



January 26, 2026

Dear Families and Community Members,

As we begin the new year, the Canajoharie and Fort Plain Central School Districts want to keep you informed about the school merger process. We believe in being open and clear so every resident can make an informed decision this summer.

Focus Teams: Community Members at Work

Focus Teams met on January 7 to begin in-depth discussions about a possible merger or additional shared services between Fort Plain and Canajoharie Schools.

If you would like to join a Focus Team, you are welcome to attend an upcoming meeting:

- **Operational Planning** *Facilities, transportation, and finances*
January 29 – 5:00 PM Canajoharie High School Conference Room
- **Educational Programming** *Student opportunities and curriculum*
February 24 – 6:00 PM Canajoharie Middle School
- **Cultural Integration** *Honoring both district communities*
February 4 – 5:30 PM Canajoharie High School
- **Staff-Centered Transition** *Supporting our staff through a merger*
March 2 – 3:15 PM East Hill Elementary
- **Student-Centered Transition** *Supporting our students through a merger*
March 2 – 3:30 PM Canajoharie High School

Currently, about **35 community members** are serving on these teams. They will continue meeting over the next few months to gather information and shape recommendations for the future of our schools.

Important Financial Update

New York State has shared updated financial information about a possible merger.

- Original estimate: **\$56 million** over 14 years
- Updated estimate: **\$83.9 million** over 14 years

The attached information sheet summarizes how these funds could be used to improve student programs, support staff, and provide long-term financial stability for taxpayers. It also includes frequently asked questions with answers. These were the most often raised questions about the merger in the past year in our communities.

Upcoming Dates to Know

Please mark your calendars:

- **Joint Board of Education Meeting**
April 15, 2026 Canajoharie High School
(*Focus Team recommendations and financial outlook*)
- **Straw Vote (Advisory) June 4, 2026**
- **Final Binding Vote July 29, 2026**
If the straw vote is approved

Stay Connected

We will continue to share **monthly updates**. Please also check both district websites weekly for new information.

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact either district office at any time. Thank you for staying engaged in this important decision for our students and our communities.

Sincerely,

Canajoharie and Fort Plain Central School Districts