

Cortland

Enlarged City School District

Budget

2022-2023 PROPOSAL

Over 77% of K-6 students participate in band, chorus and orchestra!

86%

of Cortland High School Varsity Athletic Teams, have over a 90% GPA, which qualifies them as a NYSPHSAA "School of Excellence"

Budget Vote

May 17, 2022

Proposed Budget 2022-23

Dear Cortland Families and Voters,

As we continue to emerge from the global pandemic I am happy to report that we have mostly returned to normal. More than that, I believe that these past two years have given us every reason to have greater hope for a better future, a more engaging world and a more considerate, caring, and thoughtful community. The pandemic and the events going on across the ocean continue to be reminders of our need to be more connected with our loved ones and to stand up for one another to make the world a better place. Our work, right here in Cortland, with our young people, is as important now as it has ever been. They are our future leaders, thinkers, artisans, and educators.

75%

of the 2022 graduating class had at least ONE college course completed prior to graduation

Our work with our students is very much focused on learning and achievement. Our budget is the foundation for maintaining our high quality staff and for ensuring facilities that support rigorous and relevant learning experiences.

Our budget process this year, similar to the past two, began with uncertainty in federal, state, and local budgets. Throughout the fall and winter we worked hard to understand anticipated revenue for 2022-2023 in order to balance our expenses and propose an appropriate budget. One particular area of focus for us is a process for rebuilding our reserves. This is important for our future and, in this budget, I believe we have arrived at a balanced, fair, and sustainable proposal for 2022-2023. Our budget allows the continuation of our strong academic program, with a plethora of elective options for our high school students, instrumental music education beginning at Smith Intermediate School, clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities.

Thank you all for your continued support of the district and our students. Please remember to exercise your right to vote on May 17, 2022.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Edwards

Remember to Vote! May 17, 2022



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At-A-Glance

For up-to-date information visit our website www.cortlandschools.org

District Highlights

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

This is the third year all students, grades K-12, have breakfast and lunch provided for them because of the District's participation in the Community Eligibility Program.

Superintendent Edwards continued to provide weekly video blasts from around the district highlighting the amazing work of our students and staff. All videos are archived on our website to be viewed by community and family members.

Tools and tutoring were provided to students during quarantines. All students had a computer assigned to them to use in class and at home if needed, internet access at home was provided for any students who needed it.

Social emotional learning was provided at all five schools.

In-person events returned this year including social events at the elementary schools, music concerts, musicals, art shows and student dances at the JSHS.

The Positivity Project continued to be used in all schools across the district to enhance the social emotional learning opportunities for students.

The Board of Education welcomed a student member to represent students in the district.

Tiger Techs (paid student interns) became certified to work on and repair laptops used by students across the district.

Our makerspace in the JSHS library is filled with approximately 65 students per day working on robotics, 3-D printers, coding, legos and various other creations that require planning, problem solving and teamwork.

Our PS I Love You Club continued to coordinate the Purple Pantry, a needs based food support system for students and families in the district. Cortland ECSD staff and community members have supported the pantry with repeated donations.

Our world language department coordinated a field trip to Europe for a once in a lifetime opportunity to be immersed in a new language and culture with their peers.

The Cortland Video Club and Cortland High Television crews continued to cover the events of Cortland High School including concerts, board meetings, sports coverage and CTV News Shows, but also added new productions including a daily morning news show called Homeroom Headlines, coverage of Cortland Common Council meetings and even live debates for the City of Cortland Mayor and Town of Cortlandville Supervisor elections.



Stay Connected

FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, CECSD will utilize several ways to keep in touch.

SchoolTool -- SchoolTool is a program that allows students and parents online access to personalized information about a student's academic program and progress. From student attendance to report cards and progress reports, SchoolTool allows for better communication from school to home.

SchoolMessenger -- SchoolMessenger allows CECSD and all of the schools within the District to send messages via phone and email to parents and staff, allowing you to stay up to date on school events, emergency situations, closings and delays, etc. Only parents, guardians, or anyone who is designated as an emergency point of contact will receive these notifications.

Twitter, Facebook & Instagram-- We continue to use Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to update the community on exciting things that are happening at CECSD. Our twitter accounts are: @CECSDistrict, @CECSD_Athletics, @CECSD_Music, @CECSD_Theatre, @CECSD_Art, @CECSD_HS, @CECSD_JH, @CECSD_Randall, and @CECSD_Smith, and @CECSD_Barry.

Our instagram accounts are: @CECSDistrict and @CECSD_SH.

For up-to-date information visit our website www.cortlandschools.org

Investing In Our Students' Futures

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Revenue Summary	2021-2022 Actual Budget	2022-2023 PROPOSED Budget
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$308,359	\$400,000
Property Tax Levy + PILOTs	\$18,256,960	\$18,388,459
State Aid	\$31,347,787	\$31,741,542
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$935,150	\$935,150
Reserve Allocation	\$0	\$100,000
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$0
Revenue Total	\$50,848,256	\$51,565,151

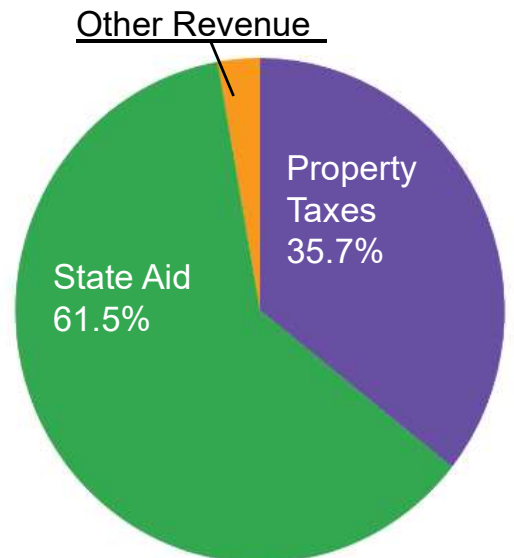
Expenditure Summary	2021-2022 Actual Budget	2022-2023 PROPOSED Budget
Instruction	\$26,625,324	\$27,041,948
Employee Benefits	\$13,944,118	\$13,887,113
Operations and Maintenance	\$2,741,391	\$2,828,085
Transportation	\$1,236,563	\$1,388,568
District Support	\$1,462,075	\$1,509,950
Debt Service and Transfer	\$4,838,785	\$4,909,487
Expenditure Total	\$50,848,256	\$51,565,151

Tax Levy Information	2021-2022 Actual Budget	2022-2023 PROPOSED Budget
Property Tax Levy	\$ 18,107,360	\$ 18,227,859
PILOTs	\$ 149,600	\$ 160,600
Tax Levy Dollar Increase	\$ 356,160	\$ 120,499
Tax Levy Percent Increase	2.01%	0.67%

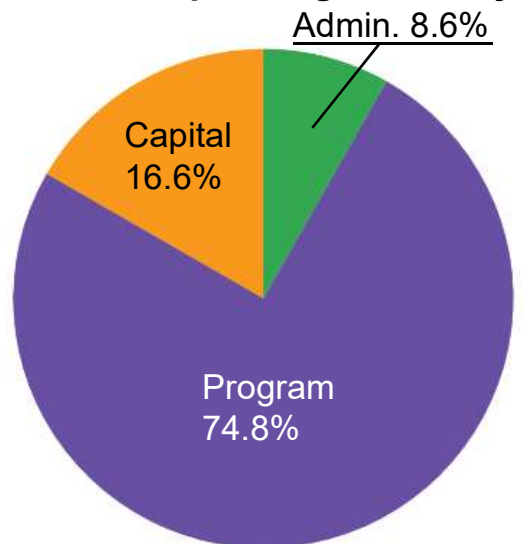
3-Part Budget Information	2021-2022 Actual Budget	2022-2023 PROPOSED Budget
Administration	\$ 4,166,073	\$ 4,446,477
Program	\$ 38,203,300	\$ 38,577,573
Capital	\$ 8,478,883	\$ 8,541,101



2022-23 Revenue Summary



2022-23 Spending Summary



For up-to-date information visit our website www.cortlandschools.org

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING • DATE: May, 3 • TIME: 6:00 p.m. LOCATION: HS Auditorium
To present the proposed 2022-23 budget to the public.

Proposition #1 – 2022-2023 Budget

To approve the budget of \$51,565,151, which is a 1.41% budget increase and 0.67% tax levy increase maximizing our allowable tax cap.

Proposition #2 – Bus Purchase

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District on February 8, 2022 authorizing the acquisition of student transport vehicles, including all necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment, and the expenditure of a total sum not to exceed \$452,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and further authorizing the issuance of \$452,000 serial bonds to pay the cost thereof; providing that the sum of \$452,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of such School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District, including installment purchase contracts, may be issued; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; determining that the period of probable usefulness thereof and maximum maturity of the serial bonds therefor is five years; delegating the power to authorize and sell bond anticipation notes and to fix the details of and to sell serial bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

What this means:

If the proposition is approved, the district will replace student transportation vehicles, through a purchase program. The anticipated costs of \$452,000 is eligible for approximately \$375,000 in state aid reimbursement. Replacing older, heavily used vehicles that are utilized for student transport, the proposed purchases are part of a five year replacement plan designed to ensure our students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards. Eventually, the plan will preserve the resale value of our buses. All large buses are part of a warranty plan that will reduce parts purchases and repair expenses.

Proposition #3 – Former Virgil Elementary Sale

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to sell to Kajen, LLC the building, grounds and improvements known as the former Virgil Elementary School, being further known as Tax Map Parcel 126.14-02-21.000 containing 4.6 acres and Tax Map Parcel 126.14-02-20.11, containing 3.13 acres for a purchase price of \$380,000?

Proposition #4 – Cortland Free Library Tax

Shall the Cortland Free Library tax previously approved by the voters of the District be increased from the current \$408,135 to \$416,298 beginning July 1, 2022, 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?

What this means:

Funding for the library passes through the District but has no impact on school taxes or finances. The library determines the amount of the proposition.

Proposition #5 – Student Member of the BOE

Shall a High School Senior student who has attended the Cortland High School for at least two years be added to the Board of Education as an ex-officio student member as permitted by New York Education Law §2502 (10)?



For up-to-date information visit our website www.cortlandschools.org

Reminder: Tax Bill Arrives by 9/1

Tax Bills will arrive by September 1, 2022. The first installment is due by September 30th and the second installment is due in February 2023.



What happens if the budget is defeated?

If CECSD adopts a contingent budget, the budget will be reduced by \$120,499 for 2022-2023 and the tax levy will remain the same as 2021-2022.

What is the Three Part Budget composed of?

Three-Part Budget

School districts must, by law, divide their budgets into three parts: Administrative, Capital and Program. Each year districts must show how much each part has changed in relation to the whole budget. The three parts are as follows:

Administrative Budget Component

These expenditures include office and administrative costs, salaries and benefits for certified school administrators, legal fees, insurance, school board expenses, the business office, and recruitment.

Program Budget Component

This portion includes salaries and benefits of teachers and staff that directly work with students and other costs including supplies, technology, textbooks, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation.

Capital Budget Component

This includes all school bus purchases, debt service on buildings, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, facility costs (including salaries and benefits of the custodial and maintenance staff), service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment, and utilities.

What is a “tax levy limit”?

The tax levy limit is the allowable tax levy a school district can propose, for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters is required. The limit is calculated using a multi-step formula from the New York State Department of Education.

How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

The tax levy is the total amount of money the District raises from local taxpayers. The tax rate is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of property value.

How is my tax bill calculated?

Individual tax bills are calculated using:

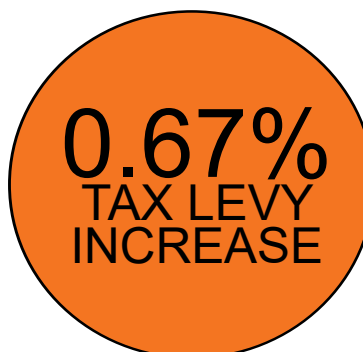
1. The Tax Levy from the school district approved by district voters at the May budget vote.
2. The Equalization Rate set by New York State. New York State balances property values in different townships and sets the rate in August.
3. The assessed value of properties as set by the Tax Assessors in each town in June.
4. Applicable Exemptions such as the STAR credit for the main residence of the homeowner.

Example of a tax bill

If my property has an assessed value of \$70,000, and the projected tax rate is \$17.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value my tax bill will be approximately \$1,239 not including exemptions.

Formula:

$$(\text{Tax rate/thousand}) \times \text{assessed value} \\ (\$17.70/\$1,000) \times \$70,000 = \$1,239$$



Budget Vote
May 17, 2022

Planning with the Future in Mind

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.

Success is the product of a mutually supportive partnership between the school, family and community. Students and staff take pride and accept responsibility for the school, creating a safe and supportive environment. It is a culture where all are welcomed and accepted and interactions are positive and productive. Our instructional environment is engaging and relevant and reflects the best practices in instructional design and delivery, including 21st Century skills. It allows teachers to work collaboratively within professional learning communities, promotes student engagement and participation in the school community and challenges and supports students at the individual level. The instructional environment is progressive and authentic through the use of technology and project based learning, promotes independent thinking and ensures teachers and students are continuous, self-directed learners. Our instructional environment uses assessment to drive instruction and results in a higher percentage of students graduating.



The number of students who will graduate in June of 2022 from
CECSD with an Associates Degree

34

Facilities to support 21st Century Learning Capital Projects

Smart School Bond Act Projects

Annual Capital Outlay Projects

Annual School Safety Projects

Regular Review and Planning for Facility Needs

FACILITIES UPDATE

Planning is underway for the \$32.5 million capital improvement project that was approved by the voters on October 13, 2021. This important work to improve our facilities will be divided into two different phases. Construction for the first phase is expected to begin in the Spring or Summer of 2023 and will include a parking lot redesign at Barry Primary, converting the heating system at Smith Intermediate from steam to hot water, a nurse office renovation at Barry Primary, a new loading pad for parent pickup and dropoff at Randall Middle, and various other improvements. Phase 2 of this work will enter the planning phases during the 2022-23 school year with construction scheduled to begin the Spring or Summer of 2024. Work in Phase 2 will include upgrades to athletic facilities at the Junior Senior High School, redesign of the cluster classrooms at Barry Primary, hallway renovations at Randall Middle School, and various other improvements.

Additionally:

The 2021-22 Capital Outlay construction work included the addition of a makerspace in the Randall Middle School library as well as repairs to the front steps.

The 2022-23 Capital Outlay construction work will be a full tile floor replacement in several classrooms at the Junior Senior High School, which is planned to occur during the Summer of 2022.

The Safe Schools funds will continue to be used to update our school security.

Budget Vote
May 17, 2022

For up-to-date information visit our website www.cortlandschools.org

Meet the Board of Education Candidates

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The following candidate has submitted his name to run for one of two seats up for election on the CECSD Board of Education. For more information about the Board of Education. Please visit our website at www.cortlandschools.org/BOE.



Donald Chu was born and raised in New Rochelle, NY where he attended the public schools graduating in 1971. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from MIT in 1975, worked for General Electric in Utica and got master's degrees in theoretical and applied mechanics from Cornell in 1982 and in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins in 1990.

He married Diane Smith (CHS 1976), helped raise two children and worked as a NASA and NOAA contractor in Maryland until 2018 when he dropped back to part-time work and relocated to Cortland. His goal for retirement was to volunteer at Parker School which reminded him of the New Rochelle school where his mother taught for decades.

Since then, he and his wife have volunteered at the elementary schools, Cortland Youth Bureau and the Cortland Free Library to provide extra-curricular activities for children. He opposed closing Parker and Virgil Schools and served on the board from 2019-21 during which time he tried to understand and better oversee the district's poor finances.

He was not reelected to the school board in 2021 but has since attended most public board and committee meetings to stay informed and engaged. He believes that good schools are the heart of a good community and would like to serve again to help further the improvements that began last year under Superintendent Edwards.

STAR Savings

The district provides information to taxpayers regarding the STAR program, but has no input into the STAR program.

Qualifying Information:

- Primary residence of the homeowner only
- Income guidelines
- Enhanced program for those over 65
- Check vs reduction in tax bill - all properties purchased after 2015 automatically receive a check, those prior may change their election. According to New York State, "Beginning in 2019, the value of the STAR credit savings may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase." This applies to those receiving the Basic or Enhanced STAR credit.
- More information is available on our website:
<https://www.cortlandschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=4230> and also on the State Tax website, <https://www.tax.ny.gov/star/default.htm>

BUDGET VOTE • May 17, 2022

How To Vote

How To Vote

Qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 16, 2022, and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2022 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2022 will require the voter to personally appear at the office of the Clerk of the District to receive an absentee ballot.

Polling Locations

City:

Ward	School District	Location	Address
1-8	1	Kaufman Center	1 Valley View Drive

Cortlandville, Lapeer, Harford, Virgil:

LD/ED/Town	School District	Location	Address
12-1 CT	9	Cortlandville Municipal Garage	3587 Terrace Road
13-3 & 4 CT	9	Cortlandville Municipal Garage	3587 Terrace Road
14-6 CT	9	Cortlandville Municipal Garage	3587 Terrace Road
18-1 LA	10	Virgil Town Hall	1176 Church Street, Virgil
19-1 HA	10	Virgil Town Hall	1176 Church Street, Virgil
19-2 VI	10	Virgil Town Hall	1176 Church Street, Virgil



