

The 2026 Bus Purchase Proposition

On **May 19, 2026**, the Blind Brook community will vote on a proposition to authorize the use of the **Fleet Capital Reserve Fund** to acquire two new vehicles. This plan ensures our students continue to travel safely while expanding our District's travel capabilities—at **no additional cost to the local tax levy**.

The Official Ballot Proposition

Below is the formal language as it will appear to voters:

PROPOSITION: Shall the Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District be authorized, to expend from the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District Bus Fleet Reserve Fund, which was established on May 16, 2023 ("Reserve Fund") pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law, for the purchase and acquisition of one (1) seventy (70) passenger school bus and one (1) twenty (20) passenger school bus, in the approximate amount of \$257,904.00, and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend from the Reserve Fund therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$257,904.00?

Proposal

The District is requesting permission to spend **\$257,904** from our existing "savings account" (the Fleet Capital Reserve) to keep our fleet modern, reliable, and versatile.

Vehicle	Capacity	Primary Purpose	Cost
Class C Bus	70 Passengers	Fleet Replacement: Replacing one aging bus	\$162,334
Class A Bus	20 Passengers	Strategic Addition: Efficiency & Parkway access	\$95,570
Total Project			\$257,904

This proposal is driven by three key operational needs:

1. The "Last Call" for Diesel Efficiency

Under current New York State law, all new school buses purchased after **July 1, 2027**, must be zero-emission (electric).

- **The Opportunity:** This 2026 purchase represents a final window to acquire proven, lower-cost diesel technology before the mandate takes effect.
- **Fiscal Logic:** Buying now allows the District to maximize our current fueling infrastructure while we plan for the long-term, complex transition to an electric fleet.

2. Replacing an Aging Asset

One of our high-capacity 70-passenger buses is reaching the end of its reliable service life.

- **Reliability & Savings:** Replacing this ageing vehicle allows us to avoid costly rentals and emergency repairs that occur when older buses are pulled from service.

- **Modern Safety:** The new Class C bus features the latest safety technology and meets higher clean-engine standards.

3. Unlocking New Routes (NYC & Parkways)

The addition of the **20-passenger Class A bus** provides a critical operational capability:

- **Parkway & City Travel:** Unlike full-sized buses, this vehicle is permitted on NYS Parkways and allowed on all NYC streets, making it ideal for specialized field trips and academic competitions.
- **Operational Efficiency:** It allows us to transport small groups without the fuel waste and wear-and-tear of running a 70-passenger bus half-empty.

Funding the Purchase: No New Taxes

It is critical for residents to know that **this purchase will not increase your tax bill.**

- **The Capital Reserve:** This is a voter-approved fund where the District has already set aside money specifically for this purpose.
- **Authorization Only:** The money is already "in the bank." We are simply asking for your legal permission to spend it on these specific vehicles.
- **Maximizing State Aid:** These purchases remain eligible for NYS Transportation Aid, meaning a significant portion of the cost will be reimbursed to the District in the coming years.

"By using the Capital Reserve, we are able to purchase these buses without asking for a single new tax dollar."

Voting Information

- **Date:** May 19, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- **Location:** Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School

Questions?

We believe in transparency. For more information, please review our Budget presentations or contact: Laurie Baum, *Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Facilities* at LBAUM@BLINDBROOK.ORG.