



BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET 2026

2026-2027 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET



VOTE • May 19, 2026

School Budget Vote & Trustee Election

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

See Page 4 for voting locations

The proposed budget:

- Preserves all programs and student services.
- Expands postsecondary options through Graduation PLUS+.
- Carries a tax levy increase within allowable tax cap.



This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call (631) 434-2334.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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- Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*
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- Eileen Harman, *Trustee*
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- Wanda Ortiz-Rivera, *Superintendent of Schools*

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR *Board of Education*

Dear Brentwood Community,

This year has been a beautiful reminder of what makes Brentwood so special. Our students continue to inspire us every day with their resilience, their talent and the many ways they bring pride to our schools. Together, as a community, we have continued to grow, to support one another, and to celebrate the many accomplishments that make us who we are.

In partnership with our superintendent and her administrative team, we are proud to present the proposed 2026-2027 school budget. This budget reflects our commitment to maintaining all existing programs, expanding opportunities for our students and continuing to strengthen our schools, while remaining within the allowable tax levy cap. It is a plan that balances responsibility with our deep belief in the potential of every child.

As a district, we remain deeply committed to our Graduation PLUS+ vision, ensuring that every student graduates with the skills, experiences and opportunities needed for success in college, career and life. This budget continues to support that work by investing in programs and pathways that prepare our students for a bright and meaningful future.

As you read through this bulletin, we hope you see not only the investments being made in our facilities and programs, but also the heart of our district. The highlights included represent just a glimpse of the incredible work happening across Brentwood each day.

On Tuesday, May 19, residents will vote on two Board of Education seats, currently held by Eileen Harman and Brandon Garcia, as well as two propositions related to student transportation within designated child safety zones for the Freshman Campus and Brentwood High School beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. We encourage all members of our community to participate in this important vote. Your voice matters, and your continued partnership is what helps Brentwood thrive.

With gratitude,

Eileen Felix, *President*, Julia Burgos, *First Vice President*, Cynthia Ciferri, *Second Vice President*, Hassan Ahmed, Brandon Garcia, Eileen Harman and Maria Malave, *Trustees*, Jalline Guevara, *Student Ex Officio Member*



Board Candidate Bios

Seat 1: Brandon Garcia (incumbent)

Brandon Garcia: Brentwood High School graduate, father and current board trustee seeking re-election. I bring leadership experience as an operations manager, U.S. Air Force veteran and EMS volunteer. Over the past three years, I have worked to expand academic opportunities, strengthen student supports and improve school facilities. I am running to continue building on progress, focusing on student success, safety, mental health resources and preparing every student for college, careers and life.



Seat 1: Thomas Wilson

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: Ministry leadership since 2014 - Current; Housing Authority Board Member 2023-2025; Homeless coalition Board Member 2025- current

FAMILY INFORMATION: Moved his family to Brentwood in 2017 and has three children who are full-time students has always been an active father in all of his children lives.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: is a member of several local organizations.

REASON FOR RUNNING: As a Brentwood resident and a parent I will bring my expertise to board if elected board, and treasurer experience, working with children and adults with disability advocating for individuals



Seat 1: Carlos Gomez

Born and raised in Brentwood and a proud Brentwood graduate, I've built my leadership by serving and understanding my community's needs. I'm running to better support our students, expand bilingual representation, and create real opportunities for a stronger, more inclusive future.



Seat 2: Eileen Harman (incumbent)

My name is Eileen Harman. I am running for re-election on the Brentwood Board of Education. I have lived in Brentwood for over 60 years and retired from Brentwood, teaching 26 years. I was a co-teacher for ENL students. I was a volunteer member of the Dream Team, granting wishes for students. I taught after-school remedial math and language arts. I was a member of an instructional support team. I advocated for students both in the classroom and up in Albany.



Seat 2: Dawn Forde

I have been a Brentwood School District resident for over 30 years and have been an active member of the PTA and other community organizations. As a school board member, my priority will be to make sure that the students receive a high quality education and that our school district brings new programs and resources to our kids. I am the proud mother of three Brentwood graduates who have gone on to have successful careers!



Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any capital projects included in the budget?

Yes, there is \$36,000,000 in the transfer to capital line which will allow the District to construct additional classroom space at four elementary schools. In addition, the funding will allow for the completion of Phase II of the High School field upgrades.

Are there any special propositions on the ballot?

Yes. Voters will decide on Proposition 2 for Freshman Campus transportation at an estimated

annual cost of \$120,519.17 and Proposition 3 for Brentwood High School transportation at an estimated annual cost of \$843,634.19, with both services beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

Are there any multiyear deals in the budget?

Yes, the district will look to save taxpayer dollars by entering into multiyear deals in the following areas: Copiers, software programs, curriculum items, secure socket layer certificates, hardware items, storage containers and mail machines.

What is a contingency budget?

A contingency budget is the maximum amount

authorized by law that a district can impose on the community if the school budget is voted down. If the district were required to adopt a contingency budget, that would require \$38,118,400 to be cut from the proposed budget. The district would also be forced to uphold certain expenditure caps, and the state would impose controls on all capital projects and restrictions on the use of school facilities by community members. The Board of Education may choose to make reductions or eliminate programs, which could include the summer recreation program, instrumental music and extracurricular activities.

Points of Pride

- Graduation PLUS+ continues to expand as a true pre-K-12 experience, ensuring every student graduates with direction, distinction and a deep sense of purpose. The district continues to see growth in increased graduation rates and expanded opportunities beyond high school.
- The district developed a five-year strategic plan to strengthen teaching and learning, align resources and ensure continued growth and success for all students.
- Brentwood continues to gain state and regional recognition for excellence, with Graduation PLUS+ serving as a model for schools across New York State:
 - The Office of Performing and Fine Arts earned the 2025 VISION Endorsement from the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) as a Community of Excellence in Visual Arts.
 - The district was named a “Champion of Change” by the New York State School Boards Association for its student theater program, “La Compañía de Teatro el Mundo de los Sueños.”
 - Five Brentwood teachers achieved National Board Certification, with additional educators preparing to pursue this distinction.
- Brentwood students continue to excel in academics, arts and athletics at the regional, state and national levels:
 - DECA students advanced to international competition.
 - The Green Machine Marching Band earned a first-place state championship.
 - The Brentwood High School winter color guard earned first place in the Scholastic A3 Division at the Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network championships.
- Student-athletes achieved success in county and state competitions across multiple sports.
- Strong performance on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), with more students reaching commanding proficiency.
- Expanded access to college credit opportunities.
- Continued growth in the attainment of the Seal of Biliteracy, Seal of Civic Readiness and industry-recognized certifications.
- Early learning and elementary programs build strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and social-emotional development. Students feel confident, connected and supported from the earliest grades.
- A districtwide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) integrates academic, behavioral and social-emotional supports with a focus on prevention, early identification and timely intervention.
- Strong instructional systems, including structured literacy and aligned mathematics programs are driving measurable gains, with increased student participation and improved performance on state assessments.
- The district’s commitment to inclusive practices continues to grow, with expanded co-teaching models and early intervention supports.
- Expansion of academic pathways and career exploration opportunities:
 - Introduction of an agriculture course at the Freshman Campus, including investment in a hydroponic growing wall to support hands-on, real-world learning.
- Continued access to business courses at the middle school level, building early exposure to financial literacy and career readiness.
- Expansion of career pathways through the Freshman Campus and High School, aligned to student interests and workforce opportunities.
- Through a first-of-its-kind partnership with the New York State Department of Labor, Brentwood launched a teacher assistant apprenticeship program, creating a direct pathway from student to employment. It includes 12 pre-apprentices and reflects the district’s commitment to developing educators from its own community.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities continue to grow, including NYS-approved pathways in Information Systems, Culinary Arts and Management & Entrepreneurship.
- World language instruction continues in grade 7, strengthening language development and global awareness.
- Naviance, a college and career readiness tool, has been implemented in schools K-12, supporting individualized planning, goal setting and alignment to student interests and strengths.
- Performance-Based Learning and Assessment (PBLA) continues to expand, allowing students to demonstrate learning through real-world applications, projects and presentations.
- Programs such as My Brother’s Keeper (MBK), Girls Inc. and Take a Look at Teaching empower students to lead and engage in their school community.



The Proposed 2026-2027 Budget Includes:

- This budget affirms Brentwood’s commitment to Graduation PLUS+, ensuring every student graduates prepared for college, career and life. The proposed plan maintains essential supports for students, including intervention services, K-5 library media specialists and school-based mental health staff.
- The proposed plan sustains and strengthens college and career pathways such as dual enrollment, work-based learning and expanding CTE opportunities that provide students with real-world skills and industry-recognized certifications.
- Continued investment in extended learning opportunities to support student growth beyond the school day now include high-dosage tutoring, Saturday and LEGO Academies, language immersion programs, summer learning including advanced drone training, Esports, baton twirling, Unified sports and elementary athletic clinics.
- The budget supports innovative learning experiences, including new course offerings such as podcasting and strengthened alignment across grade levels.
- Investments in facilities, technology and safety include upgraded instructional spaces, expanded access to technology, strengthened security systems, air conditioning and innovative learning environments that support student engagement.
- The budget also includes the construction of new football and softball fields, supporting student wellness, teamwork and school pride. These investments reflect a focused approach: sustaining what is working, strengthening opportunities for students and continuing to move Brentwood forward.

Brentwood Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$688,525,221	\$727,096,955	\$688,978,555
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$38,571,734	\$453,334
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.60%	0.07%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$115,501,607	\$118,389,147	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$115,501,607	\$118,389,147	\$115,501,607
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$673,354	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$118,571,206	\$120,472,215	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$115,501,607	\$117,715,793	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$3,069,599	\$2,756,422	
Administrative Component	\$69,605,109	\$74,318,745	\$73,493,745
Program Component	\$538,051,861	\$571,748,713	\$571,298,713
Capital Component	\$80,868,251	\$81,029,497	\$44,186,097

* Should the budget be defeated, all equipment and funds for capital projects will be removed from the budget. In addition, the District will be required to charge a fee for building usage.

Description	Amount
Proposition 2 - Authorizing Transportation to Students within the Child Safety Zone Shall the Board of Education of the Brentwood Union Free School District be authorized to provide transportation to students residing in the Child Safety Zone, bounded by Pine Aire Drive / 3rd Avenue to the north, Stein Drive to the east, Cecil Avenue to the west and Inchcape Road to the south, where such students attend the Freshman Campus and such transportation shall be provided by the District starting in the 2026-2027 school year, for an estimated annual cost of \$120,519.17	\$120,519.17
Proposition 3 - Authorizing Transportation to Students within the Child Safety Zone Shall the Board of Education of the Brentwood Union Free School District be authorized to provide transportation to students residing in the Child Safety Zone, bounded by Jackson Street to the north, Pennsylvania Avenue to the east, Eisenhower Avenue to the west and Suffolk Avenue to the south, where such students attend the Brentwood High School and such transportation shall be provided by the District starting in the 2026-2027 school year, for an estimated annual cost of \$843,634.19	\$843,634.19

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹

\$641

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Brentwood School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Hemlock Park, Laurel Park, Loretta Park, North Elementary, Northeast, Oak Park, Pine Park, Southeast and Southwest school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the Brentwood School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.