

LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



2026 Budget Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians, Caregivers, and Community Members:

I am pleased to share an update on the development of our 2026–2027 school district budget, which is designed to support continued student success while maintaining strong fiscal responsibility.

As a district, we proudly continue to anchor our work in our shared identity and theme: “We are Lions. We All Belong.” This belief is not just a message —it reflects our commitment to ensuring that every student, staff member, and family feels valued, supported, and connected to our schools.

This year’s budget is thoughtfully aligned with the Board of Education’s guiding principles for the 2026–2027 expenditure plan. Specifically, the budget is:

- Fiscally Sound – It remains within the tax levy limit cap and is not excessive to our taxpayers.
- Flexible – It provides adaptability within general fund budget codes to respond to evolving needs.
- Foolproof – It includes provisions to address unexpected emergencies should they arise.
- Flowing – It ensures sufficient cash flow in the event that state aid is delayed or withheld.
- Aligned – It reflects the district’s strategic goals by supporting appropriate programming and services for our students.

Commitment to Student Programming

I am proud to share that this budget includes no cuts to student programs. We remain committed to ensuring that every Lion has access to high-quality opportunities that support academic, social, and emotional growth.

Our programs continue to reflect the strength of our district and our belief that all belong, including:

- Over 30 dual-credit college and Advanced Placement courses
- K–12 STEM programming through Woz ED
- Robust music, visual, and performing arts programs
- 73 athletic teams across the district
- 1:1 technology access for all students, Pre-K through grade 12
- A wide range of extracurricular activities, including DECA, Robotics, and Drama
- Comprehensive social and emotional supports
- Expanded special education classrooms and services
- Continued alternative education programming for secondary students

Administrative Enhancements

Within the administrative component of the budget, we are proposing the addition of two full-time Assistant Principals in our K-4 buildings. This investment will ensure that each elementary school is staffed with two administrators, strengthening:

- Instructional leadership
- Student support systems
- Building supervision and safety

This enhancement reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every Lockport Lion is seen, supported, and has a strong sense of belonging in our elementary schools.

Importantly, we have worked diligently to realign existing resources and redistribute funds within the budget to support these positions. As a result, this enhancement comes at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Letter continued on page 2.

LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



FRIDAY, MAY 29 FROM 4:30 - 8 P.M.
BEHIND LOCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL
 RAIN LOCATION: INSIDE LOCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL



Capital Improvements and Outlay Project

As part of the capital component of the budget, we are including an Outlay Capital Project. Under New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidelines, an outlay project allows districts to complete smaller-scale capital improvements—typically up to \$100,000 per project—that are eligible for state building aid reimbursement in the following year.

This year's outlay project includes a minor renovation of an existing locker room space at the high school, which will be converted into a dedicated wrestling room. This improvement supports student athletics and reflects our commitment to providing spaces where every Lion can grow, compete, and belong.

In addition, we are proposing a \$17.5 million Capital Improvement Project focused on strengthening our facilities and expanding programming opportunities for students.

The project, in part, will be funded through:

- 2018 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund: \$6,633,144
- 2025 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund: \$4,423,624
- Available district funds: \$303,792

Importantly, this project is **tax neutral**, meaning there will be **NO additional tax impact on our community**.

Specific details regarding the scope of work and individual school improvements are outlined in the capital project description section of this budget newsletter (page 6 & 7).

This budget reflects our ongoing commitment to balancing educational excellence, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning. It also reflects our core message: "We are Lions. We All Belong." Every decision we make is grounded in ensuring that belonging is real, visible, and experienced by all.

Please mark your calendar for the annual budget vote, which will take place on May 19, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Your participation is essential as we work together to support the future of our district.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our schools.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mathis Calvin, III
Superintendent of Schools

NY INSPIRES & PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE: PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE



Lockport City Schools is committed to preparing every student for success in college, career, and community life. As part of this, we are aligning with NY Inspires, New York State's plan to transform education with a focus on equity, relevance, and deep learning.

What NY Inspires Means:

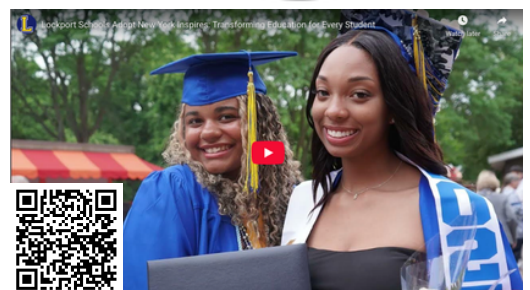
- Students gain meaningful, real-world learning opportunities like capstone projects, internships, portfolios, and community-based experiences.
- Graduation requirements remain the same until state-approved changes are phased in over the coming years.
- District goals are being updated to integrate these priorities into curriculum, instruction, and student experiences.

Portrait of a Graduate:

Students will be prepared for the future through strong academic foundations, creative innovation, critical thinking, and effective communication. They will also demonstrate global citizenship and engage in reflective, forward-thinking practices. This work is grounded in a culturally responsive approach that honors and affirms each student's identity, culture, and community.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NY INSPIRES & PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE, WATCH LCSD'S VIDEO ON THE PROJECT!



STRATEGIC WORK IN ACTION

Reaching our 25-26 Goals



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



- Improve student performance in ELA & Math
- Implement a new K-4 Mathematics Program (26-27)
- Implement School Comprehensive Education Plans & District Comprehensive Improvement Plan with fidelity responsibility

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS



- Build community partnerships
- Expand collaboration with local organizations
- Enhance community engagement & positive communication

SYSTEMS & ACCOUNTABILITY



- Adopt NY Inspires
- Advance the Capital Project Plan with transparency & fiscal responsibility

Find out more about our Strategic Plan at lockportschools.net/strategicplan.

BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILIES *because it matters!*



At Lockport City School District, we believe strong schools are built on strong relationships. Increasing parent involvement is one of the most powerful ways to support student success, strengthen trust, and create a shared sense of responsibility for our children's growth.

Research consistently shows that when families are actively involved in their child's education, students benefit academically, socially, and emotionally. Studies link parent involvement to higher achievement, better attendance, improved behavior, and increased motivation. These benefits extend well beyond the classroom. Just as importantly, students thrive when they see the adults in their lives working together in partnership.

Creating Meaningful Ways for Families to Be Involved

Across LCSD, we are intentional about creating opportunities that invite families into the learning process and school community. Here are some ways we've done that this year:

- Parent Focus Groups give families a voice in shaping district decisions. These conversations allow us to listen, learn, and grow together while reinforcing that parent perspectives matter.
- Building fun, educational, and insightful family nights which partner our district leaders, teachers, and parents/caregivers, allows our community to build academic support for our students. Events like Literacy Night, Unity Fest, and individual school events such as EBIS' Grades, Growth and Beyond and George Southard's Partners in Learning Night, give parents a chance to receive hands-on learning tools to help their child develop knowledge outside of the classroom.
- Perk Up with the Principal events create an approachable, welcoming space for families to connect with school leaders, ask questions, and build relationships in a relaxed setting.
- FAFSA and College Search Nights at LHS support families as they navigate important postsecondary decisions together. Research shows that family involvement in academic planning is linked to higher aspirations and increased college enrollment.
- ROOMS supports parent involvement by making it easier for families to stay engaged and connect with teachers when questions or needs arise. This helps involvement feel accessible and ongoing.

Why This Matters

- Research shows that schools with strong family partnerships foster greater student engagement and a stronger sense of belonging. That partnership sends a powerful message to students: we are in this together.

WE ARE HIRING!



Your path.
Your passion.
Your purpose.
Your career.



Open positions and job descriptions available.



2026-27 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Please visit our website at www.lockportschools.org for more information regarding the 2026-27 budget.

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to spend the sum of \$142,240,191 in the total amount set forth in the proposed budget during the 2026-27 school year and to levy the

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Capital Improvement Project 2026 - \$17.5M

BUDGET SUMMARY

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Budget	\$142,240,191	Estimated True Value Tax Rate	\$16.219833
Budget Increase	\$3,931,901	Estimated True Value Tax Rate Increase	\$0.093349
Budget to Budget % Increase	2.84%	State Aid and Other Revenue	\$83,917,549
Tax Levy	\$46,313,876	Fund Balance and Reserve Use	\$12,008,366
Tax Levy Increase	\$1,250,229	Increase on \$100,000 Assessed Home with Basic STAR	\$25.37
Tax Levy % Increase	2.77%	Increase on \$100,000 Assessed Home with Enhanced STAR	\$5.10

Tax rates and STAR increases are true value estimates based on 2025-26 assessments, exemptions and equalization rates.

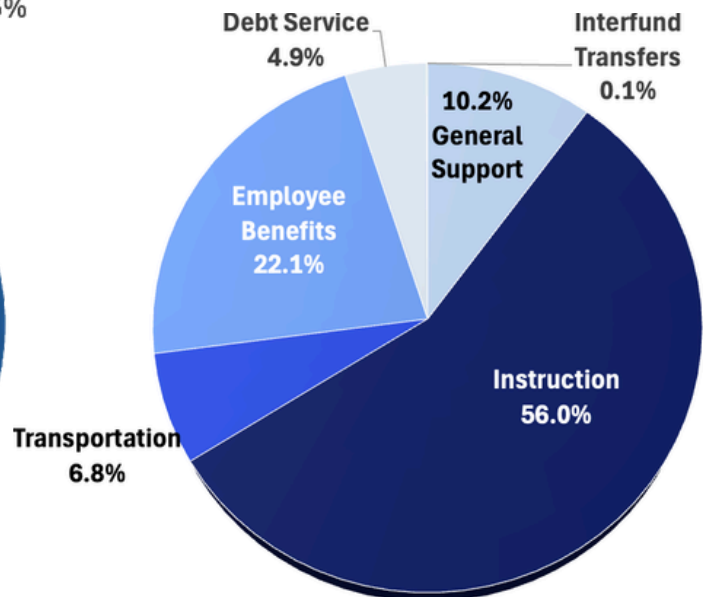
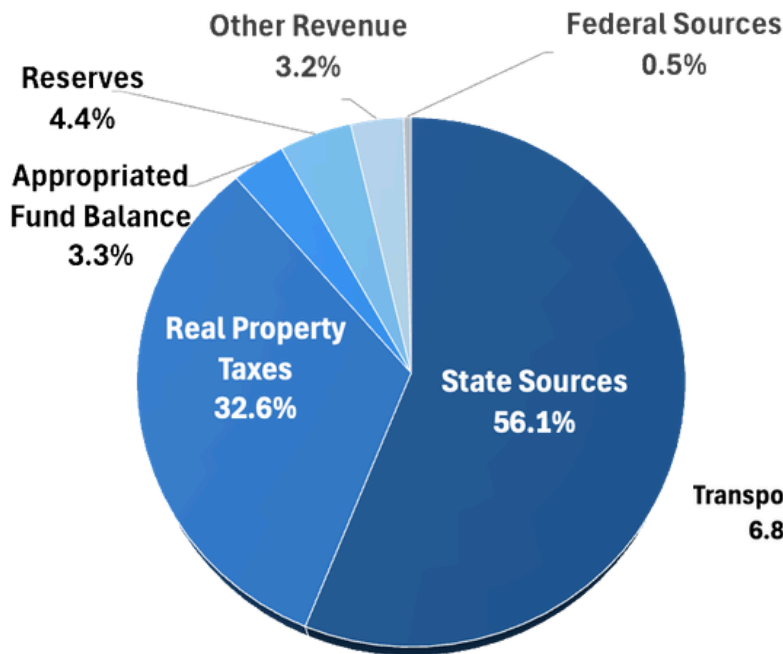
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

2026-27 Revenue Comparison

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	2026-27 Change
State Sources	\$ 78,436,141	\$ 79,781,748	\$ 1,345,607
Real Property Taxes	\$ 45,063,637	\$ 46,313,876	\$ 1,250,239
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 3,558,581	\$ 4,650,000	\$ 1,091,419
Reserves	\$ 6,401,673	\$ 6,275,060	\$ (126,613)
Other Revenue	\$ 4,173,258	\$ 4,569,507	\$ 396,249
Federal Sources	\$ 675,000	\$ 650,000	\$ (25,000)
Total Revenue	\$ 138,308,290	\$ 142,240,191	\$ 3,931,901

2026-27 Expenditure Comparison

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed	2026-27 Change
General Support	\$ 14,150,577	\$ 14,445,117	\$ 294,540
Instruction	\$ 77,454,321	\$ 79,617,462	\$ 2,163,141
Transportation	\$ 8,696,095	\$ 9,655,539	\$ 959,444
Employee Benefits	\$ 28,970,679	\$ 31,389,006	\$ 2,418,327
Debt Service	\$ 8,607,518	\$ 7,033,067	\$ (1,574,451)
Interfund Transfers	\$ 429,100	\$ 100,000	\$ (329,100)
Total Expenditures	\$ 138,308,290	\$ 142,240,191	\$ 3,931,901



2026-27 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	\$ 138,308,290	\$142,240,191	\$140,989,952															
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$3,931,901	\$2,681,662															
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.84 %	1.94%															
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%																
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$45,063,637	\$46,313,876																
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)	\$45,063,637	\$46,313,876		\$45,063,637														
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$																
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$45,063,637	\$46,313,876																
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$45,063,637	\$46,313,876																
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0.00	\$0.00																
Administrative Component	\$13,380,907	\$11,670,801	\$11,670,801															
Program Component	\$106,771,028	\$114,937,263	\$113,687,024															
Capital Component	\$18,156,355	\$15,632,127	\$15,632,127															
<p>*Statement of Assumptions pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. If the proposed budget is defeated, the Board of Education will need to reduce the overall tax levy by \$1,250,239. This reduction would impact many non-mandated areas which could include the reduction of enhanced program offerings, the increase in walking limits for students to State guidelines, the reduction of support staff positions, the reduction of extra-curricular offerings and the elimination of intramural sports. Additionally, community use of the buildings will be subject to a user fee under State Education guidelines.</p>																		
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">** 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)</th> <th style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;">Proposition No. 2- 2026 Capital Improvement Project</td> <td style="text-align: right; border: none;">\$17,500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="text-align: right; border: none;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="text-align: right; border: none;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="text-align: right; border: none;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				** 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 No. 2- 2026 Capital Improvement Project	\$17,500,000			\$			\$			\$
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	Proposition No. 2- 2026 Capital Improvement Project	\$17,500,000																
		\$																
		\$																
		\$																
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		\$495																

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Lockport City School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at Lockport HS (1st Ward, 4th Ward, All Towns), District Office (2nd Ward, 5th Ward), North Park Annex Bldg (3rd Ward) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Lockport City School District buildings, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Note sure where to vote? Call 716-478-4838.

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

LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - \$17.5 M



This multiple phase project is focused on the improvement of the existing UPK and Special Education facilities in the District, and the possibility of expanding service offerings in the future. The main component of the project will be the addition of UPK and Special Education classrooms at George Southard Elementary School, as well as the renovation scope items listed below, that were identified in the 2025 Building Condition Survey.



GEORGE SOUTHARD UPK ADDITION
CONCEPTUAL EXTERIOR RENDERING



GEORGE SOUTHARD UPK ADDITION
PROPOSED SITE PLAN



GEORGE SOUTHARD UPK ADDITION
CONCEPTUAL CLASSROOM RENDERING

NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT!



PUBLIC HEARING: MAY 5TH | 6PM

VOTE: MAY 19TH | 12PM - 9PM



For more information, scan
the QR Code with your
mobile device.

LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - \$17.5 M

PROJECT SCOPE - \$17.5M

GEORGE SOUTHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Approx. 12,000 SF UPK addition
- UPK Playground enhancements
- OT/PT classroom renovation
- Speech, Counselor & Psychologist office renovations
- Expanded parking lot
- Pedestrian bridge replacement
- Fire alarm system upgrade
- Water valve replacements
- Pneumatic controls upgrades
- Boiler replacements



OT/PT CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS
MULTIPLE BUILDINGS



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
GEORGE SOUTHARD

ANNA MERRITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- OT/PT classroom renovation
- Speech, Counselor & Psychologist office renovations



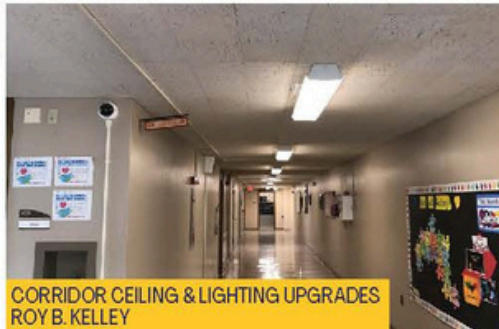
UPK PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENTS
GEORGE SOUTHARD



BOILER REPLACEMENTS
GEORGE SOUTHARD

ROY B. KELLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- OT/PT classroom renovation
- Speech, Counselor & Psychologist office renovations
- Corridor lighting upgrades
- Corridor ceiling replacements
- Corridor finish upgrades



CORRIDOR CEILING & LIGHTING UPGRADES
ROY B. KELLEY



PNEUMATIC CONTROLS UPGRADES
GEORGE SOUTHARD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. WHY IS LOCKPORT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?

Lockport City School District is proposing a Capital Improvement Project featuring a new approximately 12,000-square-foot UPK addition designed to enhance early childhood health and safety, along with site improvements such as expanded parking, upgraded playgrounds, and safer pedestrian access.

The plan also includes targeted renovations across multiple schools including George Southard, Anna Merritt, and Roy B. Kelley, to address key facility needs like updated OT/PT classrooms, improved student support spaces, and essential infrastructure upgrades.

By building new where needed and renovating existing spaces where appropriate, the District is taking a cost-effective approach while improving safety, functionality, and learning environments.

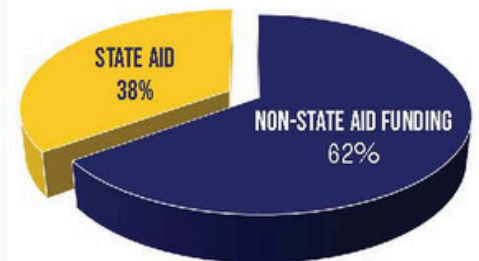
Q. HOW WILL THIS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BE FUNDED?

The District has allocated funding for this project through its Capital Improvements Reserve Funds in the amount of \$11,056,728, along with \$303,792 in other available district funds. \$6,139,480 will be issued in bonds. State aid will reimburse 38% of the project cost.

Q. HOW CAN MORE INFORMATION BE OBTAINED?

Please visit: lockportschools.org/2026capitalproject or call (716) 478-4828 for more information.

FUNDING SOURCES



- NO TAX IMPACT
- TOTAL PROJECT COST = \$17,500,000
- AMOUNT FROM RESERVE FUNDS = \$11,056,728
- AMOUNT FROM DISTRICT FUNDS = \$303,792
- AMOUNT FROM BONDS = \$6,139,480



Lockport City School District
130 Beattie Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094

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Dr. Mathis Calvin, III

Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Lisa M. Schrader

**Interim Assistant Superintendent for
Finance & Management Services**

Dr. Allison S. Davis

**Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction**

Marianne Currie-Hall

BUDGET VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 12:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

POLLING PLACES

1st Ward
Lockport High School
West Gym
250 Lincoln Avenue*

2nd Ward
District Office
Board Room
130 Beattie Avenue

3rd Ward
North Park Annex Building
Conference Room
400 Corinthia Street

4th Ward
Lockport High School
West Gym
250 Lincoln Avenue*

5th Ward
District Office
Board Room
130 Beattie Avenue

All Towns
Lockport High School
West Gym
250 Lincoln Avenue*

*Park by the Fitness Center at the back of the school. Use door #7.

**Not sure where to vote? Call
716-478-4838 for information.**

Voter Qualifications:

- **Citizen of the United States**
- **At least 18 years old**
- **Must be a registered voter with the Niagara County Board of Elections**



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

