



2024-2025

School Budget Vote & BOE Election

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
12-8 p.m. - Auditorium



All individuals must provide proof of residency at the vote.

Proof must include a physical address, not a P.O. Box.

Budget proposal maintains programming

On Tuesday, May 21, Cambridge CSD residents will vote on a proposed \$26,207,887 budget for the 2024-25 school year. The proposed budget balances the taxpayers' ability to support the district while maintaining learning opportunities and programming for students. In addition to considering the budget proposal, residents will also vote on propositions related to bus leasing and purchasing, a transportation capital reserve fund and the Cambridge Public Library.

Voters will also elect two candidates to fill open seats on the Board of Education. The successful candidates will serve three-year terms through June 30, 2027 (see p. 4).

Budget remains within tax cap

The school tax levy, or total amount of money collected from local property owners, would increase by \$174,272. This 1.8% increase is below the allowable tax cap of 1.9% and requires a simple majority vote.

BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget:
\$26,207,887

Budget Increase:
\$1,401,767

Tax Levy Increase:
1.8%



The Cambridge Odyssey of the Mind team attended the New York State Finals competition on April 13 where they placed 6th out of 21 teams! Fifth Graders: Gavin Alexander, Amaya Austin, Milo Cartin, Dominic Scully, Ellery Rollend, Charlie Romano and Andyn Vallone

Also on the ballot:

- ➔ BOE Election
- ➔ Bus Lease & Purchase Proposition
- ➔ Transportation Capital Reserve Fund
- ➔ Public Library Proposition



Budget Q&A

Q What is the difference between the tax levy and tax rate?

A The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises in taxes each year from all property owners in the district.

The tax rate is the amount paid for each \$1,000 of taxable assessed value of property. The rate is used to calculate each individual property tax bill.

In districts that encompass more than one municipality, equalization rates are factored in as well to assign a fair share of the tax levy among the municipalities and to the taxpayers within them.

Q How are school tax bills calculated?

A School tax bills are calculated using a property's assessed value, as determined by the local town assessor, and the property tax rate. STAR exemptions or other exclusions can reduce school tax bills for eligible residents.

Q How could STAR reduce my school taxes?

A New York State's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR, provides partial school property tax savings to eligible homeowners. Most New Yorkers who own and live in their homes are eligible for STAR savings on their primary residences. There are two STAR programs, basic and enhanced, with different eligibility requirements.

The maximum exemptions individuals with basic or enhanced STAR could receive varies by township.

More information about STAR can be found at: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/eligibility.htm>.

Q Are taxpayers' STAR savings factored into the budget?

A No. The STAR program is tax relief for homeowners paid for by New York state through state taxes. This tax relief for homeowners does not affect the school district budget.



Voters to decide on bus lease/purchase proposition & transportation capital reserve fund

As part of the May 21 budget vote, voters will consider a proposition regarding school bus leasing/purchasing and a proposition to establish a transportation capital reserve fund.

This year, the district is proposing a five-year bus lease agreement for one 2024 70-passenger bus and a purchase agreement for two 2019 70-passenger

school buses and one 2024 8-passenger school van. The proposition reflects a total cost of \$297,615. On average, 78% of the cost would be reimbursed through transportation aid.

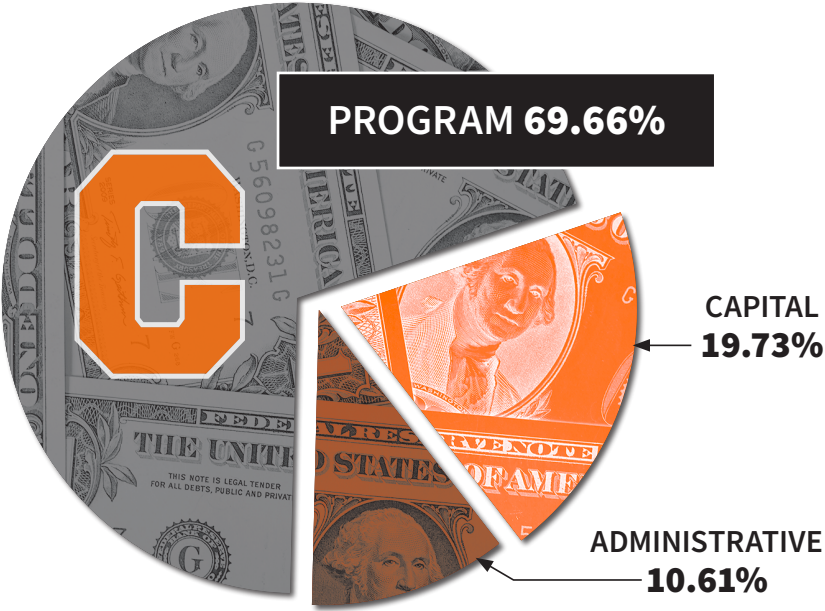
Also being proposed is the establishment of a transportation capital reserve fund. The fund would have a probable term of 10 years with an ultimate amount of \$250,000.

Q What is a "fund balance" and how does it help offset what I pay in school taxes?

A Fund balance is created when there is money left at the end of the fiscal year, either by the district spending less than budgeted or receiving more revenue than anticipated. An unassigned fund balance

provides monies that can be used for a variety of needs, unlike reserve funds, which are targeted for specific purposes. While recommendations from within the financial industry often suggest that an organization should have an unassigned fund balance of between 5 and 10% of their total annual budget, New York state limits school districts' fund balances to 4%.

2024-25 Proposed Budget



EXPENDITURE SUMMARY			
PROGRAM	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Instruction	\$5,304,550	\$5,364,996	\$60,446
Special Education	\$3,285,245	\$3,241,258	-\$43,987
Transportation Garage	\$1,777,560	\$1,645,520	-\$132,040
Student Support Services	\$1,697,933	\$1,765,166	\$67,233
Benefits	\$5,369,848	\$6,239,235	\$869,387
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$17,435,136	\$18,256,175	\$821,039

CAPITAL			
	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Plant Operation	\$1,127,878	\$1,286,999	\$159,121
Plant Maintenance	\$275,927	\$212,250	-\$63,677
Special Items	\$226,555	\$227,575	\$1,020
Bus Purchases	\$50,000	\$145,000	\$95,000
Benefits	\$440,668	\$512,012	\$71,344
Debt Service	\$2,787,558	\$2,788,134	\$576
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$4,908,586	\$5,171,970	\$263,384

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 24,806,120	\$26,207,887	\$25,702,227
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,401,767	\$505,660
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.7 %	1.97%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,654,988	\$9,829,260	
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 Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$9,654,988	\$9,829,260	\$9,654,988
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$767,296	\$674,800	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,887,692	\$9,154,460	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,887,692	\$9,154,460	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,670,141	\$2,779,742	\$2,772,042
Program Component	\$17,227,394	\$18,256,175	\$18,130,215
Capital Component	\$4,908,585	\$5,171,970	\$4,799,970

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** 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
	Bus Lease/Purchase - 1 lease, 3 purchases	\$297,615
	Capital Reserve - Establish bus reserve	\$250,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$455

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Cambridge school district, Washington County, New York, will be held at Cambridge Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in Cambridge Central School, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE			
	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Board of Education	\$45,867	\$101,640	\$55,773
Central Administration	\$596,828	\$604,035	\$7,207
Curriculum Development	\$134,000	\$134,000	\$0
Supervision-Regular School	\$552,823	\$609,241	\$56,418
Supervision-Non Instructional	\$196,000	\$171,800	-\$24,200
Benefits	\$484,734	\$563,214	\$78,480
Special Items	\$452,146	\$595,812	\$143,666
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$2,462,398	\$2,779,742	\$317,344

REVENUE SUMMARY			
	2023-24	2024-25	Change
State Aid-Operating Expenses	\$11,632,240	\$12,250,905	\$618,665
Local School Taxes	\$9,654,988	\$9,829,260	\$174,272
State Aid - Capital Expenses	\$2,329,773	\$2,532,699	\$202,926
Misc Revenue	\$390,000	\$694,982	\$304,982
Fund Balance	\$799,119	\$800,000	\$881
Transfers from Other Funds	\$0	\$100,041	\$100,041
TOTAL REVENUES	\$24,806,120	\$26,207,887	\$1,401,767

TOTAL BUDGET	\$24,806,120	\$26,207,887	\$1,401,767
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ENHANCED STAR

If you are 65 or older, call your town assessor to ask if you qualify for and are receiving the Enhanced STAR tax rebate.

58 South Park Street
Cambridge, NY 12816
518-677-2653

BOARD OF EDUCATION

David Shay Price, *President*
Jessica Ziehm, *Vice President*
Ted Flint
Joseph Hamilton
Dillon Honyoust

ADMINISTRATION

Ken Facin, *Interim Superintendent of Schools*
Michele Hogan, *School Business Administrator*
Caroline Goss, *Secondary Principal*
Ralph Harrington, *Secondary Associate Principal*
Jerry Gibson, *Elementary Principal*

EDITOR

Chris Crucetti
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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Budget VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 - 12-8 p.m. - Auditorium

Qualifications to vote

- ✓ Citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age.
- ✓ Resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- ✓ No person shall have the right to register for or vote at any school meeting or election who has been convicted of a felony per Section 5-106 of the election law.



All individuals must provide proof of residency at the vote.

CONNECT WITH CCS

- facebook.com/CambridgeCentralSchool
- @CambridgeCSD
- @cambridgecsd
- www.cambridgecsd.org

What will appear on the ballot

PROPOSITION #1:

- \$26,207,887 budget proposal for 2024-25

PROPOSITION #2:

- \$75,000 public library proposal

PROPOSITION #3:

- \$297,615 bus lease/purchase proposition

PROPOSITION #4:

- \$250,000 transportation capital reserve fund

Board of Education candidates:

The Board of Education is made up of five members who serve three-year terms. This year, two seats will be filled at the vote on May 21. The three-year terms will begin July 1, 2024. Candidates are listed below in the order that they will appear on the ballot.


- David Shay Price
- Dillon Honyoust
- Christine Congelosi-Lulla

Absentee ballots/ Early voting

Applications for absentee ballots are obtainable between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the district clerk's office at 58 South Park Street. Completed applications 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 the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 21.

The New York Early Mail Voter Act allows registered voters to request a mail-in ballot. You can request an early voter ballot in person up to the day of the election.

BY THE NUMBERS


104
square miles
encompass the district


10,500+
books checked out from
library media centers
this year



900+ Chromebooks
distributed to students and staff


5 NYS PHSAA
scholar-athlete teams


50+
clubs and
extracurricular
activities for students


89,000+ breakfasts
& lunches served this year


62
acres of grounds


331,000+
miles driven by school
vehicles in a year


200,000+ square feet of
buildings cleaned daily