



CHITTENANGO CENTRAL SCHOOLS

The Pursuit of Excellence is a
Journey without End

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**Vote Tuesday,
May 20, 2025**

Chittenango Middle School
Cafeteria
12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.

- 2025-26 School Budget
- Proposed Gas Bus Purchases
- Board of Education Candidates
- Sullivan Free Library Proposition

www.chittenangoschools.org

PROPOSED 2025 - 2026 BUDGET

Dear Bear Country Community Residents, Friends, and Neighbors:

On behalf of a grateful Board of Education, school administration, and district-wide faculty and staff, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Chittenango Schools community for your continued support, trust and commitment. We are truly grateful to every **BEAR** for your support of our children, trust in the dedicated professionals of the CCSD and commitment to building an ever-stronger **BEAR COUNTRY!**

In our efforts to remain fiscally responsible, while upholding our commitment to offering high-quality academic and extra-curricular opportunities for our students, Bear Country has risen to the challenge. Please take a moment to celebrate recent accolades that we have achieved together:

- In their annual review of nationwide public schools, the US News & World Report again ranked **Chittenango HS as one of Central New York's best schools, #10 in the greater CNY area!**
- Chittenango CSD remains among elite company in our celebration of numerous student and staff achievements including, but not limited to, selection as a **MICRON Advanced Manufacturing Curriculum Pilot School** (1 of 10 across NYS), statewide recognition as a **NYS School of Character** and finalist for **National School of Character – Bridgeport Elementary**, national recognition as a **National Banner School for Special Olympics and Unified Sports**, seven (7) **New York State Master Teachers**, five (5) **National Board Certified** teachers, home to the **Northern NYS Champion Robotics Team** which qualified for the **World Championship** (ending their season ranked 2 out of 168 teams in NYS, and 67 out of 11,880 teams worldwide), forty four (44) **Scholastic Art Awardees**, one hundred sixty (160) **All-County Musicians**, forty (40) **All-State Musicians**, two (2) **Athletic Sectional and Regional Champion teams**, three (3) **Athletic League Champion Teams**, two (2) **All-State soccer players**, one (1) **National Merit Commended** student, one (1) **Published Author** student, one (1) **NASA Intern** student, eleven (11) **Advanced Placement Scholars**, three (3) **AP Scholars With Honors**, five (5) **AP Scholars With Distinction**, two (2) **National School of Character "Promising Practices" Award Winners**, **National Association Music Merchants (NAMM) "Best Schools For Music Education" Awardee** for the 15th consecutive year, nearly fifteen (15) graduating '24/'25 seniors entering **United States military service**, nearly twenty (20) graduating '24/'25 senior athletes signing letters of commitment to play collegiate sports, a **Top 10 Science Olympiad Team** with 9 medalist students, several **"Writer's Chair" Award Winners**, one (1) **CNY Battle of the Books Super Regionals Finalist** and three (3) **Regional Finalists**, and a premier **NYS Trap Shooting Team** with one (1) **NYS Top 20** student.

Continued on Page 2

- CCSD remains unparalleled in our social-emotional and community support efforts, including the collection and **donation of thousands of non-perishable food items** for the local food pantry, the gifting of dozens of Christmas trees in the “**Trees for Troops**” program at Bridgeport Elementary, building numerous community partnerships within the “**Sunshine Day**” program at Bolivar Road Elementary, donating hundreds of “**Power Pack**” nutritious snack kits to help feed families, participating in multiple **community clean-up and betterment day initiatives**, and promoting countless acts of kindness in the name of Rachel’s Challenge and our CMS Chain Reaction Club.

The aforementioned is nothing short of remarkable and epitomizes the very meaning of being a **BEAR**, where **support, trust and commitment align for student and community success**.

At the time of this writing, Legislative leaders and the Governor have not yet reached an agreement on a final budget that was due April 1, 2025. The Governor’s original proposal for Foundation Aid to NYS school districts included elements of the Rockefeller Institute report and, after multiple years of underfunding NYS schools as we face rising costs and inflation, provided a critical increase of aid at a crucial juncture. Struggling with the negative impacts of inflation, rising costs of business operation and an exponential increase in the cost of special education services, the Chittenango CSD is among many districts experiencing some level of fiscal stress. It is our hope that in the one-house budget, Foundation Aid will indeed increase to the level required by our District. Nonetheless, per NYS law, all NYS school districts must adopt a spending plan by April 26, 2025.

As such, the Chittenango Central School District Board of Education adopted the 2025 - 2026 budget equaling \$51,090,929 on April 21, 2025. The adopted budget will include a tax levy increase of 3.95 % for the 2025 – 2026 school year, which is less than the Tax Levy Cap of 4.79%. Further, given the challenging circumstances of operating in a high-inflation environment, the budget also includes funding for increased expenses in Maintenance, Transportation, Mental Health, and Special Education Services while also incorporating the calculated reduction of District personnel to mitigate the budget gap. In a budget-to-budget analysis, this budget reflects a 6.59% increase in spending. Per historical practice, the budget also includes a \$100,000 transfer to the Capital Fund (known as a State Education Department mini-capital project). Thus, we can receive approximately eighty-three (83%) percent reimbursement in 2025 – 2026. We have also included additional funds for other infrastructure repairs and school safety upgrades across the District.

Please visit www.chittenangoschools.org and click on 2025 - 2026 Budget Forecast to view the budget information on our website. We hope you find this information very informative. You may also contact Mr. Scott Mahardy, Assistant Superintendent of Business, at smahardy@chittenangoschools.org with additional information or questions.

The annual budget vote, Board of Education elections, bus vote, and the Sullivan Free Library proposition will take place on **May 20, 2025, at Chittenango Middle School on Fyler Road, Chittenango.**

The Chittenango Schools community is built upon collaboration, supporting your neighbor, and a commitment to the “**WE**” of **BEAR COUNTRY**. We appreciate every **BEAR** for your support of the children of our community, trust in the dedicated professionals of the District, and commitment to building an ever-stronger **BEAR COUNTRY!**

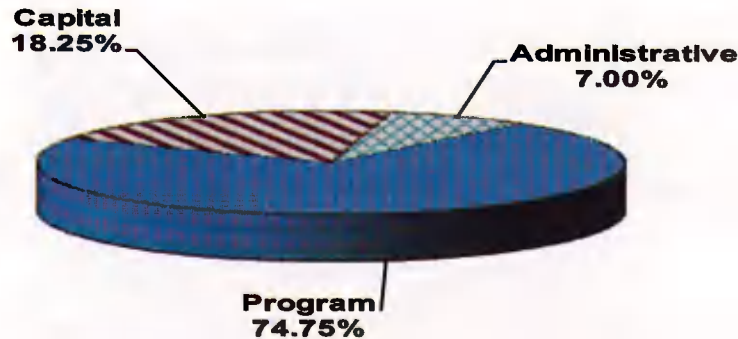
Sincerely,

The Board of Education

BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

	Final Budget <u>2024-25</u>	Proposed Budget <u>2025-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Program	\$36,800,508	\$38,190,239	\$1,389,731
Capital	\$7,525,865	\$9,325,774	\$1,799,909
Administrative	\$3,607,767	\$3,574,917	(\$32,850)
TOTAL	\$47,934,140	\$51,090,929	\$3,156,790



PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Based on the District's spending plan, the tax levy will increase 3.95%. The tax levy cap for 2025-2026 has been set at 2.0% by New York State. Our tax levy limitation calculation is 4.79%.

The Sullivan Free Library has a proposition on the ballot for a tax levy of \$639,728. Actual library tax rate information will be determined in August after the tax assessments and equalization rates for each town become final.

2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET

The following pages describe the proposed 2025-26 school district budget with estimated expenditures and revenues. The budget development process began in November with input from the staff, department supervisors and administrators. The budget has been reviewed by the Board's Budget Committee, the Board of Education and residents of the District who attended budget information meetings.

New York State requires that all public school budgets be formatted in the same three distinct parts: Program, Capital and Administrative. This brochure again follows that format.

Also, all public schools are required to hold budget votes on a common date; this year's date is Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

2025-26 Bus Purchase Proposition

Shall the Board of Education purchase and, to the extent necessary finance, three (3) student transport vehicles at an estimated cost not to exceed \$459,169, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$459,169, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$459,169, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$459,169, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

Rationale

Years ago, the District established a Facilities/Transportation Committee to recommend the replacement process for transportation vehicles. The committee recommended the following items should be considered when seeking to replace a bus – age (8-10 years was a benchmark), mileage (100K or better) and vehicle maintenance history.

Proposed Bus Retirement Schedule 3 - Buses/Vans

<u>Bus:</u>	<u>Mileage:</u>	<u>Year:</u>
Bus 278 -	121,289	2018
Bus 281 -	130,829	2018
Bus 285 -	127,750	2017

Bus Replacement Proposal

(2) 71 Passenger Vision gas powered	\$178,695 X 2 =	\$357,390
(1) 25 Passenger Micro Bird Ford		<u>\$101,779</u>
		\$459,169

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
*Total Cost =	\$683,382	\$459,169
**Cost per year =	\$ 25,558	\$ 17,173

* Excludes the value of auctioning off retired buses.

**After factoring in State Aid at 81.3%

Buses are purchased via a five (5) year B.A.N. to tie into the state aid model that aids the District over 5 years for bus purchases. We should average \$5,000 per bus via the auction process, thus we would pay down the borrowing by \$15,000 upon the sale of buses, lowering the annual cost from \$17,173 to \$14,173.

S.T.A.R. IS REDUCING TAX BILLS

Eligible senior citizens will again enjoy a decrease in school taxable assessment of \$59,840. For example, using a \$100,000 assessment, that translates into an estimated maximum savings of \$1,398 this fall. Other property owners, regardless of age or income, will receive a STAR reduction of \$20,850 in taxable assessment on their primary residence this September, reducing their tax bill by a maximum of \$515.

	Budgeted 2024-25 (A)	Budgeted 2025-26 (B)	Percentage Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	47,934,140	51,090,929	6.59%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	20,413,331	21,219,658	
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)	20,413,331	21,219,658	3.95%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	415,438	773,100	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	19,997,893	20,617,861	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)	19,997,893	20,446,558	
I. Difference: (G-H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	0	171,303	
Public School Enrollment	1,932	1,898	-1.76%
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 for 2024-25 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2024-25 (D)	Estimated 2025-26 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	3,536,166	3,536,166
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	2,763,353	2,196,987
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	164,234	165,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	0.34%	0.32%

I. EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM	2024-25	2025-26
	\$36,800,508	\$38,190,239

This budget category includes all services which provide or directly impact the instruction of students. This includes regular school, special education, library-media, instructional technology, guidance, student health services, school psychologists, co-curricular programs, athletics, staff development and all student transportation services. Budget details for the category of "teaching" have been further illustrated in the box below.

	2024-25	2025-26
BOCES & Special Schools	\$972,757	\$985,459
Bus Garage	\$152,450	\$152,450
Co-curricular & Athletics	\$969,843	\$970,154
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$752,111	\$852,042
Contract Transportation	\$945	\$945
Curriculum & Staff Development	\$67,868	\$70,107
Employee Benefits	\$12,568,469	\$12,758,327
Guidance	\$904,138	\$998,253
Health Services	\$296,205	\$316,892
Instructional Media	\$527,137	\$531,584
Personnel & Legal	\$45,000	\$55,000
Social Work	\$250,003	\$163,720
Student Transportation	\$2,882,177	\$3,018,428
Students with Disabilities	\$4,822,767	\$5,682,132
*Teaching	\$11,588,638	\$11,634,747

*** Breakdown of Teaching Budget Item:**

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
BOCES Services	\$863,935	\$711,910
Contractual Expense	\$38,150	\$43,600
Equipment	\$70,920	\$57,300
Materials and Supplies	\$197,132	\$196,387
Substitute Teacher Salaries	\$237,500	\$237,500
Support Staff Salaries	\$251,782	\$273,621
Teacher Salaries K-12	\$9,807,219	\$9,967,829
Textbooks	\$110,000	\$134,600
Tuition	\$12,000	\$12,000

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
CAPITAL	\$7,525,865	\$9,325,774

This budget category includes all personnel, equipment, supplies and materials for the operation and maintenance of district facilities, which includes utility costs. Any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments of principal and interest on debt service are included in this category. This also includes funds borrowed for the purchase of buses as well as a transfer to the capital fund.

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Debt Service	\$3,204,039	\$4,915,379
Employee Benefits	\$1,077,297	\$1,093,571
Maintenance of Plant	\$1,034,664	\$1,065,214
Operation of Plant	\$2,079,115	\$2,120,859
Transfer to Capital	\$130,750	\$130,750

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$3,607,767	\$3,574,917

This budget category includes all personnel and expenses for the Board of Education, Superintendent, business office, auditor, tax collection, central printing and mailing, property and casualty insurance, school association dues, this District's share of BOCES Administrative costs and supervision of instructional programs.

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Curriculum & Staff Development/ Data Processing	\$363,393	\$374,170
Employee Benefits/Finance	\$1,315,392	\$1,296,217
Liability Insurance & Special Items/ Personnel & Legal	\$419,631	\$428,154
Board of Education, Administration & Supervision	\$1,509,350	\$1,476,376

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$47,934,140	\$51,090,929

II. REVENUES

LOCAL SOURCES	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
	\$4,127,135	\$3,264,987

*Other local sources of revenue include bus rentals, sale of surplus materials, refund on contracted services, interest earnings and tuition received from other schools.

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,999,635	\$2,196,897
Interest and Penalties (Taxes)	\$87,000	\$92,000
Tuition/Admissions	\$75,500	\$76,000
Interest and Earnings	\$415,000	\$350,000
Rentals	\$53,000	\$53,000
Refunds	\$497,000	\$497,000

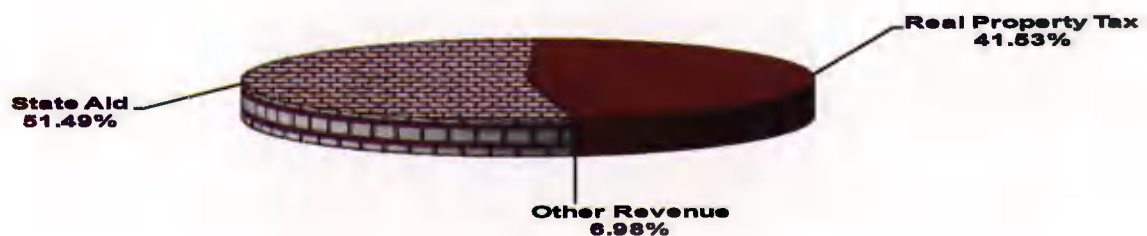
STATE SOURCES	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
	\$23,393,674	\$26,606,285

The District receives Basic Formula, Building and Textbook Aid directly from the State in support of education. These aids are determined by numerous factors including prior year's expenditures, enrollment data, transportation expenses, and legislative authorizations. BOCES (Board of Co-operative Educational Services) Aid is based on expenditures for certain programs and services from the prior year. Funds received from Medicaid Reimbursement are for programs and services provided to children that are Medicaid eligible.

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Foundation Aid	\$14,746,789	\$16,111,299
High Cost/Private Cost	\$624,805	\$600,580
Transportation	\$3,211,059	\$3,642,981
Building	\$2,583,778	\$3,911,600
BOCES	\$1,684,113	\$1,858,926
Medicaid	\$360,000	\$300,000
HW/SW/Textbook	\$183,130	\$180,899

PROPERTY TAX LEVY	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
	\$20,413,331	\$21,219,658

TOTAL REVENUES	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
	\$47,934,140	\$51,090,930



Chittenango Central School
Board of Education
Geoffrey F. Zimmer, President
Daniel E. Mayer, Vice-President
Siubhan Bongiovanni
Louis Cianfrocco
J. Daniel Gibbons
Edward J. Gratien
Dana Kent
Jason Thomas
Russel E. Wehner
Michael R. Eiffe, Superintendent

Chittenango Central School
1732 Fyler Road
Chittenango, NY 13037

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CHITTENANGO CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT RESIDENT

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

1. Vote on 2025-26 Proposed Budget Proposition:
"Shall the Board of Education of the Chittenango Central School District, Chittenango, New York, be authorized to expend the sums set forth in their 2025-26 Proposed Budget in the total amount of \$51,090,929 during the fiscal year 2025-26, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"
2. Vote on 2025-26 Proposed Bus Purchases:
"Shall the Board of Education of the Chittenango Central School District purchase and finance three (3) school buses at an estimated cost of \$459,169 and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$459,169?"
3. Vote on the Sullivan Free Library Tax Levy:
"Shall the Board of Education levy and collect on behalf of the Sullivan Free Library the sum of \$639,728 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025?"
4. Vote on three Board of Education Seats (Vote for one person for each seat):

<u>3 Yr Term now held</u> <u>by Siubhan Bongiovanni</u> Candidate: Siubhan Bongiovanni	<u>3 Yr Term now held</u> <u>by J. Daniel Gibbons</u> Candidate: J. Daniel Gibbons	<u>3 Yr Term now held</u> <u>by Jason Thomas</u> Candidate: Jason Thomas
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QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

Those eligible to vote must meet all of the following criteria:

- A citizen of the United States; and
- At least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- A resident within the school district for the past thirty (30) days.

Voters may be required to attest to the above requirements. There is no voter pre-registration.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee Ballots are now available. Contact Mr. Scott Mahardy, District Clerk, at 315-687-2850 for application forms and deadline information.