

DRAFT BUDGET 2026 - 2027

April 21. 2026

Dr. Demario A. Strickland, Superintendent of Schools

DR. STRICKLAND

CORE BELIEFS

1. Every child has unlimited potential.
2. Literacy is the key to unlocking a child's future.
3. The quality of teaching determines the quality of learning.
4. Strong relationships create strong outcomes.
5. A child's ZIP Code should not determine their future.





MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

S H I N E S

FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

The Mount Vernon City School District is committed to excellence in education through our six foundational pillars that create an environment where every student **SHINES** and succeeds. These pillars guide our daily decisions, strategic planning, and vision for our students' future.

S — STUDENT-CENTERED EXCELLENCE

We prioritize every student's academic achievement, social-emotional growth, and individual potential. Through intentional guidance and high expectations, we bring students to where we are and empower them to take ownership of their path toward excellence. By equipping them with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive, students rise to new heights and sustain their own success.

H — HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION & INNOVATION

Our commitment to delivering rigorous, engaging, and culturally responsive teaching practices drives everything we do. We embrace innovative approaches, technology integration, and evidence-based strategies to ensure every classroom is a dynamic learning environment that prepares students for future success.

I — INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY & CULTURE

We foster a welcoming, safe, and equitable environment where all students, families, and staff feel valued and supported. By celebrating diversity and ensuring every voice is heard and respected, we create a culture where everyone belongs and can contribute to our shared success.

N — NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS

Strong collaborative relationships between schools, families, community organizations, and stakeholders are essential to our mission. Together, we create a network of support that extends learning beyond classroom walls and strengthens the entire Mount Vernon community.

E — EXCELLENCE THROUGH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We maintain fiscal responsibility through strategic budgeting, building healthy fund balances, and securing diverse funding sources. Our commitment to long-term financial stability and operational excellence ensures we can support our educational mission and protect against economic uncertainties while maximizing resources for student success.

S — SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS & SYSTEMS

We build and maintain efficient, effective operational systems that support teaching and learning. Through strategic planning, continuous improvement, and sustainable practices, we ensure our infrastructure, technology, and processes serve our educational mission for generations to come.

Through these six interconnected pillars, the Mount Vernon City School District creates a comprehensive foundation for educational excellence, community engagement, and sustainable growth ensures every student **SHINES.**

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GEMS OF INSTRUCTION

We are committed to ensuring that every student in Mount Vernon experiences high-quality learning, equity, and success in every classroom, every day. Our GEMS framework represents the brilliance of our students and our shared vision for teaching and learning.

GROWTH IN GRADE-LEVEL CONTENT

Students engage with grade-level content daily, persevering through rigorous and relevant learning experiences supported by scaffolds, feedback, and high expectations.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Engage daily with grade-level texts and tasks
- Persevere through rigorous work
- Use feedback and scaffolds to improve
- Ask clarifying questions

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Plan lessons prioritizing grade-level standards
- Provide scaffolds without reducing rigor
- Maintain high expectations
- Check for understanding and adjust



MASTERY OF THINKING AND LEARNING

Students do the majority of the cognitive work by developing and defending their thinking with evidence, engaging in opportunities that challenge, and extend ideas.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Do most of the talking and problem-solving
- Use evidence to justify reasoning
- Collaborate to refine and extend ideas
- Reflect on their learning process

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Pose high-level open-ended questions
- Facilitate discussions, not dominate
- Provide structures for evidence-based dialogue
- Design tasks beyond recall (analysis, evaluation, creation)

EMPOWERED AND ENGAGED LEARNERS

Students feel affirmed in safe, culturally, and linguistically responsive classrooms that foster agency, voice, and curiosity

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Express voice and choice in learning
- Contribute to discussions confidently
- Respect diverse perspectives
- Take academic risks safely

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Create culturally responsive classrooms
- Encourage multiple pathways to success
- Promote safety and belonging
- Use student interests to spark curiosity

SUCCESS MEASURED THROUGH PROGRESS

Students understand the purpose of their learning and regularly track their progress toward meeting and exceeding goals, with growth celebrated for all.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Set personal learning goals
- Track their progress using tools
- Celebrate growth and improvement
- Identify next steps for learning

TEACHERS SHOULD:

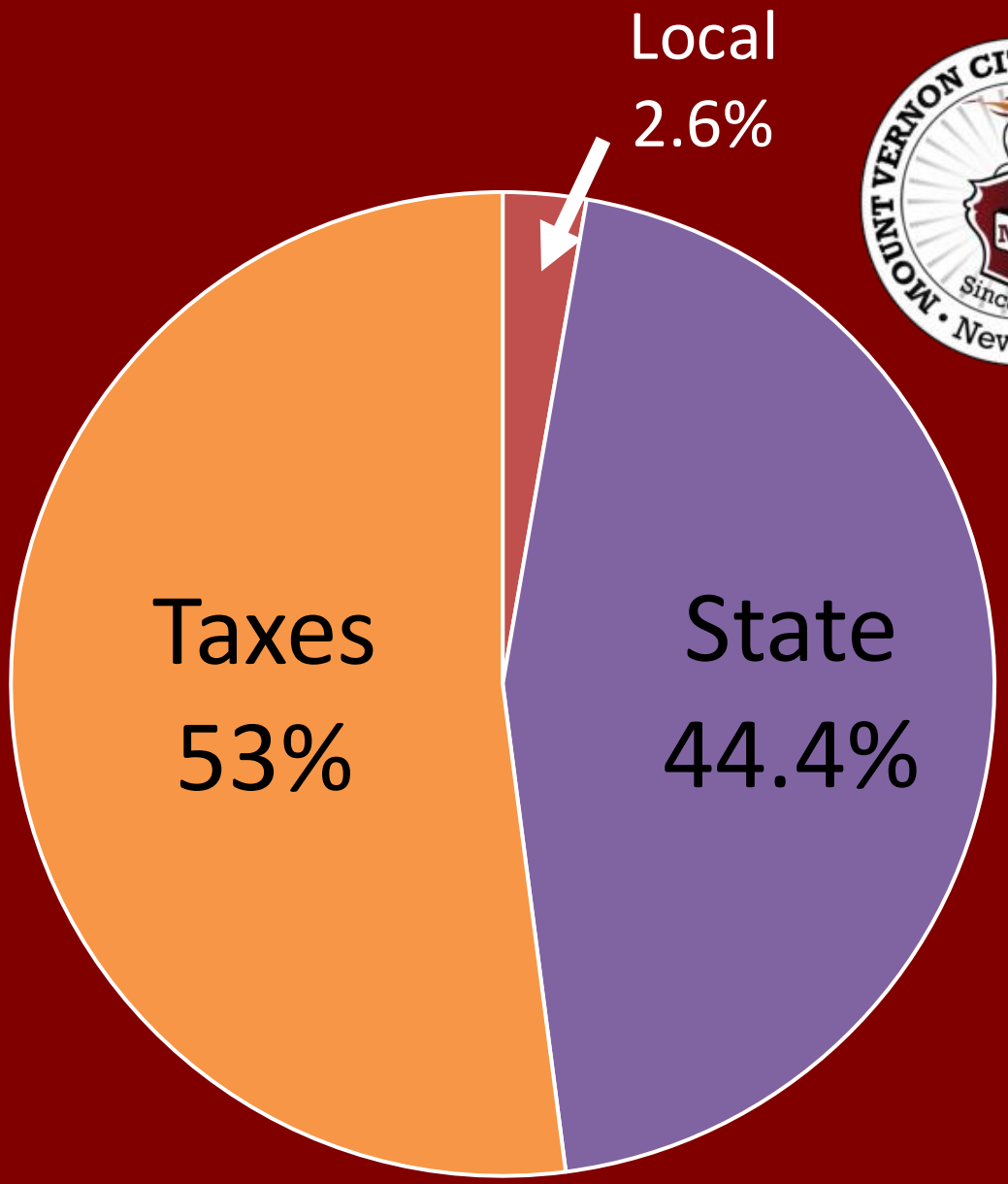
- Make goals and success criteria explicit
- Provide timely, specific feedback
- Use data transparently to adjust instruction
- Celebrate progress for all learners

Shining Brilliance in Every Classroom

MOUNT VERNON
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-26 GOALS

- Grade 3 students achieving proficient or above on the NYS ELA Assessment will increase from 48% in June 2025 to 53% in June 2026
- Grade 5 students achieving proficient or above on the NYS Mathematics Assessment will increase from 39% in June 2025 to 44% in June 2026
- The percentage of 9th grade students earning 5 or more credits will increase from 75.8% in June 2025 to 80.8% in June 2026
- The four-year cohort graduation rate will increase from 79% in August 2025 to 84% in August 2026



26-27 Revenue Sources

General fund revenue is the amount of funding received from external agencies.

The Districts primary sources are from the City of Mount Vernon Taxes and State Aid.

DRAFT BUDGET REVENUE

Revenues	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Adopted	2026-27 Projected	2026-27 % of Total		$ Change 2026 to 2027	% Change
Local	$14,020,455	$8,198,702	$7,190,623	2.6%		($1,008,079)	-12%
State	118,757,536	121,027,681	122,593,997	44.4%		1,666,316	1.4%
Taxes	140,582,297	142,980,232	146,457,236	53.0%		3,477,004	2.4%
Grand Total	$273,360,287	$272,206,615	$276,241,856			$4,035,241	1.5%

- Real Property Taxes to increase by 1.99%
- State Foundation Aid based on 1%
- Other revenue sources to remain stable
- Total General Revenue to increase to

  $276.2 million from $272.2 million

2026-2027 Revenue – Key Assumptions

- Salary expenditures to decrease by $1,534,449
- Healthcare to increase by $3.4 million or 8.7%
- Contractual costs increase to $67.7 million or 6.1% due to charter school enrollment increases
- Other expenditures to stay flat

2026-2027 Expenses – Key Assumptions

Options for 2026-27 Tax Levy

2025-26 Levy	Line 19 Cap % (Limit 2.5%)	Line 20 (Max is $3.5M)	Line 16 Cap $ (Limit $144M)	2026-27 Options (Line 18)
$ 140,433,372	**0.00%**	**$ -**	**143,227,996**	**143,227,996**
	0.25%	$ 351,083	140,784,455	140,784,455
	0.50%	$ 702,167	141,135,539	141,135,539
	0.75%	$ 1,053,250	141,486,622	141,486,622
	1.00%	$ 1,404,334	141,837,706	141,837,706
	1.25%	$ 1,755,417	142,188,789	142,188,789
	1.50%	$ 2,106,501	142,539,873	142,539,873
	1.99%	**$ 2,794,624**	**143,227,996**	**143,227,996**
	2.00%	$ 2,808,667	143,242,039	143,242,039
	2.25%	$ 3,159,751	143,593,123	143,593,123
	2.49%	$ 3,496,791	143,930,163	143,930,163
Max 2026-27 ->	**2.60%**	$ 3,580,700	**144,014,072**	144,014,072

Revenue – Tax Cap Projections



Balancing the Budget

- Current budgeted General Fund Revenue of $276,241,856.
- Current budgeted General Fund Appropriations of $276,241,856.
- Reorganization of Central Office Positions, as well as adding positions noted in the Academic and Financial Plan (Director of Bilingual Education and World Languages, etc.)
- Finding efficiencies within the current budget, as well as leveraging Title funds for Gifted & Talented, as well as an addition of Math Support Specialists



Continued Steps in the Budget Process

- Continue to look for efficiencies to replace staff that are not hired with the current needs of the district
- Budget already includes potential increases for MVAG & CSEA for contract renewal
- Continued advocacy for increased funding by NYS Governors Department of Budget
- Community Forums with numbers for the Mount Vernon Community
- Decision on Tax Increase based on Governor's final aid run
- Continue to find opportunities to increase fund balance in our ever-changing federal landscape

March 2026

~~**March 2, 2026:** Balanced Budget to the State Monitor for SED Submission; Draft Budget Book; Submit 2026-27 calculation for Tax Levy Limit to NYS Comptroller, Tax and Finance and SED~~

~~**March 10, 2026:** State Monitor's Budget Presentation~~

~~**March 24, 2026:** Board adopts Budget for 2026-2027 (Last date NYSED to adopt Budget April 24th)~~

~~April 2026~~

~~**Tuesday, April 7, 2026:** Adopt Proposed 2026-27 Budget by Board of Education~~

Tuesday, April 21, 2026: SW BOCES Administrative Budget and Trustee(s) Vote & Budget Talks with Dr. Strickland @ Pennington

Friday, April 24, 2026: Property Tax Report Card (Last Date to Submit to NYS 4/27/2026)

Monday, April 27, 2026: Transmit to SED NYS Property Tax Report Card and local newspapers of Property Tax Report Card

May 2026

Tuesday, May 5, 2026: District-Wide Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m. - Education Center; Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

May 5-19, 2026: Budget Statement and Attachments available upon request

Tuesday, May 12, 2026: Absentee & Early Mail ballot applications must be received if ballots are to be mailed

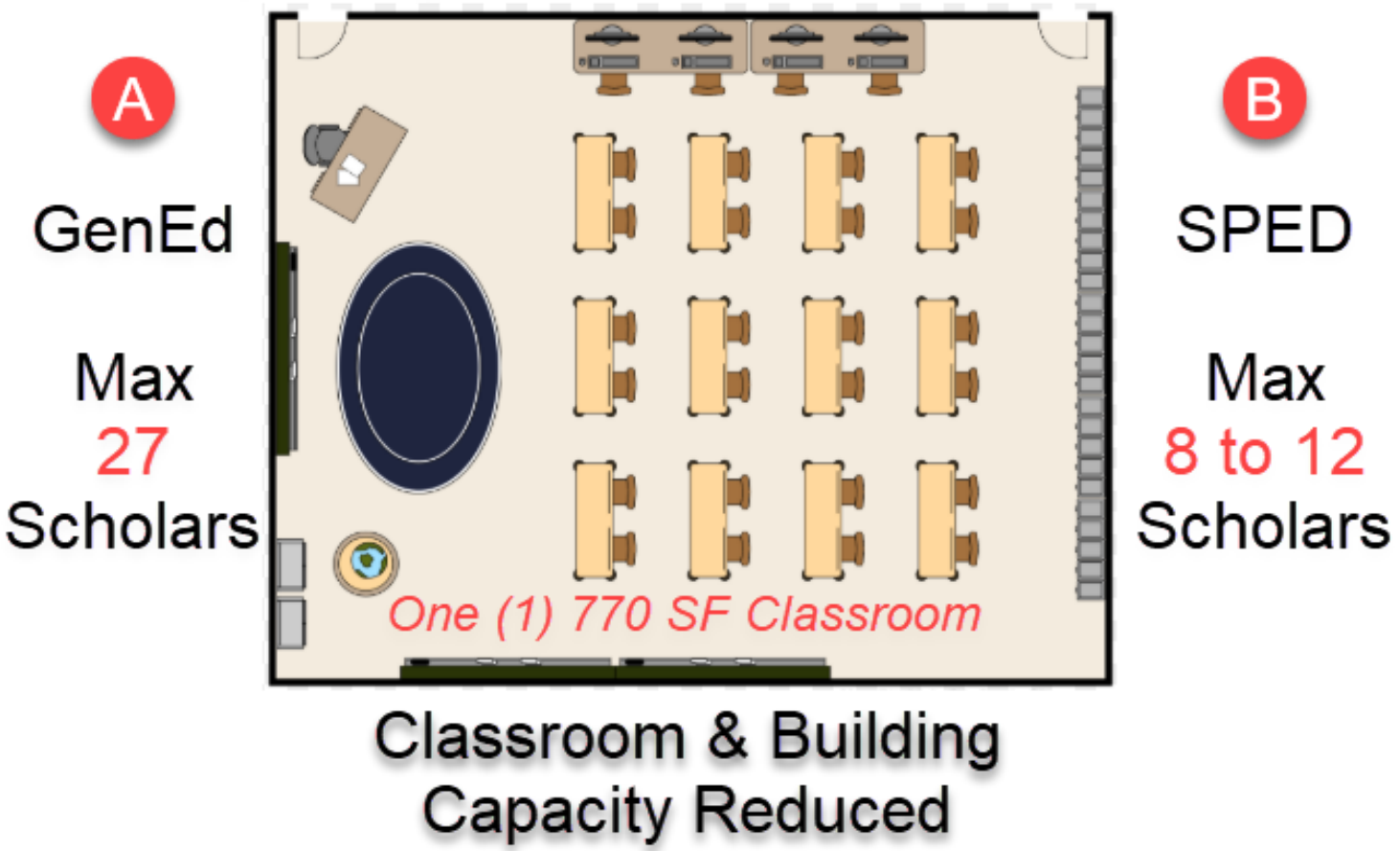
Wednesday, May 13, 2026: Required Budget Notice and Budget Newsletter mailed (Last Date May 13, 2026)

Tuesday, May 19, 2026: Annual Meeting (VOTE for Budget and Proposition(s) and elect Board)

IMPORTANT DATES

1 - "*School utilization, including current capacity versus enrollment and any considerations around consolidation or reconfiguration.*"

Driving Factors Beyond Enrollment Impacting Maximum Use of Facilities



Classroom & Building Capacity Reduced

2- "*Staffing alignment with enrollment trends, including how vacancies and new positions are being evaluated*"

2025-26 Districtwide Recalibration After Rezoning & Building Closures Impacting:

- Teachers – 48
- Teaching Assistants – 30

Any vacancies and new positions are now weighed on consistent student teacher ratios across the District

3 - "*Key cost drivers*" impacting the Budget increase:

- Charter Schools: $17.5 Million - **+25%**
- Special Education: $40.0 Million - **+25%**
- Transportation: $16.1 Million – **(8%)**
- Healthcare: $33.5 Million - **+8.7%**

Major Cost Factors with very large yearly increases

Charter School Spending

MVCSD 2026-2027 Budget Expenses (Appropriation)
Version - MODEL F (by Object)

TUITION: CHARTER SCHOOLS with ENROLLMENT DATA

Fund A

Function	Object Description	Function	ObjectDescription	24-25 Expensed	25-26 Adopted Budget	26-27 Proposed	$ Amt Diff	% Amt Diff
2110	Tuition	Regular Instruction	CHARTER SCHOOLS	12,782,272	13,714,862	17,143,578	3,428,716	25.0%
			Rate per Student (*Est 2% increase 26/27*)		19,682	20,076	394	2.0%
			Total Students		697	854	**157**	22.5%
			Total Students - April 2026		**814**			
			Actual Enrollment Increase in 2025/26		**117**			
			Low Enrollment Increase Projected 2026/27				**40**	
			If 26/27 increases by 120 students (40 students budgeted + 80)				80	
			Project Budget Shortfall 2026/27				**1,606,051**	
			Revised Counts		13,714,862	18,749,629	5,034,767	36.7%

NOTE: This would require a 3.1% tax increase (2026/27 tax cap is 2.6%, proposed increase is 1.99%)

4 - "*Operational efficiencies already underway (e.g., shared services, grant utilization, cost-saving initiatives)*"

- Facility utilization reviews of existing buildings based on the latest Building Conditions Survey reports
- Internal reviews of technology and financial systems
- Special Education reviews for internal services vs contract services



5 - "*A longer-term plan that connects enrollment trends, facilities, and financial sustainability*"

- Development of a Five (5) Year Strategic Plan is underway that incorporates academics, facilities, finances and many other goals
- Preliminary meetings with SED management has already commenced along with the State Monitor

MVCSD 2026-2027 Budget Expenses (Appropriation)

as of 03/18/2026

Version - MODEL E (by SED DEPT)

			Adopted	Proposed		
Func2Description	**Func2 SED Dept**	**24-25 Expensed**	**25-26 Budget**	**26-27 E-Final**	**$ Amt Diff**	**$ Diff**
a - General Support	10-Board of Education	442,040	396,756	401,316	4,560	1.1%
a - General Support	12-Central Administration	718,937	413,396	406,990	-6,406	-1.5%
a - General Support	13-Finance	1,961,068	2,452,439	2,539,010	86,571	3.5%
a - General Support	14-Staff	3,265,591	3,162,330	2,917,044	-245,286	-7.8%
a - General Support	16-Central Services	25,294,963	27,646,003	28,709,572	1,063,569	3.8%
a - General Support	19-Special Items	6,555,599	7,912,537	7,912,537	0	0.0%
a - General Support Total		**38,238,198**	**41,983,461**	**42,886,469**	**903,008**	**2.2%**
					0	0.0%
b - Instruction	20-Admin & Improvement	8,823,246	8,682,696	7,967,233	-715,463	-8.2%
b - Instruction	21-Teaching	77,752,157	72,685,248	76,749,018	4,063,769	5.6%
b - Instruction	22-Teaching - Special Education	40,212,241	41,025,260	41,057,962	32,702	0.1%
b - Instruction	26-Instructional Media	8,359,366	4,952,462	4,965,625	13,163	0.3%
b - Instruction	28-Pupil Services	8,952,197	9,694,991	9,057,982	-637,009	-6.6%
b - Instruction Total		**144,099,206**	**137,040,658**	**139,797,820**	**2,757,162**	**2.0%**

6- "*Instructional versus administrative spending*"

Better Schools = Higher Property Values

Investing in our schools is investing in our community

+20%

avg. higher home value

homes near top-rated schools

+2.5%

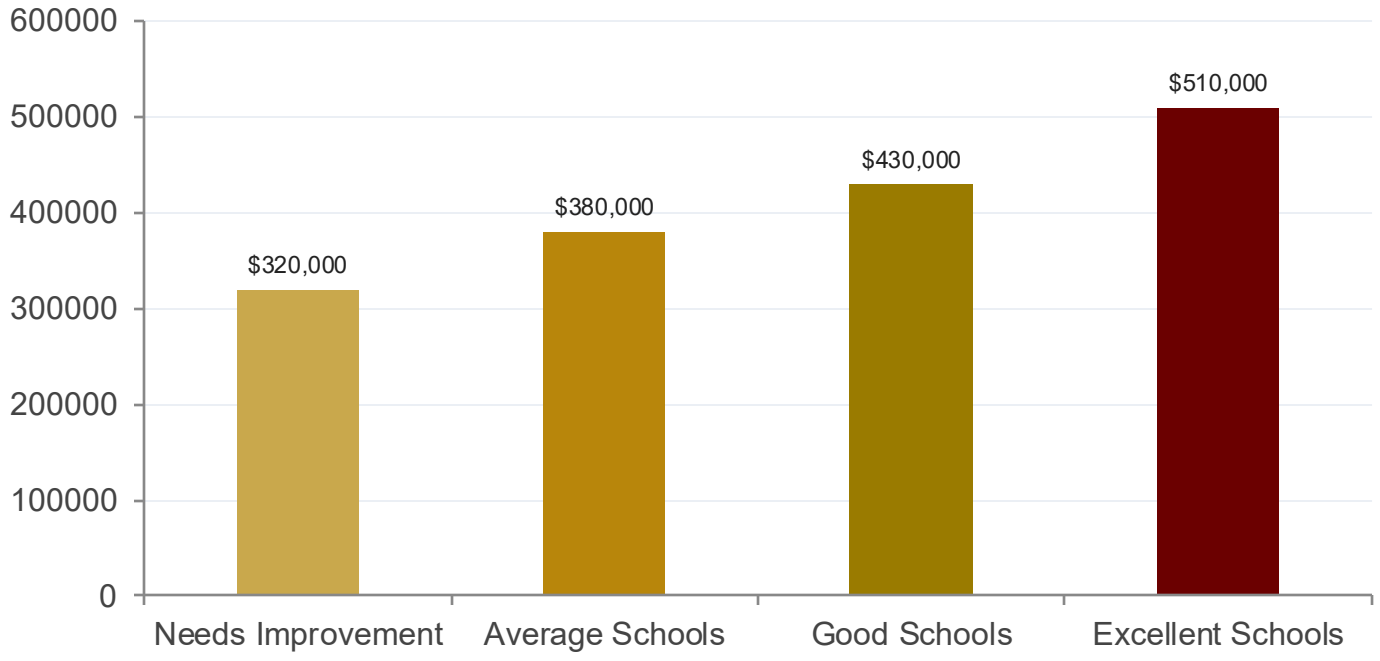
boost in nearby home prices

per school quality rating increase

91%

cite schools as top factor

of buyers in home purchase decisions



The cycle a strong budget creates

Budget passes
Community invests

▼

Better schools
Programs & staff funded

▼

Higher home values
Community attracts buyers

▼

More tax revenue
Stronger Mt. Vernon

Where We Stand: Academics & Fiscal Health

Mt. Vernon City School District | 2025–2026

✓

Academic Standing

All 13 Schools + District

LSI Standing

Local Support for Improvement

Every school in Mt. Vernon has met New York State's academic accountability standards, a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff.

vs.

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Fiscal Health

NYS Comptroller's Office Rating

Significant Fiscal Distress

NYS Comptroller Designation

Despite our academic success, the NYS Comptroller has rated the district in Significant Fiscal Distress. This budget is our roadmap to financial stability, and your support makes that possible.



Thank you!

Questions?

https://tejoin.com/scroll/192397702

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