Budget Presentation

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

May 12, 2026

District Goals for 2025-2026

Goal #1 School Environment: It is the collective responsibility of all District employees to embrace the importance of *Educating the Whole Child* and to enhance the established positive school climate that fosters a sense of belonging.

- Continue to create a positive and welcoming environment
- Encourage learning activities that increase student voice
- Celebrate and strengthen school pride through the use of District Capital Improvement projects
- Increase student leadership through the 7 Habits and Restorative Practices

Goal #2 Instruction: Educate all stakeholders in the implementation of explicit instructional practices across all classrooms to improve student learning outcomes.

- Create systems and structures to support this model
- Utilize the Explicit Instruction expectations as a guide for planning, teaching, and reflection

Goal #3 Feedback and Growth: All employees will use meaningful data to provide specific, timely, and relevant feedback that supports continuous learning and growth

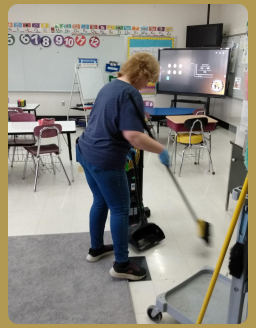
- Regularly collect and analyze data in all schools
- Use assessment results to guide instruction, interventions, and enrichment opportunities
- Engage in professional conversations focused on delivering effective feedback

Buildings and Grounds



Modernized Equipment

The updated equipment ensures our buildings remain open and safe for students and staff year-round.





Repairs & Maintenance

Ongoing facility care and system updates.





Hallway Upgrades

Prepping for comprehensive district upgrades.

Food Service



Opening day breakfast for faculty and staff



JFK Students participating in a product taste testing with a General Mills representative



Halloween themed brunch for the Superintendent's Council



Students love the new griddle sandwich and hash brown sticks.



The very popular apple nachos for breakfast

Technology


Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD

Technology Plan
2026-2029
Creating 21st Century Learners

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District
166 Halstead Avenue
Sloan, NY 14212
(716) 897-7800
www.cheektowagasloan.org

Contact Information: Brian Zybala
Director of Data and Technology
(716) 897-7800 ext. 2124
bzybala@cheektowagasloan.org
Contact Information: Elizabeth Zaccarine
Technology Liaison & Principal
(716) 897-7800 ext. 2419
ezaccarine@cheektowagasloan.org

3-year Technology Plan approved by the State:

1. Increase WiFi access
2. Review technology curriculum
3. Professional Development on AI
4. Hardware replenishment
5. Increasing access



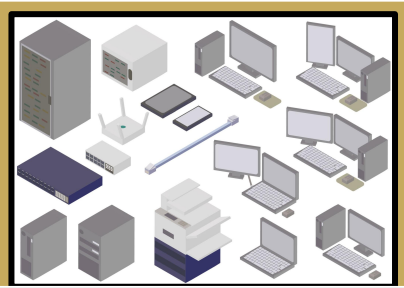
Review technology curriculum K-12



Increasing access to all



WiFi added to Concession Stand and Press Box to cover stands and field



Hardware refresh cycle

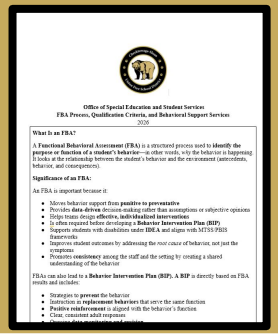


Professional development on A.I. for lesson and intervention planning

Special Education and Student Services



Students hard at work with our ENL Teacher, Mrs. Pfohl



Office of Special Education and Student Services
FBA Process, Qualification Criteria, and Behavioral Support Services
2026

What Is an FBA?

A **Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)** is a structured process used to **identify the purpose or function of a student's behavior**—in other words, why the behavior is happening. It looks at the relationship between the student's behavior and the environment (antecedents, behavior, and consequences).

Significance of an FBA:

An FBA is important because it:

- Moves behavior support from **punitive to preventative**
- Provides **data-driven** decision-making rather than assumptions or subjective opinions
- Helps teams design **effective, individualized interventions**
- Is often required before developing a **Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)**
- Supports students with disabilities under **IDEA** and aligns with MTSS/PBIS frameworks
- Improves student outcomes by addressing the *root cause* of behavior, not just the symptoms
- Promotes **consistency** among the staff and the setting by creating a shared understanding of the behavior

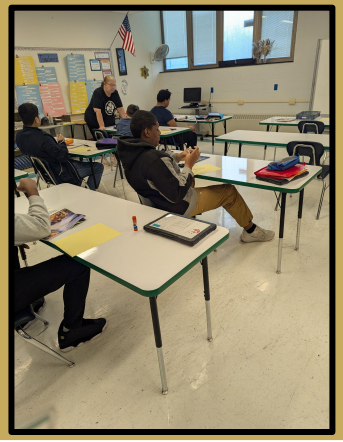
FBAs can also lead to a **Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP). A BIP** is directly based on FBA results and includes:

- Strategies to **prevent** the behavior
- Instruction in **replacement behaviors** that serve the same function
- **Positive reinforcement** is aligned with the behavior's function
- Clear, consistent adult responses

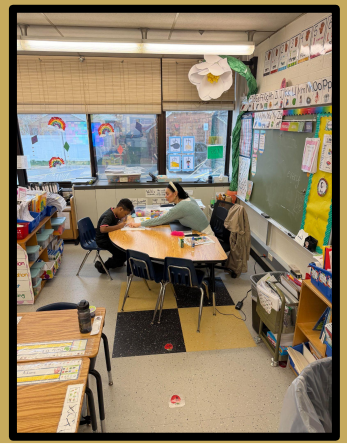
FBA Process



Professional Development for Staff on Practical De-escalation Strategies for the Classroom



15:1:1 classroom at JFK HS



Special Education Students hard at work at TR!

FOCUS: Increase Student Achievement

Early Warning System (EWS)- *JFK Middle and High School*

A systematic approach to identify at-risk students, diagnose needs, and develop intervention plans to support students' needs and help students graduate

Instructional Support Teams/Student Support Teams:

Multidisciplinary, collaborative building teams ensuring academic, behavioral, and social-emotional success

WHOLE CHILD

Academic Learning Centers (ALC)- *JFK Middle and High School*

Academic support, test-prep, goal-setting, study strategies, build independence, accountability, and confidence

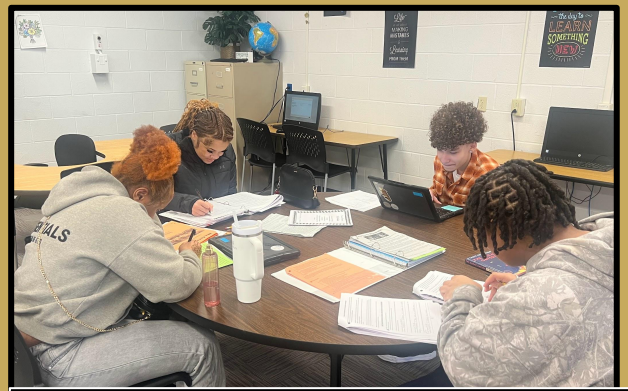
Restorative Practice:

Relationship-centered, preventative, and focused on problem-solving and learning

EWS, ALC, and Restorative Practice in Action



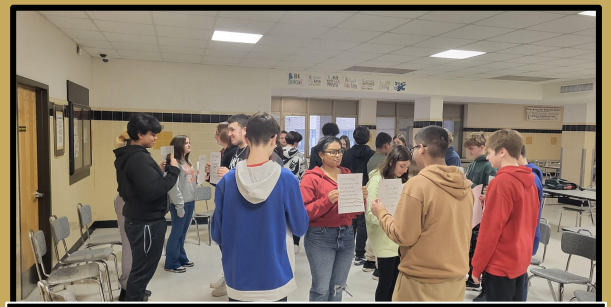
Faculty and Staff in Circles on Opening Day- September 2025



Students Working in the ALC



EWS Team- JFK High School



High School Restorative Practice Student Leaders



EWS Team- JFK Middle School

Science of Reading

Interdisciplinary body of research that explores how individuals **learn to read**, focusing on cognitive **psychology, neuroscience, and education.**

- Phonics
- Phonological Awareness
- Vocabulary
- Oral Language
- Comprehension
- Fluency

Explicit Instruction- Structured, systematic, and direct teaching

WHAT am I learning today?

Learning Intentions

WHY am I learning this?

Relevance

HOW will I know I learned it?

Success Criteria



I do → **we do** → **you do**



Consultant: Angela Hanlin from Angela Hanlin and Associates



Snowball Team Building



THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proactive Student Spotlight Winners





Playground Ribbon Cutting



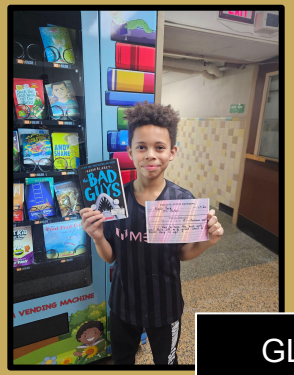
Family First Dinner







Enjoying our Playground





GLOWing in Leadership

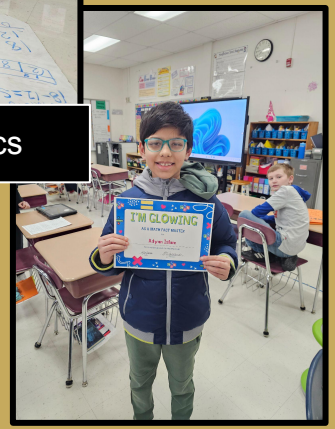
Woodrow is GLOWing in School Spirit

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



GLOWing in Academics







Leveling up Through Spirit Weeks







Leveling up in the Classroom!

JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Leveling up through Extracurricular Activities!





Leveling up Through School-Wide Celebrations!

Class Bonding Events!





JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL



Fans packed the stands for Friday Night Lights at JFK!

Engaging academics





Continued support of the Arts!

Athletic Progress



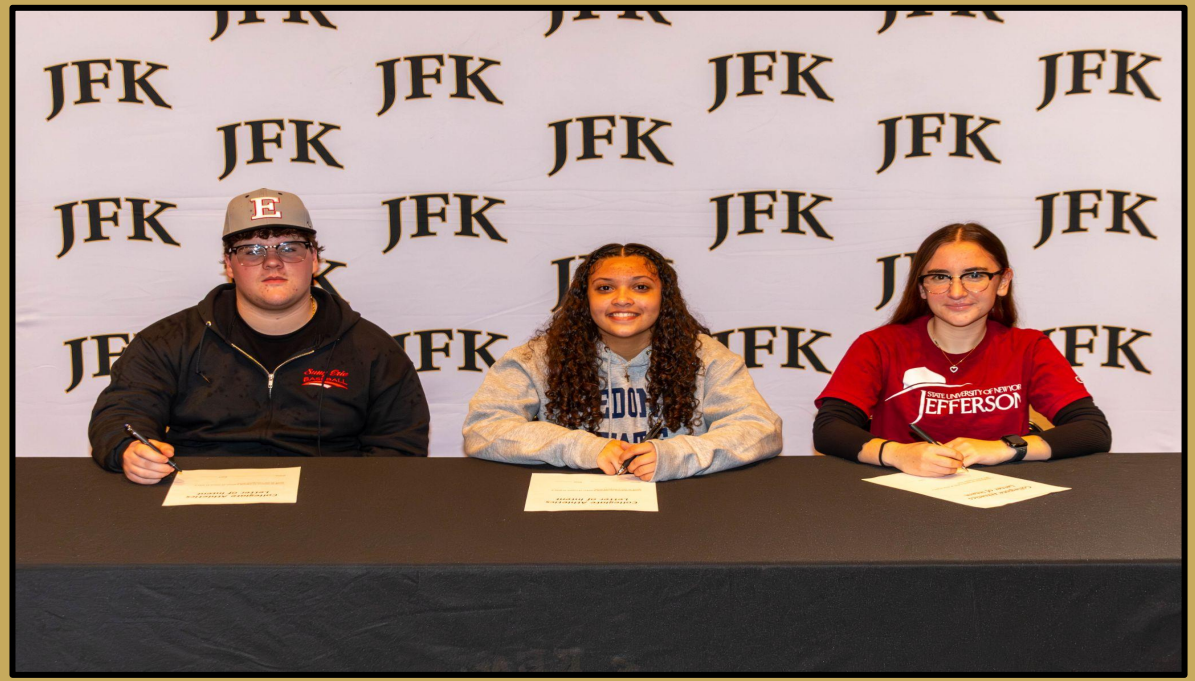


Liana Christian ended her basketball career with 774 points which puts her at #5 all time in scoring at J.F.K.

Mason Burgstahler finished #23 in bowling for New York State

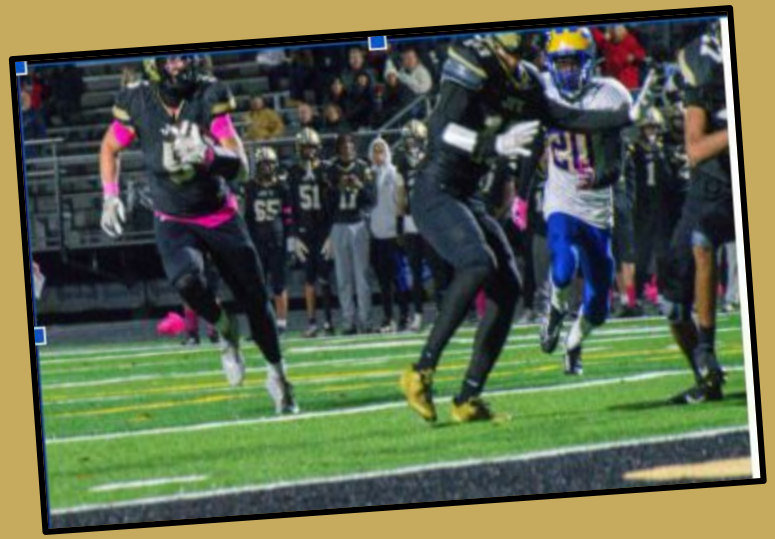


Athletes Sign Collegiate Athletic Letters of Intent



Andrew Pajak inked to play baseball at SUNY Erie Community College. Liana Christian signed to play basketball at Fredonia State, while Kathryn Szablicki penned to play soccer at SUNY Jefferson Community College.

The new turf field brought our sports to life



Payton Sikorski runs in for a touchdown vs. Cleveland Hill



Danielle Odojewski uses her body to defend a ball during a soccer game

1st powderpuff game on the new turf field



Allison Coronado breaks away during annual powder puff game



The new scoreboard lights up after a touchdown!

John F. Kennedy High/Middle School



Drone picture of the field and surrounding areas



JFK Soccer poses for a team photo on the new field



The New Scoreboard

Fans packed the stands for our first game under the lights





JFK Football competes in their homecoming football game

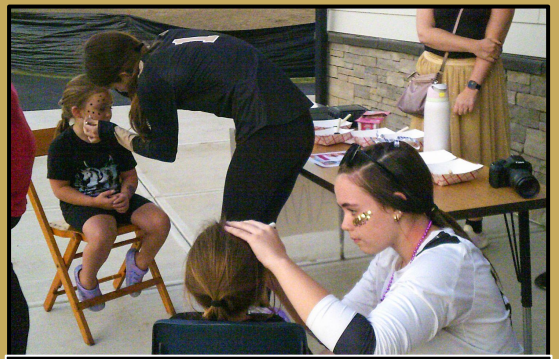
John F. Kennedy High/Middle School



JFK's New Sign at Night



The concession stand is busy on game days!



Student athletes do face painting for the youngest fans



Illuminated pathway from the parking area to the new field



Teachers helped work the concession stand during games

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary



TR's New Sign



TR's new playground from above



Students enjoying their new playground at TR

Woodrow Wilson Elementary



Students enjoying recess on their new playground at WW



Full view of the new WW Playground

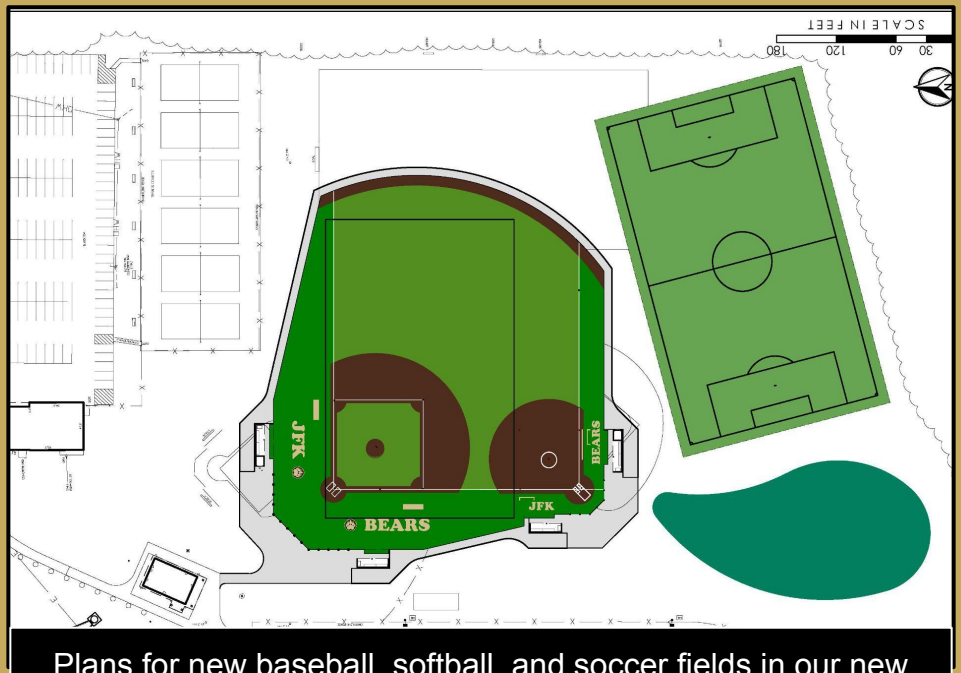


WW's New Sign

Upcoming Project



Aerial view of the current athletic fields



Plans for new baseball, softball, and soccer fields in our new turf complex



Conditions of the existing baseball diamond

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

Proposed 2026-2027 Budget Summary

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

- The District's current budget contains total appropriations of $42,901,087
- The 2026-27 proposed budget contains total appropriations of $44,146,792
- The proposed budget is $1,245,705 or 2.9% more than the prior year
- The 2026-27 tax levy is proposed to increase $153,961 or 0.98%
- The difference in budget and tax levy increase is caused by aid provided by NYS
- Exact tax rates for each town are not known until assessment rolls are finalized

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

- **The most significant cost increases in the 2026-27 budget are:**
  - Charter school tuition payments
  - Special Education
  - Student transportation
  - Unfunded mandates (Science of Reading, Math)
  - Salaries and benefits
- **Inflation has a significant effect on all costs**
- **The District has carefully controlled all other types of expenses wherever possible**

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Ensuring Educational Quality while Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility

Stable Financial History

District has a proven and noteworthy history of stable tax levy changes.

A Hallmark of Excellence

Balancing of quality educational services and cost to our community has become a hallmark of the District.

These are the past 14 years of District tax levies as compared to the amount that is allowed under the Tax Cap

Year	Tax Levy	% Change	Tax Cap
2013 - 14	$ 14,882,613	-0.40%	4.10%
2014 - 15	15,089,534	1.39%	3.00%
2015 - 16	15,132,624	0.29%	3.74%
2016 - 17	15,236,351	0.69%	1.71%
2017 - 18	15,164,004	-0.47%	2.24%
2018 - 19	15,163,318	0.00%	2.57%
2019 - 20	15,301,305	0.91%	2.29%
2020 - 21	15,434,546	0.87%	1.60%
2021 - 22	15,467,632	0.21%	2.50%
2022 - 23	15,467,553	0.00%	2.34%
2023 - 24	15,468,040	0.00%	2.13%
2024 - 25	15,617,860	0.97%	2.13%
2025 - 26	15,754,586	0.88%	1.93%
2026 - 27	15,908,549	0.98%	1.38%
Total last 14 years		6.30%	33.66%
Average for 14 years		0.45%	2.40%

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Over the 14 year period, the average District Increase is…

0.45%

Total increase of only 6.30% for all 14 years

Allowed by Tax Cap-

Over this 14 year period…

2.40%

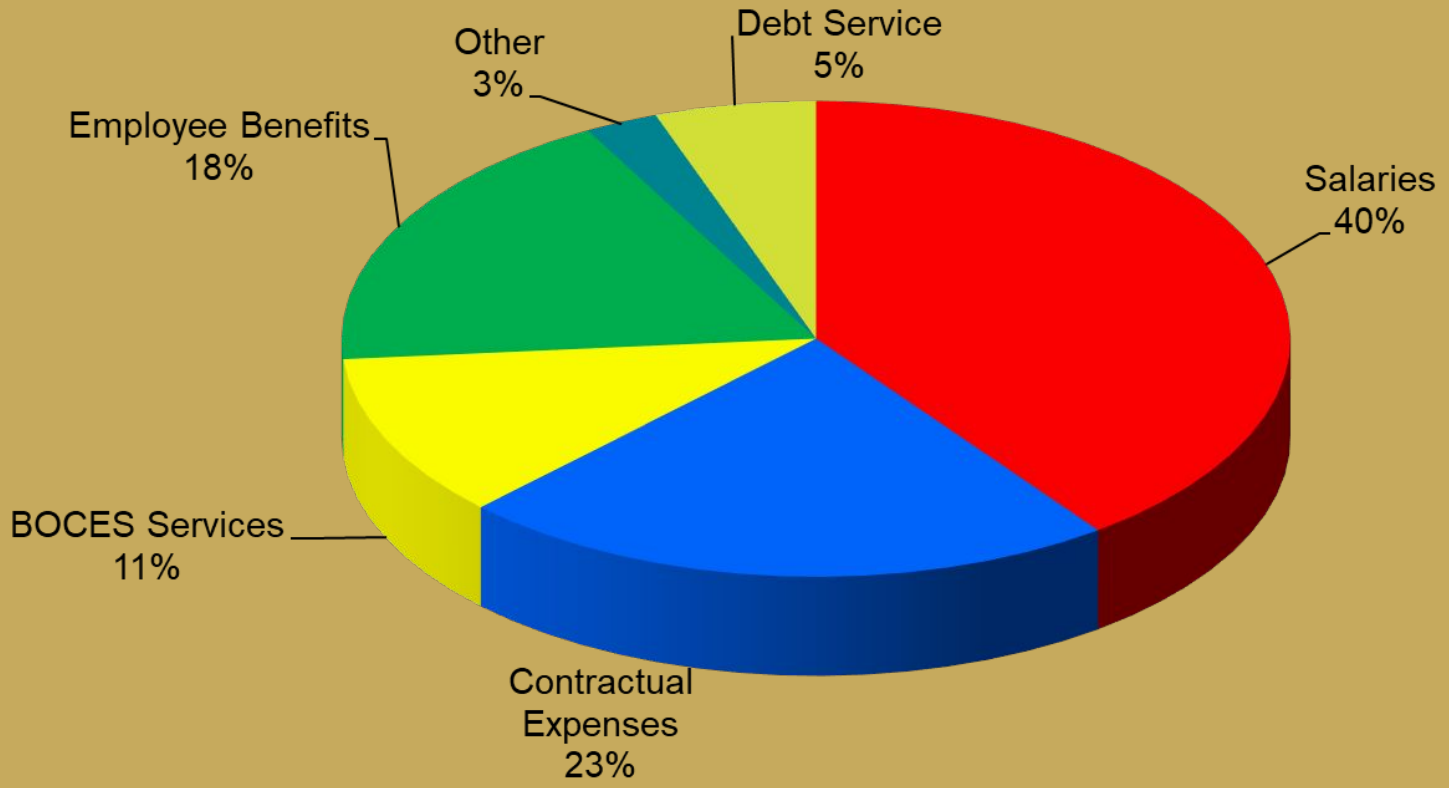
Average annual increase allowed by the State Tax Cap, totaling 33.66%

This is a remarkable accomplishment

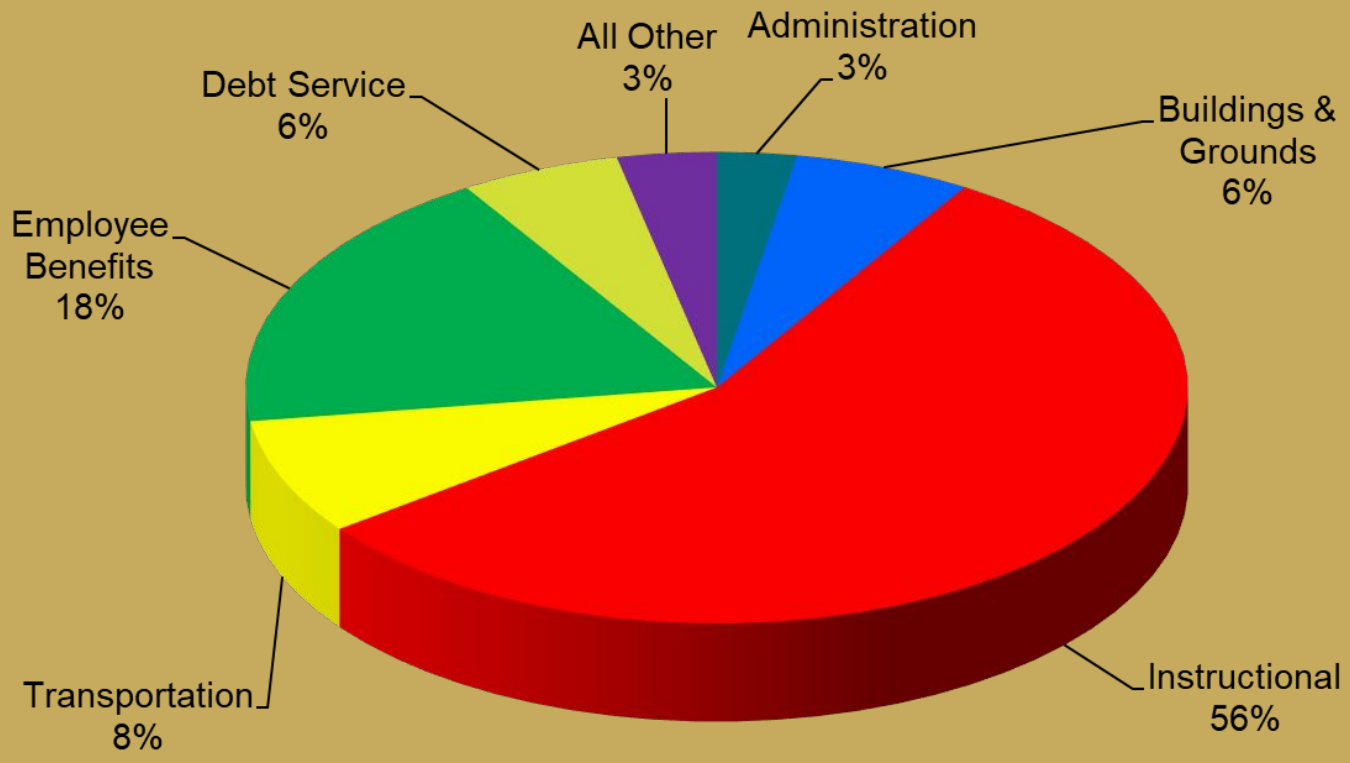
Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

How are the education dollars spent?

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget



Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget



Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

The District has taken many thoughtful action steps to control costs

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

What has the District done to control costs?

- **Shared Business Manager:** Implemented shared model.
- **Staffing:** Eliminated 23 positions (mostly retirements) in 11 years.
- **BOCES Partnerships:** Tech services and consolidated purchasing for discounts.
- **Credit Rating:** S&P bond upgrade, saving future borrowing costs.
- **Operations:** Launched Print Management & Automated Power systems.
- **Debt Management:** Refinanced existing District bond issuances.
- **Asset Planning:** Established Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Plan.
- **Efficiency:** Implemented Gasoline Monitoring System.
- **Utility Savings:** LED lighting upgrades & new boiler at TR.
- **Grant Utilization:** Used COVID funds for a new generator.
- **Reserve Funds:** Leveraged for projects to avoid bond costs.
- **Building Aid:** Strategic project funding to maximize aid.

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Thoughtful & strategic District-wide decisions to control costs has resulted in…

Excess of $2.5 million annually

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

District Advocacy Efforts:

- Prepared and submitted information to Rockefeller Institute relating to the Foundation Aid formula
- Testified at local hearing on the Foundation Aid formula
- Resulted in changes to the formula which benefited the District

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD
2026-2027 Proposed Budget

District Advocacy Efforts:

- **Assemblyman Patrick Chludzinski- February 6, 2026**
  - Round table meeting took place with Superintendent Galenski and Business Official, Wayne Drescher
- **Senator April Baskin- February 27, 2026**
  - Personal invitation was given to Superintendent Galenski to discuss critical issues facing our school district that require funding
  - This meeting was very helpful in articulating our District's needs to be communicated at the state level

The Proposed Budget Is Designed to be Fiscally Responsible while Prioritizing Key Areas:

Student Health & Safety

Ensuring a secure and healthy environment for all students.

Educational Excellence

Maintaining all educational programs and preparing students for future success.

Holistic Development

Sustaining arts, music, PE, library, and athletics.

Building & Security

Continuous renovation and modernization of all facilities.

Fiscal Responsibility

High-quality education mindful of the financial impact on taxpayers.

New York State Tax Cap for Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is

1.38%

The District's Proposed Budget contains a tax levy increase of 0.98%

The effect on the average home is an increase of

$30.02 for the entire year

Calculations based on 2026-2027 fiscal year projections.

Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

The District has been below the New York State Tax Cap

each year that the Cap has been in existence

VOTE:
May 19, 2026

12:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
John F. Kennedy High School Gym



Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

THANK YOU!

We value the trust our community places in us.

Guided by a history of responsible fiscal oversight, we continue to provide an exceptional Whole-Child Educational experience for all students while maintaining our steadfast commitment to keeping tax impacts low.