



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Cohoes City School 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, cooperation, wellness and safety.

• WE BELIEVE IN FUTURE-READY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

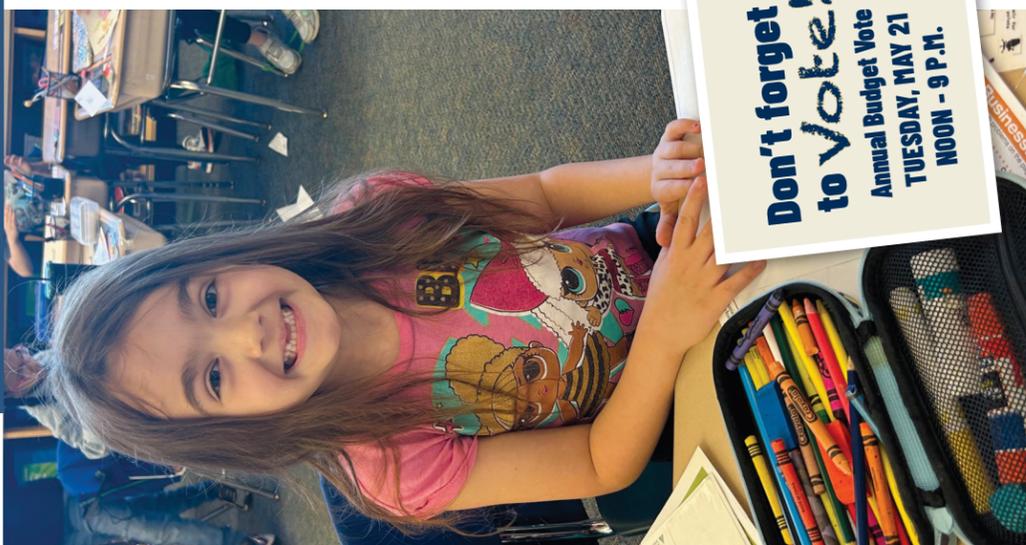
COMMITMENT: All students will be immersed in learning to become creative thinkers, lifelong learners, effective problem-solvers, communicators and collaborators.

• WE BELIEVE IN THE EFFICIENCY AND EQUITY OF RESOURCES.

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

District Highlights

- A grant-funded, full-day prekindergarten program is located in all three of our elementary schools serving 54 three-year olds and up to 108 four-year olds.
- Cohoes High School students have access to over 32 dual credit courses, totaling 100 college credits. Students can earn up to 60+ college credits through the Future Ready Pathways program and choose from 25 Career and Technical Education courses through Capital Region BOCES.
- A variety of career awareness and readiness opportunities are provided to students throughout grades K-12. From career and college fairs to presentations from business leaders, students get a glimpse of the many opportunities that await them upon high school graduation.
- The district offers more than 25 clubs and activities for students, including Digital Media Club, Student Council, Robotics and Ski Club. There is a vibrant drama program, including a Junior Drama Club and High School Drama Club. Students can also participate in chorus in fifth grade and band beginning in sixth grade.
- Cohoes athletics offers esports, unified basketball and bowling and 20 other athletic offerings, with many of our student athletes recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), which honors teams and individuals that excel in the classroom.



BUDGET VOTE:

Residents will vote on a proposed budget of \$52,439,681 for the 2024-25 school year. Additionally, they will elect two school board members. The candidates - Richard Jackson and Renee Snyder - are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot, which was determined by a random drawing.

The proposed budget includes a spending increase of \$1,099,044 (or 2.1%) over the current year, with the majority of the additional expenses (\$900,000) funded by an increase in state aid - which stems from the state legislature's commitment to fully-funded foundation.

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
- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of the district at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Early voters may apply for an early ballot for the school budget and board of education election by completing an application, which can be requested from the District Clerk.

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

Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

COHOES

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

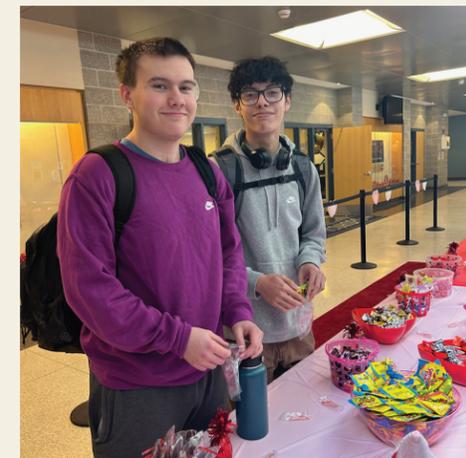
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Preparing our students for
success in tomorrow's world.



COHOES

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BUDGET
2024-2025

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

www.cohoes.org

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State aid continues to support student needs

Cohoes residents will head to the polls on Tuesday, May 21 to vote on a proposed \$53.4 million school district spending plan for the 2024-25 school year. The district anticipates that the 2.1% increase will be primarily supported by an approximate \$900,000 in additional state funding over the current year. The proposed budget represents a 1% increase of \$179,273 to the tax levy, which is the total amount of money the district can raise through property taxes. Because the proposed tax levy is below the district's allowable limit under the state's tax "cap" formula, a simple majority (50% plus 1) is needed for approval on May 21. District leaders estimate that taxes on a home with a market value of \$150,000 would increase by about \$30 annually, or under \$3 per month (before STAR exemptions).

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

The vote will be held from noon-9p.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, which 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 2024-25 budget.

The following positions were previously grant-funded through the American Rescue Plan. With these funds set to expire, these positions are now included in the general district budget:

- 1.0 intervention specialist at Abram Lansing
- 1.0 SEL behavior coach at Harmony Hill
- 1.0 teacher at Harmony Hill
- 1.0 dean of students and 1.0 social worker at the middle school
- 1.0 dean of students at the high school

The proposed budget also includes the following highlights:

Elementary

- 0.4 speech teacher, 0.4 physical therapist and 0.4 occupational therapist for special education programming
- 1.0 campus safety monitor at Abram Lansing and 1.0 campus safety monitor at Harmony Hill
- 1.0 special education aide
- Part-time ELL support aides at Harmony Hill

Middle School

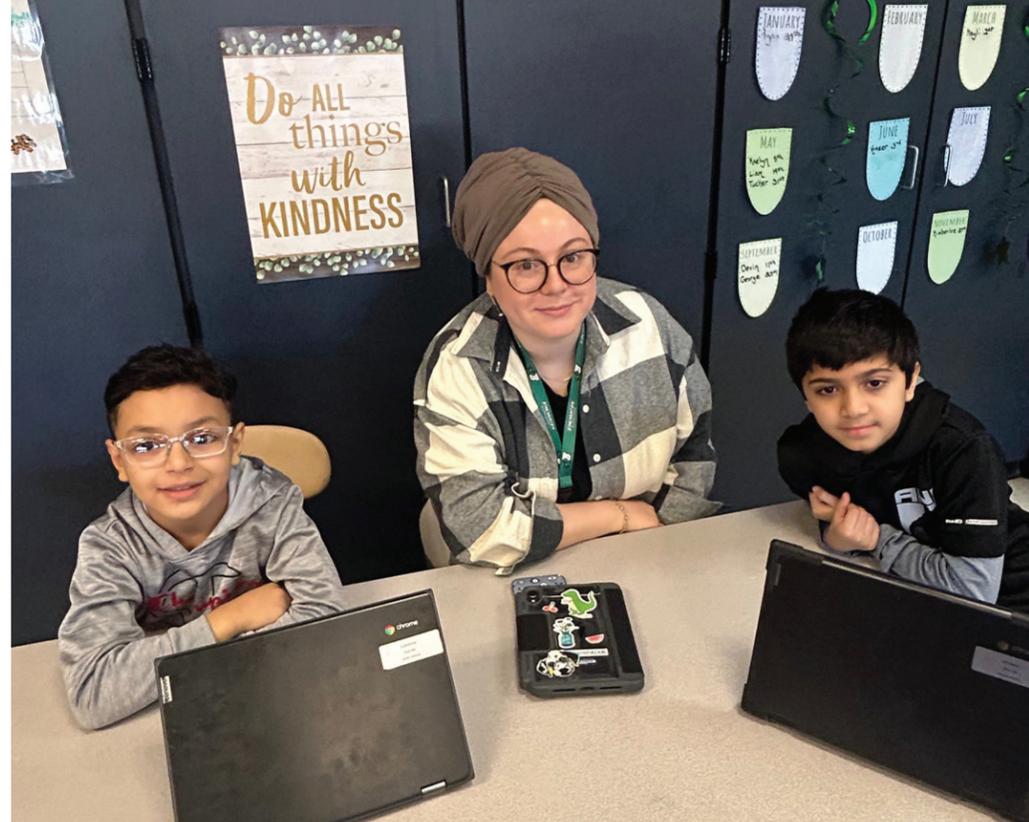
- 1.0 Spanish teacher (currently 0.6)
- 0.2 physical education teacher

High School

- 1.0 Tutoring Center instructor
- 0.3 special education teacher (currently 0.7)
- 0.2 health teacher

Operations

- 1.0 maintenance mechanic
- Health & safety equipment



Board Election on the Ballot

Voters will elect two new members to the Board of Education. Each seat is for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027. The candidates - Richard Jackson and Renee Snyder - are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot, which was determined by a random drawing. Visit cohoes.org for more candidate information.

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 21, 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. Cohoes would have to eliminate about \$265,000 from the proposed budget by making reductions.



School District Budget Notice

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 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 21, between the hours of noon 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 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	\$52,340,637	\$53,439,681	\$53,174,668
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,099,044	\$834,031
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.10%	1.59%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$17,927,268	\$18,106,541	
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)	\$17,927,268	\$18,106,541	\$17,841,528
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$83,926	\$88,498	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,952,424	\$18,273,097	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$17,843,342	\$18,018,043	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$109,082	\$255,054	
Administrative Component	\$4,262,026	\$4,492,949	\$4,471,436
Program Component	\$41,747,872	\$43,943,020	\$43,913,020
Capital Component	\$6,330,739	\$5,003,712	\$4,790,212

* 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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$481

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

BUDGET BREAKDOWNS

	EXPENDITURES		REVENUES	
	2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	2023-24	Proposed 2024-25
Instruction	\$28,540,239	\$30,189,881	State Aid	\$30,179,315
Employee Benefits	\$13,180,785	\$13,668,432	Building Aid	\$2,751,011
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,513,058	\$5,854,674	Federal Aid	\$225,000
Transportation	\$1,914,625	\$2,043,634	Property Taxes	\$17,927,268
Debt Service	\$3,091,930	\$1,683,060	Payments in Lieu of Taxes/Interest	\$538,018
Interfund Transfers	\$100,000	\$-	Consumer Utility Taxes	\$520,025
Total Expenditures	\$52,340,637	\$53,439,681	Refunds, Tuition & Other **	\$200,000
			Interfund Revenues	\$-
			Fund Balance	\$-
			Total Revenue	\$52,340,637
				\$53,439,681