



Cortland Enlarged City School District Budget Hearing 2025



Barry Primary



Smith Intermediate



Randall Middle



Junior High School



Cortland High School





1

Concurrent Enrollment & Advanced Placement Courses

2

School Counselor in every Building

3

Interventionist Teams, Academic and SEL team focus

4

Instrumental music starting in 3rd/4th!

5

Smart Scholars Early College High School - Partnership with TC3

6

Clubs and Extra-curricular opportunities for students (Lego League, Art, History, Music)

7

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

8

Purple Pantry

9

Cortland County Olympiad

10

50 sports team - Modified to Varsity

#WeAreCortland



Great kids!



Great kids!



#WeAreCortland



Great kids!



Great kids!



#WeAreCortland



Great kids!



Great kids!



#WeAreCortland



Great programs for kids!

Great programs for kids!

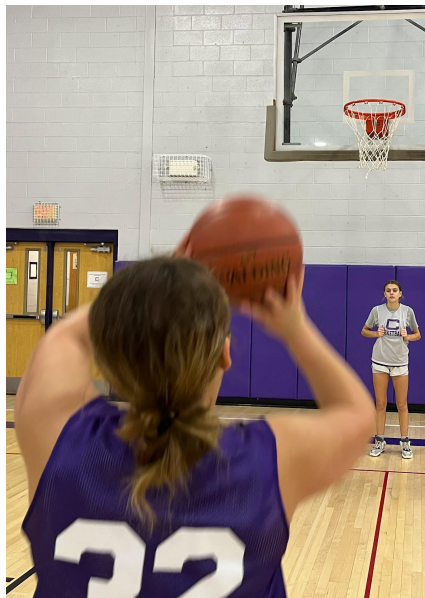


#WeAreCortland



Great programs for kids!

Great programs for kids!



#WeAreCortland



Opportunities for Students

Opportunities for Students

Cortland Enlarged City School District MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK



Colten Guernsey



CHS BOOSTER CLUB Athletes of the Week



Zee-Anna Rice
Varsity Girls Track



Caden Albright
Varsity Boys Baseball



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Opportunities for Students

Opportunities for Students



#Music

Opportunities for Students



Opportunities for Students



#video



Great Staff!



Great Staff!



#WeAreCortland



Great Staff!



Great Staff!



#WeAreCortland



Opportunities for Students



Opportunities for Students



#CORTLAND

Opportunities for Students

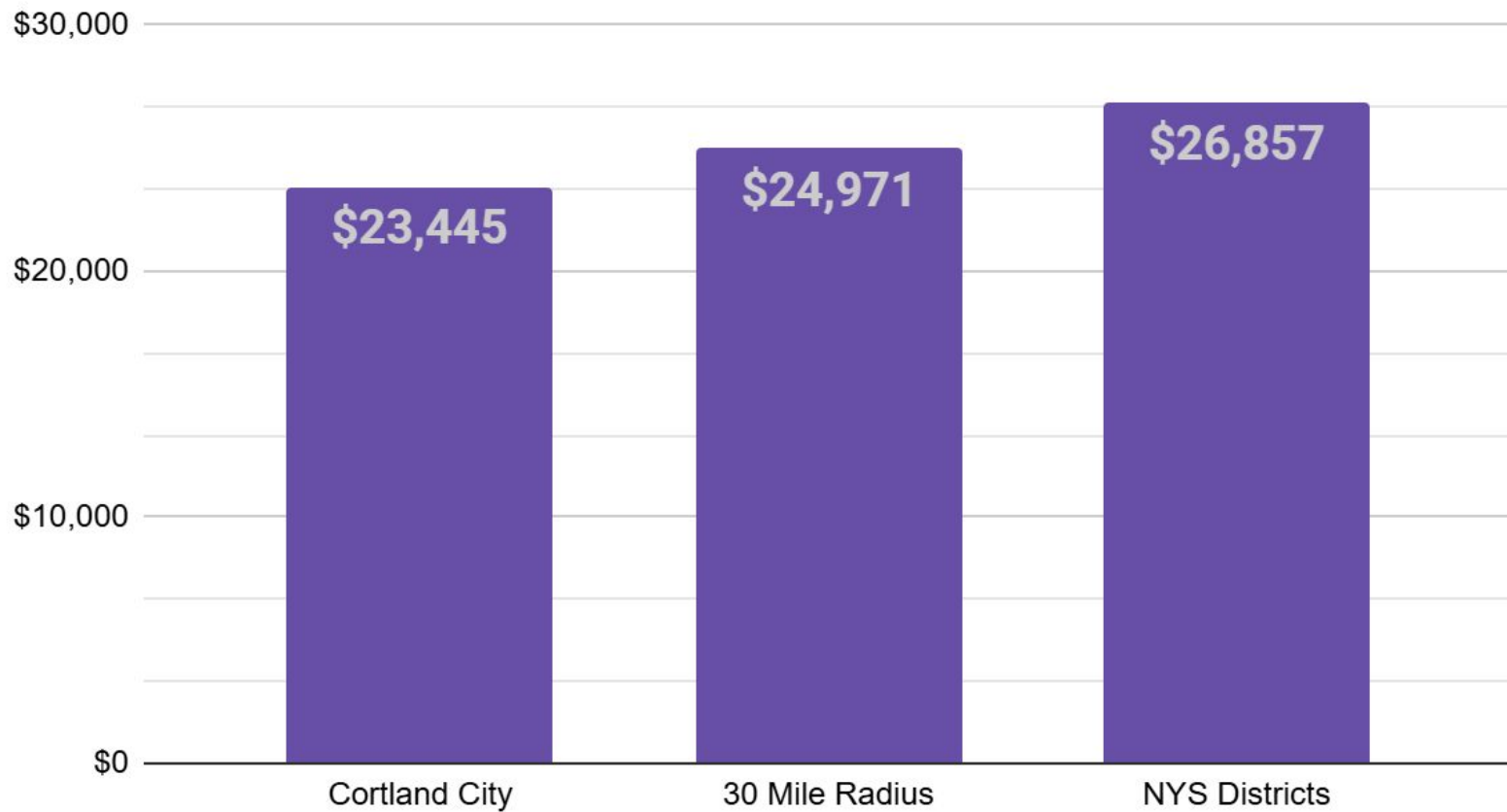


Opportunities for Students



#Unified

Per-Pupil Expenditures 2022-2023





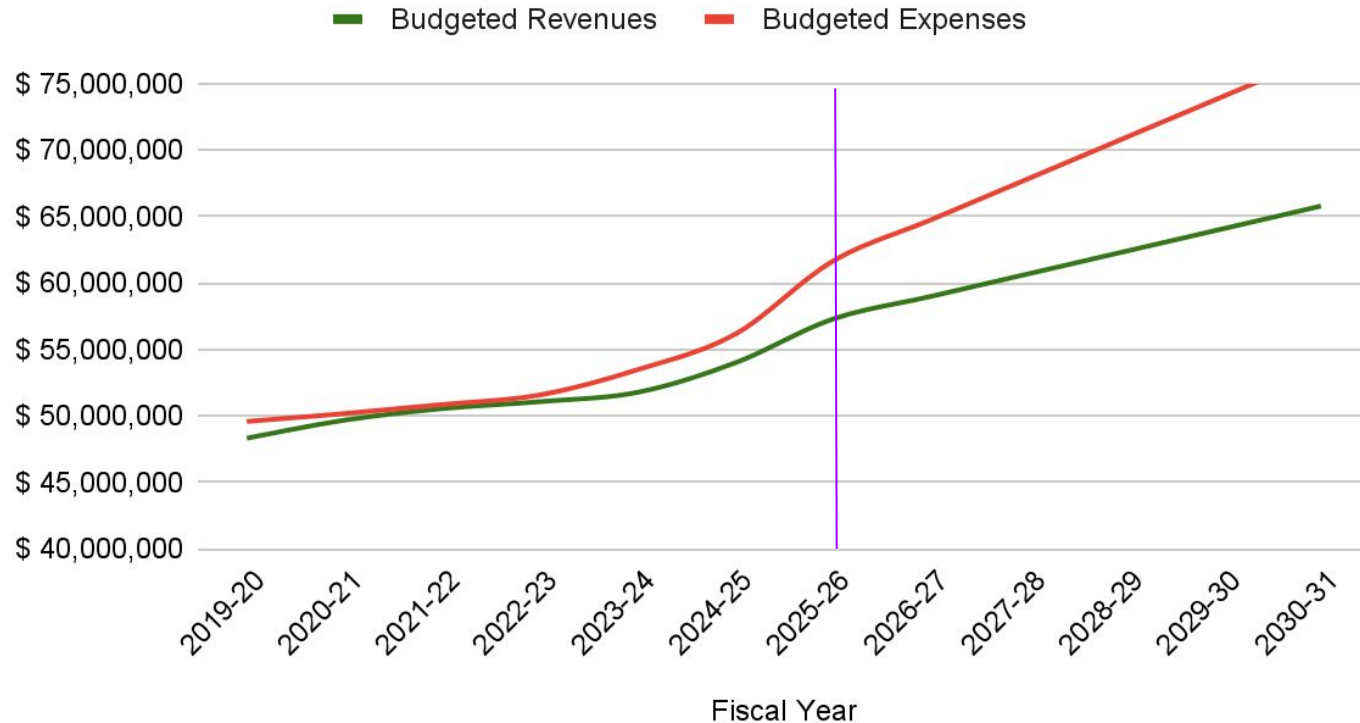
School Budget Process

- REQUIREMENT: Projected Expenses and Revenues must match
- GOAL: Maintain/Enhance programs for students

- Budget Process
 - Expenses: Budget requests are reviewed
 - Expenses: Payroll and other contractual obligations are determined
 - Revenue: State Aid and Tax Levy Limit are calculated
 - Adjustments are made to expense and revenue projections until they match
 - Revenue: Remaining expenses are covered with District funds
 1. Appropriated Fund Balance (Carry-over funds)
 2. Reserves (District savings)
 3. Tax Levy Override (sustainable source of revenue)



Long-Range Budgeted Revenues and Expenses





Tax Cap Limitations





Foundation Aid Challenges for 2025-26

Cortland is one of a handful of districts across NYS that is negatively impacted by the Governor's revision to the Foundation Aid Formula

Formula (Current Law):	\$24,357,541	(+\$1,029,466)	
Governor's Budget:	\$23,794,636	(+\$466,561)	<i>Revised Formula</i>
NYS Legislative Budget:	\$23,794,636	(+\$466,561)	2% Hold-Harmless

To assist the district in being made whole with sustainable revenues, we will be requesting that the community approve a Tax Levy Override, which will provide an additional \$502,973 above the Tax Levy Limit.



Increases in Expenses for 2025-26

- Large increases in expenses

• BOCES Services:	\$1,984,387	\$1,746,224 in Special Ed
• Payroll:	\$1,395,290	\$384,224 in Special Ed
• Benefits:	\$253,451	TRS, FICA/SS, Health
• Debt Service:	\$1,758,569	Bonds, BANs, RAN
• <i>Note: This increase will be offset by an additional \$1,500,000 in State Aid due to continuation of the 2021 Capital Project</i>		
• Utilities	\$75,418	Increase in delivery charges
• <u>Other Categories</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>	Fuel, Consultants, Cameras, Contractual

Total Increases listed above: **\$5,767,115**

Note: Current budget to budget increase is **\$5,486,099**



Decreases in Expenses for 2025-26

In recognition of the increases in expenses across many categories, the proposed budget for 2025-26 will experience reductions in the following

<u>Category</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Travel/Conferences	(\$33,700)	– 45.42%	
Supplies/Materials	(\$58,908)	– 11.21%	\$26,500 reduction in building S/M
Equipment	(\$27,500)	– 52.38%	
Tuition	(\$50,000)	– 6.21%	
ERS Contributions	(\$52,353)	– 6.14%	Adjustments to projected actual
<u>Workers Compensation</u>	<u>(\$58,555)</u>	<u>– 24.71%</u>	Lower Rates in WC Consortium
TOTALS:	(\$281,016)		



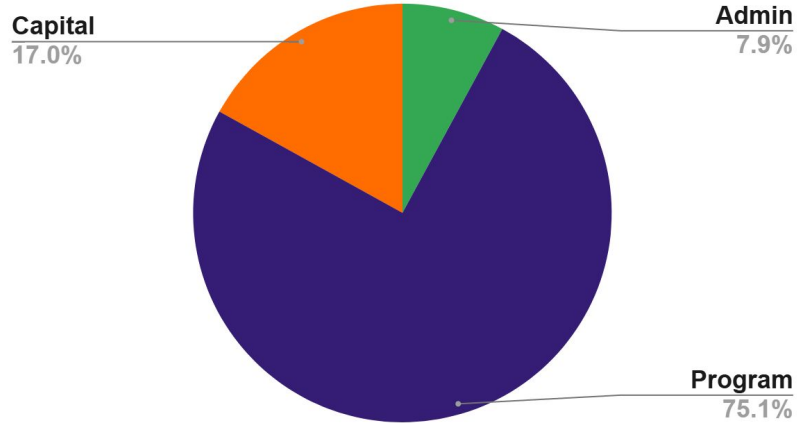
Three-Part Budget 2025-26

	<u>2024-25 Actual</u>	<u>2025-26 Projected</u>	<u>Change</u>
Expenditures:	\$56,135,150	\$61,621,249	\$5,486,099
Three-Part Budget:			
Administrative	\$4,443,352	\$4,758,339	\$314,987
Program	\$42,174,664	\$45,352,332	\$3,177,668
Capital	\$9,517,134	\$11,510,578	\$1,993,444

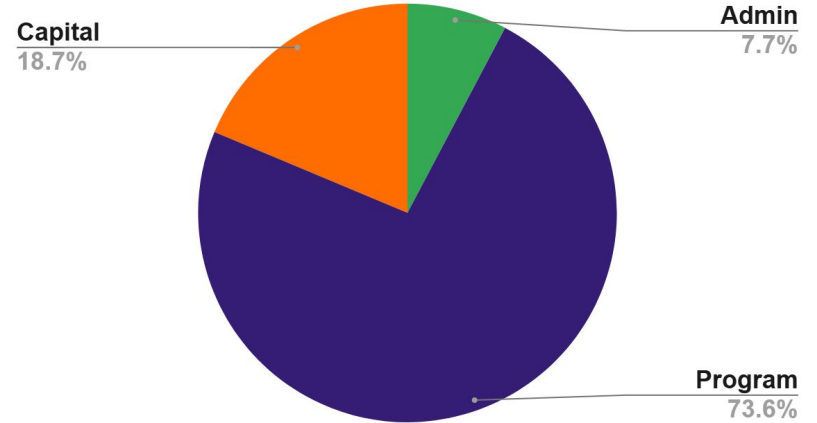


Three-Part Budget 2025-26

2024-25 Budget



2025-26 Proposed Budget





Administrative Component: 7.7% of Budget

	<u>2024-25 Actual</u>	<u>2025-26 Projected</u>	<u>Change</u>
Board of Education	\$58,000	\$56,150	(\$1,850)
Central Administration	\$368,643	\$452,942	\$84,299
Central Support	\$1,277,667	\$1,423,634	\$145,967
Supervision	\$1,173,373	\$1,192,181	\$18,808
Staff Development	\$199,355	\$225,300	\$25,945
<u>Employee Benefits</u>	<u>\$1,366,314</u>	<u>\$1,408,132</u>	<u>\$41,818</u>
TOTALS:	\$4,443,352	\$4,758,339	\$314,987



Program Component: 73.6% of Budget

	<u>2024-25 Actual</u>	<u>2025-26 Projected</u>	<u>Change</u>
Regular Instruction	\$17,595,146	\$18,091,184	\$496,038
Special School Program	\$8,781,022	\$11,077,943	\$2,296,921
Student Services	\$833,664	\$901,089	\$67,425
In-Service Training	\$171,541	\$167,200	(\$4,341)
Transportation	\$1,461,384	\$1,604,267	\$142,883
Summer School	\$126,977	\$202,400	\$75,423
Community	\$165,949	\$156,400	(\$9,549)
Employee Benefits	\$12,973,981	\$13,086,849	\$112,868
<u>Debt Service/Transfers</u>	<u>\$65,000</u>	<u>\$65,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
TOTALS:	\$42,174,664	\$45,352,332	\$3,177,668



Capital Component: 18.7% of Budget

	<u>2024-25 Actual</u>	<u>2025-26 Projected</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operation of Plant	\$1,727,076	\$1,892,759	\$165,683
Maintenance of Plant	\$1,189,081	\$1,270,441	\$81,360
Central Support	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$1,002,852	\$990,684	(\$12,168)
<u>Debt Service/Transfers</u>	<u>\$5,595,625</u>	<u>\$7,354,194</u>	<u>\$1,758,569</u>
TOTALS:	\$9,517,134	\$11,510,578	\$1,993,444

\$100K Capital Outlay project will replace interior doors at Barry Primary School.

Debt Service increases to be offset by additional Building Aid.

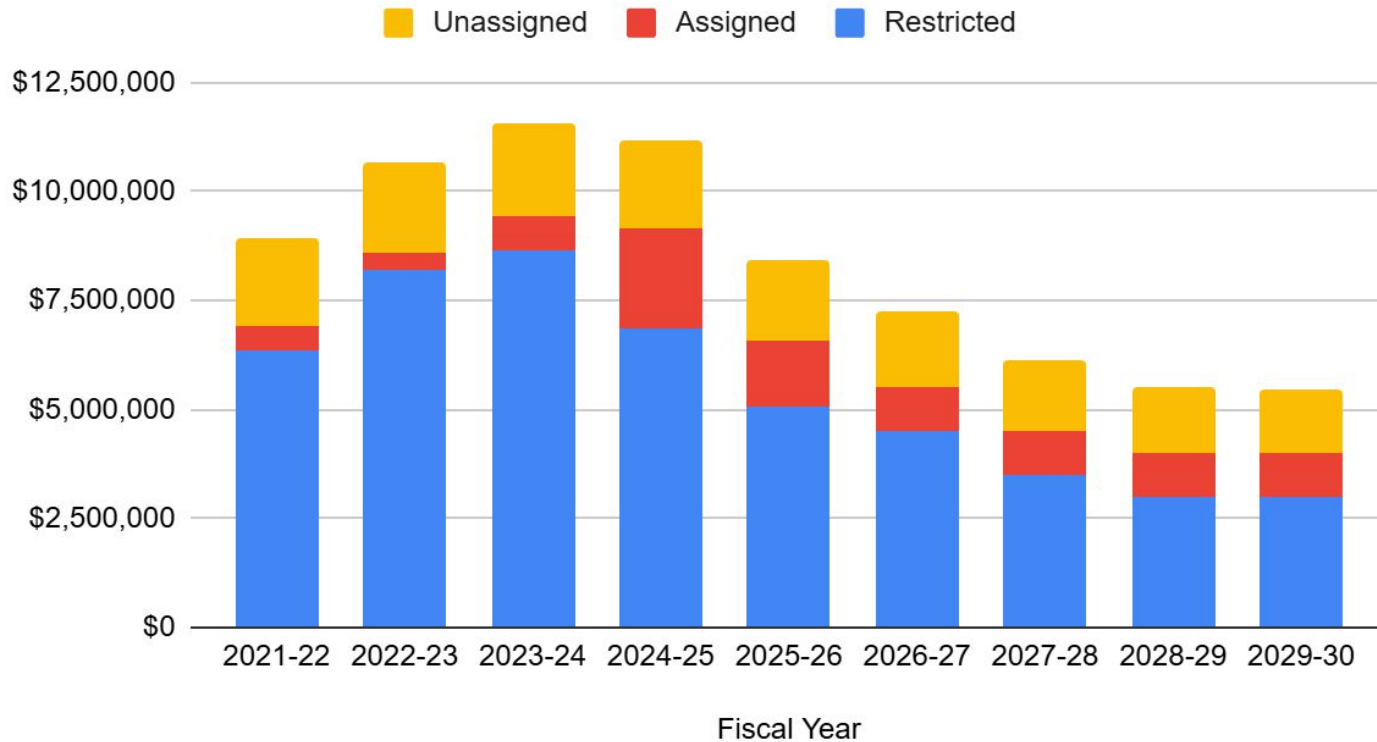


2025-26 Proposed Revenue Budget

	<u>2024-25 Budget</u>	<u>2025-26 Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
State Aid	\$33,073,290	\$35,008,572	\$1,935,282	5.02%
Local Tax: PILOTs	\$154,124	\$167,601	\$13,477	8.74%
Local Tax: Levy	\$19,328,429	\$20,293,884	\$965,455	4.99%
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>\$1,422,304</u>	<u>\$1,799,780</u>	<u>\$377,473</u>	<u>26.5%</u>
SUBTOTAL:	\$53,978,150	\$57,269,837	\$3,291,687	6.10%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$975,000	\$2,320,000	\$1,345,000	138%
<u>Appropriated Reserves</u>	<u>\$1,182,000</u>	<u>\$2,031,412</u>	<u>\$849,412</u>	<u>72%</u>
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$56,135,150	\$61,621,249	\$5,486,099	9.77%



Fund Balance Projections



<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Target Balance</u>	<u>Balances EOY 2024</u>	<u>Proj. Balance EOY 2025</u>	<u>Proj. Balance EOY 2026</u>
Workers Compensation	\$ 500,000	\$ 565,203	\$ 384,567	\$ 252,270
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 80,000	\$ 311,052	\$ 75,015	\$ 68,462
Employee Retirement System	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,370,026	\$ 872,983	\$ 154,307
Insurance	\$ 250,000	\$ 254,897	\$ 110,459	\$ 116,316
Accrued Employee Benefits	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 632,868	\$ 613,773	\$ 318,863
Capital Projects	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,760,979	\$ 3,260,397	\$ 3,433,272
Repair Reserve	\$ 450,000	\$ 745,928	\$ 690,707	\$ 622,028
Tax Certiorari	\$ 120,000	\$ 204,580	\$ 90,427	\$ 95,222
Teacher Retirement System	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 809,354	\$ 745,839	\$ 6,149
TOTALS:	\$10,600,000	\$ 8,654,887	\$ 6,844,167	\$ 5,066,889

Limitations on using Reserves:

- Can only be used for particular purposes
- Capital Reserve requires separate vote
- TRS Reserve has limitations on how it can be funded



Recent Budgeted Use of Reserve Accounts

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Workers Compensation		\$ 220,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 145,000
Unemployment Insurance			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
ERS		\$ 351,195	\$ 541,000	\$ 726,446
Insurance			\$ 150,000	
Accrued Employee Benefits Liability		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 310,966
Capital Projects		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 700,000	
Repair	\$ 100,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 100,000
Tax Certiorari				
TRS		\$ 220,000	\$ 291,000	\$ 740,000
TOTAL (Excluding Capital/Insurance):	\$ 100,000	\$ 961,195	\$ 1,182,000	\$ 2,032,412



Historical Budget to Budget Increases

	Budget	CPI	Tax Levy	Tax Rate	Reserves	Fund Balance
2018-19:	0.00%	2.13%	1.23%	\$17.73	\$1,875,887	\$500,000
2019-20:	0.00%	2.44%	2.00%	\$17.08	\$764,171	\$500,000
2020-21:	1.20%	1.81%	1.09%	\$17.22	\$0	\$500,000
2021-22:	1.35%	1.23%	2.01%	\$16.94	\$0	\$308,359
2022-23:	1.41%	4.70%	0.67%	\$15.58	\$100,000	\$400,000
2023-24:	3.69%	8.00%	1.89%	\$13.84	\$961,195	\$740,000
2024-25:	4.99%	4.12%	4.07%	\$12.71	\$1,182,000	\$975,000
2025-26:	9.77%	2.95%	4.99%	\$12.80	\$2,031,412	\$2,320,000



Anticipated Tax Bill Impact if Override Approved

- ❖ Actual tax bills cannot be determined until the summer months until the following is available:
 - Assessments finalized by Town/City Assessors
 - Equalization Rates finalized by NYS
- ❖ Historical increases compared with Levy increases:

➤ <u>Year</u>	<u>Levy Increase</u>	<u>Cortland</u>	<u>Cortlandville</u>	<u>Virgil</u>
➤ 2021-22	2.01%	2.04%	2.19%	- 2.40%
➤ 2022-23	0.67%	- 2.48%	- 2.28%	8.48%
➤ 2023-24	1.89%	0.99%	1.52%	1.89%
➤ 2024-25	4.07%	3-10%	- 1.08%	- 6.73%
➤ 2025-26	4.99%	<i>To be determined in Summer 2025</i>		



Reflections from 2023-24 Original Budget

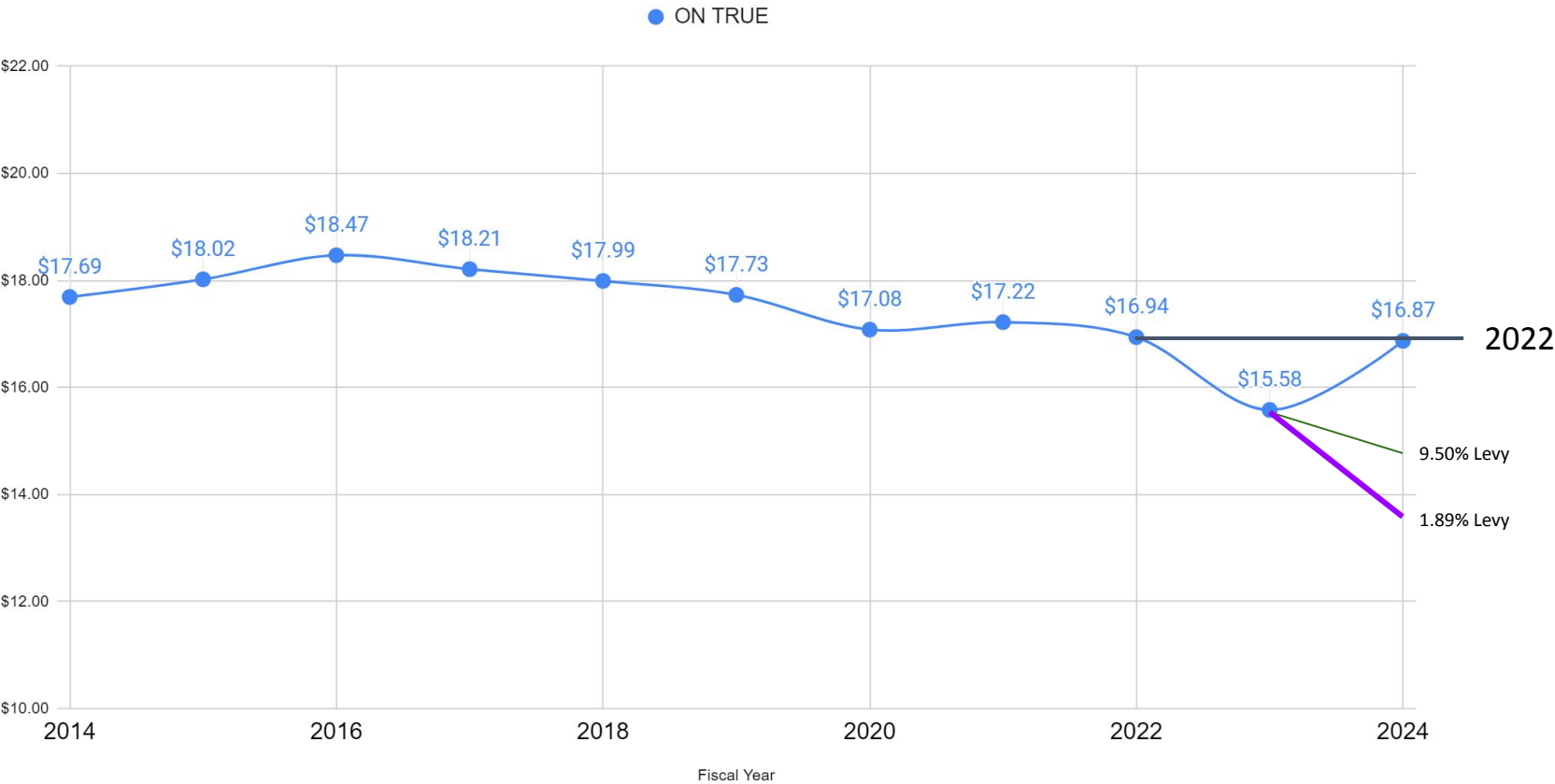
❖ Original Goal: Bring Tax Rate on True back to prior year rates

- Original Budget: Tax Levy Override of 9.5% Budget: \$54,508,998
 - Did not pass
- Second Budget: Tax Levy Limit of 1.89% Budget: \$53,466,042
 - \$1,042,956 in overall reductions
 - Passed

❖ Reflections from the defeated budget

- 9.5% Levy increase was too high to ask the community to approve
 - Some community members shared they would have been more supportive if the levy increase was within 5%
- If approved, the Tax Rate on True for 2023-24 would have been lower than 22-23 Rate
 - 2022-23 Tax on True: \$15.58
 - 2023-24 Tax on True: \$13.84 (actual) \$14.87 (if passed)
- Increase on tax bills:
 - On average, an additional \$20 for each 1% increase in the 23-24 levy per 100K of assessment
 - **For 2025-26, this translates into around an anticipated \$40 increase per 100K assessment**

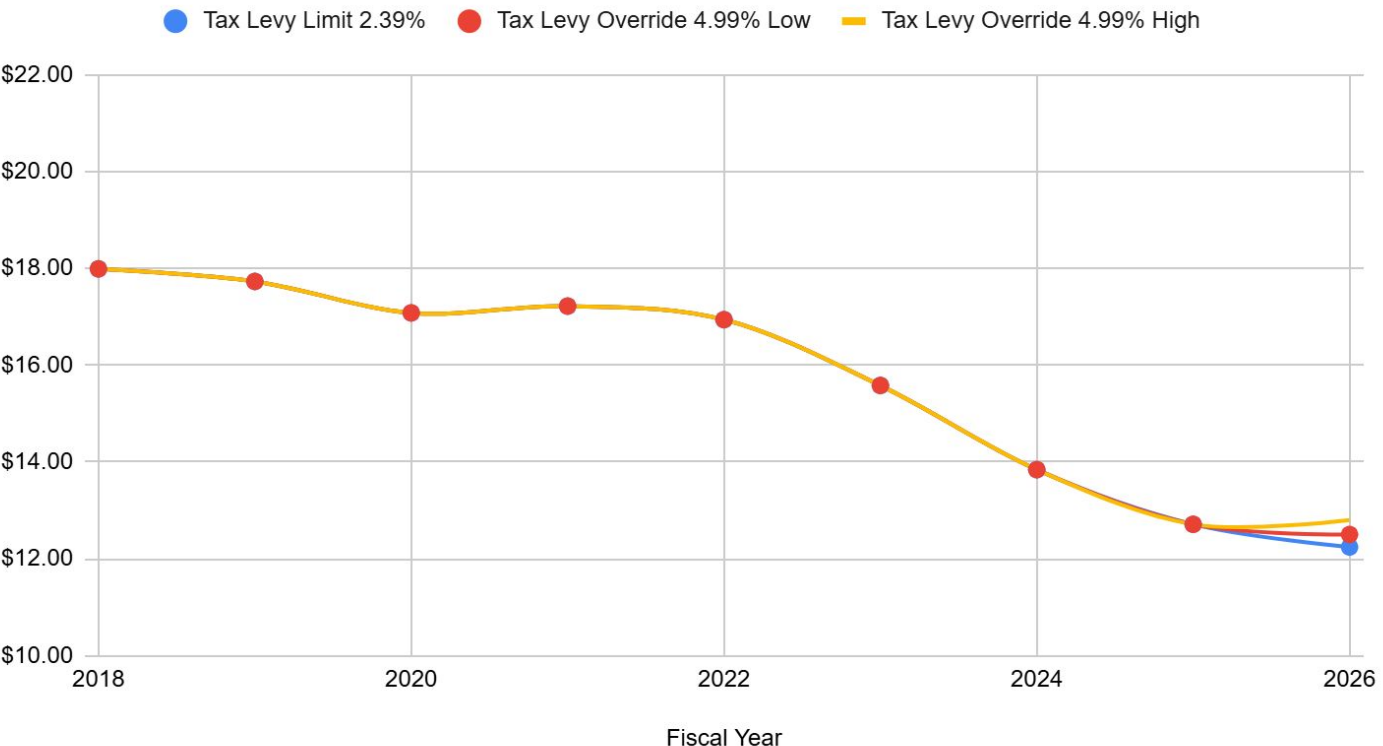
Historical Tax Rates (per \$1,000 of assessed value)





Projections for 2025-26

Historical Tax Rates (per \$1,000 of assessed value)





ESTIMATED 2025-26 TAX BILLS AND INCREASES

Assessed Full Value	No STAR		Basic STAR (\$30,000)		Enhanced STAR (\$86,100)	
	Estimated Tax Bill	Estimated Increase	Estimated Tax Bill	Estimated Increase	Estimated Tax Bill	Estimated Increase
\$80,000	\$1,075.20	\$58.40	\$672.00	\$36.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$100,000	\$1,344.00	\$73.00	\$940.80	\$51.10	\$186.82	\$10.15
\$120,000	\$1,612.80	\$87.60	\$1,209.60	\$65.70	\$455.62	\$24.75
\$140,000	\$1,881.60	\$102.20	\$1,478.40	\$80.30	\$724.42	\$39.35
\$160,000	\$2,150.40	\$116.80	\$1,747.20	\$94.90	\$993.22	\$53.95
\$180,000	\$2,419.20	\$131.40	\$2,016.00	\$109.50	\$1,262.02	\$68.55
\$200,000	\$2,688.00	\$146.00	\$2,284.80	\$124.10	\$1,530.82	\$83.15

Actual Tax Rates and Tax Bills will be calculated during July/August 2025. The above estimates assume a 5% increase on full-value of assessments and an assumed Tax Rate on True of \$12.80 per thousand.



What happens if the vote is not successful?

District has two options

1. Budget revote → June 17
 - a. Exceed the Tax levy limit?
 - b. Tax Levy Limit (2.39%)?
2. Contingency Budget

Effects of Contingency Budget

- Community organizations must pay rent to use district facilities
- Reductions in expenses → **significant impacts on student programming**
- Increases in district fund balance applied → **potential future Fiscal Stress**



May 20 - Propositions and BOE Candidates

3 BOE seats up for election (Vote for three candidates max, including write-ins)

Proposition 1 - The Budget (\$61,621,249)

Proposition 2 - Electric/Diesel Bus Purchase (\$1,600,000)

Proposition 3 - Diesel Bus Purchase (\$1,200,000)

Proposition 4 - Capital Project (\$7,700,000 with \$700,000 use of Capital Reserve)

Proposition 5 - Cortland Free Library Budget (\$473,724)



Candidates for BOE

- ❖ **Four candidates are running for three open seats on the Cortland Enlarged City School District's Board of Education**

- Joseph McMahon
- Gavin Teeter
- Brendan McGovern
- Donald Chu

Meet the Candidates

May 13 - 6pm

Kaufman Center

- ❖ **The three vacant seats will be filled as follows:**

- Highest number of votes: 3-year term from 7/1/25 to 6/30/28
- Second highest number of votes: 3-year term from 7/1/25 to 6/30/28
- Third highest number of votes: 2-year term from 5/21/25 to 6/30/27

***Please be sure to mark only 3 selections on your ballot or your vote for BOE Candidates will be invalidated.
There will be three write-in spaces below the candidate names.***



PROPOSITION 1 - School District Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District be authorized to spend \$61,621,249 for the purpose of operating the school district for the 2025-2026 school year and to levy the necessary tax thereafter?

Adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase of 4.99% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 2.39% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

If approved, the Cortland Enlarged City School District will

- Be authorized to expend no more than \$61,621,249 from the General Fund in the 2025-2026 school year
- Levy a tax exceeding the Levy Limit of 2.39%
- Requires 60% approval to pass



PROPOSITION 2 - Electric/Diesel Bus Purchase

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District on March 25, 2025 authorizing the acquisition of one (1) 66-passenger electric-powered student transport vehicle, one (1) 66-passenger diesel-powered student transport vehicle, and two (2) 84-passenger diesel-powered student transport vehicles, including charging stations and other necessary improvements, furnishings, fixtures and equipment, and the expenditure of a total sum not to exceed \$1,600,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and further authorizing the issuance of \$1,600,000 serial bonds to pay the cost thereof (apportioned for the purchase of one (1) 66-passenger electric-powered student transport vehicle at a maximum estimated cost of \$700,000 with a period of probable usefulness of eight years, and the purchase of one (1) 66-passenger diesel-powered student transport vehicle at a maximum estimated cost of \$300,000 with a period of probable usefulness of five years, and for the purchase of two (2) 84-passenger diesel-powered student transport vehicles at a maximum estimated cost of \$600,000 with a period of probable usefulness of five years); providing that the sum of \$1,600,000, 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 weighted average period of probable usefulness of the objects or purposes to be financed, and maximum maturity of the serial bonds therefor, is seven 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?

If approved, the Cortland Enlarged City School District will

- Purchase 4 large school buses for the 2025-26 school year
 - 1 Electric and 3 Diesel
 - 2 of the Diesel buses are 84-passenger buses
- Trade in 4 large school buses

Note:

Actual bonds are anticipated to not exceed \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

If approved, any purchases made will ensure there is no impact to taxpayers.



PROPOSITION 3 - Diesel Bus Purchase

If Proposition 2 is NOT approved, shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District on March 25, 2025 authorizing the acquisition of two (2) 84-passenger diesel powered student transport vehicles and two (2) 66-passenger diesel powered student transport vehicles, including other necessary improvements, furnishings, fixtures and equipment, and the expenditure of a total sum not to exceed \$1,200,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and further authorizing the issuance of \$1,200,000 serial bonds to pay the cost thereof; providing that the sum of \$1,200,000, 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 period of probable usefulness of the objects or purposes to be financed, 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?

If approved, the Cortland Enlarged City School District will

- Purchase 4 large Diesel school buses for the 2025-26 school year
 - 2 of the Diesel buses are 84-passenger buses
- Trade in 4 large school buses

Note:

Actual bonds are anticipated to not exceed \$800,000. If approved, any purchases made will ensure there is no impact to taxpayers.

This proposition is considered ONLY IF proposition 2 (electric/diesel buses) is NOT approved.



PROPOSITION 4 - Capital Project

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District on February 25, 2025 authorizing a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements, additions and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, and the purchase of such furnishings, fixtures, equipment, machinery and apparatus as may be required for the purposes for which such buildings are to be used, and the expenditure of a total sum not to exceed \$7,700,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and further authorizing spending \$700,000 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District's voters in May of 2016 and the issuance of serial bonds in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$7,000,000 to pay the cost thereof; providing that the sum of \$7,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, which 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, 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 thirty 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?

If approved, the District will prepare for SED approval, with construction anticipated to begin as early as the Summer of 2026.

This project, if approved, will have no impact to taxpayers.



\$7.7 Million Capital Project Information

- ◆ **Improving safety, accessibility, and facilities across the District**
 - **Districtwide Security Camera Replacement**
 - Server-based system to cloud-based system
 - Includes an audit of all camera placements to ensure coverage is maximized
 - **School Building PA System Upgrade**
 - Integrated system with clocks and improves communication within buildings
 - **Elevator Installation at Randall Middle School**
 - Also includes replacement of stair lift
 - **Upper Gymnasium Renovations at JSHS**
 - Flooring, bleachers, score board, hoops, paint, etc.



PROPOSITION 5 - Cortland Free Library Budget

Shall the Cortland Free Library tax previously approved by the voters of the District be increased from the current \$461,024 to \$473,724 beginning July 1, 2025, 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?

If approved, the Cortland Free Library will

- Levy a tax of \$473,724 for the 2025-26 fiscal year to cover costs to maintain, upgrade, and/or operate the Cortland Free Library

Please contact the Cortland Free Library for more information on their budget for 2025-26.

<https://cortlandfreelibrary.org/>



Voting Process

The Cortland Enlarged City School District annual vote and election will be held on May 20, 2025, between the hours of **11:00 AM and 8:00 PM**, prevailing time, at your designated polling location as shown below:

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

Questions?

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Thank you!