



# Ballston Spa

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone



Budget at-a-Glance

**PROPOSED BUDGET**

**\$113,742,988**

**SPENDING INCREASE**

**3.1%**

**TAX LEVY INCREASE**

**3.9%**

**2026-27 BUDGET NEWSLETTER**

## Growing Kind Hearts: Elementary Students Making a Difference

To increase each student's sense of belonging, Elementary students are encouraged to participate in community service projects. Students learn the value of giving back by celebrating kindness and working together to help others.

Gordon Creek students, families, and staff organized a book drive. They collected over 1,400 books that were donated to several local organizations, including Wellspring, the Schenectady Mission, and the Saratoga Children's Literacy League. Students also began a new service project with Art2Hearts creating artwork designed to bring comfort, color, and joy to children during challenging times.

Malta Avenue Elementary students and families organized a sock drive and collected over 150 pairs that were donated to local organizations. These meaningful donations provide warmth and comfort to individuals and families in need and prove that no donation or effort is too small to make a difference.

Milton Terrace Elementary students completed many service projects including: Kindness rock painting with Nourish Designs, Monster kit assembly for Ronald McDonald House, and creation of placemats and cards for



Wesley Community Center. Look for Kindness rocks all over our community starting this spring and summer.

Wood Road Elementary students organized a Pet Supply Drive in support of the Saratoga County Animal Shelter. The outpouring of support from both

students and families was truly remarkable.

These efforts support our community and foster a strong sense of empathy, responsibility, and pride. They remind us of the difference we can make when we support one another with kindness.

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### BUDGET VOTE DATES

- May 6** Mandated School District Annual Budget Hearing
- May 12** Voter Registration Day
- May 19** Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

### PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

#### Proposition I: School Budget

The district will be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its estimate of expenditures for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$113,742,988 and to levy the necessary taxes therefore.

#### Proposition II: School Vehicle Replacement

The district will spend up to \$1,620,100 to purchase and replace school buses and vehicles.

#### Proposition III: Electric Bus Purchase

The district will spend up to \$295,000 to purchase one electric bus.

#### Proposition IV: Ballston Spa Public Library

The district will be authorized to collect and contribute \$65,902 toward the expense of operating the public library.

# District Presents 2026-2027 Budget and Vote Information

## PROPOSED BUDGET MAINTAINS PROGRAMMING ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Each year the Board of Education focuses on the development of various policies to guide our daily work in providing safe, healthy, and welcoming schools that are steeped in excellent learning opportunities and extracurricular enrichment for each of our students at all grade levels. Although often not thought of as a policy, the most important policy statement that the Board makes is the creation and approval of a thoughtful and conscientious annual budget. This provides the clearest public statement of the district's commitment to priorities relative to supporting the teaching and learning of our children that takes place within our schools each day.

The development of the budget intentionally supports long range planning and multi-year goals to ensure a consistent year to year approach. Each year this seven-month process begins in October and ends with the budget vote which is held statewide on the third Tuesday of May.

In the intervening months, a great deal of planning takes place to ensure that we are finding an appropriate balance between providing our students with the best possible programming while keeping tax increases as low as possible and delivering high value to the taxpaying public.

Our current environment is one of increased costs and we have carefully examined how best to allocate our resources for our students and community members in order to provide the same breadth of programming, while being mindful of these higher costs. We believe that the budget that was presented to, and adopted by, the Board for the 2026-2027 school year accomplishes this balance

while keeping a clear focus on budget goals to maintain and enhance our current programming by:

- Identifying student learning gaps and providing support through additional resources
- Maintaining and enhancing support for additional student learning opportunities that provide diverse academic pathways
- Increasing support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students
- Increasing support to create new learning opportunities for our special education students
- Providing dynamic and innovative learning environments that focus on engagement and belonging to help students thrive academically
- Maintaining and enhancing existing levels of academic, behavioral, health and wellness supports
- Continuing to maintain and modernize our district facilities to ensure a top tier, safe, and secure campus for staff, students, and visitors

After you read the information within this newsletter, we encourage you to review the additional financial information available on our website at: [www.bsccd.org/about/financial-information](http://www.bsccd.org/about/financial-information).

We greatly appreciate the community's ongoing support of our students and staff and hope to see all eligible voters at one of our voting sites on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

**Gianleo Duca, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Jason Fernau**  
*President, Board of Education*

## Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program in Ballston Spa

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programming is a state and federally funded program offered to families FREE of charge, regardless of income status. The only eligibility requirement is a child's age and residency within the Ballston Spa Central School District.

For the 2026-27 school year, the Ballston Spa Central School District is pleased to offer UPK programming at six local sites to better serve families. All programs are full-day and most locations also provide options for before and after care and daycare during school breaks.

Families with a child that will turn 4 on or before December 1st, 2026 are encouraged to visit the district website to learn more about the UPK program, site locations and other pertinent details. Though open enrollment has ended, families may still register and select from the placement options available. If all spots are filled, families will be placed on a waitlist for programming.

Educational research indicates that participation in pre-kindergarten can have lasting positive effects on children. BSCSD collaborates with the community UPK sites to ensure students are provided with high quality educational experiences to

build the skills needed for successful transition to Kindergarten. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity!



## New York Inspires: Portrait of a Graduate

District administration and staff have begun learning more about and planning for the New York State Education Departments' recently launched NY Inspires Initiative. This initiative includes four major transformations related to graduation measures. These changes include: adopting the New York State Portrait of a Graduate, redefining credits to focus on proficiency, eliminating NYS Regents assessment requirements, and moving to one diploma. These changes will be phased in over the next few years with all changes being in place in the fall of 2029.

The New York State Portrait of a Graduate outlines what students will gain from their Preschool-12 education to support their ability to thrive in college, careers, and as an engaged citizen in today's world. It includes skills related to creativity, critical thinking, communication, and reflection.

Ballston Spa High School has been working on identifying the best ways to assess students' attainment and understanding of the skills identified in the portrait. The career pathways that the high school already offers serve as models of how Portrait skills are already being embedded into real-world projects and work based learning opportunities.

Professional development offerings have begun, highlighting how these changes at the high school level will impact the teaching and learning at the elementary and middle school levels.

The implementation of these changes provide exciting opportunities in the district, and more information will be shared as the implementation progresses.



## Music and Theatre

The BSCSD **Music Department** had the most music students ever participating in our programs for the 2025-26 school year. More than 150 of those students participated in Honor Ensembles. They include the SWCMEA All-County Band, Choir, and Orchestra/Jazz Festivals, Suburban Council Music Festival, Castleton University Honor Band, Zone 7 Area All-State, NYSBDA High School Concert Band, and Conference All-State Treble Choir and Symphonic Band. It takes commitment and dedication to be selected for these ensembles, and it is an honor to be granted these opportunities. BSCSD and our community has also earned the NAMM Foundation Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) Award 9 years in a row. The BCME designation is a direct result of the support our music program receives.

Many music students also participate in the high school Drama Club, **Troupe**, performing on stage or in the musical pit. Troupe welcomes all students and prides itself in providing a safe space for connection, creativity, and expression. Students produce two shows each year including a fall play and a spring musical. Over 80 students participate as cast, backstage or technical crew, and pit musicians. In recent years, Troupe, along with over 20 other local schools, has participated in the Proctors' High School Musical Theater Awards program. Their most recent production of The Addams Family earned nominations for Outstanding Student Orchestra and Outstanding Lead Actor. Other productions have achieved significant success and received multiple awards as well.

Each program's success comes from the dedicated effort of both students and staff. With strong support from the school and community, Ballston Spa High School's music and drama programs continue to provide valuable and educational experiences for everyone involved.



## Student Spotlight 2026 - The Top 10

High School Principal Matthew Robinson has announced **Lucas Guest, Valedictorian** and **Nicholas Sharp, Salutatorian** for the Ballston Spa High School **Class of 2026**.



**Lucas** excelled in an extremely rigorous and challenging course load and will complete 17 college level courses. He will receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science. His cumulative GPA is an outstanding 99.75.

Lucas served as Student Council President for three years, is a ten time regional medalist and two time state qualifier for Science Olympiad, for which he has been Treasurer and Vice-President, and was chosen as Captain for the Varsity Cross-County team. Music has been a central thread of Lucas's life, teaching himself the piano and guitar, then continuing to challenge himself in different music communities, including the Pit Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensemble.



**Nicholas** sought extremely rigorous coursework and has excelled with natural ability. He completed 16 college level courses and achieved a perfect score on the ACT. Nick will graduate with a remarkable cumulative GPA of 99.71 and will earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science.

Nick is a Subteam Captain of the Robotics team, four year member of the Varsity Cross-Country and Track and Field teams, and a Boy Scouts Senior Patrol Leader. With over 270 community service hours, he is projected to achieve his Eagle Scout rank this year. Nick created a Java programming course and assisted in instructing students and community members for the past three summers. He is also a member of National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society.

In addition, we would also like to congratulate the rest of the top ten graduating seniors in the Class of 2026, including: **Lillian Frederick, James DeLorenzo, TinaMarie Mullins, Sonja Mankes, Logan Purcell, Alexa Cushing, Alexandra Beck, and Eric Lumley.**

The Class of 2026 will graduate from Ballston Spa High School on June 25, 2026 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.



**Ballston Spa's FIRST Robotics Team 3044**, 0xBe4, started competing in 2009 with a handful of students and mentors. Since then, the team has grown to 36 students and 9 mentors. The team has won many regional competitions and prestigious awards for their work in the community. They have competed at multiple world competitions over the past several years including: Detroit, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; and Houston, Texas. Team 3044 came in 5th out of 55 teams at their first competition this season and earned the Innovation in Control Award. This is the team's 34th award in their 17-year history.

**What is FIRST and what does the Robotics team do?** FIRST is an organization

that is dedicated to inspiring young people, through a mentor-based program, to become the leaders of tomorrow. The FIRST program is designed to celebrate science and technology while developing positive characteristics and teaching skills in areas that have been identified as important for success in the 21st century: creativity, cooperation, communication, and collaboration.

Each January, Robotics teams are challenged to build a robot to perform certain functions, such as climbing a rope or shooting balls at a target. By working together as a team, while being guided by experienced adult mentors, students build and program their robots within 6 weeks. They

then have fun competing with other robotics teams in competitions around the world. In addition, students develop a business plan to "market" their robot, explain funding sources, and future plans.

When not building robots, Team 3044 is very active mentoring younger students and volunteering at community events.

Team 3044 would not be able to participate in the

FIRST program without the support of the district and the generous contributions from our community. Many corporations in the area that support our Robotics program include, but are not limited to: BSNB, GlobalFoundries, GE Aerospace, and The Gene Haas Foundation.

We are incredibly thankful to our district and community for supporting this program.





**Q: Who is eligible to vote for a school district budget?**

**A:** A qualified voter is a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age on election day, residing in the Ballston Spa Central School District for 30 days immediately

prior to election day and registered to vote. If you are registered with the county Board of Elections to vote in a general election, you are already registered to vote on May 19th.

Absentee and early mail voting ballots are available for voters who are unable to make it to the polls on May 19, 2026. An application to obtain these is available for pickup at the District Office or by calling 518-884-7195 X1320. Completed applications must be returned to the district by May 12, 2026. Completed ballots must be received no later than 5:00 pm on May 19, 2026.

**Q: What will happen if the proposed budget is not approved by voters?**

**A:** Under New York State law, the Board of Education typically has two options when a proposed budget is not approved. The first is to put the same or modified budget up for another vote on the third Tuesday in June. The other option is to immediately adopt a contingent budget. If residents fail to approve a proposed budget during a second vote, the board must adopt a contingent budget. Adoption of a contingent budget means the district cannot

increase the tax levy by any amount, according to New York State law. Reducing the tax levy to zero for Ballston Spa Central School District would force the board to reduce the budget by \$2,486,822. This would make it difficult to preserve some student programs and services and would necessitate staff reductions.

**Q: Will Ballston Spa CSD be purchasing electric buses?**

**A:** As it currently stands, all school districts in NYS are mandated to begin purchasing electric buses by 2027 and to have a fully electric school bus fleet by 2035. BSCSD has applied for and is waiting on approval of a 2-year waiver to delay full conversion of our fleet until 2029. The district is proposing to purchase one additional electric bus for the 2026-27 school year to continue trialing the use, charging, maintenance and repair. The funds for this purchase are included as a separate proposition on the ballot which voters will have the opportunity to decide upon.

With a fleet of over 80 buses, it is important that the District has a comprehensive replacement schedule in place. As a general rule, the District replaces buses after approximately 10 years. To continue with that long term replacement schedule, two separate propositions are included on this year's ballot pertaining to bus purchases. One includes purchasing nine new diesel/gas buses (plus three grounds vehicles), and a separate proposition includes the funds for purchasing one electric bus. If approved, this will be the second electric bus the District will own.

**MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT** will be held on **May 5, 2026 at 6:00pm** in the high school library for voters to learn more about the candidates for the Board of Education. Additional information can be found on our website, [www.bsccd.org](http://www.bsccd.org).

**MATTHEW DREHER**

- I would like to be a school board member because: I'd like to see the Capital Project through as I currently serve on this committee. Your trust in me to continue to move this wonderful School District forward means I'm doing something right. Go Scottie's!!!
- I think I am a good candidate because: I've been a board member for 6 years and feel we are moving in the right direction in all facets of education but, we still have work to do.



**KATIE WHITEMORE**

- I would like to be a board member because: I care deeply about our school community and want to help make thoughtful, responsible decisions that benefit everyone. I'm invested in the future and committed to contributing my time and perspective to make the student experience better each day.
- I think I am a good candidate because: I bring 6 years of proven experience, a clear understanding of how the board works, and a track record of making thoughtful, student-centered decisions.



**JULIA ROUTBORT BASKIN**

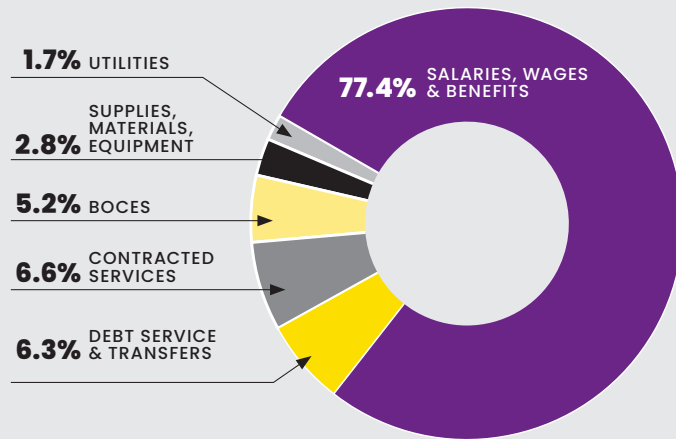
- I would like to be a school board member because: I believe that access to a high quality, public school education is incredibly important—both for individual students and their families, but also for our community and for our democracy.
- I think I am a good candidate because: I care deeply about making sure that every student has access to a high quality education and making sure our faculty and staff are supported.



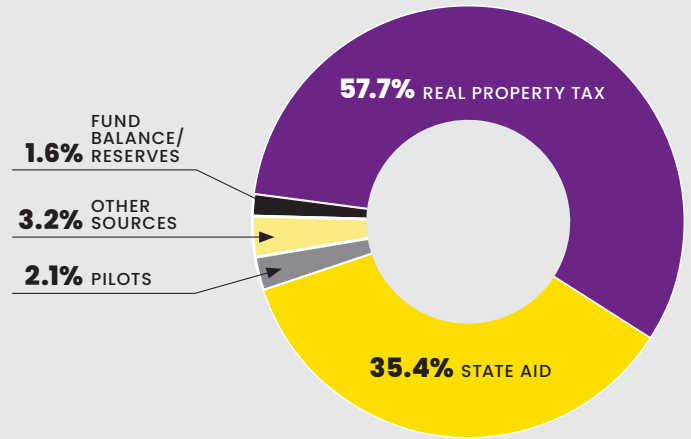


## 2026-2027 EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

### EXPENDITURES



### REVENUES



| EXPENDITURES                   | 2025-26 Budget       | 2026-27 Budget       | Change             |             |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                                |                      |                      | Dollars (\$)       | Percent (%) |
| Salaries, Wages & Benefits     | \$85,338,916         | \$88,035,770         | \$2,696,854        | 3.2%        |
| Supplies, Materials, Equipment | \$3,150,254          | \$3,166,006          | \$15,752           | 0.5%        |
| Contracted Services            | \$7,206,969          | \$7,560,154          | \$353,185          | 4.9%        |
| BOCES                          | \$5,555,764          | \$5,862,907          | \$307,143          | 5.5%        |
| Utilities                      | \$1,996,375          | \$1,951,700          | (\$44,675)         | (2.2%)      |
| Debt Service & Transfers       | \$7,057,242          | \$7,166,451          | \$109,209          | 1.5%        |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>      | <b>\$110,305,520</b> | <b>\$113,742,988</b> | <b>\$3,437,468</b> | <b>3.1%</b> |

| REVENUES              | 2025-26 Budget       | 2026-27 Budget       | Change             |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                       |                      |                      | Dollars (\$)       | Percent (%) |
| State Aid             | \$39,350,381         | \$40,247,757         | \$897,376          | 2.3%        |
| PILOTS                | \$2,856,061          | \$2,443,742          | (\$412,319)        | (14.4%)     |
| Other Sources*        | \$3,195,500          | \$3,661,089          | \$465,589          | 14.6%       |
| Fund Balance/Reserves | \$1,800,000          | \$1,800,000          | \$0                | 0%          |
| Real Property Tax     | \$63,103,578         | \$65,590,400         | \$2,486,822        | 3.9%        |
| <b>Total Revenues</b> | <b>\$110,305,520</b> | <b>\$113,742,988</b> | <b>\$3,437,468</b> | <b>3.1%</b> |

\* Other Sources of Revenue include federal aid, charges to other districts, interest earnings, and other miscellaneous sources.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE)** Our Ballston Spa High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs went through a reapproval process with New York State last year which provided an opportunity to work with area colleges so more of the courses qualify for College in the High School Credit. Now, students that complete the Building Science CTE pathway can earn up to 6 college credits from HVCC. Students in the pre-engineering pathway can earn up to 12 college credits from RIT and students in the business pathway can earn up to 9 college credits.

As students develop technical skills in these pathways, they have opportunities to apply what they learn to real-world projects and to earn work based learning (WBL) hours. These opportunities also allow students to demonstrate the skills included in the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.

In addition to earning WBL hours through CTE coursework, seniors at the high school can enroll in a Professional Career Internship (PCI) Course where they have the opportunity to

be placed at a work site. Students in the PCI course are able to obtain non-paid, on-site, career exploration experiences while also earning high school course credit. The focus of the program is meaningful, hands-on, career exploration to help them decide if the career they are looking at is a good fit.



# 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                                                                                                  | \$110,305,520                              | \$113,742,988                               | \$111,256,166                                  |
| Increase/Decrease for 2026-27 School Year                                                                                                                   |                                            | \$3,437,468                                 | \$950,646                                      |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget                                                                                                             |                                            | 3.12%                                       | 0.86%                                          |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index                                                                                                                          |                                            | 2.63%                                       |                                                |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount                                                                                                   | \$63,103,578                               | \$65,590,400                                |                                                |
| 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)                                                                                                      | \$63,103,578                               | \$65,590,400                                | \$63,103,578                                   |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions                                                                                                                             | \$2,006,877                                | \$2,116,688                                 |                                                |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions                                                                                         | \$61,536,966                               | \$63,676,321                                |                                                |
| H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D) | \$61,096,701                               | \$ 63,473,712                               |                                                |
| I. Difference: (G - H): Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval                                                                                        | \$440,265                                  | \$202,609                                   |                                                |
| Administrative Component                                                                                                                                    | \$11,422,754                               | \$12,046,864                                | \$11,582,433                                   |
| Program Component                                                                                                                                           | \$82,956,456                               | \$85,524,745                                | \$84,187,503                                   |
| Capital Component                                                                                                                                           | \$15,926,310                               | \$16,171,379                                | \$15,486,230                                   |

Contingency Budget Assumptions: A contingent budget would result in the reduction and/or elimination of certain expenses such as equipment, supplies, and personnel as determined by the Board of Education. In all, a contingent budget would require \$2,486,822 in reductions.

## List of separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027 by the qualified voters of the Ballston Spa Central School District, Saratoga County, New York, will be held at the Ballston Spa High School for voters in District 1 and the Malta Town Hall for voters in District 2 on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

| Description                      | Amount      |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| School District Buses & Vehicles | \$1,620,100 |
| School District EV Bus           | \$295,000   |
| Ballston Spa Public Library      | \$65,902    |

## Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

\$504

## VOTE MAY 19, 2026

The annual statewide School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections will be held on May 19, 2026 from 7am-9pm. District residents vote at Ballston Spa High School (residents of the Towns of Ballston, Milton and Charlton) and the Malta Town Hall (residents of Malta).

## The Bottom Line:

The adopted 2026-2027 budget for the Ballston Spa Central School District is \$113,742,988 which represents a 3.1% increase in expenditures over the 2025-2026 budget.

The projected tax levy to support the 2026-2027 budget is \$65,590,400 which represents a 3.9% increase over the 2025-2026 tax levy.

The adopted budget provides support to maintain programming across the District; as well as increasing opportunities for students in areas such as special education and career and technical education.



# Ballston Spa CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

70 MALTA AVENUE  
BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

518-884-7195

**VOTE  
MAY 19**



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**Ballston Spa**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-27 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

[www.bscsd.org](http://www.bscsd.org)

## Upcoming Events:

### May

- 16** Family Color Fun Run
- 18** JV Spring Concert
- 19** **Budget Vote & BOE Elections**
- 19** HS Varsity Spring Concert & Senior Recognition Night
- 21** ECHS 9th/10th Grade Student Project Expo
- 25** No School - Memorial Day
- 28** Senior Awards Night
- 30** Senior Prom

### June

- 12** Clean Tech ECHS Graduation & Capstone Presentations
- 19** No School - Juneteenth
- 25** BSHS Class of 2026 Graduation
- 25** Last Day of School

Complete event information is located on the District Website's Events Calendar. Please check often for the latest info, or call the appropriate school office. Also, follow the district on X @BSCSD or Facebook/Instagram @BallstonSpaCSD for frequent updates and information.

## District Budget and Vote Information

The Board of Education recently approved the proposed 2026-2027 school district budget of \$113,742,988 which represents a 3.1% increase in expenditures over the 2025-2026 budget. It now goes before the community to



vote during the annual statewide School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections that will be held on May 19, 2026 from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. District residents vote at Ballston Spa High School (residents of the Towns of Ballston, Milton and Charlton) and the Malta Town Hall (residents of Malta).

The mandated School District Annual Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 6, 2026 at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting in the Ballston Spa High School Library. It will also be broadcast on the district's YouTube channel. Questions may be submitted via email at [boe@bscsd.org](mailto:boe@bscsd.org).