

C O M M I T T E D T O E X C E L L E N C E



Enlarged City School District

Proposed Budget 2015-16



PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 12 • 7PM

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

BUDGET VOTE

MAY 19 • NOON - 9PM

POLLING LOCATIONS, PAGE 11



Barry Elementary School



Junior/Senior High School

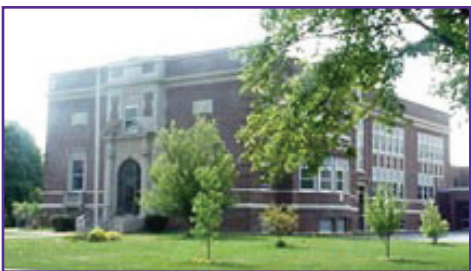


Parker Elementary School

BUDGET REPORT

<p>Introduction 3</p> <p>Opening message and highlights by the Superintendent, summary of the budget, district mission, and introduction of the Board of Education Members.</p> <p>Budget Summary 4</p> <p>Side-by-side comparison of last year's budget to this year's, and demonstrates the fund allocations.</p> <p>Revenue Summary..... 4</p> <p>Approximate revenue projections for the tax levy and other sources of revenue.</p> <p>Financial Components..... 5-7</p> <p>Financial responsibility of the district and break down of components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program 5 Administration 6 Capital 7 	<p>Propositions..... 11</p> <p>Characterizes the propositions the public will be voting on, and provides voter registration information and polling locations.</p> <p>Salary Disclosure Document..... 12</p> <p>Property Tax Report Card/Notice and Property Levy Tax Cap</p> <p>Budget Notice 13</p> <p>Property Tax Report Card 13</p> <p>NYS Report Card 14</p> <p>Accountability Supplement 15</p>
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Randall Elementary School



Smith Elementary School



Virgil Elementary School



INTRODUCTION

Proposed 2015/16 School Budget for Voter Approval on May 19, 2015

As you are aware, the school budget process has become more and more difficult due to a number of factors that have affected the local, state, and national fiscal economies. At the local level we are dealing with spiraling costs and unfunded mandates while Albany continues to shift the tax burden to the local level.

We began this budget process with increases in health care, contractual increases, and the normal inflation factors causing a budget-to-budget difference of over \$2 million. In addition to these increasing costs, our State Aid has been reduced by over \$9 million in the last five years. We were able to close this budget gap by reducing costs where possible, continuing a lease program for buses and technology hardware, and the use of reserve funds. These reserves are similar to your own savings account and should be used sparingly as they are finite resources. Additionally, we will realize a year to year state aid increase in excess of \$1.5 million. As we reduced costs, we were mindful of student needs and maintained our current educational programs. We are, after all, here to educate our children in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

The budget proposal being presented to the voters has a budget-to-budget increase of \$2,072,562 or 4.4%. The current Allowable Tax Levy Limit (Tax Cap) for Cortland Enlarged City School District is 2.258%, resulting in a tax levy increase of \$375,540. This would result in an estimated increase of \$8.06 per month on a home valued at \$100,000.00.

I would like to thank the Board of Education, staff, and community members for their creative efforts and input during this year's budget process. You should be commended for keeping the best interests of our students as your compass and staying true to Cortland's Mission Statement.

Michael J. Hoose, Superintendent



Board of Education: (Seated, left to right) Melissa Davis-Howard, President; Alane M. Van Donsel; Janet Griffin, Vice President. (Standing, left to right) Donald A. Colongeli, John A. Natoli, Jr., Michael Hoose, Daniel R. Sidebottom and Judith E. Murphy.

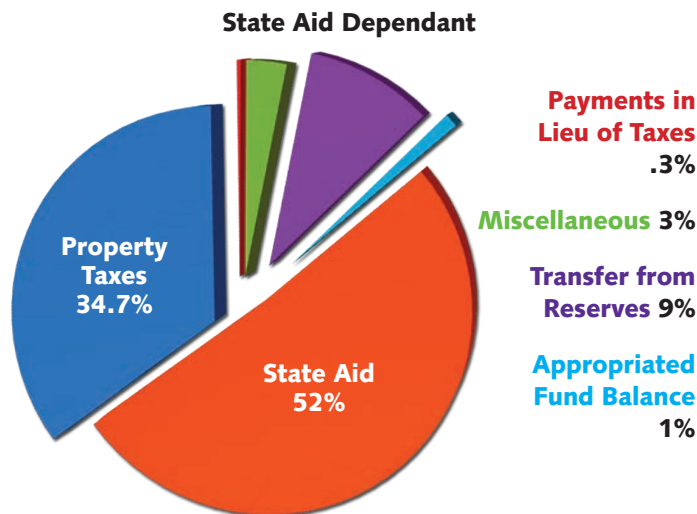
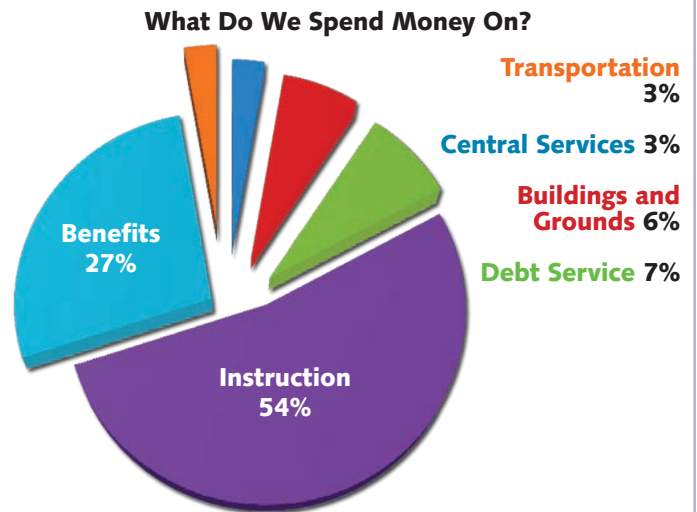
District Mission Statement

The Cortland Enlarged City School District values all community members as partners in creating a positive learning environment for all students. This environment prepares all students to reach their fullest potential in becoming life-long learners, and successful, contributing members of the society in which they live.

BUDGET VOTE – TUESDAY MAY 19

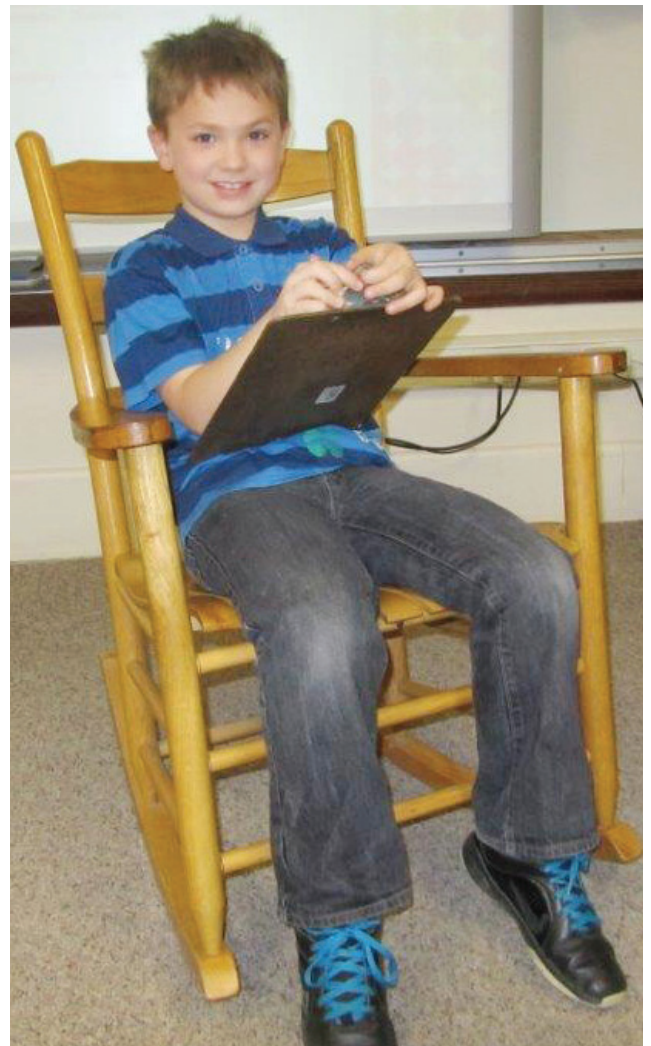
BUDGET SUMMARY

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Total Budget	\$47,504,325	\$ 49,576,887
Dollar Increase		\$2,072,562
Percent Increase		4.4%
<hr/>		
Central Services	3%	\$ 1,467,471
Buildings & Grounds	6%	\$ 2,921,086
Debt Service	7%	\$ 3,697,016
Instruction	54%	\$ 26,698,166
Benefits	27%	\$ 13,365,611
Transportation	3%	\$ 1,427,537
<hr/>		
Total	100%	\$ 49,576,887



REVENUE

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Property Taxes	\$16,631,392	\$17,006,932
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$150,000	\$150,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$1,439,038	\$1,609,038
Transfer from Reserves	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$500,000	\$500,000
State Aid	\$24,283,899	\$25,810,917
<hr/>		
Total Revenues	\$47,504,329	\$49,576,887



PROGRAM BUDGET 2015-16

Description	2015-16 Program	2014-15 Program
<i>Instruction</i> - includes salaries of teachers and instructional support staff, textbooks, supplemental books, equipment, supplies and BOCES services.	\$24,543,850	\$23,043,882
<i>District Transportation</i> - includes salary of district transportation staff, fueling, and maintenance of all vehicles.	\$1,427,537	\$1,316,645
<i>Employee Benefits</i> - includes district contributions to teachers and employees retirement systems, Social Security, Workers Compensation, and health, dental and unemployment insurance in relation to the program component.	\$11,439,309	\$11,073,871
PERCENT	75.460%	74.592%
TOTAL	\$37,410,696	\$35,434,398



CAPITAL BUDGET 2014-15

Description	2015-16 Capital	2014-15 Capital
<u>Plant Operation</u> - includes salaries, utility expenses, equipment, contractual expenses, and materials and supplies associated with operation of all district facilities.	\$2,336,821	\$2,468,100
<u>Plant Maintenance</u> - includes salaries, contractual expenses, and materials and supplies associated with the upkeep of all district facilities.	\$584,265	\$636,400
<u>Debt Service</u> - includes repayment of Serial Bond debt for Capital Projects and purchase of vehicles.	\$3,697,016	\$3,736,992
<u>Employee Benefits</u> - includes district contributions to employees retirement systems, Social Security, Workers Compensation, and health, dental and unemployment insurance in relation to the capital component.	\$884,357	\$852,276
PERCENT	15.133%	16.196%
TOTAL	\$7,502,459	\$7,693,768



ADMINISTRATION BUDGET 2014-15

Description	2015-16 Admin	2014-15 Admin
<u>Board of Education</u> - includes postage, printing, legal advertising, voting machines, district clerk stipend and other expenses related to the annual vote and BOCES services.	\$35,204	\$37,071
<u>Central Administration</u> - includes operation of the Superintendent's office (salaries, secretary, photocopies, dues, conferences, office supplies and BOCES services).	\$269,411	\$257,156
<u>Finance</u> - includes salaries and supplies for business administration, auditing, central treasurer, tax collection, payroll, purchasing and BOCES services.	\$579,704	\$500,809
<u>Legal</u> - includes contractual expense of school attorney.	\$50,000	\$15,000
<u>Personnel</u> - includes expenses for advertising, contract negotiations, contract grievances and labor relations fees.	\$111,452	\$101,516
<u>Supervision Regular School</u> - includes salaries, clerical support, and expenses for Principals' Offices at the elementary schools and junior/senior high school.	\$1,668,357	\$1,585,893
<u>Curriculum Development and Supervision</u> - includes curriculum-development supervision and coordination, curriculum-development stipends, in-service consultant fees, and professional development for staff.	\$485,939	\$481,446
<u>Employee Benefits</u> - includes district contribution to teachers and employees retirement systems, Social Security, Worker's Compensation and health, dental and Unemployment insurance pro-rated to the administrative component.	\$1,041,965	\$1,008,388
<u>Other Special Items</u> - includes unallocated insurance premiums, school association dues, assessment on school property, and BOCES administration charges.	\$421,700	\$388,880
PERCENT	9.407%	9.212%
TOTAL	\$4,663,732	\$4,376,159

REVENUES



State Aid Category	2014-2015	2015-2016
Foundation Aid	\$18,640,142	\$18,759,978
UPK	\$468,206	\$468,206
BOCES	\$1,650,000	\$1,945,017
High Cost Excess	\$549,198	\$617,916
Private Excess Cost	\$156,590	\$203,335
Hardware & Technology	\$53,282	\$51,350
Software, Library, Textbook	\$222,914	\$221,031
Transportation	\$1,079,384	\$1,129,001
GEA	(\$536,288)	(\$33,450)
Subtotal Operation Aids	\$22,283,428	\$23,362,384
Building/Other	\$2,468,677	\$2,916,739
Total	\$24,283,899	\$25,810,917
Percent Change		6.30%
\$ Value Change		\$1,527,018

School Year Gap Elimination Adjustment

2009-10	\$1,946,951
2010-11	\$1,844,175
2011-12	\$2,415,099
2012-13	\$1,811,325
2013-14	\$1,126,675
2014-15	\$536,288
2015-16	\$33,450
Total	\$9,713,963

What Is the GEA?

For the past six school budgets, New York State has taken back from the Cortland Enlarged City School District \$9,680,513 in state aid in the form of Gap Elimination Adjustment. The state is using the GEA, to take money it would have allocated to school districts in order to close its own budget gap.

Based on the final Legislative budget for 2015-16, Cortland will lose another \$33,450 under the GEA. That will bring the total money lost to \$9,713,963 over the past six school budgets.

Cortland Enlarged City School District will always strive to maximize revenues to provide the best educational opportunities to all students. The district is always looking for ways to maximize state aid revenues that are expense based. For example, purchasing items from our local BOCES rather than direct from a vendor will increase our BOCES State Aid. This is just one example of what the district is doing to spend taxpayer money responsibly.

TAX LEVY • TAX RATES • TAX BILLS

Estimated Property Tax Impact of Tax Levy per Town, based on 14-15 Equalization and Assessment Rates

	2014-2015	2.26% 2015-2016
Levy	\$ 16,631,392	\$ 17,006,932
\$ Increase		\$ 375,540
Cortland	\$ 18.06	\$ 18.57
Cortlandville	\$ 18.06	\$ 18.57
Harford	\$ 18.43	\$ 18.57
Lapeer	\$ 19.63	\$ 18.57
Virgil	\$ 18.86	\$ 18.57
Dryden	\$ 18.06	\$ 18.57
District	\$ 18.20	\$ 18.57
Increase		\$ 0.88

What Does It All Mean?

A **tax levy** represents the total amount of money the school district will collect from local property owners to support the budget. It is calculated after taking into account all other revenues, including financial support from local, state and federal governments. The Cortland Enlarged City School proposed 2015-16 Levy is \$17,006,932 - an increase of \$375,540 compared to the current school year.

The **tax rate** - or the amount to be charged per \$1,000 of assessed property value - is figured by dividing the tax levy into the total assessed value of a school district. The tax rate is finalized in July, after towns finalize their assessments and the state sets equalization rates which equalize the tax burden between towns. Then the Board of Education sets the final tax rates for each of the six municipalities that make up the school district. The rate publicized now is an estimate and may change due to assessments and equalization rates.

Tax bills - the final amount each homeowner pays can vary depending on individual assessments and each town's final tax rate. Taxpayers may see their bills go up by more than the estimated figure while others may see their tax bills go up by less. In that situation, the school district is not collecting more taxes. Rather, the town is redistributing the tax burden to take into account shifting property values.

The district can only control the tax levy increase, so \$375,540 or 2.26 percent, remains the most accurate figure for the amount the district is increasing property taxes next year.



TAX LEVY • TAX RATES • TAX BILLS

2015 - 2016 Estimated Tax Bills					
Value	No Star	Basic Star	Enhanced Star	Basic Savings	Enhanced Savings
\$40,000	\$742.63	\$185.66	\$-	\$556.97	\$742.63
\$50,000	\$928.28	\$371.31	\$-	\$556.97	\$928.28
\$60,000	\$1,113.98	\$556.97	\$-	\$556.97	\$1,113.94
\$70,000	\$1,299.60	\$742.63	\$107.68	\$556.97	\$1,191.92
\$80,000	\$1,485.26	\$928.28	\$293.34	\$556.97	\$1,191.92
\$90,000	\$1,670.91	\$1,113.94	\$478.99	\$556.97	\$1,191.92
\$100,000	\$1,856.57	\$1,299.60	\$664.65	\$556.97	\$1,191.92

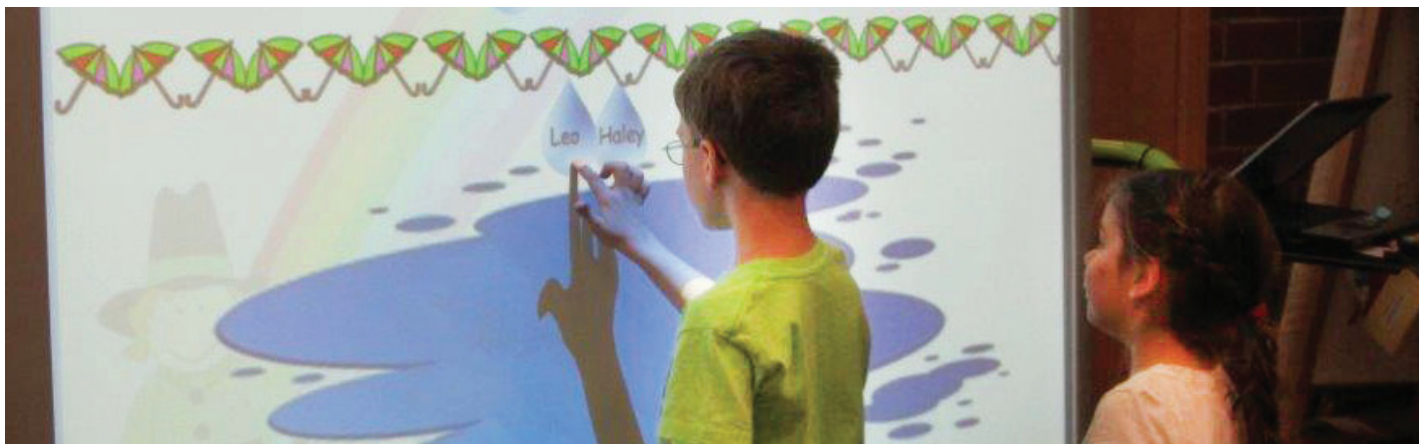
“Tax Cap” Law Is Not a Two Percent Limit

New York’s property tax levy “cap,” signed into law in June 2011 has often been referred to as a “2 percent cap” on taxes by some people.

However, the new law does not restrict any school district’s proposed tax levy increase to 2 percent—or any other amount. Instead, the legislation requires each district in the state to calculate its own tax levy limit to determine what level of voter support is necessary for budget approval.

The figure “2 percent” (or the rate of inflation, if less) is just one of eight variables that factor into each district’s calculation of what is called a “tax levy limit.” Districts then add to that amount portions of the tax levy that are not subject to the “cap.” These include taxes levied to cover capital expenditures and a small portion of pension costs. What has been referred to as a cap is really a “tax levy limit plus exclusions.”

For Cortland, the tax levy limit plus exclusions for 2015-16 is \$17,006,932, a 2.26% increase compared to the current year tax levy. Based on the law, this represents the maximum allowable tax levy Cortland can propose while requiring the support of a simple majority of voters (50 percent +1) for budget approval.



PROPOSITIONS

School Board Member(s)

Please vote for any three candidates or write in your nomination.

Proposition 1: 2015-2016 Budget

That the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the amount of \$49,576,887 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2:

Shall the Board of Education, be authorized to lease from the lowest responsible bidder four (4) school buses capable of transporting sixty-six passengers and one (1) wheelchair accessible thirty-five passenger school bus for a five-year term at a maximum cost of five hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$592,000), including the costs of leasing, the financing of the leases and other related costs?

Proposition 3:

Shall the Cortland Free Library tax previously approved by the voters of the District be increased from the current \$360,150 to \$367,353 beginning July 1, 2015, to be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the District in each year for general library purposes and to continue from year to year until modified or repealed by a subsequent vote?

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

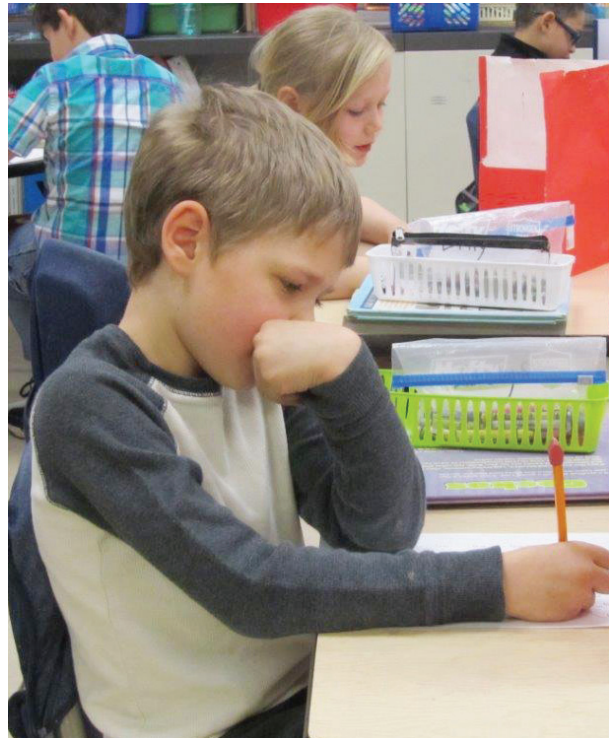
All voters must meet the following requirements

- 1.) At least 18 years of age
- 2.) A citizen of the United States
- 3.) A resident of the District for at least 30 days preceding the vote

Unregistered qualified voters can register in person Tuesday, May 6th, 2015, between the hours of 3PM and 8PM at the Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, Cortland, New York.

The polling locations are as follows:

- 1.) All residents of the City of Cortland vote at the Kaufman Center on Valley View Drive
- 2.) Virgil residents vote at the Virgil Fire Station
- 3.) Cortlandville residents vote at the Cortlandville Town Hall on Terrace Road



SALARY DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Chapter 474 of the Laws of 1996 included a provision requiring the publication of the Superintendent and certain other administrators' salaries as part of the annual school district budget process. This information is being appended to the proposed 2014-15 budget document in satisfaction of this requirement.

DISTRICT PROFILE

The Superintendent of Schools is the Chief Executive Officer of the Cortland Enlarged City School District. In short, the Superintendent is the CEO of a business with a proposed budget of \$49,576,887 serving over 2,700 students with approximately 475 employees in six school buildings.

SUPERINTENDENT'S QUALIFICATIONS

Pursuant to Education Law, Superintendents must hold a certificate from the Commissioner of Education certifying their qualifications including a minimum of 60 credit hours of post-graduate work and three years of teaching experience. Mr. Michael J. Hoose, Superintendent of the Cortland Enlarged City School District, holds a Bachelor's degree from the State University at Oswego, a Master's degree from Canisius College and has been certified by the Commissioner of Education to be a Superintendent of Schools. Prior to coming to Cortland, Mr. Hoose served as a classroom teacher, an Assistant Principal, K-12 Principal, and Superintendent of Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Statutory Responsibilities

1711. Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools. Subdivision 5:

The Education Law charges the Superintendent with the following duties:

- a) To be the Chief Executive Officer of the school district and the educational system, and to have the right to speak on all matters before the Board, but not to vote.
- b) To enforce all provisions of law and all rules and regulations relating to the management of the school and other education, social and recreational activities under the direction of the Board of Education.
- c) To prepare the content of each course of study authorized by the Board of Education.
- d) To recommend suitable lists of textbooks to be used in the schools.
- e) To have supervision and direction of associates, assistant superintendents, directors, supervisors, principals, teachers, lecturers, medical inspectors, nurses, auditors, attendance officers, janitors and other persons employed in the management of the schools or the other educational activities of the district authorized by (Education Law) and under the direction and management of the Board of Education.

3012. The Superintendent has the power to recommend teachers and supervisors to the Board for tenure.

The Superintendency does not fit the traditional work week. In addition to office responsibilities, the Superintendent is expected to attend every board meeting, parent and teacher meetings, and some shared decision making committee meetings which are often held in the evenings as well as attend school athletic events. A 60 to 70 hour work week should not be considered unusual.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENSATION

The Superintendent's compensation is broken into 3 parts: salary, benefits and other considerations.

\$161,140 Annual Salary (est.)

2015-16 Salary for the Superintendent

\$52,172 Annualized Cost of Benefits (est.)

The position of Superintendent has the same ancillary benefits provided to all employees. Many of these benefits such as employer contribution to Social Security, Medicaid and retirement are required by law. Additional benefits include family health insurance and family dental insurance.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COMPENSATION

\$130,636 Annual Salary (est.)

2015-16 Salary for the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil & Personnel Services

\$44,201 Annualized Cost of Benefits (est.)

BUDGET NOTICE

	Budget Adopted for the 2014-15 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2015-16 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount	\$47,704,325	\$49,576,887	\$49,201,346
Increase/Decrease for the 2015-2016 School Year		\$2,072,565	\$1,697,002
Percentage Increase in Each Proposed Budget		4.36%	3.57%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.62%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	\$16,631,392	\$17,006,932	\$16,631,392
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,184,208	\$1,230,382	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, NOT Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$15,447,184	\$15,776,550	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, NOT Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$15,042,227	\$15,776,550	
Propositions	(\$595,043)	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$4,376,159	\$4,663,752	\$287,573
Program Component	\$35,434,398	\$37,410,696	\$1,976,298
Capital Component	\$7,693,768	\$7,502,439	(\$191,309)

The contingency budget is based upon the following assumptions: The required Tax Levy will default to the previous year's tax levy allowing for reductions in appropriations to allow for some expenses such as, legally prohibited expenses for the purchase of equipment, confidential employee salary increases, public use of facilities, allocations to the repair reserve fund are excluded. The actual changes in appropriations under a contingency budget would be determined by the Board of Education should this be necessary.

Description	Amount
Shall the Board of Education be authorized to lease from the lowest responsible bidder	\$ 592,000

	Budget Proposed for the 2015-2016 School Year
Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$556.97

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-2016 by the qualified voters of the Cortland Enlarged City School District, Cortland County, New York, will be held at the Kaufman Center, Cortlandville Town Hall, and Virgil Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, between the hours of Noon and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Cortland Enlarged City School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine. ¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

	Budgeted 2014-15 (A)	Proposed Budget 2015-16 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Proposed Spending	47,504,325	49,576,887	4.36%
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Tax Levy to Support Library Debt¹	16,631,392	17,006,932	2.90%
Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	1,184,208	1,230,382	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	15,447,184	15,776,550	
School Tax Levy Limit, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions²	16,042,227	15,776,550	
Difference: (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	(\$595,043)	0	
Public School Enrollment	2,607	2,600	-0.27%
Consumer Price Index			1.62%

	Actual 2014-15 (D)	Estimated 2105-16 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	10,412,180	11,000,000
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	500,000	500,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	720,230	1,000,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	1.62%	2.02%

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMARY

Commissioner's Regulations require that certain expenditure ratios for general-education and special-education students be reported and compared with ratios for similar districts and all public schools. The required ratios for this district are reported below.

The numbers used to compute the statistics on this page were collected on the State Aid Form A, the State Aid Form F, the School District Annual Financial Report (ST-3), and from the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). These data are from the 2012-13 school year.

This School District	General Education	Special Education
Instructional Expenditures	\$22,252,967	\$9,528,079
Pupils	2,704	307
Expenditures Per Pupil	\$8,230	\$31,036
Similar District Group (High Need/ Resource Capacity Urban or Suburban)		
Instructional Expenditures	\$2,254,313,332	\$960,015,132
Pupils	205,070	32,489
Expenditures Per Pupil	\$10,993	\$29,549
All School Districts		
Instructional Expenditures	\$30,025,916,685	\$12,279,242,539
Pupils	2,666,629	410,379
Expenditures Per Pupil	\$11,280	\$29,922

Instructional Expenditures for General Education are K-12 expenditures for classroom instruction (excluding Special Education) plus a proration of building level administrative and instructional support expenditures. These expenditures include amounts for instruction of students with disabilities in a general education setting. District expenditures, such as transportation, debt service and district-wide administration are not included.

The pupil count for General Education is K-12 average daily membership plus K-12 pupils for whom the district pays tuition to another school district. This number represents all pupils, including those classified as having disabilities and those not classified, excluding only students with disabilities placed out of district. Pupils resident in the district but attending a charter school are included. For districts in which a county jail is located, this number includes incarcerated youth to whom the district must provide an education program.

Instructional Expenditures for Special Education are K-12 expenditures for students with disabilities (including summer special education expenditures) plus a proration of building-level administrative and instructional support expenditures. District expenditures, such as transportation, debt service and district-wide administration are not included.

The pupil count for Special Education is a count of K-12 students with disabilities for the 2012-13 school year plus students for whom the district receives tuition from another district plus students for whom the district pays tuition to another district. Students attending the State schools at Rome and Batavia, private placements and out-of-state placements are included.

Instructional Expenditures Per Pupil is the simple arithmetic ratio of Instructional Expenditures to Pupils. The total cost of instruction for students with disabilities may include both general- and special-education expenditures. Special-education services provided in the general education classroom may benefit students not classified as having disabilities.

Total Expenditures Per Pupil		
This School District	Similar District Group	NY State
\$15,449	\$20,326	\$21,118

Total Expenditures Per Pupil is the simple arithmetic ratio of Total Expenditures to Pupils. Total Expenditures include district expenditures for classroom instruction, as well as expenditures for transportation, debt service, community service and district-wide administration that are not included in the Instructional Expenditure values for General Education and Special Education. As such, the sum of General Education and Special Education Instructional Expenditures does not equal the Total Expenditures.

INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

(2013-14) Commissioner's Regulations require reporting students with disabilities by the percent of time they are in general education classrooms and the classification rate of students with disabilities. These data are to be compared with percentages for similar districts and all public schools. The required percentages for this district are reported below.

Total Expenditures Per Pupil

Student Placement (Percent of Time Inside Regular Classroom)	This School District		Similar District Group (High Need/Resource Capacity Urban or Suburban)	NY State
	Number of Students	Percent of Students	Percent of Students	Percent of Students
80% or more	204	71.3%	47.6%	58.4%
40% - 79%	17	5.9%	18.3%	11.8%
Less than 40%	51	17.8%	25.0%	21.5%
Separate Settings	5	1.7%	6.0%	5.7%
Other Settings	9	3.1%	3.1%	2.5%

The source data for the statistics in this table were reported through the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) and verified in Verification Report 5. The counts are numbers of students reported in the least restrictive environment categories for school-age programs (ages 6-21) on BEDS Day, which is the first day of the reporting year. The percentages represent the amount of time students with disabilities are in general-education classrooms, regardless of the amount and cost of special education services they receive. Rounding of percentage values may cause them to sum to a number slightly different from 100%.

School-age Students with Disabilities Classification Rate

This School District	Similar District Group	NY State
9.5%	12.7%	13.2%

This rate is a ratio of the count of school-age students with disabilities (ages 4-21) to the total enrollment of all school-age students in the school district, including students who are parentally placed in non-public schools located in the school district. The numerator includes all school-age students for whom a district has Committee on Special Education (CSE) responsibility to ensure the provision of special education services. The denominator includes all school-age students who reside in the district. In the case of parentally placed students in non-public schools, it includes the number of students who attend the non-public schools located in the school district. Source data are drawn from the SIRS and from the Basic Education Data System (BEDS).

Similar District Groups are identified according to the Need-to-Resource-Capacity Index. More information is available on our [NRC capacity categories](#) page.



CORTLAND CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
1 Valley View Drive
Cortland, NY 13045-3297

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PERMIT NO. 77

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Responding to the call to strengthen our nation's K-12 STEM education, New York State launched the NYS Master Teacher Program in partnership with The State University of New York and Math for America. The program creates a state-wide network of the highest-performing STEM teachers that are dedicated to sharing expertise with peers and attracting the brightest minds to a career in STEM. Cortland teachers selected as part of the Master Teacher community are: Ms. Abbey Albright, Ms. Carol Brafman, Ms. Karen Krichbaum-Stenger and Mr. James Ulrich.

Mr. David Darrow was named the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Eastern Region Coach of The Year for Wrestling for 2014.

Kaitlyn Newman was selected for and performed in the New York State School Music Association All-State Mixed Chorus and New York School Band Directors Association State-Wide Honor Band.

The artwork of six Cortland students was selected to be exhibited at the New York State School Board Association Convention in New York City. Those participating were: Benjamin Copenbarger, Kylie Davie, Amanda Kruman, Nicolette Starmer, Marissa Scalza and Emma Holl.

Six student finalists participated in the 2015 Post-Standard/WCNY written spelling contest on January 24th. Of the six finalists, Tess Engst-Mansilla and Samantha Engst-Mansilla qualified to join thirty-five of the top scorers (from districts throughout Central New York) to participate in the February 7th Oral Spelling Bee. The oral speldown took place at the WCNY Studios in Syracuse and was televised. Tess competed to the 6th round, and Samantha went on to compete in the final round, achieving 2nd place.

Skills USA 2015 Regional Competition Winners - SkillsUSA improves the quality of America's skilled workforce through a structured program of citizenship, leadership, employability, technical and professional skills training. The following students were awarded the Board's Certificate of Extraordinary Achievement: Nahsia Batts, Third Place Health Occupations; Deirdre Monroe, Second Place Cosmetology; Hunter Moore, Second Place Graphics; and Alex Sanford, First Place Culinary Arts.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Stephanie Passeri-Densmore, Team Advisor, Students and Co-Captains: Jon Chu, Jack Davie, and Jon Frederick participated in and won first place in the 8th grade category of the 2014 Worldwide NASA Contest. Jon Chu presented their OMNI IV project at the NSS International Space Development Project in Los Angeles, California. He was interviewed by the Discovery Channel.

In December, 2014, District voters approved a \$6.25 million Energy Performance Contract project that includes installation of high efficiency LED lighting throughout District buildings, integration of advanced controls allowing for increased energy reduction through daylight harvesting and occupancy sensors. Additionally, the installation of more energy efficient systems will allow for reduced utility consumption. Lastly, upgrades to building envelopes will reduce energy loss.