



# 2026-27 Proposed Budget

---

APRIL 14, 2026

MOLLY MOORE, SUPERINTENDENT

ANNETTE RHEBERGEN, SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIAL

# Southwestern Central School District

Home of the Trojans



## Who We Are

At Southwestern, our shared core purpose, aspirations and expectations are clear:

## Our Mission

**Learning for All: Engaging and Preparing for Future Success**

## Our Vision

**Southwestern: A community providing a comprehensive and relevant education that enables every student to achieve.**

## Our Core Values

To accomplish our mission and achieve our vision, we will:

- provide a physically, socially, emotionally safe and inclusive learning environment
- demonstrate passion for our work and a commitment to our students
- always act with integrity, empathy, and acceptance
- hold each other and ourselves accountable for excellence in everything we do
- build mutually beneficial relationships with caregivers and community partners
- honor achievement and promote pride in ourselves, in our school, in our community, and in our region
- build and maintain rich traditions
- promote Trojan kindness for all

## Our Priority Areas 2025-2026

The Student Experience	Community Connections	The Staff Experience	Safe and Welcoming Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Behavioral expectations</li><li>•Advanced coursework/academic rigor</li><li>•Supervision</li><li>•Alternative pathways</li><li>•Learning for all</li><li>•Mental health</li><li>•Co-curricular opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Parent involvement</li><li>•Communication</li><li>•Connections with staff</li><li>•Capital improvement planning</li><li>•Partnerships w/ business and community organizations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Community building</li><li>•Professional learning communities</li><li>•Effective instructional practices</li><li>•Retaining and recruiting highly effective staff</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Positive Culture and Climate</li><li>•Safety &amp; Security</li><li>•Facility Enhancements</li><li>•Technology</li></ul>

**INTEGRITY, KINDNESS, CONNECTIONS, EXCELLENCE**



# Revenue Highlights

---

- Foundation Aid Increase of 1% (Per Governor Proposal)
- Expense Based Aid Increase of 1.17%\*
- Building Aid Decrease of 2.77% (per Municipal Solutions)
- Tax Levy Increase of 2.50%

\*Expense based aids are Building Aid, Transportation Aid, BOCES Aid, Excess Cost Aid and Instructional Materials Aid



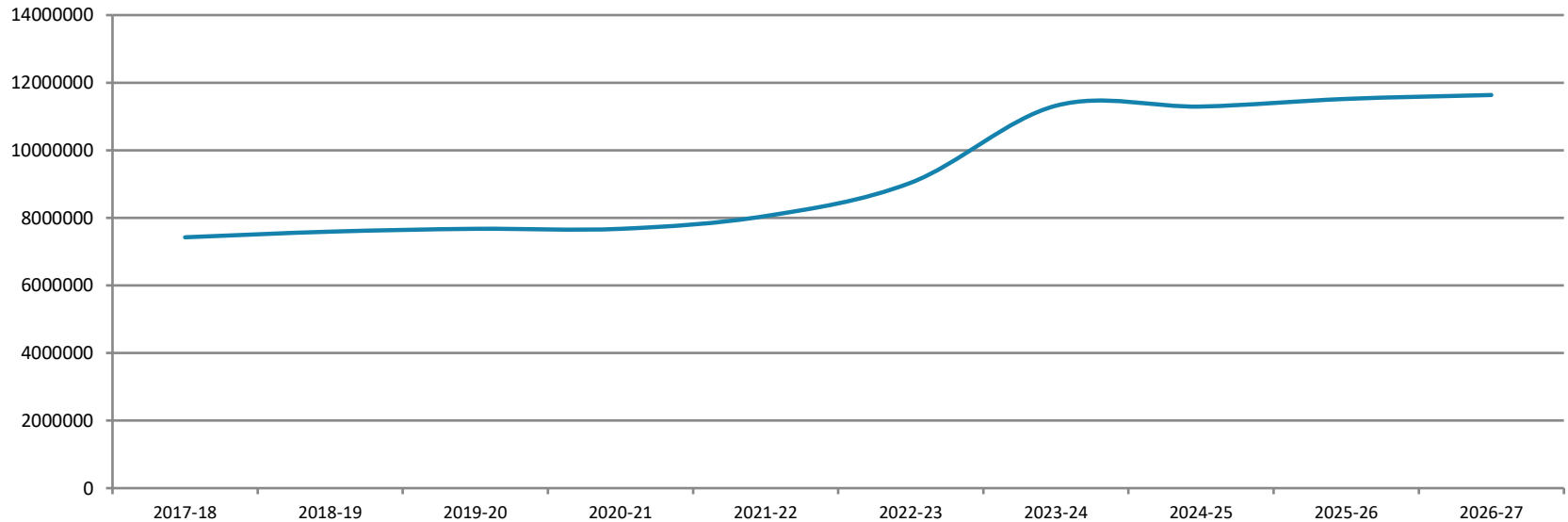
# Expense Highlights

---

- Professional Development for Staff
- Increased Social Emotional Support for Students
- Creation of Alternative Education Program
- Decreases to Utilities and Fuel
- Increase 15% in Health Insurance



# Net Foundation Aid History



	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
<b>Foundation Aid</b>	\$ 7,674,494	\$ 8,052,129	\$ 9,011,662	\$ 11,293,332	\$ 11,293,332	\$ 11,519,198	\$ 11,634,389
<b>Gap Elimination</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Supplemental deficit reduction</b>			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Gap Restoration</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Pandemic Reduction</b>	\$ (335,839)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Federal Cares Restoration</b>	\$ 335,839		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Local District Funding Adj.</b>		\$ (1,264,454)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus</b>		\$ 1,264,454	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 7,674,494	\$ 8,052,129	\$ 9,011,662	\$ 11,293,332	\$ 11,293,332	\$ 11,519,198	\$ 11,634,389
<b>Percentage change</b>	0.00%	4.92%	11.92%	25.32%	0.00%	2.00%	1.00%

# Fund Balance/Reserves/Transfers



	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 550,000	\$ 539,803	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 628,441	\$ 675,000
Reserves	\$ 180,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 302,965	\$ 558,751	\$ 541,165
Interfund	<u>\$ 34,000</u>	<u>\$ 34,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,100</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total	\$ 764,000	\$ 758,803	\$ 585,100	\$ 852,965	\$1,187,192	\$ 1,216,165

# Reserve Detail



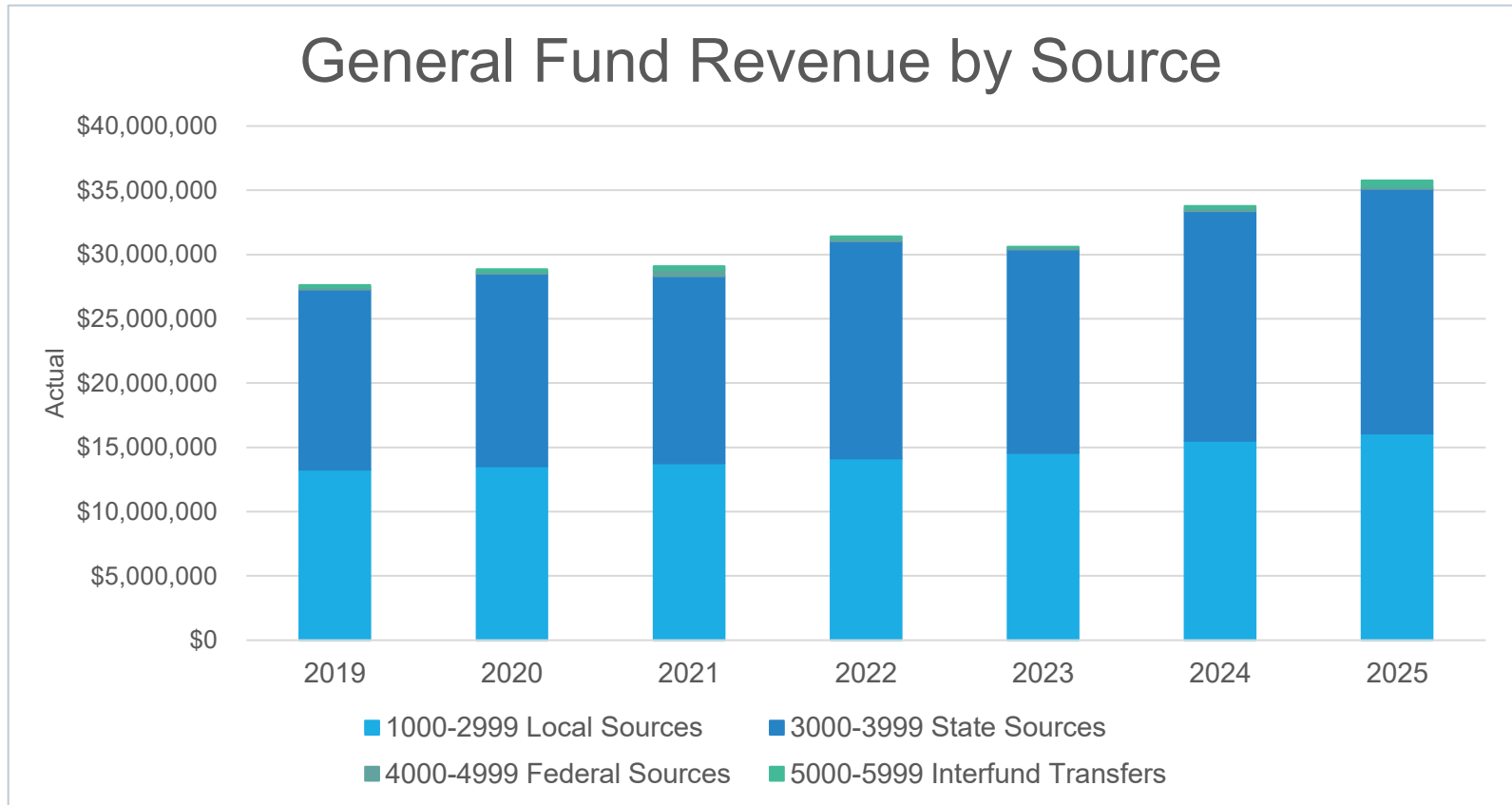
<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/25</b>	<b>Planned 2025-26</b>	<b>Planned 2026-27</b>
Reserve for Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by Board approval, no voter approval</li> <li>Use for payment of unemployment costs reimbursed to the State of NY</li> </ul>	\$77,314.28	\$10,000	\$10,000
Reserve for Retirement-ERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To finance retirement contributions payable to NYS Employee's Retirement system, no voter approval</li> <li>Established in March 2010</li> </ul>	\$1,024,247.06	\$175,000	\$200,000
Reserve for Retirement-TRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To finance retirement contributions payable to NYS Teachers' Retirement system, no voter approval</li> <li>Established in May 2019</li> </ul>	\$442,589.10	\$50,000	\$75,000
Reserve for Debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest earnings/unspent monies from capital projects</li> <li>Used to offset debt service expenses in the General Fund</li> </ul>	\$776,345.73	\$323,751	\$256,165
Reserve for Employee Benefit Accrued Liabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To finance termination sick payments payable to employees at retirement</li> <li>No voter approval</li> <li>Established in July 2021</li> </ul>	\$969,114.53	\$0	\$0



# Revenue Budget

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget
Property Tax Levy	\$ 14,134,592	\$ 14,352,265	\$ 14,711,072	\$ 15,078,849
Payment In Lieu of Taxes	\$ 161,461	\$ 314,143	\$ 248,587	\$ 170,405
Penalties on Taxes	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 35,000
State Aid	\$ 17,673,636	\$ 19,142,458	\$ 18,907,424	\$ 19,088,750
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 349,774	\$ 874,876	\$ 959,014	\$ 1,380,588
Medicaid	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 175,000
Federal Cares Restoration				
Interfund Transfer - Athletic Field	\$ 25,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interfund Transfer - Debt Service				
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 628,447	\$ 675,000
Unemployment Reserve	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Teachers Retirement System Reserve	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,000
Employees Retirement System Reserve	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 200,000
Reserve for Debt		\$ 192,965	\$ 323,751	\$ 256,165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 33,113,563</b>	<b>\$ 35,745,707</b>	<b>\$ 36,244,295</b>	<b>\$ 37,144,757</b>

# Revenues by Source



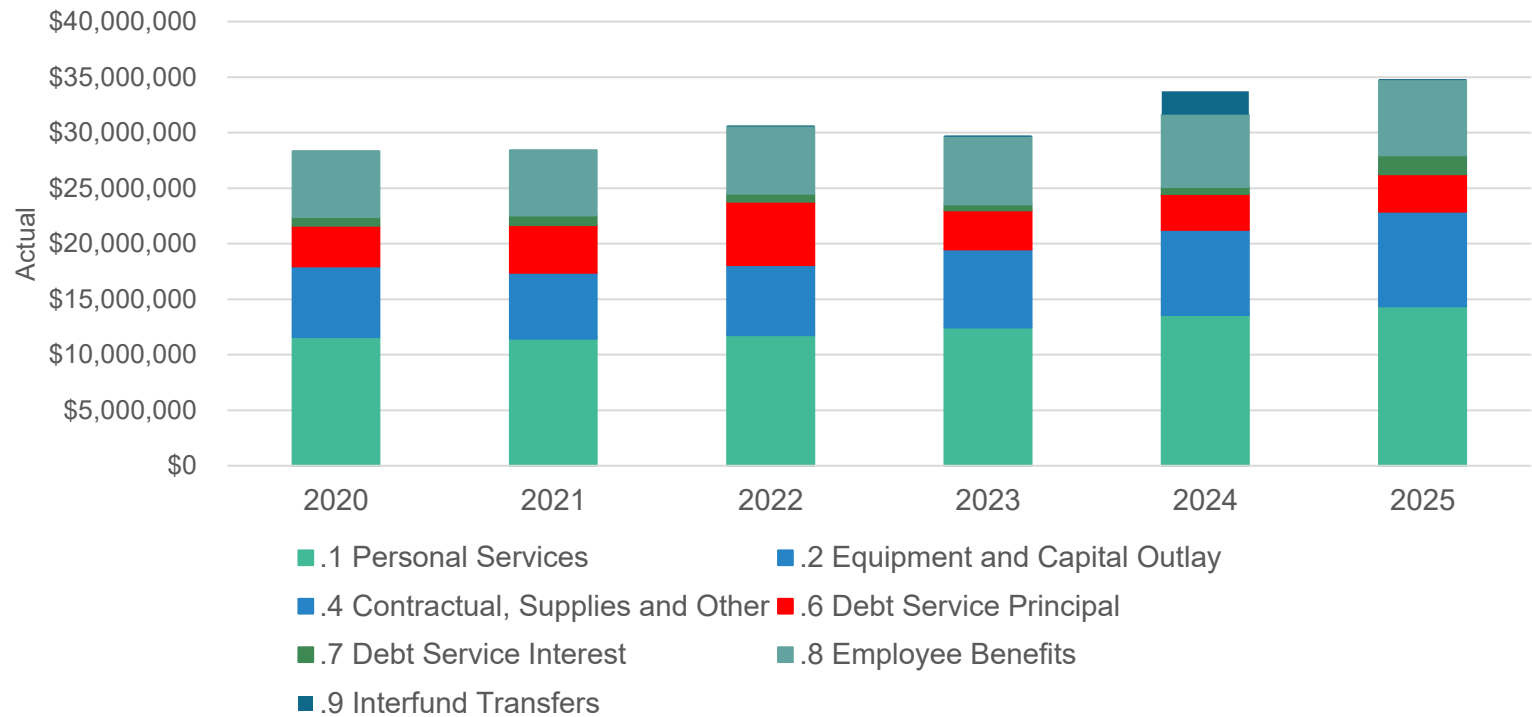


# Expenditure Budget

	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Board of Education	\$ 45,739	\$ 46,456	\$ 48,245	\$ 45,214
Central Administration	\$ 311,355	\$ 333,077	\$ 304,041	\$ 289,554
Business Administration	\$ 376,245	\$ 395,684	\$ 408,006	\$ 420,774
Legal & Public Communications	\$ 134,124	\$ 138,401	\$ 128,120	\$ 134,160
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$ 1,933,264	\$ 1,968,650	\$ 1,996,375	\$ 2,094,105
Central Services	\$ 960,131	\$ 998,234	\$ 1,035,183	\$ 1,098,942
Instructional Administration	\$ 1,347,963	\$ 1,622,362	\$ 1,636,644	\$ 1,649,940
Teaching	\$ 11,737,642	\$ 12,190,782	\$ 12,818,839	\$ 12,646,470
Special Education	\$ 3,291,567	\$ 3,776,265	\$ 3,684,826	\$ 3,825,421
Extra-Curricular/Community Service	\$ 122,932	\$ 135,654	\$ 140,395	\$ 261,896
Interscholastic Athletics	\$ 409,572	\$ 561,509	\$ 535,748	\$ 552,719
Transportation	\$ 1,281,472	\$ 1,407,447	\$ 1,535,083	\$ 1,607,646
Employee Benefits	\$ 7,109,114	\$ 7,180,335	\$ 7,555,621	\$ 8,035,485
Debt Service	\$ 3,952,443	\$ 4,890,851	\$ 4,317,169	\$ 4,382,431
Interfund Transfers	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 33,113,563</b>	<b>\$ 35,745,707</b>	<b>\$ 36,244,295</b>	<b>\$ 37,144,757</b>

# Expenditure Breakdown

## General Fund Expenses by Object





# Budget Summary

---

Item	Amount	Dollar Change	Percentage Change
Expenditures	\$37,144,757	\$900,462	2.48%
Tax Levy	\$15,078,849	\$367,777	2.50%



# Bus Purchase Proposition

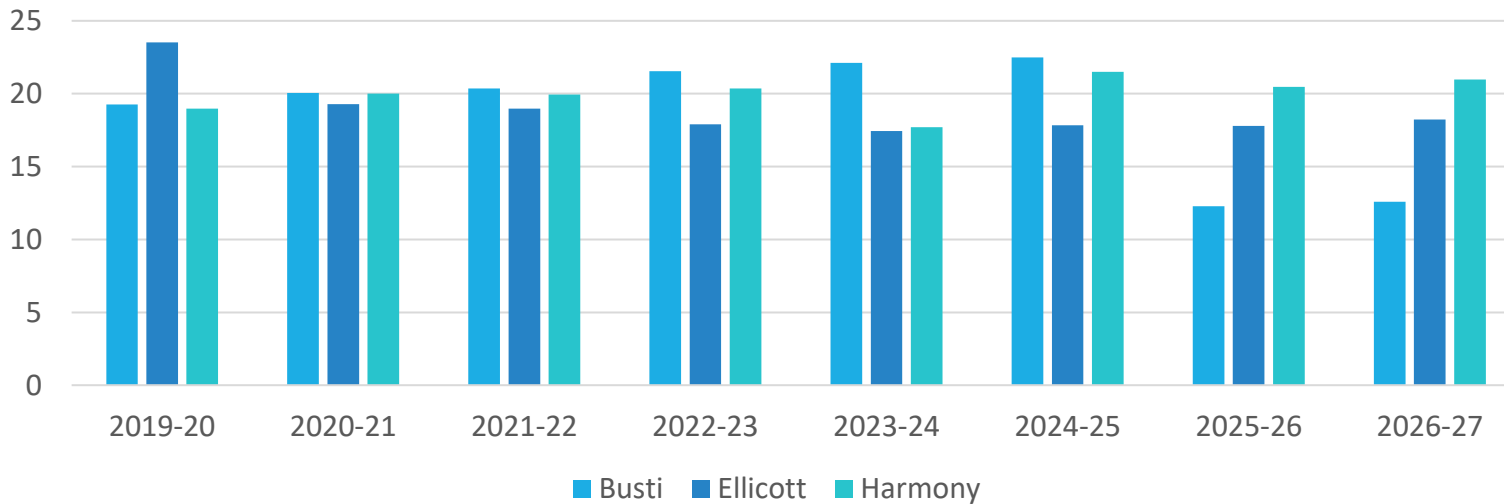
---

- Purchase (2) 66 Passenger Buses \$437,626.12
- Purchase (1) 60 Passenger Bus \$222,447.85
- Purchase (1) 35 Passenger Bus \$131,858.58
- Trade/Sell (1) 60 Passenger Bus \$14,000.00
- Trade/Sell (2) 66 Passenger Bus \$42,000.00
- Trade/Sell (1) 35 Passenger Bus \$15,000.00
- Purchase to be financed with Bond Anticipation Notes over 5 years



# Tax Rate History\*

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
<b>Busti</b>	\$ 19.254	\$ 20.054	\$ 20.364	\$ 21.548	\$ 22.123	\$ 22.495	\$ 12.275	\$ 12.581
<b>Ellicott</b>	\$ 23.525	\$ 19.292	\$ 18.979	\$ 17.894	\$ 17.438	\$ 17.832	\$ 17.789	\$ 18.234
<b>Harmony</b>	\$ 18.985	\$ 20.012	\$ 19.936	\$ 20.355	\$ 20.731	\$ 21.503	\$ 20.458	\$ 20.969



**\*calculations are based on 2025-26 final rolls and equalization rates. (Final assessments for 2026-27 are released after July 1, 2026) and are subject to change.**



## Cost of Tax Increase/\$100,000 Assessed Value\*

Town	Additional Cost without Star	Additional Cost with (BASIC) Star**	Additional Cost with (ENHANCED) Star**
Busti	\$30.68	\$30.68	\$0.00
Ellicott	\$44.47	\$44.47	\$44.47
Harmony	\$51.15	\$51.15	\$51.15

**\*calculations are based on 2025-26 final rolls, equalization rates and STAR amounts (Final assessments for 2025-26 are released after July 1, 2026) and are subject to change.**

\*\*New York State's School Tax Relief (STAR) Program provides property tax exemptions (also known as homestead exemptions) for New York homeowners. Basic STAR credit is available to anyone who owns and lives in his or her own home and earns less than \$500,000 (the income limit for Basic STAR exemption is \$250,000). Enhanced STAR is available to senior homeowners whose incomes do not exceed \$107,300 in 2025, and \$110,750 in 2026. The information above is based on estimated STAR amounts.



## Library Tax/\$100,000 Assessed Value\*

- Hazeltine Library-\$82,000
- Lakewood Library-\$215,000

Library	Budget Amount	Estimated Tax Rate/\$1000	Estimated Cost/\$100,000 Assessed Value
Hazeltine	\$82,000	\$0.068419	\$6.84
Lakewood	\$215,000	\$0.179390	\$17.94
Total	\$297,000	\$0.247809	\$24.78

**\*calculations are based on 2025-26 final rolls at 100% equalization (Final assessments for 2026-27 are released after July 1, 2026) and are subject to change. Individual equalization rates vary for each of the towns and will affect the rate.**

# Capital Improvements 2026: Total Authorization \$8,100,000

---

## High School

- Press Box replacement
- Stage Floor replacement
- Crawlspace renovations
- Cooling upgrades (result of maximum classroom temperature mandate)

## Middle School

- Restroom renovations
- Cooling upgrades (result of maximum classroom temperature mandate)

# Capital Improvements 2026: continued

---

## Elementary School

- House reconfigurations
- Added Storage solution
- New flooring and finishes
- Skylight replacement

## Bus Garage

- Cooling upgrades

# Financing the Project

Southwestern CSD  
**\$8,100,000 Potential May 2026 Vote**  
 \$2,000,000 Capital Reserve Contribution

This schedule is based on estimated assumptions known at this time. The final schedule may change significantly as the project progresses and actual factors are finalized such as project scope and timing, cash flow, building aid ratios and interest rates.

Total Project Cost:	\$8,100,000
Amount Borrowed:	\$6,100,000
Est. Bldg. Aid Ratio	78.70%
Est. % Project Aidable	83.50%

Fiscal Years	Principal June 15	Estimated Rates	Estimated Interest December 15	Estimated Interest June 15	Total Est. Interest	Total Est. Debt Service	Estimated Aid	Estimated Local Share
2028-29	\$181,000 *	3.250%	\$198,250 *	\$181,729 *	\$379,979	\$560,979	\$457,025	\$103,954
2029-30	334,000	3.625%	112,794	112,794	225,589	559,589	475,720	83,869
2030-31	345,000	3.625%	106,741	106,741	213,481	558,481	475,720	82,761
2031-32	355,000	3.625%	100,488	100,488	200,975	555,975	475,720	80,255
2032-33	370,000	3.625%	94,053	94,053	188,106	558,106	475,720	82,386
2033-34	380,000	3.625%	87,347	87,347	174,694	554,694	475,720	78,974
2034-35	395,000	3.625%	80,459	80,459	160,919	555,919	475,720	80,199
2035-36	410,000	3.750%	73,300	73,300	146,600	556,600	475,720	80,880
2036-37	425,000	3.750%	65,613	65,613	131,225	556,225	475,720	80,505
2037-38	440,000	3.750%	57,644	57,644	115,288	555,288	475,720	79,568
2038-39	455,000	3.750%	49,394	49,394	98,788	553,788	475,720	78,068
2039-40	475,000	4.000%	40,863	40,863	81,725	556,725	475,720	81,005
2040-41	495,000	4.000%	31,363	31,363	62,725	557,725	475,720	82,005
2041-42	510,000	4.000%	21,463	21,463	42,925	552,925	475,720	77,205
2042-43	530,000	4.250%	11,263	11,263	22,525	552,525	475,720	76,805
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,100,000</b>		<b>\$1,131,032</b>	<b>\$1,114,511</b>	<b>\$2,245,543</b>	<b>\$8,345,543</b>	<b>\$7,117,105</b>	<b>\$1,228,438</b>

Assumptions:

- Total Project Cost = \$8,100,000 (Scope at All Buildings - \$1,104,000 Unaided Press Box)
- \$2,000,000 Capital Reserve Contribution
- Voter approval granted May 2026
- SED approval granted January - June 2027
- Construction completed over summer 2027 & 2028; Final Cost Reports submitted December 2028
- Building Aid starts 2028-29 Fiscal Year; aid paid @ 3.00% est. assumed interest rate until bonding; then at estimated 3.5% DASNY interest rate

Borrowing Plan:

- \$6,100,000 BAN Issued 7/15/27 - 7/15/28 @ est. 3.25%
- \$6,100,000 BAN renewed 7/15/28 - 6/15/29 @ est. 2.35%
- \$181,000 principal reduction made and \$5,919,000 serial bond issued 6/15/29 through DASNY

\* Indicates payments made on BANS.

**Average: \$81,896**



## Average Cost of Project/\$100,000 Assessed Value\*

<b>Town</b>	<b>Cost/\$100,000 Assessed Value/year</b>
Busti	\$6.70
Ellicott	\$9.71
Harmony	\$11.17

**\*calculations are based on 2025-26 final rolls, equalization rates and STAR amounts (Final assessments for 2025-26 are released after July 1, 2026) and are subject to change.**

# Debt Service vs State Aid

