



Students arriving by bus on their first day of school.

# School Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 19, when Averill Park residents vote on the 2026-27 school budget, they will also consider a bus purchase proposition. The proposition seeks voter approval to purchase three (3) 65 passenger school buses, three (3) 30 passenger buses and two (2) sport utility vehicles at a total cost not to exceed \$899,826 (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 70 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 sell 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?

The District completed a Fleet Electrification Plan through NYSERDA which was presented to the Board in the Fall of 2025. During the 2026-27 budget presentations, the District presented an option of purchasing an electric bus to the Board of Education. The Board decided not to include electric buses in this year’s proposition.

## BREAKDOWN OF BUS & EQUIPMENT COST & FINANCING

Bus Total . . . . .	\$ 899,826
<b>Total Principal to be financed (5 years) . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 899,826</b>
Add Finance Cost . . . . .	\$ 111,993
<b>Total Purchase Cost . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 1,011,819</b>
Less State Aid . . . . .	\$ 708,273
<b>Total Taxpayer Cost . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 303,546</b>

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**Annual Local Taxpayer Cost (over 5 years) . . . . . \$ 60,709**

## 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 2025-26, there were 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 state 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 10-12 years with each bus logging approximately 90,000-130,000 miles over that time.