

FAQ: Onondaga Central Schools 2025-2026 Budget

What are the strategic goals for Onondaga Central Schools for 2025-2026?

- The strategic goals for Onondaga Central Schools are centered around seven key areas: Student Achievement (including academics and co-curricular activities), Facilities & Transportation, Security & Technology, Engaging Learning Environment, Community Involvement, Communication, and Parent, School & Community Partnerships. These areas are envisioned as supporting Student Achievement and are unified by the concept of OCS PRIDE.

What are the budget priorities for the 2025-2026 school year?

- The 2025-2026 budget priorities include School Safety & Security (with camera and security replacements), Maintaining Educational Programming (including AIS & ELL/ENL Staffing Support, Special Education & Alternative Education Programs), Retaining, Recruiting and Developing Staff, Technology (maintaining a 1 to 1 ratio of students to Chromebooks), Commitment to Small Class Sizes, Maintaining the Ability to Handle Fiscal Challenges (Planned Fund Balance & Reserves Allocation), Account for Annual School Bus Replacements, Account for Federal/State Mandates, and Enhancing Financial Literacy (including the SECNY Credit Union Tiger Branch and New Course Offering).

What factors are influencing the budget development?

- Several factors are impacting the budget development for 2025-2026. These include slight changes in Retirement System Rates for both TRS and ERS, estimated increases in Energy Services (budgeting 15% increase in delivery charges), increases in Health Insurance (budgeting 6.0% increase, with projected increases out years), and projected increases in District Insurance premiums between 10-17%, which includes Package, Auto, Workers Compensation, and Umbrella coverage, with a minimum increase in the property deductible from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

How is the total budget for 2025-2026 structured?

- The total proposed budget of \$27,363,348 for 2025-2026 is divided into three parts: Administration (\$2,995,955 or 10.95%), Program (\$18,057,252 or 65.99%), and Capital (\$6,310,141 or 23.06%).

What is the proposed total budget for 2025-2026 and how does it compare to the previous year?

- The proposed total budget for 2025-2026 is \$27,363,348. This represents an increase of \$662,750, or 2.48%, compared to the 2024-2025 budget of \$26,700,598.

What are the estimated revenue sources for the 2025-2026 budget?

- The estimated revenue sources for the 2025-2026 budget are primarily State Aid (49.35% or \$13,503,205) and Local Taxes (41.71% or \$11,413,032). Other revenue sources account for 2.84% (\$776,000), and Reserves and Appropriated fund balance make up 6.11% (\$1,671,111).



What propositions will be on the ballot for the budget vote?

- There are three propositions on the ballot. Proposition I (Budget) asks voters to approve the proposed budget and authorize the Board of Education to levy the necessary taxes. Proposition II (Library) requests authorization for the district to levy and collect a tax of \$64,998 for the support and maintenance of the Onondaga Free Library. Proposition III (Capital Reserve) seeks authorization for the Board of Education to establish a ten-year capital reserve of up to \$3,000,000 for renovations, additions, equipment, and site improvements at district facilities.
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What are the options if the proposed budget is not approved by residents?

- If residents vote down the proposed budget, the Board of Education has three options: re-submit the original budget for a second vote, submit a revised budget for a vote, or adopt a contingency budget for the upcoming school year without conducting any additional voting.