



OUR MISSION

The mission of the district, a partnership of schools, parents and the community, is to prepare its students for success in tomorrow's world.

Beliefs & Commitments

- **WE BELIEVE IN HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL.**

COMMITMENT: All students will be prepared for success and supported through personal growth, academic achievement and comprehensive career education with clearly defined individual plans.

- **WE BELIEVE IN A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CULTURE.**

COMMITMENT: All students, staff and families will be engaged in an environment that promotes caring relationships, open communication, wellness and safety.

- **WE BELIEVE IN FUTURE-READY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.**

COMMITMENT: All students will be immersed in learning to become creative thinkers, life-long learners, effective problem-solvers, communicators and collaborators.

- **WE BELIEVE IN THE EFFICIENCY OF RESOURCES.**

COMMITMENT: The district will be innovative in maximizing the efficiency and equity of resources.

District Highlights

- A grant-funded universal Pre-Kindergarten program serves 54 three-year-olds and 90 four-year olds. A new four-year-old class will be added in the coming school year bringing the total to 108.
- Middle school students can earn high school credit in living environment, algebra, and Spanish or French.
- Cohoes High School students have access to over 100 dual-credit opportunities in core content areas, as well as several new elective courses in the arts, music, theatre and business. There is also an 8-credit physics class and HVCC Lifetime Fitness class. Students can earn 60+ college credits through the Future-Ready Pathways program. We will welcome the seventh cohort of students for the 2023-24 school year, for a total of 175 students.
- A variety of career awareness and readiness opportunities are provided to students throughout grades K-12. High school students can choose from 28 Career and Technical Education courses through Capital Region BOCES, including: auto services, criminal justice, culinary arts, game design, nursing, pet tech and welding.
- There are more than 25 clubs and activities, including Student Council, Robotics, Yearbook, National Honor Society, Ski Club and athletics (including e-Sports). Drama Club is offered in grades 4-12 and two musicals are produced per year. Students also have the opportunity to participate in band or chorus.
- The district provides a technology-rich environment in which every student in grades 3-12 is provided a 1:1 chromebook and students in grades K-2 have ready access.

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COHOES
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

21 Page Avenue / Cohoes, NY 12047
www.cohoes.org

BUDGET VOTE:

Residents will vote on a proposed budget of \$52,340,637 for the 2023-24 school year. Additionally, they will elect two school board members.

The proposed budget includes a spending increase of \$5,340,112 or 11.36% over the current school year with most of the added expenses offset by an additional \$5 million the district will receive in state aid – an increase that stems from the state Legislature's commitment to fully fund foundation aid by the 2023-24 school year.

POLLING LOCATIONS:

- ABRAM LANSING SCHOOL
26 James Street
- HARMONY HILL SCHOOL
120 Madelon K. Hickey Way
- VAN SCHAICK GRADE SCHOOL
150 Continental Avenue

Find your polling location or request an absentee ballot at cohoes.org/budget-taxes.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS:

- U.S. Citizen
- Resident of the district at least 30 days prior to the vote
- 18 years of age or older

If you are registered to vote in general elections, you are automatically eligible to vote in school elections.

Don't forget to Vote!

Annual Budget Vote

TUESDAY, MAY 16

NOON - 9 P.M.

Why They Are Important

The school budget is the foundation for the district's operations. It determines the level of services provided to students and the salaries of staff. The budget also determines the level of investment in facilities, technology, and other resources. The budget is a reflection of the district's priorities and vision for the future. It is a document that is developed through a process of consultation and collaboration with the community. The budget is a tool that is used to ensure that the district is able to provide the highest quality of education for all students.

Postal Patron

**Preparing our students for
success in tomorrow's world.**

COHOES
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SCHOOL BUDGET
2023-2024**

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

www.cohoes.org

Increase in state aid supports school budget

On Tuesday, May 16, Cohoes residents will head to the polls to vote on a proposed \$52.3 million school district spending plan for the 2023-24 school year. The budget proposal represents a 1% increase — or \$177,498 — to the tax levy, which is the total amount of money the district can raise through property taxes. Because the proposed tax levy is within the district's allowable limit under the state's tax “cap” formula, a simple majority (50% plus 1) is needed for approval on May 16. District leaders estimate that taxes on a home with a market value of \$150,000 would increase by about \$30 annually, or \$2.37 per month (before STAR exemptions).

The proposed spending plan represents a \$5.3 million increase over the current year with most of the added expenses offset by an additional \$5 million the district will receive in state aid – an increase that stems from the state Legislature's commitment to fully fund foundation aid by the 2023-24 school year.

The increase in state aid would allow the district to restore several positions that had been eliminated in previous years. It will also support select existing positions that were previously paid for through federal grants that are scheduled to expire. The spending plan includes adding 10.3 positions to meet student needs, as well as a \$100,000 capital outlay project for improvements to the Cohoes High School auditorium.

Residents will also elect two members to the Board of Education, each for a three-year term.

The vote will be held from noon-9 p.m. at the district's three polling sites: Abram Lansing Elementary, Harmony Hill School and Van Schaick Grade School.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The planning process began with each of the district's schools and departments conducting a needs assessment. The assessment and subsequent proposals were submitted to the district's budget committee. The budget committee then conducted a return on investment analysis and made recommendations to the Board of Education regarding what should be included in the 2023-24 budget.

The proposed budget includes the following highlights:

- 2.0 campus safety monitors (1.0 at middle school and 1.0 at high school),who will also assist at the elementary schools as needed
- 1.0 English as a New Language (ENL) teacher at Harmony Hill
- 1.0 special education teacher and 3 full-time aides for a functional skills classroom at Abram Lansing
- 1.0 teacher assistant - special programs support at Cohoes Middle School
- 1.0 secretary (10-month) at Cohoes High School (restoration)
- 0.4 math teacher at Cohoes Middle School
- 0.4 social studies teacher at Cohoes Middle School
- 0.5 facilities secretary (12-month; district-wide)
- 1.0 cleaner (district-wide)

For more details on the 2023-24 budget, please visit cohoes.org



Capital Outlay Project

The proposed budget includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project for Cohoes High School. This will be used for improvements in the high school auditorium.

The existing grant-funded positions that are proposed to be transitioned to the general budget include a 1.0 psychologist, which allows for full-time school psychologist coverage at Abram Lansing and Van Schaick, a K-12 career education coordinator, a social worker at Cohoes High School (restoration), a 10-month secretary at Cohoes Middle School (restoration), and summer guidance support at the middle school and high school (restoration).

For more information on the proposed budget and voting details, please visit the district website at www.cohoes.org.

What if the budget is voted down?

Under New York state law, if the proposed budget is not approved by a majority of voters on May 16, the district may submit the same budget proposal or a revised budget for a second vote in June, or adopt a contingent budget. If a budget proposal (revised or not) is defeated a second time, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

Under the state's tax "cap" law, a district that adopts a contingent budget would be held to a property tax levy equal to or less than that levied in the current school year. Under a contingent budget, Cohoes would have to eliminate about \$274,000 from the proposed budget by making reductions.

Board election

In addition to the budget, voters will also elect two members to the Board of Education.

Visit cohoes.org for more information.



School District Budget Notice

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Cohoes City School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at the Abram Lansing Elementary, Harmony Hill Elementary and Van Schaick Grade School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, between the hours of 12 p.m. and 9 p.m. prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$47,000,525	\$52,340,637	\$52,066,802
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$5,340,112	\$5,066,277
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		11.36%	10.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$17,749,770	\$17,927,268	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0.00	\$0.00	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0.00	\$0.00	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0.00	\$0.00	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$17,749,770	\$17,927,268	\$17,653,433
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$83,612	\$83,926	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,666,158	\$17,952,424	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$17,666,158	\$17,843,342	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval –See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0.00	\$109,082	
Administrative Component	\$5,152,118	\$4,262,026	\$4,238,191
Program Component	\$34,355,872	\$41,747,872	\$41,722,872
Capital Component	\$7,492,535	\$6,330,739	\$6,105,739
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 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	
	None	\$0.00	

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$510

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Cohoes City School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Abram Lansing Elementary, Harmony Hill Elementary and Van Schaick Grade school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Abram Lansing Elementary, Harmony Hill Elementary and Van Schaick Grade school(s), 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.

BUDGET BREAKDOWNS

Expenditures			Revenues		
	2022-23	Proposed 2023-24		2022-23	Proposed 2023-24
Instruction	\$24,734,078	\$28,540,239	State Aid	\$24,411,104	\$30,179,315
Employee Benefits	\$11,966,427	\$13,180,785	Building Aid	\$3,478,229	\$2,751,011
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,002,768	\$5,513,058	Federal Aid	\$200,000	\$225,000
Transportation	\$1,719,549	\$1,914,625	Property Taxes	\$17,749,770	\$17,927,268
Debt Service	\$3,477,703	\$3,091,930	Payments in Lieu of Taxes/Interest	\$436,877	\$538,018
Interfund Transfers	\$100,000	\$100,000	Consumer Utility Taxes	\$520,025	\$520,025
Total Expenditures	\$47,000,525	\$52,340,637	Refunds, Tuition & Other	\$204,520	\$200,000
			Interfund Revenues	\$0	\$0
			Fund Balance	\$0	\$0
			TOTAL	\$47,000,525	\$52,340,637