



# **2025-2026 First Draft Comprehensive Pre-K - 12 Program Operating Budget**

Board of Education Meeting  
February 11, 2025

*Veritas Et Sapientia - Truth & Wisdom*

# Investing in Our Pre-K - 12 Comprehensive Program

## Budgeting Goals:

- Align with the DCIP and Board Goals
- Support current programs
- Remain within tax cap levy requirement



# Budget Process and the Board of Education

The Board of Education should establish the general parameters (levy, cap, overall focus of the instructional program), but day to day operational pieces- i.e.- how the district will staff or allocate resources to accomplish the instructional focus, is the responsibility of the administration, under the direction of the Superintendent.

From the **Center for Public Education, *Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards:***

*"Boards held the superintendent and his or her colleagues accountable for progress but did not engage in the daily administration of schools. Explained one board member: "I am not a professional educator... [The superintendent and her staff] are the professionals, and we say to them, 'These are the results we want to see; you are in charge of how to do it.'"*



# Investments Since 2020:

- ✓ In District Special Education
- ✓ Inclusive Programming
- ✓ Increased Athletic Opportunities
- ✓ Clubs/Activities
- ✓ Class Size Guidelines Reduced
- ✓ Tiered Remedial Support
- ✓ Elementary Wellness Class
- ✓ Project Lead the Way Electives at OPHS
- ✓ Elementary STEM Class
- ✓ Enhanced Safety, SRO in Each School
- ✓ Enhanced Technology
- ✓ Family Solutions Center at Bank Street



# Revenues

## State Aid (Governor's Proposal):

- State budget to be adopted by April 1st. Current proposal has us receiving a 2% increase to foundation aid.

## Fund Balance & Reserves:

- We will recommend the amount of fund balance and reserves to allocate during the budget development process.
  - March 11 BOE meeting

## Property Taxes:

- Estimated allowable Tax Levy Cap increase for Orchard Park CSD for 2025-26 is 6.26%



# Estimated Tax Levy Cap Calculation

● Base Year Tax Levy Base Year (2024-25)	\$72,048,709
(x) Tax Base Growth Factor (min. of 1.0)	<u>x 1.0115</u>
● Adjusted Tax Levy Subtotal	72,877,269
(+) Base Year PILOT Payments	<u>+ 658,043</u>
● Base Year Adjusted Levy plus PILOTS	73,535,312
(-) Base Year Torts & Judgments > 5% of Levy	- 0
(-) Base Year Capital Expenditures Net of Aid	<u>- 3,588,060</u>
● Levy Less Base Year Torts & Capital	69,947,252
(x) Levy Growth Factor based on CPI (2.95%) (max 2%)	<u>x 1.02</u>
● Levy Including Growth Factor	\$71,346,197



# Estimated Tax Levy Cap Calculation (cont.)

● Levy Including Growth Factor	\$71,346,197
(-) Budget Year PILOTS Receivable	<u>- 508,132</u>
● Tax Levy Limit Before Exclusions	\$70,838,065
● <u>Budget Year Exclusions:</u>	
(+) Capital Expenditures Net of Aid	+ 5,722,917
(+) Pension Expenditures above 2%	+ 0
(+) Torts & Judgments > 5%	+ <u>0</u>
● Total Exclusions	5,722,917
● Total Tax Levy Including Exclusions	<u>\$76,560,982</u>
Maximum Tax Levy	\$4,512,273 (+6.26%)



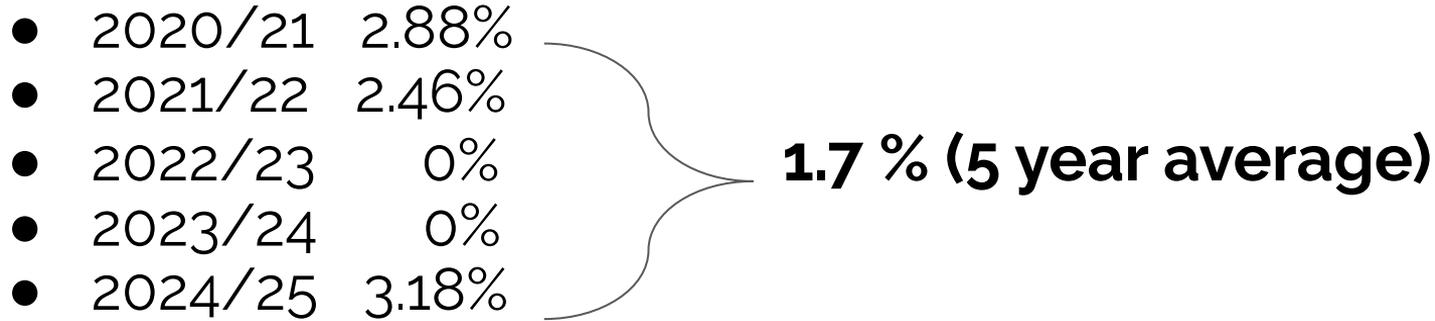
# Draft School Operating Expenditures

1st Draft Budget = \$129,580,048    Increase = \$5,453,368 (4.39%)    **Budget Gap = \$1,544,000**  
(to tax cap budget)

## Changes in 2025-26 Budget:

Contractual Salary Increases & FICA	\$3,865,348
Retirement Systems	205,000
Utilities	32,000
Legal	-50,000
BOCES	81,948
Special Education Tuitions	-80,000
Workers Comp & Liability Insurance	51,300
Health Insurance	2,305,000
Debt Service	942,772
Property Purchase	-1,500,000
Retirement Benefits	-500,000
Contractual, Equipment & Supplies	100,000
<b><u>Total Budget to Budget Change (4.39%)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 5,453,368</u></b>

# Tax Cap History in Orchard Park CSD



*If we stayed at the legal tax cap for the 2025-26 budget, our average annual increase over a 6 year period would be 2.46%*

*The 5 year average school tax rate increase in Orchard Park has been .81% per year*



# Next Steps

- The administrative team will be working to implement necessary budget adjustments to have a balanced budget
- The Board and Superintendent will continue to work to determine the direction with the tax levy cap, staying within the allowable tax levy cap
  - For every percentage point under 6.26%, we must reduce expenditures by \$721,000
- Next budget presentation will be the March 11, 2025 Board meeting
- Board adoption will be during the April 8, 2025 Board meeting



# School Bus Replacement Purchase

- District's cost-effective, long-range plan to replace aging transportation vehicles (8 buses per year for 10 year replacement schedule)
- Will plan to purchase 8 buses in 2025-26
  - Electric Bus Update:
    - Timeline and requirement per NYS still in place (beginning in 2027)
    - NYSERDA study as a District
      - Infrastructure capabilities
- **No new tax levy impact... funded by state aid reimbursements and previous bus purchase debt payoff**



# Questions from the Board of Education?

