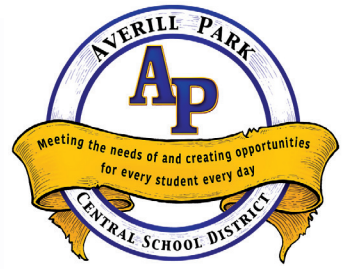


# Averill Park



## BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday  
May 20, 2025**

**7 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Averill Park High School  
AUXILIARY GYM**

### APHS Reintroduces Business Program After 15-Year Hiatus

For the first time in 15 years, Averill Park High School will offer Business-related courses beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

The Business program will be reintroduced to APHS by reallocating an existing teaching position. Specifically, the District will replace a retiring Technology teacher with a Business teacher.

"We are extremely excited and thankful to have the opportunity to rebuild and revive this important pathway for our students," APHS Principal Heath Quiles said. "To stay relevant, it's important that we provide students with every possible opportunity to succeed and explore their passions. This program will add a nice variety of options, which will certainly enrich the experience of our students."

In addition to new Business courses, this teacher will allow the District to offer students career exploration and internship opportunities. The Business program will equip students with valuable skills, such as problem-solving, financial literacy, and communication, which are transferable to various careers and post-graduation situations.



*Students are all smiles in the classroom, the cafeteria, and on the stage!*

## 2025-26 Proposed Budget Focuses on Fiscal Responsibility While Facing Inflationary Costs

On Tuesday, May 20, Averill Park Central School District community members will vote on a spending plan for the 2025-26 school year that maintains a rigorous academic curriculum despite rising healthcare costs.

"After tirelessly advocating for change regarding state aid, the District is receiving an increase in Foundation Aid this year. Despite this increase, the District is facing a budget deficit that will require reductions partly due to health care premium increases," Superintendent Dr. James Franchini said. "We will continue to do everything we can to be good financial stewards for our community and honor our commitment to meet the needs of and create opportunities for every student every day."

The \$69,503,900 budget is supported by a 2.41% tax levy increase which continues the District's practice over the past 14 years of adopting tax levies that are within the state's statutory property tax cap limit.

The community will also vote on a proposition to purchase six (6) school buses at a maximum cost of \$971,099 as part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan (page 5).

### Important points of the proposed budget include:

Significant increases in medical and prescription benefits were a driving factor in budget decisions. This year alone, the budget impact of premium increases is more than \$1.25 million.

The District will see a reduction of nine (9) aides, two (2) teachers, and one (1) district office member. Costs will also be reduced while replacing 10 retiring teachers.

The 2025-26 budget includes additions to nursing, a girls wrestling assistant coach, a business teacher, and bringing the Unified Bowling program into the general budget.

If the proposed budget is approved by voters, Averill Park CSD will maintain the current academic programs, Advanced Placement classes, college credit courses, and academic intervention services (AIS) teachers. The budget continues to include a wide range of athletics and extracurricular activities for students. For more information about the proposed budget, please visit [averillpark.k12.ny.us](http://averillpark.k12.ny.us) and click on "Budget Corner."

### 2025-2026 BUDGET SUMMARY

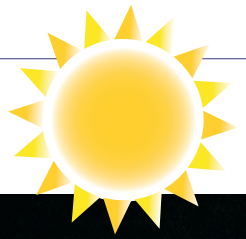
- ▶ **Proposed Budget: \$69,503,900**
- ▶ **Budget-to-Budget: Increase 4.34%**
- ▶ **Tax Levy Increase: 2.41%**  
(Meets the tax levy limit)

### ALSO ON THE BALLOT...

- ▶ **Board of Education Election** (See page 3)
- ▶ **Bus Purchase Proposition** (See page 5)



# Students Shine Across the District



All three elementary schools held their fun run fundraisers this year. At APHS, Off-Broadway Players put together an original musical titled "Drama in the Den."



Algonquin Middle School held an Under the Sea dance, along with its annual Wellness Day.



Rayonnette Brock was one of four students that participated in the NYSSMA Piano Solo Competition. The Algonquin Middle School student earned a perfect score on her level 3 piano solo.



The varsity football team won the Section II, Class A Championship for the first time in program history. Additionally, APHS had a Unified Bowling team for the first time, which won its end of season tournament!

## Elementary Special Education Moving to Co-Taught Instruction

### New model is better for students and cost effective

The Averill Park Central School District plans to implement an integrated co-taught instructional model in grades 2-5 at all three elementary schools. This addition to the special education continuum of services allows the special education teacher to partner collaboratively with the general education teacher in an effort to meet the instructional needs of all the students in the classroom. It is important to note that not every classroom will be co-taught in the 2025-26 school year.

There is a great deal of research supporting this initiative. The benefits include better academic and social emotional outcomes for both general

education and special education students.

In addition to improving the delivery of instruction, this model will reduce expenses. This model requires the addition of three (3) teachers. The District will accomplish this by reassigning a middle school special education position to the elementary level and by replacing two retiring general education teachers at the elementary level with two special education teachers. In addition, because there are two teachers assigned to these rooms for the entire school day, aide support can be reduced, which will lead to significant cost savings.

# Spotlight on Success

## DISTRICT

- The District's podcast, Every Student Every Day, surpassed 100 episodes. During that time, the District has featured students, staff members, community members, industry experts, and more.
- Tupper Grimard (APHS), Rayonnette Brock (AMS), Gilbert Wajda (MHSL) and Orrin Smith (MHSL) participated in the annual NYSSMA Piano Solo competition with all four earning an "A" grade.

## HIGH SCHOOL

- APHS created an original production titled "Drama in the Den" for its spring musical. The student-written jukebox musical was a hit.
- On March 19, students in the APHS instrumental and vocal ensembles, along with the Jazz Band, performed at the Empire State Plaza as part of Music in our Schools Month.
- The varsity football team won a Section II, Class A championship for the first time in school history with a 20-6 victory over Burnt Hills in the final.
- Fourteen students in the Class of 2025 graduated in an accelerated manner in January, including Gunn Cooper, Annalise Dowdell, Quinn Harris, Matthew Murdock, Gabriel Price, Xavier Raymond, Matthew Rumenapp, Mackenzie Sheldrick, Oliver Shelmerdine, Alexander Swinton, Chance Thibeault, Cloe Tobey, Dani Van Tassel, and Jadyan Willoughby.
- Amelia Banker became the first female wrestler from Averill Park CSD to compete in the NYSPHSAA Championships, where she went 2-2 in the inaugural tournament.
- The Varsity Boys Soccer team was honored with the Section II, Class A John Hogan Sportsmanship Award.
- The newly established Unified Bowling team won its end-of-season tournament, topping off an amazing year on the lanes.

- Students successfully formed their first Ski Club in more than 20 years, visiting Jiminy Peak 10 times.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

- NYS Assemblyman Scott Bendett assisted in providing bullet aid funding to AMS for new, larger capacity choral risers for the growing music program.
- A number of students attended an inspirational and educational STOP Conference at Siena College where they collaborated with others to advocate for ableism.
- AMS put on its spring musical, Mary Poppins, Jr., with two showings.
- The VFW Auxiliary Post 7466 held its annual Patriots Pen essay contest. AMS students Owen McAlonie (1st), Brayan Backaus (2nd) and Tyler Zachary Florida (3rd) placed.
- Sixth grade literacy students raised more than \$3,400 for Ronald McDonald House Charities through their reading and donations.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- All three elementary schools held their annual Boosterthon Fun Run fundraisers.
- Fourth grade students at West Sand Lake Elementary School benefitted from STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) enrichment programs brought to them by the Cornell Cooperative Extension through a grant funded by the Averill Park Education Foundation.
- Poestenkill Elementary School's PTA helped bring in former Harlem Globetrotter Tay Fisher to deliver an assembly presentation on anti-bullying.
- Miller Hill-Sand Lake Elementary School hosted the annual Day of Service where students and community members complete service projects for local shelters and organizations.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Voters in the Averill Park Central School District will elect three (3) members to the Board of Education this year. Board members serve three-year, unpaid terms. For more information on candidates running for the Board of Education, visit [averillpark.k12.ny.us](http://averillpark.k12.ny.us) and click on "Budget Corner."

## Middle School Upgrades

The \$100,000 Capital Outlay project included in the 2025-26 budget is to fund enhancement and upgrades at Algonquin Middle School. The project will include the installation of acoustic dampening panels in the cafeteria to reduce sound reverberation. In the music room, windows will be replaced and, if funds allow, carpet will be replaced as well.

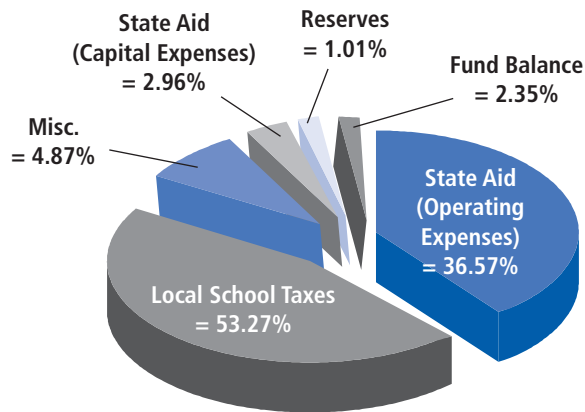
A \$100,000 Capital Outlay project receives State Building Aid in the year following project completion. The District will then receive approximately \$77,900 in State Building Aid in 2026-27 as reimbursement for this project.



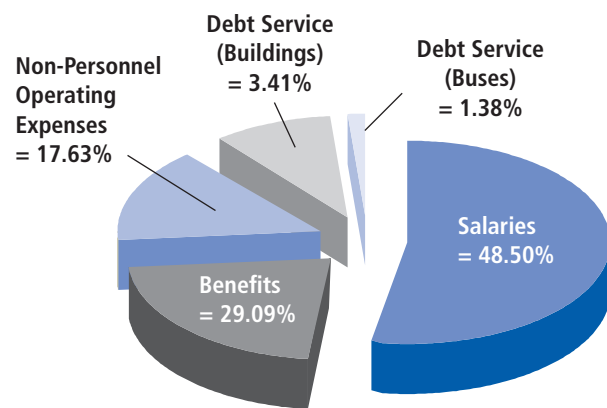
## REVENUES: Where money comes from to pay for Averill Park's schools

Source of Revenue	Proposed 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Dollar Change
State Aid - Operating	\$24,128,651	\$25,416,887	\$1,288,236
Local Tax	36,150,533	37,022,118	871,585
State Aid - Capital	1,509,078	2,055,637	546,559
Misc	2,151,995	2,402,650	250,655
Interfund Transfer (Debt Service)	65,000	—	(65,000)
Fund Balance	1,631,608	1,631,608	—
Workers' Compensation Reserve	125,000	125,000	—
ERS Reserve	700,000	700,000	—
TRS Reserve	150,000	150,000	—
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$66,611,865</b>	<b>\$69,503,900</b>	<b>\$2,892,035</b>

### REVENUES



### EXPENSES



## EXPENSES: How money is spent for Averill Park's schools

Expenses	Proposed 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Dollar Difference
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Personnel Salaries	\$33,241,900	\$33,707,851	\$465,951
Personnel Benefits	18,686,914	20,215,183	1,528,269
Non-Personnel Items	11,732,540	12,252,017	519,477
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$63,661,354</b>	<b>\$66,175,051</b>	<b>\$2,513,697</b>
<b>Capital Expenses</b>			
Debt Service Buildings	\$2,041,469	\$2,368,513	\$327,044
Debt Service Buses	909,042	960,336	51,294
<b>Total Capital Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,950,511</b>	<b>\$3,328,849</b>	<b>\$378,338</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$66,611,865</b>	<b>\$69,503,900</b>	<b>\$2,892,035</b>



Students board the bus outside Averill Park High School.

## School Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 20, when Averill Park residents vote on the 2025-26 school budget, they will also consider a bus purchase proposition. The proposition seeks voter approval to purchase six (6) 65 passenger school buses at a total cost not to exceed \$971,099 (see the breakdown of bus cost and financing below). The bus purchase is part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan designed to keep the district's fleet in safe, working order.

Because the district is eligible to receive approximately 71 percent state aid on the purchase of these buses, the actual cost to the district will be significantly less than the amount requiring voter approval.

## Bus Purchase Questions & Answers

### Why does the District purchase buses on a regular basis?

The proposed bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards. The plan allows the District to trade in or phase out older, high-mileage vehicles to avoid cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service.

### How does the District determine when to replace a bus?

Mileage is not the only consideration when determining which buses to remove from service and to replace. The primary consideration is the age of the bus. The average lifespan of a school bus in Upstate New York is roughly 10 to 12 years, mostly due to weather conditions. The salt mixture used on local roads is corrosive to a bus structure. After about 10 to 12 years, buses require costly and necessary repairs to pass New York State's rigorous inspection process. It is not cost-effective for the District to repair these vehicles.

### How does the District plan to meet the state mandate of converting to an all-electric bus fleet?

During the 2024-25 school year, the District contracted with a vendor on a Fleet Electrification Study, which is partially funded through NYSERDA. The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of what the state-mandated conversion of our fleet to electric buses would entail. Through no fault of the District's, the final report of the study has been delayed. A plan will be implemented by the District once the final report is received.

### BREAKDOWN OF BUS & EQUIPMENT COST & FINANCING

Bus Total . . . . .	\$ 971,099
Total Principal to be financed (5 years) . . . . .	\$ 971,099
Add Finance Cost . . . . .	\$ 121,444
<hr/>	
Total Purchase Cost . . . . .	\$ 1,092,543
Less State Aid . . . . .	\$ 774,613
Total Taxpayer Cost . . . . .	\$ 317,930
<hr/>	
Annual Local Taxpayer Cost (over 5 years) . . . . .	\$ 63,586

## TRANSPORTATION FACTS

- ▶ Between daily transport, sports, field trips, summer school, and summer camps, Averill Park's 75-unit bus fleet travels nearly one million miles a year.
- ▶ In 2024-25, there are 33 in-district runs covering 130 square miles and 15 out-of-district runs to 30 different private, parochial, charter, and special needs schools. New York requires the district to provide transportation to students living in-district who attend private and parochial schools within 15 miles of their home.
- ▶ The average life of fleet buses, due to terrain traveled and Northeast weather conditions, is about 10 years with each bus logging approximately 90,000-130,000 miles over that time.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Samantha Hicks, *President*  
Jessica Zweig, *Vice President*  
Jessica DiFiore  
Michelle Garofolo  
Lauren Jacobs  
Meghan McGarry  
Adam Stewart

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Dr. James R. Franchini  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
  
Matthew Hladun  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
  
Carrie Nyc-Chevrier  
*Assistant Superintendent for Business*

For more information,  
please call the district at  
**(518) 674-7066**

**Averill Park**  
**CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
146 Gettle Road, St. 1  
Averill Park, NY 12018

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### 2025-26 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	\$ 66,611,865	\$69,503,900	\$68,632,315
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$2,892,035	\$2,020,450
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.34 %	3.03%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$36,150,533	\$37,022,118	
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)	\$36,150,533	\$37,022,118	\$36,150,533
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,034,757	\$859,760	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$35,115,776	\$36,162,358	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$35,115,776	\$36,162,358	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$6,697,947	\$7,018,298	\$6,861,899
Program Component	\$51,829,835	\$53,752,295	\$53,118,609
Capital Component	\$8,084,083	\$8,733,307	\$8,651,807
Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated the Board may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. This would lead to staff reductions, elimination of equipment purchases, and a reduction in supplies and contractual expenses. Using the required formula, the proposed budget is within the allowable tax levy limit and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$871,585.			
** 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)			
Description		Amount	
Bus Proposition		\$971,099	

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$487

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Averill Park Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Averill Park High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Auxiliary Gym at the Averill Park High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote machine

### WHO MAY VOTE?

In order to vote, you must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the Averill Park CSD for at least 30 days prior to May 20, 2025. Advance registration is NOT required, however, you will be asked to show proof of residency. Such forms may include a driver's license, a non-driver's identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card.

### HOW CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Residents who will be out of town, or are unable to vote in person, can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. Applications may be requested by calling the District Clerk's office at 674-7066 or picked up at the District Office, located in the Averill Park High School at 146 Gettle Road. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

### HOW CAN I VOTE BY EARLY MAIL BALLOT?

Registered voters can obtain early mail ballots through an application to the school district. This process is similar to an absentee ballot but without a requirement to provide a reason to vote early by mail. Early voting is available to all voters. Applications may be requested by calling the District Clerk's office at 674-7066 or picked up at the District Office, located in the Averill Park High School at 146 Gettle Road. Completed applications for early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025.