



Ardsley Union Free School District

Challenging Minds, Building Character, Inspiring Excellence

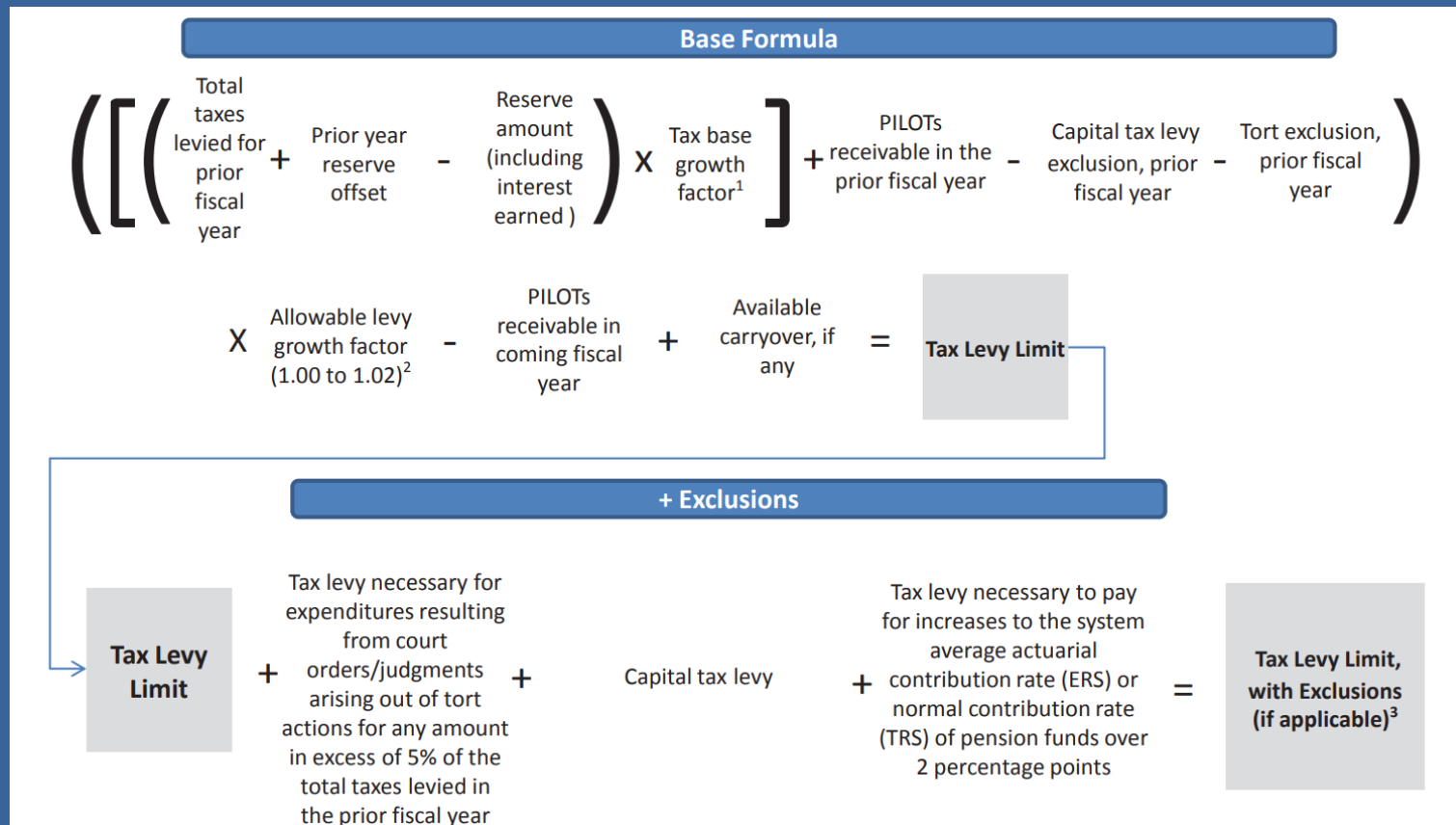
2026-2027 Budget Workshop I Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

February 10, 2026

Property Tax Cap - Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011

- The law places restrictions on how school districts and municipalities can increase their tax levies
- Began with the 2012-13 school year
- Made permanent in fiscal 2020 budget
- The Property Tax Levy Cap limits the school district levy NOT assessed values or tax rates
- Voters approve school budgets, not the tax levy

Property Tax Cap Formula



Property Tax Cap – Three Tax Levy Numbers

1

Tax Levy Limit

- Highest allowable tax levy (before exclusions) that a district can propose as part of its annual budget and need the approval of only a simple majority of voters (50% + 1), supermajority needed (60%) to exceed the tax levy limit
- Reported to state comptroller by March 1st each year

2

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

- Tax levy PLUS certain exclusions
- A District may add these exclusions to its tax levy without triggering the need for a 60% voter approval

3

Proposed Tax Levy

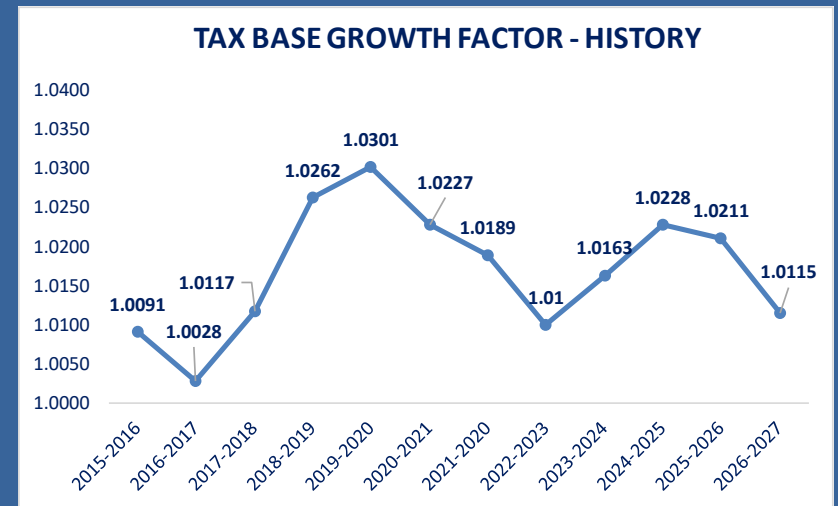
- The total amount of money to be raised locally by a school district after factoring in all other available revenues

Tax Levy Limit Calculation – Tax Base Growth Factor

2025-2026 Actual Tax levy		\$64,800,000
Tax base growth factor (from ORPTS)	X	1.0115
Total		\$65,545,200

Tax base growth factor

- Based on Dept. of Tax and Finance determination of “quantity change,” such as new construction, newly taxable status of existing property, or measurable improvements to taxable property within the boundaries of the local government or school district.
- This factor will not be less than 1.000, even if a district sees a decrease in its full property value.



Tax Levy Limit Calculation - PILOTS

2025-2026 Actual Tax levy		\$64,800,000
Tax base growth factor (from ORPTS)	X	1.0115
	Total	\$65,545,200
2025-2026 Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	+	23,574
	Total	\$65,568,774
2025-2026 Exclusions (Prior Year)	-	\$2,633,930
Adjusted 2025-2026 Tax Levy		62,934,844
Allowable Levy Growth Factor (lesser of 2% or CPI)	X	1.02
		\$64,193,541
2026-2027 Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	-	\$23,654
Tax Levy Limit (before exclusions)	Total	\$64,169,887

PILOTS

- Payments in Lieu of Taxes
- Add back prior year pilots receivable and subtract pilot payments in the coming year
- Payment for Greenburgh Housing Authority Pilot is estimated and may change

Tax Levy Limit Calculation –25/26 Exclusions

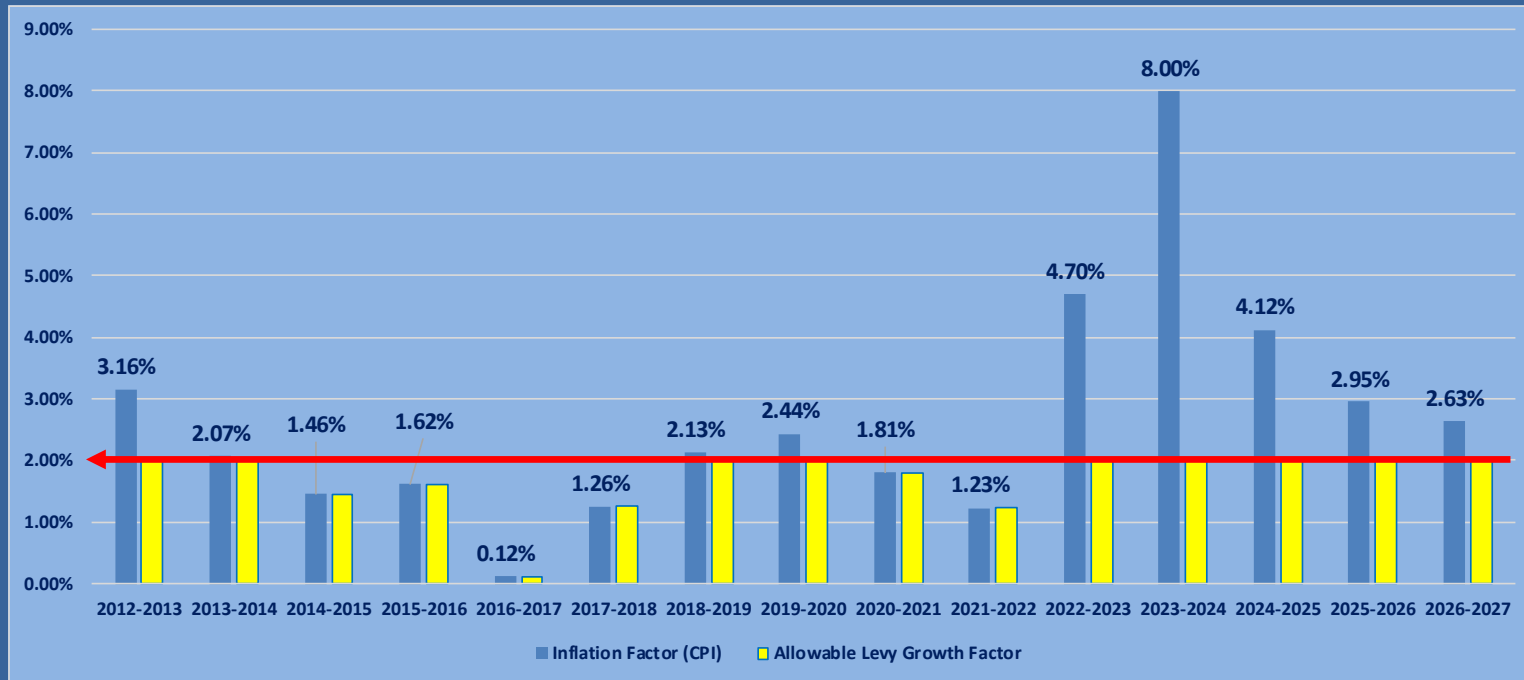
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P/Y Exclusions (25/26)

- Capital Tax Levy Exclusion
 - Debt Service (*Net of State Aid*)
 - BOCES Capital Expenditures

Tax Levy Limit Calculation – Allowable Levy Growth Factor

- The inflation factor is the unadjusted CPI-U (All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers).
- The growth is limited to the lesser of 2% or Inflation Factor 2.63% (CPI); minimum 0%



https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/pdf/inflation_allowablegrowthfactors.pdf

Tax Levy Limit

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Tax Levy Limit With Exclusions

Tax Levy Limit (before exclusions)	Total	\$64,169,887
2026-2027 Exclusions	+	\$3,909,099
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy		\$68,078,986

Total Existing Debt Service (Incl. Bus Leases)	2,804,934
Projected New Debt - Capital Project*	2,996,513
Projected New Capital Project (Funded by Cap Reserve)	5,000,000
Projected New Bus Lease	87,115
Share of BOCES Capital Exp	66,407
Total Projected Debt Service /Capital Exp	10,954,969
Total Estimated State Aid/Capital Reserve**	7,045,870
Total 26-27 Capital Exclusion	3,909,099

*Debt Service is estimated until issuance of debt.

**Building Aid is estimated and may change. Includes share of state aid on BOCES capital expenditures.

Capital Project – Funded By \$5m Capital Reserve

Current Capital Reserve Will Expire in 2027

Projects Funded to Date from the Current Capital Reserve

- \$1,000,000 – HVAC Project (\$2m total project)
- \$3,500,000 – Current Project (\$53.5m total project)

Additional Propositions - May 2026 Vote

- \$5,000,000 to replace and upgrade aging mechanical systems
- Establish a new Capital Reserve that will last 10 years (Expire 2036)
 - Fund additional needed improvements with savings/surplus in the future
 - Continue to upgrade our facilities for modernization and efficiency

Capital Project – Funded By \$5m Capital Reserve

Boilers (including pumps and valves)

- AMS – 50+ years (original)
- CRS – 30 years
- AHS – 30 years

Additional HVAC equipment

- AMS Music Room
- HS Fitness Center
- Pool Dehumidifier
- Enhanced/ Additional programming for building management systems to improve electrical cost efficiency
- Flooring Replacements
- New Scoreboard for AHS field

Pension Exclusion

ERS/TRS Employer Contribution Increases:

- Pension exclusion only applies if there is an increase of 2 percentage points or more
- **No pension exclusion for 2026/2027**

Retirement System	2025/2026	2026/2027	Change
TRS*	9.59%	8.24%	-1.35%
ERS (<i>average rate</i>)	16.50%	17.60%	1.10%

**Estimated as of January 2026*

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

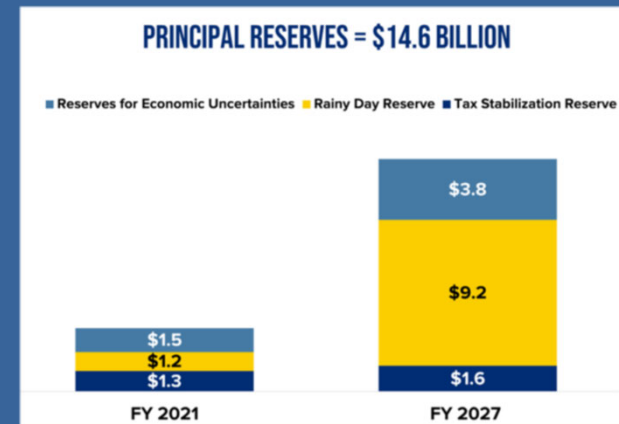
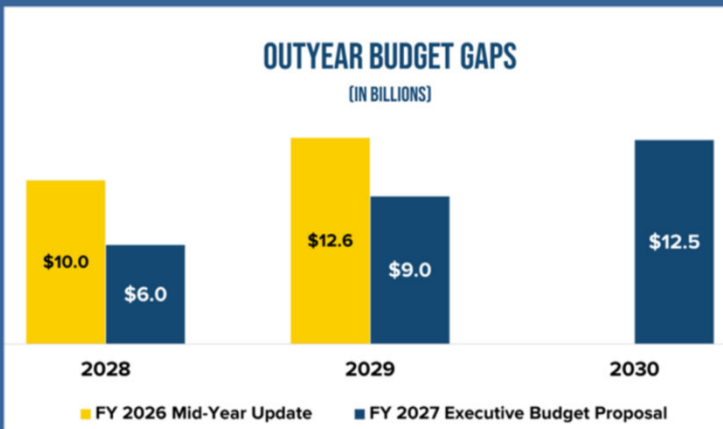
\$68,078,986

* Estimated Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Increase	\$3,278,986
Estimated Percentage Increase	5.06%

**State Aid information is estimated and may change. Includes the lease/purchase of four (4) replacement vehicles: one (1) 30 passenger van, and three (3) 20 passenger vans.*

State Aid – Executive Budget

- State Fiscal Outlook Improved
 - Upward revisions to revenues
 - Wage/bonus growth and stock market strength
 - Increased PIT
- Outyear budget gaps remain, revised downward
- State is planning to increase reserve balances



Source: <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy27/ex/book/briefingbook.pdf>

State Aid – Executive Budget

- Foundation Aid
 - 1% Minimum Increase
 - CPI 2.8% increase, may be reduced with enacted budget
- Expense Based Aids
 - No changes proposed
 - Based on expenditures (BOCES, Transportation, etc.)

Items not included

- Zero Emission Bus Implementation (no changes)
 - 2027 – discontinuation of gas bus purchases (may apply for a waiver till 2029)
 - 2035 – entire fleet converted to zero emission buses
- Piggybacking extension (expires in June)

State Aid – Executive Budget

Universal Pre-K

- Significant increase in funding
- Mandate by 2028-29 school year, districts to provide full-day UPK to any 4-year old whose parent requests it
- No cap on number of slots – mandate is for as many that need to be served
- Aid per pupil greater of \$10,000 or District's Selected Foundation Aid Per Pupil
- Programs grant-based and not assumed to be fully funded; local share may be likely

State Aid – Executive Budget

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
	25-26 Aid included in Budget (used Exec. Budget)	25-26 Aid Enacted Budget	Gen Aid Report as of 2/03/26 (Projected Actual)	26-27-Executive Budget (Governor's)	Increase / (Decrease) from Projected Actual (D)-(C)
Foundation Aid	10,048,154	10,048,154	10,048,154	10,976,158	928,004
BOCES	754,260	697,387	871,856	776,323	(95,533)
High Cost Excess Cost	261,578	273,680	150,230	241,306	91,076
Private excess cost	261,517	262,128	196,559	245,018	48,459
Hardware & Technology	25,574	25,596	25,596	26,498	902
Software, Library, Textbook	187,630	188,837	188,897	181,864	(7,033)
Transportation incl Summer	669,152	695,713	520,871	849,678	328,807
Building Aid	1,340,202	1,184,753	1,301,810	1,413,739	111,929
High Tax Aid	193,387	193,387	193,387	193,387	-
Total	13,741,454	13,569,635	13,497,360	14,903,971	1,406,611

- *Foundation aid could change in the legislative budget runs*
- *BOCES will be adjusted based on projections from them directly*
- *Transportation aid may require adjustment*
- *Building Aid – may adjust based on likelihood of project completion*

Budget Development Process – Key Dates & Future Meetings

March				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1st – Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Submitted to State Comptroller on or before this date.

3rd – Public Budget Work Session II

17th – Public Budget Work Session III

7th – Public Budget Work Session IV (Superintendent’s Recommended Budget)

21st – Board Budget Adoption/Property Tax Report Card/BOCES Budget Vote

5th – Annual School District Budget Hearing

19th – Budget Vote & BOE Elections



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Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Polls open at Ardsley High School

6:00am - 10:00am

2:00pm - 9:00pm



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Questions:

For additional information regarding the 2026-2027 Budget, please visit the District website at:

www.ardsleyschools.org

Or Email:

budget@ardsleyschools.org