

HOOSIC VALLEY CSD

2026–27 Budget Update: Community FAQ

The Hoosic Valley Central School District understands there are many questions following the recent budget vote. This FAQ is intended to provide clear, factual information and help address common questions from our community following the May 19, 2026 budget vote.

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What happened with the school budget vote?

The proposed **2026–27 school budget did not pass** on May 19, 2026.

NO: 522

YES: 319

Because the proposed budget exceeded the New York State tax levy limit, a 60% supermajority vote was required for approval.

What happens next?

District administration and the Board of Education will meet at two upcoming public sessions to review possible revisions to the budget and discuss the process and timeline for a second vote.

Budget Workshop – High School Multipurpose Area

Wednesday, May 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Special Board Meeting

Monday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Both meetings are open to the public.

Second Budget Vote

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

What happens if the budget does not pass a second time?

Under New York State law, if a second budget proposal also fails, the district must adopt a **contingency budget**.

A contingency budget requires:

- A **0% tax levy increase**
- Funding only for **essential expenses**

Essential expenses include:

- Staff salaries
- Student transportation
- Utilities
- Health and safety needs

Certain expenditures would be restricted, including:

- New equipment purchases
- Non-essential capital projects
- Some programs or services beyond basic operations.

Why was the proposed budget above the tax cap?

The district's tax levy limit for the 2026–27 school year is **3%**. The proposed budget included an **8.5% tax levy increase**, requiring a **60% voter approval threshold**.

The district cited rising costs for employee benefits, transportation, utilities, contractual obligations, and limited increases in state aid as reasons for the proposal. Foundation Aid was projected to increase by only **1% (\$90,105)**.

Has the district already reduced spending?

Yes. Over the last several years, Hoosic Valley has made reductions to staffing, programs, and expenditures to help control costs.

2023–24

- 2 Elementary Teachers (1 grant-funded)
- 1 Science Teacher
- 1 Counselor (grant-funded)
- 1 Math Teacher (grant-funded)

The district also joined purchasing cooperatives to reduce supply and electricity costs.

2024–25

- 1 Elementary Teacher
- 1 Counselor (grant-funded)

- 2 Teaching Assistants
- Elimination of the distance learning program

2025–26

- MTSS Coordinator
- 2 Jr./Sr. High School Teachers
- 3 Elementary Teachers
- 2 Teaching Assistants
- Elimination of freshman basketball stipend
- Elimination of Newsela software
- Elimination of summer enrichment program
- Elimination of curriculum stipends

2026–27

- 1 Elementary Teacher
- 1 Teaching Assistant

Why are reserve funds not being used to balance the budget?

Reserve funds are intended for one-time or emergency expenses, not ongoing yearly costs.

While reserve funds have helped bridge budget gaps in recent years, relying on them long term would weaken the district's financial position and reduce flexibility to respond to future financial challenges.

How does Hoosic Valley compare to nearby districts?

2026–27 Proposed School Budgets

District	Proposed Budget
Mechanicville City SD	\$37.4 million
Hoosick Falls CSD	\$32.8 million
Brunswick-Brittonkill CSD	\$32.6 million
Stillwater CSD	\$32.3 million
Cambridge CSD	\$28.2 million
Berlin CSD	\$26.8 million
Greenwich CSD	\$26.6 million
Hoosic Valley CSD	\$25.2 million
Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD	\$24.6 million

Hoosic Valley operates with one of the smaller overall school district budgets in the surrounding region.

Clarifying Common Questions

What is the difference between a Capital Project and the Annual School Budget?

Annual School Budget

The annual school budget pays for the day-to-day operation of schools, including:

- Teacher and staff salaries
- Student programs and services

- Transportation
- Utilities and operating expenses

The annual school budget must be approved by voters each year.

Capital Project

A capital project is a separate voter-approved project for building improvements, safety upgrades, facility repairs, or infrastructure needs.

In December 2021, voters approved a \$12,710,000 Capital Project.

Capital projects are funded differently than the annual operating budget and are not the same as yearly school spending.

Was the purchase of 10 Pleasant Avenue voter approved?

Yes, In May 2023, voters approved the purchase of 10 Pleasant Avenue through a separate proposition.

YES: 203 (Passed)

NO: 101

This purchase was approved separately and was not part of the annual school budget vote.

Is Hoosic Valley discussing merging with another school district?

No, the district is not in discussions regarding a merger with any other school district.

How can I stay informed?

Community members are encouraged to attend upcoming meetings and stay informed as the district reviews options.

Budget Workshop: Wednesday, May 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Special Board Meeting: Monday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Second Budget Vote: Tuesday, June 16, 2026