

Gowanda CSD 2026-27 Budget

April 1, 2026

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School Business Administrator

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Overall Budget

- The total budget is increasing \$1,614,814 or 4.1%.
- The tax levy is only increasing 1.2% or \$65,080. This equates to \$11.25/per year on a home assessed at \$100,000
- State aid is increasing 2.5%
- According to the Property Tax Report Card, the Consumer Price Index (measure of inflation) is 2.63%

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Budget Update

- It is a strange year!
- Outstanding collective bargaining agreement with the GTA (projecting 2 years) and the non-teaching group.
- Tariffs, No Tariffs, increasing fuel costs, electric supply rates and insurance which all impact the cost of purchases

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Budget Update

- As mentioned at the March 11th meeting, the health insurance rates increased significantly more than anticipated. The total increase is \$570,000
- Additionally, additions were made to the Transportation budget totaling \$256,000
- Removed the cost for Buildings and Grounds new equipment. We plan on purchasing them this year
- Did a final review of all accounts and made some minor tweaks

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Details behind increases since March 11th

- Health Insurance:
 - Rates are increasing between 11.5%-13% across the four plan options
 - Single plans will be \$11,472 while Family plans will be \$35,850
 - Six more plans in 2025-26 over 2024-25, costing \$137,000 next year
 - Federal grants do not increase as much as salaries, therefore the General Fund has started or continuing (Title VI) to pay for health insurance for grant funded positions

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Details behind increases since March 11th

- Transportation:
 - Increased fuel costs 20%
 - As we are being forced to transition to electric buses and would like to try a pilot with two buses.
 - Based on discussions with Wendel (Engineers/Architects for ZEV transition) we have added the net cost of two electric bus chargers after rebates (\$35,000 each) and the cost to install them less Native American Aid (\$160,000.) These costs will receive Transportation Aid the year after we spend the funds.

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Revenue increases since March 11th

- Increased State Aid an additional \$66,000 based on updated aid figures in the February database
- Added \$200,000 to use from the Teachers Retirement Reserve
- Increased Interest another \$50,000 and Impact Aid another \$100,000 based both historical data and projections
- Added \$314,000 to use from Unassigned Fund Balance to balance the budget

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REVENUES

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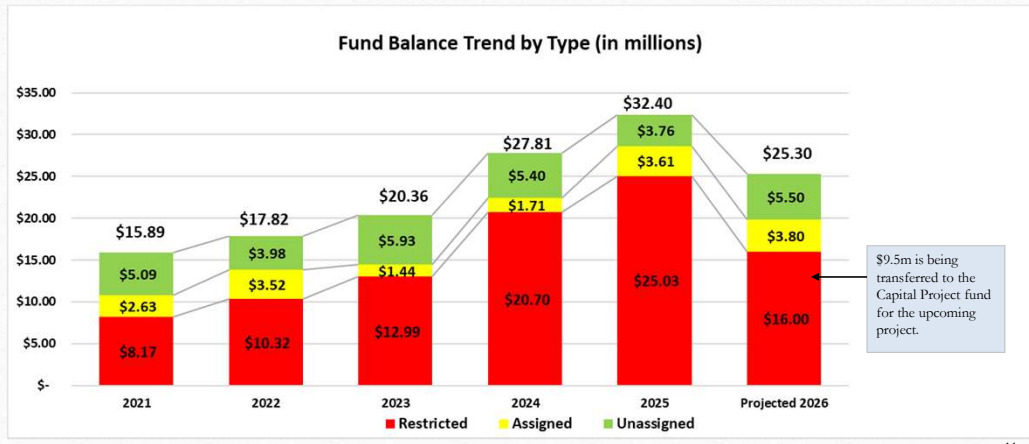
Revenue Changes

Gowanda CSD 2026-27 Proposed Revenue Budget			
Revenue by Category	2025-26 Adopted Revenue	2026-27 Proposed Revenue	Dollar Change
Real Property Taxes	\$ 5,423,318	\$ 5,488,398	\$ 65,080
Appropriated Fund Balance (Unassigned)	\$ 1,034,851	\$ 1,219,509	\$ 184,658
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 505,000	\$ 635,000	\$ 130,000
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 850,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 50,000
Native American Tuition from NYS	\$ 2,307,500	\$ 2,307,500	\$ -
State Aid -Other Than Building Aid	\$ 24,777,815	\$ 25,616,348	\$ 838,533
Federal Aid (Impact Aid and Medicaid)	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 1,430,000	\$ 300,000
All Other Sources	\$ 372,320	\$ 575,519	\$ 203,199
Subtotal Before Building Aids	\$ 36,400,804	\$ 38,172,274	\$ 1,771,470
Regular Building Aid (State)	\$ 2,640,012	\$ 2,483,356	\$ (156,656)
Total General Fund	\$ 39,040,816	\$ 40,655,630	\$ 1,614,814

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Fund Balance

- **Preliminary projections as we deal with a lot of daily changing factors**
- The State Comptroller's limit of 4% would suggest a cap of \$1.6 million of unassigned fund balance. The Government Finance Officers' Association suggests considering a District's reliance on state and federal aid and volatility in those. However at a minimum, it should not be less than two months of regular operating expenditures. This would equate to approximately \$6.3 million, much closer to what we have (\$5.5m).



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EXPENDITURES

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Expenditure Changes (By State Functional Area)

	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	Change	Key Cost Drivers
General Support	\$ 4,940,110	\$ 5,378,228	\$ 438,118	<i>Utilities, Building Condition Survey (mandated), maintenance costs and repairs</i>
Instruction	\$ 21,046,653	\$ 21,491,106	\$ 444,453	<i>Additional Special Education services</i>
Pupil Transportation	\$ 2,598,306	\$ 3,041,097	\$ 442,791	<i>Fuel, ZEV Chargers and Contracted Costs</i>
Employee Benefits	\$ 7,948,578	\$ 8,357,936	\$ 409,358	<i>Health Insurance</i>
Debt & Transfers	\$ 2,507,169	\$ 2,387,263	\$ (119,906)	
	\$ 39,040,816	\$ 40,655,630	\$ 1,614,814	

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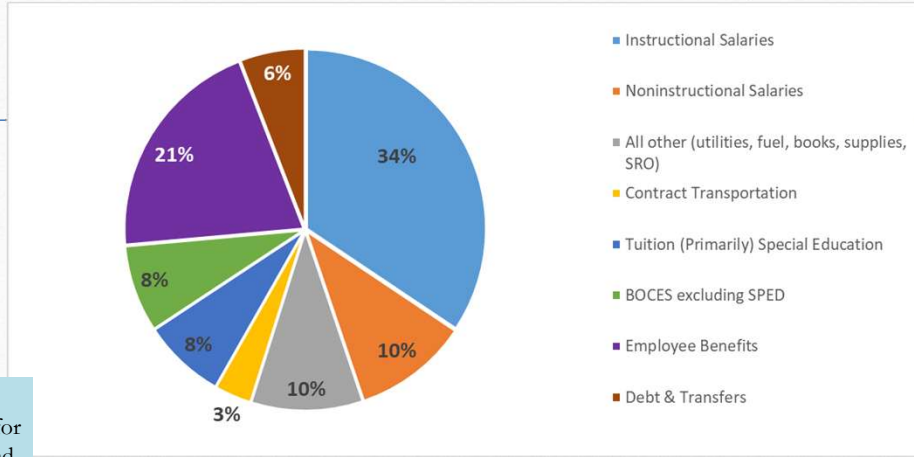
Expenditure Changes (By State Object)

State Expenditure Object Categories	25-26 Approved Budget	26-27 Proposed Budget	Dollar Change	Primary Reasons for Change
Instructional Salaries	\$ 14,233,626	\$ 13,977,270	\$ (256,356)	<i>Staff turnover and elimination of multi-age in 2025-26</i>
Noninstructional Salaries	\$ 3,901,175	\$ 4,237,882	\$ 336,707	<i>Salary increases and staff changes</i>
Employee Benefits	\$ 7,948,578	\$ 8,357,936	\$ 409,358	<i>Health insurance rates increasing 11.5%-13%</i>
All Other - Supplies, Utilities, Fuel, Equipment	\$ 3,498,875	\$ 4,098,386	\$ 599,511	<i>Utilities, general insurance, fuel, door locks and ZEV chargers</i>
BOCES Services Excluding Student Tuition	\$ 3,022,258	\$ 3,195,196	\$ 172,938	
BOCES and SPED Tuition	\$ 2,569,135	\$ 3,041,747	\$ 472,612	<i>Increase in special education students and needs</i>
Debt Principal and Interest	\$ 2,202,169	\$ 2,167,263	\$ (34,906)	
Contract Transportation	\$ 1,360,000	\$ 1,360,000	\$ -	
Interfund Transfers	\$ 305,000	\$ 220,000	\$ (85,000)	
Total General Fund Budget	\$ 39,040,816	\$ 40,655,680	\$ 1,614,864	

65% is budgeted for salaries and benefits

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Expenditure Percentages (By State Object)



65% is budgeted for salaries and benefits

Property Tax Report Card

Property Tax Report Card

- Is on the agenda for approval tonight
- Required to be submitted to the State Education Department 24 hours after Board approval, but no later than April 27th
- There are three sections to the Report

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Property Tax Report Card

Section 1: Budget, Levy, Tax Cap and Enrollment

Shaded Fields Will Calculate	Budgeted 2025-26 (A)	Proposed Budget 2026-27 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	39,040,816	40,655,630	4.14%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	5,423,318	5,488,398	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	5,423,318	5,488,398	1.20%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	0	0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	5,567,833	5,638,031	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)	5,423,318	5,488,398	
I. Difference: (G-H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²	144,515	149,633	0.19%
Public School Enrollment	1,029	1,031	2.63%
Consumer Price Index			

This is the amount that is considered "lost revenue" in the Tax Cap Era

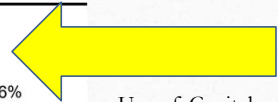
← 0.19%
2.63%

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Property Tax Report Card

Section 2: Fund Balance at 6/30/2026 and Projected 6/30/2027

	Actual 2025-26 (D)	Estimated 2026-27 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	25,034,286	16,008,832
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	3,617,910	3,802,568
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	3,760,677	5,511,499
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	9.63%	13.56%



Use of Capital Reserves for Project & currently projecting a small surplus

Section 3: Reserve Fund Balances as of 3/31/2026, Projected for 6/30/2026 and Intended Use in 2026-27
(not included due to size but is in the attachment for approval.)

Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Budget Calendar & Next Steps

- April 28th - Budget Statement available at each school building – documents included are based on law
- May 6th – Budget Hearing at 6 pm in the High School Library
- Budget Newsletter & Budget Notice (included in the Newsletter) sent after the Budget Hearing (mailed between May 7th -12th)
- May 19th – Statewide Budget Vote and School Board Election Day – Middle School Library
- Budget Poll when exiting the polls?
- Please visit the district website and budget page for additional updates

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Comments or Questions?

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