

Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



At a glance:	2026-27 Proposed budget	Budget increase from 2025-26	2026-27 Tax Levy increase
	\$37,430,408	\$1,293,353 / 3.58%	\$203,223 / 1.70%

FFCS community to vote on budget on May 19

District to stay below assigned tax levy for 2026-27 school year

On May 19, Fonda-Fultonville residents will vote on a proposed \$37,430,408 spending plan for the 2026-27 school year. The proposed budget includes a 1.70% tax levy increase, which is below the district's assigned tax levy "cap" of 2.08%. Budget approval requires a simple majority of votes (50% plus one).

Under the proposal, spending would increase by 3.58% from the current year, driven primarily by rising healthcare and operational expenses. Additionally, state aid funding comes in slightly above last year's figures with a 1% increase for the upcoming school year. Next year's budget includes employee-based training programs for educational and behavioral development, a special education teacher in the elementary building, and a teacher assistant at the middle school. The budget also includes funding to add a full-time senior custodian to support district operations.

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Vote

Tuesday, May 19
Noon - 9 p.m.

Auditorium Lobby
Also on the ballot:

- See pg. 4 for a list of propositions.

“As we continue to provide our students with every opportunity, we remain committed to investing in our staff. Over the past two years, we have welcomed 18 new staff members. This budget allows the district to maintain the highest standards for our school community.”

RICHARD R. DEMALLIE, ED. D.,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



From pre-K to high school, our students are engaged and bringing their imagination to life. The district's commitment to art education continues to increase opportunities for students to be creative throughout their time at FFCS.



District receives Community of Excellence in Visual Arts by NYSATA

The New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) announced that Fonda-Fultonville is a recipient of the Community of Excellence in Visual Arts distinction. The award represents the district's commitment to providing quality art education to students in grades pre-K through 12.

The district received the designation based on multiple factors, including: administrative support, curriculum-based programs for students, certified art teachers from elementary to high school, and providing students with access to programs that enable them to become next-generation artists, while building an environment that provides equity and inclusivity.

“We are incredibly proud to receive the Community of Excellence in Visual Arts distinction,” shared F-F Elementary School Art Teacher Mrs. Bermas. “We are fortunate to be recognized as a leader in community engagement that’s focused on providing students with access to art programs across different spectrums.”

For more information on the award criteria, visit the NYSATA website at <https://www.nysata.org>.



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"Each year, we work to identify areas to increase positive engagement with our students and improve our approach to deliver critical resources for teachers in the classroom," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard DeMallie. "Next year's budget is a reflection of how we are committed to our school community and continue our efforts to be recognized as a top-rated district in the region."

The 2026-27 proposed budget will also include a \$100,000 capital outlay project to strengthen selected internal and entrance areas within the district. A capital outlay allows the district to receive state aid for a project that maintains a long-term asset, such as the school campus.

In addition to the proposed budget, residents will also vote to lease one bus, purchase one bus with reserves, and elect two members to the Board of Education. Residents will also vote on a \$150,000 proposition for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda, NY. This proposition is unrelated to the district's proposed school budget.

Required School District Budget Notice

Table with 4 columns: 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*. Rows include Total Budgeted Amount, Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year, Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget, Change in the Consumer Price Index, and various levy and exclusion categories (A-I).

* In a contingent budget, some programs and services would be reduced or eliminated, as would equipment purchases.

** Separate Propositions (see pg. 4) 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)

Separate Propositions

Vote to lease, for a term not to exceed five (5) years (with the option to purchase), one (1) gas-fueled school bus in an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$92,500 and make lease payments from the general fund

Vote to acquire one (1) large gas-fueled school bus at a cost not to exceed \$24,000, and finance such purchase by expending an amount not to exceed \$24,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund

Vote on \$150,000 for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda, N.Y.

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Table with 2 columns: Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹, \$389

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held in the auditorium lobby in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of noon and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the high school, 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.

Budget Summary

2026-2027

REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2025-26 BUDGETED	2026-27 PROJECTED	2026-27 CONTINGENCY
Property Taxes	\$11,934,554	\$12,137,777	\$11,934,554
State Aid	\$20,412,781	\$21,235,703	\$21,235,703
Fund Balance	\$1,925,000	\$1,970,000	\$1,976,169
Reserves	\$428,470	\$273,000	\$273,000
Other Revenue	\$1,436,250	\$1,813,928	\$1,813,928
TOTAL	\$36,137,055	\$37,430,408 3.58% INCREASE	\$37,233,354

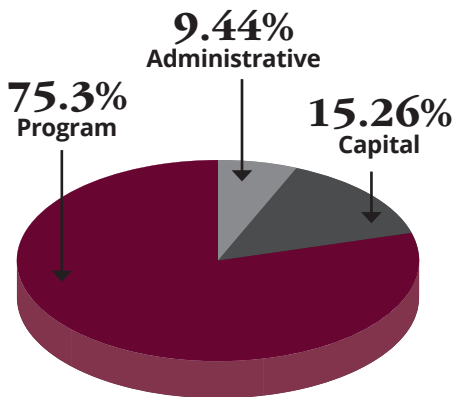
EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2025-26 BUDGETED	2026-27 PROJECTED	2026-27 CONTINGENCY
General Operations	\$3,881,027	\$4,116,879	\$4,067,494
Instruction	\$16,341,642	\$16,841,867	\$16,841,867
Transportation	\$2,966,603	\$3,070,297	\$3,022,628
Employee Benefits	\$10,002,606	\$10,619,356	\$10,619,356
Debt Service	\$2,840,177	\$2,677,009	\$2,677,009
Interfund Transfers	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$36,137,055	\$37,430,408 3.58% INCREASE	\$37,233,354

THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories— program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year’s costs. Fonda-Fultonville’s three-part budget is as follows:



Figures may not be exact due to numbers being rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

CATEGORY	2025-26 BUDGETED	2026-27 PROJECTED	2026-27 CONTINGENCY
Program Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, equipment, extra-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).	\$27,224,720 75.34% OF BUDGET	\$28,183,233 74.3% OF BUDGET	\$28,183,233 75.69% OF BUDGET
Administrative Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.	\$3,416,937 9.46% OF BUDGET	\$3,535,995 9.44% OF BUDGET	\$3,535,995 9.5% OF BUDGET
Capital Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.	\$5,495,398 15.21% OF BUDGET	\$5,711,180 15.26% OF BUDGET	\$5,514,126 14.81% OF BUDGET
TOTAL	\$36,137,055	\$37,430,408	\$37,233,354

HELP Grant funds education, provides employment for future healthcare works

This year, four Fonda-Fultonville High School students have been accepted into the St. Mary’s Healthcare System’s HELP Grant Program – a five-year program that helps secure employment for students who plan to pursue a career in healthcare. This year, juniors Gianna Ciaccio and Aiden Glode, along with seniors Kayla Gulick and Mackenzi Dowgielewicz, were accepted into the program.

Students who are accepted into the program will have their college education funded by the grant, and once they complete their degree, they will work with St. Mary’s Healthcare System for a continuous period of three years.

The impact of the program has not been lost on our students: “There’s no way I could turn this down. I’ll never be as fortunate to have an opportunity like this to start my career in healthcare,” shared senior Kayla Gulick. “I’m excited to be accepted into the HELP Grant Program, and I look forward to the experiences that I’ll gain through it.”

Through the HELP Grant Program, students will have tuition, books, and transportation expenses paid, as well as immediate access to career planning and mentorship in their areas of study.



Currently, four students are now accepted into the five-year HELPS Grant Program at St. Mary’s Healthcare System. From left to right: F-F junior Aiden Glode, senior Mackenzi Dowgielewicz, senior Kayla Gulick, and junior Gianna Ciaccio.



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

FF | CSD Budget Newsletter

2026 - 2027

Vote: Tuesday, May 19 Noon - 9 p.m., Auditorium Lobby

On the ballot:

PROPOSITION 1

Vote on a \$37,430,408 proposed budget for the 2026-27 school year.

PROPOSITION 2

Approve the Board of Education of the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District authorization to: (A) lease, for a term not to exceed five (5) years (with the option to purchase), one (1) gas-fueled school bus in an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$92,500 and make lease payments from the general fund; and (B) acquire one (1) large gas-fueled school bus at a cost not to exceed \$24,000, and finance such purchase by expending an amount not to exceed \$24,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund.

PROPOSITION 3

Vote on \$150,000 for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda. Under state education law, funding for libraries is collected by the school district and then forwarded to the respective libraries.

BOARD ELECTION

Elect two members of the Board of Education: one individual to a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2026, and expiring June 30, 2029, to succeed Brooke Cuddy whose term expires on June 30, 2026; and one individual to a three-year term commencing on May 20, 2026, or as soon thereafter as the individual may be sworn in, and expiring June 30, 2029, to succeed Matt Sullivan who was appointed by the Board of Education to temporarily fill the vacancy left by the resignation of John Wiltey.

The candidates are: Brooke Cuddy (incumbent)

Please note: there will be a seat available due to one person on the ballot, unless there are write-in candidates to fill the open availability.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

All voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older, and residents of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Advanced registration is NOT required. You may be asked to show proof of residency (such as a valid ID that lists your address) when voting.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS and EARLY VOTING

Absentee ballots are available for residents who are unable to come to the polls if they are out of town, incarcerated or because of health concerns, including but not limited to illness, disability, or hospitalization. Absentee voters must first complete an application. To receive an application, contact District Clerk Lori Maves at 518-853-4415 ext. 4230. If you want the ballot mailed, the application must be received no later than May 12. Completed ballots must be received by the district by mail or drop-off no later than 5 p.m. on May 19. Early Mail Ballots are available to any registered voter for any reason. Applications for early mail ballots are available during school business hours from the District Clerk; completed forms must be received by the District Clerk by May 12 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 19.