

Cornwall Central School District

2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget

April 7, 2025

"Striving for Excellence Every Day"



Vision

We envision a school district in which every staff member is a source of knowledge and inspiration, every building is a place of safety and support, every leader is a pillar of integrity, and every student is a source of pride.



Agenda

1. 2025-26 Recommended Budget Recap
2. Needs Assessment – BOE Discussion
3. Adjusted Budget – Options
4. NYS Aid Projections
5. Tax Levy & Approval Rating History Data
6. Contingency Budget
7. New Capital Reserve Proposition
8. Budget Calendar, Questions & Discussion



2025-26 Recommended Budget – Recap

2025-26 Recommended Budget	2025-26 Recommended Revenue Projections	Current Shortfall – without Assigned Fund Balance	Current Shortfall – with Assigned Fund Balance of \$2,356,711
\$ 92,721,136	\$ 90,364,425	\$ (2,356,711)	\$ 0

Assumptions:

- Maximum allowable property tax levy increase = 3.08% = \$1,615,813
- 2.50% property tax levy increase used in revenue projection = \$1,311,597**
- Increase in State Aid = \$1,020,442
- Increase in miscellaneous revenue = \$232,131

Open Items:

- Special education annual reviews
 - Out-of-district placements
 - Required related services (e.g., OT, PT, Speech, Counseling, 1:1 Aides)
 - Graduating students
 - Pre-school students moving up into District
- Contract Negotiations
 - Teachers, Administrators and Clerical Units
- Final State Aid Figures



Needs Assessment – BOE Discussion 3/24/25



Cornwall Central Schools – District

During the March 24, 2025 BOE meeting and budget discussion, the BOE elected to add the following items to the recommended budget based on the Needs Assessment presented.

Budget Additions	Cost \$
District Wide Strategic Plan	\$45,000
2.0 Safety Monitors (WAES/CCMS)	\$128,740
Administrative Recommendation for Discussion: 1.0 FTE Early Intervention Support Teacher (COH/WAE)	\$128,740
Universal Pre-K Program - Additional 10 Seats	\$35,670
Increase Uncertified Substitute Teacher Compensation	\$7,292
TOTAL	\$216,702

Total Cost of Budget Additions = \$216,702

2025-26 Adjusted Expenditure Budget = \$92,934,122



2025-26 Adjusted Budget – Options

Option A	Adjusted Expenditures	Recommended Tax Levy	Tax Levy Revenue	Recommended Revenue	Adjusted Assigned Fund Balance	Shortfall
	\$ 92,934,122	2.50%	\$ 1,311,597	\$ 90,364,425	\$ 2,569,697	\$ -

Option A maintains the recommended 2.50% tax levy and increases the amount of assigned fund balance.

Option B	Adjusted Expenditures	Adjusted Tax Levy	Adjusted Tax Levy Revenue	Adjusted Revenue	Recommended Assigned Fund Balance	Shortfall
	\$ 92,934,122	2.91%	\$ 1,524,583	\$ 90,577,411	\$ 2,356,711	\$ -

Option B increases the tax levy to 2.91% and maintains the recommended amount of assigned fund balance.

Option C	Adjusted Expenditures	Adjusted Tax Levy	Adjusted Tax Levy Revenue	Adjusted Revenue	Adjusted Assigned Fund Balance	Shortfall
	\$ 92,934,122	2.70%	\$ 1,414,090	\$ 90,466,918	\$ 2,467,204	\$ -

Option C increases the tax levy to 2.70% and increases the recommended amount of assigned fund balance.



2025-26 Budget – NYS Aid Projections

The NYS budget is expected to be voted on and approved the week of April 1, 2025. The NYS budget will present the CCSD with some options:

Scenario #1:

*The District receives **more** state aid than currently projected?*

- Reduce the tax levy increase.
- Reduce the amount of assigned fund balance.
- A combination of the two options above.
- Do nothing – the additional state aid will create / add to next year’s surplus.
- Expand recommended expenditures (programs, staffing, capital) to match additional revenue.

Scenario #2:

*The District receives **less** state aid than currently projected?*

- Increase the tax levy beyond the agreed upon increase.
- Increase the amount of assigned fund balance.
- A combination of the two options above.



Tax Levy & Approval Rating History Data

Tax Levy & Approval Rating History Data			
Year	Adopted Tax Levy Increase	Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	Approval Ratings
2024-25	1.72%	3.12%	74%
2023-24	1.20%	1.76%	73%
2022-23	0.00%	4.87%	79%
2021-22	1.79%	2.74%	57%
2020-21	1.38%	2.56%	60%
2019-20	2.24%	2.24%	55%
2018-19	3.16%	3.21%	53%
2017-18	1.74%	1.74%	73%
2016-17	1.50%	1.50%	71%
2015-16	1.88%	2.43%	69%
10-year Average	1.66%	2.62%	66%



Contingency Budget

Budget Passed or Defeated?

- If proposed budget passes, enact budget effective July 1st.
- If proposed budget is defeated, district may do one of the following:
 - Resubmit the defeated budget allowing enough time for legal notices
 - Submit a revised budget allowing enough time for legal notices
 - Adopt a contingent budget
- If the resubmitted or revised budget is defeated, the BOE must adopt a contingent budget.
- Uniform Statewide Budget Revote Date - 3rd Tuesday in June

Structure of Contingent Budget

- Includes teachers' salaries and ordinary contingent expenses.
 - Teachers salaries include professional educator positions certified by the State Education Department including teachers, teacher assistants, administrators, and various professional specialists working within pupil personnel services.
- Ordinary contingent expenses are those necessary to provide the *minimum services* legally required to:
 - Operate and maintain school buildings and the educational program
 - Preserve the property of the district; and
 - Ensure the health and safety of students and staff
- *The Board of Education determines which appropriations constitute ordinary contingent expenses.*



Contingency Budget

What is a contingency budget and why would we need one?

- If the budget vote fails twice, the District must adopt a contingency budget which has many requirements including:
 - All programs face potential impacts
 - No increase to the prior year's tax levy - Tax levy at 0%
 - No purchases of buses or equipment
 - Capital Outlay project is eliminated (effect on tax cap calculation going forward)
 - Administrative Component of Budget is limited to prior year's % of total budget
 - To the extent aid is specifically designated for the purchase of equipment (computer hardware), such equipment can be considered an ordinary contingent expense.
 - No use of school facilities by outside groups (unless costs are reimbursed)
 - Taylor law must apply to consider ordinary contingent expense
 - Certain field trips are eliminated (unless fully reimbursed)



New Capital Reserve Proposition

On the May 20, 2025 ballot:

RESOLVED, that the Cornwall Central School District, is hereby authorized to establish a new capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated 2025 Buildings and Facilities Capital Reserve Fund for the construction of additions to, improvements to, reconstruction and equipping of School District buildings, facilities and athletic fields and tracks, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, and site and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at an ultimate amount of \$5,000,000, plus accrued interest and investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years, the source of funding to be surplus dollars and/or legally available funds available to the District when it closes its books every June 30.



2025-26 Budget Calendar, Questions & Discussion

- ✓ **February 10, 2025**
(Monday) BOE Budget Session (7 pm – Cornwall Elementary)
- ✓ **February 24, 2025**
(Monday) BOE Budget Session (7 pm – Cornwall Elementary)
- ✓ **March 10, 2025**
(Monday) BOE Budget Session (7 pm – Cornwall Elementary)
- ✓ **March 24, 2025**
(Monday) BOE Budget Session (7 pm – Cornwall Elementary)
- ✓ **April 7, 2025**
(Monday) BOE Budget Session (7 pm – Cornwall Elementary)
- April 24, 2025**
(Thursday) BOE Budget Session (7 pm – Cornwall Elementary)
2025-26 Budget adoption
- May 6, 2025**
(Tuesday) BOE Work Session (7 pm - Cornwall Elementary)
Annual Budget Hearing
- May 20, 2025**
(Tuesday) **Budget vote and Board of Education Election**
(6 am to 9 pm – Cornwall Middle School Gymnasium)

