



Webster Together



SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION

POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Webster Schroeder High School Gym
875 Ridge Road, Webster



Community Invited to 2026-27 Budget Vote & Board Election

Dear One Webster Community,

Inside this annual newsletter, you will find a detailed breakdown of the Webster Central School District's proposed spending plan for the 2026-27 academic year. We invite you to review these materials ahead of the upcoming election on Tuesday, May 19.

Developing a budget that balances fiscal responsibility with student opportunity is a year-round commitment. We are proud to present a plan that preserves academic and extracurricular programs for our over 8,000 students, all while remaining tax cap compliant for the 15th year in a row. This proposal was shaped by you; the feedback gathered during our January online

survey was critical in ensuring this plan reflects the priorities of our residents, staff members, and families.

Please remember that while voter registration is not required, you must be a WCSD resident and provide proper identification to cast your ballot. For more information on the budget and the Board of Education candidates, please visit websterschools.org/budget.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we prepare for another successful year for our students.

Janice Richardson
President, Board of Education

Brian Neenan
Superintendent of Schools

Budget At-A-Glance

Proposed Total Budget:
\$227,089,425

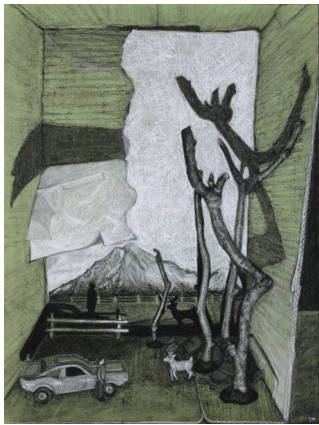
- 3.10% increase
- 4.37% county average

Revenue & Funding Strategy

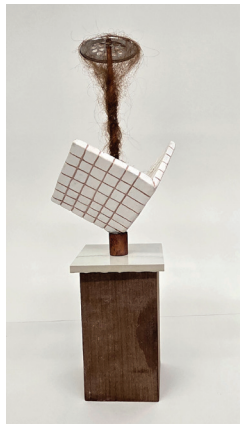
- **State Aid:** Foundation Aid is projected to increase by 2.9%.
- **Tax Cap:** The district is proposing a budget that is tax cap compliant.



What it Meant to Be a Father



Untitled charcoal drawing



Shower Drain, Ugly Beauty #1



Untitled oil landscape

Four Celebrated as Gold, Silver Winners in National Art Awards

Webster CSD is proud to announce that four outstanding student artists from Webster Thomas and Webster Schroeder high schools have been recognized with top honors in the 2026 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

The national awards represent the top tier of artistic achievement for high school students across the country, with Gold Key winners representing the top 1% of all works of art submitted nationwide (more than 335,000 works of art yearly).

Nyah H., Scarlett M., and Jolie O. won Gold Keys. Nyah for the drawing *What it Meant to*

Be a Father. Scarlett for an untitled charcoal drawing of a diorama. Jolie for the sculpture *Shower Drain, Ugly Beauty #1*. **Devon G.** was awarded a Silver Key for an untitled oil landscape painting.

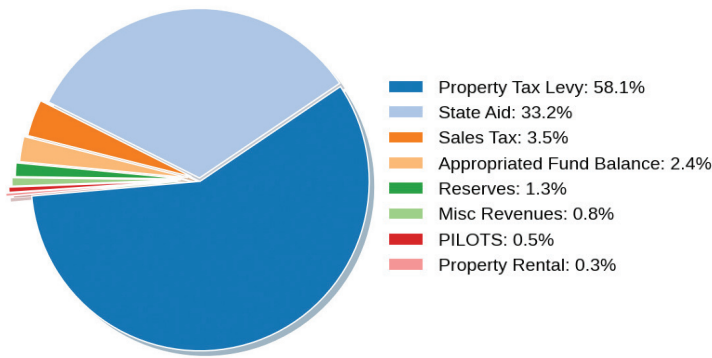
Additionally, Nyah was selected as the American Visions Award winner representing the Western New York region. This is an elite national honor. Only 150 students are chosen from across the country for the American Visions Award, which celebrates works that display exceptional originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a strong personal voice or vision.

Did You Know?

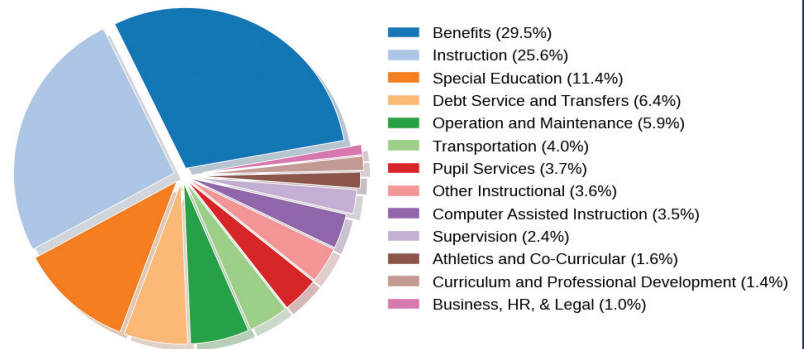
- Each year, Webster CSD is proud to host more than 100 curricular concerts, drama and musical performances, and community-wide productions.
- 98% of Webster CSD's varsity athletic teams earned Scholar Athlete recognition during the 2024-25 school year, which requires a team average GPA for 75% of the roster be greater than or equal to 90%.
- The Webster CSD Technology Program offers 18 courses in career pathways, such as architecture, automotive, manufacturing, visual communications, and engineering.
- Webster CSD facilities host over 30,000 events on our campuses each year.
- Last school year, 334 students were named AP Scholars.
- The Webster Aquatic Center hosts over 90,000 swimmers each year.
- The continuing education program offers over 50 summer camp opportunities for children.
- Webster CSD ranks third lowest among Monroe County school districts for true value tax rate.
- Webster's per pupil expenditures are below county averages. In Webster, our per pupil expenditure is \$27,495 compared to the county average of \$30,402.



Estimated REVENUE

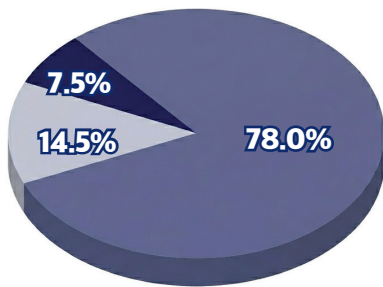


Estimated EXPENSES



Breaking It Down - The Three-Part Budget

Proposed 2026-27 Three-Part Budget



- ADMINISTRATIVE
- PROGRAM
- CAPITAL

7.5%
of budget

78.0%
of budget

14.5%
of budget

Administrative

The Administrative component (\$17,068,510) of the proposed 2026-27 budget provides for overall general support and management activities of Webster CSD, the largest expense being BOCES' administrative costs. Also, included are district liability and property insurance, student accident insurance, the district clerk and superintendent's office, board of education (members serve without pay), district central office and all associated costs.

Program

The Program component (\$177,098,534) of the proposed 2026-27 budget provides funding for the instruction of and educational support for all Webster CSD students, including transportation.

Capital

The Capital component (\$32,922,361) of the proposed 2026-27 budget provides funding for all costs related to facilities' maintenance, debt service, and transfers to the capital fund.

Honoring Our History

Celebrating the Webster Athletic Hall of Fame Inaugural Class

The Webster Athletic Hall of Fame celebrates the rich heritage and winning traditions of Webster's public high schools. By honoring the exceptional achievements of athletes, coaches, administrators, and community members, we secure their place in our history--whether they competed as Ridgemen, Lakers, Warriors, Titans, or Lions. With the historic induction of our inaugural class on January 2, 2026, we recognize the profound contributions of these remarkable individuals who have shaped our legacy of excellence.

Congratulations to: **Kevin Akins, Chris Barnes, Brian Bliss, Dave "Boots" Boutillier, Marc Carlton, Jim Cripps, Carl Garritano, Gregor Gillespie, William J. "Bill" Guer-**



ra, Colleen C. Kelly, Patrick J. Kelly II, Brian Kozlowski, Jim Kruze, Rachel Kruze, Brenna Mason, Linda McCoy, Bill O'Rourke Jr., Bill O'Rourke Sr., Thomas O'Rourke, Emily Resnick, Carrie Santore, Nina Scalzo, and Joseph Zaccardo.

Learn more about the Webster Athletic Hall of Fame at our website, websterschools.org/athletichof.



What's on the Ballot?

DISTRICT BUDGET WHAT THE BUDGET MEANS TO YOU

15th straight year
proposed budget is
tax cap compliant

Estimated tax rate per \$1,000 assessment

Town	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Variance	%Variance
Penfield	17.086508	18.369378	18.568622	\$0.20	1.08%
Webster	28.587096	28.702192	29.364372	\$0.66	2.31%
Ontario	19.831094	19.375594	17.658240	(\$1.72)	-8.86%
Walworth	20.367070	19.929183	18.162761	(\$1.77)	-8.86%
True Tax Value	14.866020	13.777654	12.626920	(\$1.15)	-8.35%

For more information on estimated 2026-27 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. True value tax rate is utilized as a majority of districts have multiple towns with varying degrees of equalization making tax rates fluctuate.

3.1% Budget Increase

\$227,089,425 Proposed Budget

Proposition #1 - Diesel School Buses Authorization to Purchase School Buses

Approval of Proposition #1 authorizes the expenditure of \$1,800,000 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 2027-28 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 transportation formula of approximately 68%.

Proposition #2 - Reauthorization of District Capital Reserve

Approval of Proposition #2 authorizes the creation of a \$45,000,000 capital reserve fund.

The Board of Education recommends a voter proposition in May 2026 to create a \$45 million Capital Reserve Fund with a 10-year term to replace the current reserve, which has reached its funding and time limit.

The \$45 million represents a maximum savings ceiling, not an immediate expenditure; the district does not have this full amount on hand and has the entire 10-year term to gradually fund the reserve as fiscal conditions allow.

The increased \$45 million target aligns Webster with Monroe County regional standards (averaging 16% of operating budgets) and provides the necessary scale to maintain the district's 14 buildings and facilities.

Utilizing cash reserves for construction and renovations eliminates the interest charges and issuance costs associated with traditional borrowing.

Under NYS Education Law, the district receives state building aid on cash expenditures as if it had borrowed the funds, effectively earning aid on "avoided" interest to create a revenue stream for any expense.

The strategy has been reviewed and supported by external auditors and the Audit Committee as a sound financial practice that ensures long-term stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

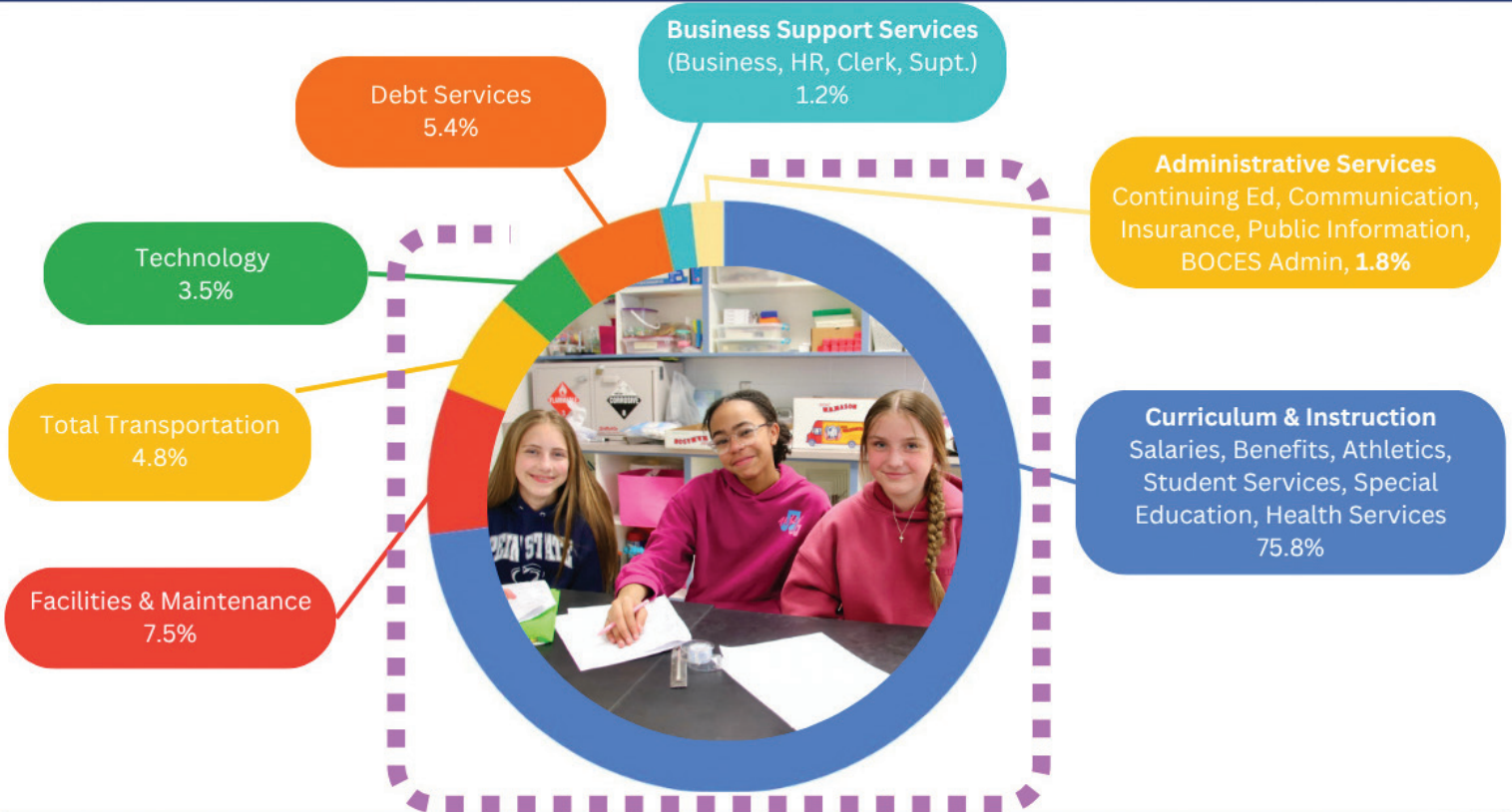
Status of EV Buses

Why are there no Electric Vehicles (EVs) on the proposition?

- **Regulatory Uncertainty:** We are closely monitoring shifting guidance from Albany to ensure our long-term plans align with state mandates.
- **Supply Chain Realities:** We are still awaiting delivery of the EV bus ordered last year.
- **Infrastructure Readiness:** We are currently assessing the capacity of our local power grid to ensure it can support a large-scale charging infrastructure.



Resources Invested in Classrooms and Schools



SERVING OVER 8,000 STUDENTS

11 SCHOOLS



Building Improvements

\$100,000 Capital Outlay Project

Willink Middle School

- LED lighting conversion in cafetorium
- If bidding is favorable, will also complete the gymnasium
- Funded by a transfer from the general fund to the capital fund of \$100,000
- Eleventh year of doing these projects
- Receive \$70,000 in aid the following year
- Projects that are normally done by B&G staff but now generate state aid
- Required by SED to present as part of budget hearing
- Still a possibility that the state could change this to \$250,000 as part of the budget process

\$500,000 Transfer to Capital Project Webster Thomas High School

- Replace lighting in the gymnasium and field house
- Energy savings realized
- Replace electrical panels in several locations throughout the building
- Upgrade localized HVAC units on the roof
- We reduced the Buildings & Grounds budget last year to offset this project
- This process will allow the district to earn additional building aid in the coming years
- Building aid is about 70% per project, generating an additional \$350,000 in state aid with no budget increase



Brodie W.

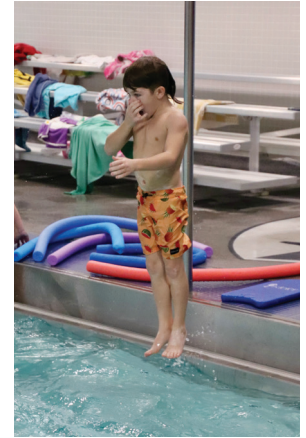


Lilah K.



Rory G.

Webster Schroeder High School's **Brodie W., Lilah K., and Rory G.** have been nominated for "NYC Bound" thanks to their exceptional performances in the recent production of *On The Town*. On May 21, these gifted students will join the top 40 regional nominees to compete for the ultimate honor: representing Rochester at the prestigious Jimmy Awards in New York City. The two winners will be revealed at the close of the evening's competition.



How the Budget Supports Our Goals:

Fiscal & Administrative Strategy

- Tax Cap Compliant: Ensures the budget stays within state-mandated limits
- Building Budgets: No further reductions to building-based budgets
- Staffing Reductions: Achieved through attrition only (no layoffs)
- UPK Expansion: Strategic utilization of new Universal Pre-K funding for expanded programming

Class Size & Staffing Management

- Contractual Levels: Maintain class sizes well below contractual levels
- Elementary Support: Maintain Encore, Art, Music, PE, Library, and Instructional Specialists

Instructional Programming & Student Opportunities

- Literacy and Math: Continued investment in professional development
- Academic Intervention: Maintain funding for tutoring and Math Labs at the secondary level.
- Vocational Education:

Continued commitment to BOCES programs

- Enrichment: Maintain the highest number of AP course offerings in the county
- Curriculum Opportunities: Protect a wide range of secondary course offerings, including electives
- Extracurriculars: No reductions

for athletics and co-curricular programming

- Webster Technical Internship (WTI) Job Program: Maintain a student-centered approach to work-based learning in technology
- Work Study: Expanded career opportunities for work-study students in multiple departments



On April 22, Webster Thomas High School accounting students took on the Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge at the Kodak Center and crushed it! Competing amid 42 teams from across the greater Rochester area in a fast-paced, live trading simulation, the Titans team of **Brady D., Liam D., Dylan D., and Steven S.** took first place! This makes it two years in a row that Webster Thomas students have won the JA Stock Challenge! Also, the team of **Gerry S., Tucker C., and Chris A.** secured an impressive 9th place!



Barker, Richardson seek board of education seats

Community residents will be asked to elect two individuals for three-year terms on the Webster CSD Board of Education. Board members serve without pay and are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

1. John Barker



Dr. Barker has a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Rochester and a BA in History and Political Science from SUNY Oswego.

He currently serves as a professor at the Frederick Douglass Department of Black Studies and the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Rochester. He previously served as the Strategic Advisor to the Provost at the University of Rochester and as the Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty for Arts, Sciences, and Engineering.

Dr. Barker has also served as Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education. Before joining the University of Rochester, he held two roles at Tufts University: Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Students and Dean of International Education. Prior to that he served as Assistant Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education at the University of Miami.

His work focuses on the academic transition of first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students and faculty and on how they thrive at our colleges and universities.

Dr. Barker's areas of interest include higher education, inequality, and international education. His school and community activities include CYO, St. Rita's, Basketball Coach; Board of Directors, Sojourner House; and Memorial Art Gallery Board of Managers' Program Committee.

John is married and the proud father of two Webster CSD students.

2. Janice Richardson



Ms. Richardson has served the Webster CSD Board of Education since 2020, and is currently in her fourth year as its president after serving one year as its vice president. She is a liaison to the Monroe County School Boards Association Executive Committee, the Webster CSD Board of Education Policy Committee, and the Webster Schroeder/GOAL PTSA.

Ms. Richardson is a reading specialist for Greece Central Schools, where she is a sixth grade advisor and the 2014 recipient of the Greece Golden Apple Teacher of the Year. Prior to joining Greece CSD, she was a substitute teacher for Webster CSD and a building substitute for Sodus Central Schools.

She is a member of the Webster PTSA, an advocate for the Above the Influence (anti-vaping) program, and a master scheduler for the secondary scheduling team for Athena Middle School. She also fosters dogs and cats for Operation Freedom Ride.

Ms. Richardson (a Webster High School graduate) received her master's degree in literacy education, BS in elementary education, and BA in psychology and was named a Community Service Scholar from St. John Fisher College. She is married with four children: one graduate and three presently attending Webster schools.

Student Success

Academic Achievement & Career Pathways



95% District Graduation Rate

WCSD students continue to reach high milestones in completion for the 2025 school year.



3.6 Average Advanced Placement Score

85% of students scored a 3 or higher across 1,653 total exams.



18 Career Pathway Tech Courses

Programs in engineering and manufacturing offer college credit through RIT and MCC.

Award-Winning Arts & Athletics



98% Varsity Scholar Athlete Teams

Requires a team average GPA of 90% or higher for the roster.



100+ Annual Performances & Events

WCSD hosts numerous curricular concerts, dramas, and community-wide musical events each year.



NAMM Foundation 20-Time National Music Honor

Named a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation.

2025 Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition

Category	Metric
Regional Pieces Recognized	289
Total Regional Awards	89
Gold Key Awards	10



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Webster Central School District Mission

We are a community of learners who nurture and inspire personal excellence, foster creativity and explore diverse opportunities, celebrate achievements and overcome challenges, and contribute locally and globally for positive change.

Webster Central School Vision

Compassionately Connected, Joyfully Engaged, Always Learning.

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION



YOUR VOTE COUNTS!
 Webster Schroeder HS Gym
 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

What if the Budget is Not Approved?

If the proposed 2026-27 budget is not approved by a simple majority, the Board of Education must decide between two courses of action: put a budget up for a second vote (either the original or a modified version) or directly adopt a contingent budget.

Option 1: A Revote If the board chooses to present the budget to the community for a second vote, the statewide revote day is scheduled for June 16.

Option 2: A Contingent Budget If the district adopts a contingent budget, state tax cap laws require the tax levy to remain exactly the same as the prior year (2025-26). Because this would result in a \$4,328,644 shortfall in projected tax revenue, the district would be forced to find offsetting revenues or drastically reduce expenditures to close the gap.

Under a contingent budget, the necessary reductions would likely result in:

- The loss of free facility usage for community groups.
- A freeze on equipment purchases, except those strictly required for health and safety.
- Likely staff layoffs.
- Program reviews.

Absentee & Early Voter Ballots

Qualified voters of the district who will be unable to attend the polls on the day of the vote may wish to use an absentee ballot. Voters must apply for the ballot in advance. Absentee ballot and early voter applications are available at websterschools.org or from District Clerk Heather Murphy, 119 South Avenue, Webster; (585)216-0001 or heather_murphy@webstercsd.org.

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. This may include:**
 - ✓ Valid driver's license
 - ✓ Non-driver identification card
 - ✓ Utility bill
 - ✓ Voter registration card