



Spencer-Van Etten

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CAPITAL PROJECT
2025



Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025

12-8 p.m.

Spencer-Van Etten High
School Auditorium Lobby

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Voters to consider \$22.6 million capital project — no tax increase to residents

Spencer-Van Etten Central School District residents will have the opportunity to vote on Tuesday, Dec. 9, on a proposed \$22.6 million capital improvement project that addresses safety, space and infrastructure needs across the district —with no tax increase to residents.

"This project reflects our continued commitment to ensuring every student learns in an environment that is safe, modern and supportive of their success," said Superintendent of Schools Barbara J. Case. "It aligns directly with our strategic plan and our shared goal of enhancing the student experience across all grade levels."

The proposal was shaped by community-wide feedback collected through an exit poll at the May budget vote, surveys distributed to parents, employees, students and community members and the district's most recent Building Condition Survey, which identifies districtwide issues such as structural failure, deterioration, and probable useful life.

From that research, the district put together a proposal that includes improvements to the high school, middle school, elementary school and transportation building. Planned work includes interior and exterior renovations; pavement, mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades; and new furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

At the high school, the project would include construction of a new 2.5-acre multipurpose synthetic turf field in the existing athletic terrace, additional paving, drainage and signage improvements, track resurfacing, courtyard upgrades, a vehicular stream crossing, a new maintenance storage building and a dedicated concession space under an existing building overhang. The proposal also includes a variety of structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades and repairs throughout the building.

At the middle school, work would include new rubber surfacing for playground areas, reconstruction of the basketball court and structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements.

At the elementary school, upgrades would include two new playgrounds with age-appropriate equipment, a new basketball court, improved lighting, fuel storage and courtyard enhancements, as well as other building system improvements.

(continued on page 2)

CAPITAL PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

PROPOSED PROJECT
\$22,596,600

TAX IMPACT
**0% — NO TAX
INCREASE**

Like a home, school facilities require regular maintenance and upgrades to continue serving students safely and effectively. Over time, the cost of addressing normal wear and tear can exceed what is feasible within the annual school budget. Capital improvement projects allow districts to access state aid to complete a greater amount of work than possible through yearly funding alone.

(Voters Consider continued from page 1)

The **transportation facility** would receive fencing, pavement and exterior lighting upgrades in addition to structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing work. Together, these improvements will ensure district facilities remain safe, efficient and equipped to support current and future student learning needs.

The project would be funded through a combination of New York State Building Aid and existing capital reserves, allowing the district to move forward without raising taxes. Funding sources include \$2,593,596 from the 2020 Capital Reserve, up to \$1,906,404 from the 2024 Capital Reserve (total of \$4.5M). This reduces the amount borrowed to \$18,096,600. This borrowed amount would be paid for with \$17,346,600 state building aid and \$750,000 from the Debt Service Fund.

“This financial approach reflects the district’s ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility and long-term investment in student learning,” Case said. “The projects included in the proposal represent a thoughtful, long-term investment in the safety, functionality and educational quality of district schools – with no tax increase to our residents.”

No Tax Increase for \$22.6 Million Capital Project

The proposed \$22.6 million capital improvement project that taxpayers will vote on Dec. 9 would result in no additional tax increase for Spencer-Van Etten residents.

“As a result of thoughtful financial management and long-term planning, we are in a position to propose vital facility upgrades—improving safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency—without increasing the tax burden on our residents,” School Business Administrator Debra Eichholtz said. “This proposal directly aligns with our strategic plan in that it calls for us to continue infrastructure improvements based on data, including the results of our most recent Building Condition Survey.”

A Building Condition Survey (BCS) is a state-required study that assesses school buildings’ physical condition and identifies needed repairs. Just like a home, school facilities require regular maintenance and upgrades to continue serving students safely and effectively, and over time, the cost of addressing normal wear and tear can exceed what is feasible within the annual school budget.

A benefit of a capital improvement project is that it allows districts to access state building aid to complete a greater amount of work than what would be possible through yearly funding alone. Each district has a unique state building aid ratio that determines how much of every dollar spent on a capital project is reimbursed by the state. Spencer-Van Etten’s building aid reimbursement of 86.1% would allow the district to recover the majority of eligible project costs, minimizing the local share.

Funding for the proposed project would come from a combination of state building aid, existing capital reserves, and bonds reimbursed by the state. Specifically, the district would use about \$2,593,596 from the 2020 Capital Reserve and up to \$1,906,404 from the 2024 Capital Reserve, with the remaining \$18,096,600 financed through bonds covered by state aid. In addition, the district plans to use \$750,000 from its Debt Service Fund to help pay for the principal and interest payments to provide a \$0 tax impact project.

“By reviewing our BCS and being proactive in keeping our facilities in good shape, we hope to avoid costly emergency repairs, for which we would not receive state aid,” Eichholtz said. “Proposing a capital project allows us to strategically plan how to maximize state aid and minimize the financial impact on our community.”

Proposed Capital Project Timeline

Oct. 16 2025	Board approves SEQRA and sets vote date
Dec. 9 2025	Public vote
Dec. 10 - July 26 2025–2026	Design
July 26 - Sept. 26 2026	NYSED review
Fall 2026	Bidding process
April 2027	Construction begins
September 2028	Substantial completion
Fall 2028	Closeout

(Dates are approximate and subject to change.)



Upgrading the Ag. and Tech room for learning opportunities.



A large crack cuts across the outdoor court, indicating needed repairs.

Questions & Answers About the Project

Q. What is a capital project?

A capital project allows a school district to make significant facility upgrades beyond the scope of the annual operating budget, using a combination of state aid and reserve funds.

Q. Why propose a project now?

Debt from previous projects is retiring, allowing S-VE to begin this new work with no additional tax impact. Acting now ensures the district maintains safe, efficient, and modern facilities for students.

Q. Will this project have any negative impact on the environment?

At the Oct. 16, BOE meeting, the project was classified as an Unlisted Action under SEQRA and determined to have no significant adverse environmental impact.

Q. How will this impact my taxes?

It won't. This project is tax-neutral — meaning the district's debt payments will remain level. State aid and capital reserves will offset local costs.

Q. What's included in the scope of work?

The project addresses safety, learning space, and infrastructure needs across all district facilities — from secure entrances to HVAC improvements and upgrades that ensure full accessibility and for individuals with disabilities.

Q. How does this benefit the community?

Beyond improving safety and learning environments, upgraded facilities enhance property values and create community spaces for events, athletics, and programs.

Capital Project by the Numbers

TOTAL COST:
\$22,596,600

State building aid in the amount of \$17.3 million would cover the majority of costs.



\$2,593,596 FROM 2020 CAPITAL RESERVE

UP TO **\$1,906,404** FROM 2024 CAPITAL RESERVE

TOTAL \$4.5M



0%
TAX INCREASE
TO RESIDENTS

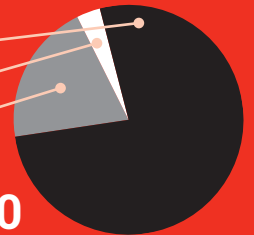
State Building Aid \$17,346,600

Debt Service Fund \$750,000

Capital Reserve \$4,500,000

Taxes \$0

TOTAL \$22,596,600



Steep incline to the terraces, creating mobility challenges.



Runoff path used by vehicles, not intended for accessible travel.



Footbridge access that remains difficult for those with mobility needs.



Spencer-Van Etten

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

16 Dartts Crossroad
Spencer, New York 14883

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Special Vote Information

**Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025
12-8 p.m.**

**Spencer-Van Etten High School
Auditorium Lobby
16 Dartts Crossroad, Spencer, NY 14883**

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

To vote, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Provide proof of residency (no P.O. Boxes)
- Not be disqualified under Section 5-106 of the Election Law

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Absentee & Early Voting Ballots

Applications for absentee or early-voting ballots are available from the District Clerk's Office:
607-589-7101 lcooper@svecsd.org

- In-person: Available through Dec. 8, 2025
- Ballots due: Dec. 9, 2025, by 5 p.m.

What Will Appear on the Ballot?

Shall the Board of Education undertake a project consisting of the construction and reconstruction of renovations and improvements to the High School, Middle School, Elementary School and Transportation Building, including but not limited to interior and exterior improvements, pavement, mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements, all to include furnishings, fixtures and equipment, architectural/engineering fees, and all other costs incidental to such work (the "Project") at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$22,596,600 and obtain the necessary funds by using \$2,593,596 from the 2020 Capital Reserve, up to \$1,906,404 from the 2024 Capital Reserve and, for the balance, the levy of a tax in the amount of \$18,096,600 upon the taxable property of the District to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board of Education shall determine and in anticipation of such tax bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$18,096,600, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.