



**Watervliet**  
CITY SCHOOLS

# Proposed 2025-26 Budget

Budget Workshop #1

BOE Meeting

March 11, 2025 @ 6:00 PM



## SY 2024-25 Budget Overview

- Foundation Aid increase of 13.4%
- Over 80% dependent on State Aid Revenue
- Focus on student needs
- Increase in school personnel for learning opportunities
  - Increase of 9.0 FTE instructional positions
  - Increase of 1.5 FTE support positions
- Increase placements for students with disabilities – Riverside Collaborative
- Increase of SRO services
- Understanding of the “debt bubble”
- Established the 2024 Capital Reserve Fund
- Increase of 12% in employee health insurance costs



## Fund Balance & Reserves

Fiscal Year-End Fund Balance As Of June 30, 2024		
Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023		\$ 3,305,000
Net Revenues/Expenditures		<u>2,600,000</u>
Subtotal		\$ 5,905,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve		<u>(4,500,000)</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024		\$ 1,405,000
Reserves		<u>7,480,000</u>
Total Fund Balance for SYE June 30, 2024		\$ 8,885,000



## SY 2025-26 Executive Budget Proposal – State Aid Run

	2025-26 Executive Budget	2024-25 Enacted Budget	Difference
Foundation Aid	\$ 27,747,183	\$ 24,657,285	\$ 3,089,898
UPK (Special Aid Fund)	752,433	752,433	-
Expenditure Driven Aid	<u>5,526,305</u>	<u>4,972,562</u>	<u>553,743</u>
Subtotal	\$ 34,025,921	\$ 30,382,280	\$ 3,643,641
Building Aid	<u>1,425,597</u>	<u>2,706,866</u>	<u>(1,281,269)</u>
Total	\$ 35,451,518	\$ 33,089,146	\$ 2,362,372
% Increase in Foundation Aid : 12.5%			
% Increase in Total State Aid: 7.1%			



## Proposed 2025-26 Budget Development

- Understanding the proposed Foundation Aid formula changes
- Continuing to identify student needs in academic areas
- Examining Green Island tuitioning plan impact (Revenue & Expense)
  - Athletics
  - Transportation
  - Staffing
- Expanding the Riverside Collaborative for students with disabilities with Green Island UFSD, Cohoes CSD, and Menands UFSD
- Monitoring “debt bubble”
- Understanding increased UPK program costs



## 2025-26 Budget Considerations

- Maintain all current programs and personnel
- Focus on student subgroups and achievement
- Increased costs projected for employee and retiree health insurance
- UPK program costs continue to increase and grant funds cannot cover all expenses
- Debt bubble due to building aid received vs. debt payments
- Required technology infrastructure upgrades
- Security updates
- Adjacent land purchase possibilities (voter approval required)
- Decision regarding Tax Levy increase



## Green Island Tuitioning

- 60 incoming grade 9-12 students
- Estimated revenue - \$479,216\*
- First year expenses - \$312,250\*
- Difference allows for additional electives to be offered
- Potential space for alternative education (EVOLVE) program
- Additional foundation aid expected with enrollment in future budget years
- Transportation at net neutral financial impact
  - Requires voter approval to lease 66-passenger school bus



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Questions??? Public Comments... Suggestions...







## Upcoming Budget Workshops

### Budget Workshop #2

- Tuesday, March 25 @ 6 PM - WJSHS Conference Room

### Budget Workshop #3

- Wednesday, April 2 @ 6 PM – PTA Meeting in WJSHS Cafeteria

### Budget Presentation and Adoption by BOE

- Tuesday, April 8 @ 6 PM

*Budget information available on District website:*

<http://watervlietcityschools.org/budget/>