

South Country Central School District

Community Budget Update

Understanding the Budget Vote & The Path Forward

May 26, 2026

Presented by: John Belmonte, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services

John Dolan, Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Jason Huntsman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

South Country Central School District May 19, 2026 Vote

WE HEARD YOU — LOUD & CLEAR

	Total				
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Total
PROPOSITION NO. 1 (Budget)	1105	2747	28.69%	71.31%	3852
PROPOSITION NO. 2 (Transportation-Private School)	2211	1529	59.12%	40.88%	3740



Fiscal Recovery Plan Update: 2024-25 and 2025-26 Deficits Resolved

S10102 / A11166 Authorizes up to \$11M in deficit financing and up to \$7M in a state aid advance.

STATE OF NEW YORK

10102

IN SENATE

April 29, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SERRANO -- (at request of the Governor) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT authorizing the South Country central school district, in the county of Suffolk, to finance certain deficits by the issuance of bonds and providing for advance school aid to such district; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof (Part A); and to amend part III of chapter 58 of the laws of 2023,

STATE OF NEW YORK

11166

IN ASSEMBLY

April 29, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- (at request of the Governor) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT authorizing the South Country central school district, in the county of Suffolk, to finance certain deficits by the issuance of bonds and providing for advance school aid to such district; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof (Part A); and to amend part III of chapter 58 of the laws of 2023,

Summary of NYS Assembly & Senate Bills A11166 & S10102

This legislation authorizes the South Country Central School District to issue up to \$11 million in serial bonds/BANs, receive up to \$7 million in accelerated State aid advances, and implement enhanced long-term fiscal monitoring and reporting requirements.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT IN PLACE

Key Reporting Requirements

Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year through 2054-55, the District's Chief Fiscal Officer is required to monitor all District budgets and prepare quarterly financial reports.

Required Components of Each Quarterly Report

- Summarized budget data showing overall revenue and expenditure trends
- Individual budget line-item activity
- Comparisons between budgeted revenues versus actual revenues
- Comparisons between budget appropriations versus actual expenditures
- Identification of unfavorable budget variances, including revenue overestimations and expenditure underestimations
- Recommended remedial or corrective actions from the Superintendent or Chief Fiscal Officer
- Quarterly trial balance of general ledger accounts prepared in accordance with GAAP and State Comptroller guidance

Summary of NYS Assembly Bill A11166 & S10102

Reporting Timelines

All quarterly reports must be completed within 60 days after the end of each fiscal quarter.

Quarter	Quarter Ending	Report Due
Q1	September 30	November 29
Q2	December 31	March 1
Q3	March 31	May 30
Q4	June 30	August 29

Required Submission Recipients

- Chief Fiscal Officer
- Board of Education
- NYS Division of Budget
- Office of the State Comptroller (OSC)
- Commissioner of Education
- Chair of the Assembly Ways & Means Committee
- Chair of the Senate Finance Committee

Budget Oversight Requirement

The legislation requires the Board of Education to make adjustments to the District's proposed budget consistent with recommendations made by the State Comptroller and Commissioner of Education.

Duration of Oversight Requirements

Reporting and State aid advance provisions remain in effect through June 30, 2055.

The deficit financing authorization expires December 31, 2037.

Update – Deficit Financing and General Aid Advance

General Aid Advance:

- ❑ District received the \$7M advance May 18, 2026.

Deficit Financing:

- ❑ Sale of \$11M BAN (bond Anticipation note) took place May 20, 2026
- ❑ BANS dated 5/28/26 through 5/28/27
- ❑ Net Interest Cost (NIC): 4.035% or \$443,850 (which is budgeted in the 2026-27 school-year)
- ❑ Closing and receipt of monies on May 28, 2026
- ❑ On the 5/28/27 maturity of the BAN, it will be converted to a long term bond

S&P Global

South Country Central School District, NY GO Bond Rating Lowered To 'A+' From 'AA', Placed On CreditWatch Negative

Where Do We Go From Here????????

May 19, 2026: On the Ballot:

Proposition #1: 2026-27 Annual Budget Vote ← **FAILED**

Proposition #2: Transportation ← **PASSED**

Description	Proposed 2026-27 Budget	Deficit	Tax Levy	Bdgt to Bdgt Spending Increase	% Projected Tax Levy Increase	
Original Failed Budget → Proposed Budget 5/19/26:	150,516,580	0	81,113,604	2.28%	13.45%	Pierce Cap
Passed: Trans Referendum : NEW BASE LINE → (Reduced Budget by \$900K)	149,616,580	0	80,213,604	1.67%	12.19%	N/A
Reduction to Tax Levy Cap → Reduction of \$5.67M to Cap	144,846,580	0	75,443,604	-1.57%	5.52%	50% Majority
Contingency → To Contingency: Reduce Another \$3,947,250	140,899,330	0	71,496,354	-4.26%	0.00%	N/A

2026-27 Administrative Component Budget

It is important to recognize that the Administrative Component represents the infrastructure necessary to ensure the District remains financially accountable, legally compliant, and operationally functional. Following these reductions, the District believes the Administrative Component reflects a lean and responsible level of spending necessary to support the educational program and overall operations of South Country Central School District.

	Administrative	Program	Capital
Administrative: \$616,452			
Reduction of Security Budget	\$530,792		
Elimination Conference / Travel	\$25,050		
Postage	\$10,000		
Reduction Clerical Substitutes	\$35,610		
Reduction Clerical OT	\$15,000		

2026-27 Program Component Budget

The following reductions reflected within the Program Component represent significant and difficult decisions that would materially impact instructional opportunities and the overall student experience in South Country Central School District. The cumulative effect of reduced staffing, elimination of co-curricular activities, reductions in technology replacement, decreased transportation access, and scaled-back athletic and student support opportunities extends beyond a single fiscal year. Such reductions can have lasting implications on student engagement, academic programming, extracurricular participation, and the District's ability to fully support student growth and achievement.

2026-27 Program Component Budget

Progam: \$4,783,548	-34 FTE			
Private School Trans (Approved 5/19/26)		\$900,000		\$900,000
Eliminate Balance of Late Buses		\$172,700		\$172,700
Technology: Replacement Chrome Books reduced by 1/2 (still needed for student testing)		\$221,000		\$221,000
Co-Curricula - eliminate all, including D/W intramurals -play production remains		\$147,235		\$147,235
Director Positions				
Director Guidance	-1.0 FTE	\$159,342		\$159,342
Director of Technology	-1.0 FTE	\$157,294		\$157,294
Athletics				
Remove JV Sports		\$166,721		\$166,721
Reduction Athletic Transportation		\$50,000		\$50,000
Reduction in Uniforms		\$10,000		\$10,000
Decrease Chaperones/sport time, Film, etc..		\$24,000		\$24,000

2026-27 Program Component Budget

		Administrative	Program	Capital
Program: \$4,783,548	-34 FTE			
Music - maintaining state mandates:	-4.0 FTE		\$314,983	
Eliminate band, chorus, and orchestra from FPL				
BHS Combining Band and Orch Group and Eliminate Sp. Ed Music, BMS reduction & reorganization band, chorus, and orchestra				
Art - maintaining state mandates:	-3.0 FTE		\$345,531	
Eliminate Electives at BHS				
Family Consumer Science:	-1.0 FTE		\$85,758	
Elimination of FCS at BHS				
Math:	-4.0 FTE		\$623,868	
Math Interventionists, K-5				

2026-27 Program Component Budget

			Administrative	Program	Capital
	Program: \$4,783,548	-34 FTE			
	Secondary:	-5.0 FTE		\$572,323	
English	BMS Increase Class Size, BHS Remove Electives				
Math/Business	MS Combine Accelerated with Grade above, Increase Class Size in Support Classes, Reduce Business Electives at BHS				
SS	BMS Increase Class Size, BHS Remove Intro to Law and Combine Active Citizen Courses				
Science	Eliminate AP Chem, AP Physics, AP Envi.				
World Language	Eliminate College Spanish, French, Italian at BHS, Increase Class Size, Eliminate Discovering WL BMS Grade 6				

2026-27 Program Component Budget

		Administrative	Program	Capital
	Program: \$4,783,548	-34 FTE		
	Technology:	-1.0 FTE		
Technology	Remove Electives at BHS, State Minimums at BMS		\$129,885	
	Elementary School Counselors:	-2.0 FTE	\$222,436	
School Counselor	Reduction of Elementary Counselors K-3: NYS Minimums			
	Library:			
Library	Reduction of Elementary Library	-1.0 FTE	\$173,405	
	Special Education:			
	Resignation - not replaced	-1.0 FTE	\$99,334	
	General Ed: Teacher Assistants:	-10 FTE		
	Reduce 10 FTE (10 FTE remains)		\$207,733	

2026-27 Capital Component Budget

When capital spending shifts from improvement and prevention to essential operations and emergency response only, the District’s ability to proactively maintain facilities, replace aging infrastructure, and invest in long-term sustainability becomes significantly constrained. The impact of reductions of this magnitude should not be underestimated. Deferring capital improvements, equipment replacement, technology investments, and preventive maintenance may provide immediate fiscal relief; however, such reductions will create longer-term operational pressures and increased future costs as infrastructure, equipment, and systems continue to age.

		Administrative	Program	Capital
Capital : \$270,000				
Use of Facilities/Building & Grounds:				
District-wide Maintenance & Improvements				\$145,000
Miscellaneous Repairs - only essential/Health & Safety				\$25,000
Reduction District-wide Custodial/Maintenance OT				\$100,000

Revised Budget: Reduced \$5,670,000 - now at Tax Levy Cap of 5.52%

***SOUTH COUNTRY CSD
REVISED PROPOSED 2026 - 2027
THREE - PART
COMPONENT BUDGET SUMMARY***

	2026-27 REVISED PROPOSED BUDGET	2025-26 CURRENT BUDGET	Dollar Change	%
Administrative	17,733,778	17,359,732	374,046	2.15%
Program	105,584,214	107,978,966	-2,394,752	-2.22%
Capital	21,528,588	21,825,579	-296,991	-1.36%
Total	144,846,580	147,164,277	-2,317,697	-1.57%

Estimated School Taxes

Example Based on Average Assessed Home Value in South Country CSD

Estimated School Tax Impact by Average Assessed Home Value

Estimated School Tax Impact

	2025-26	2026-27
Estimated School Taxes	\$6,804	\$7,025
Estimated Increase		+\$222

**Approximate Monthly Increase:
About \$18.50 Per Month**

Average Assessed Value	Estimated Annual Increase	Approx. Monthly Increase
\$3,600	\$307	\$25.58
\$3,100	\$264	\$22.00
\$2,600	\$222	\$18.50
\$2,100	\$179	\$14.92
\$1,600	\$136	\$11.33

Taxpayers can find their taxable assessed value on their School Tax Bill or through the Town of Brookhaven Assessor’s Office property records.

Important: Assessed value is determined by the Town of Brookhaven Assessor and is not the same as market value. This example reflects school taxes only and does not include STAR savings.

Challenges Ahead.....

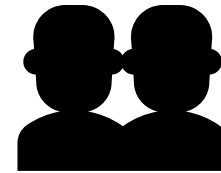
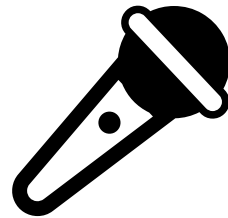
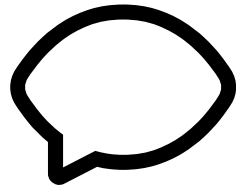


While financial reductions can occur within a single budget cycle, rebuilding programs, capital investments, and student opportunities often requires years of sustained recovery and reinvestment.

Rebuilding from reductions of this scale is a multi-year process. Restoration of staffing, instructional opportunities, technology, extracurricular programs, and capital investments requires sustained financial stability, strategic reinvestment, and continued community support. Once reductions are implemented, rebuilding capacity — both operationally and educationally — takes time and careful planning. Accordingly, every effort has been made to thoughtfully balance fiscal responsibility while minimizing disruption to students and preserving the District’s instructional mission.

LET'S PAUSE

We've Shared the Facts...
Now We Want to Hear From You



Community Questions • Feedback • Perspectives

Your perspective is an important part of this process

Contingent Budget?



YES OR NO?

Contingency = prior year levy (0% increase), not the allowable tax cap levy

A contingent budget is not a long-term fiscal solution — it is a short-term survival mechanism. While it may legally balance the budget for one year, it often requires reductions that will weaken programs, delay recovery, and create greater operational and financial challenges in future years.

DO WE CUT ANOTHER \$3,947,250 TO GET TO CONTINGENCY?