

HERKIMER

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 19, 2026 | Noon-8 p.m.

Middle-High School Library Media Center

2026-27 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

PROPOSED 2026-27

Budget

AT-A-GLANCE

- Carries a **1.98% tax levy increase**, which is under the calculated levy limit. The district has been under the levy limit for 15 of 16 years.
- Total budget: \$37,008,382
- Is a 4.99 % increase from the 2025-26 budget.

2026-27 proposed budget highlights:

Programs:

- Maintain all existing programs and staff.
- Provide essential student support services by contracting for dedicated speech services.
- Increase elective offerings and continue College Now classes for high school students.
- Continue replacement cycles for textbooks, curricular resources and aging classroom equipment.

Safety:

- Upgrade aging cameras and maintain safety patrol officers (SPOs) to enhance safety and security in both buildings.

Technology:

- Fully fund phase three of a five-year replacement plan for instructional technology.

2026-27 proposed budget maintains programs and staff despite rising costs



The Herkimer Elementary School Respect Club presents at a regional School Boards Institute showcase at Herkimer BOCES.

Facing rising operational expenses, the Herkimer Central School District has put forward a 2026-27 budget proposal designed to safeguard essential programs and staff while minimizing the burden on local taxpayers.

“We understand that families are navigating the same rising costs as schools in areas such as utilities and fuel,” Herkimer Superintendent Kathleen Carney said. “This proposed budget is designed to be fiscally responsible to our taxpayers while ensuring our students continue to receive the high-quality education our community values.”

The proposed \$37,008,382 budget for the 2026-27 school year represents a 4.99% increase over the current spending plan. This year, we are seeing a larger than normal increase at BOCES due to the increased cost of BOCES services and the timing of their capital project payments. The district is also faced with rising health insurance costs with nationwide trends at 8.5%.

The budget includes a tax levy increase of 1.98%. This figure is below the state-calculated tax levy limit for Herkimer of 6.35%. The district has a

history of fiscal restraint, remaining under the levy limit for 15 of the 16 years since the limit’s introduction in 2012-13.

District residents are scheduled to vote on the budget on Tuesday, May 19. The ballot will also feature a proposition to establish a new capital reserve fund, the election of three Board of Education members and the library budget and trustee votes. Further information on these items and updates on Capital Project 2024 are on pages 3-4.

“As we move forward with a continued focus on safety, academics, student support, technology, music and the arts, athletics and more, we just want to thank our school community for all of the ongoing support,” Carney said. “We hope everyone comes out and participates in the vote on May 19.”



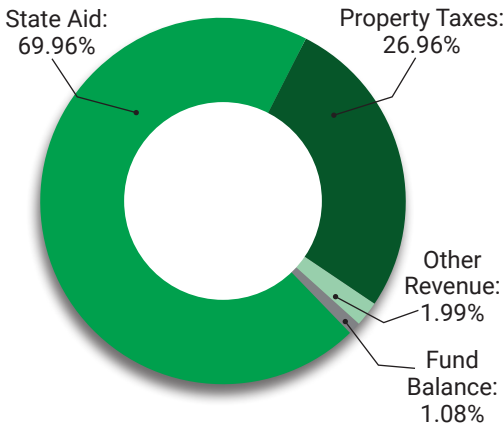
Middle-High School art students hold a banner recognizing that the district recently received a New York State Art Teachers Association Community of Excellence in Visual Arts Award.

LEARN MORE - BUDGET HEARING

MAY 5, 2026 – 6 P.M.

MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM...

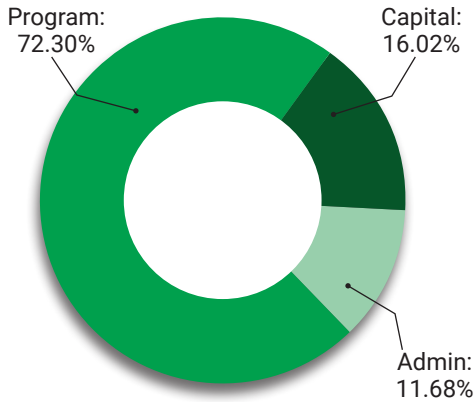


The district's plan for how it will obtain every dollar in the proposed budget:

REVENUES	2025-26 BUDGETED	2026-27 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE '25-'26 TO '26-'27
State Aid	\$24,866,016	\$25,891,902	\$1,025,886
Property Taxes	\$9,784,680	\$9,978,417	\$193,737
Other Revenue	\$600,000	\$738,063	\$138,063
Fund Balance	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000
Total Revenues	\$35,250,696	\$37,008,382	\$1,757,686

REVENUES SUMMARY: District revenue primarily comes from two sources: New York State Aid for Education and local school taxes. The district state aid picture has been steady in recent years due to the district's stable enrollment and high needs demographic.

WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT ...



The district's plan for how money will be spent within the proposed budget:

EXPENDITURES	2025-26 BUDGETED	2026-27 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE '25-'26 TO '26-'27
Program	\$25,051,372	\$26,755,940	\$1,704,568
Capital	\$6,161,265	\$5,929,320	-\$231,945
Administrative	\$4,038,059	\$4,323,122	\$285,063
Total Expenditures	\$35,250,696	\$37,008,382	\$1,757,686

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY: The program and capital portions of the budget make up the majority of the district's spending. The program budget includes expenses directly related to the teaching and support of our students. The capital budget includes expenses necessary to operate and maintain our school buildings and grounds.

CATEGORY	2025-26 APPROVED BUDGET	2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	% OF TOTAL
Payroll	\$10,459,329	\$10,473,432	\$14,103	0.13%	28.30%
Benefits	\$6,974,332	\$7,133,400	\$159,068	2.28%	19.28%
BOCES	\$8,742,230	\$10,396,665	\$1,654,435	18.92%	28.09%
Contractual	\$4,008,285	\$4,221,698	\$213,413	5.32%	11.41%
Debt service	\$3,632,420	\$3,517,687	-\$114,733	-3.16%	9.51%
Equipment	\$631,000	\$581,000	-\$50,000	-7.92%	1.57%
Supplies	\$468,100	\$474,500	\$6,400	1.37%	1.28%
Transfer to capital	\$250,000	\$125,000	-\$125,000	-50.00%	0.34%
Textbooks	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$0	0.00%	0.23%
TOTAL	\$35,250,696	\$37,008,382	\$1,757,686	4.99%	100%

BUDGET HEARING – May 5, 2026 – 6 p.m. – Herkimer Middle-High School Library Media Center

Capital Project 2024 in full swing – and other capital proposals

On Jan. 16, 2024, district residents voted to approve the \$35.35 million Capital Project 2024. After an intricate design phase and a lengthy New York State Education Department (NYSED) approval process, bids were received and awarded by the Board of Education in fall 2025, and site preparation and construction work began in December 2025.

The project is now in full swing, and construction is anticipated to be completed by December 2027.

This comprehensive project was designed to address health and safety, accessibility, programmatic needs and aging infrastructure throughout the district.

For other Capital Project updates, photographs and information, please visit our Capital Project page on our website at <https://www.herkimercsd.org/about-us/capital-projects/>. Updates will continue to be posted throughout the project.

2026-2027 Capital Outlay Project

Included in the proposed budget is a capital outlay project not to exceed \$100,000. A capital outlay project is designed to complete minor renovations and to purchase associated furnishings and equipment at the district’s school buildings. The district has completed its smaller projects through capital outlay for the past 10 years.

Projects funded in this manner receive reimbursement from the state the following budget year, unlike traditional capital projects, which are reimbursed over time.

Proposition: establishment of a new capital reserve fund

During the upcoming school budget vote, residents will be asked to authorize the creation of a new capital reserve fund. This proposed fund would allow the district to set aside up to \$5 million over a 10-year period.

Capital reserve funds, once they are approved by voters, are essential for the ongoing maintenance of the district’s buildings and grounds. The district has successfully utilized these types of reserves for its most recent projects.

For example, in January 2024, voters approved the use of \$5 million from capital reserves (established in 2017 and 2022) to help finance Capital Project 2024. These funds provided necessary cash flow for the initial phases of the project. This helped reduce the district’s overall borrowing costs.

The district is now proposing the establishment of a new 2026 capital reserve to help fund future capital improvements. The Board of Education would determine the annual funding for this reserve, which would come from unallocated fund balances and other available reserves.



The Middle-High School Auditorium is undergoing a complete renovation. The rendering above shows what the new space will look like. Upgrades are also planned for the nearby chorus and band rooms, dressing room behind the stage and concession area.



The Elementary Nurse’s Office will be relocated to a larger area and will include two bathrooms. Other elementary highlights include replacing the aging roof, cafeteria sound system and original bathrooms, upgrading heating and ventilation, adding air conditioning and reconfiguring other office and support spaces.



Scheduled improvements at the Athletic Complex include adding new energy-efficient field lighting, resurfacing the track, reconstructing the field event areas, making concession/press box updates and replacing the scoreboards, sound system and baseball dugouts.



The former pool area will be used for classrooms and program expansions for our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programs. Above: a STEAM classroom rendering.



A much-needed vehicular bridge will be added to provide secondary emergency and bus access to the Middle-High School campus for the first time. The new bridge will also include a sidewalk for pedestrians.



The auxiliary gymnasium at the Middle-High School will be renovated to allow for spectator seating, as seen in the rendering shown above.

What happens if the proposed 2026-27 budget is voted down? If the proposed budget is defeated on May 19, the Board of Education can put the same or a revised budget up for a vote in June, or it can immediately adopt a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful budget votes, Herkimer would have to adopt a contingent budget. State law mandates that under a contingent budget, a school district must adopt a budget with no tax levy increase and eliminate all non-contingent expenses, such as certain student supplies, certain equipment purchases and community use of school facilities that results in a district expense. The district would also need to make budgetary cuts to decrease spending.



HERKIMER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

801 West German Street
Herkimer, NY 13350

Bulk Rate
Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #37
Herkimer, NY
13350

Board of Education

Brian Crandall, **President**
Joseph Lamanna, **Vice President**
Matthew Collis
Diann Fischer
Robert Mihevc
Scott Petucci
Aleksander Verenich

Superintendent

Kathleen Carney

School Business Manager

Chad Hess

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region
BOCES Engagement and Development Service.

2026-27 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

Voting Information

Who can vote?

In order to vote, a person must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen and a resident of the Herkimer Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the Tuesday, May 19, 2026, vote. Voter registration is not required.

When and where is the vote?

The school budget vote will take place from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the Herkimer Middle-High School Library Media Center.

How can I learn more?

Attend a budget hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, in the Herkimer Middle-High School Library Media Center or visit www.herkimercsd.org.

Can I vote early or vote by absentee ballot?

Absentee ballot voting is available, and the Early Mail Voter Act that took effect in 2024 allows for early voting via mail with no reasons needed. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications for voting by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the district office at 315-866-2230, ext. 1304. If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application

must be received by 5 p.m. on May 12, 2026. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 18, 2026. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

What exactly am I voting on?

- **Vote on the school budget:** School district residents are voting on a proposed \$37,008,382 budget for the 2026-27 school year. The budget calls for a 4.99% spending increase and a 1.98% tax levy increase.
- **Vote on proposition to create new capital reserve fund:** The proposed fund would allow the district to set aside up to \$5 million over a 10-year period to help fund future capital improvements. See more on page 3.
- **Elect three Board of Education members:** Three Board of Education seats are up for election. All seats are for three-year terms from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. The four candidates are: William Vivlamore, Audrey Piccione, incumbent Scott Petucci and incumbent Joseph Lamanna.
- **Vote on library budget/trustees:** School district residents will decide on the Frank J. Basloe Library's proposed tax levy of \$378,592 to fund the library's annual budget. Residents will also vote on one library Board of Trustees seat, which has a five-year term.



Above, top: Elementary Student Council members and advisors pose with a New York State School Boards Association Champions of Change award they received for the Socktober initiative. Above, bottom: The Herkimer boys indoor track team celebrates winning back-to-back sectional championships.

VOTE

May 19, 2026 | Noon-8 p.m.
Middle-High School Library Media Center