

NYACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET MATTERS

SPRING 2026 • ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-27

CARRYING OUR VISION FORWARD: *Building a Culture of Belonging in our Schools*

DEAR COMMUNITY,

Our annual school budget is more than a financial process, it is a reflection of our values and commitment to the students and community we serve.

We are pleased to present the proposed 2026–2027 Nyack Public Schools (NPS) **budget**. We believe it carries our vision forward, centers students, and celebrates a collective voice that defines our uniquely diverse community.

Key initiatives (page 2) reflect our commitment to building a culture of belonging in our schools. In addition to sustaining class sizes and preserving academic, extra-curricular programming, we are planning for long-term stability. Priority is being placed on safety, social-emotional learning (SEL), special education needs, and developing a District Strategic Plan. This process will help ensure that NPS priorities and resources are aligned to support our school community for years to come.

For 2026-27, WE ARE strengthening curriculum programming across grade levels that are revealing data-informed student growth. We are continuing implementation (year two) of our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This framework ensures that students receive the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports they need to thrive. We are increasing safety and security efforts in a time that requires more of it. And we are deepening district-wide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students to develop necessary skills that ground them for success in their educational experience.

THANK YOU for your continued partnership. We are RedHawk proud and need you in this work of raising critical thinkers and thoughtful leaders. Preparing them for life — and leading them into the world with relevance and readiness — is indeed a community effort.

Please remember to exercise your right to vote on the school budget and the Board of Education Trustee election on **Tuesday, May 19th!**

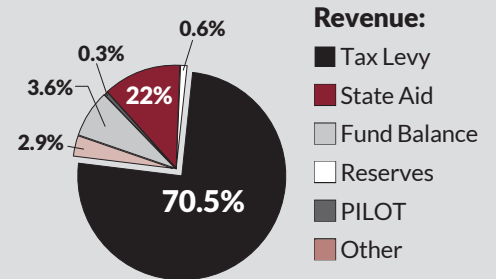
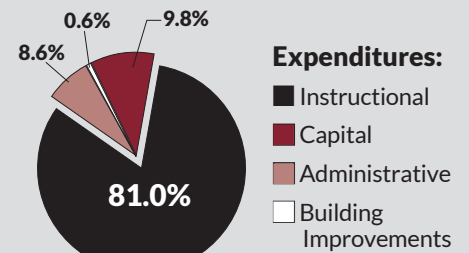
Yours in Education,

Dr. Lizzette Ruiz-Giovinazzi
Superintendent of Schools

Jen Marraccino
Board of Education President

BUDGET FAST FACTS

Budget \$ 116,532,245
Tax Levy Increase 2.14%
Budget to Budget Increase..... 3.52%



PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS A SERVICE INDUSTRY



Public education is, at its heart, a service industry... *an investment into the future.*

We embrace a service-driven mindset to be responsive, strategic and innovative, meeting current needs for teaching and learning with equity while also planning for the future with purpose.

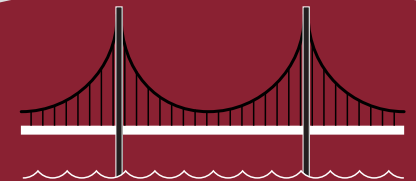
OUR SERVICE MINDSET: A longstanding tradition of sound financial planning and management is integral to our leadership vision, centering student wellness and success.

INVESTMENT
Building stakeholder trust in a strong education for the wellness, education and humanity of all our students

INDUSTRY
Believing that successful budgets are not just about producing a plan or program but a promise for the future

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

EXPERTISE
Preserving fiscal responsibility that consistently upholds a proud mission and vision for Nyack Public Schools



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.

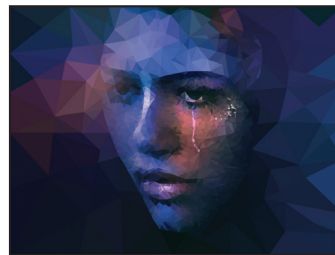
2026-27 KEY INITIATIVES

- ⇒ **CONTINUE** MTSS with integrity, year 3
- ⇒ **STRENGTHEN** grades K-5 learning with Eureka Math and 95% Reading Initiative
- ⇒ **EXPAND** the AVID program for grades 6-8
- ★ **BEGIN** District Strategic Planning in the school community
- ⇒ **CULTIVATE** Belonging in our schools

- ⇒ **BOLSTER** Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum
- ⇒ **MEET** Special Education Department mandates
- ★ **IMPROVE** district communications accessibility with a NEW Website and Mobile App
- ⇒ **DEEPEN** Restorative Practice
- ★ **HIRE** new security guards

- ★ **ADD** a Universal Pre-K site: *Liberty Elementary*
- ⇒ **INCREASE** Financial Literacy in MS/HS
- ⇒ **SUPPORT** Family Resource Centers in all 5 schools
- ★ **BUILD** organizational leadership capacity: *Cognitive Coaching*
- ⇒ **ENHANCE** our district's emergency response network

KEY: ★ NEW Initiative ⇒ Ongoing Initiative



The artwork included in this newsletter is provided with pride by Nyack High School Visual Arts Department to highlight our commitment to the arts in our schools.

BUDGET Q&A

Q: What are the District's budget development goals for the 2026-27 proposed budget?

- A:**
- MAINTAIN**
all academic, athletic, arts, and support programs
 - ALIGN**
long term leadership goals with district's equity vision
 - BOLSTER**
innovative K-12 curriculum with coherence
 - SUSTAIN**
family outreach initiatives including FRCs and Nyack Basics
 - STRENGTHEN**
district-wide communications and student agency
 - CREATE**
a District Strategic Plan that safeguards what we do, honors why we do it, and uplifts the entire school community

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 2026-27 proposed budget.

×	2025/26 Approved Actual Tax Levy	\$ 80,457,217
	Tax Base Factor (specific to Nyack)	1.0024
	Subtotal	\$ 80,650,314
+	Prior Year Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$ 192,433
	Subtotal	\$ 80,842,747
—	Prior Year Capital Exclusions	\$ (795,700)
	(Transfer to Capital, Debt Service, Building Aid, BOCES, ER)	
	Prior Year Tax Levy Limit	\$ 80,047,047
×	Allowable Levy Growth Factor (lesser 2% or CPI)	2.00%
	Subtotal	\$ 81,647,989
—	Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$ (325,507)
	Current Year Tax Levy Limit	\$ 81,322,482
+	Current Year Capital Exclusions	\$ 854,787
	2026/27 Allowable Tax Levy	\$ 82,177,269
	Dollar Change in Tax Levy	\$ 1,720,049
	Percent Change in Tax Levy	2.14%

Q: Why is the District increasing expenditures in certain areas: Safety/Security, Special Education, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Strategic Planning?

A: A budget-to-budget comparison from this school year to the 2026-27 year will show thoughtful increases in these areas to be fiscally responsible for the following reasons:

- An increase in spending on **safety and security** in our schools is to address unprecedented safety challenges we face, including for day to day and emergency communications infrastructure,, and to hire additional security personnel needed in our schools.
- **Special Education** increases are necessary in serving our classified students, educating the exceptional child, and to be in compliance with New York State Department of Education (NYSED) mandates for Special Education. We also have an increase in students with special needs who are enrolled in our schools.
- We know that spending resources and energy to ensure our **students' growing social emotional needs** is necessary to enable an optimum learning environment for all our students at every grade level. With the stresses our students face, a sense of belonging supports a likelihood of thriving in their educational experience.
- Lastly, we believe that bringing **District Strategic Planning** is a timely and wise investment that will be a collaborative, unifying force in our school community.

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 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	\$ 112,566,367	\$ 116,532,245	\$ 114,813,193
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 3,965,878	\$ \$2,246,825
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.52%	2.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.64%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 80,457,217	\$ 82,176,269	
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)	\$ 80,457,217	\$ 82,176,269	\$ 0
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 795,700	\$ 854,787	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 79,661,521	\$ 81,322,481	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 79,661,514	\$ 81,321,482	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)*	\$ 7	\$ 1,000	
Administrative Component	\$ 10,130,973	\$ 10,044,739	\$ 9,185,055
Program Component	\$ 93,430,085	\$ 94,446,022	\$ 94,446,022
Capital Component	\$ 9,005,309	\$ 12,041,484	\$ 11,182,115

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 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹:	\$ 1,102

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 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 19, 2026 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 four)*

Vote for up to four (4) candidates 3 Vacancies: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029 1 Vacancy: May 19, 2026 - June 30, 2027	JENNIFER MARRACCINO • 27 year resident • 1 HS student; 3 alumni • Senior Director of Development for a global non-profit organization	BENNY VASQUEZ • 7 year resident • 1 elementary student • Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for a national education organization	MATTHEW GIOVINE • 9 year resident • 1 elementary student; 1 preschooler • Tax Accountant/Advisor
LARRY JACKSON • 5 year resident • 1 elementary; 1 incoming Kindergartener • University Professor and Dean	KENAN KAPETANOVIC • 13 year resident • NHS alumni, Class of 2020 • Paralegal	JESSICA GOODMAN • 20 year resident • 1 HS student; 1 alumni • Entrepreneur	STACEY MCDONALD • 9 year resident • 1 HS student; 2 alumni • Public School Teacher, Master's degrees in Educational Leadership and Special Education

There are four (4) at large Board positions on the ballot. Voters may cast four (4) votes for Trustees: three (3) members each for three (3) year terms commencing July 1, 2026 and expiring on June 30, 2029; and one (1) member for a term commencing May 19, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2027. The candidate who receives the fourth highest votes in the district tally will be the one to serve the term commencing May 19, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2027. *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 19, 2026 • Polls Open 7am to 9pm

Budget Proposition

SHALL the Board of Education of the Nyack UFSD, Towns of Orangetown and Clarkstown, be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$116,532,245 during the 2026-2027 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

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 6, 2026.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS/EARLY VOTING

This is for those eligible to vote who cannot vote in person on May 19 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

Non-Profit Org.
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VOTE: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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.

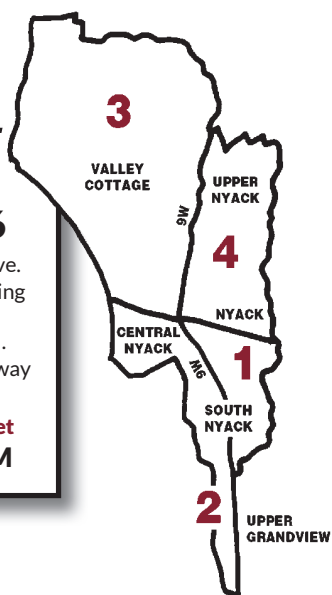
Poll 4: Upper Nyack School: 336 No. Broadway

NEED YOUR VOTING LOCATION?

VISIT: www.nyackschools.org-click:budget

POLLS OPEN 7AM - 9PM

Produced 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 Tabbene@nyackschools.org