

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission

Empower students to reach their fullest potential by cultivating a community of life-long learners who think critically about the world around them.

Vision

Students reach their academic and social emotional goals through an inclusive learning environment.

Our Values

- Pervsurance
- Confidence
- Community
- Empathy
- Knowledge
- Inclusion

Voter Qualifications

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.

Message from your

Board of Education President - Matthew Kennedy

As we head into this year's budget season, I want to start by thanking our North Tonawanda community for the continued support you show our students, staff, and schools.



Each year comes with its own set of challenges, and this budget cycle has been no exception. The ongoing uncertainty with the New York State budget process, along with shifting aid projections and delayed decisions, has made planning more difficult than usual. Still, our focus remains the same. We are working hard to keep any increase as low as possible while continuing to protect the programs, services, and opportunities that matter most to our students.

In addition to the annual budget, residents will also vote on a proposed capital project that addresses key facility needs across the district. This project comes at zero tax impact. Through careful planning, the use of state building aid, and responsible use of district reserves, we are able to make important improvements that support student safety and maintain our buildings without adding to the tax burden.

At the end of the day, everything we do comes back to our students. Whether it is in the classroom, on the field, on stage, or through everyday support, we are committed to providing a strong and well-rounded experience for every learner in our district.

I am grateful to be part of this work and to serve alongside a team that is so committed to doing what is best for North Tonawanda. After nine years on the Board of Education, I remain incredibly proud of what this district continues to accomplish. I encourage everyone to take part in the upcoming budget vote and capital project referendum as we continue moving our district forward together.

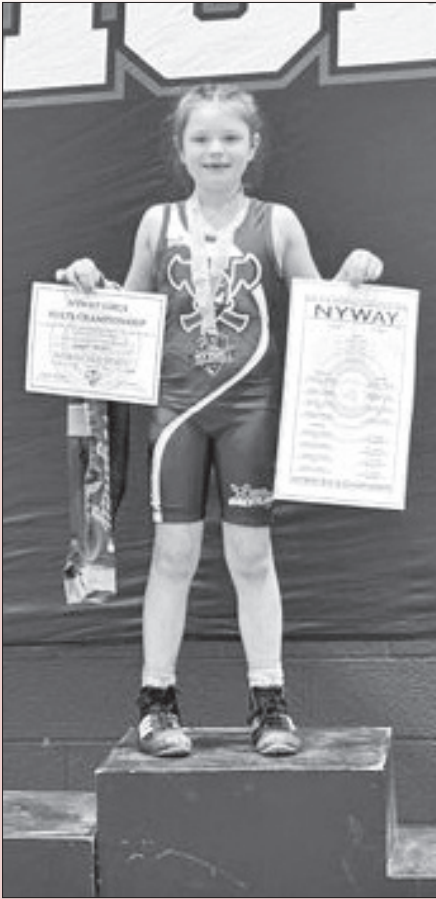
Matthew Kennedy, President
North Tonawanda City Schools
Board of Education



Budget Vote and Board Election
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center



Way to Go Shaylee!



Ohio Elementary second grader Shaylee Meyer represented the North Tonawanda Wrestling Club in Syracuse, New York and won 1st Place at the 2026 NYWAY Girls State Championship. She is the first girl in North Tonawanda wrestling history to become a state champion. We are so proud of her!



NTI Teacher Participates in Summer Science Workshop

North Tonawanda Intermediate Gifted Education Specialist Emily Colletta took part in an amazing opportunity last summer. “Last summer I participated in a workshop on the Mollusca Curriculum Development Project in collaboration with New York State Sea Grant and Cornell University. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement curriculum plastic pollution in waterways and robotic assistance in cleaning up plastics in the water. The project specifically targets microplastics collection using specialized robots which were designed and built using the apple snail as a model.”

Since 1971, New York Sea Grant has supported science-based solutions for a wide range of water-related challenges across the state. At this year’s event, Emily along with fellow educators were tasked designing and constructing model boats with electrical motors and a Mollusca robot (bio-inspired machines that mimic snails, slugs and octopuses) along with other activities.

“I have created a unit for my sixth graders about the Great Lakes, issues that impact the Great Lakes, as well as things we can do to prevent and mitigate damage to the environment. As part of this unit, my students will be building working robots with the assistance of Great Lakes Literacy Specialist Nate Drag from the New York Sea Grant who is also a professor from Cornell University. The hope is that the students will be able to see how these robots could function to clean plastics out of waterways, and that they will be able to brainstorm some modifications to improve the existing models.”

Showing Love for Valentine’s Day

Spruce Elementary first grade students in Miss Borzillire’s class invited their families to celebrate Valentine’s Day on the 100th Day of School.

The students and their loved ones had a great time making 100 Fruit Loop necklaces, exchanging Valentine cards and making crafts. Everyone had a great time!



Global Day of Play

Second graders at Spruce Elementary had a great time participating in the Global Day of Play on February 4th. Over 75 countries celebrate this annual event that centers on playful learning.

The Global Day of Play celebrations began in 2015 when the Rochester City School District was concerned that children weren't getting enough unstructured playtime. Students were encouraged to play without the use of screens, structured games or adult direction. The idea was to let children explore their creativity, problem-solving skills and social interactions in an unstructured and spontaneous environment. The students certainly had a great time experiencing the "power of play".



NTI Students Hit a Sweet Note at NCMEA



Row 1: Ava Krantz, Bryce Dixon, Row 2: Nora Hanson, Molly McQuiggin, Amelia Hodgins, Noah Anatriello, Row 3: David Benjamin, Nathan Reeves, Jack Wilson, Zachary Orlovski and Row 4: Madison Siuta, Lauren Caccamise, Ruby Ellman, Major Fox.

The North Tonawanda Intermediate Music Department sent 14 students to participate in the 2026 NCMEA Elementary All-County Band Festival.

Band Director Brandon Burgess says, "The students were selected through a competitive audition where they performed a solo, 3-7 scales, and a short sight-reading example. Auditionees received a score out of 100; the top scorers of the day were chosen for the All-County Band. Participants traveled to Barker High School on January 30-31 where they rehearsed and performed with Niagara County's top band musicians in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade."

Congrats to our outstanding musicians!

Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday,
May 19th

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
405 Meadow Drive,
Fine Arts Center

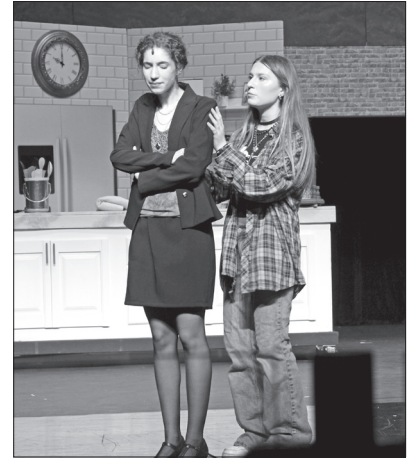


Freaky Friday Brings Magic to Fine Arts Center

The NTHS Drama Club brought the musical adaption of "Freaky Friday" to our Fine Arts Center stage on March 12-14.

Based on the 1972 novel, the story centers around an overworked mother and her teenage daughter who magically swap bodies and have one day to put things right before a big wedding. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter. The audience loved this heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic.

Congratulations to our talented cast, crew, and pit musicians!



Transportation Mileage Reduction

The district is excited to announce a further reduction to the walking radius for the 2026-2027 school year. The distance policy for MS and HS students will be reduced from 1.75 to 1.67 miles to trial.

Students Say Buon Appetito at NTI's Pasta Night

On Thursday, March 12th the North Tonawanda Intermediate (NTI) School's extracurricular clubs held their annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

Club members volunteer to "run" the restaurant; it is always a fun night. "We had our most successful year yet, raising just over \$2,000 to be split evenly amongst the seven clubs," says sixth grade teacher Gabrielle Miranda. "This would not be possible without the help of teachers, staff, and student volunteers. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our gracious donators: Antonio's, Pane's, Hideaway Grill, Woodcock Brothers, Sherwood Florals, and the NT Rec Department!"

It was a great night! NTI students and staff appreciate everyone who came to support. Grazie!

This fundraiser event supports the following extracurricular clubs: Spirit (Miss Miranda), Council (Miss Helfman), Art (Mrs. Knight and Miss McLaughlin), Gaming (Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Hodgson), Garden (Mr. Genco and Mrs. Colletta), Announcements (Mr. Christman and Mrs. Colletta), and Culture Club (Miss Poirier).



PERMA Points Rewards Help District Keep Students and Staff Safe

PERMA (Public Employer Risk Management Association), the District Workers' Compensation coverage provider, has offered its clients a rewards-based program to support and enhance district safety initiatives. Similar to a credit card reward points, these funds can be used to support purchases through a reimbursement model.

The District, in consultation with our Orleans/Niagara BOCES safety risk officer, have elected to utilize these reward points to support the replacement of AED machines at K-3 buildings as well as the Administrative building. Each K-3 school will now have two AED machines to support the implementation of Desha's Law in practice.

Special Education Department Receives Grant from PERMA

NTCSD Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Jachlewski is pleased to announce that the district is the recipient of a \$3,500 safety training grant from PERMA.

Each year, PERMA provides significant funding to assist their members in enhancing safety and risk management practices. North Tonawanda City Schools was awarded the grant to support the continuation of Ukeru training for their Special Education Department. "The special education department is extremely grateful to PERMA for supporting the continuation of Ukeru training," says Director of Special Education Elizabeth Petryk. "This funding allows us to recertify seven district trainers who provide on-going support to teachers, paraprofessionals, and faculty across our schools. Ukeru focuses on proactive, trauma-informed strategies that promote safety, dignity, and positive behavior supports for our students. By strengthening staff skills and confidence, this training helps reduce the need for physical interventions and creates safer, more supportive learning environments for our students. The department is deeply appreciative of PERMA's investment in the well-being of both our students and staff."

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2026

\$59.9 Million | No Local Tax Impact

SAFETY & SECURITY



Supports current district systems and emergency protocols.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE



Meets NYS mandates and future transportation requirements.

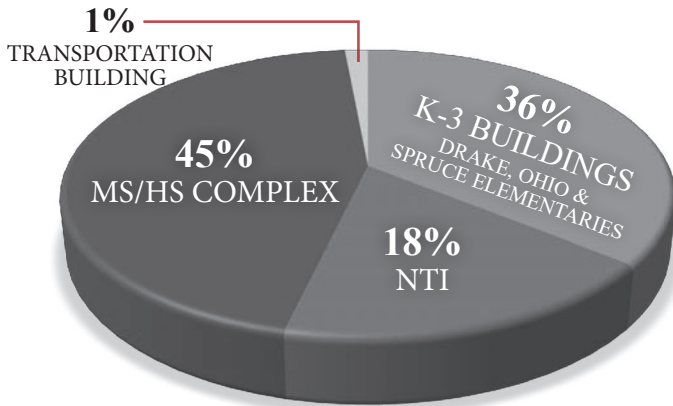
INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCES



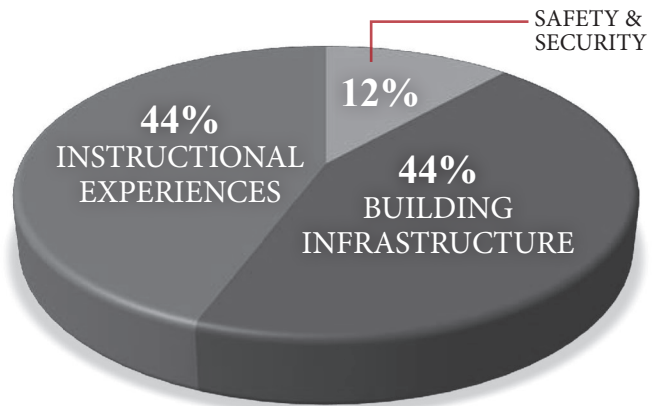
Expenses focus on spaces all students use.

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

BY GRADE (BUILDINGS)



BY CATEGORY



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

STATE AID & CAPITAL RESERVES



Savings account for Capital Improvement Projects to lower local tax impact.

PROJECT SIZE
\$59.9 MILLION

NO LOCAL TAX IMPACT

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

TUESDAY

MAY 12

7:00 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS CENTER

PUBLIC VOTE

MAY 19

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS CENTER

For more information:



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2026

\$59.9 Million | No Local Tax Impact



Existing gym wall pads/ backboards



Existing art room



Existing pool



Existing roof



Existing parking lot



Existing doors



Proposed multi-purpose sports field

Drake Elementary

- Music room renovations
- Art room renovations
- Gym wall pads & backboard renovations
- Classroom door replacement
- Swipe access installation (building-wide)
- Security camera upgrades
- Cafeteria A/C installations
- Kitchen renovation
- Sidewalk improvements

Ohio Elementary

- Music room renovations
- Art room renovations
- Gym wall pads & backboard renovations
- Classroom door replacement
- Swipe access installation (building-wide)
- Security camera upgrades
- Cafeteria A/C installations
- Kitchen renovation
- Bus loop for Special Education program
- Inclusive playground
- Parking lot & sidewalk improvements
- Roof replacement

Spruce Elementary

- Music room renovations
- Art room renovations
- Gym wall pads & backboard renovations
- Classroom door replacement
- Swipe access installation (building-wide)
- Security camera upgrades
- Cafeteria A/C installations
- Kitchen renovation
- Roof replacement

Intermediate School (NTI)

- Pool renovations
- Air conditioning replacement at former North Tonawanda Learning Center
- Secure vestibule at BOCES wing
- Gym renovations
- Main office speakers
- Classroom door replacement
- Swipe access installation (building-wide)
- Cafeteria A/C installations
- Parking lot replacement

Middle School/High School Complex (MS/HS Complex)

- Generator replacement
- Classroom door replacement
- Swipe access installation (building-wide)
- Security camera upgrades
- Cafeteria A/C installations
- Parking lot repavement & improvements
- Third floor bathroom renovations
- Third floor High School math classroom renovations
- Bus parking expansion
- Multi-purpose sports field

PROPOSITION #1: 2026-2027 BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the budget for the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, as presented by the Board of Education of the District, is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District, to be levied and collected as required by law.

Yes No

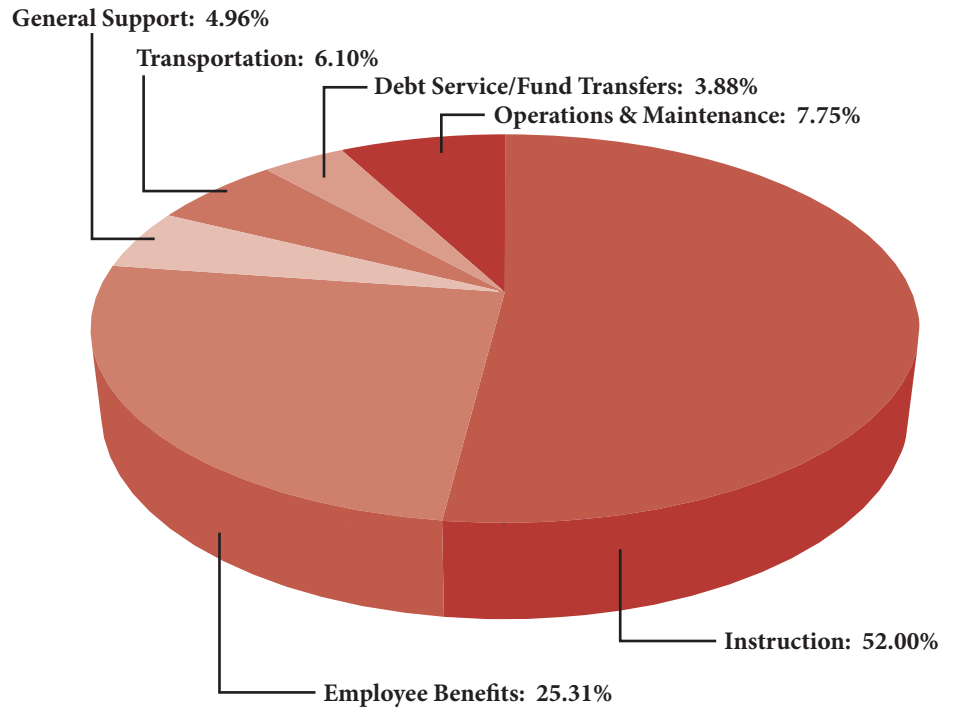
PROPOSITION #2: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 2026

Shall the following bond resolution of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York (the "District") be approved?

A bond resolution, dated April 21, 2026, clarifying and confirming action on March 25, 2026 taken by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York (the "District"), authorizing the District (1) to undertake (subject to the approval of the voters of the District) a capital improvements project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various district buildings and facilities and the sites thereof (collectively, the "project"), at an estimated maximum cost of \$59,900,000; (2) to expend or apply toward the project during the current fiscal year of the District (A) the entire balance (which stood at approximately \$10,406,015 as of June 30, 2025), plus any additional interest earned, from The District's 2021 capital improvements and transportation reserve fund, and then to terminate such fund and (B) \$1,593,985 from the District's 2025 capital improvements and transportation reserve fund; and (3) to issue serial bonds of the District in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$47,900,000 to finance the balance of the cost of the project, and delegating the power to issue bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of such obligations to the President of the Board of Education of the District.

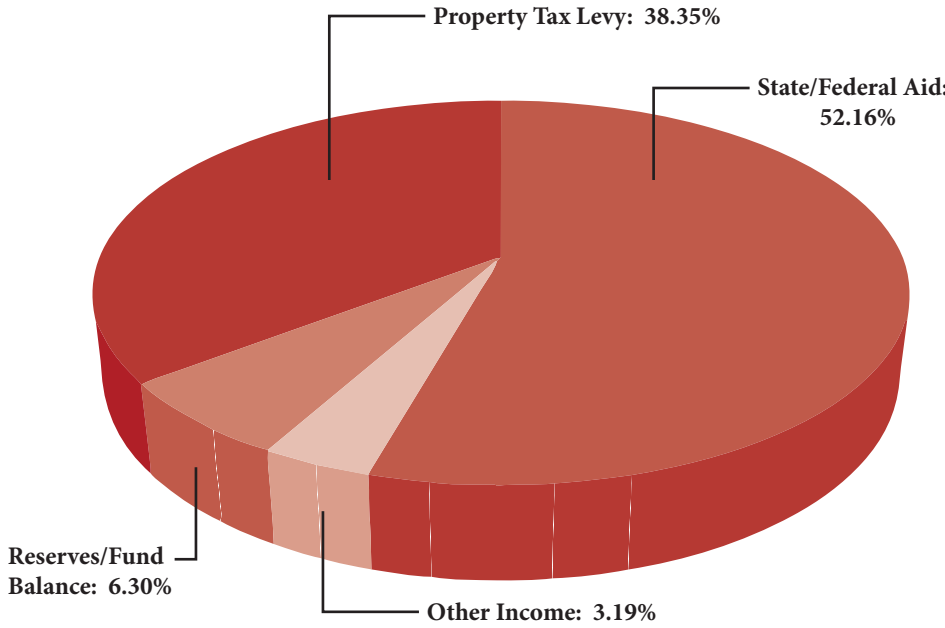
Yes No

EXPENDITURES



	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change from 2025-26
Instruction	\$42,609,391	\$43,884,909	\$1,275,518
Includes: K-12 Instructional program, supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, Special Education programs, Occupational Education, Interscholastic Athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, pupil personnel services.			
Employee Benefits	\$20,537,224	\$21,364,177	\$826,953
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.			
General Support	\$3,902,976	\$4,188,315	\$285,339
Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.			
Transportation	\$5,203,000	\$5,150,400	(\$52,600)
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$4,580,629	\$3,273,229	(\$1,307,400)
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, includes district's share of Special Education summer programs.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$6,166,780	\$6,538,970	\$372,190
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$83,000,000	\$84,400,000	\$1,400,000

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change from 2025-26
State/Federal Aid	\$44,503,541	\$44,025,928	(\$477,613)

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2026-2027 school year, it is projected to be 52.16% of all revenue. Last year it was 53.62%. Year over year and budget to budget this area of revenue has stayed relatively consistent. State and Federal Aid for 2026-2027 is anticipated to decrease due to a large reduction in the District's Building Aid allocation which comes from New York State.

Other Income	\$2,121,953	\$2,695,360	\$573,407
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Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipts.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$4,799,506	\$5,313,712	\$514,206
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Reserves: The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

Fund Balance: Funds which are budgeted but unexpended at the end of the budget year, and revenues which are realized in excess of those budgeted for the year, are available at the end of the fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance.

Tax Levy	\$31,575,000	\$32,365,000	\$790,000
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This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2026-2027 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$790,000 which represents a 2.49% increase over the previous year. The District will be using \$1,813,712 in reserves to offset the loss of tax revenue to support the budget as a temporary measure to provide relief to taxpayers. The actual tax rate for each individual household is calculated using the district's total assessed property values which have not been finalized as of yet. The tax rate is projected to be \$24.54 per thousand dollars of assessed property value, a \$0.60 increase over 2025-2026. A house that has an assessed value of \$100,000 is projected to pay approximately 59.62 more in 2026-2027.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$83,000,000	\$84,400,000	\$1,400,000
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\$100,000 Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement Projects

What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2025-2026 school budget this year?

Capital outlay projects were established by NYSED Department of Facilities Planning as a method for districts to maintain facilities, make modest upgrades, and improvements of up to \$100,000 between larger projects. The most important aspect of these projects is that they will generate state aid for the school district to cover the majority of the cost of construction. In the past these necessary repairs and improvements would all be paid for through local funds as building repairs in the budget, or the district would delay repairs until a larger capital project was created. Using capital outlay projects, the district pays approximately 20% of the cost; the state will provide aid for approximately 80% of the project costs. This allows the district to complete capital project work in our buildings with a much smaller local share impact to our taxpayers. In the 2026-2027 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for the construction/reconstruction project which would include, but not limited to, addressing playground expansion at Drake Elementary School as well as exterior door hardening.

Transportation Capital Expenditure

In the 2026-2027 budget year, the district is proposing to purchase three type "C" 65-passenger big buses for the purposes of transporting students as part of home to school and extra-curricular experiences in addition to three type "A" 30-passenger small buses for the purposes of transporting students as a part of the district's Special Education program. These vehicles will be replacing vehicles that will be retired from the current district fleet that are aging out. These purchases will be made on the basis of state contract and current market prices.

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education anticipated candidates can be found on the district website: www.ntschoools.org.

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies on the Board. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools 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	\$83,000,000	\$84,400,000	\$83,610,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$1,400,000	\$610,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.69%	0.73%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount			
	\$31,575,000	\$32,365,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable			
	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)			
	\$31,575,000	\$32,365,000	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions			
	\$923,832	\$909,969	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions			
	\$30,660,137	\$31,457,875	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)			
	\$30,651,168	\$31,455,031	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **			
	\$8,969	\$2,844	
Administrative Component			
	\$7,883,311	\$8,502,527	\$8,170,000
Program Component			
	\$62,122,259	\$63,411,324	\$64,373,101
Capital Component			
	\$12,994,430	\$12,486,149	\$11,066,899

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$790,000 reduced from student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$355

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at the Fine Arts Center in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 11:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the North Tonawanda City School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

**Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 19, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. • 405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center**

Carnegie Art Center Shines Spotlight on Artistic NT Students

The Carnegie Art Center hosted two artistic events for our talented Visual Arts department during the month of March.

As part of Arts in Our Schools month, the annual Student Spotlight Art Show is an honors showcase partnering NTCSD and the Carnegie Art Center. The show features work by selected students from all grade levels as well as pieces created by the Visual Arts faculty. Visitors enjoyed taking in the paintings, sketches, pottery, photography and other pieces of artwork.

On Family Fun Night, our students and their families got to express their artistic talents together with our amazing art teachers and students. Each teacher hosted a table with the help of their star students that allowed the families to work together on a specific art project. It was a fun night for everyone.

We are so grateful to the Carnegie Art Center and to everyone who participated! What a great way to celebrate Arts in Our Schools Month.



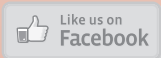


**NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS**
176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Board of Education

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Chloe Mulvaugh, Vice President
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NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

Literacy Night

On Thursday March 5th, Ohio Elementary students enjoyed a fun evening at the first annual Literacy Night hosted by Mrs. Canfield and Mrs. Granat from the Reading Department.

Students had the chance to win exciting prizes during a book walk in the gym, design an interactive sphere after a book reading in the Discovery Den, and create masks, bookmarks, and other crafts in the cafeteria.

Our Little Jacks especially loved playing Dr. Seuss Bingo in the classrooms and taking their photos in the booth designed by The Jacks of All Trades program from the high school. The night ended with lots of laughter as Mayor Austin Tylec and Ms. Megan Robinson entertained everyone with a lively read aloud of "The Book With No Pictures". It was a super event!

