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Brian Cuiot, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Steven Finn, President
Diana Korabel, Vice President
J. Robert Coleman
Katie Gravano
Tracy Holihan

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 • 7AM – 9PM

CURRENT RESIDENT

SOUTH ORANGETOWN
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299
(845) 680-1000 • Website: www.socsd.org



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SOUTH ORANGETOWN

Central School District



ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

SI HABLAS ESPAÑOL VISITA WWW.SOCSD.ORG/BUDGET

Dear Community Members,

On April 14, the Board of Education adopted the proposed 2026-27 budget, which totals \$116,688,270, reflects a budget-to-budget increase of 1.21% and remains within the state-mandated cap with a 1.85% tax levy increase.

The proposed 2026-27 budget:

- Maintains small class sizes and kindergarten teaching assistants;
- Supports ongoing implementation of the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) phonics and word study curriculum;
- Preserves enrichment, extracurriculars, clubs and elective opportunities, along with robust summer programming; and,
- Maximizes the District's Universal Pre-Kindergarten grant funding allocation to add a second UPK class at William O. Schaefer Elementary School.

This year's budget development process presented significant challenges. The District is navigating reduced federal funding, a minimal increase in State Aid and rising operational costs. Despite these pressures, our administrative team continues to carefully identify efficiencies to contain budget growth while preserving the high-quality educational programs and services our community takes pride in.

In addition to the budget, this year's ballot includes two propositions pertaining to capital reserve funds. Proposition 2 asks voters to authorize the use of existing capital reserve funds to construct a multipurpose athletic field at Tappan Zee High School. Proposition 3 asks voters to approve the funding of a repair reserve, which would enable the District to set aside year-end operating surplus to pay for non-recurring repairs to infrastructure and/or equipment in the future. Propositions 2 and 3 do not propose additional costs to taxpayers. The District anticipates that it will receive at least 38% State Aid reimbursement on capital improvements.

As you have seen in our social media feeds, e-blasts and website, our students, staff and schools continue to achieve academically, athletically and artistically at the local, state and national level. A few of the many highlights include: Our Girls Basketball team won its first-ever State Championship; TZHS is home to four 2026 National Merit Scholarship Finalists; the robotics team made it to the World Championship for the fifth time in nine years; and, two TZHS DECA Club members qualified for the international conference.

As always, thank you for supporting robust educational programs and services for all South Orangetown students. **Please vote on May 19.**

Sincerely,

Brian Culot, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Steven Finn
President, Board of Education

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions:

- **PROPOSITION #1: 2026-27 Budget**
- **PROPOSITION #2: Use of Capital Reserve Funds**
- **PROPOSITION #3: Funding the Repair Reserve**
- **ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS**

Following are the candidates for the vacancy in the order they will appear on the ballot:
 Seat 1 - **Katie Gravino** (incumbent)
 Seat 2 - **Leigh Ann Porette** and **Denise Desjardins**

MINOR CAPITAL WORK



The proposed 2026-27 budget contains \$1,500,000 for minor capital projects which include:

- Installation of entrance awning at WOS
- Replacement of select interior doors at TZHS
- Boiler replacement and heating system upgrades at TZEC

Detailed information about the 2026-27 proposed budget is posted at www.socsd.org/budget; **SCAN HERE**



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	\$ 115,289,084	\$ 116,688,270	\$ 114,724,952
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 1,399,186	(\$1,963,318)
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		1.21%	-1.68%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 91,158,847	\$ 92,847,369	
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)	\$ 91,158,847	\$ 92,847,369	\$ 91,158,847
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,193,058	\$ 2,788,321	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 87,965,789	\$ 90,059,048	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 87,965,789	\$ 90,059,048	
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$ 11,610,814	\$ 11,082,225	\$ 11,057,225
Program Component	\$ 90,839,909	\$ 92,112,100	\$ 92,021,187
Capital Component	\$ 12,838,361	\$ 13,493,945	\$ 11,646,540

The proposed 2026-27 budget as adopted by the Board of Education reflects the appropriated use of fund balance as follows: Use of \$500,000 from the ERS Reserve, use of \$500,000 from the TRS Reserves and \$200,000 from unrestricted fund balance.

The proposed budget includes a multi-year pupil transportation contract for the term of 3 years, July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029, to increase at the CPI rate as issued by NYSED annually.
 * Assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law include the following: Contingency budget at minimum = proposed budget less difference between prior year tax levy and proposed tax levy. A contingency budget would require the District to reduce the proposed 2026-27 budget by \$1,963,318. As a result, the minor capital project and equipment expenditures would be eliminated. Community use of facilities would be restricted and additional expenses considered non-contingent by the Board of Education can be further reduced to meet contingency budget legal parameters.

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Use of Capital Reserve Fund - construct a multipurpose athletic field at Tappan Zee High School	\$ 7,950,000
Funding of Repair Reserve Fund not to exceed	\$ 1,000,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 916

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown Central School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held at District #1 - South Orangetown Middle School, District #2 - Tappan Zee High School, District #3 - William O. Schaefer Elementary School, and District #4 - Tappan Zee Education Center on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 7:00AM and 9:00PM, 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.

POLLS OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 19, 7AM - 9PM

DISTRICT #1: Blauvelt residents
 South Orangetown Middle School
 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt

DISTRICT #2: Orangeburg residents
 Tappan Zee High School
 15 Dutch Hill Road, Orangeburg

DISTRICT #3: Tappan residents
 William O. Schaefer Elementary School
 140 Lester Drive, Tappan

DISTRICT #4: Grandview, Palisades, Piermont & Sparkill residents
 Tappan Zee Education Center
 (formerly Tappan Zee Elementary School)
 561 Route 9W, Piermont

