EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION • KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

SECOND BUDGET VOTE

www.grandislandschools.org

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

Message From Your Superintendent



Brian Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Grand Island families and community:

On Tuesday, June 16, our community will have a second and final opportunity to vote on the proposed 2026-2027 Grand Island Central School District budget.

Since the first vote, the Board of Education has carefully reviewed community feedback and worked diligently to reduce the proposed tax levy increase from 2.69% to 1.50%. This revised budget continues to support the programs, services, and opportunities our students rely on while demonstrating our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Grand Island is a special place to live, work, and raise a family. Recently recognized as the most stable neighborhood in Western New York, our community has long understood the connection between strong schools and a strong community. Our schools help make Grand Island a destination for families, a source of community pride, and a place where students can thrive.

Every day, our students benefit from opportunities that prepare them for success in college, careers, and life. We are proud of our 96% graduation rate, nationally recognized music program, strong academic performance, competitive athletic programs, and the dedicated staff who support the academic, social, and emotional growth of every child. These accomplishments are not achieved by chance—they are the result of a community that has consistently invested in its schools and its future.

The revised budget preserves the educational experience our families expect while maintaining our focus on student achievement, safety, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. It reflects the values that define Grand Island: engagement, opportunity, belonging, and excellence.

I encourage all eligible residents to learn more about the proposed budget and exercise their right to vote on June 16.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, our staff, and our schools.

Sincerely,

Brian Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

VOTE

Grand Island Schools 2026-27 Second Budget Vote

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Grand Island High School Gym
1100 Ransom Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

Budget Public Hearing

Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Development Room at Grand Island High School, 1100 Ransom Road.

Find Out More

Copies of the district's proposed budget will be available online, at the Grand Island Memorial Library, and in the District Office. Copies are also available in all five schools. Contact the district with questions about the budget development process. Visit the district website at www.grandislandschools.org for more information.

Voter Registration Information

Electronic polling books will be used during this vote/election. If you have not registered for the primary or general election, please view resources on the district website, www.grandislandschools.org, under the 2026-27 budget information page.

The Grand Island Board of Education supports this revised budget and encourages residents to call with questions or attend the regularly scheduled meetings. For further information call 716-773-8805 or visit www.grandislandschools.org.

Proposition II Why Does the District Need to Purchase New Buses This Year?

One of the most important responsibilities of any school district is to transport students in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner. For many students, the school bus and bus driver are the first and last school experiences they have each day. Maintaining a reliable bus fleet is therefore essential to student safety, daily operations, and fiscal responsibility. Therefore, we have a 10-year replacement plan.

A planned school bus replacement schedule allows the District to:

- Offset the rising cost of maintaining older school buses;
- Maintain strong safety inspection ratings — Grand Island currently has a 100% DOT inspection rating;
- Avoid issues related to frame and body corrosion;
- Take advantage of newer safety standards and updated equipment on new buses; and
- Maximize the trade-in value of current buses before they become too costly to maintain.

The District purchases a 10-year warranty for every large bus and a 3-year warranty for every small bus. These warranties cover the mechanical components of the buses and help protect taxpayers from unexpected repair costs. In addition, school buses are inspected every three to four weeks by the New York State Department of Transportation. If inspectors identify a safety concern, the bus is immediately pulled from service until the issue is corrected.

Grand Island currently operates a fleet of 55 school buses. Four buses are already out of warranty and are 11 years old. Five additional buses are in their final year of warranty. Within the next two years, 17 more buses will enter their final year of warranty. This means that, within two years, 26 buses — or 47% of the District's fleet — will be out of warranty.

Our buses travel approximately 575,000 miles each year, with 40 routes traveling off Island every school day. Without a proper replacement plan, the District's fleet will quickly become older, more expensive to repair, and more vulnerable to being removed from service because of inspection concerns or corrosion.

A 10-year bus replacement plan is a responsible, proactive approach that helps the District maintain safe transportation for students while managing costs for taxpayers over time. It allows the District to avoid large, unexpected expenses and ensures that buses remain safe, reliable, and ready to serve students each day.

The 2026-27 Grand Island Central School budget propositions can be summarized this way:

Proposition 1: Budget

- Maintains our current elementary class sizes
- Continues the implementation of our regular instructional program
- Continues the practice of a $100,000 capital outlay project annually
- Maintains the safety and security of the campus and continues our security camera replacement and upgrade plan

Proposition 2: Vehicle Purchase

- Maintains current transportation services
- Purchase of two 66-passenger buses
- Purchase of one 29-passenger bus
- Purchase of one 20-passenger wheel chair bus

Proposition No. 1 (2026-27 budget)

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Grand Island Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of **$81,185,805**, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

❑ YES ❑ NO

Proposition No. 2

Shall the following resolution be adopted? RESOLVED: (a) that the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District, in the County of Erie, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to acquire various school buses and similar vehicles for use in the transportation program of the District, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed $615,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the amount of not to exceed $615,000 to finance such cost, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board of Education; (c) that the District is authorized to issue serial bonds and/or bond anticipation notes to finance all or part of such cost, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such bonds and/or notes as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) that, in lieu of such bonds or notes, the District is authorized to enter into one or more installment purchase contracts for the purchase of some or all of such buses and vehicles, for a term of not to exceed five (5) years; and a tax is hereby voted to pay each installment on any such contract.

❑ YES ❑ NO



What Happens if the Second Proposed Budget of $81,185,805 is not approved?

If the revised second budget does not pass, the School Board has no alternative but to declare a contingent Budget by June 30, 2026.

A "Contingent Budget" funds only the "CORE" instructional program that includes salaries, legal obligations, expenditures authorized by statute and other items necessary to maintain the educational programs, preserve property and ensure the health and safety of the students and staff. Expenditures prohibited under a contingent budget are: new equipment purchases, non-essential maintenance and non-emergency capital improvements, and community use of school facilities unless fully reimbursed by an outside group.

Program categories under consideration by the Board of Education to eliminate under a contingent budget include:

Travel, conferences, field trips (Music County and NYS Festivals, Eco Island, DECA Competitions, etc.)	Continuing education programs – No Free Use of Buildings and Facilities
Modified Sports	Non-league JV athletic events
Intramural activities	Student summer help
Extra-class activities & student clubs	Non-essential student travel
New educational equipment & furniture	New B&G/ Maintenance equipment
New Transportation equipment	Overtime (except snow removal)
After-school busing routes	Capital expenses & architect fees
Mentoring & Prof. Dev. programs	Proposed .4 FTE PR/HS Art positions

2026-2027 Tax Information

	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Assessed Value *	$3,504,922,246	$3,689,391,838	$184,469,592	5.26%
Equalization Rate	100%	95%	N/A	-5.0%
Tax Levy	$41,846,515	$42,474,212	$627,697	1.50%
Tax Rate	$11.94	$12.12	$0.18	1.50%

Tax Levy

The tax levy is the total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources including state aid. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rate for each of the cities, towns or villages that make up a school district.

Tax Rate

Tax rate is determined by your property's assessed value divided by 1,000, and multiplied by the tax rate. This rate is established using the Town of Grand Island assessed value.

→ *The 2026-27 proposed tax rate is based on the estimated assessment. Final assessment values for calculation of the 2026-27 tax rate are not available at this time.

Contingent Budget Information

	Second Proposed Budget 2026-2027	Contingency Budget 2026-2027
Total Budget	$81,185,805	$80,555,950
Budget Increase/Decrease	$1,864,660	$1,234,805
% Increase/Decrease	2.40%	1.56%
Change in Consumer Price Index	2.63%	2.63%



Huth Elementary fourth graders enjoy a recent field trip. This was part of the Freedom Crossing Tour in Lewiston.

Grand Island Central School District

1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, NY 14072
www.grandislandschools.org

Non-profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8
Grand Island, N.Y.

Board of Education
Susan Marston, President
Jay Glover, Vice President
Roger Broeker
Danielle Bruno
Beth Crvelin
Dr. Ashli Dreher
Joy LaMarca

Superintendent
Brian Graham, Ed.D.

Resident

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Second Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	$79,321,145	$81,185,805	$80,555,950
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year	$1,388,891	$1,864,660	$1,234,805
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget	1.78%	2.40%	1.56%
Change in the Consumer Price Index	2.00%	2.63%	2.63%
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$41,846,515	$42,474,212	$41,846,515
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)	$41,846,515	$42,474,212	$41,846,515
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$2,098,699	$2,265,112	$2,265,112
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$39,747,816	$40,209,100	$39,581,403
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$39,747,816	$40,209,100	$39,581,403
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	$0	$0	$0
Administrative Component	$7,154,484	$6,876,808	$6,866,203
Program Component	$57,354,934	$59,920,397	$59,397,646
Capital Component	$14,811,727	$14,388,600	$14,292,101

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-2027 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law: The contingent budget is calculated using the NYS Contingent budget formula which excludes non-contingent budget items. In addition, a contingency budget would require the district to charge for the use of its facilities.

Description	Amount
Proposition #2 - Vehicle Purchase	**$ 615,000**

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings*	**$397**

The second budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Grand Island Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the High School in said District on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. prevailing time in the High School Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

---

*The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law (new rate will be available in August).