



Onondaga Central Schools

Budget Public Hearing
May 6, 2025

PREPARING CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS FOR LIFE

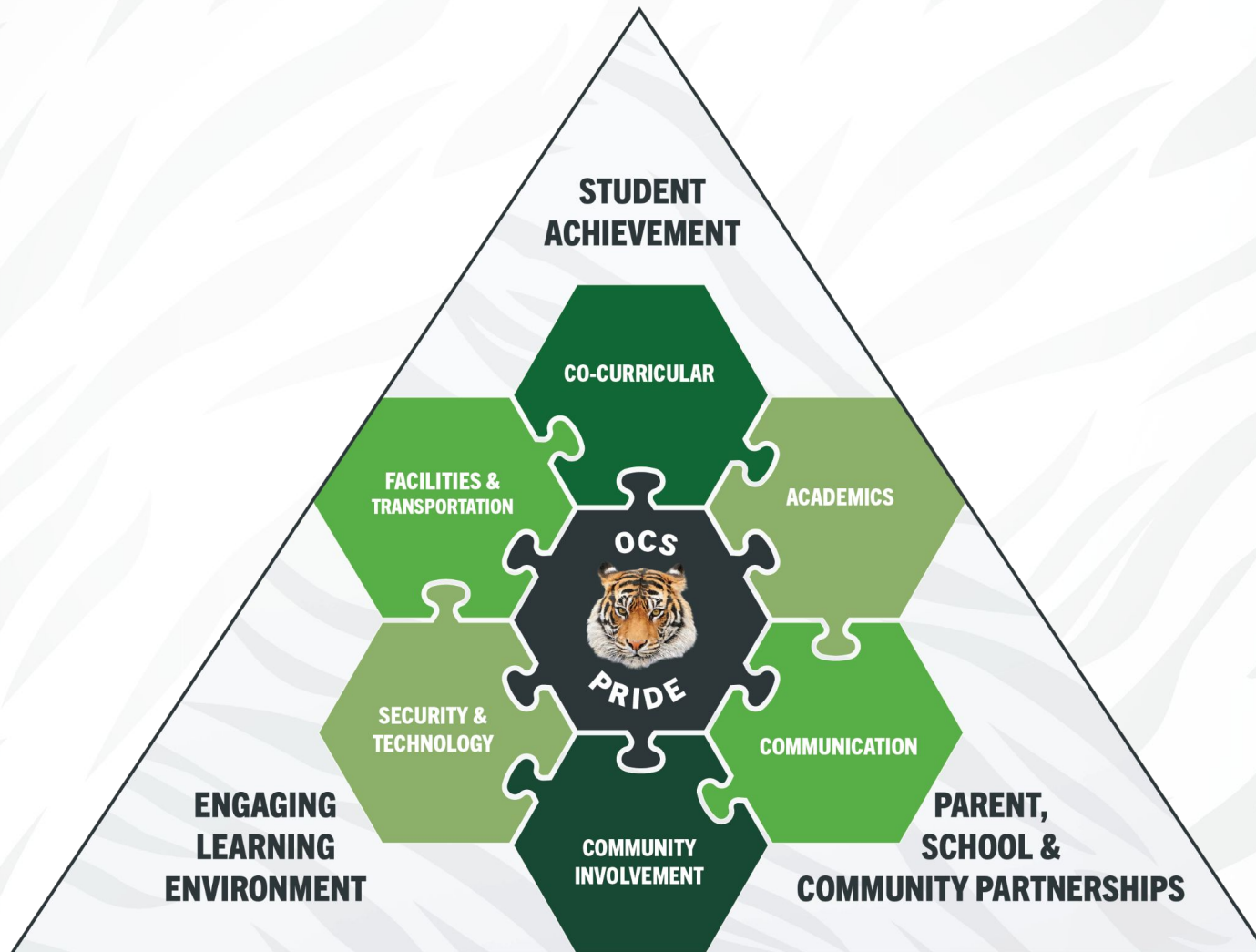
Mission Statement



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



OCS Strategic Goals 2025-2026



Student Achievement



OCS will have in place the necessary resources so that all the PreK-12 students can be proficient in all curricular area as measured by state, local formative and summative assessments, implement service learning for all students.



Stable Learning Environment



Our students will learn in environments that are safe, respectful, engaging, and encourage individual strengths. We will continue to leverage technology tools to enhance learning and communication in a fiscally responsible manner.



Parent, School & Community Partnership



The OCS family will participate in goal oriented activities at all grade levels, linked to student achievement and school success.



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.



2025-2026 Budget Priorities

- **School Safety & Security**
 - Camera and Security Replacements
- **Maintaining Educational Programming**
- **Enrollment Trends**
 - AIS & ELL/ENL Staffing Support
 - Special Education & Alternative Education Programs
- **Retaining, Recruiting and Developing Staff**
- **Technology**
 - Maintain 1 to 1 Ratio of Students to Chromebooks.
- **Commitment to Small Class Sizes**
- **Maintain the Ability to Handle Fiscal Challenges**
 - Planned Fund Balance & Reserves Allocation
- **Account for Annual School Bus Replacements**
- **Account for Federal/State Mandates**
- **Enhancing Financial Literacy**
 - SECNY Credit Union Tiger Branch
 - New Course Offering



Budget Development Factors

- Student Enrollment
- Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA)
- State and Federal Mandates (Reporting and Transparency)
 - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and School Level Financial Survey (SLFS) Reporting
- English as a Second Language/English Language Learner (ESL/ELL)
- Staffing - Retention and Recruiting
- Minimum Wage Increases (Compression)
- District Technology Needs
- NYS School Aid
- NYS Tax Levy Legislation



Budget Development Factors (continued)

- Retirement System Rates have changed slightly for 2025-26.
 - TRS: Estimated rate of 9.59% (a decrease from 24-25 rate of 10.11%)
 - ERS: Estimated rate of 16.50% (an increase from 24-25 rate of 15.20%)
- Energy Cooperative:
 - In second year of 2-year NYSMEC contract (Locked unit rate)
 - Budgeting 15% increase in *delivery* charges
- Health Insurance:
 - Budgeting 6.0% increase. (Projected out years: 6.65%, 6.75%, 6.75%, and 7.0%)
- District Insurance:
 - Projected premium increases between 10-17%
 - Inclusive of Package, Auto, Workers Compensation, and Umbrella coverage.
 - Property deductible minimum increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000



Supporting our Students Builds Success for the Future

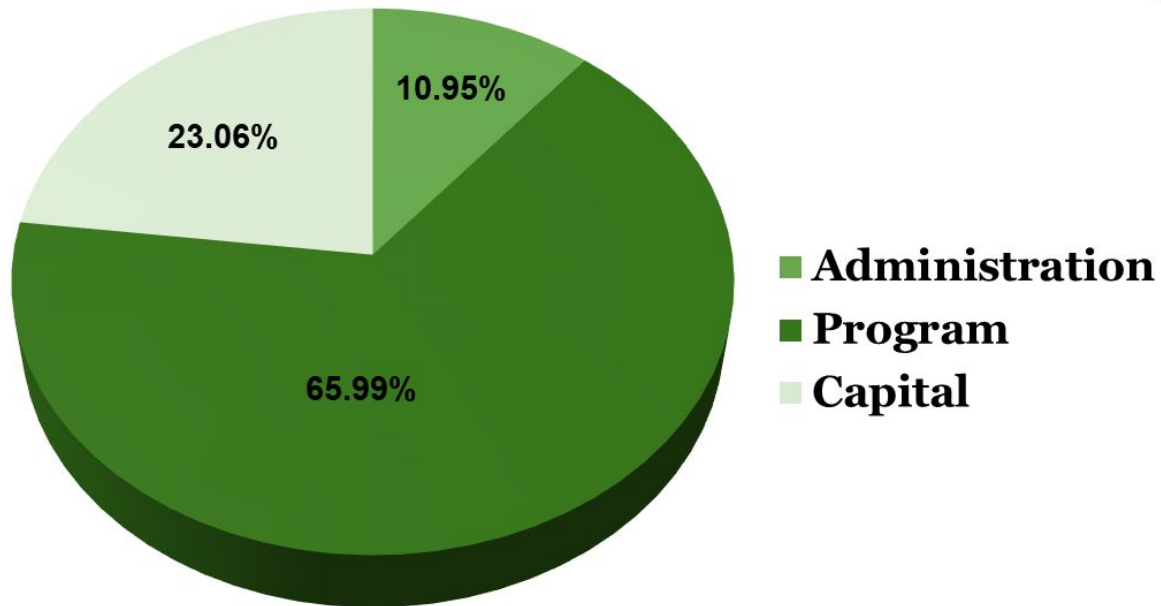
Spotlight on Tiger Pride

- We are proud of our academic programs and schedules that stress flexibility, high standards for all children.
- NYS Regents Performance
 - Algebra II - 100% - 1st in the County
 - US History - 95% - 4th in the County
- Two students inducted into the Career and Technical Assistance National Honor Society
- OCS was awarded Utica National School Safety Excellence Award at the Titanium with Honors level for the 12th year in a row.
- Community Support:
 - Capital Project Renovations to our Schools
 - PTO and Booster Club support for students and staff.



2025-2026 THREE PART BUDGET

	3- Part Budget	Benefits	Total 3 Part Budget
Administration	\$2,404,253	\$591,702	\$2,995,955
Program	\$13,795,905	\$4,261,347	\$18,057,252
Capital	\$5,826,543	\$483,598	\$6,310,141
Total	\$22,026,701	5,336,647	27,363,348



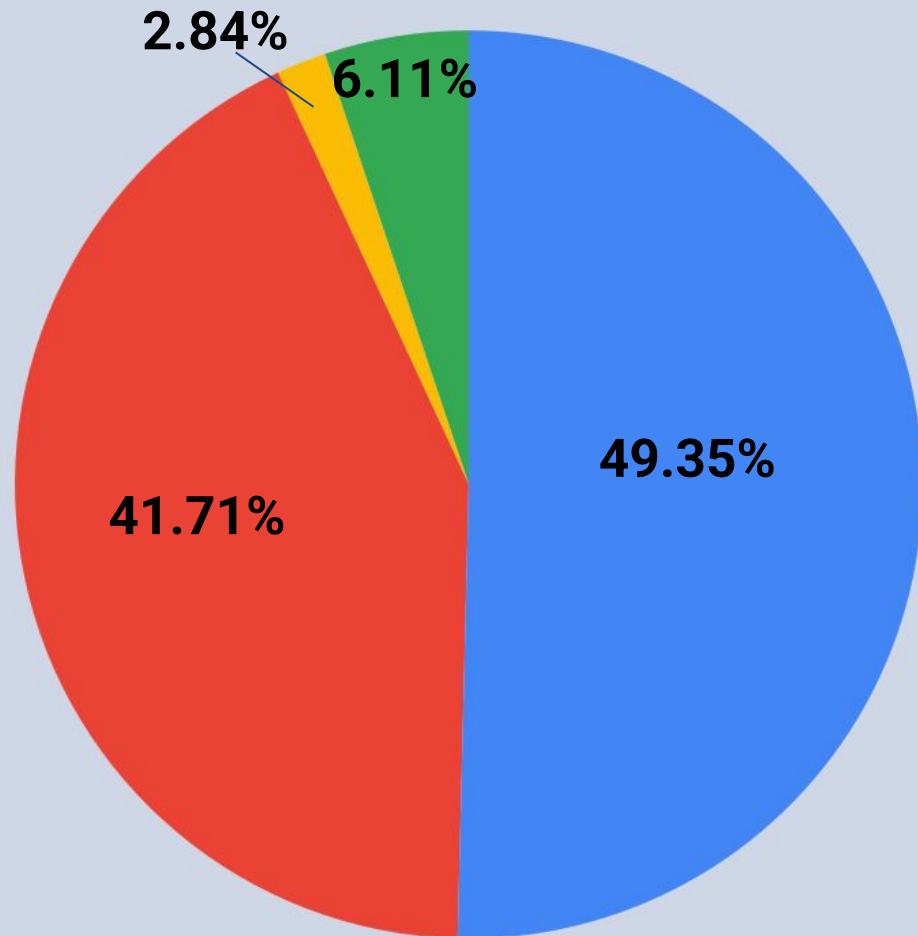
2025-2026 Proposed Budget

ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOLS					
2025-2026					
Proposed Budget					
		2024-2025 BUDGET	2025-2026 PROPOSED	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Inc/Dec
A	Board of Education - Board of Education, District Clerk, Budget Meeting	\$20,780	\$20,780	\$0	0.0%
A	Central Administration - District Office	\$348,443	\$373,450	\$25,007	7.2%
A	Finance - Business Office, Independent Auditor, Tax Collection, Fiscal Agent Fee, Treasurer	\$420,087	\$433,023	\$12,936	3.1%
A/P	Staff - Legal Services, Personnel and Public Relations	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$0	0.0%
C	Maintenance	\$2,200,024	\$2,283,298	\$83,274	3.8%
A	Central Services - Printing Operations, Admin, Computers, and SRO's	\$339,500	\$426,145	\$86,645	25.5%
A	Special Items - Liability Insurance, BOCES Rent and Administration, Unclassified	\$215,950	\$233,467	\$17,517	8.1%
A	Admin. Improvement - Principals, Clerical Staff, BOCES Services, SRO In-Service Training	\$803,689	\$821,388	\$17,699	2.2%
P	Teaching	\$9,249,707	\$9,141,967	(\$107,740)	-1.2%
P	Instructional Media	\$992,600	\$1,082,513	\$89,913	9.1%
P	Pupil Services - Guidance, Health & Psychological Services, Co-curricular Activities, Athletics	\$1,593,917	\$1,682,710	\$88,793	5.6%
P	Transportation - Student local and out-of-district transportation and Bus Garage	\$1,843,322	\$1,888,716	\$45,394	2.5%
A/P/C	Employee Benefits	\$5,140,214	\$5,336,646	\$196,432	3.8%
C	Debt Service - 10-Year Bonds, 5-Year Bonds, Tax Anticipation	\$3,436,365	\$3,543,245	\$106,880	3.1%



2025-2026 Estimated Revenues

State Aid	49.35%, \$13,503,205
Local Taxes	41.71%, \$11,413,032
Other	2.84%, \$776,000
Reserves and Appropriated fund balance	6.11%, \$1,671,111



Total Revenue Summary

Category	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Projected Budget	\$ Change	Percent of Budget
Property Tax Including STAR	\$ 10,836,000	\$ 11,107,260	\$ 11,413,032	\$ 305,772	41.71%
State Aid	\$ 9,550,397	\$ 9,731,304	\$ 10,274,668	\$ 543,364	
Transportation	\$ 1,905,346	\$ 1,906,159	\$ 1,957,706	\$ 51,547	
BOCES Aid	\$ 1,204,650	\$ 1,331,849	\$ 1,195,680	\$(136,169)	
Textbook, Library, Hardware & Software	<u>\$ 77,402</u>	<u>\$ 76,012</u>	<u>\$ 75,151</u>	<u>\$ (861)</u>	
Total State Aid	<u>\$12,737,795</u>	<u>\$13,045,324</u>	<u>\$ 13,503,205</u>	<u>\$ 457,881</u>	49.35%
Other Revenues	\$ 480,000	\$ 705,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 71,000	2.84%
Reserves	\$ 910,000	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 830,000	\$ (180,000)	6.11%
Appropriated Fund Balance (FB)	<u>\$ 846,914</u>	<u>\$ 833,014</u>	<u>\$ 841,111</u>	<u>\$ 8,097</u>	
Reserves and FB	\$ 1,756,914	\$ 1,843,014	\$ 1,671,111	\$ (171,903)	
Total	<u>\$ 25,810,709</u>	<u>\$ 26,700,598</u>	<u>\$ 27,363,348</u>	<u>\$ 662,750</u>	



Revenue Percentage History

Category	Percent of Budget 19-20	Percent of Budget 20-21	Percent of Budget 21-22	Percent of Budget 22-23	Percent of Budget 23-24	Percent of Budget 24-25	Percent of Proposed Budget 25-26
Property Tax Including STAR	45.7%	45.2%	44.94%	42.70%	41.98%	41.60%	41.71%
State Aid	47.6%	47.3%	48.02%	50.39%	49.35%	48.85%	49.35%
Other Revenues	1.4%	1.3%	1.52%	1.77%	1.86%	2.65%	2.84%
Reserves and Fund Balance	5.3%	6.1%	5.51%	5.14%	6.81%	6.90%	6.11%



Onondaga CSD's NYS Aid

Makes up ~49% of Total Revenue Budget*

Onondaga Central School District				
NYS Dept. of Education General Formula Aid Output Report (GEN)				
		As of 2/1/2025	As of 2/1/2025	26 vs 25
		2025-2026	2024-2025	Difference
Foundation Aid		7,324,020.00	6,625,939.00	698,081.00
UPK		424,148.00	411,298.00	12,850.00
BOCES Aid & Special Services		1,370,680.00	1,081,694.00	288,986.00
High Cost Excess Cost		239,995.00	306,720.00	-66,725.00
Supplemental Public Excess Cost Aid		18,672.00	18,672.00	0.00
Hardware and Technology		13,285.00	13,503.00	-218.00
Software, Library, Textbook		61,866.00	62,433.00	-567.00
Transportation including Summer		2,032,706.00	1,849,711.00	182,995.00
Building Aid		2,691,981.00	3,037,363.00	-345,382.00
	Total	14,177,353.00	13,407,333.00	770,020.00
		13,753,205.00	12,996,035.00	



Reserves and Fund Balance

Reserves	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Unemployment	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
ERS	\$350,000	\$370,000	\$400,000
TRS	\$300,000	\$380,000	\$170,000
EBLAR	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000
Fund Balance	\$846,914	\$833,014	\$841,111
Total	\$1,756,914	\$1,843,014	\$1,671,111



Supporting our Students Builds Success for the Future



Rockwell ES- Spotlight on Tiger Pride

- Research based academic programs
- Literacy Instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- Technology Education including coding, robotics and more!
- BOCES Planetarium Program
- Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum
- Family Outreach/Community Engagement
 - Parents as Reading Partner Literacy Nights
 - Family Fun Nights
 - Family Reading Challenges
 - Pre K, Kindergarten Orientation and Screening
- Morning Programs:
 - Special guests and presentations
 - Citizen of the Week
 - Weekly Positivity Project Presentation and student awards



Supporting our Students Builds Success for the Future



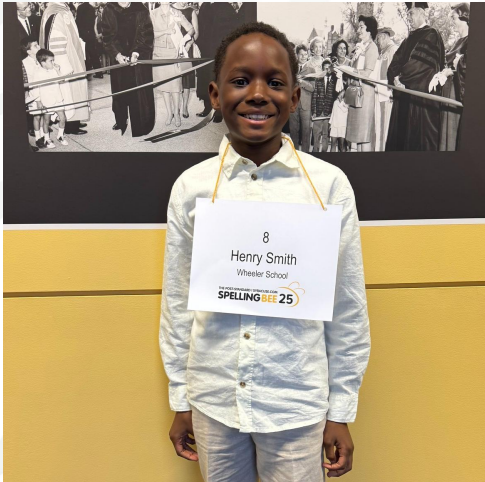
Wheeler ES - Spotlight on Tiger Pride

- Providing academic and social emotional support to students through school day and after school programs
- Celebrating students: Concerts, Talent Shows, Academic Exhibits, and End of Year Activities
- Continued development of online learning resources and digital literacy at the elementary level
- Educational Programs and Partnerships
 - BOCES Planetarium
 - Canadian Valise
 - Visiting author David Covell
 - Erie 21 Program
 - West Point Cadet
 - Girls Going Tech at OCC
 - Wheeler Tech Days with Mr. Dingman



Supporting our Students Builds Success for the Future

Wheeler ES- Spotlight on Tiger Pride cont'd



Student Clubs are active at Wheeler:


- Running Club
- Student Council
- Character Club
- STEM Club
- Drama Club
- Math Club
- Spelling Bee
- Set Design

Community Engagement opportunities:

- Winter Concert
- 5th Grade State Project
- Character Club Service
- Chorus Performs at Mets Game
- Colonial Times Day
- Talent Show
- Reading Challenge
- Spring Concert



Tax Rate Review:

Year	Tax Rate	\$ Change	% Change	Inflation Factor
2015	28.50573	0.440007	1.57%	1.62%
2016	28.32135	-0.18438	-0.65%	.12%
2017	28.42421	0.102861	0.36%	1.26%
2018	27.32837	-1.09584	-3.86%	2.13%
2019	27.32219	-0.00618	-0.02%	2.44%
2020	27.56436	0.242164	0.89%	1.81%
2021	27.97757	0.413216	1.50%	1.23%
2022	28.61043	0.632857	2.26%	4.70%
2023	29.79333	1.182899	4.13%	8.00%
2024	30.31943	0.526099	1.77%	4.12%
2025	31.17071	0.851284	2.81%	2.95%
	2.66498	Avg. 0.266498	Avg: .85%	Average 2.76%

Note: The School District determines the levy needed to support the budget, not the tax rate.



Town Tax Rate Projections for 2025-2026

	Projected 2024-25 Tax Rates	Actual 2024-25 Tax Rates	Projected 2025-26 Tax Rates	\$ Change in Tax Rates per \$1000	% Change in Tax Rates
Lafayette	\$32.31	\$32.85	\$32.70	\$(-.15)	(.46)%
Marcellus	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$26.93	\$(-.07)	(.26)%
Onondaga	\$30.33	\$30.32	\$31.17	\$0.85	2.80%
Otisco	\$1,397.64	\$1,397.69	\$1,465.01	\$67.32	4.82%
Full Value	\$19.71	\$19.71	\$18.31	-\$1.40	-7.10%



2.75% Tax Levy Increase Tax Rate Projection

TOWN	ASSESSED VALUE	TAX RATE PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE BEFORE STAR	TOWN
ONONDAGA	\$ 50,000	\$ 31.17	\$ 42.56	ONONDAGA
	100,000	\$ 31.17	\$ 85.13	
	150,000	\$ 31.17	\$ 127.69	
LAFAYETTE	\$ 50,000	\$ 32.70	\$ (7.23)	LAFAYETTE
	100,000	\$ 32.70	\$ (14.46)	
	150,000	\$ 32.70	\$ (21.69)	
MARCELLUS	\$ 50,000	\$26.93	\$ (3.31)	MARCELLUS
	100,000	\$26.93	\$ (6.62)	
	150,000	\$26.93	\$ (9.93)	
OTISCO ¹	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,465.01	\$ 3,365.94	OTISCO ¹
	100,000	\$ 1,465.01	\$ 6,731.88	
	150,000	\$ 1,465.01	\$ 10,097.81	
¹ As of 2010, the town of Otisco has not been reassessed to full value.				



Supporting our Students Builds Success for the Future



Jr./Sr. High School - Spotlight on Tiger Pride

- 7th Grade Orientation and Open House Night
- Homecoming
- Drama Productions:
 - *Into the Woods* (Summer Community Program)
 - *Beauty and the Beast* (Fall)
 - *Mean Girls* (Spring)
- Celebrating Students
 - Spirit Week
 - Senior Breakfast
 - Senior Walkthrough (Wheeler and Rockwell)
 - Prom
 - National Honor & National Junior Honor Society Inductions
 - Academic Letter Banquet Breakfast



Supporting our Students Builds Success for the Future



Jr./Sr. High School - Spotlight on Tiger Pride Cont'd



- Two Students competed in FFA Nationals and finished in 3rd place
- Three students were accepted into Onondaga County's Senior High All County Chorus.
- 25 Scholastic Athletic Teams competing modified through varsity
- Youth Climate Summit
- Girls Going Tech-OCC/MICRON
- 7 Advanced Placement Courses
- 13 College Dual-Credit Courses:
 - SUNY Oswego
 - Syracuse University
 - SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
 - Onondaga Community College
 - Tompkins Cortland Community College



Propositions

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, 2025, 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 \$64,998 (which is an increase of \$1,893 from the levy in effect from 2024-2025 in the sum of \$63,105) 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?



Propositions (continued)

Proposition III: (Capital Reserve): Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, inclusive of investment earnings, to be used for renovations and additions to all District facilities, including purchase of equipment, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, site development, athletic field and playground improvements, storm and sanitary sewer, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.



Contingent Budget

If residents vote down the proposed budget, the board has three options:

- re-submit to its voters the original budget for a second vote
- submit to its voters a revised budget for a vote
- adopt a contingency budget for the upcoming school year without conducting any additional voting.





May 20, 2025, Budget Vote

7:00 am – 9 pm



- **Locations**
 - Rockwell Elementary Gymnasium
 - Jr.Sr. High School Cafeteria Lobby
- **3 Propositions**
 - General Fund Budget
 - Onondaga Free Library
 - Capital Reserve
- **Board of Education Trustee Elections**
(please **vote for 3**)
 - Jason Baleno
 - Jamie Burton
 - Erik Nelson
 - Maggie Mahoney
 - Justin Polly
 - Tara Carter-Lettsome



Questions?



Thank You!

