

Fabius-Pompey Central School District

Enter to Learn - Leave to Serve. Striving for Excellence in School, Community and the World.

2025-2026 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *				
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$20,916,700	\$20,732,622	\$20,263,650				
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2025-26 School Year		(\$184,078)	(\$653,050)				
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		(0.88%)	(3.12%)				
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%					
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,590,430	\$10,059,402					
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)	\$9,590,430	\$10,059,402	\$9,590,430				
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$213,541	\$275,076					
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$9,376,889	\$9,660,293					
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$9,376,889	\$9,784,326					
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	(\$124,033)					
Administrative Component	\$2,532,387	\$2,596,618	\$2,477,142				
Program Component	\$15,219,462	\$14,960,303	\$14,887,444				
Capital Component	\$3,164,851	\$3,175,701	\$2,899,064				
* Should the proposed budget be defeated and the above contingency budget be adopted, the following are examples of non-contingent budgeted expenditures that will be eliminated from the budget:							
1. Equipment and certain material & supplies purchases.							
2. Rental of office equipment, computers, etc.							
3. Use of school buildings and grounds by outside organizations except where there is no identifiable extra cost to the district or such cost is fully paid by a donation before the activity occurs.							
4. Capital expenditures, except in an emergency.							
5. Pupil uniforms whether for athletic activities or otherwise.							
** 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)							
		<table><tr><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>PROPOSITION II – Two Diesel Buses</td><td>\$432,000</td></tr></table>		Description	Amount	PROPOSITION II – Two Diesel Buses	\$432,000
Description	Amount						
PROPOSITION II – Two Diesel Buses	\$432,000						
		Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year					
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		\$614					

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Fabius-Pompey Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at the Middle School-High School Auditorium Foyer (1211 Mill Street) in Fabius for residents of the Towns of Fabius and Cuyler, and Pompey Community Church (2555 Berwyn Road) in Pompey for residents of the Towns of Pompey, LaFayette and Cazenovia, in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine unless machines are unavailable, in which paper ballots will be used.

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

Frequently Asked Questions
2025–2026 Fabius-Pompey School Budget
April 2025

Q1: Why does the 2025–2026 budget still seem high if the District reduced staffing and other costs?

A: While reductions have been made in staffing and operations, major expenses such as health insurance, contractual salary increases, material and supplies, equipment, and utilities continue to rise. In addition, reductions and stagnation in state aid have placed further pressure on the local budget. These mandated and fixed costs offset the savings realized in other areas.

Q2: How much are revenues increasing, and why doesn't that balance out the cost increases?

A: Total revenue is projected to increase by approximately \$497,479 or 2.47% compared to the 2024–2025 budget, but nearly all that growth comes solely from the proposed tax levy increase since New York did not give us more state aid. Furthermore, this increase is negated by substantial cost increases across key areas of the budget. For example:

- Health and dental insurance premiums for active and retired employees are up nearly \$200,000, now totaling nearly \$5 million annually. Unemployment insurance costs rose from \$10,000 to \$25,000, a 150% increase
- Fuel and utility costs, including oil and propane, are up over \$10,000 combined
- Contracted professional services, including legal and technical support, are also up significantly
- BOCES tuition for special education services alone increased by \$219,637 (28.9%)

In addition, the appropriated fund balance, used in past years to equalize the budget, is being reduced by over \$680,000 this year, which further limits the District's financial flexibility.

Increased costs, combined with flat state aid, result in a necessity to shift more of the funding burden to local taxpayers through the tax levy.

Q3: What is the total proposed 2025–2026 school budget, and how does it compare to last year's?

A: The proposed budget for 2025–2026 is \$20,732,622, which is a decrease of \$184,078, or 0.88%, from the current year's budget of \$20,916,700.

The District achieved this reduction through a combination of strategic cost-saving measures, including:

- Reducing the BOCES services budget by scaling back on selected programs and administrative services
- Eliminating or not replacing staff positions through retirements and attrition
- Holding department budgets flat or reducing them for supplies, travel, and non-instructional equipment
- Delaying or deferring non-essential purchases and upgrades in technology and facility equipment

Q4: If the budget is decreasing, why is the tax levy going up by 4.89%?

A: It is important to distinguish between the total school budget and the tax levy. The budget is the amount that the district plans to spend, while the tax levy is the portion of that budget that is raised through local property taxes. While the overall budget is slightly decreasing, the tax levy must be increased because the other revenues (state aid) are not increasing at the same rate and expenses are significantly increasing due to obligated expenses (health insurance and employee retirement contributions).

Q5: With a 4.89% tax levy increase, will my taxes increase by 4.89%?

A: Not necessarily. Tax rate increases vary by municipalities within the District and assessment values. Here are estimated increases for homes with different assessed values (assuming STAR Exemption):

- \$100,000 home: Approximately \$112 – \$126 annually/ \$9.33 – \$10.50 monthly
- \$200,000 home: Approximately \$225 – \$251 annually/ \$18.75 – \$20.92 monthly
- \$300,000 home: Approximately \$337 – \$377 annually/ \$28.08 – \$31.42 monthly

Actual increases depend on your town's equalization rate and property values, which are generally not finalized until July 1.

Q6: How does the District's revenue from state aid compare to its expenses?

A: State aid (including Foundation Aid) accounts for just under 50% of the District's total revenue. However, core expenses such as health insurance (approaching \$5 million), and contractual employee salaries continue to rise faster than state aid allocations.

Q7: How did we get into this financial situation despite enrollment declines and prior cuts?

A: While student enrollment has declined, many operational costs, such as building maintenance, transportation, and insurance, are fixed and do not decrease proportionally. Staffing has also not been reduced to the same degree due to educational mandates and the need to support all students equitably. Lastly, health insurance cost increases, for both active employees and retirees, have well outpaced the increase in our tax levy increase.

Q8: Why is the District requesting a supermajority vote this year?

A: The proposed tax levy increase of 4.89% exceeds the state-imposed tax cap of 3.6%, which means the budget must be approved by a supermajority, at least 60% of voters. The decision to go above the cap was not made lightly. It reflects the reality that ongoing cost increases, particularly in health insurance, utilities, retirement contributions, and special education services have outpaced both state aid and allowable tax levy growth. At the same time, the District has reduced its use of fund balance and implemented staffing and BOCES reductions to control costs. Even with these efforts, the District cannot maintain current programs, services, and safety initiatives without a tax levy above the cap. The Board of Education determined that exceeding the cap is necessary to preserve a quality educational experience for all students.

Q9: What happens if the proposed budget does not pass?

A: If the budget is defeated:

1. The District may hold a revote in June for either the same budget proposed in May or a different budget amount. If the District lowers the budget to, say, the tax cap, then approximately \$124,000 would need to be cut from the budget.
2. If the second vote also fails, the District must adopt a contingency budget with no increase in the tax levy, requiring nearly \$470,000 in additional cuts, which could affect anything from programs, staffing, athletics and planned facility improvements.

Q10: Is the District funding any capital improvements in the new budget?

A: Yes. A \$100,000 interfund transfer is included to support planned safety and security improvements. This project qualifies for building aid, which reduces the local taxpayer share to just \$16,500. Also, \$35,000 in camera installation and maintenance has been budgeted. After building aid, this costs the local taxpayer closer to \$5,775.

Q11: Did the purchase of the electric bus contribute to the budget gap?

A: No. The electric bus was part of a state-mandated transition but was almost entirely paid with a grant. The local taxpayer portion was about 1/3 of what the local taxpayers would have paid for a diesel bus.

Budget Hearing Date:
Tuesday, May 6, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Middle School-High School Auditorium

Budget Vote Date:
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Middle School-High School Foyer (Towns of Fabius and Cuyler)
Pompey Community Church (Towns of Pompey, LaFayette and Cazenovia)

For more information, please visit our website or contact the District Office at (315) 683-5301. Also go to our webpage at <https://www.fabiuspompey.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1945> to see more Q&A as submitted by the community.

We thank our community for staying informed and engaged.

Annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Member Election
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

The annual budget vote for fiscal year 2025-2026 by the qualified voters of the Fabius-Pompey Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at the Middle School-High School Auditorium Foyer (1211 Mill Street) in Fabius for residents of the Towns of Fabius and Cuyler, and at Pompey Community Church (2555 Berwyn Road) in Pompey for residents of the Towns of Pompey, LaFayette and Cazenovia, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open by voting ballot or machine.

Board of Education: Elect Two (2) Members
Proposition I: 2025-2026 Budget
Proposition II: Transportation

FABIUS-POMPEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Fabius, NY 13063

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