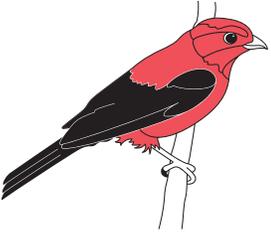


HOME OF THE TANAGERS



HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Middle School/High School

2025-2026 SCHOOL BUDGET

**Proposed spending plan of
\$14,450,000**

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

This year's annual school budget vote and Board of Education election are scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025. In addition to voting on the proposed \$14,450,000 budget, district residents will decide on a vehicle purchase proposition to acquire a diesel-powered 66-passenger bus and a 12-passenger vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$234,000. Voters will also elect one member to the Board of Education for a five-year term, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.

Throughout the district's budget development process, the members of the Board of Education and district administration collaborated to develop a proposed budget designed to meet the various needs of our students while being a good steward of the community's investment. The district strives to construct a comprehensive budget that provides our students with the best educational experience possible while ensuring that spending is purposeful, reasonable, and judicious.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration, and members of the Board of Education, I would like to thank the community of Hartford for your continued patience and support throughout the 2024-2025 school year. I am extremely grateful for the incredible level of support and engagement from the community.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed budget, please contact the district office at 518-632-5222.

VEHICLE PURCHASE PROPOSITION

**One (1) diesel-powered
66-passenger bus and (1)
12-passenger vehicle not to
exceed \$234,000**

ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Alyssa Arlen

WHO CAN VOTE?

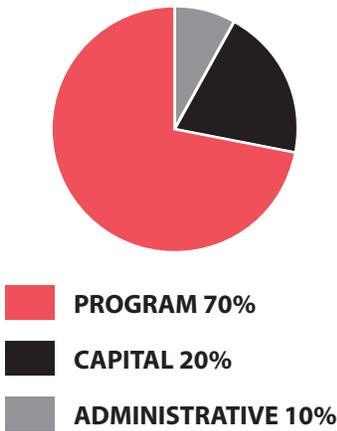
U.S. citizens, age 18 or older on election day, and residing in the Hartford Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to election are eligible to vote. You do not need to be a registered voter or own property to vote in this election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters. To obtain a ballot contact District Clerk Amanda Howard at (518) 632-5222 ext. 508.

2025-2026 SCHOOL BUDGET

- ▶ **Program** expenditures are all the costs directly related to student instruction, including instructional salaries and health benefits.
The **Program** expenses are approximately 70% of the overall budget.
- ▶ **Capital** expenditures are all the costs associated with the maintenance of the district facilities.
The **Capital** expenses are approximately 20% of the overall budget.
- ▶ **Administrative** expenditures are all the costs associated with district supervision.
The **Administrative** expenses are approximately 10% of the overall budget.



School Districts receive revenue through three primary sources:

1. Property Taxes
2. State Aid
3. Miscellaneous Funds

- ▶ State Aid is made up of Foundation Aid and Expense Driven Aid.
- ✓ **Foundation Aid** is an unrestricted aid category provided to all school districts in New York State.
- ✓ **Expense Driven Aid** is monies the district will receive based on our prior year spending. Items that fall within the category of expense driven aid are: textbooks, software, hardware and technology, and library.
- ▶ Miscellaneous Funds consists of monies the district will receive through grants, Medicaid reimbursement, etc.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

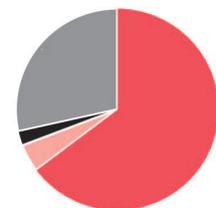
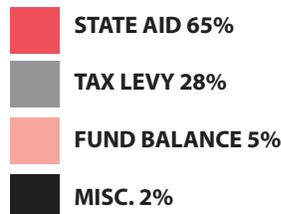
ADMINISTRATIVE	2024-2025	2025-2026	CHANGE
Board of Education	\$315	\$315	0
Central Administration	\$177,000	\$198,390	\$21,390
Business Administration	\$160,575	\$167,543	\$6,968
Finance	\$24,630	\$25,650	\$1,020
Legal Fees	\$45,000	\$45,000	0
Public Information	\$45,050	\$47,435	\$2,385
Central Services	\$101,000	\$112,600	\$11,600
Unallocated Insurance	\$63,860	\$68,250	\$4,390
BOCES Administration	\$75,752	\$78,110	\$2,358
Supervision: Regular Day	\$323,912	\$301,693	-\$22,219
Employee Benefits	\$267,491	\$281,073	\$13,582
Planning/Training	\$53,000	\$63,560	\$10,560
Total Administrative	\$1,337,585	\$1,389,619	\$52,034

PROGRAM	2024-2025	2025-2026	CHANGE
Instruction: Regular Ed.	\$4,810,586	\$4,998,093	\$187,507
Instructional Media	\$530,089	\$539,349	\$9,260
Pupil Personnel	\$395,768	\$408,511	\$12,743
Interscholastic and Co-curricular	\$183,350	\$199,508	\$16,158
Transportation Services	\$826,545	\$800,847	-\$25,698
Employee Benefits	\$3,187,493	\$3,228,326	\$40,833
Total Program	\$9,933,831	\$10,174,634	\$240,803

CAPITAL	2024-2025	2025-2026	CHANGE
Operations & Maintenance	\$882,561	\$900,789	\$18,228
Property Tax Refunds	\$1,000	\$1,000	0
Employee Benefits	\$174,993	\$183,102	\$8,109
Debt Service	\$1,043,324	\$1,800,856	\$757,532
Total Capital	\$2,101,878	\$2,885,747	\$783,869

REVENUE SUMMARY

CAPITAL	2024-2025	2025-2026	CHANGE
State Aid	\$7,915,206	\$9,354,378	\$1,439,172
Fund Balance	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$0
Miscellaneous/ Capitalized Interest from the Capital Project	\$821,647	\$330,000	-\$491,647
Sub-total	\$9,386,853	\$10,334,378	\$947,525
Tax Levy	\$3,986,441	\$4,115,622	\$129,181
Total Revenue	\$13,373,294	\$14,450,000	\$1,076,706



2025-2026 SCHOOL BUDGET



When the New York State Tax Levy Cap law was signed in 2011, the general understanding was school districts could not increase their tax levy amount by more than 2% without a “Super majority” of votes – thus the common refrain “2% Tax Cap.” In truth, under the NYS Tax Cap Law, a school district’s allowable growth is determined using a complex, nine-step formula that begins by using the assumption that growth is limited to the lesser of 2% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

After working with our financial advisors to complete the tax cap calculations, we are pleased to report that the district’s allowable levy increase for this year is 3.2%. Throughout the budget development process, we have made every effort to ensure that we do not exceed this allowable increase.

Since the tax cap law was enacted, the Board of Education and district administration are proud to report the district has never once sought to exceed the cap.

2025-2026 SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-2025 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-2026 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not included Separate Propositions	\$13,373,294	\$14,450,000	\$14,356,624
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$1,076,706	\$983,330
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.05%	7.35%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$3,986,441	\$4,115,622	\$3,986,441
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$331,879	\$325,090	
School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$3,699,358	\$3,790,532	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions	\$3,654,562	\$3,790,532	
Difference: (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$44,796	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,337,585	\$1,389,619	\$1,342,523
Program Component	\$9,933,831	\$10,174,634	\$10,142,354
Capital Component	\$2,101,878	\$2,885,747	\$2,871,747

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, areas to be cut would be equipment and non-aligned salary raises.

** Separate propositions that are not included in the total budget amount: (1) diesel-powered 66-passenger bus and (1) 12-passenger vehicle at a total cost not to exceed \$234,000.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings based on a home within the Hartford Central School District with a full value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)	Budget Proposed for the 2025-2026 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$432

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-2026 by the qualified voters of the Hartford Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held at Hartford Central School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 11:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Middle School/High School at which time the polls will be opened to vote by paper ballot.



CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

New York State law allows for school districts to complete base year capital projects with costs up to \$100,000 through voter approval of the budget. These projects are referred to as “Capital Outlay” projects and, if approved by the budget vote, are not subject to the lengthy assumed amortization schedule, or an elongated review by the Office of Facilities Planning. These small scale Capital Projects help school districts to undertake minor, but important projects, on a yearly basis without having to combine items for a large scale Capital Project. Typically, Capital Outlay submissions address items eliminated from large scale Capital Projects due to cost, or are areas of need identified in the required Building Condition Survey.

Within the 2025-2026 budget, the Hartford Central School District is proposing to include a Capital Outlay Project line item to replace the cafeteria roof.

The District’s first Capital Outlay Project was completed in the 2019-2020 school year. Since then, the district has been able to significantly reduce the local share due to our allotment of Building Aid. Currently, the District’s Building Aid rate is 85.4%. This means, the District will be reimbursed up to \$85,400 for each Capital Outlay Project completed. The table below displays the District’s historical Capital Outlay expenditure and revenue projections.

SCHOOL YEAR	EXPENDITURE	REVENUE	NET COST TO THE DISTRICT	CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT
2019-2020	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	Masonry Work
2020-2021	\$100,000	\$85,400	\$14,600	Roof Recoating
2021-2022	\$100,000	\$85,400	\$14,600	Elementary Sink Replacement
2022-2023	\$100,000	\$85,400	\$14,600	Divide room #410 into two classrooms
2023-2024	\$100,000	\$85,400	\$14,600	Elementary Sink Replacement continued
2024-2025	\$100,000	\$85,400	\$14,600	Updates to the Art Classroom
2025-2026	\$100,000	\$85,400	14,600	Replace the Cafeteria Roof

**Table is based on a projected maximum expenditure of \$100,000*



VEHICLE PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Throughout the course of the school year, district vehicles, on average, travel over 12,000 miles transporting students from home to school, to alternative education placements, to the Early College Career Academy programs, WSWHE BOCES Career and Technical Education placements, work study programs, private schools, field trips, sports trips, late runs, and a variety of other educationally related opportunities. Due to the high miles traveled, the district has a schedule to replace a bus once it reaches twelve (12) years of service. Historically, it has been discovered that once a bus reaches this milestone the repair and maintenance costs required to keep the bus on the road far exceed the cost to replace the bus.

Although bus purchases appear to be expensive, the district is only responsible for 10% of the overall cost. Depending on

features (i.e. security cameras, storage compartments, etc.), a new bus can cost upwards of \$167,000. Using this figure, the district would only be responsible for \$16,700 of the total cost. This cost is then spread out over five years and leaves the district with a very small payment each year, thereby making the purchase relatively inexpensive. Furthermore, if the bus replacement plan is maintained, each year the district will have the debt of a previous bus purchase come off the books and the new bus purchase will replace the existing debt without increasing the total spending. Since the district is reimbursed such a large portion of the costs, if the district does not elect to purchase a bus in order to replace the existing debt, a gap will be created in the revenue stream and the district will actually lose money in future years and leave the district at risk for expensive repairs on older buses.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

OLIVIA LINDRIDGE RECEIVES ADIRONDACK AREA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (AASBA) COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Olivia Lindridge has been honored with the Adirondack Area School Boards Association (AASBA) Community Service Award in recognition of her outstanding dedication to community service. This prestigious award highlights Olivia's commitment to making a difference in both her school and local community.

A well-rounded and dedicated student, Olivia is actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club and has excelled in athletics as a player on both the Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Softball teams. Beyond her achievements in the classroom and on the field, Olivia has dedicated countless hours to serving others through various programs.

Olivia contributes her time and efforts to several impactful initiatives, including the Mentoring Program, Backpack Program, Youth Volleyball, Key Club, and National Honor Society community service projects. Through these programs, she has demonstrated a passion for supporting younger students, providing essential resources to those in need, and fostering community engagement.

Her dedication to service will continue as she embarks on the next chapter of her academic journey. Olivia will be attending SUNY Oswego, where she plans to major in Childhood Education. With her strong leadership skills and commitment to helping others, she is sure to make a meaningful impact in the field of education.



Congratulations to Olivia Lindridge on this well-deserved recognition. Her contributions to the school and community exemplify the spirit of service and leadership, and her future is undoubtedly bright.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NHS TO HOST 2ND ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE - VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE JUNE 6TH

The National Honor Society (NHS) is excited to announce its 2nd Annual Day of Service, taking place on June 6th, with a rain date of June 9th. This event is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to give back to both the school and the local community by volunteering their time and effort on a variety of service projects.

On the morning of June 6th, NHS members will spread out across the school and surrounding areas, lending a helping hand with tasks such as washing windows, raking, planting, and mulching.

If you or your organization is in need of assistance, now is the perfect time to reach out. Community businesses and organizations can request help by contacting Wendy Harrington at 518-632-5222 x505.



Pictured here: 2024 NHS Day of Service Volunteers Who Made a Difference in the Community.

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL DUPUIS

Dear Hartford Community,

Warm Welcome

I want to take this opportunity to thank the faculty, staff, students, and parents for the warm welcome I received as I transitioned into the role of Elementary Principal/CSE Chairperson in January. I feel truly honored to return to the elementary school and follow in the footsteps of Mrs. Mannix, whose dedication and leadership have left a lasting legacy. Her impact is evident throughout the hallways and classrooms of HCS.

As we begin this new chapter together, I am committed to building strong relationships and partnerships within the Hartford community as we work to provide our students with a positive and enriching elementary learning experience.

Student Recognition

We continue to recognize students each month at our Citizens' Assemblies. We enjoy celebrating our Bus Riders of the Month, Bucket Fillers, Soaring Tanagers, Special Area Award winners, and Citizens of the Month. We also show our Tanager pride by wearing red and black or Tanager apparel on these days.

Talent Show

Congratulations to all of our elementary students who participated in the Talent Show on April 5th, sponsored by our Eighth Grade Class. These students are to be commended for their bravery, courage, and talent — it was a great show!

Extracurricular Events

Our elementary students are not only active and engaged during the school day but also after school. Here are some of

the after-school opportunities available to our elementary students: Enrichment, Battle of the Books, Tanager Voices, Mentor Program, Intramurals, Eager Engineers, Student Government, Traveling Tanagers, and Hartford Star. Thank you to our dedicated advisors for providing these wonderful opportunities for our students.

PARP

May is PARP (Pick a Partner and Read) month, featuring a western-themed slogan: "Lasso a Good Book!" Over the four-week period, students will take part in Wear It Wednesdays and other fun activities to promote reading. Students who participate all four weeks will be recognized at a special event. I encourage all students to join in and enjoy the adventure of reading..

Save the Dates

- June 17th: Elementary Field Day
- June 18th: Fifth Grade Moving-Up Ceremony
- June 24th: Kindergarten Celebration
- June 25th: Pre-K Graduation

I look forward to working together to provide our students with a positive, productive, and enjoyable end to the school year.

Mrs. Shelley Dupuis

Elementary Principal/CSE Chairperson

sdupuis@hartfordcsd.org

518-632-5222 ext. 120



Hartford students showed their skill and teamwork at the WSWHE BOCES Battle of the Books on March 11, 2025, advancing to the semifinals after winning their opening rounds.



Hudson Headwaters' Healthy Smiles Program visited on March 20 to teach students about dental hygiene and healthy habits

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL DOODY

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me to Hartford. I have enjoyed my time serving as Interim Principal, and I continue to be impressed with all the accomplishments of our students and staff. Our students are engaged and excelling in academics, clubs, sports, and the arts, and it gives me great pride to share some of their accomplishments with the school community.

Congratulations...

To the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society! Induction ceremonies were held on March 12, 2025, and seven new members were inducted into each society. The National Junior Honor Society inductees are Grace Beecher, Evalyn Burch, Callen Cook, Ella Dalaba, Reagan Ellis, Abigale Murat-Hinton, and Alexis Roberts. The National Honor Society inductees are Abigail Barker, Miriam Evans, Lukas DeCota, Macie Durkee, Amelia Parker, Brian Veach, and Jace Venner.

AASBA Student Community Service Award Winner:

Congratulations to Olivia Lindridge, this year's AASBA Student Community Service Award winner. Olivia is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Varsity Volleyball, and Varsity Softball teams. She actively participates in school and community service through the Mentoring Program, Backpack Program, Youth Volleyball, Key Club, and National Honor Society. Olivia will be attending SUNY Oswego, majoring in Childhood Education.

All-County Band Festival:

Fifteen students were selected to attend this year's All-County Band Festival, held on April 24 & 26 at Greenwich CSD. Sixth-grade students were accepted based on teacher recommendations, while students in grades 7-12 were selected through auditions. Representing the Elementary Band (Grades 5-6) were McKenna Mattison (Flute), Abigail Maynard (Clarinet), Aubree Sargent (Clarinet), Shelby Hicks (Clarinet), Clayton Burch (Alto Sax), Richard Stone (Trombone), and Lane Truehart (Percussion). Performing in the Junior Band (Grades 7-8) were Aubree Purdy (Bassoon), Kianna Wertheim (Alto Saxophone), Nevaeh Hicks (Tenor Saxophone), Alex Amato (Trumpet), and Hanna Gibson (Percussion). Representing the Senior Band (Grades 9-12) were Camryn Arlen (Flute), Jacob Narkiewicz (Trombone), and Gabriel Stokowski (Percussion).

Student Achievements:

Lily Galietta had three original poems selected for publication in the 2025 Talent Unlimited publication and will be recognized at a ceremony at WSWHE BOCES on May 13, 2025. The Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Teams were both recognized as Scholar-Athlete Teams by the NYSPHSAA.

Upcoming Musical Concerts:

We look forward to our upcoming performances, with the Junior and Senior High Band concert on May 1, 2025, and the Junior and Senior High Chorus concert on May 15, 2025.

Club News:

The FFA hosted a Farmer Appreciation Dinner on March 7 at HCS, recognizing the hard work and dedication of our local farmers. The National Honor Society is organizing the 2nd Annual Day of Service on June 6, with a rain date of June 9. High school students will spend the morning volunteering in the school and community. If you need assistance with tasks such as washing windows, raking, planting, or mulching, please contact Wendy Harrington at 518-632-5222 x505. Key Club will hold a Blood Drive on May 8 in the Ela Colvin Gymnasium, contributing to an important community cause.

We appreciate the continued support of the Hartford community for all of our school programs. I look forward to celebrating our students' accomplishments on June 16 during our academic awards ceremonies and at Graduation on June 27.

Mr. Mark Doody

Interim Middle/High School Principal

mdoody@hartfordcsd.org

518-632-5222 ext. 307



Congratulations to the newest members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society who were inducted in March 2025.

HARTFORD

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Andrew Cook, Superintendent
Mark Doody, Interim Middle/High School Principal
Shelley Dupuis, Elementary Principal

Board of Education

Philip Jessen, President
Janine Thomas, Vice-President
Adam Fish
Ron Smith
Ashley Happy

Produced in cooperation with WSWHE BOCES Communication Services

VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Middle School/High School

2025-26 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

	Budgeted 2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	\$13,373,294	\$14,450,000	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$3,986,441	\$4,115,622	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, If Applicable	N/A		
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, If Applicable	N/A		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, If Applicable	N/A		
E Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$3,986,441	\$4,115,622	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$331,879	\$325,090	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$3,699,358	\$3,790,532	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$3,654,562	\$3,790,532	
I. Difference: (F - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	\$44,796	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	364	360	
Consumer Price Index			2.95%
	Actual 2024-2025 (D)	Estimated 2025-2026 (E)	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$410,462	\$344,306	
Adjusted Appropriated Fund Balance	\$650,000	\$650,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$1,254,861	\$850,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	9.38%	5.88%	