



A MESSAGE from the Superintendent

SARAH E. HADDEN
Superintendent of Schools

Dear GWL Community,

In developing the budget for the 2026–2027 school year, Greenwood Lake UFSD remains committed to providing a strong K–8 program, hosting two Universal PreKindergarten classes at our elementary school, and meeting the needs of both our high school–aged students and out-of-district special education students. The District and the Board of Education worked closely together to develop a budget that supports these priorities, includes necessary capital improvements, provides for bus purchases, and accounts for rising costs of materials, supplies, and services.

This year's budget increase is driven by several key factors:

- **OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS:** This includes tuition, transportation, and extended school year (summer) services for students whose needs require placement outside the District.
- **IN-DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION:** Costs associated with providing specialized services for high school students within our program.
- **INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN CTEC PROGRAMS:** Enrollment has grown from approximately 20 students per year to nearly 30, increasing program-related costs.
- **FLOOD INSURANCE PREMIUM:** The District is responsible for paying the annual premium for flood insurance coverage.
- **SCHOOL BUS PURCHASES:** The budget includes the purchase of three diesel school buses. The District has applied for a waiver from the electric school bus mandate and is seeking to replace buses now, prior to the required transition to electric.
- **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM:** The District must update and replace the aging fire alarm system, as replacement parts are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

Another important aspect of our budget is State Aid. At the time of this letter being written (May 6th), State Aid figures have not yet been finalized. Although the New York State budget is due by April 1, it remains unresolved, which presents challenges in the budgeting process. If State Aid increases, it will have a positive impact on our budget. While indications suggest a state budget that fully funds, and may even increase, aid, we have budgeted conservatively based on the Governor's proposal and prior-year allocations. It is our hope that any additional funding from the State can be used to offset other portions of the budget.

With all of this in mind, the Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget of $32,746,080, with $19,266,146 representing the proposed tax levy. For the average Greenwood Lake household, this would tentatively result in an estimated tax increase of approximately $21 per month.

We sincerely hope we can continue to rely on the support of our community. The School Budget Vote & Election will be held on May 19 at the elementary school from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and we encourage all residents to participate.

With Much Laker Pride,
Superintendent Sarah Hadden

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www.gwlufsd.org

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UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO Box 8
Greenwood Lake, NY 10925

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Sarah E. Hadden

Produced by the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District in cooperation with the Orange-Ulster BOCES Communications Service.



GREENWOOD LAKE Union Free School District

SCHOOL BUDGET **2026-2027**

VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026



2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION

ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO VOTE?

The ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION for the fiscal year 2026 – 2027 by the qualified registered voters of the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District, Town of Warwick, Orange County, New York, to be held in person at the Greenwood Lake Elementary School, on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 11 am – 9 pm.

HOW DO I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTER BALLOT?

Qualified Registered voters of the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District can request an absentee/early voter ballot application by contacting Mary DePietro, District Clerk at 845-782-8678 x51100, or by email at mdepietro@gwlufsd.org, Your ballot application must be picked up in person at the Office of the District Clerk. Once completed and returned, you or your designee as stated on your application must personally pick up your ballot at the Office of the District Clerk. Your ballot envelope will include:

1) A ballot for the Greenwood Lake UFSD Budget Vote & Board of Education Trustee Election
2) An Oath Envelope for placing your ballot. The envelope must be sealed, signed, and dated
3) A Return envelope addressed to the District Clerk of the Greenwood Lake UFSD

Your ballot can be mailed or personally delivered to the District Clerk but MUST be received by 5 pm on the day of the vote, Tuesday, May 19th.

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Proposed Budget:
$32,746,080

Proposed Tax Levy:
$19,266,146

#lakerpride

2026-2027 TAX LEVY

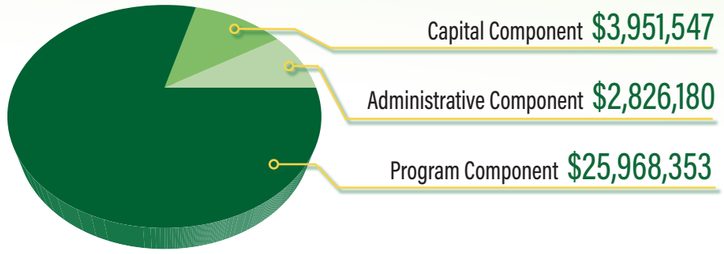
Proposed Tax Levy Increase:
$894,873

Result:
For the average GWL household, this means ~$252.47 increase for the year
($21.04/month)

THREE PART BUDGET

EXPENDITURES

CATEGORY	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	% OF BUDGET
Program	$25,157,180	$25,968,353	$811,173	79.30%
Capital	$3,191,580	$3,951,547	$759,967	12.07%
Administration	$2,631,655	$2,826,180	$194,525	8.63%
TOTAL	**30,980,415**	**$32,746,080**	**$1,765,665**	**100.00%**



All New York State public schools are required to report appropriations in three categories: administrative, program and capital. The following data shows how next year's budget is broken down under this formula:

ADMINISTRATIVE

The administrative budget includes salaries and benefits for all professional staff members. It also includes clerical staff, public information, curriculum development and supervision, research, planning and evaluation, legal services and board of education-related costs.

PROGRAM

The program budget includes salaries and benefits for all teachers, guidance counselors, teaching assistants, aides, psychologists, nurses, social workers and speech therapists. It also includes in-service training, library costs, transportation and cocurricular programs and interscholatic athletics.

CAPITAL

The capital budget includes debt service on buildings, operations and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits for all custodial staff members.

REVENUES

CATEGORY	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	% OF BUDGET
State Aid	$8,149,157	$8,661,245	$512,088	26.4%
Tax Levy	$18,371,273	$19,266,146	$894,873	58.8%
Local Sources	$4,016,185	$2,604,640	($1,411,545)	8.0%
Use of Reserves	$443,800	$2,214,049	$1,770,249	6.8%
TOTAL	**$30,980,415**	**$32,746,080**	**$1,765,665**	**100.00%**



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	$30,980,415	$32,746,080	$31,545,705
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		$1,765,665	($1,200,375)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.70%	(3.88)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$18,371,273	$19,266,146	
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)	$18,371,273	$19,266,146	$18,371,273
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$0	$287,113	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$18,590,995	$18,979,033	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$18,371,273	$18,979,033	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval –See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	$219,722	$0	
Administrative Component	$2,631,655	$2,826,180	$2.671,680
Program Component	$25,157,180	$25,968,353	$25.843.668
Capital Component	$3,191,580	$3,951,547	$3.030,357

The most critical assumption is that the total tax levy will be frozen. Only Ordinary Contingent Expenses or those expenses necessary to maintain the educational program, preserve property, and ensure the health and safety of students and staff are included. Non-Contingent items (Equipment/ Community Use of Facilities/Certain Capital Costs) cannot be funded. The administrative component of the contingency budget cannot exceed the lower of the percentage of the administrative component in the prior year's budget or the percentage of the administrative component in the recently defeated budget.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]	$598.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Greenwood Lake union Free school district, Orange County, New York, will be held at the Elementary school in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 11:00 am prevailing time OR between the hours of 11:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Elementary school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

GREENWOOD LAKE UFSD SAMPLE BALLOT

PROPOSITON 1:

Shall the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District Budget for 2026–2027 in the amount of $32,746,080, be approved?

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

(View candidate profiles on the district website, www.gwlufsd.org)

There are three candidates running for two open seats on the Greenwood Lake Board of Education. Each seat holds a 3-year term. Candidates are listed below as they will appear on the ballot.

Ian Mahony | Diana Clough | Melvin Gutierrez