

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE OWEGO APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | *FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, EDUCATIONALLY SOUND*

VOTE TUESDAY MAY 20TH VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT APALACHIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & THE DISTRICT OFFICE, NOON – 8:00PM. PLEASE EMAIL VOTE@OACSD.ORG IF YOU NEED TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT. VOTING LOCATION IS BASED ON RESIDENCY

2025-26 PROPOSITIONS

- 1 - Budget: Shall the Board of Education of the Owego Apalachin Central School District (OACSD) be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the 2025-2026 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$59,769,964, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?
- 2 - Buses: Shall the Owego Apalachin Central School District be authorized to purchase diesel school buses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,140,160.00, 4-70 passenger and 1-64 passenger wheelchair accessible, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said District shall be issued.
- 3 - Board Member Election: One (1) candidate, Linda Gretz, is running. There are currently two (2) open Board of Education seats this year. Each seat carries a three-year term. While this means there is only one official candidate for the positions, the opportunity remains for individuals to run as write-in candidates. This allows voters to choose other potential candidates during the election.
- 4 - Library Proposal: Apalachin Public Library has a proposition on the ballot for increased taxpayer funding. (This funding is NOT part of the OACSD budget.)

Dear Owego Apalachin Families, Staff, and Community Members,

At the April 16th meeting, the Owego Apalachin Central School District Board of Education adopted a proposed \$59,769,964 spending plan for the 2025-2026 school year. The adopted spending plan represents a 3.27% increase over the 2024-2025 budget and will rely on a proposed 1.99% tax levy increase.

We believe that we have prepared a budget that recognizes and addresses the challenges of the current economy for our schools and the community. We are proposing a 1.99% tax levy increase that is substantially lower than our calculated allowable tax levy limit of 4.02%.

As we share the proposed 2025-2026 school district budget, we are proud to present a financial plan that supports our students today and prepares them for tomorrow's opportunities and challenges. Guided by our Blueprint for Excellence, the Owego Apalachin Central School District continues to ensure that every student is ready to thrive as a successful, contributing adult.

At the heart of our work is SOAR—Student Opportunities Accelerate Readiness—an initiative that focuses on expanding access to personalized learning pathways, strengthening collaboration across the district, investing in staff professional growth, and prioritizing student wellness and belonging. This year's budget proposal reflects our ongoing dedication to these goals with a responsible 1.99% increase, keeping student needs at the forefront while remaining mindful of our community's investment.

In alignment with our strategic priorities, we are proud to highlight several major initiatives shaping the future of Owego Apalachin:

- **Expanding Opportunities through Partnerships:** We have finalized a long-term lease agreement with BOCES to utilize the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Building. This partnership secures additional revenue streams through 2034 and ensures that OA students access new, state-of-the-art learning spaces that align with career pathways and future-ready skills.
- **Planning for New Graduation Requirements:** In anticipation of New York State's Blue Ribbon Graduation Measures, we are proactively preparing to adapt our programming, coursework, and student support. Our planning efforts are designed to ensure that every OA graduate is not only ready to meet new standards but also empowered with agency, choice, and opportunity in their educational journey.

(cont. on page 2)

The Blueprint for Excellence anchors every decision we make. It outlines four strategic priorities that drive our spending and planning:

- Engaging and Challenging Learning for All: Fostering student agency through personalized learning pathways.
- Culture of Collaboration: Creating environments where students, staff, families, and community members work together to support one another.
- Human Capital: Valuing our educators and staff by providing a supportive, growth-oriented environment.
- Wellness and Student Support: Ensuring every learner feels safe, included, and emotionally supported.

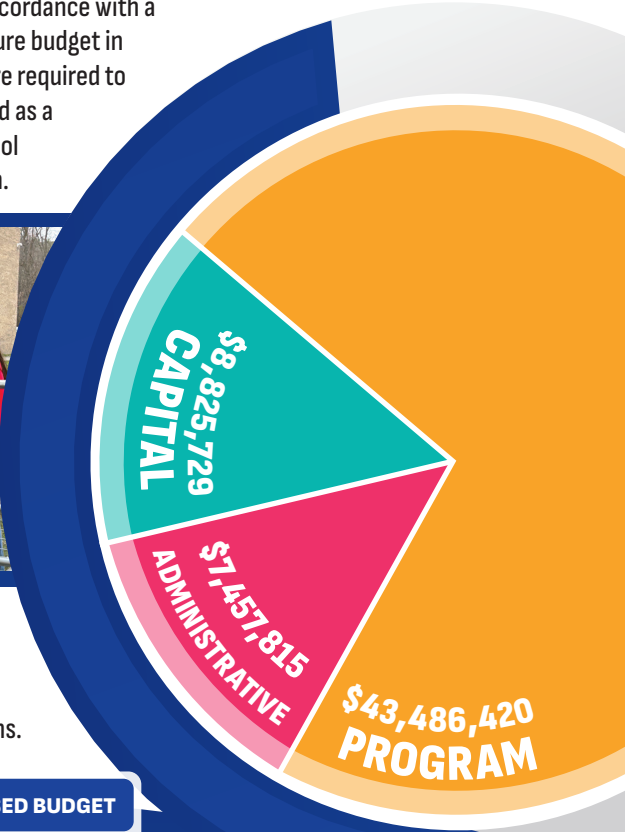
Together, these initiatives reflect our belief that every student deserves an educational experience that is engaging, challenging, and deeply meaningful. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and grateful for the continued support of our entire OA community. This newsletter provides an overview of the proposed budget, on which taxpayers will vote on May 20, how tax bills may be affected, polling locations, Board of Education candidates up for election, and more.

Remember, your vote is important, and every vote counts. Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to be a model district where excellence is expected and celebrated.

THREE-PART PROPOSED BUDGET | PROGRAM • CAPITAL • ADMINISTRATIVE

PROPOSITION 1

is for the approval of the proposed 2025-26 spending plan in the amount of \$59,769,964. The Commissioner of Education issued Regulation 170.8, which requires all school districts in New York State to present their budget information in accordance with a prescribed format. This newsletter follows that format, showing the total proposed expenditure budget in three parts – Program, Capital and Administrative components. In addition, school districts are required to provide an estimate of debt service payments and an estimate of New York State aid displayed as a percentage of the proposed expenditure budget. On the following pages you will find the school district’s proposed 2025-26 expenditure budget presented in accordance with this regulation.



PROGRAM

Provides funds for instructional and educational support , computer assisted instruction, guidance, health, co-curricular, and interscholastic sports programs. Provides funds for the purchase of computers, network upgrades, computer enrichment programs, and music programs.

BUDGET FUNCTION	2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
INSTRUCTIONAL	\$26,122,151	\$26,964,143
TRANSPORTATION	\$2,246,752	\$2,391,599
COMMUNITY RECREATION (POOL)	\$35,000	\$50,000
INTER-FUND TRANSFERS	\$35,000	\$35,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$13,295,328	\$14,014,178
LEGAL	\$31,500	\$31,500
TOTALS:	\$41,765,731	\$43,486,420



THREE-PART PROPOSED BUDGET | PROGRAM • CAPITAL • ADMINISTRATIVE

CAPITAL

Provides funds for the operation and maintenance of the school districts physical plant, including utilities. Also included are debt service payments.

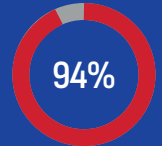
BUDGET FUNCTION	2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
Plant Operations, Maintenance, Security	\$3,370,729	\$3,636,379
Property Tax Refunds	\$5,000	\$5,000
Employee Benefits	\$930,197	\$987,280
Debt Service	\$4,848,374	\$4,197,070
Inter-fund Transfers	\$400,000	\$0
TOTALS:	\$9,554,300	\$8,825,729

ADMINISTRATIVE

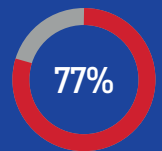
Provides funds for general management and support activities, including Board of Education, central and financial administration, staff support, central services, and special items. Also included are instructional administration and curriculum development.

BUDGET FUNCTION	2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
Board of Education (incl. district clerk & district meeting)	\$17,037	\$19,876
Chief School Administrator's Office (incl. clerical salary, supplies, conferences, membership dues)	\$287,087	\$299,772
Business Administration Office (incl. clerical salaries, tax collectors, auditing, legal, PR, supplies, personnel, insurance, dues, transportation)	\$1,723,507	\$1,682,688
Curriculum Development & Support	\$1,767,167	\$2,303,048
Central Data Processing & Services	\$1,156,183	\$1,194,976
Employee Benefits	\$1,608,260	\$1,957,455
TOTALS:	\$6,559,241	\$7,457,815

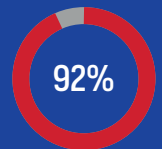
COLLEGE & CAREER READY



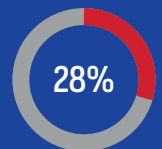
GRADUATION RATE



12TH GRADE
ATTENDING COLLEGE



REGENTS
DIPLOMAS EARNED



12TH GRADE ENTERING
THE WORKFORCE



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES & REVENUE

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

BUDGET FUNCTION	2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Program	\$41,765,731	\$43,486,420	\$1,720,689
Capital	\$9,554,300	\$8,825,729	(\$728,571)
Administrative	\$6,559,241	\$7,457,815	\$898,574
TOTALS:	\$57,879,272	\$59,769,964	\$1,890,692

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

BUDGET FUNCTION	2024-2025 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
Real Property Tax (Includes STAR)	\$18,256,427	\$18,619,730
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$3,879,973	\$3,773,928
Fund Balance Appropriation - Current Capital Projects	\$400,000	\$0
Appropriated Reserves	\$30,000	\$40,000
State Aid	\$31,568,630	\$33,283,306
Other Revenue	\$2,144,242	\$2,453,000
TOTALS:	\$57,879,272	\$59,769,964



Find Out More Information! Ask Questions

Upcoming Budget Information Sessions:

May 1st, 2025

6:00 pm

Apalachin Elementary School

Official Public Hearing:

May 13th, 2025

6:00pm

Board of Education Room -
OA District Office

PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

2025-2026 Property Tax Report Card

000601 -Owego-Apalachin CSD
Contact Person: Dr. Corey Green
Telephone Number: 607-687-6224

	Budgeted 2024-2025 (A)	Proposed Budget 2025-2026 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	57,879,272	59,769,964	3.27%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	18,256,427	18,619,730	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	18,256,427	18,619,730	1.99%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	509,181	520,310	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	18,301,977	18,470,822	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Reserve Cap (E - B - F + D)	17,747,246	18,099,420	
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	554,731	371,402	
Public School Enrollment	1,899	1,899	0.00%
Consumer Price Index			2.95%

¹ Include any prior-year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

² Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

³ For 2025-26, includes any carryover from 2024-25 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior-year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2024-2025 (D)	Estimated 2025-2026 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	8,755,048	9,088,052
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	2,000,000	1,600,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	2,289,672	2,352,164
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	3.96%	3.94%

SPECIFIC BUDGET QUESTIONS?

Email Questions:
OAUpdate@oacsd.org

Use the Let's Talk! QR Code

Contact The District Directly:
Public Information
(607) 687-7307 ext. 7080



SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE

PROPOSITION 2 –

Shall the Owego Apalachin Central School District be authorized to purchase diesel school buses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,140,160.00, 4-70 passenger and 1-64 passenger wheelchair accessible, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said District shall be issued.

OACSD BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

HOW THE PLAN WORKS:

1. With voter approval, new buses are purchased and older buses are removed from regular service.
 - All new buses are equipped with the latest technology and 3-Point seat belts.
 - New buses are more fuel efficient.
2. The district issues bonds (borrows money) to pay for the replacement buses.
3. The bonds are paid back over five years.
4. Each year, the district receives New York State Transportation Aid, which covers about 81% of the debt service on the bonds. That leaves the remaining 19% of the cost to be made up from the district's general fund.
5. At the end of the five-year bond period, the district owns those buses outright.
6. The funds budgeted for those paid-off buses are then available to pay for that year's newly purchased buses. This long-term plan makes sure the district stays on a regular replacement cycle, keeps the bus fleet in good condition, and results in minimal impact on taxpayers and the budget.



COMMUNITY LIBRARY PROPOSALS



Apalachin Library

Seeking Additional Taxpayer Funding

One of the proposals on the ballot will ask voters to decide on taxpayer funding for the Apalachin Library. Upon voter approval, the proposition becomes a cumulative annual appropriation for the library.

The funding is not part of the OACSD budget and is listed on taxpayers' bills as a separate line item. Those funds go directly to the library. This year the Apalachin Library is seeking an additional \$5,000 in annual taxpayer support. If approved, it will set annual local taxpayer support to \$172,444

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Board Member Candidates (Vote for up to TWO) There are currently two open board candidate seats, but only one petition has been submitted by a candidate seeking election. While this means there is only one official candidate for the positions, the opportunity remains for individuals to run as write-in candidates. This allows voters to choose other potential candidates during the election.



Linda Gretz

It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the OACSD Board of Education for the last nine years, serving as the Board's Vice President for seven out of nine years. Additionally, I am also a Board Trustee for the Broome Tioga BOCES, a three year term, chosen by school board members of all of the districts within the Broome-Tioga BOCES. I am a retired 32-year veteran educator, with 12 years of experience in building and central office administration and 20 years in teaching. I believe these experiences and my long-term commitment and involvement in our community have served me well as a school board member. In this capacity I have focused on maintaining and enhancing the quality of education in the OACSD in a fiscally responsible manner. I began my career in the fall of 1983 as a science teacher for OACSD. I have experience as a science department chair, mentor for new teachers, athletic coach, and class advisor. I hold a Bachelors of Science in Biology and Masters of Arts in Teaching from Binghamton University, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in School District Administration from SUNY Cortland. In August of 2004, I was appointed as a central office administrator for the Binghamton CSD as the Director of Personnel. Prior to that appointment, I was a building level administrator for Chenango Forks High School. In addition, I was the BT-BOCES summer school principal for grades 7-12 and summer enrichment principal for OA children grades K-8. As a member of the OA Board of Education, I have taken the responsibility to build consensus among stakeholders. I am a good listener and capable of making decisions that can support group decision-making. I am excited to confront the tough challenges facing our district and work collegially to rise above them and help our students in our community succeed. Over the past nine years, I have attended NYS School Boards Association annual conventions and seminars. Also, as a BOE representative, I participate on several OA committees. My primary goal has been to foster a positive relationship between all stakeholders and to make a difference in the lives and the futures of OA children. As a resident, I have always had a vested interest in our district and have supported initiatives that have created positive learning environments. I humbly ask for your support and your vote on May 20th.



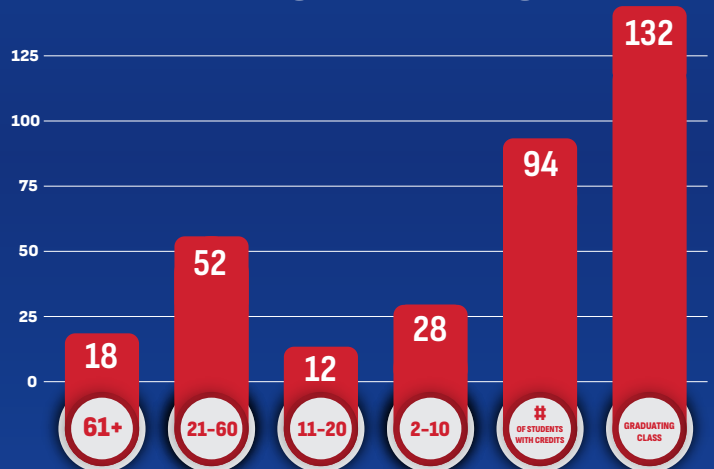
NEW OWEGO VOTING LOCATION!!

OACSD District Office
5 Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Owego



SOAR

2024 Graduating Class College Credits



Owego Apalachin Central School District

5 Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Owego New York 13827

Board Members

Joseph Palladino, *President*
Michael Aubel, *Vice President*
John Crawford
Gene Cvik
Linda Gretz
Nora Schumacher
Jessica Silvanic

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Corey A. Green

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ECRWSS

WHO CAN VOTE?

You can vote on the school district budget if you are: Eighteen (18) years of age on the voting date, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the school district for 30 days prior to the voting date. You do not need to be a property owner in order to vote, but you must live in the district. You do not need to be registered with the board of elections, but must show a valid photo ID.

To request an absentee ballot, please contact the District Clerk or her designee by emailing vote@oacsd.org. All ballots must be received at the district office no later than 5pm on May 20th, 2025. For questions about voting and registration, call the District Clerk at (607) 687-6215 or send an email to vote@oacsd.org.

OWEGO APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Budget Vote

May 20th, 2025

Noon – 8:00 PM

2 Polling Locations

Based on Residency

Apalachin Elementary School

405 Pennsylvania Avenue, Apalachin
&

OACSD District Office

5 Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Owego

School Budget

Official Public Hearing

May 13th, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

Board of Education Room, OA District Office
5 Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Owego

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