



## 2026-27 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

**Tuesday,  
May 19, 2026**

11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Lake George Elementary School  
69 Sun Valley Drive  
Lake George, NY

### BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

**2026-27 Proposed Budget**  
**\$26,708,960**

**Spending Increase**  
**\$673,038** (2.59%)

**Tax Levy Increase**  
**\$740,000** (3.29%)

(Below the tax cap: 3.66% allowable)

### BOE Candidates

(Running for a three-year term)

- Jeannine Bieber
- Rosemarie Earl

### Voter Qualifications:

- United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a district resident for 30 days prior to the vote.
- A resident can only have one legal residence, which is their place of permanent residence.
- Voters must present photo identification.

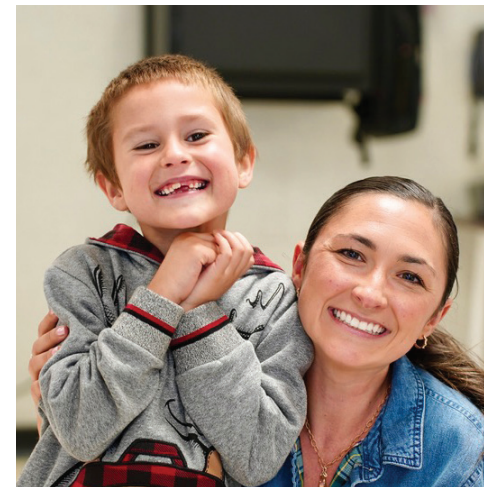
## BUDGET NEWS

On Tuesday, May 19, Lake George Central School District residents will vote on a proposed \$26,708,960 school budget for the 2026-27 school year. The proposal maintains the high-quality educational programs and opportunities that define Lake George as a small school with big opportunities, while addressing rising operational costs, aging facilities and evolving student needs. It reflects the district's mission and CREATE values, which emphasize student success, well-being and preparation for life beyond graduation.

**All instructional, athletic, and co-curricular programs are preserved within this proposal.** Continued investments support early learning and literacy, as well as expanded student opportunities through advanced coursework, career exploration, and college-level experiences, as the district continues to work toward New York State's Portrait of a Graduate expectations. The district also remains committed to supporting students with diverse learning needs through programs such as the Pathways to Independence Program and continued enhancements through our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) initiatives.

A major driver of this year's budget is the sharp increase in electric and gas costs, which continues to affect school districts across the state. Despite utility increases of 60% to 70%, the district has worked carefully to minimize the impact on taxpayers while maintaining program stability and continuing to invest in the upkeep, safety, and modernization of district facilities.

The proposal includes planned investments in heating and ventilation improvements, enhanced safety measures such as upgraded speakers and cameras, and continued progress in equipment and infrastructure replacement cycles. The budget also supports improvements to student and community spaces, including updates to the



elementary library with new carpeting and flexible furniture designed to create a more welcoming, family-friendly environment for reading and learning. Additional projects include cafeteria equipment upgrades, gymnasium backboard replacements, hallway carpet replacement as part of a long-term cycle, and the replacement of a district passenger van. A \$250,000 capital outlay is included for heating and ventilation units at the high school.

The district continues to focus on long-term financial sustainability through careful budgeting and staffing adjustments achieved through attrition. The proposed budget reflects a reduction of two full-time positions, bringing the total reduction to 56 full-time positions (26%) since 2008, with minimal impact on student programs.

"We are excited to propose a budget that maintains outstanding opportunities for our students while remaining fiscally responsible," Superintendent John Luthringer said. "This proposal reflects a thoughtful balance between community needs and the resources required to deliver a high-quality education."

Residents are encouraged to review the full budget information and participate in the vote on May 19.

### Absentee and Early Voting

Absentee and early voting are available. Voters must submit an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. Separate applications are required for each option, but the application process and deadlines are the same.

Ballots are available from the Superintendent's Office. Mailed ballots must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the vote. Individuals picking up absentee ballots must do so no later than the day before the election. All absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.

Voters should carefully follow all ballot instructions, including completing the front of the envelope and signing and dating it where indicated. Ballots with unsigned envelopes or incomplete information cannot be legally counted.

For more information, contact the school district clerk in the Superintendent's Office at the Jr.-Sr. High School at (518) 668-5456, ext. 1207.

## Curriculum in Motion:

### How Lake George CSD Continuously Evolves to Meet Student Needs

At Lake George Central School District, curriculum isn't a static document, it's a living, evolving process. Through a structured five-year renewal cycle, educators reflect, refine, and strengthen instruction to ensure every student is supported, challenged and prepared for the future.



This cycle allows time to monitor progress, analyze student data and make meaningful adjustments, ensuring curriculum remains responsive while maintaining a clear framework for improvement. Grounded in the district's vision, the work emphasizes alignment from Pre-K through 12, connection to New York State standards and priorities like digital fluency and real-world readiness.

Curriculum renewal doesn't always mean adopting something new. Much of the work focuses on refining existing practices, strengthening assessments and incorporating research-based strategies to better support student learning.

Collaboration drives the process. Teachers, instructional leaders and administrators work across buildings, using both data and classroom experience to ensure consistency. Teacher-led committees guide research, development and implementation, with updates shared with district leadership and the Board of Education.

Following research, teams move into development and implementation, which often overlap to support planning and real-time application. At the elementary level, Ashley Gershen supports curriculum teams and implementation efforts. Sarah Olson works with secondary staff to ensure alignment and instructional consistency. Megan Coker leads the district wide vision, ensuring all work reflects best practices and the needs of the Lake George community.

A key part of this work is the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), addressing academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs to support the whole child. While the cycle provides structure, the work continues year-round through data meetings, professional learning and ongoing feedback, because at Lake George, curriculum is continuously improved for every student, every day.

## Bridging Cultures, Building Friendships:

### Saga City Students Visit Lake George

Students from Saga City, Japan, experienced the best of New York state during an unforgettable visit that took them from Lake George to Niagara Falls and up to Lake Placid. Throughout the week, students were immersed in new environments, traditions and experiences that showcased both the natural beauty and strong sense of community found across the region.

Hosted by Lake George families, students quickly felt at home as they explored all the area has to offer. Outdoor adventures included hiking, horseback riding, and relaxing evenings by the campfire, often filled with music and conversation. They also had the opportunity to visit the Lake George Fire Company, attend a Thunder hockey game, and travel to different destinations around the Lake George region, making each day a new and exciting experience.

The visit also created meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange. In a forum setting at the school, Saga students shared insights into life in

Japan, giving Lake George students a chance to learn directly from their peers. These conversations helped build understanding and appreciation between cultures.

Saga students fully participated in both in-school and after-school activities, connecting with classmates and becoming part of the school community. Friendships formed quickly, showing how shared experiences can bring people together, regardless of distance or language.

The week concluded with a celebration assembly featuring traditional games and incredible performances by the visiting students. It was a fitting end to a week filled with connection, learning, and joy.



## Become an International Student Host Family with the Lake George CSD for the 2026-27 School Year

Host an outgoing and friendly 15-year-old female from Spain who loves staying active — especially playing volleyball.

### Benefits

- Learn about a new culture
- Enrich your family life
- Help a teen experience Lake George

### Requirements

- Provide a bed and quiet place to study
- Provide transportation and support for student's needs
- Varied time commitments; monthly compensation

### Contact

Emily Cooper  
coopere@lkgeorge.org

Jennifer Cornell  
cornellj@lkgeorge.org

# Understanding PILOTs and the 2026-27 Budget Proposal

## What is a PILOT and who can apply for it?

A PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) is an agreement where a property owner—often a commercial entity—makes negotiated, fixed payments to local taxing bodies instead of paying full property taxes for a set period. These agreements are approved by local Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) and have eligibility requirements and specific criteria to support economic development.

## How does a PILOT differ from regular property taxes?

PILOT payments are typically lower than full property taxes, especially in the early years, and may increase gradually based on a predetermined schedule. In contrast, property taxes are based on assessed property value and tax rates set annually, meaning they can fluctuate year to year. PILOTs provide a predictable, fixed payment structure over time.

## Who approves PILOTs, and what role does the school district play?

PILOT agreements are generally approved by an Industrial Development Agency (IDA). While school districts do not directly negotiate or approve these agreements, they are consulted during the process and may provide input on potential financial impacts. The final decision rests with the approving agency.

## How much revenue does the district receive from PILOTs?

The district currently receives approximately \$150,000 annually in PILOT revenue. There are four active agreements, with one additional project proposed and potential for future agreements.

## How do PILOTs factor into long-term budget planning?

Because PILOT revenue is temporary and limited, the district plans conservatively and does not rely on it as a primary funding source. To maintain stability within the tax cap, the district aims for a neutral impact by aligning PILOT revenue with capital expenditures—using these funds specifically for one-time improvements rather than ongoing costs.

## How is the district using PILOT revenue in the 2026-27 budget?

This budget proposal strategically uses PILOT payments revenue to expand the district's annual Capital Outlay Project. Rather than the standard \$100,000 allocation, the district is proposing a \$250,000 Capital Outlay Project by incorporating PILOT funds. The scope of the capital outlay will include replacing univents in classrooms at the high school.

## Proposition #1

The general fund budget of the Lake George Central School District of \$26,708,960 for the 2026-27 school year.

## Proposition #2

The District proposes purchasing two replacement buses:

- One Microbird 16-passenger wheelchair lift gas bus to replace a 2013 model
- One 60-passenger gas bus to replace a 2017 diesel bus

Shall the Board of Education of the Lake George Central School District be authorized to acquire these buses at a total cost not to exceed \$318,857, and to finance this amount through the levy of a tax (collected in annual installments and offset by state aid), and, if necessary, through the issuance of bonds, notes, or installment purchase agreements not to exceed \$318,857, including the levy of a tax to pay interest on such obligations?

## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$26,035,922	\$26,708,960	\$26,215,869
Increase for the 2026-27 School Year		\$673,038	\$179,947
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		2.59%	0.69%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		2.63%	
<b>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>			
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$22,505,000	\$23,245,000	\$22,505,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,079,424	\$1,251,033	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$21,429,310	\$22,076,981	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$21,425,576	\$21,993,967	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$3,734	\$83,014	
Administrative Component	\$2,863,993	\$2,936,777	\$2,860,508
Program Component	\$19,485,321	\$19,471,647	\$19,461,053
Capital Component	\$3,686,608	\$4,300,536	\$3,894,308

\* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, all equipment and non-contingent items would be removed and the district would maintain a level tax levy.

\*\* In the event of a defeated budget, the 2025-26 tax levy may not increase beyond the 2026-27 tax levy. The Lake George Central School District would have to reduce the proposed budget by \$493,091, potentially impacting extracurricular, co-curricular activities, and programs. The reduction also excludes non-contingent items such as student supplies, equipment purchases, certain capital projects.

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition to purchase 2 gas buses	\$318,857

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

PLEASE NOTE: The Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings for school districts were not available at the time the school budget newsletter was sent to print. When the NYS Taxation and Finance Department makes the data available, we will post it on the Budget & Finance web page, or you may also find it at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov).

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Lake George school district, Warren County, New York, will be held at Lake George Elementary School Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



# LAKE GEORGE

Central School District

381 Canada Street  
Lake George, NY 12845

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALBANY, NY  
PERMIT NO. 164

### Board of Education

- Katie Bruening — President
- Maryanne MacKenzie — Vice President
- Jeannine Bieber
- Rosemarie Earl
- Mario Fasulo
- Mike Fish
- Jeffrey Meyer

Produced with the cooperation of Capital Region BOCES  
Engagement & Development Service.

Find us on @LakeGeorgeCSD

**empathy**  
**SUPPORTIVE**  
innovative

**ENRICHING**

**Student-centered**  
*safe*

**high-achieving**

**COMMUNITY-DRIVEN**  
collaboration

**FORWARD-THINKING**  
*trust*

**inspiring**  
**accountability**

**inclusive**  
**respect**

**EXCELLENCE**

small-school **BIG-OPPORTUNITIES**