



Webster

Students First. District Proud.

Webster Central School District

Budget Newsletter 2025

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YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

**BUDGET
VOTE**



TUESDAY

MAY 20, 2025

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Webster Schroeder High School Gym
875 Ridge Road



Información de votación
en español



New Voting Machines
Web Page





2025-26 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Dear One Webster Community,

Webster Central School District (WCSD) invites all community members to learn about the proposed \$220,266,425 budget for the 2025-26 school year, outlined in our annual budget newsletter. We especially encourage all eligible WCSD voters to exercise their right to vote on this important budget and elect three members to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 20, at the Webster Schroeder High School gym, located at 875 Ridge Road. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Your input matters!

We are proud that this proposed budget allows us to continue offering a wide range of academic and extracurricular programs for just over 8,000 WCSD students while staying within the tax cap for the 14th consecutive year. This spending plan reflects the valuable feedback we received from our community through the online *ThoughtExchange* held in January 2025.

Please remember that all eligible WCSD residents with proper identification are able to vote, regardless of voter registration status. We hope to see you at Webster Schroeder High School on Tuesday, May 20, for this important budget vote and Board of Education election. To learn more about the budget, please visit websterschools.org/budget.

Thank you for staying informed as we plan for the 2025-26 school year.

Janice Richardson
President, Board of Education

Brian Neenan
Superintendent of Schools



Why We're Proud to Be



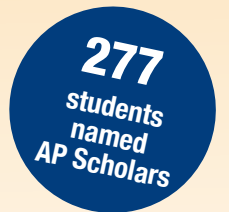
Students First. District Proud.

- 173 students were selected to **perform in honor ensembles** in Monroe County, NYSSMA Zone 2, Area & Conference All-State.
- 162 students submitted a total of 270 pieces of work and were recognized with 87 awards as regional winners of the prestigious **2024 Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition**. Those awards included 11 Gold Keys, which were also juried for national awards with one student receiving a portfolio Honorable Mention.
- WCSD Collaboratively promotes the integration of student services, supports, and interventions with rigorous instruction through the building of clear and responsive multi-tiered systems of supports that drive success for all learners.
- 98% of WCSD's varsity athletic teams earned **scholar athlete recognition** during the 2023-24 school year, which requires a team average GPA for 75% of the roster be greater than or equal to 90%.
- WCSD is in the 10th year of its **1:1 student device initiative** that provides all students with an assigned electronic device that can be brought back and forth to school. The initiative supports ongoing efforts to promote equitable access to increase learning opportunities, engagement, collaboration, and creativity.



This initiative also offers high school students the opportunity to work as customer service and technology repair representatives for their peers as part of the Webster Technical Internship program. Students may also receive certification from Dell as part of their training.

- The **WCSD Technology Program** offers 18 courses in career pathways, such as architecture, automotive, manufacturing, visual communications, and engineering. These courses meet the needs of all students: those planning to attend college and those wanting to enter the workforce apprenticeships. The engineering pathway includes four courses from the nationally acclaimed Project Lead the Way program. In six of the technology courses students can earn college credit in partnership with Monroe Community College and the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Webster students continue to excel in the **College Board's Advanced Placement** courses of study. In 2024, WCSD scored an average of 3.4 out of a possible 5 on AP exams.



WCSD has been honored 19 times by the NAMM Foundation as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the United States.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

DISTRICT BUDGET

WHAT THE BUDGET MEANS TO YOU

14th straight year proposed budget is tax cap compliant

Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 Assessment

Town	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Variance	% Variance
Penfield	17.081053	17.086508	18.285101	\$1.20	7.01%
Webster	27.683099	28.587096	28.570525	(\$0.02)	-0.06%
Ontario	19.403196	19.831094	19.267127	(\$0.56)	-2.84%
Walworth	19.876444	20.367070	19.817617	(\$0.55)	-2.70%

For more information on estimated 2025-26 tax rates, please visit websterschools.org/budget. Final tax rates will be set in August and are subject to change pending final assessments and equalization rates.

4.39% Budget Increase

\$220,266,425 Proposed Budget

Proposition #1 - DIESEL TRANSPORTATION

Authorization to Purchase School Buses

Approval of Proposition #1 authorizes the expenditure of \$1,825,000 for the purchase of ten (10) IC Type C, Conventional Front-Engine Buses with a 66 passenger capacity. First payments on these buses will be made in the 2026-27 fiscal year. When new buses arrive in the summer, WCSD surpluses the correspondingly aged buses. These diesel buses are financed over a five-year period and are eligible for state aid based on a transportation formula of approximately 68%.

Proposition #2 - ZERO EMISSION TRANSPORTATION

Authorization to Purchase School Bus

Approval of Proposition #2 authorizes the expenditure of \$525,000 for the purchase of one (1) IC Type C, 64 Pupil Conventional Bus Electric Model with a 66 passenger capacity. The state mandated Zero Emission conversion must commence starting in the 2027-28 year that every bus purchased must be EV or Zero Emission. This EV bus will be financed over an eight-year period and is eligible for state aid based on a transportation formula of approximately 68%.

Transportation Limits

The 2025-26 budget proposal maintains funding for the district's current transportation limits of .25 miles for elementary (K-5) students and .70 miles for secondary (6-12) students. New York State standards are set at two miles for elementary students and three miles for secondary students.

Understanding the Terminology

A **TAX LEVY** represents the total amount of money the district will collect from local property owners to support the budget. It is calculated after taking into account all other revenues, including financial support from local, state, and federal governments. WCSD's proposed 2025-26 levy is \$127,549,054. This amount will be reduced in August by the amount of re-levies that the town and county will provide in early July.

The **TAX RATE** – or the amount to be charged per \$1,000 of assessed property value – is figured by dividing the tax levy into the total assessed value of a district. The tax rate is finalized in August after towns finalize their assessments and New York State sets equalization rates which equalize the tax burden among towns. Then, the board of education sets the final tax rates for each of the four municipalities that make up the district.

TAX BILLS – the final amount that each homeowner pays can vary depending on individual assessments and each town's final tax rate. Taxpayers may see their bills go up by more than the estimated figure that is released now while others may see their tax bills go up by less. In that situation, the district is not collecting more taxes. Rather, it is a reallocation of the tax burden to take into account shifting property values.

EQUALIZATION RATES - An equalization rate is New York State's measure of a municipality's level of assessment. In order to distribute school district or county taxes among multiple municipalities, the level of assessment of each municipality must be equalized to full market value. Once the full market value of each municipality is determined, the school district or county can determine how much in taxes should be

collected from each municipality. Most of the state's more than 700 school districts distribute their taxes among segments of several municipalities, many of which have different levels of assessment. The number of municipal segments in a school district ranges from one to as many as 15. Webster CSD has four towns that all have varying degrees of equalization rates that change from year to year.

"TAX CAP" LAW IS NOT A 2 PERCENT LIMIT

New York's property tax levy "cap", signed into law in June 2011 has often been referred to as a "2 percent cap" on taxes by some people. However, the new law does not restrict any school district's proposed tax levy increase to 2 percent—or any other amount. Instead, the legislation requires each district in the state to calculate its own tax levy limit to determine what level of voter support is necessary for budget approval.

The figure "2 percent" (or the rate of inflation, if less) is just one of eight variables that factor into each district's calculation of what is called a "tax levy limit".

Districts then add to that amount portions of the tax levy that are not subject to the "cap". These include taxes levied to cover capital expenditures and a small portion of pension costs. What has been referred to as a cap is really a "tax levy limit plus exclusions".

For Webster, the tax levy limit plus exclusions for 2025-26 is \$127,549,054, a 3.19% increase compared to the current year tax levy. Based on the law, this represents the maximum allowable tax levy Webster can propose while requiring the support of a simple majority of voters (50 percent +1) for budget approval.

School Tax Relief (STAR) Program

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program offers property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners.

If you are eligible and enrolled in the STAR program, you'll receive your benefit each year in one of two ways:

1. STAR credit check. If you are registered for the STAR credit, the tax department will send you a STAR check in the mail each year. You can use the check to pay your school taxes. You can receive the STAR credit if you own your home and it's your primary residence and the combined income of the owners is \$500,000 or less.
2. STAR exemption: a reduction on your school tax bill. If you've been receiving the STAR exemption since 2015, you can continue to receive it for the same primary residence. As long as you remain eligible, you'll see a reduction on your school tax bill for the amount of your STAR exemption. Note: The STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners. Additional information can be found at the following link: www.tax.ny.gov/star/.

Board of Education Candidates

Community residents will be asked to elect three (3) individuals for three (3) year terms. Board members serve without pay and are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.



1. Linda Dioguardi

44 Walnut Hill Drive
Penfield, NY 14526
(585) 643-8802

SPOUSE: Joseph Dioguardi

CHILDREN: Rachael, Daniel
(WCSD graduates)

EDUCATION:

- Masters of Social Work, Roberts Wesleyan College
- Bachelor of Science, Biology, and Chemistry, SUNY at Oswego
- Webster High School Graduate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Social worker, specializing in geriatric care, advocacy, and family support
- Former Director of Social Work at The Hurlbut Nursing Home, overseeing patient care coordination, discharge planning, and multidisciplinary team leadership (10 years)

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Webster Central School District Board of Education (July 2015-present)
- Board of Education Vice President (2019-2021, 2022-current)
- WCSD Audit, Policy, Code of Conduct, and Strategic Planning Committees
- School Counseling Advisory Board
- Program Chair, WHEN:DFCC (2020-present)
- Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA) District Operations (8 years)
- MCSBA Information Exchange (2 years)
- MCSBA Legislative Committee (1 year)
- MCSBA Budget & Nominating Committee (1 year)
- Member and Volunteer, Webster PTSA



2. Carole Barnabas

687 Hightower Way
Webster, NY 14580
(585) 749-0452

SPOUSE: Sampat Barnabas

CHILDREN: Sanjeev, Rajesh, and Megha - graduates of Webster CSD; four grandchildren

EDUCATION:

- AP English Training - Fordham University
- MS English Education, Canisius College
- BA Humanities, Canisius College
- Regents Diploma, Mt. Mercy Academy, Buffalo, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- English Teacher - Webster CSD, Grades 7-12
- English Department Leader - Webster Thomas High School
- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA) Advisor for English grades 6-12
- ESOL Teacher - Irondequoit Adult Education
- English Teacher - Buffalo Public Schools
- Elementary School Teacher - Buffalo Public Schools

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Member of the Webster CSD Board of Education from 2022 to present
- Webster CSD BOE Audit Committee
- Liaison to the MCSBA Information Exchange Committee
- Liaison to the PTSA for DeWitt and Willink schools
- Recipient, WTA Oak Tree Teacher Appreciation Award 2001
- English Tutor - Webster Thomas HS
- Board President, Member - Beechwoods Homeowners Association (3 terms)
- Board Member - Webster Montessori School, President, Webster Montessori Society
- Volunteer Reading Mother, Webster Montessori School
- Webster PTSA
- Cub Scout Den Mother
- Literary Magazine Advisor - Webster Thomas HS
- Committees: Senior Project, Report Cards, Summer Reading Program, Strategic Planning, Curriculum Mapping, NYS Curriculum Planning, Writing Workshops



3. David Metzger

524 Apple Orchard Lane
Webster, NY 14580
585-704-4922

CHILDREN: Benjamin,
Graduate of Thomas High School

EDUCATION:

- Associates in Business Administration, SUNY Cobleskill
- Bachelors in Business Administration, RIT
- Masters in Community Counseling, St. Bonaventure University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Underwriting Supervisor, General Accident Insurance Company
- School Counselor, Warsaw Central School District
- School Counselor, Greece Central School District

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Member, Webster Special Police
- Site Supervisor, College Board SAT Testing
- Volunteer, Office for the Aging
- Member, Warsaw Superintendent Search Committee

Capital Outlay Projects

\$500,000 Capital Fund Transfer Project

Webster Schroeder High School

- Replace lighting in gymnasium and auxiliary spaces
- Replace electrical panels in gymnasium, east wing, boiler room
- Upgrade two HVAC units on the roof
 - Purpose - Energy savings with improvement in the viewing environment

\$100,000 Capital Outlay Project

Plank North Elementary School

- Elevator lift in the cafetorium
- LED lighting conversion in cafetorium



**BUDGET
VOTE**

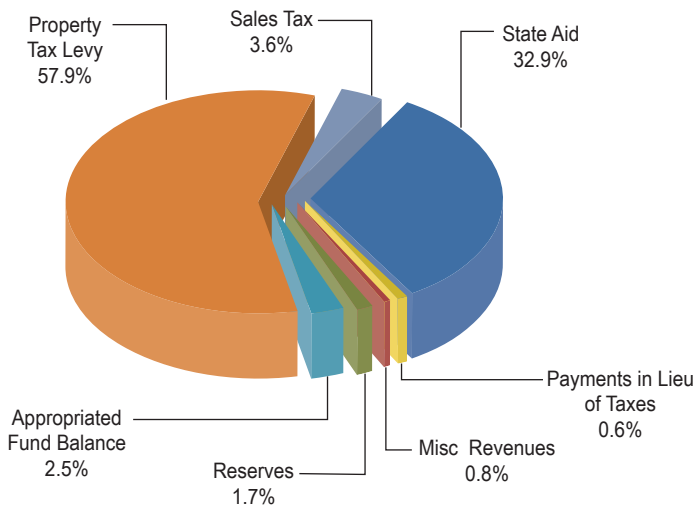
TUESDAY

MAY 20, 2025

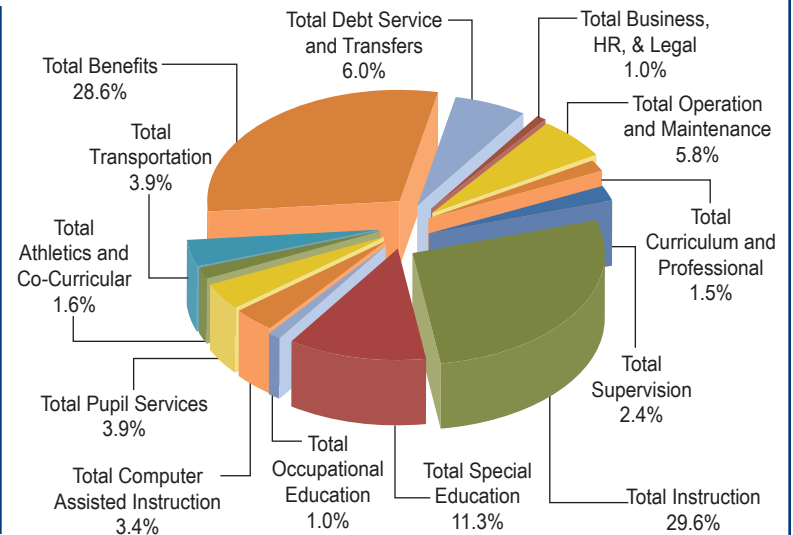
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Webster Schroeder High School Gym
875 Ridge Road

Where District Revenue Comes From



Webster CSD Expenses



Highlights of 2025-26 Proposed Spending Plan

- Under the state tax cap
- Maintains these programs and staff:
 - Funding for centralized cultural arts/enrichment programs
 - Professional development funding
 - Positions for special education continuum K-12
 - English as a New Language (ENL) staffing increase as mandated
 - Response to Intervention (RTI) funding
 - Centralized funding for instructional departments
 - Funding for co-curricular and athletics programs
 - Diverse secondary class offerings, including electives
 - Instructional specialists
 - Encore (computer literacy) program at elementary schools
- Additional funding for students with disabilities placed in BOCES or other out of district programs
- Continuing to invest in network upgrades and cybersecurity procedures

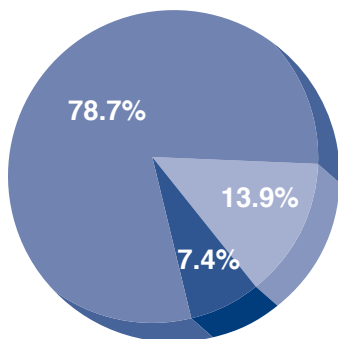
What Happens if the Webster Central School District Budget is Defeated?

If the 2025-26 budget is not approved by a simple majority, the board of education must decide whether the budget would be put up for a vote again (either the same or modified) or a contingency budget would be adopted. Under the new law that passed along with the tax cap in 2011, WCSD must adopt a contingency budget that reduces the tax levy to the same amount as the prior year. WCSD may reduce expenditures or fund additional revenues to make up the \$3,939,374 in lost tax revenue.

Breaking it Down – the Three-Part Budget

Total Budget: \$220,266,425

Proposed 2025-26 Three-Part Budget



7.4%
of budget

Administrative \$16,315,021

The Administrative component of the proposed 2025-26 budget provides for overall general support and management activities of WCSD, including BOCES' administrative costs, the district clerk and superintendent's office, board of education (members serve without pay), district central office and all associated costs.

78.7%
of budget

Program \$173,392,904

The Program component of the proposed 2025-26 budget provides funding for the instruction of and educational support for all WCSD students, including transportation.

13.9%
of budget

Capital \$30,558,500

The Capital component of the proposed 2025-26 budget provides funding for all costs related to facilities' maintenance, debt service, and transfers to the capital fund.

Webster Central School District 2025-26 Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount	\$211,006,070	\$220,266,425	\$218,168,298
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		9,260,355	7,162,228
Percentage Increase in Each Proposed Budget		4.39%	3.39%
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$123,609,680	\$127,549,054	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$123,609,680	\$127,549,054	3.19%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	3,400,723	3,818,776	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	120,208,957	123,730,278	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	120,208,957	123,730,278	
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)**	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	15,205,444	16,315,021	15,215,021
Program Component	167,264,813	173,392,904	172,642,904
Capital Component	28,535,813	30,558,500	30,310,373

* The contingency budget is based upon the following assumptions: The required Tax Levy will default to the previous year's tax levy allowing for reductions in appropriations to allow for some expenses such as, legally prohibited expenses for the purchase of equipment, confidential employee salary increases, public use of facilities, allocations to the repair reserve fund are excluded. The actual changes in appropriations under a contingency budget would be determined by the board of education should this be necessary.

**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements).

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings*

	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$498.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Webster Central School District, Monroe County, New York will be held at Webster Schroeder High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. prevailing time in the Schroeder High School at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

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

Description	Amount
Proposition #1 - School Buses	\$1,825,000
Proposition #2 - EV School Bus	\$525,000

To review Webster CSD's Property Tax Report Card, please visit the district's website, websterschools.org/budget.

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ANNOUNCES NEW VOTING MACHINES:

The Monroe County Board of Elections is utilizing new voting technology from Election Systems & Software. Beginning in 2025, Monroe County voters will use ExpressVote XL machines, which are designed to enhance voter accessibility, security, and efficiency. To learn more about the new voting machines, go to our district webpage.

Common Community Questions

How big is the Webster Central School District?

The Webster Central School District is the second largest suburban school district in Monroe County and among the 25 largest in New York State outside New York City.

Student enrollment (preK-12) for 2024-25 as reported to the State's Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) is 8,005.

WCSD employs 917 professional staff and 754 support staff. There are 11 schools in the district.

How does WCSD compare to other Monroe County districts in terms of True Tax Rate?

WCSD ranks third lowest among Monroe County School Districts for True Value Tax Rate. The average for Monroe County was \$19.05, with Webster being at \$14.87. That is \$4.48 less per thousand than the rest of the county.* True tax rate is utilized as a majority of districts have multiple towns with varying degrees of equalization making tax rates fluctuate.

*Data from Monroe County School Boards Association, "Facts & Figures", January 2025

How do WCSD's per pupil costs compare to other school districts in New York State?

Webster's per pupil expenditures are below county and state averages.**

School	Webster	County Average	Statewide Average
Per Pupil Expenditure	\$20,377	\$22,546	\$26,857

**These are the most recent per pupil expenditures as provided by New York State School Report Card for Fiscal Responsibility based on 2022-23 expenditure ratios. (NYS has not provided the 2023-24 data as of publication date.)

What can district residents do to help with the budget process?

One Webster community members are invited to complete an online budget survey each year. This past January, we utilized *ThoughtExchange*, an online survey tool. *ThoughtExchange* is a collaborative online discussion platform that is used to gain insights and feedback from our community as we make decisions that impact all of us. Your feedback helped in the development of a budget that reflects the Webster CSD community's thoughts and input for our students. We appreciate everyone's input.

The *ThoughtExchange* asked, "What are the most important things to consider as we begin to plan for our upcoming budget?" The exchange opened January 3 and closed January 31. The summary report contains our community's feedback regarding this question and can be reviewed at websterschools.org/budget.



Absentee Ballots

Qualified voters of the district who will be unable to attend the polls on the day of the vote, for reasons outlined on the absentee ballot application, may wish to use an absentee ballot. Voters must apply for the ballot in advance. Absentee ballot applications are available at websterschools.org or from District Clerk Heather Murphy, 119 South Avenue, Webster.

Early Voter

Qualified voters of the district may wish to use an early voter ballot. Voters must apply for the ballot in advance. Early voter ballot applications are available at websterschools.org or from District Clerk Heather Murphy, 119 South Avenue, Webster.

All absentee and early voter ballot applications must be RECEIVED by the district clerk at least seven business days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter.

Voter Eligibility

- Be a resident of the Webster Central School District 30 days prior to the vote*
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age

* *Proof of residency is required*

BUDGET VOTE

★ TUESDAY ★

MAY 20, 2025

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Webster Schroeder High School Gym
875 Ridge Road

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**PUBLISHED BY:
WEBSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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WEBSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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For more information regarding the proposed 2025-26 budget and board of education candidates, please visit websterschools.org/budget (or scan the QR code).

