

WE ARE GREECE PROUD

Budget Newsletter

Investing in Our Children
Strengthening Our Community

Budget Vote >

MAY 19

MAY 2026



WE ARE GREECE PROUD

Budget Vote

MAY 19

Dear Greece Central School District Community,

Thank you for taking the time to read this budget newsletter. We often talk about schools in terms of achievements and test scores, but the reality is our buildings are where life happens. Whether it's helping a student through a tough day, teaching a new skill or connecting a family to a vital resource, our mission has grown.

The 2026-27 proposed budget reflects this reality and the diverse needs of our students and families. It is grounded in feedback from more than 3,000 stakeholders, ensuring community voice helps guide our decisions.

We are presenting this proposed budget during a time of significant financial pressure. Like many of you, our district is navigating rising costs for health care, utilities and fuel. We also face ongoing constraints from the tax levy cap and Foundation Aid limitations. In this environment, we have to be intentional with every dollar. Our focus is on putting resources where they matter most: into the hands of high-quality teachers and staff, and into the programs that provide the academic and emotional support students require today.

This proposal invests in expanded behavioral and instructional supports, strengthens early learning and incorporates instruction in financial and digital literacy. Together, these investments help address challenges early, keep students on track and provide them with the skills they will need to navigate a rapidly changing world.

As students move through our schools, we remain focused on preparing them for what comes next. The budget supports more than 65 courses that are eligible for college credit, career pathways and work-based learning opportunities, along with robust arts, athletics and extracurricular programs that keep students engaged and connected.

We encourage you to learn more ahead of the May 19 vote. Together, we remain committed to strong classroom experiences for every student and responsible stewardship of community resources.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for being Greece Proud.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Smalline
Superintendent

Sean McCabe
President, Board of Education



2026-27 Budget Basics

Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget	\$335,430,909
Budget-to-Budget Increase	\$16,901,353
% Budget-to-Budget Increase	5.31%
Estimated Tax Levy	\$130,990,326*
Estimated Change in Tax Levy	\$2,918,298
Estimated % Change in Tax Levy	2.27%*

* Represents maximum allowable levy per Tax Cap calculation and regulations



A Closer Look at the Proposed Budget

Projected Revenue Summary

PROJECTED REVENUES: \$ 335,430,909			
	2025-26 ADOPTED REVENUE	2026-27 ESTIMATED REVENUE	DOLLAR CHANGE
STATE AID	\$ 168,438,950	\$ 171,406,663	\$ 2,967,713
TAX LEVY/STAR REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 128,072,028	\$ 130,990,326	\$ 2,918,298
OTHER LOCAL	\$ 20,113,578	\$ 22,269,739	\$ 2,156,161
FEDERAL SOURCES	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ —
TRANSFERS & INTERNAL	\$ 455,000	\$ 1,238,978	\$ 783,978
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 9,075,203	\$ 8,075,203
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 318,529,556	\$ 335,430,909	\$ 16,901,353

Projected Expenses Summary

PROJECTED EXPENSES: \$ 335,430,909			
	2025-26 ADOPTED BUDGET	2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 37,683,100	\$ 39,124,005	\$ 1,440,905
INSTRUCTION	\$ 163,279,210	\$ 172,659,411	\$ 9,380,201
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 20,939,181	\$ 22,458,135	\$ 1,518,954
COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$ 975,668	\$ 1,018,747	\$ 43,079
UNDISTRIBUTED (EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & DEBT SERVICE)	\$ 95,652,397	\$ 100,170,611	\$ 4,518,214
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 318,529,556	\$ 335,430,909	\$ 16,901,353

Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories — administrative, program and capital.

	CURRENT 2025-26	ESTIMATED 2026-27
PROGRAM AMOUNT:	\$ 238,437,555	\$252,539,775

PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET:	74.86%	75.29%
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All costs directly associated with the delivery of instruction and services to students. This area includes salaries and benefits for teachers, transportation, special education services, textbooks and equipment.

CAPITAL AMOUNT:	\$ 42,850,075	\$44,978,939
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PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET:	13.45%	13.41%
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All costs directly associated with the maintenance, improvement and payment of debt on facilities and infrastructure. This area includes the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, utilities and general insurance.

ADMINISTRATIVE AMOUNT:	\$ 37,241,926	\$37,912,195
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PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET:	11.69%	11.30%
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All oversight and supervision not related to services provided directly to students as covered in the other two components. This area includes administrative salaries and benefits, legal and auditing costs and BOCES administrative costs.

Proposition 1: Bus Purchase

Proposition 1 seeks authorization to purchase 35 gas/diesel replacement buses:

15	70-passenger buses
10	70-passenger buses with cargo holds
2	35-passenger wheelchair accessible buses
8	30-passenger buses

The total aggregate cost would not exceed \$5,904,418. To eliminate the impact on the tax levy and tax rate, the district will utilize \$2,705,000 from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund and finance the purchase over five years with debt service beginning in 2026-27.

**Approval of
this proposition
would not impact
the tax levy or
tax rate.**



What This Budget Proposal Delivers

Teaching and Learning

Every student benefits from strong instruction, high-quality materials and continuous staff development.

- Skilled educators and classroom support staff in every school
- Ongoing professional learning and collaborative Professional Learning Centers
- High-quality curriculum and instructional resources
- Community Schools to strengthen home/school connections



A Strong Start for Early Learners

Investing early ensures students build the foundation for long-term success.

- Expanded PreK access to reduce waitlists
- Smaller kindergarten class sizes (18–20 students)
- Added support through Early Education TOSAs and paraprofessionals
- Enhanced kindergarten curriculum aligned for future success

College, Career & Future-Ready Skills

Students graduate with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college, careers and life.

- 65+ courses offering college credit opportunities
- AVID and Early College High School programs
- Career pathway programs, WEMOCO and GEWEP
- Implementation of NYS Portrait of a Graduate, including financial literacy
- New positions to support digital learning and innovation



Integrated Student Support Systems

Providing the right support at the right time helps every student thrive.

- Increased crisis interveners and behavioral/instructional coaches
- Expanded related service providers (OT, PT, Speech, Autism support)
- Strong Tier 1 instruction supported through PLCs



Safe, Well-Supported Schools

Safe, reliable and well-maintained schools create the conditions for learning.

- Upgraded technology, including student/staff devices and secure systems
- Ongoing hardware replacements and a modern cloud-based phone system
- Facility improvements and trained safety personnel
- Essential services: facilities, transportation, food service and medical services



Extracurricular Opportunities

Students explore interests, build relationships and grow beyond the classroom.

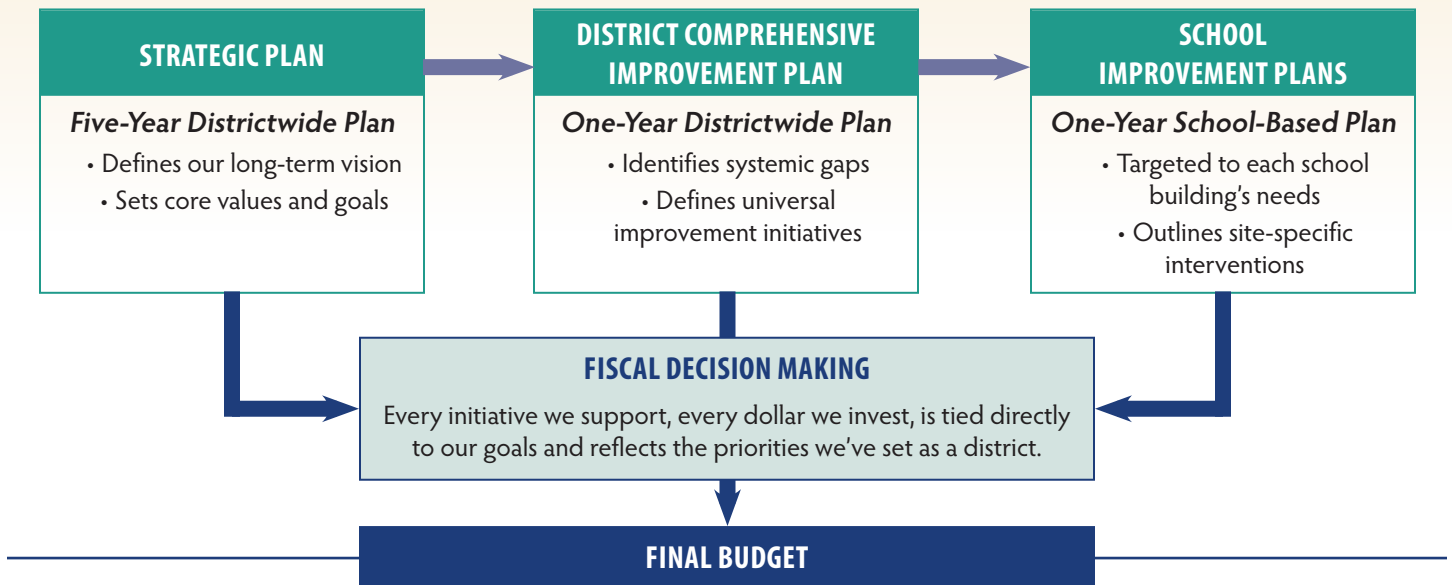
- 160+ athletic teams across the district
- Expanded modified sports to engage students earlier
- Districtwide opportunities like marching band and robotics
- Performing and visual arts, including concerts, productions and exhibitions
- After-school clubs and activities for all grade levels

Questions & Answers

Q: How does the district decide which programs or initiatives get funded each year?

A: Before an initiative is included in the budget proposal, it must align with our core values and specific improvement goals. By aligning our decisions with both our district wide vision and site-specific needs (as shown below), we ensure that every investment is purposeful, data-driven, and designed to close gaps in our schools.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES DRIVE FISCAL DECISIONS



Q: Does Proposition 1 include the purchase of electric buses?

A: No, we are not proposing any electric bus purchases this year, but we are asking voters to authorize the purchase of 10 more replacement buses than usual. Doing so will make our bus fleet more reliable and help us transition to electric buses if New York State's zero-emissions mandate, which requires all new buses purchased after July 1, 2027 to be electric, remains unchanged. By updating more of our buses now, we can gradually introduce electric buses and the needed charging infrastructure in a cost-effective, manageable way in future years.

Q: How was stakeholder feedback factored into the budget proposal?

A: The voices of 3,000+ stakeholders guided our fiscal decisions. This year's budget proposal funds the community's top priorities by increasing support for

diverse learners and early childhood education, investing in real-world learning and academic goal-setting and maintaining the essential supports that keep our schools secure and welcoming. Every initiative we support is tied directly to the goals we've set together as a district.

Q: How does the district prioritize student needs when inflation and rising costs create a budget gap?

A: Our top priority is making sure every dollar supports our students, staff and families. Even as the cost of fuel, utilities and health care continue to rise, we work hard to protect the programs and services that matter most for student learning and well-being. By making thoughtful adjustments and using reserve funds responsibly, we've been able to close the gap caused by inflation. This means we can stay within the tax levy cap for the 16th year in a row while still meeting the growing needs of our students and families.

Q: Will minor capital work be included in the budget?

A: Yes, the 2026-27 proposed budget includes \$100,000 for a minor capital project to be used for asbestos abatement and related room renovations at Odyssey Academy. This work continues the district's ongoing commitment to asbestos abatement districtwide and promotes the continual maintenance and safety of our school facilities. The capital project is eligible for state aid reimbursement back to the district within one year of project completion.



Board of Education Candidates

These four candidates are running for three open seats on the Greece Central School District Board of Education.

BALLOT POSITION #1

SEEKING FIRST TERM



NICHOLE SIWICKI

GREECE ADDRESS: 25 Wyndshire Lane

FAMILY: Husband, John; three children, all currently enrolled at Odyssey Academy

EDUCATION:

- Class of 2001 Greece Alumna
- BS Business Commerce, Niagara University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Previous HR Director with focus in fields relating to Higher Ed, Government Contracts, Policy Development, Recruitment, and Data Management
- Former Chair CWNV Industry Liaison Group responsible for communication between the USDOL and Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs
- Certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR/SHRM-CP)

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- PTSA President - Odyssey
- Parent Coordinator/Lead for Odyssey Music and Drama Annual Production
- ODY/OLY Griffins Sports Boosters
- Member of Parent Advisory Leadership Committee and District & School Improvement Teams

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD:

“As a lifelong Greece resident, alumna, & mom of three students in the district, I’m running for the BOE because our schools—and community—are evolving. My children are involved in academics, music, sports, robotics, & special education programs, giving me a firsthand understanding of the diverse needs of our students & families. Through years of volunteering at both the building and district level, I’ve seen how strong, transparent, & consistent communication leads to better outcomes. As GCSD prepares its 2027 strategic plan, I’m committed to ensuring every voice is heard & every decision reflects our community’s shared priorities.”

BALLOT POSITION #2

YEARS ON BOARD: 3



TODD BUTLER

GREECE ADDRESS: Briar Hill Drive

FAMILY: Wife, Andrea, and three children, all of whom are recent Athena graduates

EDUCATION:

- Greece Athena High School ‘88
- Bachelor’s Degree in Television/Radio Communications, Ithaca College
- Master’s Degree in Strategic Leadership, Roberts Wesleyan College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- President & CEO, Causewave Community Partners, 2005-present
- Adjunct Professor, RIT, Roberts Wesleyan University, Nazareth University
- Previous employment at Seneca Park Zoo Society, Genesee Country Village & Museum, Partners & Napier

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Volunteer, Greece Athena Music Theatre
- Cub Scout Den Leader, basketball and baseball assistant coach
- Board member, The Community Foundation, Alzheimer’s Association, Hochstein School of Music

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD:

“I have been honored to serve on the board for the past 3 years. We’ve lived in Greece for more than 40 years, with all five of us attending Greece schools from K-12. We’ve each benefited from the high-quality education, extracurriculars and sense of community here and I’m eager to do my part to keep the district on the path of continuous improvement. I believe my experience and skills can help our staff, teachers and each student meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. I’ll be guided by the principles of fiscal responsibility, clear communication, teamwork and respect for all, doing everything I can to support the goal: every student reaching their fullest potential.”

BALLOT POSITION #3

SEEKING FIRST TERM



JENNE LAPLACA

GREECE ADDRESS: Redcedar Drive

FAMILY: Husband, Robert and two children, Katelyn (8th grade) Athena Middle School and Andrew (3rd grade) Pine Brook Elementary

EDUCATION:

- Harbor Creek High School (Erie, PA)
- Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing, Pennsylvania State University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Registrar, Eastman School of Music - University of Rochester - Present
- Previous Employment: Assistant Registrar, Eastman School of Music - University of Rochester, Pharmacy Admissions Coordinator - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA), Pharmacy Admissions Counselor - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

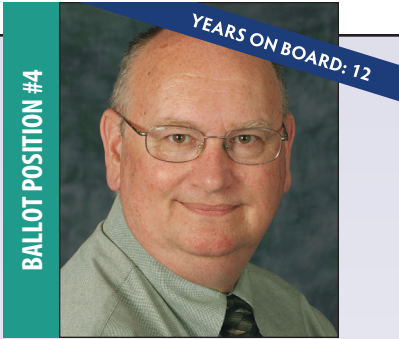
SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Past Member and Volunteer, Pine Brook Elementary PTSA
- Greece Blue Knights Marching Band Booster and Volunteer
- Member, Parent Advisory Leadership Council - GCSD
- Partners in Progress Participant - GCSD

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD:

“I’m running for the Board of Education because I care deeply about our students, families, and community. My goal is to advocate for parents, support our dedicated teachers and administration, and collaborate to create the best learning environment. I believe in transparency, school safety, fiscal responsibility, and continuous improvement. I want to celebrate our district’s successes while working to make it an even better place for our children to grow and thrive. I’m committed to being a passionate, supportive board member who prioritizes the well-being and success of every student and family in our district.”

School District Budget Notice



WILLIAM MALONEY

GREECE ADDRESS: Red Apple Lane

FAMILY: Wife, Joann, and three adult children who graduated from Olympia

EDUCATION:

- Attended both MCC and Bryant and Stratton College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Retired Greece Central School District Facilities Supervisor
- Former President of the Greece United Support Staff (GUSS) employee unit
- Vietnam Veteran

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Member of Greece Legion Post 468
- Member of the District Labor Relations and Wellness committees

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD:

“As a Greece resident, I have both a personal and professional commitment to our schools. All three of my children are graduates of Greece schools and I currently have two grandchildren and a great niece and nephew who attend Greece schools. In my 40-years as a Greece employee, I had the opportunity to work with people in many job titles. My experience provides me with a unique perspective on the inner working of the district that is a benefit to the Board and the Greece community. If re-elected, I will continue to work to ensure that my grandchildren and all Greece students continue to receive the same quality of education my children received. I would appreciate your vote.”

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	\$ 318,529,556	\$ 335,430,909	\$ 332,512,611
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 16,901,353	\$ 13,983,055
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.13%	4.39%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount			
	\$ 128,072,028	\$ 130,990,326	
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)	\$ 128,072,028	\$ 130,990,326	\$ 128,072,028
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,978,077	\$ 3,032,462	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 125,093,952	\$ 127,957,865	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 125,093,951	\$ 127,957,864	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 1	\$ 1	
Administrative Component			
	\$ 37,241,926	\$ 37,912,195	\$ 37,662,195
Program Component			
	\$ 238,437,576	\$ 252,539,775	\$ 251,821,477
Capital Component			
	\$ 42,850,075	\$ 44,978,939	\$ 43,028,939

* 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.

The contingency budget was calculated under NYE Education Law, Section 2023. Actual line item appropriations under a contingency budget will be determined by the Board of Education. Certain equipment purchases and capital projects not necessary to maintain the health and safety of the students and some raises for non-union employees must be eliminated under the Education Law. A contingent budget would reduce Greece CSD spending by \$2,918,298. Equipment expenditures would be reduced and planned capital projects would be eliminated. All contract services would be evaluated to identify opportunities for savings and efficiencies.

** 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 1: Bus Replacement Purchase	\$5,904,418

	UNDER THE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$537

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Greece Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held at the district’s Transportation and Support Services Building on Latta Road in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Jeremy Smalline

2025-26 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Sean McCabe
President

Mr. Jordan Stenzel
Vice President

Mr. Mark Buonaugurio

Mr. Todd Butler

Mrs. Annamaria Falzarano

Ms. Tracey Farmer

Mrs. Mary Lyke

Mr. William Maloney

Ms. Monica Seaman



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Things to Be Aware of When You Head to the Polls

Voter Qualifications

In order to vote, you must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old, a registered Monroe County voter, and a resident of the Greece Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.

Voter Registration

To vote in Greece School elections, you need to be registered. If you haven't registered yet, you can do so online at monroecounty.gov/elections-registration or by picking up a paper form at any DMV or request a paper form by calling 753-1150. New voter registrations must be finalized at least 10 days before the vote.

Absentee and Early Voting Ballots

If you will be out of town on May 19, are temporarily or permanently ill or disabled, or the caregiver of someone who is ill or disabled, you may be eligible to vote via absentee ballot. All registered school district voters are also eligible to vote by early mail. Absentee and early voting applications are available on the district website, www.greececsd.org, or from the District Clerk by calling 966-2010. Absentee and early voting ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 19.

Ballots, Budget Materials Now Available in Spanish

Greece voters will have the option to cast their ballots in English or Spanish. According to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, counties with a population of at least 10,000 must provide voting materials in languages other than English if at least 5% of voting-age citizens belong to a single language minority group. The voting machines will prompt voters to choose between English and Spanish, displaying the ballot in their selected language.

One Districtwide Polling Location

All district residents will vote at Greece Central's Transportation and Support Services Facility, located at 1790 Latta Rd.

Budget Vote > **MAY 19**

POLLS ARE OPEN 6 A.M.-9 P.M.

Lea este boletín en español

Haga clic en el código QR para leer este boletín en español en el sitio web del distrito. (Click the QR Code to read this newsletter in Spanish on the district website.)

