

WHAT'S HAPPENING

DEEP ROOTS | CORE VALUES | BRIGHT FUTURES

**2026-27 BUDGET:
\$30,164,644**

- 2025-26 Budget to 2026-27 Budget \$ Change: \$1,037,979
- 2025-26 Budget to 2026-27 Budget % Change: 3.56%
- Percent Increase on Levy: 2.55% (\$320,616)

DEAR WCS COMMUNITY:

A school district's budget is a direct reflection of its vision, priorities, and goals for students, staff, and the broader community it serves. It translates those commitments into a financial plan that supports both immediate needs and long-term sustainability.

The development of the 2026-27 budget has occurred during a challenging fiscal climate for schools, individuals, and families alike. Rising costs, including increases in healthcare and the impacts of inflation, along with evolving educational mandates, require careful planning and prioritization. Throughout this process, the district has remained firmly committed to maintaining strong program quality while supporting a culture of continuous improvement across all areas of the organization and in alignment with our Essential Objectives:

- Student Achievement
- Culture of Caring
- Community Connections
- Fiscal Responsibility

The Board of Education adopted the 2026-27 Budget during a Regular Meeting of the Board on April 22 for voter consideration. The 2026-27 Budget represents a budget-to-budget increase of 3.56%. The total tax levy is projected to increase by 2.55%, which remains within New York State tax cap parameters.

Additional information, including budget videos about anticipated 2026-27 revenues and expenditures, is available on the district website. Thank you for taking the time to review this information about the Williamson Central School District.

Sincerely,

E. Bridget Ashton

Superintendent of Schools



VOTING INFORMATION

Budget Vote:

**Tuesday, May 19th,
1:00 - 9:00 p.m.,
Middle School Cafeteria**

LOOKING AHEAD: DISTRICT PRIORITIES FOR 2027 AND BEYOND

As we look ahead, we do so with a continued sense of purpose and a deep commitment to our students, staff, and community. Guided by a strategic plan centered on our four key priorities, student achievement, a culture of caring, community connections, and fiscal responsibility, the Board has worked to set a clear direction, and this past year, we watched our talented admin, teachers, and staff turn that vision into action.

The results reflect their dedication. Under the leadership of Superintendent Bridget Ashton, our staff sharpened its focus on student achievement, recognizing that preparing students for today's world requires intentional effort, innovation, and high expectations. It has strengthened instruction in literacy and mathematics, expanded opportunities in career and technical education, and better supported students through a responsive, multi-tiered system of support.

Our teachers and staff have also remained deeply committed to fostering a culture of caring across our schools, because they believe, as we do, that students learn best when they feel safe, respected, and connected. By prioritizing relationships and listening to student voices, they are working to ensure every student feels a true sense of belonging. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our student ex-officio Board member, Ronan Martinez, who made a meaningful impact in elevating student voices this year.

This work has reinforced the importance of strong community connections. We made strides in improving communication, building meaningful partnerships throughout our community, and pursuing shared services and collaborative



Board of Education members:

Rae Verbridge, Angela DeFisher, Sarah Schembri, Francis Gasparri, Geoffrey Governor

planning. The success of our schools is a shared responsibility, and that collaboration is essential to everything we do.

Fiscal responsibility continues to guide every decision we make. The Board remains committed to careful stewardship of community resources, long-term planning, and ensuring the sustainability of the programs and opportunities that have defined a Williamson education for years. As we look ahead, we are actively seeking opportunities to operate more efficiently, finding ways to do more with less where we can so that we can continue to invest in the experiences and support our students deserve.

Looking ahead, we are confident in the direction of our district. While important work remains, our dedicated staff, engaged community, and strong foundation—built on high expectations and meaningful relationships—position us to ensure bright futures for every student.

Thank you to our staff, our families, and our community for your continued support, your trust, and your partnership.



ANNUAL BUDGET NOTICE AND TAX INFORMATION

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	\$ 29,126,665	\$30,164,644	\$29,844,028
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 1,037,979	\$ 717,363
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.56%	2.46%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,548,645	\$12,869,261	
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)	\$ 12,548,645	\$ 12,869,261	\$ 12,548,645
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit			
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 12,548,645	\$ 12,869,261	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$ 12,548,645	\$ 12,869,261	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,392,814	\$ 3,731,577	\$ 3,492,906
Program Component	\$ 20,722,048	\$ 21,414,254	\$ 21,332,309
Capital Component	\$ 5,011,803	\$ 5,018,813	\$ 5,018,813

****This is an estimate. The Board of Education may submit the budget to the voters no more than two(2) times. If the proposed 2026-27 Budget is not passed on May 19, 2026 the Board has three options. It may choose to resubmit the same budget or submit an adjusted budget for a second vote (on June 16, 2026), or immediately adopt a contingency budget. If the same budget, or an adjusted budget, is not passed by the voters on June 16, 2026, the Board is mandated to adopt a contingency budget. NYS Education Law allows 0% increase to the local tax levy under a contingency budget. Therefore, a contingency budget will usually necessitate reductions in order to meet the spending limitations imposed by law. The contingent budget estimate shown above conforms to Education Law requirements. Component totals may change based on priorities determined by the Board of Education during development of a contingency budget.***

	Description	Amount
	Capital Bus Purchases Proposition - Diesel/Gas	\$708,830
	Williamson Public Library Proposition	\$451,239

**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
\$ 560

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Williamson Central School District, Wayne County, New York, will be held at Williamson Central school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Middle School Cafeteria, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

2026-2027 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Williamson CSD 3 Part Budget

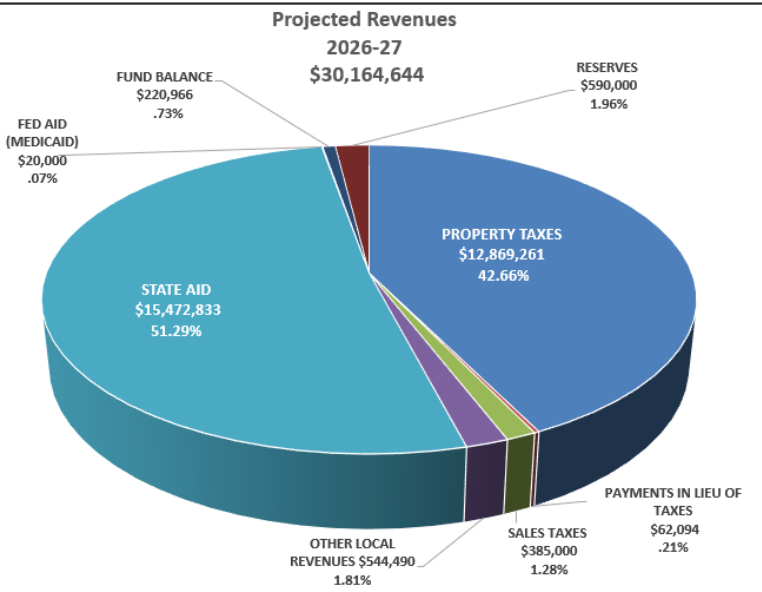
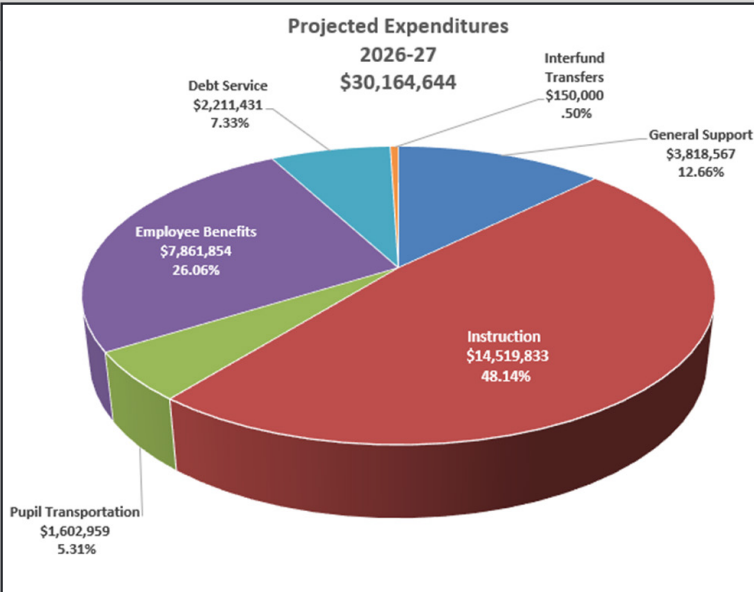
The following provides a comparison of the 2026-27 proposed budget with the 2025-26 budget. Copies of the proposed budget and attachments are available in each school building Monday-Friday. Copies of the proposed budget and additional information may be obtained from the District website at www.williamsoncentral.org or by calling the District Office at (315) 589-9661.

	2026-27 Proposed Budget	2025-26 Enacted Budget	Year-To-Year Change
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT			
Board of Education	\$38,726	\$35,028	\$3,698
Central Administration & Finance	\$735,442	\$695,175	\$40,267
Legal Services, Personnel, Public Information	\$178,892	\$172,587	\$6,305
Central Services and Special Items	\$684,430	\$634,082	\$50,348
Curriculum Development and Supervision	\$1,091,590	\$993,992	\$97,598
Benefits	<u>\$1,002,496</u>	<u>\$861,949</u>	<u>\$140,547</u>
TOTAL - ADMINISTRATIVE	\$3,731,577	\$3,392,814	\$338,763
Percent of Total Budget	12.37%	11.65%	1.16%
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM COMPONENT			
Teaching - Regular School	\$6,208,908	\$6,201,380	\$7,528
Programs for Students with Disabilities & Occ Ed	\$4,328,115	\$4,182,658	\$145,457
Special Services, Instructional Media, and Pupil Services	\$2,407,735	\$2,364,467	\$43,268
Co-curricular and Athletics	\$519,471	\$520,157	-\$686
Transportation	\$1,602,959	\$1,555,061	\$47,898
Benefits	<u>\$6,347,066</u>	<u>\$5,898,325</u>	<u>\$448,741</u>
TOTAL - PROGRAM	\$21,414,254	\$20,722,048	\$692,206
Percent of Total Budget	70.99%	71.14%	2.38%
CAPITAL COMPONENT			
Operation of Maintenance of Plant	\$2,145,090	\$2,128,971	\$16,119
Benefits	\$512,292	\$496,183	\$16,109
Capital Outlay	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Debt Service and Transfers	<u>\$2,261,431</u>	<u>\$2,286,649</u>	<u>-\$25,218</u>
TOTAL - CAPITAL	\$5,018,813	\$5,011,803	\$7,010
Percent of Total Budget	16.64%	17.21%	0.02%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$30,164,644	\$29,126,665	\$1,037,979

2026-2027 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

EXPENDITURES

DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 2026-27	CURRENT BUDGET 2025-26	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$3,818,567	\$3,701,068	\$117,499	3.08%
INSTRUCTION	\$14,519,833	\$14,227,429	\$292,404	2.01%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$1,602,959	\$1,555,061	\$47,898	2.99%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$7,861,854	\$7,256,458	\$605,396	7.70%
DEBT SERVICE	\$2,211,431	\$2,236,649	(\$25,218)	-1.14%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL	\$30,164,644	\$29,126,665	\$1,037,979	3.56%



REVENUES

DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED REVENUES 2026-27	CURRENT BUDGET 2025-26	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
PROPERTY TAXES	\$12,869,261	\$12,548,645	\$320,616	2.55%
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$62,094	\$21,230	\$40,864	192.48%
SALES TAXES	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$0	0.00%
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES	\$544,490	\$534,490	\$10,000	1.87%
STATE AID	\$15,472,833	\$15,078,800	\$394,033	2.61%
FED AID (MEDICAID)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
FUND BALANCE	\$220,966	\$0	\$220,966	N/A
RESERVES	\$590,000	\$538,500	\$51,500	9.56%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$30,164,644	\$29,126,665	\$1,037,979	3.56%

HOW ARE WE MEETING OUR ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES?

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Williamson Central School District demonstrates its commitment to student achievement through engaging instruction, innovative programs, and opportunities that support academic growth for all learners.



CULTURE OF CARING



A strong culture of caring is evident across the district, with staff fostering inclusive, supportive environments where every student feels valued, respected, and connected.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



The district builds meaningful community connections by partnering with families, local organizations, and businesses to enhance learning and create real-world opportunities for students.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



Through careful planning and transparent decision-making, Williamson remains committed to fiscal responsibility, ensuring resources are used effectively to support student success while maintaining long-term stability.



2026-2027 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

Williamson Central School District seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the district's tax dollars.

Continuing a strategy from previous years, a mini-renovation project is again being proposed this year that will include work at the High School, including replacement of select interior/exterior doors, door hardware, and associated construction due to existing deteriorating conditions, security, and performance.

This mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project, the district would incur the full cost of the work. By including the \$100,000 budget for this work in a mini-capital project within the proposed annual budget, the district will receive approximately \$84,900 in additional aid during the 2027-28 school year.

This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the district's budget.



ANNUAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Under New York State Education Law and district election requirements, school board members are elected by qualified voters of the district to serve rotating terms. The period for submitting nomination petitions has passed and there are no candidates on the ballot for the available Board of Education seats. Therefore, the available Board of Education seats will be filled by the individuals who receive the most write in votes.

In accordance with New York State Education Law, in the event a vacancy exists at the completion of the annual election the Board of Education will be able to appoint qualified eligible individuals to serve until the next scheduled election, as applicable under law.

The district will continue to follow all requirements established by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and guidance provided by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) to ensure that governance responsibilities are maintained in accordance with state law and district policy.

Additional information regarding the election process, budget vote, and Board of Education appointments will be shared following the annual vote and Board organizational meeting.

Williamson Central School



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Williamson, NY 14589

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RURAL BOXHOLDER
PO BOXHOLDER

On the Ballot | Tuesday, May 19 | 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m | MS Cafeteria

Proposition 1 Budget	Shall the proposed school budget for the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$30,164,644 be approved, and the District be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefor?
Proposition 2 Bus Purchase	Shall the Board of Education of the Williamson Central School District hereby be authorized to purchase three (3) 64-passenger diesel school buses and two (2) 28-passenger school buses for the purpose of providing student transportation, at a total estimated cost after taking into account state aid and trade-in value and rebate not to exceed \$708,829.57; and that such sum or so much thereof as the Board may deem appropriate, in its discretion, shall be paid from the 2021 Transportation Vehicle Replacement Reserve Fund and the 2024 Transportation Vehicle Replacement Reserve Fund to the extent they are funded?
Proposition 3 2026 Capital Reserve Fund	Resolved, the Board of Education of the Williamson Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Education Law Section 3651 to be named, "2026 Capital Reserve Fund" created to defray the cost of the construction, reconstruction, and equipping of School District buildings and facilities, including original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings, land acquisitions, and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such Reserve Fund to be Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00), inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years and, to appropriate from the available fund balance, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such Reserve Fund.
Proposition 4 Library Tax Levy	Shall the Williamson Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$451,239 (which is an increase of \$13,143 from the Williamson Public Library Tax Levy in effect from 2025-2026 in the sum of \$438,096) for the continuing support and maintenance of the Library, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Williamson Central School District?

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You do not need to own property in the district.

Absentee Ballots:

A qualified voter of the Williamson Central School District is eligible to vote by absentee ballot under the following circumstances:

- Voter is out of the country or city while the polls are open;
- Voter is confined in a hospital or jail;
- Voter has a physical disability or illness;
- Voter is on vacation (includes retirees).

To receive an absentee ballot, an applicant must submit an application to Kelly Dixon, District Clerk. The application must be received seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Applications may be obtained from Kelly Dixon, the District Clerk by phone at 589-9661 or by email at kdixon@williamsoncentral.org.