NYACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUDGET MATTERS

SPRING 2025 • ANNUAL NEWSLETTER











PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-26

Uplifting Each Student: *Sustaining Our Schools; Strengthening Our Core*

DEAR COMMUNITY,

We are pleased to present the 2025-2026 school budget. This budget reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility with laser focus on what matters most: our students. In Nyack Public Schools, we are building bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world. Our daily work is to teach the core competencies embedded in our Profile of a Nyack Graduate for each student's success. Your investment in our schools is vital in helping students become their best selves for a brighter future.

The proposed budget speaks clearly to this year's theme: "**Remember, Refresh, Reunify**". Aligned to key initiatives (pg.2), a leadership vision, and district goals, this budget dedicates 82% of the total funds to instructional expenditures — one of the highest in New York State.

In economically challenging times, we remain committed to strengthening the core of what makes our schools a great place for students to learn and grow. Our fiscal responsibility must balance what each student needs to succeed academically and socio-emotionally. Therefore, the 1.87% tax levy increase — one of the lowest in the past 5 years — reflects our careful consideration of fiscal realities while providing the resources our students need to thrive. Because we know a supportive learning environment for students starts with a supportive teaching environment for staff, this budget also sustains class sizes and maintains academic programming.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we "grow the green" together, building trust and cultivating brilliance one student at a time. Your voice and vote play a vital part in what makes us who we are in Nyack Public Schools. And now more than ever, we need each other!

Please remember to exercise your right to vote on the school budget and the Board of Education Trustee election on **Tuesday, May 20th**!

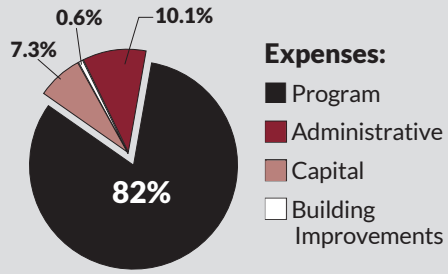
Yours in Education,

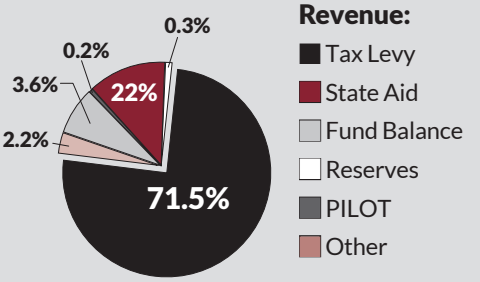
Dr. Lizzette Ruiz-Giovinazzi
Superintendent of Schools

Jen Marraccino
Board of Education President

BUDGET FAST FACTS

Budget	$ 112,566,367
Tax Levy Increase	1.87%
Budget to Budget Increase	5.22%





OUR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ...

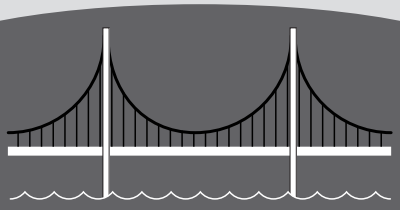
A longstanding tradition of sound financial planning and management is part of our strong leadership vision.

COMMITMENT
Prioritizing community stakeholder investment in the wellness, education and future of our babies

EFFICIENCY
Discovering innovative, sustainable ways to save time, money, energy and human resources

EFFECTIVENESS
Producing the desired outcome of successful budgets, year-to-year

EXPERTISE
Building upon institutional knowledge for consistent budgetary decisions and development



DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

We are **BUILDING BRIDGES** for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism.

Embedded into the Profile of a Graduate of Nyack Public Schools are seven core competencies — *Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Compassion, Content Mastery* and *Cultural Awareness.*

Nurturing these competencies in each student begins at birth, extends into each classroom, and prepares students for success and wellness beyond graduation onto a global platform.

Building **BRIDGES** for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with EQUITY, INNOVATION and OPTIMISM

2025-26 KEY INITIATIVES

CURRICULUM FOCUS:
- Continue implementation of *95% Phonics* Reading Program/PD (G.4)
- New K-5 Science program aligned to Nyack's innovation
- Implement *Eureka Math* curriculum for MS/6-8
- ENL PD for all K-12 teachers
- Add ENL K-12 teachers for social studies/science

MTSS YEAR 2 IMPLEMENTATION:
- New K-12 universal social emotional learning screener (SEL)
- Hire two K-5 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Internal Coaches
- Strengthen K-5 Restorative Practices
- New *AIMSWEB Plus* progress tool for reading & math to provide assessment/monitoring of struggling students
- New *Simplify Writing* program
- Hire an Elementary Literacy Coach
- Provide advanced training for building level *MTSS* teams K-12 utilizing Link-It to transition students in tiers of service

SPECIAL ED DEPARTMENT:
- New Special Ed Social Communication class, grades 2-3
- New Special Ed Consultant Teacher for grade 12

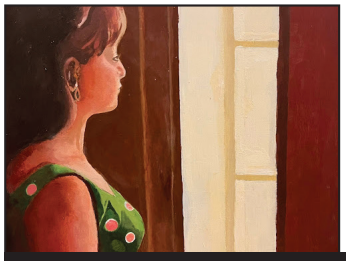
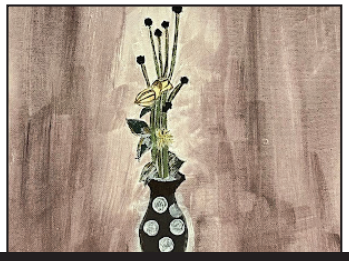
BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY:
- *Cognitive Coaching* PD for Administrators
- AI District Committee for guidelines and strength-based PD
- ENL PD in *Orten-Gillingham* Training
- Restorative Justice expansion at the MS

ATHLETIC TEAM ADDITIONS:
- New 2 athletic teams: girl's flag football, boy's volleyball

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT/OUTREACH:
- New HS FRC Coordinator; Sustain 5 FRCs in K-8
- Reinstate Nyack Basics
- Early intervention reading initiative

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:
- New after school snack program for MS/HS extra-curriculars
- New K-5 before & after school program

FACILITIES/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:
- New facilities personnel to improve environmental footprint and begin preemptive maintenance program in all facilities
- Added safety improvements and efficiency—begin a cycle of district wide electronic locks on all doors, replacing old key locks



Artwork included in this newsletter is provided with pride by Nyack High School AP Art & Design students:
Emilia Rembisz, Adinda Chappell, Augie Davi-Fiondella, Brinn Adler, Eli M, Serafina Moss, Serafina Moss, Serafin Maier.

BUDGET Q&A

Q: What are the district's budget development goals?

A: BUDGET DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MAINTAIN
all academic and support programs

ALIGN
with District goals to build upon equity initiatives and MTSS

SUPPORT
innovative elementary curriculum

STRENGTHEN
the Special Education Department

INCREASE
staff strategically in specific programs

CREATE
Before & After-School programming for K-5

Q: How is the tax cap calculated?

A: : The Tax Cap Legislation, which began in the 2012-13 school year and limits the amount of taxes to be raised by the District, is calculated with a formula developed by New York State. The grid below itemizes how our district's tax cap was determined for the 2025-26 proposed budget.

x	2024/25 Approved Actual Tax Levy	$ 78,980,982
	Tax Base Factor (specific to Nyack)	1.0051
	Subtotal	**$ 79,375,887**
+	P ior Year Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	$ 264,900
	Subtotal	**$ 79,640,787**
–	Prior Year Capital Exclusions	$ (1,352,597)
	(Transfer to Capital, Debt Service, Building Aid, BOCES, ER)	
	Prior Year Tax Levy Limit	**$ 78,288,190**
x	Allowable Levy Growth Factor (lesser 2% or CPI)	2.00%
		$ 79,853,954
–	Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	$ (192,43)
	Current Year Tax Levy Limit	**$ 79,661,521**
+	Current Year Capital Exclusions	$ 795,700
	2025/26 Allowable Tax Levy	**$ 80,457,221**
	Dollar Change in Tax Levy	**$ 1,476,239**
	Percent Change in Tax Levy	**1.87%**

Q: Why is the Budget Proposition the only proposition voters are being asked to approve on May 20th?

A: Due to the current economic climate, the district has decided not to add additional propositions to this year's Budget Proposition. Instead, the district will focus on finalizing a set of capital projects *(listed below)* that have been voter-approved prior to this fiscal year. Therefore, there are **NO NEW** capital improvement projects for voters to consider on this ballot. Here are the itemized projects to be prioritized during the 2025-26 school year:

- New Parking Lot Project on 9W *(former property of Pie Lady)* for Nyack High School
- Installation of new boilers: Liberty, Upper Nyack, District Administration Office and the old HS
- Window Replacement Project: Nyack Middle School
- New Turf Field for Nyack Middle School with new MS parking lot as part of the project.
- New Roof at Valley Cottage Elementary

BUDGET NOTICE *(This Budget Notice format is required by New York State law.)*

Nyack School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal	**Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year**	**Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year**	**Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year***
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	$ 106,980,784	$ 112,566,367	$ 111,090,135
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		$ 5,585,583	$ $4,109,351
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.22%	3.84%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$ 78,980,985	$ 80,457,217	
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)	$ 78,980,985	$ 80,457,217	$
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$ 1,356,398	$ 795,700	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$ 77,624,584	$ 79,661,521	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$ 77,624,584	$ 79,661,517	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)*	$ 0	$ 4	
Administrative Component	$ 10,676,094	$ 9,528,198	$ 9,442,662
Program Component	$ 87,261,932	$ 91,102,888	$ 93,315,714
Capital Component	$ 9,042,758	$ 11,935,281	$ 8,331,760

In the event that the voters reject a district's proposed budget twice, the Board of Education must enact a Contingent Budget consisting of teachers' salaries and ordinary contingent expenses subject to a cap on the administrative portion of the budget, with no increase in tax levy over the prior year in accordance with Section 2023 of the Education Law. Examples of non-contingent expenses include (but are not limited to) capital construction projects (transfer to capital), new multi-year contractual agreements and equipment purchases.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings [1]:	$ 1,100

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Nyack Union Free School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held at four (4) locations in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in each location, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine, Locations: Hilltop, Depew Manor, Upper Nyack Elementary, and Valley Cottage Elementary.

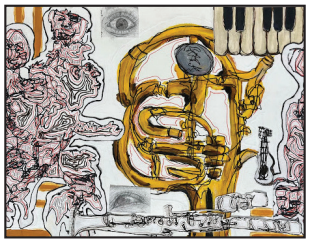
[1] The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION *(Vote for any two)*

JENNIFER MANCA	MICHAEL MARK	MATT WATSON
• 15 year resident • 1 elementary; 1 MS; 1 HS student • Global Investigations Manager	• 40 year resident • 2 NHS graduates • Musician/composer	• 23 year resident • 1 elementary student • Teacher/educator

There are two at-large Board positions on the ballot. Voters may cast 2 votes for Trustees who serve three-year terms. The top two vote-getters will take office July 1, 2025. Names of candidates were randomly chosen to determine the order on the ballot. Candidates are listed in order of how they appear on the ballot.



DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS INFO

PR/Communications Office - Lretallack@nyackschools.org • (845) 353-7013

www.nyackschools.org Facebook: @nyackschools Instagram: @nyack_schools

Check out the *RedHawk SUN* monthly eNewsletter for our Superintendent's Uplifting News: at the Office of the Superintendent page located on the district website.

ON THE BALLOT • Tuesday, May 20, 2025 • Polls Open 7am to 9pm

Budget Proposition

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed 2025-26 Budget in the amount of $112,566,367 to be placed before the qualified voters of the District on May 20, 2025.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

A citizen, 18 or older who has lived in the District for at least 30 days, having voted in a school or general election in the past four years or having newly registered.

REGISTERING

You can register with the Board of Elections (845-638-5172) online through the NYS DMV website: https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application; or at the District Administration Office (845-353-7015) until Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS/EARLY VOTING

This is for those eligible to vote who cannot vote in person on May 20 or who would like to participate in early voting by mail. Applications are available from the District Clerk (845-353-7015) or on the district website (www.nyackschools.org).









Building **BRIDGES** for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with EQUITY, INNOVATION and OPTIMISM

NYACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
13A Dickinson Avenue
Nyack, NY 10960

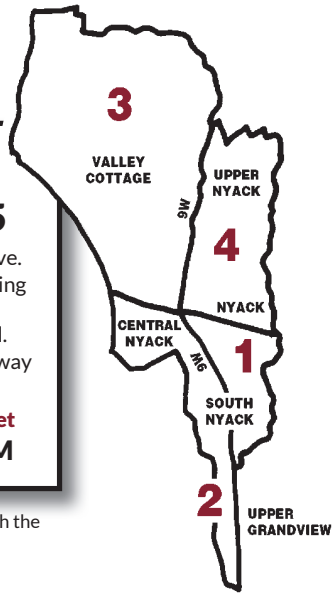
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VOTE:
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Poll 1: Depew Senior Center: 60 Depew Ave.
Poll 2: Nyack Schools Administration Building 13A Dickinson Ave.
Poll 3: Valley Cottage School: 26 Lake Rd.
Poll 4: Upper Nyack School: 336 No. Broadway

NEED YOUR VOTING LOCATION?
VISIT: www.nyackschools.org-click:budget

POLLS OPEN 7AM-9PM



Published by Nyack Public Schools in cooperation with the Rockland BOCES Communications Service.

CURRENT RESIDENT

Be an informed voter:

Refer to **www.nyackschools.org** for budget details or contact the District Clerk **JBraunagel@nyackschools.org**