



2024-25 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

**Tuesday,
May 21, 2024**

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Lake George Elementary School
69 Sun Valley Drive
Lake George, NY

BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

2024-25 Proposed Budget
\$25,467,399

Spending Increase
\$658,707 (2.66%)

Tax Levy Increase
\$577,000 (2.69%)
(below the tax cap)

BOE CANDIDATES

(RUNNING FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM)

- Katie Bruening
- Jeffrey Meyer

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS:

- United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, and be a district resident for 30 days prior to the vote.
- A resident can only have one legal residence, which is their place of permanent residence.
- Voters must present photo identification.

WWW.LKGEORGE.ORG

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Lake George Community Members,

As we approach the upcoming budget vote, I want to take this opportunity to share the key priorities and initiatives that are reflected in our proposed 2024-25 budget. Our primary goal is to maintain the high-quality educational programs and services that our students and families have come to expect, while being fiscally responsible and addressing the evolving needs of our district.

The proposed spending plan maintains all programs and services while introducing enhancements, such as the Universal Prekindergarten Program (UPK), to better meet the needs of our youngest learners. Overall, the proposal makes the commitment to preserve the wide range of instructional, athletic, safety, and co-curricular programs that enrich the educational experience for our students.

Investing in our teachers and staff is an investment in our students' futures. The proposed budget includes provisions for professional development opportunities focused on areas such as math instruction, phonics, and instructional technology. By equipping our educators with the latest pedagogical strategies and tools, we ensure that our students receive high-quality instruction.

Investing in our young learners

We recognize the importance of early childhood education and have secured state and local funding for our UPK program. Additionally, we've allocated resources for a new K-5 phonics and phonemic awareness program. This evidence-based approach will nurture strong reading and writing skills, fostering a love of reading and empowering our students to become thoughtful readers. We understand the importance of providing our students with opportunities to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through hands-on experiences. The proposed budget allocates funds for supplies and resources to support our K-12 Vex programming, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation.

Innovation for the future

The proposed budget includes provisions for software and hardware upgrades, emphasizing cybersecurity measures to safeguard our systems and data. Additionally, we will continue supporting the annual replacement cycles of instructional technology for our students. Also included in the proposal is field grooming equipment, to better ensure our athletic fields and grounds are maintained to our community's high standards, and a new dishwasher in the Jr.-Sr. High School to replace the existing 18-year-old failing dishwasher.

We have earmarked \$100,000 for capital outlay projects. The capital outlay funds will address door security



hardware and replacements in the Jr.-Sr. High School, along with gymnasium enhancements which include refinishing the gymnasium floor and paint. Our gymnasium serves as a versatile space for various educational and community events, and it is essential to keep it in optimal condition.

In response to declining enrollment trends, we have made strategic staffing reductions through attrition and reduction in force. Since 2008, we have eliminated 49.1 positions from our workforce, representing a 22% reduction in our overall staffing. In the last year, to coincide with declining enrollment, eight positions were reduced this year through attrition. These difficult decisions were made to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of our district, while minimizing the impact on our educational programs.

We understand that balancing fiscal responsibility with the needs of our students and community is a delicate task. However, we believe that the proposed budget strikes a thoughtful balance, prioritizing educational excellence, safety and technological advancements through responsible resource allocation.

We encourage you to review the detailed budget information included throughout this flyer. You can find additional information regarding the 2024-25 budget by scanning the QR code (above) or by visiting our website at www.lkgeorge.org.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our district and student success as we strive to provide the best educational opportunities.

Sincerely,
John Luthringer

ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING

Absentee ballot voting is available. The new Early Mail Voter Act, effective Jan. 1, 2024, also allows for early voting via mail without any reasons needed for voting early. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications for voting by absentee ballot or early voting, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both. Ballots are available online at www.lkgeorge.org or can be picked up in the Superintendent's Office. Ballots must be received in the district clerk's office at least 7 days before

the vote if the ballot is mailed, or the day before the vote if the voter is going to pick up the ballot in person. Once you receive your ballot, carefully read and follow the directions for filling out the ballot.

Be sure to fill out the front of the envelope. Then, sign and date the envelope where indicated. If your envelope is unsigned, and the front is not filled out, your vote cannot be legally counted.

For more information, contact the school district clerk located in the Superintendent's Office at the Jr.-Sr. High School at (518) 668-5456, ext. 1207.



LAKE GEORGE

Central School District

381 Canada Street
Lake George, NY 12845

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 164

Board of Education

- Katie Bruening - President
- Maryanne MacKenzie - Vice President
- Jeannine Bieber
- Tricia Connor Biles
- Rosemarie Earl
- Mario Fasulo
- Donna Prime

Produced with the cooperation of the Capital Region BOCES
Engagement & Development Service. © 2024

Find us on @LakeGeorgeCSD

Proposition Two: Electric Bus Vehicle Purchase

District to utilize recent grant

LGCS D is taking significant steps towards a greener future with the acquisition of an electric bus, thanks to funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) through the New York School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP). This move aligns with the state's mandate, requiring all purchases to be zero-emission by 2027 and entire fleet to be zero-emission by 2035.

LGCS D faces the challenge of replacing 13 buses within the next 12 years to comply with the upcoming mandates. However, with proactive planning and the pursuit of various funding sources, LGCS D is making steady progress. To date, the district has conducted two fleet analysis studies to assess the feasibility of transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs). The studies have indicated that only two of our bus runs that are within the district's boundaries are longer than the recommended range for an electric bus with existing technology. Based on these studies, the majority of our bus runs are well within the recommended battery range of an electric bus.

The district intends to gradually phase in electric buses, aiming to replace one bus per year, while leveraging multiple funding opportunities to maximize financial support and limit impact to the taxpayers. The benefits of transitioning to electric buses are multifaceted. Beyond the positive impact on the environment through lower emissions, electric buses offer quieter operation, instant heat for passengers, and reduced running and maintenance costs compared to traditional diesel buses.

The recent funding secured from NYSERDA, amounting to \$220,500, combined with annual allocated funds, allows the district to propose purchasing a bus that will be secured for an amount that is less than the cost of a traditional bus. The bus proposition on the ballot is in an amount to not exceed \$160,000.

Additionally, as the district works to meet the NYS mandate, it has applied for additional funding from various sources, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Bus Rebate and Grant programs, NYSERDA Charger Reimbursement, National Grid Make Ready for Charger Infrastructure, and the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act for chargers.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$24,808,692	\$25,467,399	\$25,106,642
Increase for the 2024-25 School Year		\$658,707	\$297,950
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		2.66 %	1.2%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		4.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$21,453,000	\$22,030,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$21,453,000	\$22,030,000	\$21,453,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,062,038	\$1,122,192	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$20,391,907	\$20,908,045	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$20,390,962	\$20,907,808	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$945	\$237	
Administrative Component	\$2,586,376	\$2,725,020	\$2,646,920
Program Component	\$18,951,639	\$19,386,766	\$19,383,268
Capital Component	\$3,270,677	\$3,355,613	\$3,076,454

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, all equipment and non-contingent items would be removed and the district would maintain a level tax levy.

** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount include one 65 passenger EV bus with issue bonds and of the district at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$160,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due, to finance the acquisition of an electric school bus and related electric vehicle charger; expend not to exceed \$460,500 to acquire such bus and related charger, including the expenditure of \$220,500 of grant funds and \$80,000 of available funds.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$187

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Lake George Central school district, Warren County, New York, will be held at Lake George Elementary School Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

We are lifelong learners, leaders, and global citizens.