RCS Ravena Coeymans Selkirk CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chalkboard



2026-27 Budget News

VOTE May 19

RCS High School Gymnasium 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

RCS Central School District Residents to Consider $58.2 Million Budget Proposal

On Tuesday, May 19, residents of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed $58,224,892 budget for the 2026-27 school year.

The RCS Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed budget at their April 15, 2026, meeting, following months of careful review, community input, and thoughtful planning by district leadership and staff. The proposed budget reflects a spending increase of $1,265,444, or 2.17%, compared to the current school year.

For taxpayers, the proposed budget would result in an estimated tax rate increase at our tax levy limit of 1.14%. Because the proposal does not exceed the tax levy limit, it requires only a simple majority for approval, meaning 50% plus one vote.

"This budget is the result of a deliberate, months-long process focused on responsible investment in our students. We arrived at a plan that protects what matters most while honoring our obligation to taxpayers. That means preserving a well-rounded educational experience for every student and making difficult structural decisions while preserving the people in our workforce," said Craig P. Chandler, Superintendent of Schools.



Students from A.W. Becker Elementary School explore plant life cycles through hands-on learning in their outdoor classroom, connecting science lessons with the natural world around them.

In the pages that follow, you will find a detailed breakdown of where your dollars go, what this budget protects, and why the Board of Education and district leadership believe this plan is the right investment in our schools and our community.

We encourage every eligible voter to participate. Polls will be open on Tuesday, May 19, and your voice matters.

Page 2: Key Factors & Piece By Piece
Page 3: RCS Highlights & 2026 Top Ten
Page 4: Budget Q&A
Page 5: 2027 Capital Project
Page 6: Revenues & Expenses
Page 7: Budget Notice
Page 8: Voting Information

More information is available online at https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-development

BUDGET at a Glance

Vote Information:

2026-27 school budget vote and Board of Education election will be held in-person and via absentee ballot. For budget details, visit **https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-development**

What's on the ballot:

- Proposed budget: **$58,224,892**
- Budget increase: **$1,265,444 (+2.17%)**
- Estimated tax levy increase: **1.14%**
- Capital Improvement Project
- School Bus Referendum
- Election of three candidates to the RCS Board of Education
- Community Library budget

Inquiry • Collaboration • Risk-Taking • Participation • Empathy

Key Factors Behind This Year's Budget

Factors in every school budget are shaped by forces largely outside a district's control, and RCS is no exception. For 2026-27, several significant outside pressures are driving the costs in our proposed budget.



Health insurance and prescription drug costs continue to rise at rates that far outpace general inflation. These are not discretionary expenses. They are contractual obligations to our employees, and when those costs climb, the budget climbs with them.

Utility costs present a similar challenge. If you have noticed your own home heating and electric bills increasing in recent months, the district is experiencing the same reality, only at a much larger scale across multiple facilities.

At the same time, the district faces a structural challenge on the revenue side. State aid accounts for roughly half of our total budget, and the formula used to calculate foundation aid is tied, in part, to our enrollment. As enrollment slowly declines, so does our ability to generate additional state revenue.

Yet even as enrollment has declined, RCS has worked hard to maintain a student-to-teacher ratio that remains significantly below the state average. That is a deliberate choice, rooted in a core belief: the single greatest factor in a child's public school education is the teacher in front of them.

This budget reflects our commitment to that belief, and to finding the right balance between fiscal responsibility and educational quality.









Building Our Future Together: Piece By Piece

You know that moment when you're putting together a puzzle and suddenly realize that the piece you've been holding actually fits perfectly in a spot you hadn't even noticed? That's exactly how our school community works. Every student brings their own curiosity, talents, and dreams. Every family contributes their own values, support, and involvement. Together, we can build something incredible.

This year, we've committed to building piece by piece. Your kindergartner's first steps into reading. Your eighth grader's breakthrough in math. Your high schooler's college applications. The parent who volunteers for field day. The grandparent who attends the science fair. The older sibling who models kindness in the hallways. Each moment, each person, each small victory adds to the bigger picture of what makes our schools special.

To support this work, we've made important updates to better serve our community: a new cell phone policy to keep students engaged, ParentSquare as our central hub for school communication, and expanded opportunities for connection.

This year has been about creating a place where every student feels they belong, where every family feels welcomed, and where we all contribute to something larger than ourselves.

HIGHLIGHTS
BY-THE-NUMBERS

2,300
Chromebooks in circulation for our students and staff

635,469
Miles driven by district owned vehicles

199,932
free breakfasts and lunches served to students through CEP

2
New athletic programs were introduced in the 2025-26 school year

295
Students participating in band or music lessons across RCS

RCS Launches Girls Flag Football Team

RCS is proud to introduce its first Girls Flag Football team for the Spring 2026 season. As one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, girls' flag football is expanding rapidly across New York State, with more than 230 high school teams now competing statewide.

Led by Head Coach Bill Brozowski, the program begins at the ground level this year with 10 scheduled games in Section 2 competition. The sport emphasizes speed, agility, teamwork, and strategy, and welcomes athletes from a variety of sports backgrounds.

With flag football set to debut in the 2028 Olympics and nearly 100 colleges now offering the sport, the future is bright. RCS looks forward to building a strong foundation and growing the program in the years ahead.

Community members are encouraged to come out and support the team this spring!



The team poses before their scrimmage against Bethlehem Central High School at home.

RCS Announces Class of 2026 "Top Ten"

The RCS Central School District would like to recognize the "Top Ten" students of the Class of 2026. These students have earned this honor based on their outstanding academic achievements, as reflected in their grade point averages (GPA) over the past four academic years.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 "Top Ten"!

- Stephen Mathai
- Sandra Guzmán-Ortiz
- Hunter Goss
- Autumn Lischak
- Owen Smith
- Sidney Young
- Caileigh Burnham
- Mackenzie Cross
- Bradley Brenner
- Carina Contento

We are incredibly proud of these students and wish them continued success as they embark on their post-graduation journeys!



The RCS Top 10 students hold the highest grade point averages in the Class of 2026

Missing from photo, Owen Smith.



Budget Q & A

Q How was the budget developed?

The development of a school budget is a continuous year-round process between the Board of Education and district administrators. In preparation for the 2026-27 budget, presentations on specific departments/areas were presented to the Board in the weeks leading up to the presentation of the overall budget for consideration by the Board. View presentations on our website: https://www. rcscsd.org/page/budget-development

Q What's the difference between an operating budget and a capital project?

An operating budget covers the day-to-day expenses needed to keep things running—like salaries, utilities, maintenance, and supplies. Capital projects, on the other hand, are long-term investments in major construction or assets, such as building upgrades, new equipment, or infrastructure, that provide benefits over many years.

Q How is a capital project funded?

Capital projects in New York State public schools are primarily funded through a voter-approved bond referendum. When residents approve a capital project at the ballot, the district issues bonds to finance the work, and the debt is repaid over time through the operating budget. A significant portion of those costs is offset by State Building Aid, which reimburses districts annually based on their wealth ratio. In RCS's case, the combination of State Building Aid and our capital reserve fund fully covers the cost of the 2027 Capital Project, reducing the local share to zero.

Q Why are there two propositions about the capital project?

The two propositions allow the project to be grouped separately based on its scope, cost, or purpose. This gives voters more flexibility to support one set of improvements that are based on infrastructure needs while considering another independently, ensuring each proposal is evaluated on its merits and tax implications.



RCS Middle School students are learning by doing, building skills, confidence, and creativity through hands-on work with raw materials.

Q What if Proposition 2 does not pass?

If the proposition is to be defeated, the district will not be authorized to move forward with Classroom Cooling Enhancements. The district would consider holding a vote for the community to decide on this proposal at a later date.

Q Why is the district considering the purchase of additional buses?

The purpose of purchasing additional buses is to maintain a safe and reliable fleet by replacing aging vehicles and ensuring all buses meet current safety standards. This helps provide consistent transportation while prioritizing student safety. Buses are purchased and phased out on a regular schedule that keeps costs and fleet maintenance predictable for the district and for taxpayers.

Q How do I file an absentee ballot?

An absentee ballot application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or not later than the day before the election if it is delivered in person. An absentee voter's ballot will not be counted unless it is received in the office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Investing in Our Schools: Safe, Efficient, and Comfortable Learning Environments

The district is proposing a two-part Capital Improvement Project that focuses on maintaining our school buildings, protecting past investments, and providing classroom temperatures conducive to learning, while remaining fiscally responsible.

Proposition 1: Core Infrastructure Improvements ($16.4 million)

This phase addresses critical facility needs identified through the State-required Building Conditions Survey. These improvements are essential to ensure our schools remain safe, operational, and efficient for students and staff.

Planned upgrades include:

- High School stadium improvements, including turf, track, and lighting upgrades
- Roof replacements across all district buildings to prevent leaks and structural damage
- HVAC system upgrades, including new burners and air handlers, to improve efficiency and reliability
- Pool liner replacement to maintain the functionality of aquatic facilities
- Flooring and elevator improvements to enhance safety and accessibility
- Replacement of aging water heaters

These are necessary, long-term investments that help avoid more costly emergency repairs and extend the life of our facilities.

Proposition 2: Classroom Cooling Enhancements ($1.3 million)

In response to Board of Education feedback and increasing concerns about classroom temperatures during warmer months, this phase focuses on improving learning conditions.

Proposed cooling improvements include:

- 2nd floor classrooms at the High School
- 2nd floor classrooms at A.W. Becker (AWB)
- 2nd floor classrooms at Pieter B. Coeymans (PBC)

This portion of the project requires separate voter approval. While the base project is expected to be tax neutral, approval of this extension will result in a modest increase to the annual tax levy.

Tax Neutral for Proposition 1

Proposition 1 has been carefully structured to avoid increasing the tax levy.

The district has proactively built a Capital Reserve Fund, approved by voters specifically for capital improvements.

- $3,681,542 from this fund will be applied to the project
- This reduces the amount that must be borrowed
- Keeps annual debt payments stable

Result: The project can be completed with no increase to your tax bill. While the base project is expected to be tax neutral, approval of this extension may result in a modest increase to the annual tax levy.

Modest Tax Increase for Proposition 2

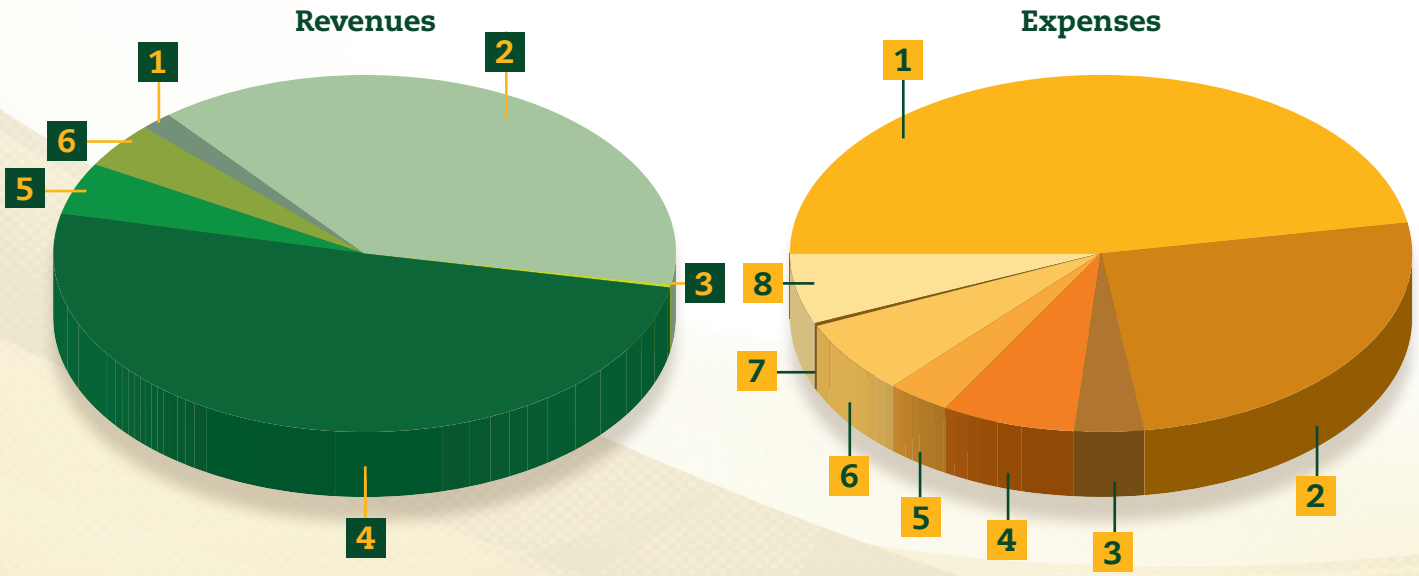
This proposition will appear on the ballot separately, allowing voters to decide on these classroom cooling improvements independently of the main project. While Proposition 1 is tax-neutral, approval of Proposition 2 will result in a modest increase to the annual tax levy. Approval will authorize the district to proceed with these enhancements; if not approved, the cooling upgrades will not be completed at this time.

Understanding Your Vote

Prop 1	Prop 2	
☑	☑	Yes to both propositions: Proposition 2 can only be approved if Proposition 1 passes.
☑	☐	Yes to Proposition 1, No to Proposition 2: The main project would proceed; the additional classroom cooling enhancements would not.
☐	☐	No to both propositions: Neither project would be approved.

REVENUES: Where the money comes from

	Revenue category	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Change
1	Local Revenue	$924,500	$1,118,000	$193,500	20.93%
2	State Aid	$21,884,301	$22,412,522	$528,221	2.41%
3	Federal Medicaid	$100,000	$150,000	$50,000	50.00%
4	Real Property Taxes	$29,162,647	$29,494,889	$332,242	1.14%
5	Payments in Lieu of Taxes	$2,588,000	$2,749,481	$161,481	6.24%
6	Fund Balance & Reserves	$2,300,000	$2,300,000	$0	0.00%
Total		**$56,959,448**	**$58,224,892**	**$1,265,444**	**2.22%**



EXPENSES: Where the money is spent

	Expense category	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Change
1	Instructional Programs	$28,048,648	27,657,597	-$391,051	-1.39%
2	Employee Benefits	$13,136,550	14,831,100	$1,694,550	12.90%
3	General Support	$2,199,050	$2,039,750	-$159,300	-7.24%
4	Operations/Maintenance	$4,151,400	4,139,700	-$11,700	-0.28%
5	Administration/Improvement	$1,792,900	$1,808,400	$15,500	0.86%
6	Transportation	$4,125,000	3,937,800	-$187,200	-4.54%
7	Interfund Transfers	$225,000	$250,000	$25,000	11.11%
8	Debt Service	$3,280,900	3,560,544	$279,644	8.52%
Total		**$56,959,448**	**$58,224,891**	**$1,265,443**	**2.22%**

School District Budget Notice

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	$56,959,448	$ 58,224,892	$57,255,211
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		$1,265,444	$265,763
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.22 %	.52%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$29,162,647	$29,494,889	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	$	$	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	$	$	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	$	$	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	$29,162,647	$29,494,889	$29,162,647
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$1,736,855	$1,442,878	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$27,425,792	$28,052,011	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$27,425,792	$28,052,011	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	$0	$0	
Administrative Component	$4,830,682	$4,835,750	$4,763,069
Program Component	$43,722,816	$44,563,727	$43,998,727
Capital Component	$8,405,950	$8,825,415	$8,493,415

* In the event that the voters of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District fail to approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education would have to adopt a contingent budget or amend the current budget proposal. A contingent budget limits the property tax levy to a zero percent increase. In that event, the school would have to eliminate most equipment purchases and limit increases in the administrative portion of the budget. The administrative portion must be at or below the same percentage as the previous year.

** 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.)

Description	Amount
Capital Improvement Project	$16,423,449
(Contingent) HVAC Cooling Project	$1,720,645
Bus Purchase	$662,846.77

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings for Bethlehem-Coeymans-New Baltimore and New Scotland[1]	$471 - $456 - $554 - $462

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at RCS High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the High School Gymnasium at 2025 9w Ravena NY 12143, 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.

Estimated tax increase with a 1.14% Tax Levy Increase*

Town	2025-26 Tax Bill	Estimated 2026-27 Tax Bill	Increase**
Bethlehem	$2,132	$2,163	$31
Coeymans	$1,820	$1,846	$26
New Scotland	$2,100	$2,129	$29
New Baltimore	$3,592	$3,642	$50

*At present, the RCS School District will increase the tax levy for the 2026-27 school year by 1.14%. With assessed values and equalization rates not being finalized until August, we are unable to provide a final impact those changes will have on your 2026-27 tax bill.

*** Based on $100,000 home value*

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Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

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VOTE
May 19, 2026

Voter Eligibility

A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, (3) resident within the school district for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election and (4) not otherwise disqualified under the Election Law. Contact our District Clerk with any questions at (518) 756-5200, Ext. 6000.



Fifth graders at Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary created colorful, one-of-a-kind magazines for local seniors as part of their "Joyful Generations" project, filled with artwork, stories, puzzles, and personal messages.

In addition to the 2026-27 proposed budget, residents of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District will vote on the following propositions:

Proposition No. 1: Shall the District authorize a $16,426,449 capital improvement project to upgrade school buildings and sites with health, safety, accessibility, and code-compliance improvements? The project would be funded in part through a tax not to exceed $12,741,907, along with borrowing, with New York State Building Aid expected to offset a significant portion of the cost.

Proposition No. 2 (Contingent on Proposition No. 1 Approval): If Proposition No. 1 is approved, shall the District authorize a $1,720,645 security capital project to upgrade school buildings and sites with health, safety, accessibility, and code-compliance improvements? The project would be funded through local taxes and borrowing, with New York State Building Aid expected to offset a significant portion of the cost.

Bus Proposition: Shall the District authorize the purchase of four school buses—three (3) 42-passenger diesel buses and one (1) 30-passenger gasoline bus—at a cost not to exceed $662,847? The purchase would be funded through a tax not to exceed $662,847, along with borrowing.

Board of Education Election: Residents will vote to fill three seats on the Board of Education. Candidates will be elected to three-year terms to begin July 1. Board of Education candidates are listed on the ballot in order based on a random selection process as dictated by law. They are listed in the order in which they were drawn. View a complete list of candidates and full candidate profiles at https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-development..

Library Vote: District residents will have the opportunity to elect two (2) trustees to the Board of Trustees of the RCS Community Library for two (2) full three (3) year terms, and vote on the proposed library levy of $753,673. For more information, contact the library at 518-756-2053.

The complete 2026-27 RCS budget proposal is available online at **https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-development**