

Auburn
Enlarged City School District
Home of the Maroons



the **BUDGET** *edition*

THE MAROON MONTHLY

2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

7:00 PM, Auburn High School Library

BUDGET VOTE & ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

7:00 AM TO 9:00 PM

Return Absentee Ballots by 5:00 PM

WHAT TO VOTE ON:

- School Budget Proposition #1
- Establish 2026 Capital Reserve Fund
- Election of 3 Board Members

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2026-2027 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Overall budget up 4.34% compared to 2025-26
- ✓ Tax Levy Increase of 2.43%
- ✓ Additional Special Education Staff



Herman Avenue students stepped out of the classroom to celebrate Earth Day, trading their books for garden tools and trash bags to keep their campus clean and beautiful. Pictured is Mrs. Emmart's 2nd grade class.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Auburn Families and Community Members,

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, I want to take a moment to share an update on the proposed school budget and the thoughtful approach we are taking to balance financial responsibility with our commitment to students.

The proposed budget totals **\$111,979,888**, representing a **4.34% increase** from the current year. It includes a **2.43% tax levy increase**, which is within the allowable state tax cap. This plan reflects our continued effort to maintain strong programming for students while being mindful of the financial impact on our community.

Over the past year, we have made a number of difficult but necessary decisions to reduce costs. These include absorbing responsibilities rather than filling open positions, reducing staffing through retirements and attrition, restructuring departments, and eliminating non-essential spending. In total, **these reductions include 6.5 support staff positions, 3 teaching positions, and 3 administrative positions**. Each of these decisions was made with a clear priority: **to minimize the impact on students and classroom experiences**.

At the same time, we continue to face **significant cost increases that are largely outside of our control**. Utilities have increased by 20%, transportation costs by 16%, and we continue to see increases in materials and contractual services. These rising expenses make it increasingly challenging to find additional savings without affecting student programs.

Despite these financial pressures, this budget continues to invest in areas that directly support students. This includes expanding special education programming to meet growing needs and continuing summer school programs previously funded through grants.

Our commitment remains steady. We will continue to:

- Prioritize student learning and well-being
- Make thoughtful and responsible financial decisions
- Plan proactively to avoid more significant cuts in the future

We understand that school budgets impact the entire community, and we remain committed to transparency throughout this process. We encourage you to stay engaged and informed:

- **Public Hearing:** May 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM
- **Budget Vote:** May 19, 2026

Thank you for your continued support of the Auburn Enlarged City School District and for your shared commitment to our students.

Thank you,

Misty L. Slavic, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools, Auburn Enlarged City School District



AHS Musical "Hadestown"

2025-26 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Auburn's grade-level and department teams continue to use data-driven analysis to refine instructional practices and boost student engagement. By balancing specialized curricular goals with cross-functional collaboration, our educators are strengthening core instruction across all disciplines. Most recently, teams have begun integrating the NYS Portrait of a Graduate, analyzing these key attributes to bridge current classroom practices with the essential skills students need for future success.
- A new ELA program was selected this year for grades K-5. This new program, Amplify CKLA, is rooted in the science of reading, incorporates evidence-based instructional practices, and aligns seamlessly with the New York State Culturally Responsive Sustaining Framework. To ensure a successful rollout, our teaching teams have completed comprehensive implementation training led by Amplify experts and our dedicated District Literacy Coaches.
- Teachers in grades 6-8 also implemented a new ELA curriculum this year. CommonLit was adopted to ensure alignment with the Next Generation Learning Standards, providing the flexibility to meet individual student needs. By using CommonLit's interactive, diverse literary resources, we are fostering higher levels of student engagement and academic rigor across our middle schools.
- In Math, our educators in grades K–6 are leveraging Tier 1 assessments to transform how we support student growth. By using real-time data to identify specific skill deficits, teacher teams in each building collaborate to form flexible Extended Learning Groups. This ensures that student placement is dynamic and that instruction is precisely tailored to meet the unique needs of every learner.
- AECSD Pre-K is making big moves! In the 2025–2026 school year, we teamed up with seven community partners to support more than 300 families of 3- and 4-year-old learners. Classrooms came alive with the launch of Frog Street, an engaging, science of reading-aligned curriculum that blends literacy with New York State Next Generation math, plus hands-on science, technology, and social-emotional learning. And the momentum is only growing—next year, our 3PK classrooms will join in as the Frog Street program expands to include our youngest learners!
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force met bi-monthly this year to conduct a comprehensive assessment of our current DEI Plan. These sessions resulted in strategic revisions tailored for the 2026–27 school year. Notably, the Task Force expanded the Priority #3 Rubric walkthroughs to include our Student Ambassadors. By involving students in these building visits, we are ensuring a direct and authentic perspective on our progress in maintaining a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.
- Throughout the year, our librarians and BOCES Instructional Technology Specialists have immersed students in Project-Based Learning (PBL), driving engagement through hands-on disciplines like design engineering, coding, circuitry, and 3D printing.
- Teacher Technology mentors provide daily support for the instructional needs of our teachers and support staff. They support new instructional technology initiatives and facilitate professional development sessions for instructional staff.
- The IT department has been working diligently to replace and upgrade classroom technology, including Chromebooks and computers, and to develop a plan to replace classroom boards.
- **Technology Infrastructure Improvements** - This school year, our Information Technology team has made important upgrades to improve the safety, reliability, and overall performance of the district's technology systems. One major improvement was the installation of a backup power system in our main data center, helping ensure that critical systems remain up and running even during power outages.

We also enhanced campus safety by upgrading our video surveillance storage and access control systems, and by completing a district-wide lockdown and mass notification system to strengthen our emergency response capabilities. To provide faster, more reliable internet access, we upgraded network equipment at three schools and are continuing work on a larger district-wide network and a wireless refresh that will benefit all buildings. Behind the scenes, we also strengthened cybersecurity with new systems designed to better protect our network and keep student and staff data secure. In classrooms, we expanded access to technology by rolling out hundreds of new Chromebooks for students and updating staff laptops. For our youngest learners, we are introducing a simpler login process using secure QR codes, making it easier for them to access learning tools.

We've also made everyday processes more efficient by introducing new digital forms and workflows, and by improving virtual meeting spaces across the district. Looking ahead, we plan to upgrade our phone system to further improve communication across all schools.
- All teachers in grades K-12 have participated in professional learning about Artificial Intelligence (AI). This included independent learning modules, group discussion at grade level and department meetings, and during professional development sessions on Superintendent Conference days. Some staff also participated in professional development sessions hosted by Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES.
- The District has purchased the Brisk platform to support effective teacher instructional strategies that differentiate assignments for students and incorporates ethical use of AI.

2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Program Component: 74.50% of Budget

The Program component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services of district students, including regular, special, and occupational education, guidance and health services, and cocurricular and interscholastic activities. Also included are the costs of transporting students to and from the five elementary, one junior high, and one high school.

| Program | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/(Decrease) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Legal | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 |
| Teaching - Regular School | 26,056,839 | 27,690,559 | 1,633,720 |
| Programs - Students with Disabilities | 17,732,489 | 18,379,187 | 646,698 |
| Occupational Education | 2,749,966 | 3,098,974 | 349,008 |
| Teaching - Special Schools | 233,912 | 233,912 | 0 |
| School Library & Audiovisual | 986,623 | 1,034,760 | 48,137 |
| Computer Assisted Instruction | 3,103,242 | 3,198,381 | 95,139 |
| Guidance | 1,510,943 | 1,486,004 | (24,939) |
| Health Services | 911,273 | 965,935 | 54,662 |
| Co-Curricular Activities | 219,824 | 205,022 | (14,802) |
| Interscholastic Activities | 794,900 | 885,780 | 90,880 |
| District Transportation | 333,781 | 335,950 | 2,169 |
| Contract Transportation | 4,140,600 | 4,721,800 | 581,200 |
| Public Transportation | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| BOCES Contract Transportation | 43,000 | 43,000 | 0 |
| Employee Benefits | 21,225,639 | 21,130,736 | (94,903) |
| Interfund Transfers | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Program Expense | \$80,053,081 | \$83,420,050 | \$3,366,969 |

Capital Component: 13.97% of Budget

The Capital component provides funding for the operation and maintenance of the district's buildings and grounds, as well as for the costs of natural gas and electricity, water, sewer, and telephone services. Also included is funding for debt service - principal and interest payments on capital projects, installment purchases, leases, and interfund transfers.

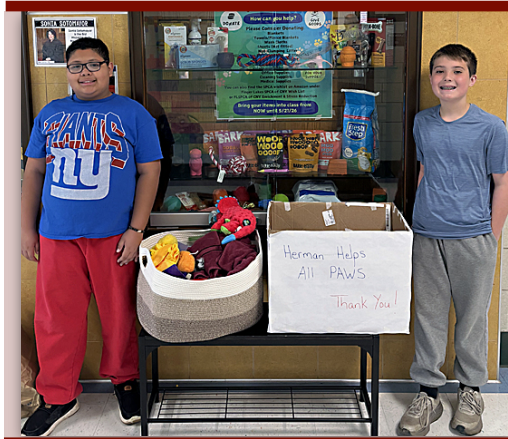
| Capital | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/(Decrease) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Operation | 4,342,545 | 4,662,929 | 320,384 |
| Maintenance | 1,691,570 | 1,357,429 | (334,141) |
| Employee Benefits | 1,762,509 | 1,907,349 | 144,840 |
| Debt Service | 7,226,077 | 7,615,652 | 389,575 |
| Interfund Transfers | 100,000 | 100,000 * | 0 |
| Total Capital Expense | \$15,122,701 | \$15,643,359 | \$520,658 |

* For Capital Project not to exceed \$100,000

Herman Avenue Students Leading the Way for Local Pets

Our 6th Grade students are proving that you're never too young to make a big difference in your community.

Sixth grade students Liam Guerra and Cam Swartz have launched "Herman Ave Helps All PAWS," a student-driven initiative to collect donations for our local SPCA under the guidance of School Counselor Michele Kmiecak. From the very beginning, this project has been entirely student-led. Cam, Liam, and several classmates took the initiative to develop the full plan, which included creating brochures and visiting classrooms to share their mission with the rest of the school. This group is rallying the school to collect essential items, including blankets and towels, food and treats, KONG toys, and other necessities such as non-clumping litter and cleaning supplies. The collection drive runs through May 21st. We are incredibly proud of their leadership and the compassion shown by all our students in helping out our four-legged friends!



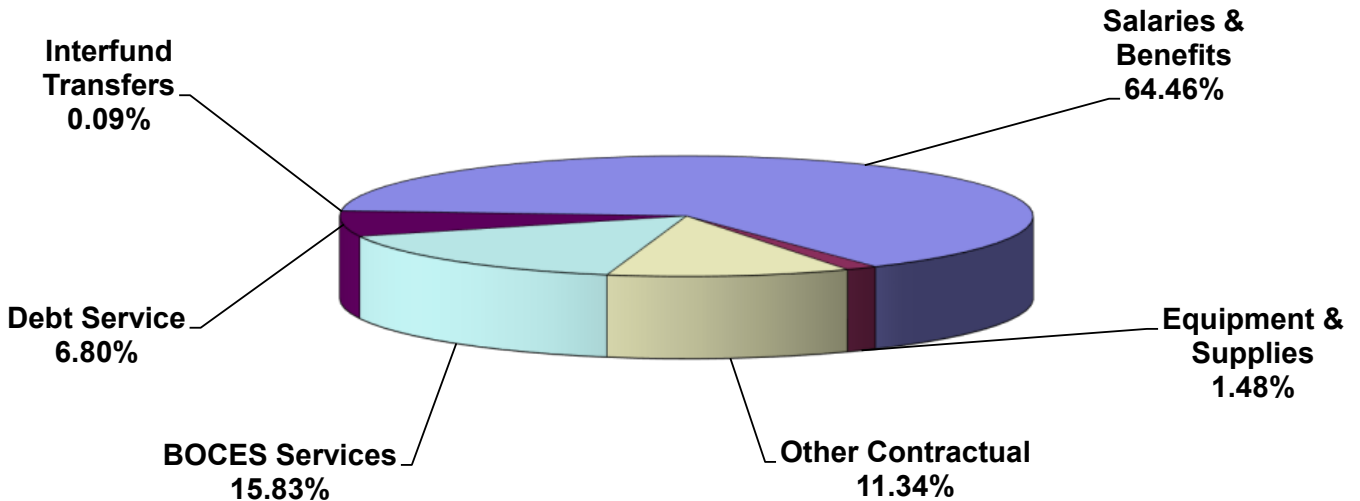
2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Administrative Component: 11.53% of Budget

The administrative component provides funding for general support and management activities, including central administration and business office operations such as payroll, auditing, tax collection and purchasing, as well as legal and personnel functions. Also included in this component are the costs for administration and supervision at each of the district's schools.

| Administrative | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/(Decrease) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Board of Education | 18,396 | 24,596 | 6,200 |
| District Clerk | 12,144 | 13,256 | 1,112 |
| District Meeting | 12,700 | 12,700 | 0 |
| Central Administration | 302,929 | 285,943 | (16,986) |
| Business Administration | 305,880 | 292,766 | (13,114) |
| Auditing | 43,000 | 48,000 | 5,000 |
| Treasurer | 102,381 | 132,600 | 30,219 |
| Tax Collection | 32,200 | 28,100 | (4,100) |
| Purchasing | 11,500 | 12,000 | 500 |
| Fiscal Agent Fees | 7,000 | 7,000 | 0 |
| Legal | 256,000 | 245,000 | (11,000) |
| Personnel | 1,190,164 | 1,474,516 | 284,352 |
| Public Information & Service | 113,330 | 22,000 | (91,330) |
| Central Storeroom | 48,529 | 50,462 | 1,933 |
| Central Printing & Mailing | 590,500 | 586,500 | (4,000) |
| Central Data Processing | 989,600 | 961,932 | (27,668) |
| Unallocated Insurance | 438,000 | 845,291 | 407,291 |
| Board Membership Dues | 19,400 | 19,550 | 150 |
| Assessments on School Property | 80,000 | 80,000 | 0 |
| BOCES Admin. Charges | 1,167,679 | 1,436,500 | 268,821 |
| Curriculum Development, Supervision | 763,418 | 639,520 | (123,898) |
| Supervision - Reg. School | 2,651,149 | 2,657,709 | 6,560 |
| Research Planning & Evaluation | 124,000 | 124,000 | 0 |
| Inservice Training | 126,219 | 58,000 | (68,219) |
| Programs - Students with Disabilities | 437,276 | 442,480 | 5,204 |
| Health Services | 113,955 | 101,540 | (12,415) |
| Transportation Administration | 0 | 83,200 | 83,200 |
| Employee Benefits | 2,190,546 | 2,231,318 | 40,772 |
| Total Administrative Expense | \$12,147,895 | \$12,916,479 | \$768,584 |
| Total Budgeted Expenses | \$107,323,677 | \$111,979,888 | \$4,656,211 |

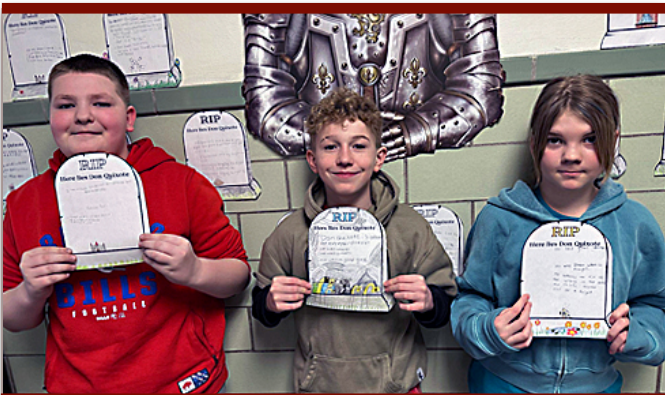
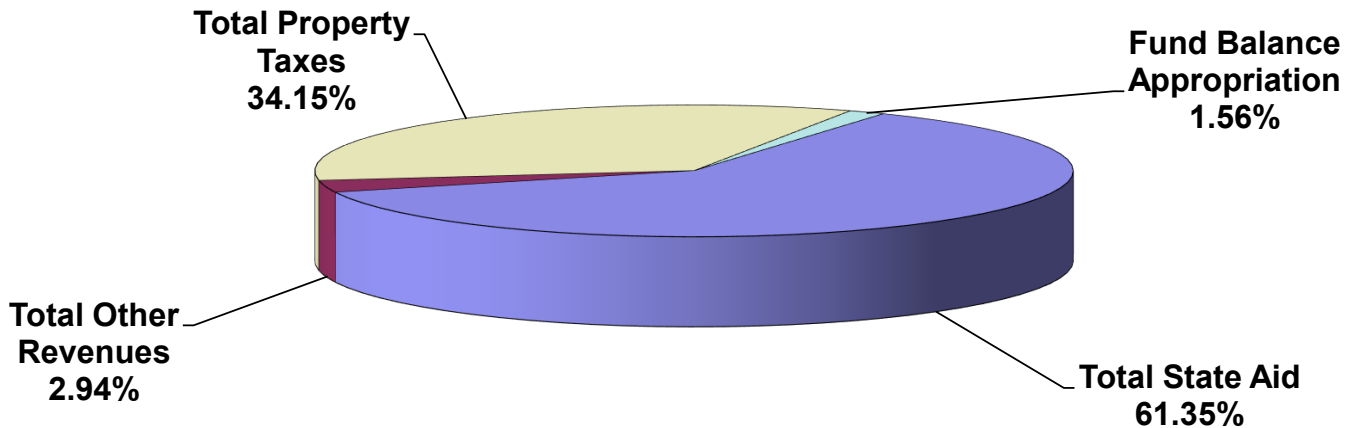
2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET



2026-2027 PROJECTED REVENUES

| State Aid | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/Decrease |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Operating State Aid | 60,385,720 | 64,162,894 | 3,777,174 |
| Building Aid | 4,082,610 | 4,538,933 | 456,323 |
| Total State Aid | \$64,468,330 | \$68,701,827 | 4,233,497 |
| Other Revenues | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/Decrease |
| Tuition | 50,000 | 50,000 | 0 |
| Interest | 567,958 | 747,978 | 180,020 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 746,000 | 728,000 | (18,000) |
| Prior Year Refunds | 1,300,000 | 1,300,000 | 0 |
| Property Rental | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 |
| Medicaid Reimbursement | 350,000 | 350,000 | 0 |
| Transfers From Other Funds | 0 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Total Other Revenues | \$3,025,958 | \$3,287,978 | 262,020 |
| Property Taxes | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/Decrease |
| Tax Levy | 36,803,460 | 37,697,705 | 894,245 |
| Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) | 525,929 | 542,378 | 16,449 |
| Total Property Taxes | \$37,329,389 | \$38,240,083 | 910,694 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | Increase/Decrease |
| Fund Balance/Reserve Appropriation | 2,500,000 | 1,750,000 | (750,000) |
| Total Projected Revenues | \$107,323,677 | \$111,979,888 | 4,656,211 |

2026-2027 PROJECTED REVENUES



Creative Writing Assignment at Genesee Elementary

After finishing their unit on *The Adventures of Don Quixote*, fifth graders at Genesee used their knowledge of the character Don Quixote to create a kind and accurate gravestone for the knight. The students were tasked with creating an epitaph, finding three details of what he was known for, and using their artistic abilities to draw a small picture that represents the character's time as a knight-errant. A perfect way to wrap up a unit on the man that "lived crazy and died sane."

Anne Marie Duffy & Nicole Iversen- 5th Grade, Genesee Elementary

2023-24 NYS Transparency Report for the Auburn School District

| | Auburn | All Public Schools NYS |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Total Expenditures per Pupil | \$24,481 | \$30,472 |

2026-2027 Property Tax Report Card

050100 - Auburn Enlarged City School District

Contact Person: Tessa Crawford

Telephone: 315-255-8808

| | Budgeted 2025-2026 (A) | Proposed Budget 2026-2027 (B) |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions | 107,323,677 | 111,979,888 |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | 36,803,460 | 37,697,705 |
| B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | | |
| C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable | | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable | | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D) | 36,803,460 | 37,697,705 |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit | 1,868,878 | 1,868,455 |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | 34,934,582 | 35,829,250 |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | 34,934,582 | 35,829,250 |
| I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) | 0 | 0 |
| Public School Enrollment | 3,735 | 3,670 |
| Consumer Price Index | | 2.95% |
| | Actual 2025-2026 (D) | Estimated 2026-2027 (E) |
| Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance | 18,762,608 | 18,315,000 |
| Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance | 2,500,000 | 1,750,000 |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance | 10,318,471 | 9,068,471 |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget | 9.61% | 8.10% |

Schedule of Reserve Funds

| Reserve Type | Reserve Name | Reserve Description | 3/31/26 Actual Balance | 6/30/26 Estimated Ending Balance | Intended Use of the Reserve in the 2026-2027 School Year |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Capital | 2018 Capital Reserve Fund | To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued. | 5,988,245 | 6,000,000 | None |
| Capital | 2018 Turf Capital Reserve Fund | To pay the cost of replacing the athletic field turf, for which bonds may be issued. | 276,755 | 280,000 | None |
| Unemployment Insurance | Unemployment Insurance Reserve | To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund. | 165,584 | 170,000 | None |
| Insurance | Insurance Reserve Fund | To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses. | 1,544,374 | 1,550,000 | None |
| Liability | Liability Reserve Fund | To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred. | 551,624 | 555,000 | None |
| Tax Certiorari | Tax Certiorari Reserve | To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements | 2,115,479 | 1,620,000 | Use \$500,000 to reflect actual liability and pay Tax Certiorari Settlements as appropriate |
| Employee Benefit Accrued Liability | Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) Fund | For the payment of accrued employee benefits due to employees upon termination of service. | 441,033 | 445,000 | None |
| Workers' Comp | Worker's Comp Reserve | To pay compensation, benefits and medical expenses authorized under the Workers' Compensation Law | 912,333 | 915,000 | None |
| Retirement Contribution Sub-Fund | Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund (TRS) | To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Teachers' Retirement System | 3,091,915 | 3,100,000 | None |
| Retirement Contribution | Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund | To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System | 2,115,566 | 2,120,000 | None |
| Health Insurance | Health Insurance Reserve Fund | For any loss, claim, action, or judgement for accident and health insurance | 1,559,700 | 1,560,000 | None |

WEBSITE

The NYS Report Card and the Financial Transparency Report:

<https://data.nysed.gov>

For information about the performance of each public school in the district and across New York State, download The NYS Report Card, The NYS Assessment Data, and The Financial Transparency Report that are located at this website.

NYS SCHOOL TAX RELIEF PROGRAM (STAR)

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Proposed Budget 2026-2027 |
| Basic STAR tax savings | \$460 |

For ALL Owner-occupied Residences:

All taxpayers are eligible for a Basic STAR exemption for owner-occupied, primary residences. For 2026-2027 the STAR program continues to provide qualifying households with a \$30,000 exemption on the full value of their property.

Qualifying residents will realize an estimated \$460 in Basic STAR tax savings.

For Senior Citizens:

The Enhanced STAR program for senior citizens provides eligible seniors an exemption from school property taxes for owner-occupied, primary residences. To be eligible for this exemption, a property owner must be 65 years of age or older on December 31, 2026, with income not exceeding \$110,750.

STAR provides qualifying households with up to a \$88,500 exemption on the full value of their property. Qualifying residents will recognize an estimated \$1,181 in Enhanced STAR tax savings in 2026-2027.

Projected Total Tax Increase for a \$100,000 full value house with:

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Basic STAR | \$58 |
| Enhanced STAR | \$58 |

ESTIMATED SCHOOL TAX IMPACT:

Projections for the tax rates on each of the four towns and city comprising the Auburn Enlarged City School District are dependent upon the assessed value of the District, NYS equalization rates for each municipality and the local tax levy amount. Property assessments are still subject to change and equalization rates are not completed by the State until summer.

NEWS from GENESEE



Through an AEF grant obtained by Mrs. Calarco, second graders at Genesee learned about science in the kitchen by baking cupcakes. They learned how to follow a recipe and practiced their measuring skills in a real life way. After the cupcakes cooled, they made frosting and had a cupcake party making learning fun!

Amanda Osborne



Our 120th day of school, celebrated in March, was a special celebration of learning and growth! Students created 120-bead necklaces and worked as a team to build a 120-cup tower. The cup challenge brought lots of giggles, with many students excitedly saying, "120 is a lot!" It was a joyful reminder of how much we've accomplished together this year.

Mrs. Rhodes

MEET THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



Francis Calarco My name is Francis “CJ” Calarco. I have lived in Auburn for most of my life aside from going away for undergraduate work at Iona College. I returned to Auburn and worked on my Graduate Degree in education at Le Moyne College. I have since been teaching math at the High School level since 2012, and have coached several sports at different levels. I'm running for reelection to continue to give back to the community that gave me the opportunities to be where I am today, with the experience of a tenured classroom teacher and coach. My goals as a board member are to maintain a common-sense perspective on the education, we offer to the kids in our district to be sure they all get at least the opportunities that the community has afforded me, to continue on the facilities committee to help with preparation of the next capitol project to update buildings in great need, and to help improve the climate and culture within the district.



Daniel Lovell Daniel Lovell is a life resident of Cayuga County and an Auburn High graduate. An information technology professional and small business owner who has worked primarily with government, small business and nonprofits, Dan is running for reelection after serving two terms on the Auburn school board. He currently serves as secretary of the Auburn Industrial Development Authority and is a member of the facilities and communications committees for the Auburn Enlarged City School District. He is proud of the board's work during his first term, including hiring a new superintendent, renovations and new furniture for the high school library, providing new instruments for the music program and offering music lessons to fourth graders. He lives in Auburn with his wife Claire and their children, all of whom attended Auburn schools.



Bruce MacBain Bruce MacBain has lived in Auburn since 1999, and his 3 children all attended Auburn Schools from pre-K through graduation. He has a Master's Degree in Education from Syracuse University, and has devoted his life to public education. He was a high school social studies teacher for 10 years and a Middle School Principal of an award-winning school for 21 years. He was the New York State Middle School Principal of the Year in 2012. Although retired from his public education career, he continues to teach the Supervision of Curriculum course in the Educational Leadership Department at Cortland State. He will strive to create a climate where teachers feel supported and inspired, parents feel welcome in participating in their child's education, and students are motivated to come to school because there is so much going on they don't want to miss it! As someone on a fixed income, he also feels the effects of property tax increases. He will push for the greatest possible educational program for the best cost.



Dr. Eliezer Hernández Dr. Eliezer (Eli) Hernández is a servant leader whose work is grounded in faith, justice, and the empowerment of historically marginalized communities. Guided by his commitment to God and community, he views leadership as a calling—one anchored in empathy, service, and an unwavering pursuit of equity.

Dr. Hernández began his professional journey as a Spanish teacher in the Auburn Enlarged City School District and later served as a school board member for 15 years. His leadership path includes roles as Administrative Intern, Vice Principal, and Principal, and he notably served as the founding principal of a bilingual school in Syracuse, New York.

His academic achievements include a bachelor's degree in music, a master's in education, and a doctorate in Executive Leadership. With more than 25 years of experience in education and community advocacy, he has served in a wide range of roles—from classroom teacher to district leader—and has consistently championed social justice and educational equity. His mission centers on equipping and uplifting leaders who are committed to transformative change.

Beyond his work in education, Dr. Hernández is an active civic leader. He serves as President of the Auburn Cayuga County NAACP, sits on the boards of the National Math Foundation and AADUNA, Inc., and previously served as President of the Auburn Enlarged City School District Board of Education. He is also President of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) and a member of the New York State Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents (NYSALAS), and a member of the Governor's Central New York Hate & Bias Prevention Unit Regional Council.

At the core of Dr. Hernández's life is his devotion to faith, family, and service. Whether in the classroom, the boardroom, or the community, he remains committed to his calling: to lead with love, serve with humility, and inspire others to do the same.

Candidates for the Board of Education had until May 1st to announce their candidacy for the Board.

These photographs and biographies were the only ones provided by potential or verified candidates at the time of publication. These three positions are for three-year terms of office expiring on June 30, 2029.

INFORMATION ON VOTING/SAMPLE BALLOT

Electronic Poll Books

Electronic poll books will allow for a more efficient voter check-in process by securely maintaining voter information in a digital format. This technology is designed to improve accuracy, streamline election procedures, and support timely reporting requirements.

Voters should continue to report to their assigned polling location to cast their ballot.

We look forward to implementing this updated process and appreciate your participation in our district elections.

Current AECSD Board Members/Term Expires:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Matteo Bartolotta, VP | 2027 |
| CJ Calarco | 2026 |
| Melissa Deyneka | 2027 |
| Dr. Eli Hernández | 2026 |
| Jason Horbal | 2028 |
| Daniel Lovell | 2026 |
| Noel Romeo | 2027 |
| Jim Van Arsdale, P | 2028 |
| Danielle Wood | 2028 |

School Board Members

VOTE FOR UP TO ANY THREE: (1) Vote for up to three (3) candidates. (2) You may vote for a person whose name is not printed on this ballot by writing his/her name in the blank space provided. (3) If you mark more than four (4) names or if for any reason it is impossible to determine your choice of candidate for an office, your vote shall not be counted for such office but shall be returned as a blank vote thereon.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | <input type="radio"/> Daniel Lovell | |
|  | <input type="radio"/> Eliezer Hernández | |
|  | <input type="radio"/> Francis Calarco | |
|  | <input type="radio"/> Bruce MacBain | |
|  | <input type="radio"/> | |

PROPOSITION #1
2026-2027 School Budget

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Auburn Enlarged City School District for the 2026-2027 school year be and the same hereby is approved in an amount not to exceed **\$111,979,888.00** and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of tax upon the taxable property of the School District, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.

YES

NO

PROPOSITION #2
Establish 2026 Capital Reserve Fund

Resolved, the Board of Education of the Auburn Enlarged City School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated, "2026 Capital Reserve Fund" created to defray the cost of the construction, reconstruction and equipping of School District buildings, facilities, and land, including original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings, land acquisitions, and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such reserve fund to be Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to pay funds from the available fund balance, state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects, such other monies as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount?

YES

NO

**School Board Election and Budget Vote to be held:
Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Polls are open 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM**

HOW TO VOTE IN SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Qualified voters must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the date of the vote. To have your vote counted, you must vote at your assigned polling location. All absentee ballots must be received by the district no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19.

For more information on voting in school elections, call (315) 255-8850.

WHERE TO VOTE IN SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Where you live determines where you vote in school elections. The chart below shows the general area for each election district and the polling place for each election district. For more information on voting in school elections, please visit www.aecsd.education/budget or call 315-255-8822.

| District | Area | Polling Place |
|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | Legislative District 8 | Casey Park Elementary School |
| 2 | Legislative District 9 and portions of Sennett | Auburn Junior High School |
| 3 | Legislative District 10-1 and portions of Owasco | Owasco Elementary School |
| 4 | Legislative Districts 10-2, 10-3, & 11 and portions of Fleming | Seward Elementary School |

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The Auburn School District is fortunate to receive support from a variety of local sources, including businesses and community organizations.

- A** The District collaborates with Cayuga Community College, Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, Early Childhood Center, Auburn YMCA, Head Start, Cayuga Seneca Community Action Agency, Montessori School of the Finger Lakes, and John E. Gavras Center to provide Prekindergarten programming for 3- and 4-year-old children in Auburn. These programs prepare our students for a strong academic foundation upon entering kindergarten.
- A** The Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) is a major supporter of innovative projects in the District. This past school year, the AEF has supported projects in literacy, social-emotional learning, the arts, workforce development, expanding cultural awareness, family engagement, and many other learning opportunities for our students.
- A** Our Student United Way group at the secondary level has connected with our Book Buddies program at the elementary level volunteering at the Book Buddy family event for students, families, and the Book Buddies.
- A** My Brother's Keeper Fellowship program is continuing to offer opportunities for our students of color to make connections within the community and across the state.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Qualified school district voters who are unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, may vote in the Annual School District Election and Budget Vote by absentee ballot. Those who are ill, hospitalized, physically disabled, away on business or vacation, or who are detained in jail, awaiting action by a grand jury, awaiting trial or confined for an offense other than a felony may use an absentee ballot to vote. Registered sex offenders must use an absentee ballot to vote.

To receive an absentee ballot, individuals must first fill out an application for the ballot. If you are unable to personally vote at your polling location, applications are available in the district office and on our website and may be filed up to one day before the date of the vote.

Applications for absentee ballots may be requested from: Michelle Major, District Clerk, Auburn Enlarged City School District, 78 Thornton Avenue, Auburn, NY. Telephone: 315-255-8850.

May 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  May Artwork L-R: Aley Vanderpool, Owasco Gr. 6 Kayla Carter, AHS Gr. 11 |  | April 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | June 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |  FULL 1 AHS End Marking Period 5 Flower Moon |  2 SAT Exam AHS 7:45 AM |
| 3  Teacher Appreciation Week | 4 Teacher Appreciation Day Seward Spring Concert @ AHS Auditorium, 6:00 PM District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30 PM @ Owasco | 5 Cinco de Mayo | 6 School Nurse Appreciation Day AJHS PTO Mtg. 6:00 PM | 7  AHS Band Concert @ 7:00 PM Marking Period 6 Begins AHS | 8 AHS Report Cards | 9 |
| 10  Mother's Day | 11 Owasco Kindergarten Registration Herman Ave Spring Concert @ AJHS Auditorium, 6:00 PM | 12 Casey Park Kindergarten Registration Public Budget Hearing Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00 PM | 13 Herman Kindergarten Registration AHS Festival of the Arts 5:30-7:00PM AHS Orchestra Concert @ 7:00 PM | 14 Genesee Kindergarten Registration AJHS Band Concert @ 7:00 PM | 15 Seward Kindergarten Registration AEF Alumni Hall of Distinction Ceremony 7:00 PM Hilton Garden Inn AHS Junior Prom Springside Inn 6:30 PM | 16 Armed Forces Day |
| 17 National Physical Fitness and Sports Month | 18 AHS Chous Concert @ 7:00 PM | 19 Owasco Spring Concert @ AHS Auditorium, 6:00 PM  School Board Election & Budget Vote 7 AM-9 PM | 20 Board of Education Mtg. Tubman @ 5:30 PM Casey Park Spring Concert @ AJHS, 6:00 PM | 21 Genesee Spring Concert 6:00 PM @ AJHS | 22 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day Weekend | 23  |
| 24 Asian American Heritage Month | 25 AHS/AJHS Bands @ Memorial Day Parade NO SCHOOL Memorial Day | 26 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 6:00 PM | 27 AHS Sports Physicals Boys 1:00-2:30 PM AJHS Orchestra Concert @ 7:00 PM | 28 AHS Sports Physicals Girls 1:00-2:30 PM AHS Senior Recital @ 7:00 PM | 29 | 30 AHS Modern Band Concert 2:00 PM @ AHS  |

END OF YEAR SCHEDULE

For Students in the AECSD
2025-2026 School Year:

June 5: Last full day of classes for Auburn
High School Students

Friday, June 12: AHS Senior Prom
6:00-10:00 PM, The Lodge, Skaneateles

Thursday, June 18: Half Day for Elementary

Friday, June 19: No School
in observance of Juneteenth Day

Monday, June 22: Last full day Elementary
Half Day 7th Grade, No School 8th Grade Trip

Tuesday, June 23: Half Day Elementary
Half Day AJHS

Wednesday, June 24: Half Day Elementary
No School 7th Grade, 8th Grade

AHS Graduation Ceremony 6:00PM

Friday, June 26 @ Holland Stadium

Follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/AuburnECSD>

<https://www.facebook.com/AuburnJrHS>

<https://www.facebook.com/caseyparkelementary>

<https://www.facebook.com/geneseeschool>

<https://www.facebook.com/OwascoElementary>

<https://www.facebook.com/HermanAveElementary>

<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamHSewardElementary>

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE AUBURN'S FINEST!

*Congratulations to the 2026
Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction Inductees.*



And Meet Our 2026
Hall of Distinction
Student Ambassador
Matthew Smith

Fri, May 15th | 7 PM | Hilton Garden Inn
Get Your tickets by May 11th @:
auburnedfoundation.org



And look for us at upcoming
school concerts with our awesome:

Blossom & Bites SPRING FUNDRAISER



4 CHANCES TO WIN
\$745+ worth of prizes!
Each prize includes
Dickman's + Restaurant
Gift Cards!!

Donate to Win by 6/12!
\$ 5 = 1 chance
\$10 = 3 chances

EVERY DOLLAR SUPPORTS OUR STUDENTS!



AHS Orchestra 2 receives Gold Award at NYSSMA Majors

On April 21, the AHS Orchestra 2 traveled to Mexico, NY, to participate in the NYSSMA Majors festival. The NYSSMA Majors festival is a Music Festival operated by the New York State Schools Music Association that allows for different types of ensembles (orchestra, band, choir) to perform select pieces in front of judges for a score. The three pieces performed by Orchestra 2 were *Fantasia Espanola* by Soon Hee Newbold, *Nocturne* from String Quartet No. 2 by Alexander Borodin, and *From the Start*, originally by Laufey. We are excited to announce that Orchestra 2 received Gold for their performance.

The Gold award is granted to ensembles that have displayed a high-level performance as well as a high standard of musicality, technique, and artistic maturity in their performance. A Gold award indicates excellence, something the members of the Orchestra and its director, Victoria Kinney, are very proud of. With all of this in mind, join us in congratulating the AHS Orchestra 2 on receiving the Gold Award!

DEI Notes

- Fifteen of our Auburn High School students successfully earned their Seal of Biliteracy in World Language on April 16, 2026 at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES. Congratulations to: Evan Payne, Madeline Lovell, Kyleen Brady, Chase Abdelaziz, Madeline Wolfgang, Owen Bennett, Iris Veneau, Reese DeRosa, Brayden Durant, Talora Barbuti, Justice Loperfido, Samantha Carr, Olena Malarek, Isabella Meyer, and Sarah Feocco
- Our two current My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) student Fellows Amadi Oneyani and Johntae Smith, and our two new MBK Fellows, Sheldon Homick and Asahel Barnard, student Fellows for the 26-27 school year, will be honored at the MBK Symposium in Albany on Thursday, May 21, 2026
- The Book Buddy program along with Student United Way held a Book and Breakfast family event for students, families and volunteers on May 9th.
- Schools district-wide highlighted Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Mother’s Day, and Memorial Day through student projects and school announcements.
- The DEI Task Force secured an Auburn Education Foundation grant to provide every third-grade classroom with *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures* to promote autism awareness.

DISTRICT GOALS

High Quality Curriculum and Instruction The Auburn Enlarged City School District will develop a framework and implement high quality curriculum, instruction, and balanced assessment model for all students. All staff will implement evidence-based practices including high yield instructional strategies that increase higher order thinking, collaboration and creativity, and student engagement.

Leadership and Innovation All members of the Auburn Enlarged City School District and community are valued and seen as contributors to the goals of the district. Allocation of resources will support job-embedded professional development dedicated to promoting creative problem solving and critical thinking. We will seek to leverage emergent ideas and insights to realize measurable achievement gains for educators and students.

Systems Thinking The Auburn Enlarged City School District will continually create benchmarks for success that align targeted resources to evaluate and enrich the quality of our instructional programs. Each student will be provided equitable access to meet and exceed the standards for college and career readiness.

Kindergarten Registration - Part 2



- Do you reside in the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD)?
- Will your child be five years old on or before December 1, 2026?
- Have you completed Part I of the Kindergarten Registration process by submitting your registration packet to the AECSD?
- Yes? Then you and your soon-to-be Kindergartener are ready for the next step in the registration process - a visit to your child’s new school! See below for the dates and times for your neighborhood .school.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Monday, May 11 | Owasco Elementary 66 Letchworth St. (315) 255-8721 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. If your child’s last name begins with A-L |
| Tuesday, May 12 | Casey Park Elementary 101 Pulaski St (315) 255-8798 | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. If your child’s last name begins with M-Z |
| Wednesday, May 13 | Herman Ave Elementary 2 N. Herman Ave (315) 255-8718 | Questions? Please call the applicable Elementary school for more information Registration and screening will take approximately one hour. Be sure you have already submitted your completed registration packet to the AECSD at 78 Thornton Avenue <u>at least one week prior to this visit.</u> |
| Thursday, May 14 | Genesee Elementary 244 Genesee St (315) 255-8678 | |
| Friday, May 15 | Seward Elementary 52 Metcalf Drive (315) 255-8638 | |

Open Enrollment for Auburn Enlarged City School District’s 2026-2027 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program Continues After Initial Registration

The Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program is an integral component of our district and includes a UPK program for our 4-year-old learners and a 3PK program for 3-year-olds. Together, these programs offer comprehensive educational services to **Auburn School District residents** who will be 3 or 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2026, and are available at **no cost** for eligible children. Initial registration began February 1 and a few slots remain for on-going registration.

A list of our Universal Pre-Kindergarten program locations (sites) below contains information regarding which sites offer 3PK and/or UPK and which sites provide full-day and/or half-day programs. Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to visit any of these participating sites before completing your child’s registration. Kindly contact the site to arrange a visit. **Spaces are limited.**



| Site | Program | Full/Half Day | Contact |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Cayuga Community College-81 Wall Street | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-294-8603 |
| Cayuga Onondaga BOCES-1879 W. Genesee St. Rd. | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-255-0075 |
| Cayuga Seneca Community Action Agency-89 York St. and sites at several AECSD schools | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-252-0038 |
| Early Childhood Center-1110 Corporate Dr. | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-255-0233 |
| E. John Gavras Center-182 North St. | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-255-2746 |
| Montessori School of the Finger Lakes-6734 Pine Ridge Rd. | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-252-2225 |
| YMCA- 27 William St. | 3PK and UPK | Full-day | 315-253-5304 |

Parents/guardians can register their child online and upload the supporting documentation.

The 3PK and UPK 2026-2027 online student registration is now open. Please register your student using the online enrollment form located at the link on the Auburn Enlarged City School District website, www.AECSD.education under Student Registration.

Parents/guardians who prefer to submit their student’s registration in person may pick up a 2026-2027 registration packet at any Auburn Elementary School or at our Administrative Offices. **Completed paper applications should be submitted to the Harriet Tubman Administrative Offices at 78 Thornton Avenue.**

Need more information about 2026-2027 Universal Pre-Kindergarten? Please contact Terri Donnelly at 315-255-8825 or Michelle Kolceski at 315-255-8613.

Seymour Library

Seymour Library | 176 Genesee Street | Auburn, NY | 315.252.2571

Seymour Library invites you to celebrate a milestone as the library turns 150 years old! **Join us in celebrating the library’s 150th Anniversary on May 20 at 6:00 pm, with cake and a concert featuring the AJHS Chamber Group!** In addition to these celebrations, the library is getting a facelift over the next couple of months, so please excuse our dust, as we make improvements – from new lighting, a fresh coat of paint, and updated spaces!

Please visit www.seymourlibrary.org to explore our calendar of events, new additions to our collections, and access to our growing digital library.



Auburn Enlarged City School District
Harriet Tubman Administration Building
78 Thornton Avenue
Auburn, NY 13021

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUBURN, NY 13021
PERMIT NUMBER 42
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER/BOX HOLDER

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted 2025-2026 School Year | Budget Proposed 2026-2027 School Year | Contingency Budget 2026-2027 School Year * |
|---|---|--|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount | \$107,323,677 | \$111,979,888 | \$111,085,643 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2025-2026 School Year | | \$4,656,211 | \$3,761,966 |
| Percentage increase (decrease) in Proposed Budget | | 4.34% | 3.51% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 2.63% | |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support Total Budgeted Amount | \$36,803,460 | \$37,697,705 | |
| 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) | \$36,803,460 | \$37,697,705 | \$36,803,460 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$1,868,878 | \$1,868,455 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$34,934,582 | \$35,829,250 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D) | \$34,934,582 | \$35,829,250 | |
| I. Difference: (G-H); Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Administrative Component | \$12,147,895 | \$12,916,479 | |
| Program Component | \$80,053,081 | \$83,420,050 | |
| Capital Component | \$15,122,701 | \$15,643,359 | |
| * The following assumptions were made in projecting the Contingency Budget: | | | |
| - No purchase of new equipment in excess of categorical aid | | | |
| - No tax levy amount in excess of 2026-2027 tax levy; reduction of \$894,245 in property tax revenue | | | |
| - Administrative component subject to cap | | | |
| - Implementation of fee for community use of school facilities | | | |
| | | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-2027 School Year | |
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings (1) | | \$460.00 | |
| The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027 by the qualified voters of the Auburn Enlarged City School District, Cayuga County, New York, will be held at Auburn Junior High, Casey Park Elementary, Owasco Elementary and Seward Elementary in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, 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. | | | |

May 2026 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
 Official Publication of the
AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.aecsd.education

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