



Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Budget Presentation Seven: *Budget Adoption*

Antonio Santana, Superintendent of Schools

Jennifer Segui, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services



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South Country Central School District



Budget Presentations: *Schedule of Budget Meetings and Presentations*

January 22, 2025

- Review of the Budget Process and Long-Term Planning

February 5, 2025

- Tax Cap & Revenue Overview

February 26, 2025

- 1000 General Support, Operation & Maintenance, Security, Utilities
- 5000 Transportation
- 9000 Employee Benefits, Debt Service, Fund Transfers & Capital Expenditures

March 5, 2025

- 2000 Curriculum & Instruction

March 19, 2025

- Staffing Analysis

April 2, 2025

- Expenses and Revenues Update

April 23, 2025

- **Budget Adoption**



May 7, 2025

Budget Hearing

May 20, 2025

BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION



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South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - *Context to the Budget Process Considering the Fiscal Situation*



A careful and comprehensive analysis was completed to determine what budget lines could be decreased without any or minimal effects on programs and experiences.

A careful and comprehensive analysis was completed to determine what services / contracts could be reduced or eliminated without any or minimal effects on programs and experiences.

A careful and comprehensive analysis was completed to determine what staffing could be reduced or eliminated without any or minimal effects on programs and experiences.

Input was sought and accepted from consultants, professionals in education, and various stakeholders, including but not limited to our administrators, teachers, staff, and community members.

It is difficult for us to recognize that the financial challenges we're facing are very real. The rising costs of running the school district continue to outpace the revenue we receive, making this a challenging and complex time for us all.



South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - *All Presentations are Available on the SCCSD Website*



Board of Education Meeting Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Budget Presentation One: The Budget Process and Long Term Planning
Antonio Santana, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Segul, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

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Challenges:

Inflation and the Tax Cap Calculation

Federal Grants Period End Date

Differential in Building (State) Aid and Bond Payments

Decrease in Foundation Aid - *(2.17% decrease or 1.2 Million Dollars)*

Increases in Health Care, Transportation, and Special Education Costs

Strategies:

Ongoing review of programs to reduce expenditures.

Ongoing exploration of alternative revenue sources.
(Donations, Grants, etc)

Considerations for both cuts to foundation aid, end for federal funds, and a drop in building aid may involve the strategic use of reserves.

Engage in ongoing capital improvement projects, generating revenue in the form of building aid.

- Capital Reserve Votes (\$2.6 and \$2.2 Million)
- Energy Performance Contract (\$9 Million)
- Capital Transfer Budget Line / Capital Reserve Vote
- Future Bond Proposals

***Staff Reductions.**



South Country Central School District



Budget Process Recap - **All Presentations are Available on the SCCSD Website**



Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Budget Presentation Two: Tax Cap and Revenue Overview
Antonio Santina, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Segal, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

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The Tax Levy is local property tax revenue, approved by voters, that funds programs and services not covered by state aid for basic education.

The Tax Levy Limit caps how much school districts can increase property taxes to the lower of 2% or the inflation rate, with some exceptions.

Formula for Determining Tax Levy Limit

Step 1	Prior Year Tax Levy	69,094,953	
Step 2	Multiply: Tax Base Growth Factor	1.0022	
	Subtotal	69,246,962	
Step 3	Add: PILOTs from prior year	7,517,044	
Step 4	Less: Capital Tax Levy Exclusion Prior Year	-4,400,538	
	Subtotal	72,363,468	
Step 5	Multiply: Allowable Levy Growth Factor	1.02	
		73,810,737	
Step 6	Less: PILOTs Current Year	-7,742,234	
Step 7	Add: Available Carryover from Prior Year	0	
	Tax Levy Limit (Before Exclusions)	66,068,503	
Step 8	Add: Exclusions		
	Capital Tax Levy Exclusion Current Year	5,427,851	6,427,851
	Tax Levy Limit (with Exclusions)	71,496,354	72,496,354

The Eight Step Tax Levy Limit Formula:

The first seven steps determines the tax levy limit without exclusions. This is the base formula.

The eighth step factors *exclusions*, which determines the *Tax Levy Limit with Exclusions*.

The use of the formula is mandated by New York State.

Anticipated Tax Levy Limit:
3.48% or \$71,496,354

State Aid Decrease of \$1.2 Million

	2024-25	2025-26	Difference	% change
Foundation Aid	40,953,913	41,772,991	819,078	2.00%
Universal Pre-K	780,257	1,369,065	588,808	75.46%
BOCES	2,100,157	2,291,117	190,960	9.09%
High Cost Excess Cost	1,369,859	1,007,777	(362,082)	-26.43%
Private Excess Cost	283,462	503,473	220,011	77.62%
Hardware & Technology	54,552	51,638	(2,914)	-5.34%
Software, Library, Textbook	325,780	332,183	6,403	1.97%
Transportation	6,081,369	5,775,887	(305,482)	-5.02%
Building	3,308,677	1,499,197	(1,809,480)	-54.69%
High Tax Aid	2,794,176	2,794,176	0	0.00%
Total State Aid Projections	58,052,202	57,397,504	(654,698)	-1.13%
Less: Universal Pre K	(780,257)	(1,369,065)	(588,808)	
State Aid Adjusted Total	57,271,945	56,028,439	(1,243,506)	-2.17%

Description	2024-2025	Scenario A 2025-2026	Scenario B 2025-2026
Tax Levy	69,094,953	71,496,354	72,496,354
State Aid	56,040,788	56,028,439	56,028,439
PILOTs (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes)	7,517,044	7,742,234	7,742,234
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,155,000	2,047,250	2,047,250
Appropriated Fund Balance	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
ERS Contribution Reserve	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000
TRS Contribution Reserve	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000
Workers Comp Reserve	650,000	650,000	650,000
Unemployment Reserve	50,000	50,000	50,000
Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR)	750,000	750,000	750,000
Total:	143,057,737	145,564,277	146,564,277

Aside from looking at reducing expenditures, use of reserves has to be explored to mitigate the loss in state aid.

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The administration recommended **Scenario A** because the higher tax levy in Scenario B would only support capital improvements, not help offset rising operational costs like salaries.



South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - *All Presentations are Available on the SCCSD Website*



Board of Education Meeting Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Budget Presentation Three: **Expenditure Review - Administration, Transportation & Unallocated**
Antonio Santana, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Segui, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

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Administration (1000 Code)
represents all costs associated with the general administration and operation of the school district.



Transportation (5000 Code)
represents all costs associated with transportation, including field trips and athletics.



Unallocated (9000 Code)
represents all costs associated with employee entitlements and benefits, debt and governmental obligations.

At this point in the budget process, expenditures for these codes had increased by 7.21%



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A 1010.475-00 A 5546.400-03

What do the budget codes mean?

Revenue, Function, Object, & Location

Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed	Percentage Change
1000s	17,029,549	18,186,296	6.79%
5000s	10,212,264	11,830,544	15.85%
9000s	42,001,881	44,219,096	5.28%
Total	69,243,694	74,235,936	7.21%

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South Country Central School District



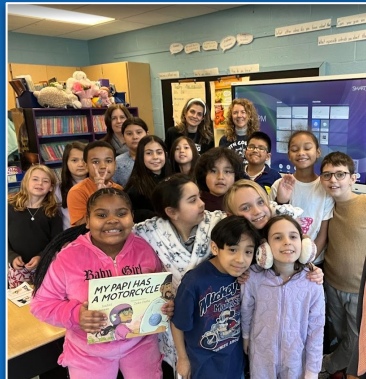
Budget Process Recap - **All Presentations are Available on the SCCSD Website**



Board of Education Meeting Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Budget Presentation Four: **Expenditure Review - Curriculum and Instruction**
Antonio Santana, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Segul, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

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Curriculum and Instruction (2000 Code) represents all costs associated with both what is taught and how it is delivered, including staff, supplies, and other miscellaneous expenses.

All general education classrooms district wide, special programs, student support outside of special education, and all of the contracts, materials and supplies associated with providing instruction.

At this point in the budget process, expenditures for these codes had increased by 5.06%

All special education programs district wide, including instruction, support services, tuition, and contracts, materials and supplies as required by law.

All extracurricular activities district wide, including interscholastic athletics, intramurals, and clubs.

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Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed	Percentage Change
1000s	17,029,549	18,186,296	6.79%
2000s	73,814,091	76,061,624	3.04%
5000s	10,212,264	11,830,544	15.85%
9000s	42,001,881	44,219,096	5.28%
Total	143,057,785	150,297,560	5.06%





South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap: **Context to Staffing Considerations RECAP**



Ensure that academic achievement as well as social and emotional needs are met and supported.

Ensure compliance with special education and SED regulations and mandates.

Maintain academic and extracurricular activities to the greatest extent possible.

Respond to the school district's declining enrollment in a responsive manner.

Due to unexpected and significant increases in operating costs, our financial challenges required staff reductions that align with our declining enrollment.

South Country Central School District				
Overall Enrollment				
Grade	Enrollment (March 2024)	Enrollment (March 2025)	Change	
UPK	116	114	-2	
Total Kindergarten - 12	3870	3759	-111	Percent
Classified Students (Special Education)	581	587	6	15.62%
English Language Learners (ELLs)	861	874	13	23.25%

Our plan to gradually reduce staff through attrition had to be accelerated into a short-term and immediate strategy due to the urgency of our situation.



South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - **All Presentations are Available on the SCCSD Website**



Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Budget Presentation Five: **Expenditure Review - Staffing Analysis**
Jason Huntsman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Antonio Santana, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Segui, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

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South Country aimed to preserve small class sizes as much as possible, contingent on available revenues, and to gradually adjust to declining enrollment; however, given unexpected increases in expenditures, the district had to accelerate the process.

There was a proposed reduction of one administrator and two teachers on special assignment (TOSA).

There was a proposed reduction of 7.2 elementary school teachers, resulting in small increase in class size.

There was a proposed reduction of 15.5 secondary school teachers and support staff spread across multiple departments.

Existing programs will be maintained, but may be delivered differently.

Next steps to include looking at additional reductions in non-instructional areas.

Staffing Summary (District Wide)

Area	Current Staffing (2024 - 2025)	Projected Staffing (2025 - 2026)	Change
Central Office	13.5	13.5	0
Administration and Support	37.6	34.6	-3
Elementary Staff	196.2	189	-7.2
Secondary Staff	237.75	222.3	-15.5
Non-Instructional Staff	300.5	300.5	0
Subtotal	785.55	759.9	-25.65

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South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap: *Financial Challenges Old and New*



OLD

	REVENUE / EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS				
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
REVENUE					
Local	\$78,416,997	\$81,550,301	\$83,962,491	\$82,795,646	\$83,520,427
State	56,290,788	55,400,786	56,387,721	57,393,619	58,418,854
Federal	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
TOTAL REVENUE	134,807,785	137,051,087	140,450,212	140,289,265	142,039,281
EXPENDITURES					
Salary and Benefit Costs	94,465,270	96,354,576	98,424,948	99,963,344	101,637,479
Other	41,572,079	41,999,729	42,283,937	40,199,588	39,990,001
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	136,037,349	138,354,305	140,708,884	140,162,932	141,627,480
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(\$1,229,564)	(\$1,303,218)	(\$258,673)	\$126,332	\$411,801

The projected deficits over the course of three years were due to the loss of federal funds and decreases in Foundation and Building Aid. (The actual reduction in state aid was \$1,244,264 based on the initial state budget proposal.)



In our projections, a deficit was anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year.

NEW

Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed	Difference	Percentage Change
Unallocated Insurance	733,699	901,847	168,148	22.92%
Special Education (Tuition & Other)	8,926,785	9,506,515	579,730	6.49%
Transportation	10,212,264	11,830,544	1,618,279	15.85%
Health Insurance	19,297,755	22,099,653	2,801,898	14.52%
Total	39,170,503	44,338,559	5,168,055	13.19%

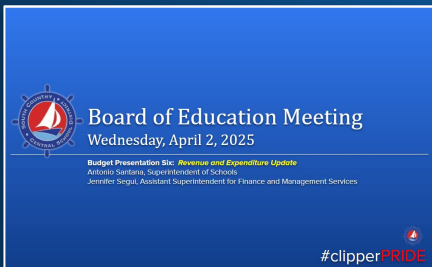


These projected increases are not inclusive of standard increases such as salary increments, standard operating costs, and other expenditures.



South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - **All Presentations are Available on the SCCSD Website**



Revenues: Overall, state aid was reduced by 2.17%, representing a decrease of just over \$1.2 million. The district is exploring opportunities to increase miscellaneous revenue, allocating more from the appropriated fund balance, and utilizing reserves to a greater extent. However, options for increasing revenue remain limited.

Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed	Percentage Change
1000s	17,029,549	17,973,496	5.54%
2000s	73,814,091	74,988,257	1.59%
5000s	10,212,264	11,830,543	15.85%
9000s	42,001,881	43,950,031	4.64%
Total	143,057,785	148,742,327	3.97%

At this point in the budget process, expenditures for these codes had been increased by **3.97%**

Description	Budget 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026
Tax Levy	69,094,953	71,496,354
State Aid	56,040,788	56,028,439
PILOTs (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes)	7,517,044	7,742,234
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,155,000	2,322,250
Appropriated Fund Balance	4,000,000	3,400,000
ERS Contribution Reserve	1,050,000	1,425,000
TRS Contribution Reserve	1,750,000	1,600,000
Workers Comp Reserve	650,000	650,000
Unemployment Reserve	50,000	150,000
Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR)	750,000	750,000
Total Revenue and Use of Reserves:	143,057,785	145,564,277
Total Expenditures:	143,057,785	148,742,327
Difference:	0	(3,178,050)

Expenditures: Even with the reductions to both expenditures across all budget lines and staffing, there was still a budgetary gap of **\$3,178,050**.

The \$3 million budget gap required the district to explore further reductions in both expenditures and staffing.

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South Country Central School District



Budget Process Recap - **Additional Staff Reductions**



Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Budget Presentation Five: **Expenditure Review - Staffing Analysis**
Jason Huntsman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Antonio Santana, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Segui, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services

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In addition to exploring options such as contract renegotiations, identifying new revenue sources, and reducing expenditures, South Country also had to reexamine staffing levels, as personnel costs represent the district's largest area of spending.

Maintaining a 10:1 teacher-to-student ratio was simply not sustainable given current fiscal realities.

There are additional instructional positions being reduced across departments due to retirements, separations, reassignments, and excessing.

There is an additional reduction of 16 non-instructional staff being proposed, including TAs, custodial, and safety officers. Reductions include retirements.

Once the budget is adopted, the district will revisit staffing to finalize a plan that best supports both students and staff while remaining within budgetary limits.

Existing programs will be maintained, but may be delivered differently.

The Teacher-to-Student Ratio will be 11:1.

Staffing Summary (District Wide)

Area	Current Staffing (2024 - 2025)	Projected Staffing (2025 - 2026)	Change
Central Office	13.5	13.5	0
Administration and Support	37.6	34.6	-3
Elementary Staff	196.2	182.6	-13.6
Secondary Staff	237.8	219.2	-18.6
Non-Instructional Staff	300.5	284.5	-16
Subtotal	785.6	734.4	-51.2



South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - **Additional Staff Reductions**



A careful and comprehensive analysis was completed to determine what budget lines could be decreased without any or minimal effects on programs and experiences.

A careful and comprehensive analysis was completed to determine what services / contracts could be reduced or eliminated without any or minimal effects on programs and experiences.

A careful and comprehensive analysis was completed to determine what staffing could be reduced or eliminated without any or minimal effects on programs and experiences.

Input was sought and accepted from consultants, professionals in education, and various stakeholders, including but not limited to our administrators, teachers, staff, and community members.

The financial challenges we're facing are very real. The rising costs of running the school district continue to outpace the revenue we receive, making this a difficult and complex time for all of us.



South Country Central School District

Budget Process Recap - *Final Proposed Budget*



Description	Budget 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026
Tax Levy	69,094,953	71,496,354
State Aid	56,040,788	56,028,439
PILOTs (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes)	7,517,044	7,742,234
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,155,000	2,322,250
Appropriated Fund Balance	4,000,000	5,000,000
ERS Contribution Reserve	1,050,000	1,425,000
TRS Contribution Reserve	1,750,000	1,600,000
Workers Comp Reserve	650,000	650,000
Unemployment Reserve	50,000	150,000
Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR)	750,000	750,000
Total Revenue and Use of Reserves:	143,057,785	147,164,277
Total Expenditures:	143,057,785	147,164,277

The final tax levy for the proposed budget is based upon the difference in the current tax levy (\$69,094,953) compared to the the proposed tax levy (\$71,496,354).

Appropriated Fund balance and reserves are being used to a larger intent.

The tax levy limit for the proposed budget is **3.48%**.

Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Proposed	Percentage Change
1000s	17,029,549	18,135,394	6.49%
2000s	73,814,091	74,249,190	0.59%
5000s	10,212,264	11,617,022	13.76%
9000s	42,001,881	43,162,671	2.76%
Total	143,057,785	147,164,277	2.87%

Balanced Budget Proposal

2.87% Budget to Budget Increase / **3.48%** Tax Levy Increase

At the end of the budget process, expenditures have been increased by **2.87%**

The final proposed tax levy is **3.48%**



South Country Central School District

Proposed 2025 / 2026 School District Budget Vote - Propositions



Proposition No. 1 - Authorization of Proposed Tax Levy Increase:

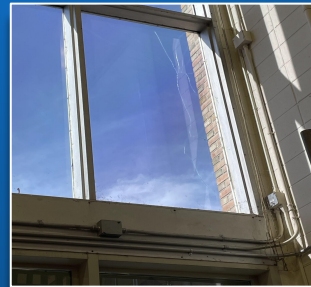
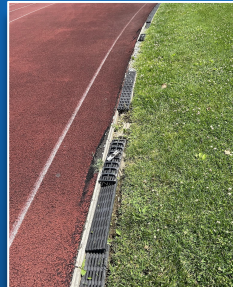
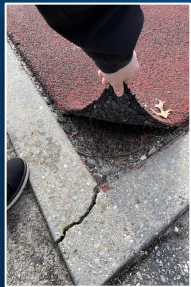
South County proposes the adoption the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the School District. An increase of 3.48%



Proposition No. 2 - Use of Capital Reserve:

South Country is proposing the use of \$2,315,000 in capital reserve funds for the following capital improvement projects at Bellport High School:

- \$1,340,000 for the replacement of the running track surface, resurfacing of field event areas, drainage upgrades, and installation of new visitor bleachers at Bellport High School.
- \$175,000 for the removal and replacement of gymnasium windows at Bellport High School.
- \$800,000 for the replacement of two boilers at Bellport High School.



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South Country Central School District



Budget Presentation Seven: *Schedule of Budget Meetings and Presentations*

~~January 22, 2025~~

- ~~• Review of the Budget Process and Long-Term Planning~~

~~February 5, 2025~~

- ~~• Tax Cap & Revenue Overview~~

~~February 26, 2025~~

- ~~• 1000 General Support, Operation & Maintenance, Security, Utilities~~
- ~~• 5000 Transportation~~
- ~~• 9000 Employee Benefits, Debt Service, Fund Transfers & Capital Expenditures~~

~~March 5, 2025~~

- ~~• 2000 Curriculum & Instruction~~

~~March 19, 2025~~

- ~~• Staffing Analysis~~

~~April 2, 2025~~

- ~~• Expenses and Revenues Update~~

~~April 23, 2025~~

- ~~• Budget Adoption~~



May 7, 2025

Budget Hearing

May 20, 2025

BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION



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Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Budget Presentation Seven: **Budget Adoption**

Questions?



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