



WEST GENESEE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2026

Message from the Superintendent

This annual **Budget Edition of the Communicator** is specifically designed to provide information regarding the Proposed Budget for the 2026-2027 School Year. Information has been reviewed and discussed at bi-weekly meetings of the Board of Education and has been through various drafts.

The information within this version highlights the:

- three-part budget,
- items of expenditure and revenue, and
- related factors of fiduciary responsibility and partnership within our school and community.

There are many challenges with this year's budget that include:

- rising health care costs,
- increased cost of utilities, and
- variable revenue from New York State.

We remain committed to areas of support in the areas of:

- safety,
- mental health services, and
- program for learners with specific needs.

Our School Resource Officer Program will continue our commitment to an officer in each of our school buildings and maintain security systems.

We recognize the critical social/emotional supports provided by our school counselors, psychologists, and social workers. Our goal has been to maintain comprehensive educational programs for our students while being fiscally responsible to our community.

Cost savings is seen with reductions in workforce through attrition due to retirement and vacancies, cuts in equipment replacements, and alternative strategies for professional development and training. The final impact of the proposed budget is within the tax cap of 2.34% increase to the tax levy.

We look ahead to maintaining the strong history and traditions of the West Genesee Central School District with the mindset of continuous improvement and high performance. As you look through this overview, make the connection to the experiences we expect and the pride we have in our past and present. It is through that lens that we consider the future.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
— Nelson Mandela

We are proud of our students and their many accomplishments. The West Genesee Class of 2026 prepare for their next adventures in the workforce, post-secondary education, or military, with memories and challenges they faced to approach this next phase. West Genesee offers a great deal of academic, fine arts, athletic, community service, and work-based experiences within our walls and through many partnerships.



Last year's graduate's academic accolades included:

- 97% receiving regents diplomas,
- 59% of whom reached advanced designation,
- 17% receiving advanced designation with honors
- 62 Career and Technical Endorsements,
- 44 Seals of Bi-Literacy,
- 54 Seals of Civic Readiness, and
- 86% who completed at least one college course.

We currently have:

- 84 students participating in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and New Visions Programs within the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES programs,
- 107 in CTE programs offered at West Genesee High School such as Engineering Tech, Computer Tech, Business, and
- 651 students enrolled in one or more of our 42 advanced placement and college program opportunities.

We are proud of the rigor our students seek and the resulting experiences that support their future.

Our Board of Education remains active in their presence in the community and in regularly scheduled meetings. Reports, study sessions, and conducting the business of the District is supported by regular celebrations of our student and staff accomplishments. In recognizing the individual and group achievements, we celebrate the achievement of goals and acknowledgment of hard work. Board Meetings continue across our seven schools to recognize how programs and experiences are shaped from our youngest to our oldest in an alignment from

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BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday,
May 19, 2026

Polls are open
6:00 a.m. -
9:00 p.m.
High School
Auditorium Lobby

Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires districts to present their proposed budget in three categories: program, capital, and administrative. The chart below shows the dollar amount and percentage of spending in each of those three categories in the 2025-2026 budget and the proposed 2026-2027 budget. An explanation of what is included in each of the categories is provided below:

Program:

- 2025-2026..... \$93,309,651....78.00%
- 2026-2027..... \$96,513,188....77.43%

Capital:

- 2025-2026..... \$17,814,672....14.90%
- 2026-2027..... \$18,928,272....15.19%

Administrative:

- 2025-2026..... \$ 8,502,058.....7.10%
- 2026-2027..... \$ 9,198,540.....7.38%

Total:

- 2025-2026..... \$119,626,381...100.00%
- 2026-2027..... \$124,640,000...100.00%

Program includes:

- All instructional programs, athletics, fine arts, co-curricular activities, transportation, and associated employee salaries and benefits.

Capital includes:

- Operation and security of buildings, maintenance of buildings, refunded taxes, debt service, and associated employee salaries and benefits. The Capital portion also includes a transfer to Capital for \$100,000 to be used for a Capital Outlay Building Project. The District will receive approximately 85% building aid on this project in the 2027-2028 school year. The project will focus on security upgrades, replacements, and renovations at Camillus Middle School.

Administrative includes:

- Board of Education, central administration, finance, legal services, personnel, public information, central services, special items, curriculum development and supplies, supervision of instruction, and associated employee salaries and benefits.

For more information on the breakdown of the budget, please see the District's budget information page at: <https://www.westgenesee.org/page/budget-information> and click on Budget Book for 2026-2027.

2026-2027 School Budget Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the West Genesee Central School District at Camillus be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$124,640,000 (one hundred twenty-four million six hundred forty thousand dollars) for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and to levy the necessary tax for the local contribution thereto?

- The proposed 2026-2027 budget requires an estimated 2.34% tax levy increase which is within the calculated tax cap.

Proposition I - Transportation

Shall the Board of Education of the West Genesee Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance ten (10) diesel school buses, one (1) dump truck and one (1) stake rack truck, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$2,004,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District to be collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$2,004,000, shall be issued?

Propositions II, III, IV are on page 5...

Continued from page 1 ►

Message from the Superintendent

Universal Pre-Kindergarten through graduation.

The 30+ member District Guiding Coalition continues the work of Strategic Planning that has been historically strong and grown in recent years. Discussions, analysis, reports, and the identification of goals includes input from students, staff, administration, and community representatives. The group meets several times a year to update strategic objectives and the focus areas. An annual School Climate survey continues to solicit feedback from all of our stakeholder groups and the information collected in this is integral to the work. Please know that information collected in the survey results is both anonymous and foundational to setting short and long-term goals.

In summary, the 2026-2027 proposed school budget maintains attention to safety, mental health, curriculum and instruction, technology, operations, and extracurricular supports. We continue to monitor needs in English language learning, special education, and quality programs from UPK through graduation. The estimated tax levy is an increase of 2.34% that remains within the tax cap. The budget represents the commitment to the youth of our community to provide a comprehensive educational experience, within and outside of classrooms, for lifelong learning to become cooperative, self-directed, productive, caring citizens.

Thank you for your continued presence and ongoing support of our schools.

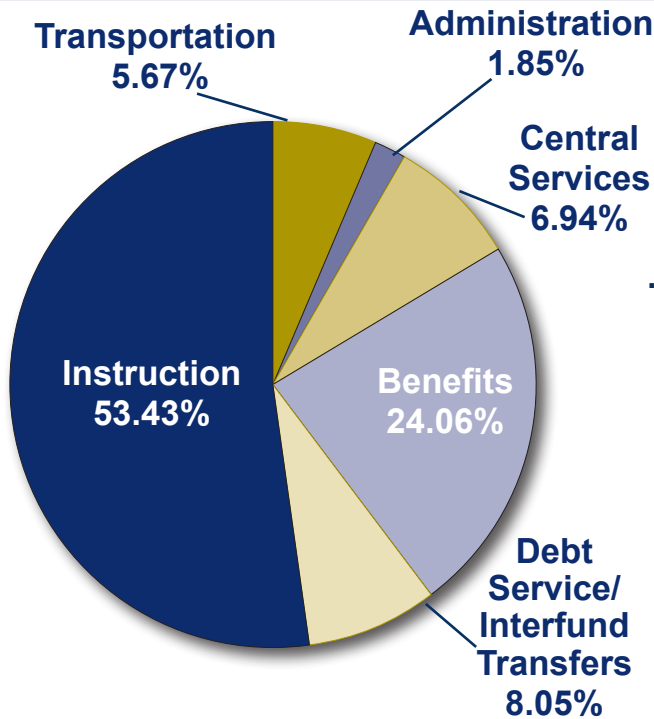
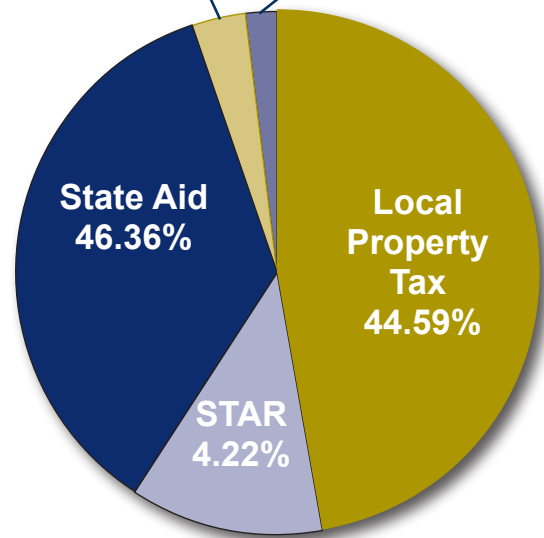
David C. Bills, Superintendent of Schools

Budget Proposal Revenues...where the money will come from...

Revenues	Actual 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027
State Aid	\$ 55,282,244	\$ 57,787,432
STAR - NYS	5,618,482	5,262,042
Local Property Taxes	53,828,614	55,577,088
Fund Balance	550,000	400,000
ERS Reserve	800,000	1,225,000
TRS Reserve	450,000	1,225,000
Debt Service Fund	180,484	0
Sales Tax/Interest/Other	2,916,557	3,163,438
Total Revenue	\$119,626,381	\$124,640,000

Sales Tax/
Interest/
Other
2.54%

Fund Balance/
ERS/TRS
Reserve
2.29%



...and what it will be spent on...Expenditures

Expenditures	Actual 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027
Instruction	\$66,144,538	\$66,600,465
Administration	2,293,887	2,304,698
Central Services	7,945,906	8,649,747
Transportation	6,944,573	7,065,734
Debt Service/Interfund	9,197,006	9,927,983
Interfund Transfer to Capital	100,000	100,000
Benefits	27,000,471	29,991,373
Total Revenue	\$119,626,381	\$124,640,000

What effect will the proposed budget have on my school taxes?

This table represents the estimated tax rates, per \$1,000 of assessed value of your home. As with previous years, we have presented the estimated maximum tax rates that you will see on your tax bill. We typically come in under what we estimate. Please note that these tax rates do not take into consideration your STAR Exemption.

The actual tax rate for each town will be set in August. The tax rates will be based on the final assessment figures that are provided by each town and the equalization rates provided by the NYS Office of Real Property Services.

Estimated Tax Rates per \$1,000 of assessed value

Town	2025-2026 Actual	2026-2027 Estimated	\$ Change in Rate	Percent Increase	Percent of Tax Base
Camillus	\$22.59	\$23.12	\$0.53	2.34%	79.00%
Elbridge	\$15.91	\$16.28	\$0.37	2.34%	0.50%
Geddes	\$31.55	\$32.29	\$0.74	2.34%	4.11%
Onondaga	\$26.54	\$27.16	\$0.62	2.34%	13.17%
Van Buren	\$22.28	\$22.80	\$0.52	2.34%	3.22%

School District Budget Notice Summary

Each school district must mail a "School Budget Notice" to qualified voters in the District, as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

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	\$119,626,381	\$ 124,640,000	\$ 123,247,966
Increase/decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 5,013,619	\$ 3,621,585
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.19%	3.03%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 59,447,096	\$ 60,839,130	
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 Yr Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$ 59,447,096	\$ 60,839,130	\$ 59,447,096
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,412,558	\$ 2,260,886	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 57,034,538	\$ 58,578,244	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 57,034,538	\$ 58,578,244	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative component	\$ 8,502,058	\$ 9,198,540	\$ 8,722,802
Program component	\$ 93,309,651	\$ 96,513,188	\$ 95,741,892
Capital component	\$ 17,814,672	\$ 18,928,272	\$ 18,783,272

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. All non-contingent items would be removed. No equipment can be purchased, including buses and vehicles, and no non-essential maintenance can be performed. Public use of the buildings and grounds may be prohibited. The administrative component will be capped at 8.35%. Program reductions of \$771,296 will need to be made which could be electives, field trips, extra-curricular activities, positions and/or programs.

** List 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
PROPOSITION I (TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION)	\$ 2,004,000

**NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$537

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the West Genesee Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at West Genesee High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Auditorium Lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by machine ballot unless machines are unavailable, in which paper ballots will be used.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

What is a contingency budget?

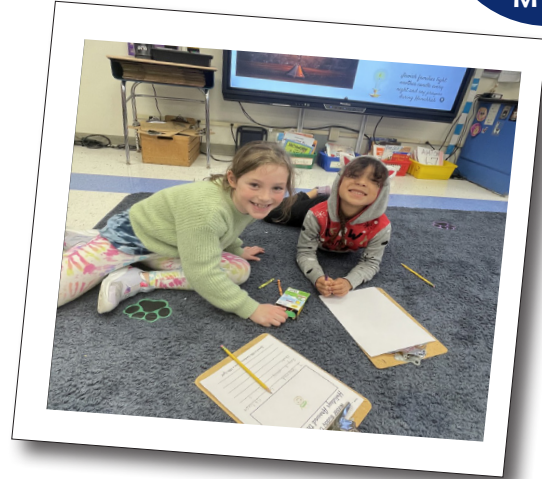
It is a budget which the Board of Education may establish without voter authorization in order to provide for an education program in the next school year. Under State law, Boards can only pass a contingency budget that does not increase the tax levy over the prior year. The administrative component of a contingency budget must not exceed the lesser of the percent the administrative component comprised in the 2025-2026 budget (exclusive of the capital component) or the percent the administrative component comprised in the last defeated budget (exclusive of the capital component). For more information on the implications of a contingency budget, please see the District's budget information page at: <https://www.westgenesee.org/page/budget-information>.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

The Board of Education could decide to hold another vote on the same or a revised budget, to adopt a contingency budget, or to present one or more specific propositions.

Proposition II - Fairmount Community Library

Shall the West Genesee Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$431,507 (which is an increase of \$16,596 from 2025 in the sum of \$414,911) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by Fairmount Community Library historically supported by the West Genesee Central School District?



Proposition III - Maxwell Memorial Library

Shall the West Genesee Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$430,109 (which is an increase of \$17,534 from 2025-2026 in the sum of \$412,575) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by Maxwell Memorial Library historically supported by the West Genesee Central School District?

Proposition IV - Onondaga Free Library

Shall the West Genesee Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$118,072 (which is an increase of \$3,439 from the levy in effect from 2025-2026 in the sum of \$114,633) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by the Onondaga Free Library historically supported by the West Genesee Central School District?

Demographics of our Graduating Seniors

Class	Number of Students	Graduation Rate	Percent of Class Receiving Special Education Services	Percent of Class Qualifying Free or Reduced Lunch
2025	338	93%	10.4%	29.2%
2024	296	92%	9.0%	26.0%
2023	320	92%	12.0%	28.0%
2022	340	95%	9.0%	21.0%
2021	355	93%	12.0%	27.0%
2020	415	97%	10.8%	27.2%

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

West Genesee Central School District utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to provide a high-quality education for every learner. MTSS is a framework that uses data to match academic, social-emotional, and behavioral support to individual student needs.

MTSS is structured in tiers:

- Tier 1 provides core instruction for all students. This includes research-based teaching and differentiated instruction.
- Tier 2 offers targeted instruction for students needing additional support, practice, or extension.
- Tier 3 provides intensive, individualized interventions for students with significant needs.

Student progress is monitored through universal screening and ongoing assessments. Data from these assessments informs instructional decisions and intervention planning.

MTSS emphasizes collaboration among school staff and communication with parents. Professional development ensures effective implementation.

The goal of MTSS is to support every student's success by providing the right support at the right time.

Board of Education Candidates

*Residents may vote for up to three (3) candidates.
The vacancies are three (3) three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2026.*

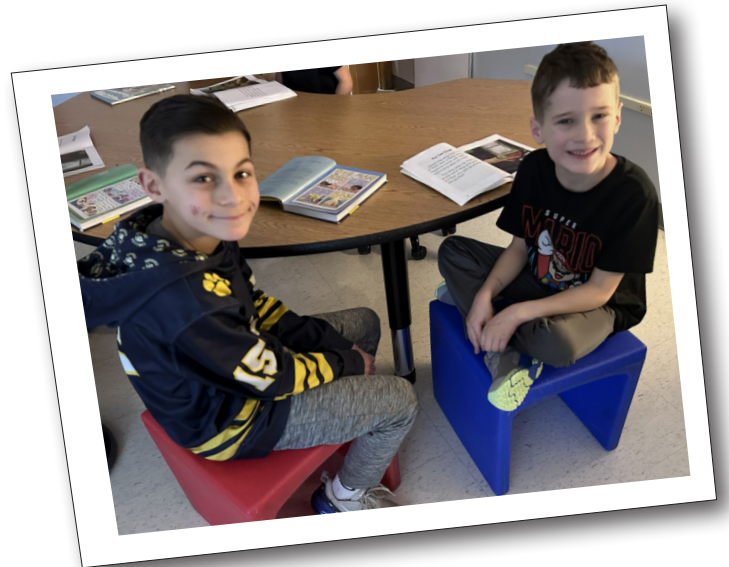
Responsibilities of the Board of Education

The West Genesee Board of Education is the elected policy-making body of the District. At West Genesee, the Board consists of nine members who serve without pay. The term of office is for three years, (July 1 - June 30), with three positions elected at the annual election each year.

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing the quality of education in the District. It serves as a liaison between the schools and the community.

The Board of Education:

- Defines the philosophy of the District
- Establishes the policies for the operation of the District
- Recruits and hires the superintendent
- Sets goals and objectives to achieve educational progress
- Evaluates the effectiveness of District programs and services
- Adopts and monitors a budget consistent with educational needs and community resources
- Communicates the needs and progress of the District to the community, educational governing boards, and legislators
- Acts on recommendations set forth by the superintendent regarding financial/operational, personnel, and curriculum items.
- Includes an Ex-Officio Student Member



Our Mission: "The mission of the West Genesee Central School District, in partnership with the community, is to ensure that each student attains the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary, not only for lifelong learning, but also for becoming a cooperative, self-directed, productive, caring citizen."



Camille M. Morano

Camille M. Morano of 205 Sunnyfield Road, Camillus, is a candidate for election to the Board of Education.

Morano is a proud West Genesee graduate (1997) and grew up in the Onondaga Hill area and currently lives in the Town of Camillus with her children: Marie is a junior at West Genesee High School, and Jacob, a 7th grader at Camillus Middle School.

She received a Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Oswego in Public Justice and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Syracuse University.

She has worked in Philadelphia, PA as a service coordinator for children and families in Early Intervention. She returned to Central New York and worked for PEACE, Inc. for over 10 years, as a family worker and as a site supervisor for the Pre-K Head Start program. She has also served as a member of the Board of Directors for Jowonio School, where she participated in fundraising and program design. Currently, Camille works for Onondaga County as a caseworker.

In recent years, she has volunteered for many activities and school events at West Genesee, especially when her children were students at Stonehedge Elementary. These days, you will find her at the baseball field, the golf course, or at a track meet for her children. When she isn't cheering on her children, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, gardening, and trying her hand at DIY projects.

She shared "With a heart for service and a proven voice for children and families, I am focused on promoting a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

"I understand the importance of working collaboratively with parents, teachers, and community members to ensure a bright future for the children in our District."



Kathryne A. Moulton

Kathryne A. Moulton, of Camillus, NY, is seeking re-election to the West Genesee Board of Education.

She and her husband Ryan, a West Genesee graduate, are proud parents of three children currently attending West Genesee schools: Desmond and Kaleb, both students at West Genesee High School, and Emerson, a student at West Genesee Intermediate School.

She holds a Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Educational Leadership from Syracuse University, as well as both a Master's degree in Education and a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from University at Buffalo.

She currently serves as Deputy Chief of Curriculum and Instruction for the Syracuse City School District, where she leads districtwide efforts to strengthen teaching and learning, improve student outcomes, and ensure equitable access to high-quality instruction. Prior to this role, she served as an Assistant Superintendent and a Principal. Her career began as a classroom teacher, giving her a comprehensive understanding of education at every level.

As a Board Member, Moulton is an advocate for students with special education needs and is committed to ensuring that every child receives the support and opportunities they deserve. She is passionate about shaping the future of West Genesee by focusing on academic excellence, student well-being, and preparing all students for success in an ever-changing world.

She shared, "As a parent of three children in the District and an educational leader, I care deeply about the experiences of every student and family. I am committed to listening, learning, and making thoughtful decisions that support all students—especially those who need us most—as we plan for the future of West Genesee."



Jeffrey M. Reina

Jeffrey M. Reina of 128 Snowflake Circle, Camillus, is a candidate for re-election to the West Genesee Board of Education.

He and his wife, Courtney, have two children who graduated from West Genesee High School: their daughter Avery, a junior majoring in Geology at SUNY Oswego, and their son Cameron, a freshman majoring in Information Technology at SUNY Canton. Courtney, a West Genesee graduate, began her teaching career in the District in 2001 and currently serves as an Instructional Specialist at East Hill Elementary School.

A 1994 graduate of Liverpool High School, Reina earned bachelor's degrees in Civil Engineering and Interdisciplinary Engineering and Management from Clarkson University. He is a Professional Engineer and is employed by C&S Companies, where he serves as a Department Manager leading the highway team within the Transportation Service Group. As a current Board Member, he has been active on the Safety Committee, Finance Committee, Facilities Committee, and the Strategic Planning Guiding Coalition.

When asked why he is seeking re-election, he shared, "I want to continue helping shape the future of our District. I believe student success depends on strong support for mental health, safe and welcoming schools, and intentional social-emotional learning that fosters belonging.

"I am committed to thoughtful, fiscally responsible decision-making and hope to continue representing all students, staff, families, and taxpayers of the West Genesee Central School District."



WG Communicator

2026-2027 BUDGET EDITION

WEST GENESEE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Publications Office
300 Sanderson Drive
Camillus, NY 13031
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David C. Bills, Superintendent of Schools
Stacey J. Eger-Converse, Ed.D., Assistant
Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Christine C. DeMass, Assistant Superintendent
for Management Services
David J. Cirillo, Director of Staff Relations
Bonnie M. Russell, School Information Officer

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Jeffrey Reina Sarah Snell
Barbara Wells
Sarah Domin-Ex-Officio Student Member

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Voting Information...

Who is eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote on May 19, 2026 if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and have been a District resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Questions? Call the District Clerk at 315-487-4563.

When and where is the vote?

The Annual School District Board of Education Election and Budget Vote will take place from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 in the West Genesee High School Auditorium Lobby.

Are there Absentee and Early Mail Ballots?

Qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot or early mail ballot from the office of the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 18, 2026, and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2026 if the absentee ballot or early mail ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2026 will require the voter to personally appear at the office of the District Clerk to receive an absentee ballot or early mail ballot. Absentee ballots and early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

Our Vision:

West Genesee continues to focus on improving, every day, the educational opportunities and academic performance of each student.

