

2025-26 Gloversville Enlarged School District budget information

The Board of Education adopted the tentative 2025-2026 budget on April 8, 2025. The proposed budget is \$78,063,076 which is just shy of \$3 million dollars higher than the 2024-2025 budget and represents a 3.92% increase. The following information provides highlights of the expenditures and revenues included in this tentative budget.

Expenditures

Salaries and fringe benefits account for the majority of the increase. The District has Collective Bargaining Agreements with all employees that specify salary increases and benefits packages. Also, in order to be competitive in the employment market and to attract the best possible candidates for our positions, higher salaries are being offered to new hires than what was traditionally offered in the past. The increases in the NYS retirement plans are slight as negotiations money was budgeted in those codes last year and are not needed in 2025-2026. The Fulmont Health Trust, which is the governing board for the health insurance plan, has adopted a 6% increase in the health insurance rates, which is far below the industry standard. This is significant with the number of health plans the District has and is also a contributing factor in the slight increase in fringe benefits.

Property insurance increased significantly due to natural disasters throughout the nation, which resulted in major claims that affected all aspects of the insurance industry.

Maintenance contracts for our buildings' infrastructure and grounds have increased due to inflation.

The Board of Education agreed to assist the City of Gloversville with the expense of crossing guards on school days, so those costs are included in the proposed budget as well.

Additional Career & Technical Education slots were budgeted for BOCES, as many of our scholars are interested in pursuing a career that does not require a college degree, and BOCES offers several programs that provide a pathway for them to achieve that goal. The tuition costs for the P-tech program also increased, and the District has 74 scholars at various stages of the program.

In 2023-2024, the District implemented a new reading program, Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), that is proving to be highly successful! As with any program, they continue to improve, so this spring, a new edition of CKLA was released by the company, and the budget includes the costs to upgrade to the newest edition.

Transportation costs remain fairly consistent as this is still in its infancy with the District running the transportation department for the first time in over ten years. There is additional money included for contract transportation due to the ever-increasing number of McKinney-Vento scholars that need transportation to and from various locations that cannot be transported by the District's current transportation staff. Costs continue to be monitored and adjusted accordingly. Gloversville's Enlarged School District's transportation aid ratio is 90%, which means every aidable dollar spent costs the district 10 cents, with the remaining money repaid to the district in transportation aid the following year.

Debt service decreased slightly due to the timing of the debt repayment schedules. These figures are provided by the District's fiscal advisors.

Revenue

Revenue is a bit tentative as the NYS Budget hasn't been adopted as of this date. Governor Hochul's proposed aid figures were used for state aid with slight modifications for Private and Public Excess Cost Aid.

The tax levy increased by 1.77% or \$284,300, which is the allowable increase per the tax cap calculation.

Interest income was increased by \$100,000 as interest rates have been amazing over the past two years.

The refund of prior year expenses was also increased, as this is where the refund of excess prior year BOCES expenses is recorded. In previous years, this refund has far exceeded the estimated amount budgeted.

A transfer from the Debt Service Reserve Fund is also part of the revenue estimates and is provided by the District's fiscal advisors. This helps to offset the local share of debt incurred when the District borrows money for capital projects. This money is set aside to offset the expenses not covered by state aid. There is a separate fund that is specifically used for this purpose.

Fund balance use is projected to be \$1,372,564. The Board of Education reviews fund balance use to help alleviate the burden to taxpayers. If there were no fund balance to use, the tax levy would need to be raised to cover the difference between revenue and expenditures. The five-year plan is reviewed to ensure that fund balance is not used as a one-time revenue source that will leave the District in an unfavorable position in future years.

Propositions

In addition to the budget, there will be three propositions on the ballot for voter approval. The funding for these propositions will have no impact on the tax levy, as they are funded through reserves established by the Board of Education.

- 1) The purchase of 2 wheelchair buses, 1 Chevrolet Suburban, and 1 dump truck from the School Bus and Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund.
- 2) The purchase of computer monitors, charging stations, and upgrades to the infrastructure from the Technology Capital Reserve Fund.
- 3) The purchase of musical instruments and classroom furniture from the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.