

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Cassadaga Valley Central School District

The Position

The Board of Education seeks a passionate and creative administrator to assume the helm of Superintendent of Schools for the Cassadaga Valley Central School District following the retirement of Superintendent Charles Leichner.

The role of the Superintendent is crucial to the success of our school district. As the leader of an excellent and dedicated staff, the Superintendent fosters enthusiasm for learning and individual responsibility. As the District's spokesperson, the Superintendent communicates the priorities and goals of the Board of Education to the community. As the Chief Executive Officer, the Superintendent works intimately with the Board to guide decisions, implement policies, and outline goals, opportunities, and long-term plans.

The focal point for the Superintendent is to provide outstanding leadership to maintain the strongest educational program within the financial capabilities of the community.

Candidate Profile

The Cassadaga Valley Central School Board of Education seeks a visionary leader who is deeply committed to the success of all students. This outstanding educator will have had clear success bringing together a school community in a shared vision of excellence. They will be an exceptional communicator and advocate for students. The Board seeks a visible and skilled administrator dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and innovation. The candidate's authentic and personal commitment will elevate the climate and culture of the District and community. Candidates with an outstanding career record engaging faculty, staff, and community are encouraged to apply.

Depending upon a candidate's background and experience, the Board is prepared to offer a three-year contract with a salary of up to \$145,000 - \$180,000 and a competitive benefit package. All applicants must possess or be eligible for NYS School District Administrator (SDA) or NYS School District Leader (SDL) certification.

Application Timeline

- **Application deadline:** Friday, February 2, 2024
- **Board begins review of files:** Thursday, March 7, 2024
- **Preliminary interviews:** Monday, March 18, Tuesday, March 19, and Wednesday, March 20, 2024

- **Final interviews:** Monday, April 22, Tuesday, April 23, and Wednesday, April 24, 2024
- **Appointment:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024
- **Assume duties:** July 1, 2024

Applicant Information

The Board of Education has selected Dr. David O'Rourke to assist in the search process. Interested individuals are invited to submit a letter of intent, [completed application](#), resume, college/university credential folder, official transcripts, and three letters of reference by Friday, February 2, 2024, to:

David O'Rourke, Ph.D.,
District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES
8685 Erie Road
Angola, NY 14006

Applicants should not contact members of the Cassadaga Valley Board of Education or school district personnel. All inquiries must be directed to Dr. O'Rourke at dorourke@e2ccb.org or (716) 549-4454, ext. 4029.

The School District

Cassadaga Valley serves approximately 800 pre-K-12 students at one elementary school and a combined middle/high school. Students enrolled at Cassadaga Valley benefit from small classroom sizes, with a student-to-teacher ratio of 11:1. Students receive individualized instruction from knowledgeable, skilled, and veteran educators; more than half of all teachers at CVCS have 4-20 years of experience in the classroom, while a third have 21 years or more.

The District recently received more than \$200,000 in state funding to expand access to its pre-K program. Cassadaga Valley is considered a high-need rural district, with 64 percent of the school community identified as economically disadvantaged.

Cassadaga Valley understands the importance of preparing students for college and careers. Through a partnership with SUNY Jamestown Community College, students can enroll in more than 20 college-level courses and earn dual credit at no charge. The District also offers 26 Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses in a variety of fields.

The District participates in several shared sports programs with neighboring districts and recently earned a Section VI Class B wrestling title. Cassadaga Valley was also named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation this spring, the fourth time it has received this distinction.

The District is undergoing a \$13.2 million capital improvement project approved by voters in 2022. Phase 1, which includes upgraded athletic fields, new classroom lighting and flooring, a new elementary playground, and creek stabilization at the elementary school, is expected to be completed during the 2023-24 school year. Phase II will include art and music room renovations, upgraded ventilation and mechanical systems, and ramp/sidewalk improvements.

Cassadaga Valley demonstrates a forward-thinking approach when it comes to shared services. It now shares a transportation supervisor with the Pine Valley Central School District. CVCS students also attend CTE, Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH), Special Education, and Alternative Education programs through Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES.

Board of Education

- **Baseball:** Boys Varsity, Modified
- **Basketball:** Boys Varsity, JV, Modified; Girls Varsity, JV, Modified; Coed Unified
- **Bocce Ball:** Unified
- **Bowling:** Boys Varsity; Girls Varsity; Coed Unified
- **Cheerleading:** Varsity Football and Basketball (Non-Competitive)
- **Cross Country*:** Boys Varsity, Modified; Girls Varsity, Modified
- **Football:** Boys* Varsity, JV, Modified; Girls Varsity (Flag)
- **Golf:** Boys Varsity; Girls* Varsity
- **Soccer*:** Boys Varsity, Modified; Girls Varsity, Modified
- **Softball:** Girls Varsity, Modified
- **Tennis:** Boys Varsity
- **Track - Outdoor:** Boys Varsity*, Modified; Girls Varsity*, Modified
- **Volleyball:** Girls Varsity, JV, Modified
- **Wrestling*:** Boys Varsity, JV, Modified

**Merged with a neighboring school district*

Board of Education

Cassadaga Valley has a dedicated and committed Board of Education that is made up of five members elected at large:

- Jeanne Oag (President)
- Aaron Richner (Vice President)
- Marcus Clark
- Diane Ellsworth
- Matthew Miller

Financial Information

- **2023-24 Approved Budget:** \$25,547,892
 - **Full Value Assessment:** \$553,035,842
 - **Tax Rate on True Value:** \$15.40 per \$1,000
 - **State Aid:** \$17,689,979
 - **Total District Debt:** \$10,795,000
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The Community

The Cassadaga Valley Central School District rests in the heart of Chautauqua County in scenic Western New York. It encompasses the villages of Sinclairville and Cassadaga, the hamlet of Lily Dale, and the towns of Stockton, Charlotte, Gerry, Ellery, Pomfret, Arkwright, Ellington, Cherry Creek, and Ellicott. The District covers 138 square miles and has a population of 6,170 according to 2021 U.S. Census Bureau data.

Year-round outdoor recreation abounds throughout the area. There is excellent boating, swimming, and fishing at Cassadaga Lake and Bear Lake. The area is home to thousands of acres of New York State Forests which offer opportunities for hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, and hunting. The Eastside Overland Trail runs through the District along with other trails for snowmobiling and horseback riding.

The wider region offers a variety of cultural and entertainment activities. World-famous Chautauqua Institution – a center for theater, dance, and concerts – is located to the west on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. The National Comedy Center in Jamestown brings in famous entertainers from around the country. The metropolitan areas of Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester, and Erie, PA, are also within reasonable distance.

There are a number of higher education institutions across Western New York that many Cassadaga Valley students have attended, including nearby SUNY Jamestown Community College, Jamestown Business College, and SUNY Fredonia. The University of Buffalo, Buffalo State, and St. Bonaventure are also within an hour's drive.

All of this, combined with a wide range of housing opportunities, provides the Cassadaga Valley Central District with an excellent quality of life for its employees.