%.
- NYSTRS – The New York State retirement system rate for 2026/2027 is estimated to be 8.75% which is a reduction from the current years' rate of 9.59%.
- Retirements – we are anticipating a few teacher retirements which will reduce the overall increase in our instructional budget

THREE PART COMPONENT



To increase transparency and public understanding, NYSED requires school districts to present their annual budget in a three-part-component format.

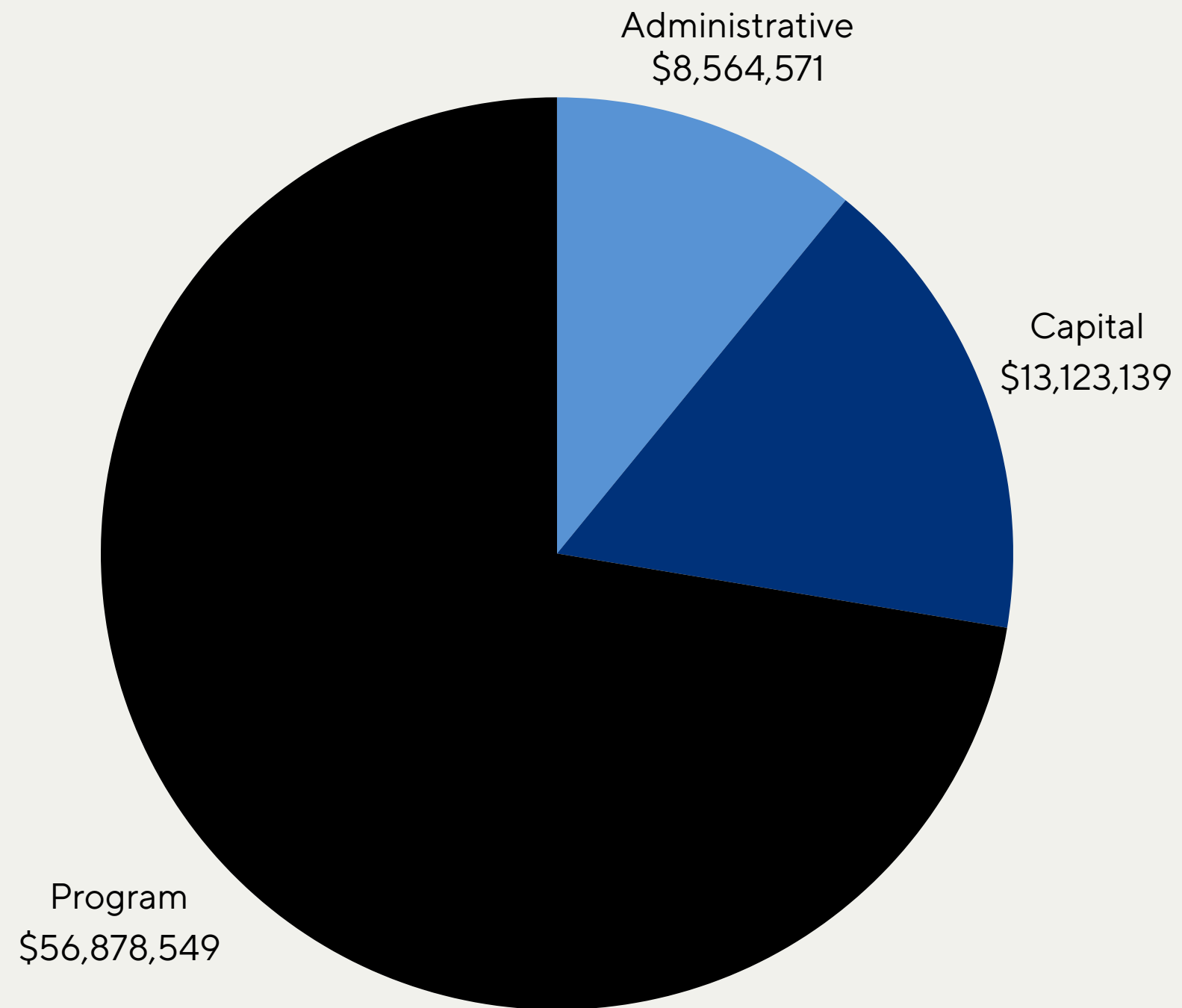
The three parts are Administrative, Capital and Program.

- Administrative: Covers central administrative office expenses, including all compensation, salaries, and benefits.
- Capital: Covers facilities construction and renovation, debt service, lease expenses, and maintenance/custodial operating costs as well as salaries and benefits.
- Program: Covers all programs and services, including instructional salaries, benefits, equipment, and materials for students.

These components are crucial for determining contingent budgets, where only necessary, legally mandated expenses are permitted.

2025-2026 THREE PART COMPONENT

● Administrative ● Capital ● Program



WHAT'S NEXT



- The Governor is anticipated to release the first New York State Aid summary in early February.
- Transportation bid to be awarded in March.
- Kindergarten registration begins in February. We will be monitoring closely as enrollment could affect the number of class sections required.



BUDGET PRESENTATION & MEETING DATES

Meeting Date	Presentation
~~Thursday, December 11, 2025~~	~~Budget Workshop #1~~
Thursday, January 15, 2026	Budget Workshop #2
Wednesday, January 21, 2026	Citizens Finance & Budget Committee Meeting (CFBC)
Thursday, February 12, 2026	Budget Workshop #3
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Budget Workshop #4
Thursday, April 16, 2026	Budget Workshop #5 & Budget Adoption
Thursday, May 7, 2026	Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election

BUDGET RESOURCES



All current budget-related information is available on the Elwood School District website.

Prior years' budget information is also available on the [Archived Budget Information](#) page.

Legal notices and budget newsletters will be distributed to the community and posted to the website throughout the budget process.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



The first CFBC meeting will take place on Wednesday January 21st at 6:00pm in the Elwood middle School Library.

The annual budget vote and election will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

There will be two Board of Education seats open for election for the 2026-2027 school year.

Nominating petitions will be available on February 2, 2026 and due no later than April 20, 2026.

NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP

BUDGET WORKSHOP #3
FEBRUARY 12, 2026



QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

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