



Onondaga Central Schools

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Tuesday,
May 19, 2026
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Rockwell Elementary School's
Gymnasium, 208 Rockwell Road,
Nedrow, NY

Jr./Sr. High School's Cafeteria
Lobby, 4479 South Onondaga
Road, Nedrow, NY

Budget Facts

Proposed Budget

\$27,786,773

Year Over Year Increase

\$423,425 (1.55%)

Proposed School Tax Levy

\$11,698,380

Estimated Tax Levy Increase

2.50% Increase



Dear Stakeholders,

As we look toward the 2026-2027 school year, I want to provide you with a clear picture of our fiscal planning and our vision for the future of Onondaga Central. We have successfully developed a balanced budget proposal that prioritizes the classroom while navigating a particularly complex New York State budget landscape. Our approach remains rooted in a simple philosophy: being resourceful today to ensure our students excel tomorrow.

Our planning this year has been guided by a focus on long-term sustainability, especially in light of shifting state support. The Governor's Executive Budget includes only a 1% increase in Foundation Aid for "hold harmless" school districts such as Onondaga Central. While this presents a challenge, we have met it head-on by finding efficiencies through natural attrition. Rather than automatically filling positions left by retirements, we have carefully evaluated our staffing needs to ensure every dollar works as hard as possible for our students. Furthermore, our transportation team continues to refine our operations.

These efforts have allowed us to present a 2.50% tax levy increase (approximately \$0.66 per \$1,000 of assessed value), a figure that remains well within the state-mandated tax cap. This responsible fiscal path ensures we can preserve our core academic programs, fulfill our contractual promises, and keep our talented staff in our classrooms despite the modest increase in state aid.

We continue to see the tangible results of our community's investment. This past year, our students reached new heights on the New York State 3-8 ELA and Mathematics assessments. We are also proud that our High School continues to earn national recognition, recently being named among the "Best High Schools" by U.S. News & World Report. These accolades are a direct reflection of the synergy between our dedicated educators and our hard-working students.

Beyond academics, the "Onondaga Spirit" is alive in our halls. Whether it is our students' success in the drama productions of Cinderella and Willy Wonka Jr., their competitive edge in the NYSSMA All-State Competition, or the grit shown across our athletic programs, our kids are thriving at every level.

As we move forward, we remain committed to modernizing our curriculum. We are particularly excited to expand our program offerings in our soon-to-be-renovated Industrial Arts Building, which will provide our students with a modern space for an introduction to the trades, agricultural sciences and technologies, and 3D arts such as ceramics and sculpture.

The NYS zero-emission vehicle mandate remains in effect. On May 19, voters will consider ballot propositions to approve either the purchase of gas- or electric-powered buses. The cost of the electric buses would be covered between transportation aid and a voucher, however, infrastructure costs would not be included. The District has officially applied for a two-year waiver to push back the electric bus mandate. This strategic move allows the State and the District more time to plan for the necessary infrastructure and costs required to meet the 2035 NYS zero-emission mandate. Your vote on the EV bus proposition will help inform State elected officials on the feasibility and practicality of this State Legislation.

Our mission is to challenge individuals to maximize their potential and prepare contributing citizens for life. This budget is more than just a set of numbers; it is a commitment to maintaining the support services and innovative opportunities that define our district.

Thank you for your partnership and for the trust you place in us every day. Together, we are ensuring that Onondaga Central remains a place where every student is empowered to succeed.

Warm regards,

Rob Price

Rob Price, Superintendent of Schools

WE GET YOU READY FOR LIFE.



OCS Announces Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Class of 2026

Onondaga Central School District is proud to recognize Carolyn Andino as valedictorian and Sydney Boyer as salutatorian for the Class of 2026.

Carolyn Andino, daughter of Lisa and Tom Andino, will graduate with a weighted cumulative grade point average of 100.41. She earned this distinction while completing a rigorous academic program, including 12 college credits at Tompkins Cortland Community College and 14 at Onondaga Community College. She earned scores of 3 on the AP World History exam and 4 on both the AP United States History and AP English Language and Composition exams, and will challenge the AP Government and Politics and AP Psychology exams in May 2026.

Beyond academics, Carolyn is deeply involved in the arts. She has performed leading roles in school productions, including Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Mrs. Hannigan in *Annie*, and the title role in *Cinderella*. She was also selected to perform with the New York State School Music Association at the 2025 All-State Winter Conference. Carolyn will attend Rollins College, where she will study music.

Sydney Boyer, daughter of Shana and Nathan Boyer, will graduate with a weighted cumulative grade point average of 99.78. She earned college credits through multiple institutions, including 4 credits from Syracuse University Project Advance, 12 credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College, 16 credits from Onondaga Community College, and 3 credits from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She earned scores of 5 on the AP World History and AP English Language and Composition exams, and a 4 on the AP United States History exam.

Sydney has been an active leader in the school community, serving as president of the GSA and Environmental Club, vice president of the Art Club, and leading a youth action team with Citizens' Climate Lobby. She is also a member of the Drama Club and spent her senior year studying full-time at the Clarkson University School. Additionally, she received the Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award from the University of Rochester. Sydney will attend Syracuse University to study political science and environmental studies.

Congratulations to the entire Class of 2026. We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you the best of luck—you will be missed.

☆☆ HONOR ROLL ☆☆

12TH GRADE:

Andino, Carolyn*
 Baldwin, William*
 Brasket, Avery*
 Brown, Maxwell*
 Carter, Amillia
 Cox, MacKenna*
 Cox, Sydney*
 Crews, Alex*
 Doner, Nathan*
 Fordyce, Kaleigha*
 Halsey, Lyana*
 Hill, Tessa*
 Mahoney, Grace*
 Mckee, Tucker*
 Miller, Madilynn*
 Montulli, Antonio
 Morris, Nolan*
 Moses, Justin*
 Mulligan, Riley*
 Nett, Benjamin*
 Pierce Jr., David
 Prokopchuk, Vasyl*
 Urbas, Joshua*
 Wilhelm, Zachary*
 Wright IV, Howard*
 Young, Christopher*

11TH GRADE:

Abbott, Payton*
 Adams, Nih'Jawn
 Donze, Amani*
 Doshna, Olivia
 Fiaschetti, Sydney*
 Fikes, William*
 Fox, Olivia*
 Frazier, Mariana*
 Freyer, Abigael*
 Gabriel Jr., Raun*
 Haines, Tyler*
 Hantke, Logan*

Hourigan, Theodore*
 Hunter, Trevor*
 Keane, Jayden*
 Knapp, Madison*
 Knittel, Derrick*
 Kolos, Viktoriia*
 Luton, Reed*
 Marsh, Kendal*
 Mattison, Bryce*
 McCoy, Knoll*
 Miller Jr., Sean*
 Murphy, Brian*
 O'Dell, Addison*
 Pierce, Grace*
 Rhyant, Emalie*
 Ryan, Jesse
 Smidga, Ciera*
 Smith, Rory
 Smith Jr., Jamere
 Spencer, Adeline*
 Spies, Anna*
 Spies, Lena*
 Szabo, Madison
 Wright, Zanai*

10TH GRADE:

Allen, Lucas
 Amstein, Lina*
 Barbuto, Macie*
 Bellinger, Ty*
 Boom, Kori*
 Bowsen, Quan'Dai*
 Boyer, Zachary*
 Clarke, Kevanie
 Cummings, Colton*
 Dixie, Gavin*
 Dixie, Logan*
 Fowler, Lucy
 Francis, Colton
 Gemmell, James
 Grant, Nahzehia

Hennigan, Rose*
 Hill, Jakari
 Hill, Jorden
 Lasinski, Francesca*
 Lehmann, Jackson
 Lettsome, Carter
 Morris, Rylan*
 Powell, Ian*
 Ramirez Domingo, Aimar*
 Reeves, Unique
 Roundtree, Isabella*
 Searle, Brooklyn
 Smorol, Cooper*
 Spieker, Aiden*
 Taylor, A'nyiah
 Toro, Ariana*
 Town, Melody*
 Wadsworth, Jacob

9TH GRADE:

Almaliki, Saja*
 Andino, Rosemarie*
 Bennett, Connor
 Burns, Quinn*
 Conners, Jameson
 Corrente, Paul*
 Cruz Pagan, Nayanis
 Donaghy, Kaelyn
 Fikes, Emily*
 Finlay, Aden*
 Foster, Alexandra*
 Greene, Violet*
 Hourigan, Andrew*
 Hourigan, Taylor*
 Hughes, Gianna
 Kallfelz, Aubrey*
 Kelsey, Avery*
 Kelsey, Jacob*
 Kelsey, Nicholas
 Kgalemang, Teto*
 King, Carson*

Kobasa, Ryan*
 Kyslyak, Illia*
 Lettsome, Ella*
 Massey, Damian
 Meah, Shahriaz*
 Moore, August*
 Mulligan, Madison*
 Perry, Hailey
 Pierce, Allison*
 Polge, Anthony*
 Relles, Coralena*
 Richardson, Dashawn*
 Roundtree, London*
 Ryan, Madison*
 Sanders, Zion*
 Scheve, Lillian*
 Shepherd, Nevaeh*
 Shute, Addison*
 Spencer, Colton*
 Steul, Amelia
 Tkachenko, David
 Valencia, Nevaeh
 Welch, Miles*
 White, Iceiz*

8TH GRADE:

Adams, Kara*
 Batschelet, Grace*
 Berger, Charlotte*
 Berger, Julia*
 Bergman, James*
 Bey-Wright, Epiphany*
 Braun, Clara*
 Brooks, Jansen*
 Burns, Madison*
 Campbell, Jayden*
 Conway, Callin*
 Cox, Bryson*
 Cox, Sophie*
 Crysler, William*
 Gemmell, Aeliana*

Gowing, Isabella*
 Hardwick, Aryanna*
 Hosler, Easton
 Hudson, Bryce*
 Hunt, Carter*
 Klekochko, Stanislav*
 Kudlick, Samantha*
 Lasinski, Matthew*
 Luchsinger, Liam*
 Luchsinger, Logan
 Luton, Willa*
 Maloney, Weston*
 Marhelis, Evelina*
 McCoy, Egan*
 Millett, Andrew
 Murphy, Austin*
 Murphy, Brayden*
 Nelson, Shane*
 Phillips, Colin*
 Pimentel, Ne'vaeh
 Price, Theodore
 Samson, Connor
 Sicignano, Vincent*
 Taylor, Evan
 Torres, Alvin*
 Vonderweidt, Jeannette*

7TH GRADE:

Alfaro, Xavier
 Antone, Azalea*
 Brooks II, Marcus
 (Atreyu)*
 Burton, Wyatt*
 Campbell, Zoey*
 Chavarria, Elias*
 Crill, Alana*
 Cuffee, Dean
 Cummings, Weston*
 Donegan, Kendall*
 Doshna, Amelia
 Dougher, Ivy*

Eldred, Joshua (Jaxon)*
 Fellows, Ryley*
 Fikes, James*
 Freyer, William*
 Gardner, Henry*
 Hanrahan, Briar*
 Hourigan, Addison*
 Kerlin, Hayleyann
 Klekochko, Yaroslav*
 Knittel, Declan*
 Lochner, Elliott*
 Martinez Figueroa, Oscar*
 McCarthy, Christopher*
 Meah, Jannatul*
 Montulli, Isabella
 Moore, Avery*
 Morris, Logan*
 Nelson, Avery*
 Ochsner, Aleeah*
 Owens, Amirah
 Palmer, Eva*
 Parker, Hunter*
 Powell, Avery*
 Pulver, Lillian*
 Sautter, Jaiden*
 Smith, Henry*
 Smith, Yuri
 Sweetapple, Bentley*
 Thomas, Rohan
 Tkachenko, Mark*
 Vader, Aubrey*
 Vasquez Sales, Saily
 Veri, Nola*
 White III, Glen
 Williams, Nyaira*
 Womachka, Marvel

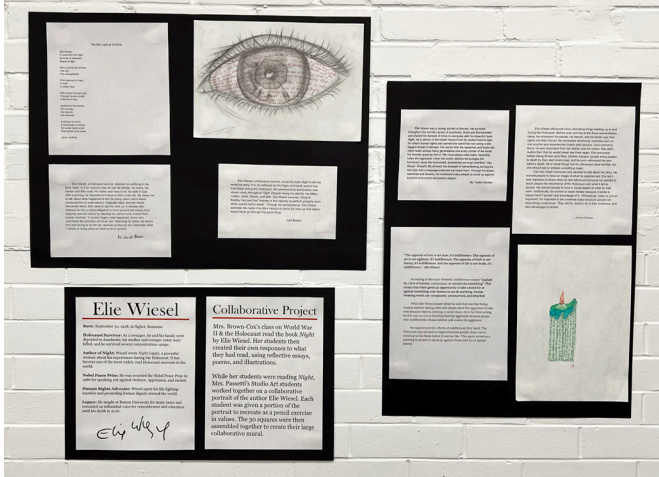
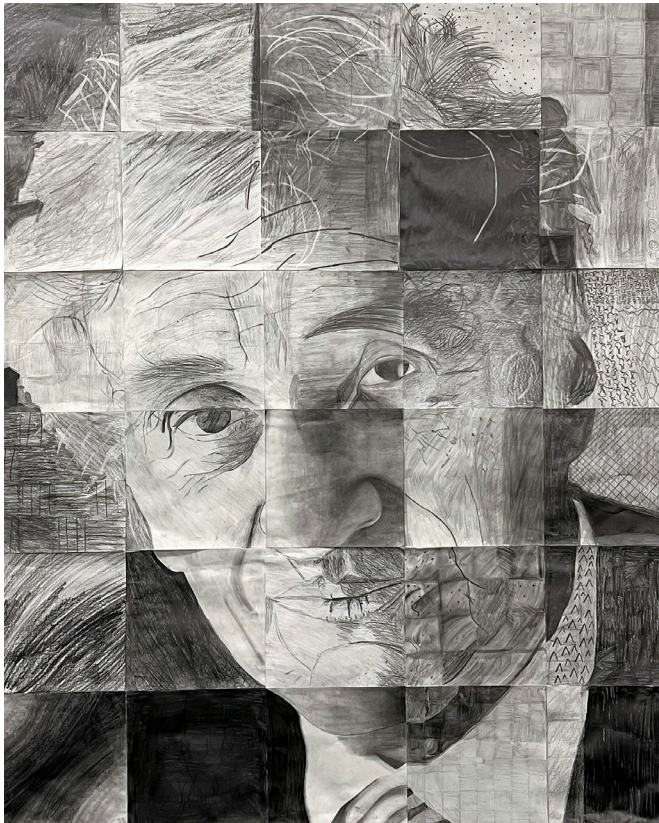
* Indicates High Honor Roll



Spanish Club Explores Culture Close to Home

Spanish Club students recently traveled to Geneva for an immersive cultural experience, visiting Hernandez Mexican Store to explore a wide variety of Central American snacks, candies, and beverages. Students selected items to bring home and share, extending the experience beyond the trip.

The group then stopped in Elbridge for lunch at Como en Casa Taquería, a locally owned restaurant run by a Guatemalan husband-and-wife team who make everything from scratch. Throughout the trip, students practiced real-world Spanish conversation while supporting local small businesses.



Powerful Reflections Meet Collaborative Art

Students in Mrs. Brown-Cox's World War II and Holocaust class recently completed a unit centered on 'Night' by Elie Wiesel. As a culminating activity, students reflected on the text through essays, poetry, and illustrations, expressing their understanding of its powerful themes.

In collaboration, Mrs. Passetti's Studio Art students created a large-scale portrait of author Elie Wiesel. Each student contributed a section of the piece, focusing on pencil shading and value techniques, and the sections were then assembled into a striking collective mural.



OCS SR. BAND VISITS ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY

The OCS Sr. High Band visited Rockwell Elementary in March to celebrate Music in Our Schools Month! During a Friday morning program, musicians performed for Rockwell students and celebrated music!



WHEELER'S FIST BUMP FRIDAYS PROMOTE POSITIVITY

Wheeler Elementary's Fist Bump Friday series has been a huge success this year! Recently, Rockwell pre-school teachers visited to cheer on students as they headed into school. It was a warm and happy reunion between teachers and students!

Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School Named to 2024-25 College Board AP School Honor Roll



Onondaga Central Schools is proud to announce that Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School has been named to the 2024-25 AP School Honor Roll by the College Board, earning Bronze recognition for its commitment to expanding access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses and supporting student success.

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have demonstrated outstanding efforts to welcome more students into AP programs and prepare them for college success. In addition, Onondaga earned the AP Access Award, which honors schools that encourage participation among low-income and underrepresented minority students.

Onondaga's recognition is based on three key metrics reflecting college readiness:

- » **College Culture:** 57% of students in the Class of 2025 took at least one AP exam during high school.
- » **College Credit:** 38% of students scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam.
- » **College Optimization:** 4% of students took five or more AP exams during their high school career.

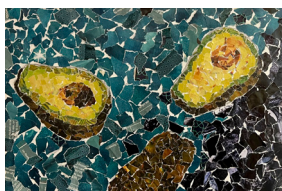
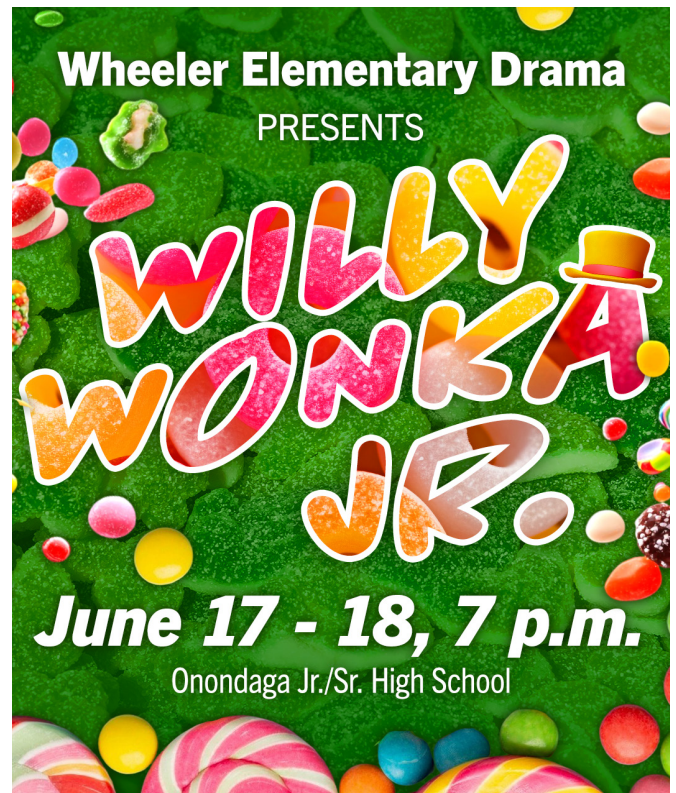
We are proud of everyone at Onondaga Central Schools who is dedicated to increasing access to advanced coursework and supporting students as they pursue their academic and career goals.



Meyer Elected to OCMEA Board

Congratulations to OCS music educator Hal Meyer, who has been elected to the board of directors for the Onondaga County Music Educators Association (OCMEA)!

OCMEA works to support music educators, expand opportunities for students, and promote the impact of music education across our community. We're proud to see Mr. Meyer representing Onondaga in this important leadership role.



A TASTE OF CREATIVITY

Studio Art students recently completed a mosaic-inspired collage project, illustrating a food item of their choice. After sketching their designs, students carefully selected colors from magazines to bring their vibrant, textured creations to life.

NURSES CORNER: IMPORTANT

As we approach the end of the school year, a few reminders for next school year.

- » ALL NEW REGISTRANTS AND ALL STUDENTS IN PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, AND 11th GRADES MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL AND DENTAL EXAMINATION.
- » Any student who receives medication during the school day must renew the physician's order and parent permission each year.

- » Any student wishing to participate in sports must also have a physical on file (within 12 months of the first day of tryouts for that season) along with a health history completed within 30 days of the start of the season.
- » All forms are available on the website.
- » If you wish for your child to have a physical here at school, it is on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Please contact your child's school nurse to set it up.

- Patty, Lindsey, & Diana



OCS Students Honored at Student Art – Naturally Exhibit

Students from across the Onondaga Central School District were selected to showcase their artwork in *Student Art – Naturally*, a regional exhibit held at Beaver Lake Nature Center and organized by Region 3 of the New York State Art Teachers Association.

The exhibit featured a wide variety of nature-themed artwork, including paintings, drawings, prints, and collage, with styles ranging from highly realistic to imaginative interpretations of the natural world.

Five elementary students representing Wheeler and Rockwell Elementary Schools were selected to participate: Ruby McCoy (Kindergarten), Maddison Briggs (Grade 2), Esther Tarchenko (Grade 3), Nicholas Langdon (Grade 4), and Ani Foster Thomas (Grade 5). These students were

recognized during a reception on March 22, where they received ribbons and certificates.

Six students from Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School were also selected for the exhibit: Carolyn Andino (Grade 12), Lyana Halsey (Grade 12), Olivia Fox (Grade 11), Mariana Frazier (Grade 11), Saja Almaliki (Grade 9), and Ezoza Abdurakhmanova (Grade 9). The secondary exhibit ran from March 27 through April 26, with a closing reception held on April 26 to honor the artists. Each student received a certificate recognizing their achievement.

The annual exhibit celebrates student artists from across the region, highlighting creativity and artistic expression inspired by the natural world.



OCS Celebrates Night of the Arts

Onondaga Central Schools celebrate art and music during its 12th annual Night of the Arts on March 18. Students from 6th through 12th grade showcased their hard work in art classes throughout the year, including pottery, painting, drawing, and more. The evening concluded with a Disney-themed concert performance by the Jr./Sr. High School bands and choruses. It was a memorable night celebrating music and art in our schools!



Cinderella Enchants at Onondaga

OCS Drama put on a magical performance of Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* in early April, bringing the fantasy to life thanks to talented student actors, tech crew, and artists!

“WHERE THE MONEY GOES”

PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-2027

CATEGORY	2025-2026 BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	PERCENT INC/DEC
Board of Education <i>Board of Education, District Clerk, Budget Meeting</i>	\$20,780	\$21,780	\$1,000	4.8%
Central Administration <i>District Office</i>	\$373,450	\$388,844	\$15,394	4.1%
Finance <i>Business Office, Independent Auditor, Tax Collection, Fiscal Agent Fee, Treasurer</i>	\$433,023	\$458,761	\$25,738	5.9%
Staff <i>Legal Services, Personnel and Public Relations</i>	\$96,000	\$98,315	\$2,315	2.4%
Maintenance	\$2,283,298	\$2,401,411	\$118,113	5.2%
Central Services <i>Printing Operations, Admin, Computers and SROs</i>	\$426,145	\$423,948	(\$2,197)	-0.5%
Special Items <i>Liability Insurance, BOCES Rent and Administration, Unclassified</i>	\$233,467	\$267,279	\$33,812	14.5%
Admin. Improvement <i>Principals, Clerical Staff, BOCES Services, In-Service Training</i>	\$821,388	\$865,021	\$43,633	5.3%
Teaching	\$9,141,966	\$9,020,326	(\$121,640)	-1.3%
Instructional Media	\$1,082,513	\$1,077,653	(\$4,860)	-0.4%
Pupil Services <i>Guidance, Health & Psychological Services, Co-curricular Activities, Athletics</i>	\$1,682,710	\$1,693,458	\$10,748	0.6%
Transportation <i>Student local and out-of-district transportation and Bus Garage</i>	\$1,888,716	\$1,884,107	(\$4,609)	-0.2%
Employee Benefits	\$5,336,646	\$5,388,358	\$51,712	1.0%
Debt Service <i>10-Year Bonds, 5-Year Bonds, Tax Anticipation</i>	\$3,543,245	\$3,797,511	\$254,266	7.2%
Total Budget	\$27,363,348	\$27,786,773	\$423,425	1.55%
General Support	\$3,866,163	\$4,060,338	\$194,175	5.0%
Instruction	\$14,617,294	\$14,540,566	(\$76,728)	-0.5%
Undistributed	\$8,879,891	\$9,185,869	\$305,978	3.4%

PLEASE VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Rockwell Gymnasium
Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING/
MEET THE BOE CANDIDATES**

Tuesday, May 5, 2026,
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

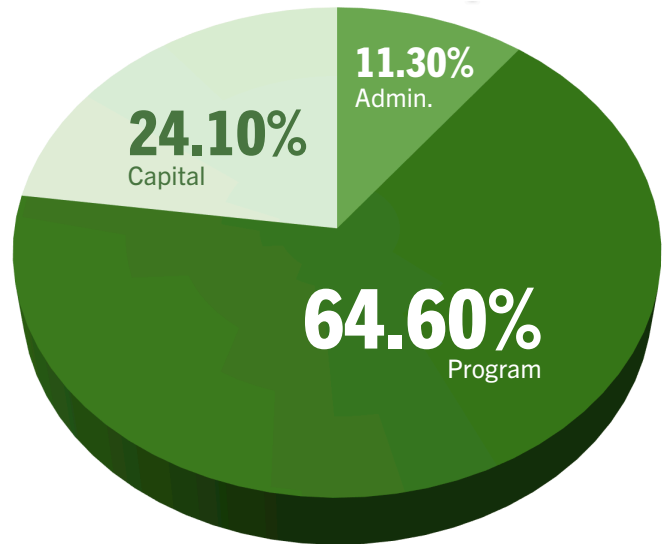
Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

CATEGORY	3-PART BUDGET	BENEFITS	TOTAL 3-PART	2026-2027 PROPOSED	2025-2026 BUDGET
Administration	\$2,523,948	\$615,364	\$3,139,312	11.30%	10.95%
Program	\$13,675,545	\$4,276,043	\$17,951,588	64.60%	65.99%
Capital	\$6,198,922	\$496,951	\$6,695,873	24.10%	23.06%
Total	\$22,398,415	\$5,388,358	\$27,786,773	100.00%	100.00%

Administrative Costs include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff who spend 50% or more of their time in administration, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also, school board costs, curriculum development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing and BOCES administrative costs.

Program Costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, and athletics). Also, textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

Capital Costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, utilities and general insurance.



EXAMPLE TAX BILL CALCULATION

ON A \$100,000 HOME LOCATED IN ONONDAGA AT A 2.50% TAX LEVY INCREASE



2025-2026 TAX BILL

House Assessment Value		100,000.00
Divided by:	/	1,000.00

\$1,000 of Assessed		100.00
Multiplied by Projected Tax Rate	X	31.109625

Proj. Tax Bill Without Basic STAR		\$3,110.96
Subtract Actual Basic STAR Amount	-	\$606.64
Final Projected Tax Bill		\$2,504.32



PROJECTED 2026-2027 TAX BILL

House Assessment Value		100,000.00
Divided by:	/	1,000.00

\$1,000 of Assessed		100.00
Multiplied by Projected Tax Rate	X	31.7785

Proj. Tax Bill Without Basic STAR		\$3,177.85
Subtract Max. Basic STAR Amount	-	\$607.00
Final Projected Tax Bill		\$2,570.85

PROJECTED YEAR OVER YEAR ANNUAL INCREASE: \$66.53

SUMMARY OF BUDGETED REVENUES

PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-2027

	2025-2026	2026-2027	\$ CHANGE
PROPERTY TAXES			
Property Tax including STAR	\$11,413,032	\$11,698,380	\$285,348
STATE AID			
Foundation Aid, Building Aid, Special Education	\$10,274,668	\$10,419,497	\$144,829
Transportation	\$1,957,706	\$1,988,807	\$31,101
BOCES Aid	\$1,195,680	\$1,171,081	\$(24,599)
Textbook, Library, Hardware, Software	\$75,151	\$72,460	\$(2,691)
Total State Aid	\$13,503,205	\$13,651,845	\$148,640
OTHER REVENUES			
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$776,000	\$811,110	\$35,110
APPROPRIATED RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE			
Employee Retirement Reserve	\$400,000	\$430,000	\$30,000
Teachers Retirement Reserve	\$170,000	\$178,000	\$8,000
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	\$185,000	\$155,000	\$(30,000)
Unemployment Reserve	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$841,111	\$787,438	\$(53,673)
Appropriated Reserves and Fund Balance Total	\$1,671,111	\$1,625,438	\$(45,673)
Total Revenues	\$27,363,348	\$27,786,773	\$423,425

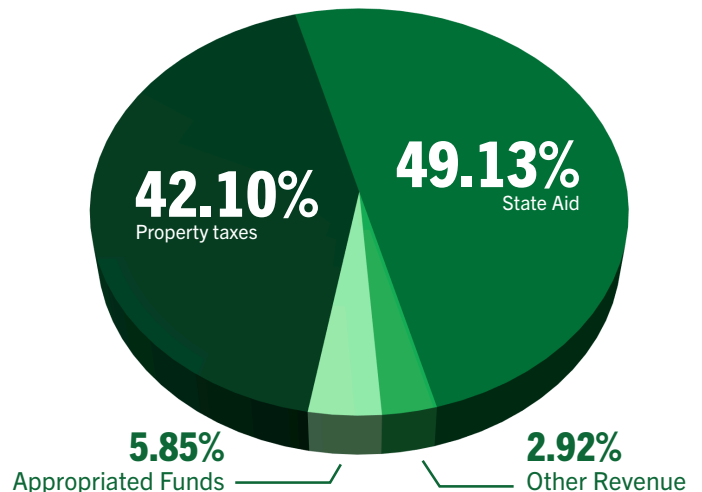


Chart is rounded to the nearest hundredth

	BUDGET TO BUDGET % CHANGE	\$ CHANGE IN TAX RATE PER \$1000	% CHANGE IN TAX RATE	INFLATION
2016-17	1.45%	\$(0.18)	-0.65%	0.12%
2017-18	2.01%	\$0.10	0.36%	1.26%
2018-19	1.13%	\$(1.10)	-3.86%	2.13%
2019-20	4.05%	\$(0.01)	-0.02%	2.44%
2020-21	2.41%	\$0.24	0.89%	1.81%
2021-22	2.61%	\$0.41	1.50%	1.23%
2022-23	7.31%	\$0.63	2.26%	4.70%
2023-24	3.72%	\$1.18	4.13%	8.00%
2024-25	3.45%	\$0.53	1.77%	4.12%
2025-26	2.48%	\$0.85	2.81%	2.95%
2026-27	1.55%	\$0.67	2.15%	2.63%

This historical comparison highlights a fiscally responsible approach to budgeting over the past decade. Despite modest annual budget increases, the tax rate has remained relatively stable—with several years of reductions—and consistently outpaced by inflation. Notably, even during years of significant inflation, such as 2022–2024, tax rate increases were moderate, reflecting a balanced commitment to essential services while minimizing taxpayer burden.



Cheer on Our Spring Athletes!

Spring sports are underway at Onondaga Central Schools! There are plenty of opportunities to cheer on our incredible student-athletes and be part of the action! Visit www.onondagacsds.org/athletics to find a game.

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 27,363,348	\$ 27,786,773	\$ 27,501,425
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 423,425	\$ 138,077
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.55%	0.50%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 11,413,032	\$ 11,698,380	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 11,413,032	\$ 11,698,380	11,413,032
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 334,331	\$ 369,013	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 11,078,691	\$ 11,329,367	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 11,078,691	\$ 11,329,367	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,995,955	\$ 3,139,312	\$ 2,977,332
Program Component	\$ 18,057,252	\$ 17,951,588	\$ 17,942,309
Capital Component	\$ 6,310,141	\$ 6,695,873	\$ 6,581,785

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Description	Amount
Library Proposition II	\$ 66,948
Gasoline Bus Proposition III	\$ 453,500
Electric Bus Proposition IV (Only if gasoline bus proposition fails)	\$ 595,305

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 607

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Onondaga Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at Rockwell Elementary School and Junior/Senior High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

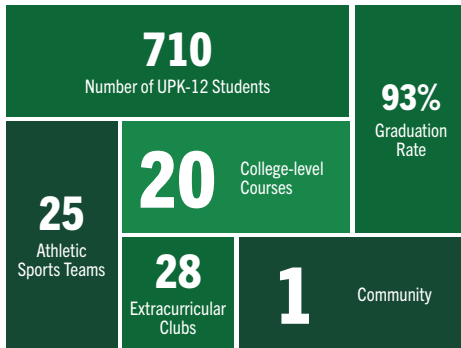
1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

CONTINGENT BUDGETS

If residents vote down the proposed budget, the Board of Education has two options:

1. Resubmit the same budget or a revised budget for a revote.
2. Adopt a contingent budget, which state law now dictates cannot exceed the current year's tax levy. (If residents vote down a resubmitted budget, the district MUST adopt a contingent budget.)

What's a contingent budget? Unlike in years past, the new statute requires contingent budgets to carry a ZERO percent increase over the current year's levy. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less – without any adjustment for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not. It also means all “non-contingent expenses” would have to be cut from the budget. These include field trips for social or entertainment purposes, new equipment, non-essential maintenance spending and some student supplies.



HONORING OUR UNIFIED EFFORT

We are thrilled to announce that Onondaga CSD is one of three school districts tied for highest proficiency mark in Onondaga County, achieving proficiency levels of 95% or better on the U.S. History and Government Regents. The state had data on history Regents results for a total of 631 districts across NY.

From the classroom to behind-the-scenes support, every role contributes to building a community where students are empowered to grow and succeed. This is a moment to reflect on the incredible impact of our collective effort. Thank you for bringing your best to everything you do. Together, we're transforming lives and creating a brighter future for our students.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Onondaga Central School Community challenges individual maximum potential, prides itself on success and prepares contributing citizens for life.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

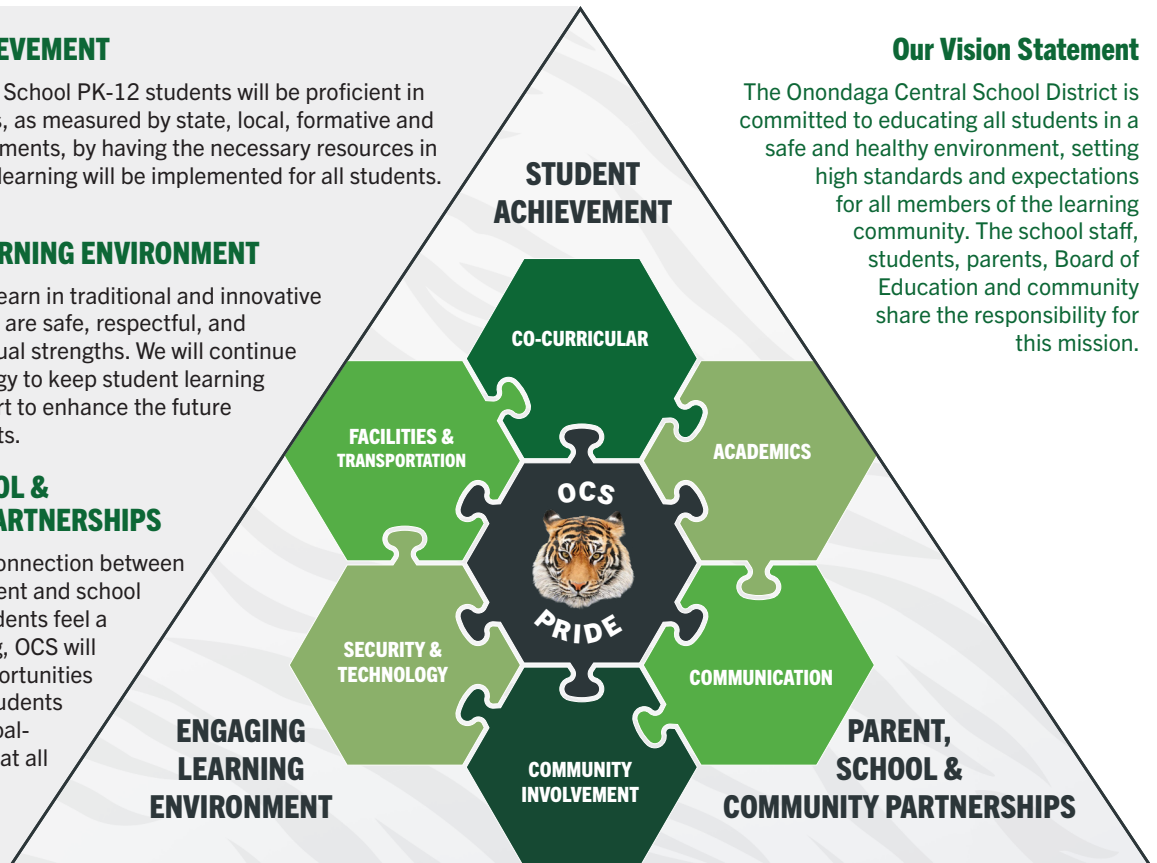
Onondaga Central School PK-12 students will be proficient in all curricular areas, as measured by state, local, formative and summative assessments, by having the necessary resources in place and service learning will be implemented for all students.

ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our students will learn in traditional and innovative environments that are safe, respectful, and encourage individual strengths. We will continue to utilize technology to keep student learning relevant in an effort to enhance the future success of students.

PARENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing the connection between student achievement and school success when students feel a sense of belonging, OCS will communicate opportunities for families and students to participate in goal-oriented activities at all grade levels.



Our Vision Statement

The Onondaga Central School District is committed to educating all students in a safe and healthy environment, setting high standards and expectations for all members of the learning community. The school staff, students, parents, Board of Education and community share the responsibility for this mission.



Danielle Bishop: Danielle and her spouse Tim live on Bussey Road with their two children. Their children attend Onondaga Central School. Maddison is in 2nd grade, and Mason is in UPK. Danielle is a graduate of Onondaga Central School. She has a Bachelor of Science in Criminology/Criminal Justice.

Danielle is committed to advocating for the needs, rights, and well-being of children and families by ensuring their voices are heard and supported in a professional and ethical manner. Danielle was previously employed at McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center for 7 years, now currently employed as a Caseworker for Onondaga County.

Having once been a player in South Onondaga Apple Valley league, Danielle now takes pride in coaching tee ball and assisting with coaching Rookies Team 1. Danielle enjoys taking a yearly vacation in Florida with her family. You'll also find Danielle spending time with family and friends outdoors, either camping in Old Forge or boating on Otisco Lake.

"I understand the importance of safe, supportive, and high-quality education. I am committed to being a voice for families in our community and working collaboratively to ensure every student has the opportunity, resources, and support they need to thrive."



Caitlin Dawson Brown: Genuine, hardworking and caring, Caitlin has dedicated her life to human services. Caitlin began her career working for programs like Head Start and other non-profits, she has experience working with children and families in the central New York area. As a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, she runs a small business where she provides mental health counseling services to children, teens, and adults.

Caitlin has lived in New York since attending Cazenovia College ('10) and moved with her family to the Town of Onondaga where her partner Martin grew up. Caitlin has fallen in love with the community and the Onondaga Central School District where her two daughters Natalie and Delaney attend PreK and 2nd grade at Rockwell Elementary School (Go Tigers!)

Caitlin is running for OCS Board of Education to advocate for your children. With a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Syracuse University and experience working with children and families in her career she can provide a valuable voice.

In her spare time, Caitlin enjoys being outdoors with her family, taking care of her chickens, going to concerts or running. Caitlin and her family love to travel and enjoy spending time in Cape Cod every summer.

Most importantly, Caitlin is a mother. A mother who cares about her children's education and community. A mother who will care about all the children in the OCS district like they're her own. Caitlin's values are educational equality, mental health and transparency. Caitlin cares about what OCS can offer families and wants to make sure students feel enriched, safe, and supported.

Caitlin can be reached by phone: 315-925-7477 or email: cdbrowncounseling@gmail.com.



OCS Student Alex Crews inducted into the National Technical Honor Society



VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- » Must be a citizen of the United States
- » Must be eighteen (18) years of age
- » Must be a resident of the OCS District for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to May 19, 2026



Tamie Volles Doner: Meet Tamie Volles Doner, Candidate for the OCS Board of Education!

Dedicated, experienced, and deeply connected to the community, Tamie Volles Doner is a lifelong resident of the district and a proud OCS graduate from the Class of 1997. She went on to earn her AAS degree in Criminal Justice from Onondaga Community College, building a strong foundation for her career and public service.

Tamie has a long history of involvement in OCS schools. From 2009 to 2013, she served as PTO President and as the parent representative for special education, where she advocated for students and families while building strong relationships across the district. In 2013, she was elected to the Board of Education, where she served for six years, bringing a thoughtful, organized, and detail-oriented approach to every decision. Known for her ability to multitask and work collaboratively, Tamie has always focused on what's best for students and the community.

After her time on the board, Tamie returned to the workforce and now works for the Town of DeWitt. She continues to stay actively engaged by regularly attending Board of Education meetings and keeping in close touch with the needs and priorities of the district.

Tamie lives in South Onondaga with her husband, Chad, and their three children, Colin, Rory, and Nathan. As a parent and community member, she understands firsthand the importance of strong schools and supportive programs.

Now running again for the Board of Education in 2026, Tamie is ready to continue serving OCS families with dedication, experience, and a genuine commitment to the success of every student.



Shaun Lang: Shaun Lang and her husband, Sean Hoag, have called Navarino home for the past 10 years along with their two daughters, Josephine (6) and Eloise (4), both of whom attend Rockwell Elementary. Sean's family has deep roots in the South Onondaga and Nedrow communities as farmers and small business owners, and both of his parents are graduates of the OCS district.

Shaun attended Ithaca College where she earned a B.A. in Anthropology. Since then, she has built a career in public service dedicated to serving children and families across Central New York. She has also contributed locally by serving on two nonprofit boards, demonstrating her commitment to investing in her community. Now, as a parent of two children enrolled in the district, Shaun is eager to devote time and attention to ensuring every student has access to opportunities and outcomes that exceed expectations. Shaun has been especially impressed by the sense of community she has found within the district since her oldest daughter enrolled three years ago. She has fallen in love with the pride and character of this district and looks forward to helping guide it into the future.

At home, the Lang-Hoag family stays busy gardening and caring for their animals. In their free time, they enjoy swimming and boating on Otisco Lake.

Shaun Lang looks forward to serving the OCS community and helping ensure that the district continues to be a source of pride for all members of this community.



Pam Hanrahan: Pam and her husband, Matt, have been residents of OCS for the past 17 years. While not a lifelong district resident, Pam has roots in the area, having grown up in Marcellus. Together, Pam and Matt have a son, Briar, who is a seventh-grade student.

Pam is a graduate of Marcellus High School and attended St. Bonaventure University. She earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration, with a concentration in accounting. She is a NYS-licensed CPA and currently serves as Regional Finance Director at Smurfit Westrock. In this role, Pam oversees financial operations for multiple locations along the East Coast, bringing extensive experience in fiscal management, strategic planning, and organizational leadership.

Pam is committed to applying her professional expertise and leadership to the Onondaga Central School District and its community. She supports responsible decision-making that benefits students, teachers, staff, and taxpayers, and helps ensure educators and students have the resources they need to prepare

for the future. With the onboarding of a new superintendent, the coming school years will be pivotal, and Pam is dedicated to preserving the strengths that make OCS exceptional while thoughtfully addressing opportunities for improvement.

In her free time, Pam enjoys spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, traveling, and reading. She is ready to dedicate her time and energy to supporting OCS schools and strengthening the community they serve.

ONONDAGA CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
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onondagacsd.org

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Erik Nelson
Noelle Relles
Jeremy Burton
Nathaniel Brown

Rob Price, Superintendent of Schools

PROPOSITION I » BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of the Onondaga Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefor?

PROPOSITION II » LIBRARY

Shall the Onondaga Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$66,948 (which is an increase of \$1,950 from the levy in effect from 2025-2026 in the sum of \$64,998) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by the Onondaga Free Library historically supported by the Onondaga Central School District?

PROPOSITION III » GASOLINE SCHOOL BUS PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education of the Onondaga Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance two (2) 66-passenger gasoline school buses and one (1) 30-passenger gasoline school bus, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$453,500, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such vehicles by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$453,500, shall be issued?

PROPOSITION IV » ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS PROPOSITION

If Proposition III does not pass, shall the Board of Education of the Onondaga Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance two (2) 66-passenger electric school buses and one (1) 28-passenger electric school bus, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$1,309,305, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such vehicles by applying \$714,000 in available grant funding from the New York School Bus Incentive Program and, for the balance, by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District to be collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$595,305 shall be issued?

*The District has applied for a 2 year waiver to allow the District to continue to purchase combustion engine vehicles over the next 2 years. The District received notification of an award of a NYSBIP voucher on 3/4/2026.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT CLERK NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. ON MAY 19, 2026.

Options for Early Mail Voting (NEW) and Absentee Voting: Early Mail voting provides the ability to vote by mail in lieu of voting in person, by absentee ballot, or by military ballot. Residents who will not be in the area on May 19, 2026 may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office. If the early/absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 19, 2026. Early/Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

Created by:



The Onondaga Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, employment, and admissions; and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Joseph Sterbank, compliance officer/coordinator, at jsterbank@onondagacsd.org, 315-552-5001, 4466 S. Onondaga Road, Nedrow, NY 13120.