



Budget Hearing

May 6, 2026

Cohoes High School Box Garden Proposal

Board of Education Presentation



Proposed Box
Garden Area

Illustrative scaled placement



TYPICAL BOX GARDEN DIMENSIONS



Built from 2x4 framing
and 1x8 side boards.

Planter Box Design

Standard Raised Bed Construction



Illustration shown for design intent.

MATERIALS

- 2x4 framing lumber
- 1x8 side boards
- Exterior deck screws
- Soil and plants added separately

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- Durable wood frame
- Accessible raised planting height
- Simple student-built design



Estimated Cost Per Unit

2' x 4' x 8' Raised Box Garden

ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1x8x8 side boards	9 boards	\$13.00	\$117.00
2x4x8 framing boards	3 boards	\$5.50	\$16.50
Exterior deck screws	1 box	\$10.00	\$10.00
Misc. hardware / waste allowance	—	—	\$6.50
Estimated Total Per Unit =			\$150.00



*Estimated material cost only. Soil, plants, and tax not included.
Prices may vary by supplier.*

Project Summary & Educational Value

Box Garden Proposal Overview



1. LOCATION

Grassy hill beyond the far end of the football field



2. PLANTER SIZE

2' x 4' x 8'
raised planter boxes



3. ESTIMATED UNIT COST

\$150.00 per box
(materials only)



4. STUDENT BENEFITS

Hands-on learning, teamwork,
stewardship, and campus
beautification

PROPOSED LOCATION



TYPICAL BOX GARDEN



Recommendation: Approve the class box garden project.



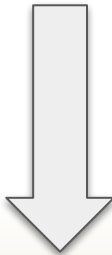
Proposed Budget

2025-26 Cohoes City School District Budget	2026-27 Cohoes City School District Proposed Budget	Total Change
\$54,865,497	\$57,062,442	\$2,196,945 +4%



Revenue Summary

Revenue	2025-2026	2026-2027	\$ Change	% Change	% Budget
 State Aid*	\$34,666,325	\$36,040,000	\$1,373,675	3.96%	63.16%
Federal Aid	\$270,000	\$290,000	\$20,000	7.41%	.51%
Property Taxes	\$18,468,672	\$18,468,672	\$0.00	0.00%	32.37%
PILOT	\$560,500	\$1,305,770	\$745,270	132.97%	2.29%
Consumer Utility Taxes	\$600,000	\$625,000	\$25,000	4.17%	1.10%
Refunds, Tuition, Other	\$300,000	\$333,000	\$33,000	11.00%	.58%
Total Revenue	\$54,865,497	\$57,062,442	\$2,196,945	4.00%	100%



***State Aid
based on
Governor's
Proposal,
1% increase
in Foundation
Aid**



2026 - 2027 Tax Levy Information

Proposed Tax Levy +0% , \$18,468,672

Revenue Impact: The proposed tax levy is no greater than the current year levy (\$0 or 0%)

**Estimated impact to average homeowner (\$150k AV) is \$10 per month (before star exemptions).
Basic Star Exemption is decreasing from \$460 to \$412.**

Voter Authorization: The proposed levy is within the tax cap, requiring a simple majority vote of (50% + 1).
The Tax Cap: Allowable Levy \$18,473,363 (+ \$4,691)

Historical Trending:	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025-2026
Levy % Increase	+1%	+1%	+2%



Tax Terms & Definitions

Tax Levy

A school tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises through local property taxes to fund its budget.

Assessment Roll

A public, official record prepared annually by local assessors that lists all properties within a municipality, their owners, and their assessed values. It acts as the legal foundation for calculating property taxes and exemptions.

Tax Rate

A tax rate is the amount (per \$1,000 of assessed value) applied to assessed property value. Calculation:
 $\text{Taxable Assessed Value} / \text{Tax Levy} (*1,000)$

*Estimated Tax Rate \$41.07 (CY \$38.59)

*Based on preliminary assessment roll & is subject to change

Equalization Rate

Used to ensure fair distribution of taxes across municipalities that assess properties at different percentages of market value.



Proposed Expense Summary

Expense Category	2025-2026	2026-2027	\$ Change	% Change	% Budget
Instruction	\$29,590,215	\$31,350,784	\$1,760,569	5.95%	55%
Employee Benefits	\$14,210,800	\$14,634,505	\$423,705	2.98%	26%
Transportation	\$2,549,326	\$2,807,290	\$257,964	10.12%	5%
Operations	\$6,177,199	\$6,560,128	\$382,929	6.20%	11%
Debt Service	\$2,337,957	\$1,709,735	(\$628,222)	(26.87)%	3%
Interfund Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	0%
Total Expenses	\$54,865,497	\$57,062,442	\$2,196,945	4%	100%



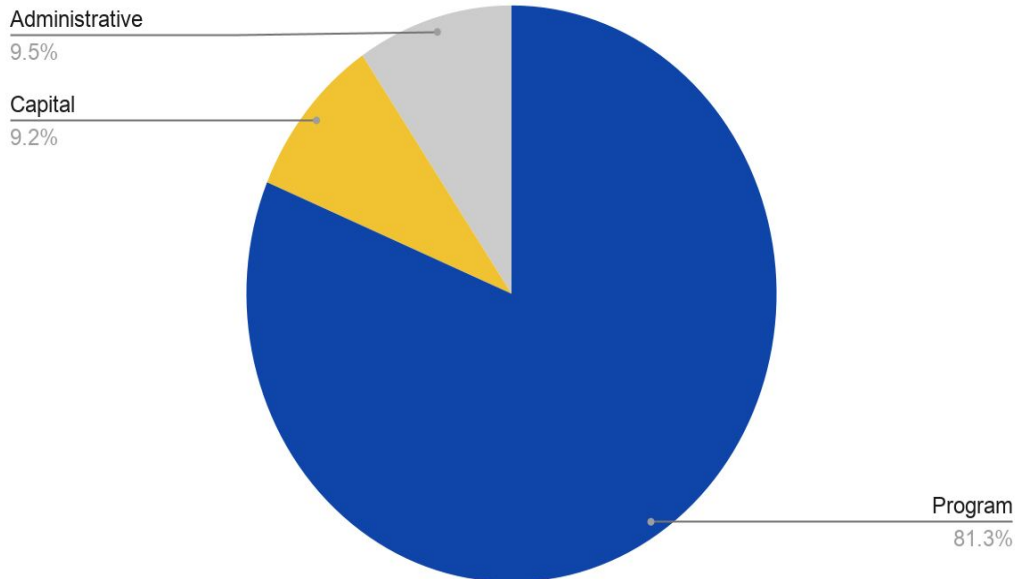
Three Part Budget

Program costs include salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, etc.), textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular activities, athletics, BOCES program costs, and transportation costs.

Capital costs include salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings, bus purchases, utilities, insurance, tax certiorari, and other court-ordered costs.

Administrative costs include salaries and benefits of administrators and administrative clerical staff, school board costs, curriculum development, staff development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing, BOCES administrative costs, research, planning and evaluation.

Proposed 26/27 Budget





2026 -2027 Budget Highlights

Elementary Recommendations:

New Positions:

- Math AIS Teacher - 1.0 FTE (Abram Lansing)
- Behavioral Support - 1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant, 1.0 FTE Aide (Abram Lansing)
- ESL Teacher - .5 FTE (VS)

Through Effeciencies (budget neutral):

- Math AIS Teacher - 1.0 FTE (Harmony Hill)
- ESL Teacher - 1.0 FTE (ALS)

Secondary Recommendations:

New Services-

- Instructional Coaching - BOCES (CMS)
- Tutoring Center - 1.0 FTE CMS)
- Alternative Program - Grades 9-10, exploring partnership for offsite location

Through Efficiencies (budget neutral):

- Admin Support - Athletics/Guidance



2026 -2027 Budget Highlights

Special Programs Recommendations:

New Positions & Services:

- K - 2 Functional Skills Classroom -
3.0 FTE Teacher Aides, .2 FTE Physical Therapy (Harmony Hill)
- BOCES Services - STAC

Through Effeciencies (budget neutral):

- K - 2 Functional Skills Classroom -
1.0 FTE Special Programs Teacher (Harmony Hill)

Districtwide Recommendations:

Through Efficiencies (budget neutral):

- 1.0 Senior Cleaner
- Assistant Director of Facilities III



What happens if the budget is defeated?

The district would adopt a contingency budget to include \$1.4m in reductions to include: district wide arts & enrichment programs, district wide field trips, district wide educational & support programs, district wide operations, building repairs & equipment & more.

Allowable Expenditures under a contingency budget

Under a contingency budget, ordinary contingent expenditures include:

- (1) legal expenditures;
- (2) expenditures specifically authorized by statute; and
- (3) other items necessary to maintain the education program, preserve property and assure the health and safety of students and staff.



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Preparing our students for success in tomorrow's world.

Capital Reserve Proposition

The community will vote on a proposition to authorize the creation & funding of a \$20M Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing future capital projects with a 10 year term.

No Tax Impact - supported from operating surplus and or lawful transfers of existing reserve funds & has no impact on the tax levy.

The proposed Capital Reserve Fund is prudent planning for future capital project initiatives as identified through the current HVAC audit, 2026 Building Condition Survey & ongoing facilities needs. Continued focus on health & safety initiatives.

May 2026 Ballot - This item is a separate proposition, and is not included in the local budget.



Board of Education Election

Available Seats	Terms
2 Seats	3 Years Each

Board of Education Candidates

<u>David Jarosz</u>	<u>Mykel Dorsey</u>
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Annual Budget Vote & BOE Election

May 19th, noon - 9 pm

Polling Locations:

Abram Lansing School, 26 James Street

Harmony Hill School, 120 Madelon K. Hickey Way

Van Schaick Grade School, 150 Continental Avenue