



CHITTENANGO CENTRAL SCHOOLS

The Pursuit of Excellence is a
Journey without End

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Public Hearing

May 5, 2026
Chittenango Middle School
Choral Room
6:30 p.m.

Vote Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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

- 2026-27 School Budget
- Proposed Gas Bus Purchases
- Board of Education Candidates
- Sullivan Free Library Proposition

www.chittenangoschools.org

PROPOSED 2026 - 2027 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 our 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 America's best schools, #5 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), **NYS and national recognition** as a **three time NYS School of Character** and **two time National School of Character – Bridgeport Elementary**, **national recognition** as a **National Banner School District for Special Olympics and Unified Sports**, home to a **NYS Champion Robotics Team** which at the time of this writing is competing in the **Vex Robotics World Championship** in St. Louis Missouri. In Art, CHS students achieved an astonishing **81 Scholastic Art Awards** (the most ever by CCS) including **10 GOLD KEYS**. In Music, our students dominate posting **237 All-County Musicians, 28 All-State Musicians, 2 Conference All-State Musicians** and earned the **National Association Music Merchants (NAMM) "Best Schools For Music Education" Award** for the **16th** consecutive year! In Scholastic Athletics, our Bears brought home **3 Athletic Sectional Champion Teams, 3 Individual Sectional Champion Athletes, 1 Athletic State Qualifier Team, 19 Individual State Qualifier Athletes, 4 Athletic League Champion Teams, 1 All-State Athlete, 3 All-CNY Athletes and 53 All-League Athletes**. In other academic areas we are proud to be home of **1 Published Author** student, **1 NASA Intern** student, **22 Advanced Placement Scholars, 6 Advanced Placement Scholars With Honors, 6 Advanced Placement Scholars With Distinction, 34 National Technical Honor Society Inductees ('25/'26)**, nearly 15 graduating ('25/'26) seniors **proudly serving** (or planning to serve) in the **United States Military**, nearly 20 graduating ('25/'26) seniors **proudly competing** (or planning to compete) as **collegiate athletes**, an elite **Science Olympiad Team**, several **"Writer's Chair" Award Winners, 7 Seal of Civic Readiness recipients ('25), 13 Seal of Bi-Literacy recipients ('25), 1 Seal of Tri-Literacy recipient ('25)**, and a premier **NYS Trap Shooting Team** with **1 NYS Top 50** student! This is what we mean when we say, **WE ARE CHITTENANGO! GO BEARS!**

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**.

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, 2026. The Governor’s original proposal for Foundation Aid to NYS school districts included a 1% increase. Public schools across the state continue to struggle with the negative impacts of soaring inflation, rising costs of health insurance and an exponential increase in the necessary expenditures of special education services. The Chittenango CSD is among many regional districts experiencing some level of fiscal stress, all while striving to provide our children with a world class experience. It is our hope that in the one-house budget, Foundation Aid will indeed increase to the level required not only by our District, but public schools across the state. Nonetheless, per NYS law, all NYS school districts must adopt a spending plan by April 26, 2026.

As such, the Chittenango Central School District Board of Education adopted the 2026 - 2027 budget equaling \$50,519,336 on April 21, 2026. The adopted budget will include a tax levy increase of 1.38% for the 2026 – 2027 school year, which is equal to the Tax Levy Cap of 1.38%. In a budget-to-budget analysis, this budget reflects a 1.12% decrease in spending. Further, given the challenging circumstances of operating in a high-inflation environment, the budget also includes funding for increased expenses in utilities, transportation, mental health, and Special Education services while also incorporating the calculated reduction of District personnel to mitigate the budget gap. 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-four (84%) percent reimbursement in 2026 – 2027. This designed planning allows for infrastructure repairs and school safety upgrades across the District.

Please visit www.chittenangoschools.org and click on 2026 - 2027 Budget Forecast to view the budget information on our website. We hope you find this information informative. You may also contact Mr. Matt Morkel, School Business Administrator at mmorkel@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 19, 2026 from Noon to 9:00 p.m. at Chittenango Middle School on Fyler Road, Chittenango. The following vacancies are to be filled: three-year terms currently held by Mr. Geoffrey Zimmer, Mr. Louis Cianfrocco, and Mr. Edward Gratien. All three current members seek re-election with the seat of incumbent Mr. Geoffrey Zimmer contested by Ms. Lora Sullivan.

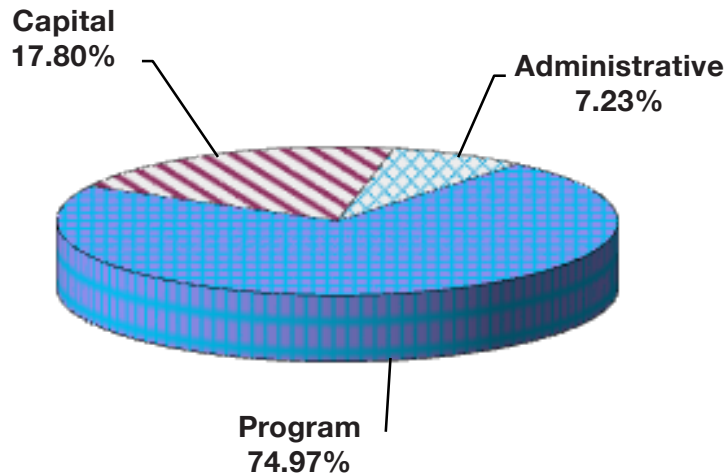
The Chittenango Schools community is built upon supporting your neighbor and a commitment to the “**WE**” of **BEAR COUNTRY**. We appreciate every **BEAR** for your support of the children of our community, trust in the dedicated professionals of the District and commitment to building an ever-stronger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

Sincerely,
The Board of Education

BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

	Final Budget <u>2025-26</u>	Proposed Budget <u>2026-27</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Program	\$38,190,239	\$37,873,946	\$(316,293)
Capital	\$9,325,773	\$8,994,387	\$(331,386)
Administrative	\$3,574,917	\$3,651,003	\$76,086
TOTAL	\$51,090,929	\$50,519,336	\$(571,593)



PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Based on the District's spending plan, the tax levy will increase **1.38%**. The tax levy cap for 2026-2027 has been set at 2.0% by New York State. Our tax levy limitation calculation is 1.38%.

The Sullivan Free Library has a proposition on the ballot for a tax levy of \$652,523. Actual library tax rate information will be determined in August after the tax assessments and equalization rates for each town become final.

2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET

The following pages describe the proposed 2026-27 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 19, 2026.

2026-27 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 \$586,965, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$586,965, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$586,965, 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 \$586,965, 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 (7-10 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 282 -	85,177	2018
Bus 283 -	144,139	2018
Bus 286 -	133,354	2019

Bus Replacement Proposal

(2) 71 Passenger Vision gas powered	\$184,604.50 X 2 =	\$369,209
(1) 66 Passenger Wheelchair Accessible		<u>\$217,756</u>
		<u>\$586,965</u>

	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
*Total Cost =	\$459,169	\$586,965
**Cost per year =	\$ 17,173	\$ 18,665

* Excludes the value of auctioning off retired buses.

**After factoring in State Aid at 84.1%

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 \$18,665 to \$18,188.

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

Eligible senior citizens will again enjoy a decrease in school taxable assessment of \$53,260. 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 \$18,560 in taxable assessment on their primary residence this September, reducing their tax bill by a maximum of \$515.

	Budgeted 2025-26 (A)	Budgeted 2026-27 (B)	Percentage Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	51,090,929	50,519,336	-1.12%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	21,219,658	21,512,748	
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)	21,219,658	21,512,748	1.38%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	773,100	502,285	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	20,617,861	21,010,463	
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)	20,446,558	21,010,463	
I. Difference: (G-H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	171,303	0	
Public School Enrollment	1,898	1,835	-3.32%
Consumer Price Index			2.63%

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 2026-27, includes any carryover for 2025-26 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2025-26 (D)	Estimated 2026-27 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	2,115,220	1,615,250
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	2,196,897	1,192,491
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	115,000	115,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	0.23%	0.23%

I. EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM	2025-26 \$38,190,239	2026-27 \$37,873,946
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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.

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
BOCES & Special Schools	\$985,459	\$948,600
Bus Garage	\$152,450	\$163,850
Co-curricular & Athletics	\$970,154	\$1,013,900
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$852,042	\$977,558
Contract Transportation	\$945	\$945
Curriculum & Staff Development	\$70,107	\$72,061
Employee Benefits	\$12,758,327	\$12,834,100
Guidance	\$998,253	\$985,683
Health Services	\$316,892	\$339,756
Instructional Media	\$531,584	\$519,030
Personnel & Legal	\$55,000	\$55,750
Social Work	\$163,720	\$168,873
Student Transportation	\$3,018,428	\$3,143,194
Students with Disabilities	\$5,682,132	\$5,430,841
*Teaching	\$11,634,747	\$11,219,805

*** Breakdown of Teaching Budget Item:**

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
BOCES Services	\$711,910	\$775,500
Contractual Expense	\$43,600	\$42,600
Equipment	\$57,300	\$57,300
Materials and Supplies	\$196,387	\$173,387
Substitute Teacher Salaries	\$237,500	\$443,000
Support Staff Salaries	\$273,621	\$279,455
Teacher Salaries K-12	\$9,967,829	\$9,314,063
Textbooks	\$134,600	\$121,500
Tuition	\$12,000	\$13,000

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
CAPITAL	\$9,325,773	\$8,994,387

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>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Debt Service	\$4,915,379	\$4,480,884
Employee Benefits	\$1,093,571	\$1,100,066
Maintenance of Plant	\$1,065,214	\$1,066,773
Operation of Plant	\$2,120,859	\$2,215,914
Transfer to Capital	\$130,750	\$130,750

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$3,574,917	\$3,651,003

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>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Curriculum & Staff Development/ Data Processing	\$374,170	\$382,057
Employee Benefits/Finance	\$1,296,217	\$1,215,337
Liability Insurance & Special Items/ Personnel & Legal	\$428,154	\$529,363
Board of Education, Administration & Supervision	\$1,476,376	\$1,524,246

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$51,090,929	\$50,519,336

II. REVENUES

LOCAL SOURCES	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	\$3,264,987	\$2,133,491

*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>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,196,897	\$1,192,491
Interest and Penalties (Taxes)	\$92,000	\$102,000
Tuition/Admissions	\$76,000	\$76,000
Interest and Earnings	\$350,000	\$300,000
Rentals	\$53,000	\$53,000
Refunds	\$497,000	\$410,000

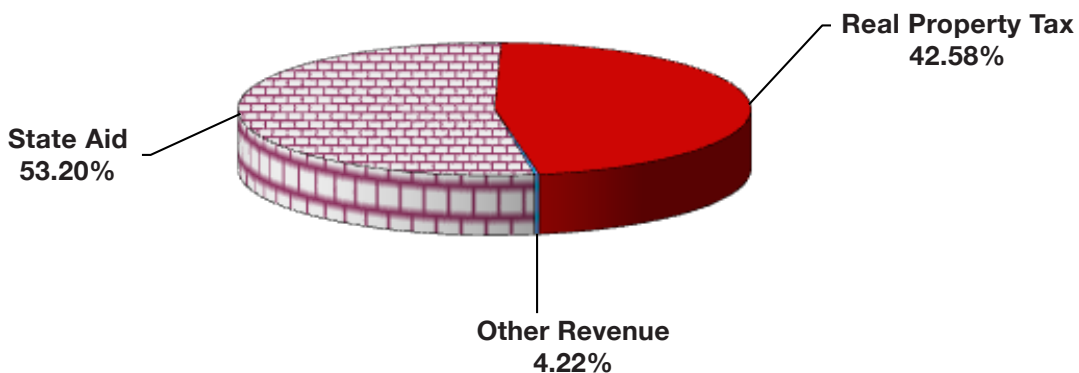
STATE SOURCES	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	\$26,606,285	\$26,873,097

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>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Foundation Aid	\$16,111,299	\$16,655,839
High Cost/Private Cost	\$600,580	\$365,811
Transportation	\$3,642,981	\$3,477,244
Building	\$3,911,600	\$3,735,863
BOCES	\$1,858,926	\$2,163,427
Medicaid	\$300,000	\$300,000
HW/SW/Textbook	\$180,899	\$174,913

PROPERTY TAX LEVY	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	\$21,219,658	\$21,512,748

TOTAL REVENUES	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
	\$51,090,930	\$50,519,336



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

Chittenango Central School
1732 Fyler Road
Chittenango, NY 13037

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
Chittenango, NY 13037
Permit #16

CHITTENANGO CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT RESIDENT

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

1. Vote on 2026-27 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 2026-27 Proposed Budget in the total amount of \$50,519,336 during the fiscal year 2026-27, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"
2. Vote on 2026-27 Proposed Bus Purchases:
"Shall the Board of Education of the Chittenango Central School District purchase and finance three (3) gas powered student transportation vehicles at an estimated cost of \$586,965 and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$586,965?"
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 \$652,523 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?"
4. Vote on three Board of Education Seats (Vote for one person for each seat):

<u>3 Yr Term now held</u> <u>by Geoffrey Zimmer</u> Candidates: Lora Sullivan Geoffrey Zimmer	<u>3 Yr Term now held</u> <u>by Louis Cianfrocco</u> Candidate: Louis Cianfrocco	<u>3 Yr Term now held</u> <u>by Edward J. Gratien</u> Candidate: Edward J. Gratien
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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 Ms. Adrianna Kam, District Clerk, at 315-687-2850 for application forms and deadline information.