



FORT PLAIN

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET VOTE 2026-27

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Polls open noon to 8 p.m.
Harry Hoag Elementary School Library

Proposed Budget

\$24,240,000

Increase from 2025-26 Budget

\$240,000/1%

Tax Levy Increase

1.25%

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- U.S. citizen
- School district resident for at least 30 days
- 18 years of age

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BUDGET VOTE SET FOR MAY 19

Investing in our students and schools

The school budget is the largest investment our community makes with its tax dollars. Each year, from fall through spring, district leaders and the Board of Education work together to create a plan that uses our resources wisely to support all students.

We also work hard to manage the budget responsibly and keep our community informed about school programs, projects and student success.

On May 19, residents will vote on a proposed \$24,240,000 budget for the 2026–27 school year. This budget is a 1% increase over this year that supports our mission to help every student grow—academically, socially, emotionally, and physically—while learning in a safe and welcoming environment.

Voters will also be presented with propositions for diesel and gas-powered bus purchases and funding for the Fort Plain Public Library, as well as candidates to fill three open seats on the Fort Plain Central School District Board of Education.

Meeting our needs, supporting our schools

Like any organization, schools have essential costs. These include building maintenance, transportation, staff salaries and benefits, supplies and rising prices. While we work to control costs, these expenses are necessary to keep our schools running.

Even with these challenges, this budget maintains strong programs and opportunities that prepare students for success in today's world.

The proposed budget includes a tax levy increase of 1.25%, which is below the district's "tax cap" of 2.61%. Because of this, it requires a simple majority vote (50% plus one) to pass.

This budget does not reduce staffing, programs or student services.

2026–27 Budget Highlights

- Maintains academic programs, including college-level and career-focused learning opportunities.
- Supports student health, wellness and academic support.
- Provides for a wide range of extracurricular activities, athletics and clubs.
- Funds pupil support positions to strengthen connections with students and families.
- Invests in technology and helps students learn to use it responsibly.

Why Your Vote Matters

Voting on the school budget is your opportunity to have a direct voice in the future of our schools and community. A strong school system benefits everyone—it supports student success, strengthens our community and helps maintain property values.

Make your voice heard on May 19. Every vote counts.

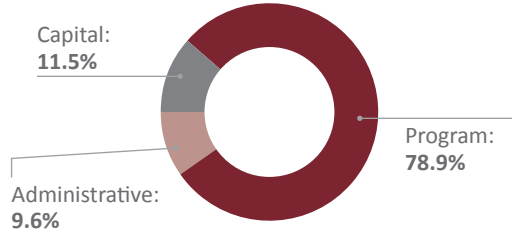
ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Residents who are unable to vote in person on May 19 may apply for an absentee ballot.

Please call 518-993-4000 ext. 1000 to request an absentee ballot or visit our website at www.fortplain.org/budget to learn more.

Three-Part Budget: 2026-27

In New York State, school budgets are divided into three parts—Program, Capital and Administrative—to clearly show how funds are used and to help voters better understand district spending.



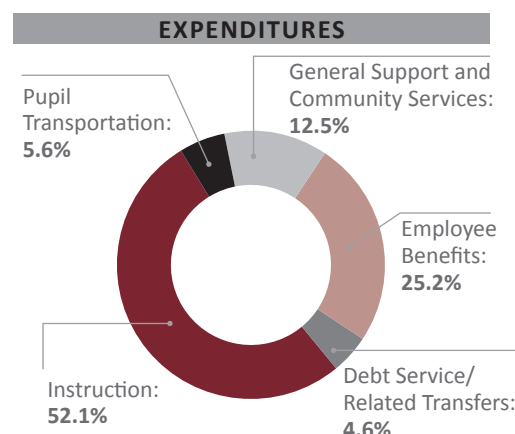
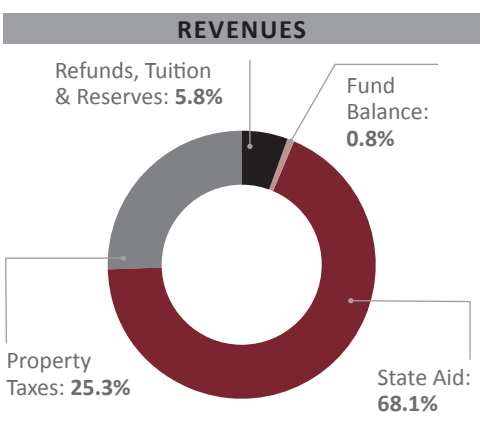
THREE-PART BUDGET	BUDGETED 2025-26	PROPOSED 2026-27	\$ CHANGE '25-26 TO '26-27	% OF BUDGET
Administrative	\$2,350,800	\$2,337,554	-\$13,246	9.6%
Program	\$18,880,571	\$19,112,854	\$232,283	78.9%
Capital	\$2,768,629	\$2,789,592	\$20,963	11.5%
TOTAL	\$24,000,000	\$24,240,000	\$240,000	100.0%

PROJECTED REVENUES

REVENUES	BUDGETED 2025-26	PROPOSED 2026-27	\$ CHANGE '25-26 TO '26-27	% OF REVENUE
State Aid	\$16,182,808	\$16,499,423	\$316,615	68.1%
Property Taxes	\$6,064,405	\$6,140,210	\$75,805	25.3%
Refunds, Tuition & Reserves	\$1,552,787	\$1,415,367	-\$137,420	5.8%
Fund Balance	\$200,000	\$185,000	-\$15,000	0.8%
Total Revenue	\$24,000,000	\$24,240,000	\$240,000	100.0%

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES	BUDGETED 2025-26	PROPOSED 2026-27	\$ CHANGE '25-26 TO '26-27	% OF EXPENSES
Instruction	\$12,408,716	\$12,641,996	\$233,280	52.1%
Employee Benefits	\$6,275,653	\$6,107,588	-\$168,065	25.2%
General Support and Community Services	\$2,914,253	\$3,028,705	\$114,452	12.5%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,297,083	\$1,346,666	\$49,583	5.6%
Debt Service/Related Transfers	\$1,104,295	\$1,115,045	\$10,750	4.6%
Total Expenditures	\$24,000,000	\$24,240,000	\$240,000	100.0%



UNDERSTANDING THE SCHOOL BUDGET

The **Program** component is the largest part of the budget and directly supports student learning. It includes teacher and staff salaries, classroom instruction, special education services, transportation, extracurricular activities and instructional materials.

The **Capital** component covers the operation and maintenance of school buildings and grounds. This includes custodial and maintenance costs, utilities, repairs, construction projects and debt payments for past building improvements.

The **Administrative** component includes the costs of overall district management and operations. This includes expenses for the Board of Education, superintendent's office, business office, legal and auditing services and other central administrative functions.

Together, these three parts provide a complete and transparent picture of how the district uses its resources to support students, maintain facilities and operate effectively.



OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for School Year 2025-2026	Budget Proposed for School Year 2026-2027	*Contingent Budget for School Year 2026-2027
TOTAL Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 24,240,000	\$ 24,240,000
Increase/(Decrease) for the School Year: 2026-2027		\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		1.00%	1.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support Budgeted Amount	\$ 6,064,405	\$ 6,140,210	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount to Reduce Current Tax Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$ 6,064,405	\$ 6,140,210	\$ 6,064,405
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit***	\$ -	\$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,313,279	\$ 6,222,573	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions, but Adding Back Any Tax Cap Reserve Amount used (E-B-F+D)	\$ 6,064,405	\$ 6,140,210	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 248,874	\$ 82,363	
1. Administrative Component	\$ 2,350,800	\$ 2,337,554	\$ 2,337,554
2. Program Component	\$ 18,880,571	\$ 19,112,854	\$ 19,112,854
3. Capital Component	\$ 2,768,629	\$ 2,789,592	\$ 2,789,592

*** What happens if the 2026-2027 budget is not approved by the majority of voters?**
 Under state law, school boards can submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingent budget, which would cap the 2026-2027 tax levy at the 2025-2026 current year amount (a 0% tax levy cap).

If a contingent budget is adopted:

- Any non-school related use of the buildings would require a charge to cover associated costs.
- "Downtown" bus runs may be suspended unless specific donations were raised for that purpose.
- \$75,805 would have to be removed from the Proposed Tax Levy and added to Appropriated Fund Balance.
- No further reductions would be required.

** There are no Non-Excludable Propositions

*** While the \$350,000.00 Proposition for Authorization to Purchase Buses is a Permissible Exclusion to the School Tax Levy Limit, because 100% of the actual costs would be expended from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund, it has a \$0.00 effect on the Tax Levy.

Budget Proposed for School Year 2026-2027
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings
\$ 404

The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual **budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027** by the qualified voters of the Fort Plain Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held May 19, 2026, at the Harry Hoag Elementary Library between the hours of 12:00-8:00 PM. Four candidates are running for three seats on the Fort Plain CSD Board of Education. Three: 3-year terms.

Vote for three (3) Candidates to Fill Vacancies of:

Anthony Crouse David Przestrzelski David Briggs



WHAT WILL I SEE ON THE BALLOT?

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
2026-27 Budget**

Residents will vote on the proposed 2026-27 district budget totaling \$24,240,000.

**PROPOSITION NO. 2
School Vehicle Purchase**

Residents will be asked to consider the purchase of three (3) gas/diesel school vehicles for approximately \$350,000. This will be paid for with Capital Reserves and will have no impact on the 2026-27 tax levy. The district is eligible for roughly 90% reimbursement for these vehicle purchases through state school transportation aid.

**PROPOSITION NO. 3
Library Tax Levy**

Residents will be asked to consider an increase of \$25,000 in the annual appropriation to support and maintain the Fort Plain Free Library, from \$100,000 to \$125,000. This proposition is separate from the Fort Plain Central School District's annual budget and will be raised annually by a tax on taxable property in the school district.

Board of Education Election

The seats presently occupied by Fort Plain Central School District Board of Education members Anthony Crouse, David Przestrzelski and David Briggs will become vacant as of June 30, 2026.

Three, three-year terms commencing July 1, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2029 on the Fort Plain Central School District Board of Education are up for election this year. The four candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, are:

Janine Brown David Przestrzelski
 David Briggs Anthony Crouse



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sara McDuffee,
President

Anthony Crouse,
1st Vice President

Neal VanSlyke,
2nd Vice President

David Przestrzelski

Kaitlyn Webb

Eunice Douglas

David Briggs

Ian Burns,
Ex Officio Student Representative

Dr. Karen Geelan,
Interim Superintendent

Dated Material: Important for district residents. Please send any address additions or corrections to the Superintendent's Office at Fort Plain CSD.

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

BUDGET HEARING

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
6 p.m.

District Office, 25 High Street

BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Noon to 8 p.m.

Harry Hoag Elementary
School Library

PROPOSED MERGER - Information and Upcoming Straw Poll

Why are we considering a merger?

Since the merger study and straw poll vote in 2025, the merger aid for us has risen to \$83.9 million (almost 50% increase) and the last vote had a slight margin between “yes” and “no” in both districts, so both boards agreed to present the creation of a new, combined district to voters.

Learn more about the proposed merger on our website, www.fortplain.org/merger-information-and-resources, or by scanning this QR code:



Straw Vote (Advisory)

June 4, 2026

Harry Hoag Elementary School Library,
noon - 8 p.m.

This will determine whether a vote on the merger should be held.

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION

Saturday, June 27
10 a.m.

Harry Hoag Elementary School.
All are welcome to attend.

