

Cornwall Central School District

2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget

March 24, 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 Expenditures
2. Recommended Expenditures Summary
3. Recommended Budget – The How?
4. 2025-26 Recommended Revenue
5. 2025-26 Recommended Budget Summary
6. 2025-26 Recommended Budget Recap
7. 2025-26 Budget Goals Recap
8. NYS Aid Projections
9. Needs Assessment – Current
10. Tax Levy & Approval Rating History Data
11. Tax Levy Impact
12. Contingency Budget
13. New Capital Reserve Proposition
14. Budget Calendar, Questions & Discussion



2025-26 Recommended Expenditures (Budget)

| 2025-26 Recommended Budget | 2024-25 Approved Budget | Budget-to-Budget Increase |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| \$ 92,721,136 | \$ 90,260,773 | \$ 2,460,363 |

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



2025-26 Budget – Recommended Expenditures Summary

| Budget Expenditure | 2025-26 Budget (Recommended) | 2024-25 Budget (Approved) | Increase / (Decrease) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Salaries | \$ 43,654,068 | \$ 42,366,645 | \$ 1,287,423 |
| Pensions (TRS, ERS, SS) | \$ 7,953,380 | \$ 8,044,513 | \$ (91,133) |
| Health Insurance | \$ 11,951,987 | \$ 11,814,917 | \$ 139,770 |
| Contractual/Supplies/Equip | \$ 10,455,230 | \$ 10,006,133 | \$ 449,097 |
| Out-of-District Tuition | \$ 4,549,338 | \$ 4,249,416 | \$ 299,922 |
| Debt Service (P&I) | \$ 4,211,542 | \$ 3,809,259 | \$ 402,283 |
| Transportation | \$ 6,141,848 | \$ 6,016,565 | \$ 125,283 |
| Utilities | \$ 1,274,389 | \$ 1,161,661 | \$ 112,728 |
| Occupational Education | \$ 1,591,560 | \$ 1,551,120 | \$ 40,440 |
| Insurance | \$ 637,794 | \$ 612,244 | \$ 25,550 |
| Transfer to Capital Fund | \$ 300,000 | \$ 631,000 | \$ (331,000) |
| TOTAL | \$ 92,721,136 | \$ 90,260,773 | \$ 2,460,363 |



2025-26 Recommended Budget – The How?

🌱 Teacher Attrition:

- 🌱 Teachers leaving the profession– retiring.

🌱 As of June 30, 2025

- 🌱 10 total teacher retirements.
 - 🌱 5 teachers positions will be filled through traditional posting and hiring process.
 - 🌱 5 teachers positions can be filled based on redistribution of staff due to enrollment or program shifts.
- 🌱 No teachers or staff will be but cut or excessed.
- 🌱 Instructional programs will continue to develop.



2025-26 Recommended Revenue Projections

| 2025-26 Recommended Revenue Projections | 2024-25 Projected Revenue | Budget-to-Budget Increase |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| \$ 90,364,365 | \$ 87,435,879 | \$ 2,928,486 |

Assumptions:

-  Maximum allowable property tax levy increase = 3.08% = \$1,615,813
-  **2.50% property tax levy increase used in revenue projection = \$1,311,537**
-  Increase in State Aid = \$1,020,442
-  Increase in miscellaneous revenue = \$232,131

Open Items:

-  Final State Aid Figures



2025-26 Recommended Budget Summary

| | Amount |
|---|-----------------------|
| Recommended Budget (expenditures) | \$ 92,721,136 |
| Recommended Revenues: | |
| Property Tax Levy (2.50% increase) | 53,773,900 |
| State Aid | 34,997,138 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,593,327 |
| Total Recommended Revenues | 90,364,365 |
| Current Shortfall – without Assigned Fund Balance | \$ (2,356,771) |
| Recommended Assigned Fund Balance | 2,356,771 |
| Current Deficit for Instructional and Operational Needs – with Assigned Fund Balance | \$ 0 |



2025-26 Recommended Budget – Recap

| 2025-26 Revised Budget | 2025-26 Revised Revenue Projections | Current Shortfall – without Assigned Fund Balance | Current Shortfall – with Assigned Fund Balance of \$2,356,711 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| \$ 92,721,136 | \$ 90,364,365 | \$ (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 = \$1,311,537
- 
 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



2025-26 Budget Goals Recap

2025-26 Budget Goals:

- ✓ Lowest possible tax levy increase, but above all -- stay within the Property Tax Cap.
2.5% Property Tax Levy.
- ✓ Maintain current programs.
No programs or staff were eliminated.
- ✓ Continue to support and grow instructional and operational programs.
Instructional and operational programs will continue to develop.

2025-26 Additional Budget Accomplishments:

- ✓ Reduce reliance on appropriated fund balance:(More info to come.)
2025-26 = \$2,356,711
2024-25 = \$2,824,894
2023-24 = \$2,500,000



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 2.50% 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 2.50% increase.
- Increase the amount of assigned fund balance.
- A combination of the two options above.



Needs Assessment – Present – District



Cornwall Central Schools – District

| Budget Request | Cost \$ |
|--|--------------------|
| 1.0 Guidance Counselor (COH/WAES) | \$133,252 |
| 1.0 Early Intervention Support Teacher (COH/WAES) | \$133,252 |
| 1.0 Early Intervention Support Teacher (CES) | \$133,252 |
| 1.0 Instructional Coach (COH/CES/WAES) | \$133,252 |
| Guidance Department Chairperson (CCMS) | \$4,496 |
| 1.0 ELL Teacher (CCHS) | \$133,252 |
| 1.0 CPSE Chairperson (PPS) | \$133,252 |
| 1.0 Custodian (B&G: CCHS at Pool) | \$73,394 |
| 4.0 Safety Monitors (COH/CES/WAES/CCMS) | \$257,480 |
| Universal Pre-K Program - Additional 20 Seats | \$71,340 |
| Increase Uncertified Substitute Teacher Compensation | \$7,292 |
| TOTAL | \$1,213,514 |

Total Cost of Needs Assessment = \$1,213,514



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% |



Tax Levy Impact

| Residence - Fair Market Value | Estimated Tax Increase | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | Tax/Year | Tax/Month |
| \$250,000 | \$206 | \$17 |
| \$350,000 | \$288 | \$24 |
| \$450,000 | \$371 | \$31 |

| Assumptions: |
|---|
| 1. Increase in Tax Levy of 2.5% |
| 2. Appropriated fund balance of \$2,356,711 |
| 3. STAR Exemption included |
| 4. No change in Town Assessed Value |
| 5. No change in equalization rates |

School Tax Levy

- While the Maximum Allowable Tax Levy is 3.08%, the 25-26 Recommended Budget reflects a 2.50% increase. Note: for every 1% increase, the tax levy increases by \$524,623.
- The above reflects the estimated increase in school taxes under the **Proposed Tax Levy increase of 2.50%**. Note: based on current 2024-25 assessment levels and equalization rates.



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)

