

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

North Syracuse  
Central School District

## PROPOSED 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET

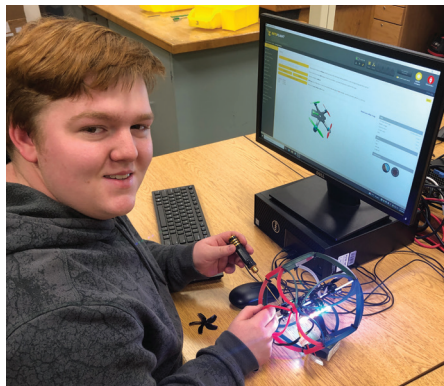
### Proposed budget prioritizes student success

Strategic mission, vision and goals honored throughout development process

On Tuesday, May 21, North Syracuse Central School District residents will vote on the district's \$212,196,591 budget proposal for the 2024-25 school year. The proposed budget reflects the district's commitment to providing an exceptional education and honors its strategic mission, vision, and goals. Despite being faced with fiscal challenges, including overcoming inflation and the loss of federal funding, the district is pleased to present a proposal that prioritizes student success.

Like other districts in New York, the NSCSD budget has relied heavily on Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to pay for necessary student supports in response to COVID-related learning deficits. Combined with historically high inflation rates, increased benefits, pensions and energy costs, creating a balanced budget proposal required intensive planning and strategic budgeting.

- Continued on page 4



Brady Gwilt is a senior at Cicero-North Syracuse High School and has developed a passion for drone technology during his high school career. Gwilt is captain of the school's drone soccer team and treasurer of the engineering/robotics club. The CNS Drone Soccer Team competed in the US Drone Soccer League regional qualifier and took first place earning them the chance to compete in the NY State Championship.

## BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed budget	Tax Levy increase
\$212,196,591	\$3,030,802

Proposed school tax levy increase  
at tax cap = 2.98%

### TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$72,000	\$2,980	\$89,000
Est. Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$26.42	\$638.88	\$21.38
Est. Annual School Tax	\$1,902	\$1,904	\$1,903
Tax Increase Yr. / Mo.	\$55.03/ \$4.59	\$55.03/ \$4.59	\$55.03/ \$4.59

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR.

### POLLING LOCATIONS

For residents living  
SOUTH of 481

Administrative Office Building  
5355 West Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY

For residents living  
NORTH of 481

In May of 2023, NSCSD voters approved a change of polling location for residents living NORTH of 481.

Location for this group of voters is now:  
Michael J. Bragman Stadium at Cicero-North Syracuse High School (6002 Route 31 in Cicero, NY)

[www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget)

# District Expenditures : \$212,196,591

PROGRAM	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Regular Instruction	\$54,228,075	\$57,117,706	\$2,889,631	5.33%
Special School Program	\$27,480,587	\$29,329,507	\$1,848,920	6.73%
Student Services	\$13,149,754	\$13,831,410	\$681,656	5.18%
In-Service Training	\$908,923	\$976,801	\$67,878	7.47%
Legal	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$0	0.00%
Transportation	\$10,206,505	\$10,626,028	\$419,523	4.11%
Employee Benefits	\$51,041,215	\$52,021,358	\$980,143	1.92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$157,190,059</b>	<b>\$164,077,810</b>	<b>\$6,887,751</b>	<b>4.38%</b>

The Program (instructional) component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for 77.32% of the entire budget.

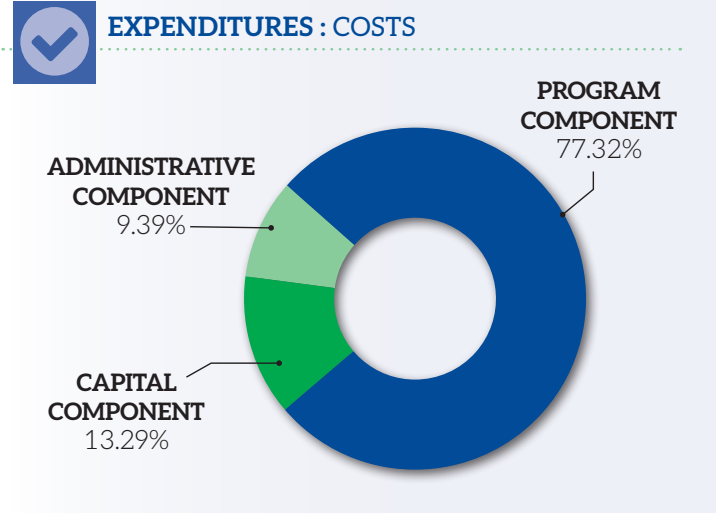
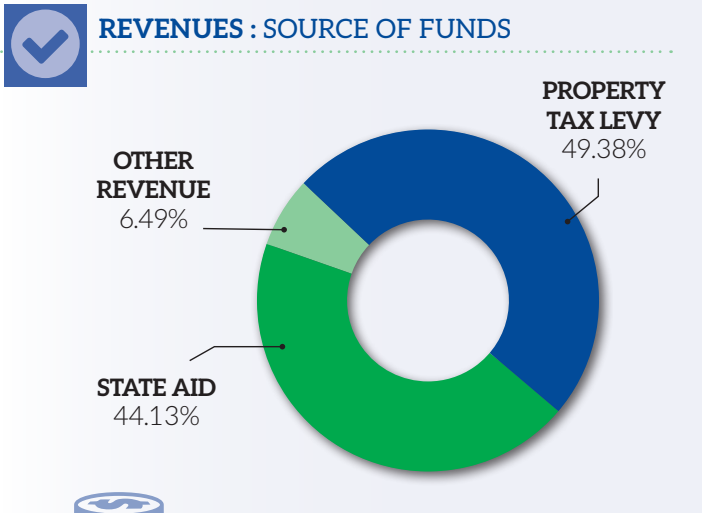
ADMINISTRATIVE	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Board of Education	\$150,416	\$146,864	\$-3,552	-2.36%
Central Administration	\$2,354,947	\$2,568,848	\$213,901	9.08%
Central Support	\$2,999,686	\$3,282,550	\$282,864	9.43%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$7,401,771	\$7,710,761	\$308,990	4.17%
Employee Benefits	\$5,937,391	\$6,212,453	\$275,062	4.63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,844,211</b>	<b>\$19,921,476</b>	<b>\$1,077,265</b>	<b>5.72%</b>

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up 9.39% of the entire budget. \*Please note, Board members are volunteers. There is no compensation associated with these positions.

CAPITAL	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$12,424,200	\$13,332,129	\$907,929	7.31%
Central Support	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.00%
Employee Benefits	\$4,947,792	\$4,871,863	\$-75,929	-1.53%
Debt Service	\$9,614,080	\$9,743,313	\$129,233	1.34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,236,072</b>	<b>\$28,197,305</b>	<b>\$961,233</b>	<b>3.53%</b>

This year's Capital component includes a \$100,000 special capital project. The Capital component accounts for 13.29% of the entire budget.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	\$203,270,342	\$212,196,591	\$8,926,249	4.39%



## BUDGET EXPENDITURES | TOTAL BUDGET \$212,196,591

PROGRAM COMPONENT: \$164,077,810  
PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 77.32%

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT: \$19,921,476  
PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 9.39%

CAPITAL COMPONENT: \$28,197,305  
PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 13.29%

**The Program component** includes costs associated with educating students. Expenses in this area include transportation, regular and special education costs, student services, training and employee benefits. As a people-based organization, the NSCS D spends the majority of money on personnel.

**The Administrative portion** of the budget is made up of costs associated with the Board of Education, district administration, support services and staff development. Board of Education members do not receive compensation for their service. This is the smallest portion of the budget.

**The Capital component** of the budget includes costs associated with the regular maintenance and upkeep of buildings and grounds, as well as special construction projects. Projects in the past few years have included security enhancements, building renovations and roofing work.

## DISTRICT REVENUES : SOURCE OF FUNDS

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>STATE AID</b>				
General Aid	\$87,312,884	\$89,800,828	\$2,487,944	2.85%
Building Aid	\$3,754,658	\$3,841,216	\$86,558	2.31%
<b>Aid Total</b>	<b>\$91,067,542</b>	<b>\$93,642,044</b>	<b>\$2,574,502</b>	<b>2.83%</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>				
PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes)	\$694,369	\$765,314	\$70,945	10.22%
County sales tax	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	0.00%
Interest	\$450,000	\$1,000,000	\$550,000	122.22%
Rent	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$0	0.00%
Fund balance and use of reserves	\$5,650,000	\$7,650,000	\$2,000,000	35.39%
Medicaid	\$600,000	\$800,000	\$200,000	33.33%
Other	\$2,380,500	\$2,880,500	\$500,000	21.00%
<b>Other Revenues Total</b>	<b>\$10,454,869</b>	<b>\$13,775,814</b>	<b>\$3,320,945</b>	<b>31.76%</b>
<b>PROPERTY TAX LEVY</b>	<b>\$101,747,931</b>	<b>\$104,778,733</b>	<b>\$3,030,802</b>	<b>2.98%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$203,270,342</b>	<b>\$212,196,591</b>	<b>\$8,926,249</b>	<b>4.39%</b>





## DISTRICT EARNS BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION DISTINCTION

For the third consecutive year, the NSCSD has earned the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, recognizing its outstanding dedication to music education. The designation is awarded to districts that excel in providing comprehensive music access and education to all students.

At the heart of our district lies a vibrant Fine Arts Program dedicated to fostering creativity, critical thinking and cultural appreciation. Our aim is to offer a well-rounded education that encourages self-expression and personal growth through robust instruction. In an environment of support and inclusivity, students are encouraged to explore their artistic abilities, collaborate with peers, and develop skills that transcend traditional classroom boundaries. By championing artistic excellence and diversity, our program empowers students to emerge as confident, empathetic and culturally aware individuals prepared to make positive contributions to society.

Daryle Redmond, Director of Fine Arts and Cocurricular Activities for the North Syracuse Central School District, expressed his gratitude upon learning of the designation, stating, "The Best Communities for Music Education award highlights the collective efforts and remarkable achievements of our students, educators, and community members. Through our shared commitment to musical excellence, we enrich the cultural landscape of our community and offer transformative experiences that resonate far beyond the confines of the concert hall."

## Proposed budget prioritizes student success

(Continued from front cover)

Our district is fortunate enough to have a dedicated group of instructional directors involved in the budgeting process to ensure that critical programming in all areas was protected. In order to reduce our overall staffing in response to both the budget deficit and declining enrollment, we will NOT be adding any new positions and 12.5 staff positions will be eliminated at the end of the school year due to retirements.



### PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ✔ Continued implementation of ELA curricula from Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) and Expeditionary Learning (EL) Education.
- ✔ The essential student support systems that were put in place with COVID funding to monitor and address student mental health will be maintained.
- ✔ The critical Community Schools partnership with Onondaga County that deployed Promise Zone and Contact specialists to work directly with youth and families to develop success strategies will continue.
- ✔ Targeted professional development opportunities designed to empower staff and build systems capacity will continue as part of ongoing strategies to improve academic and emotional supports.

The district's budget proposal for the 2024-25 school year is \$212,196,591. This represents a 2.98% tax levy increase over the current year. Because the proposal is within the district's tax levy limit, a simple majority of voters would need to approve the budget for it to pass. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on May 21.

Please remember that a change in polling locations was approved at last year's vote. The location is the same (Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse) for voters who live south of Route 481. For voters who live north of Route 481, the new polling place is the Michael J. Bragman Stadium at Cicero-North Syracuse High School (6002 Route 31 in Cicero). For those that have not been to the stadium, you will enter the high school property from Route 31 and take the "Y" to the right. Signage will direct voters to the stadium.

*Daniel D. Bowles*

Daniel D. Bowles

Superintendent of Schools  
North Syracuse Central School District

**CNS senior Aya Tyler** is a tremendous example of a student taking advantage of the exceptional music experiences available to students through NSCSD Fine Arts programming. Throughout her school career, Tyler has participated in many music groups, performed in school plays and musicals and has earned the right to participate in numerous prestigious music ensembles. She is just one of many talented student performers, musicians and artists within the district. She is pictured as Donna Sheridan, one of the lead roles in this year's production of "Mamma Mia."



## Annual Board of Education Member Election

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The board is composed of nine members who are elected by district voters to three-year terms. Members are not compensated for serving on the board. The terms of three board members expire each June 30 and those members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote. There are five candidates running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027).

Each Board of Education candidate is responsible for providing information for his or her own biography. The district does not endorse one candidate over another and reserves the right to edit biographies for space purposes. Candidate biographies are listed alphabetically below and candidate pictures are published if supplied.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



**Nicholas Edwards** is seeking a first term on the NSCSD Board of Education. Nicholas lives in North Syracuse and has been a devoted member of the NSCSD community for 35 years. As a graduate of CNS and OCM BOCES, Nicholas believes he understands the district's values intimately. His professional journey includes owning a successful business chain, but he says his true passion lies in family and community. Nicholas prioritized

raising his daughter, currently a fourth-grade student at Lakeshore Road Elementary, highlighting his commitment to family and education.

Beyond his career, Nicholas volunteers to educate and mentor youth and teens in financial literacy, demonstrating his dedication to community development. As a self-employed financial professional, Nicholas brings valuable expertise to the table. With strong ties to the community, Nicholas is more than a candidate; he is a neighbor, a parent, and a passionate advocate for NSCSD's improvement.



**Paul Farfaglia** is seeking reelection for a fourth term on the NSCSD Board of Education. He has served as President of the Board since 2019.

Mr. Farfaglia and his wife Rosemary have lived in the NSCSD for 35 years. Their daughter, Courtney, is a 2006 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School and 2010 graduate of Niagara University.

Mr. Farfaglia is a retired teacher from the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District. He graduated from Canastota High School and earned degrees from Le Moyne College (BA in Biology with an education minor) and SUNY Oswego (Master of Biology).

Mr. Farfaglia is a proud donor and active member of North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars. He currently serves on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education Executive, Policy, Audit and Legislative Committees.



**Beth Kramer**, Ed.D., is seeking a second term on the NSCSD Board of Education.

She has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 23 years, currently residing in Cicero. Kramer's children, Raychel and Stephen, are both graduates of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Dr. Kramer is an elementary school principal at Walberta Park in the Westhill Central School District. She graduated from New Hartford High School and went on to earn degrees from Le Moyne College (BA in English Education), Syracuse University (MS in Special Education), and St. John Fisher (Education Doctorate in Executive Leadership). She also earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration from Syracuse University.

Dr. Kramer is a former softball coach and religious education teacher at Sacred Heart Church of Cicero.



**Andrew Matyasik** is seeking a first term on the NSCSD Board of Education. Andrew is currently a student at Cicero-North Syracuse High School scheduled to graduate in June.

Andrew has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District his entire life, currently residing in Cicero with his family. Andrew plans to attend Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of

Public Communications in the fall. He intends to major in broadcast and digital communications.

Andrew is a student-athlete on the Varsity golf, ice hockey and tennis teams. He is a member of National Honor Society, Unified Club and a broadcaster with the high school's Northstar Network.

Drew has been an official with USA Hockey since 2021. He officiates games at all age-levels, working between 2-5 games each weekend. He also works with the Syracuse Crunch Hockey Team in their equipment department.



**Mark Thorne** is seeking reelection for his third term on the NSCSD Board of Education. Mr. Thorne has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 28 years, currently residing in Cicero with his wife Sandra, a teacher in the district. The couple's daughters Lillian, Lauren and Madeline are all graduates of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Mr. Thorne is a website application architect with Bloomberg Industry Group where he designs and develops website solutions.

Mr. Thorne graduated from Jamesville-DeWitt High School and holds a BA degree in computer science from SUNY Potsdam. He currently serves on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education Policy and Budget Committees.



# Updates on voter-approved capital projects

The North Syracuse Central School District’s Facilities Department continues to make significant progress on voter approved capital improvement projects.

In 2021, “Structured for Success” initiated capital improvements as part of the district’s long-term facilities plan. These capital improvements ensure that our facilities meet the needs of our students, staff, and community. Investing in our facilities allows us to maintain a solid infrastructure resulting in improved operational efficiencies and enable our facilities to support ever changing academic programs.

Inflation over the past few years has negatively impacted our voter approved capital projects. Specifically, costs associated with Structured For Success have exceeded amounts projected in the original budget. Structured for Success includes work at CNS High School and Lakeshore Road, Smith Road and Cicero Elementary schools. Record high inflation (8.3% in 2022 and 3.4% in 2023), compounded with COVID-related supply chain disruptions, new environmental regulations impacting HVAC equipment and an extremely tight labor market with skilled tradesmen in short supply, have all been factors driving up costs.

In order to move forward with the work in progress as planned, the Structured for Success budget needs to be increased by \$8,575,213. This can be done with no tax increase. Subject to voter approval, funds would be used from the district’s capital reserve and debt service fund. Proposition #3 on this year’s ballot addresses the Structured for Success budget deficit. Again, approval of this ballot will not result in a tax increase.

The following outlines our progress to date:

## CNS HIGH SCHOOL

- ✔ Phase 1 HVAC - New HVAC equipment is up and running in many areas and remaining work for this phase is expected to wrap up in Fall 2024.
- ✔ Phase 2 Gym, Auditorium & Locker Rooms - All demolition has been completed in the gym, auditorium, and locker rooms. Construction crews are making significant progress in all three areas.
- ✔ Phase 3 Pool Addition - Project details have been provided to the State Education Department (SED) and we are awaiting approval. Once approval is received, we will work with our experts to ensure the district receives the most competitive bids.
- ✔ Greenhouse - We are in the process of finalizing contracts and expect to complete the new skylight and ventilation installation over the summer.



This drone photo above CNS High School illustrates the multitude of complex ongoing construction taking place while school continues. Initial work is taking place for new drainage systems to support our new tennis courts and crews are close to completing the foundations to construct the fire wall, which will separate the existing building from the new pool addition. What this photo does not reveal is the level of complexity and coordination necessary to renovate the building while we continue to educate students. In addition to our contractors taking measures to isolate work areas, control access, manage air movement, etc. our building support team, led by Head Custodian Mike Moore, ensures every concern raised is shared with the project team and then followed through on to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and visitors. Timely, quality communication is critical to our successful work together.



This group of photos illustrates the construction progress at CNS High School. Demolition in the large gymnasium, auditorium and locker rooms area has been completed and new mechanical systems are in place. The projects are moving forward exceptionally well.

Capital Updates - Continued from page 6

LAKESHORE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

With Lakeshore Elementary School scheduled for major renovations, the design team is currently working to complete bid documents and expects NYSED approval by the time this newsletter goes to print. Additional details will be available in the coming months and will be shared through the Lakeshore Renovation Committee.



NORTH SYRACUSE EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM

New roofing and piping work is expected to be completed over the summer break.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

The district expects this project to be approved by early summer. Once approved, construction schedules will be finalized so that our schools will receive much needed energy improvements.

OTHER PROJECTS

Our design team is hard at work finalizing plans for our security upgrades, Gillette Road air conditioning and field improvements. We anticipate construction on these projects next summer.

Our students and staff continue to shine! More than ever, students are demonstrating excellence in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Our staff are also continuously being recognized for their stellar work and commitment to students.

The district is making strides toward its mission of educating students to the highest levels, and preparing them to be productive, responsible, ethical, creative, and compassionate members of society.

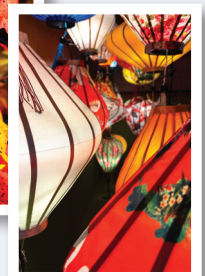
Scan the QR code to see a slideshow of some of the many tremendous accomplishments this year.

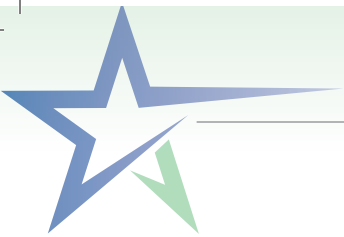


Our Northstars shine!

Our district's scholar athletes and athletic teams continue to excel with six teams earning Section III championship titles this school year! Congratulations to our cheerleading, boys wrestling, girls soccer, boys bowling, boys volleyball and girls indoor track teams for earning their respective Section III titles. This year, students have more opportunities to participate in cocurricular activities with the addition of unified bowling and girls wrestling and girls flag football teams to the NSCSD offerings.

More than 100 CNS and North Syracuse Junior High School students earned gold and silver key honors, special awards and honorable mentions in the 2024 CNY Scholastic Art Awards. Pictured: Gold Key photographs taken by NSJH students Emery Kozdemba and Thomas O'Connell.





# Building Planning Teams use Strategic Plan as roadmap to success

The North Syracuse Central School District is now in year two of our work toward a renewed mission, vision and shared goals. Earlier this fall, Building Planning Teams (BPTs) from each of our 11 schools took time to present their individual building goals to our board of education. Our BPTs have aligned their building's goals with the district's Strategic Plan.

## Our BPTs have developed three main goals:

**1 INCREASE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**

**2 ENSURE ALL STUDENTS BECOME PROFICIENT READERS**

**3 HELP STUDENTS BECOME EMOTIONALLY COMPETENT**

### North Syracuse Junior High School: Improving graduation rates

As the district works strategically to improve graduation rates, the North Syracuse Junior High School BPT has set the goal of having 80% of students leaving the junior high do so with a minimum of 6.5 high school credits. Several strategies are being employed to meet this goal. One method is to ensure that students and families are aware of the tremendous elective courses offered in the areas of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and Technology.

An addition to the school's technology course offerings this year came about thanks to the district's first-ever Chip Camp collaboration with Micron. As part of a grant from Micron, the district had constructed five compressed air rocket launchers to be used during last summer's Chip Camp and the NSJH technology teachers Bryan Buchanan, Jason Downing, Aaron Gross, Luke Morse and Tim VanBeveren have been using the launchers to engage 8th-grade students and teach the scientific process. They've called the project the "Paper Air Rocket" challenge. Students work individually at first, then in pairs, to problem solve and create a rocket that will fly the greatest distance. The activity has been very successful and students are eagerly engaging with the new technology.



### Fueling futures toward STEAM careers

The NSCS is excited to continue fostering a dynamic learning environment with a strong focus on STEAM activities. From our NY State ranked drone soccer team, to the continued success of our esports team, we're providing students with unique opportunities to explore technology and engineering in engaging ways. Micron and the MOST continue to be strong partners in our STEAM offerings, we're proud to offer initiatives such as Girls Going Tech, Chip Camp, and robotics competitions, empowering students to excel in these fields. Our commitment to STEAM education extends beyond the classroom, enriching our students' educational journey and preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow.

Earlier this year, eight North Syracuse Junior High School 8th-grade girls were selected to attend a workshop & tour of the SRC facility as part of a Girls in the STEM field opportunity. Students participated in several activities and were part of discussions regarding what opportunities lie ahead for them.



### KWS Bear Road Elementary School BPT: Math proficiency

The KWS Bear Road Elementary School BPT has set specific goals in the area of math proficiency. BPT members presented to the NSCS D Board of Education in September and shared their strategies for increasing student achievement. The school recently had more than 20 4th-graders voluntarily participate in the 2024 MathCON competition, and two students from KWS Bear Road Elementary School: Farid Malekizade and Grace Thibault, scored among the top three 4th-grade students for the entire district. The third top placing 4th-grade student was Benjamin Ehret, a student at Smith Road Elementary School.

NSCS D Director of Mathematics Nick Scholz commented on this year's MathCON saying, "We had more than 100 students from all six of our elementary schools participate this year. That number represents approximately 20% of the 4th-grade class. When you consider the focus that many of our elementary schools have placed on math instruction, it is not a surprise to me how successful the students have been. With the support of their MathCON teachers, they have made amazing strides with content well above their grade level. When we start differentiating for our students at both ends of the spectrum, high achievers and students struggling with the content, we are going to see our students really soar. These students proved to be true Math Marvels!"



### Roxboro Road Middle School BPT: Math proficiency

The Roxboro Road Middle School (RRMS) BPT has also set specific goals in the area of math proficiency. BPT members presented to the NSCS D Board of Education in November and shared their strategies for increasing student achievement. Strategies are designed to increase the number of students at each grade level meeting mastery level on their assessments by at least 10% while also decreasing the number of students in the red.

RRMS Principal Heather Pellegrino commented on the work being done. She said, "We are excited to see that our teachers' efforts with these strategies are paying off as evidenced by our math benchmark scores. We are especially proud of our students' performances in both Math League and MathCon! Math ROCKS at ROX!!"

More than 120 RRMS students participated in the national MathCON competition and Math League this year. The school is making progress toward its goal of improving math proficiency.



## EMBRACING MULTICULTURALISM IN EDUCATION: CELEBRATING OUR 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Lydia Roldan is an English as a New Language (ENL) Teacher at Cicero-North Syracuse High School and was recently named NSCS D 2024 Teacher of the Year. This choice shines a spotlight on the importance of multiculturalism and diversity in education.

Over the past two decades, the district has witnessed a significant increase in its English Language Learners (ELLs) population. With just 25 ELLs in 2012, that population now exceeds 300 students with more than 25 primary languages spoken. As an ENL teacher, Lydia has encountered students of more than 30 nationalities and has herself worked with more than 20 languages. Lydia is bilingual as an English and Spanish speaker.

Reflecting on her role, Lydia shares, "The students and families are definitely the most rewarding part of my job. As I work with students in multiple classes over the course of three years, I get to know the students and their families well. I learn something new every day about my students, their languages, cultures and experiences. They teach me. The students and their families invite me into their homes and invite me to participate in their traditions and celebrations. I have the opportunity to see students grow as multilingual learners as well as academically. I'm also able to help them navigate the college admissions process as many are the first in their families to study in college in the US. I feel so lucky to be a part of their lives. Prior to teaching I had a job where I had the opportunity to travel to many different places around the world. I love exploring new places and meeting people from different cultures. Now the world comes to me every day."





# On the Ballot Explained:



## 1 PROPOSITION #1 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET

North Syracuse Central School District residents will vote Tuesday, May 21 on a proposed \$212,196,591 million spending plan for the 2024-25 school year. It calls for a \$3,030,802 or 2.98% increase in spending over the current year's budget.

## 2 PROPOSITION #2 VEHICLE BONDING PROPOSITION

Each year, district buses safely transport thousands of students to school and home, and back and forth to extra-curricular activities and events. All school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. In accordance with the district's bus replacement program, the proposal includes the purchase of twelve (12) new buses. Maintaining an updated fleet of vehicles helps reduce the cost of repairs and avoid problems associated with rusting frames that prevent the vehicles from passing New York State inspections. The 2024-2025 vehicle proposition includes the following at a total cost not to exceed \$2,152,433.

### The vehicle proposition includes the following:

- ✓ Two (2) 42-passenger gasoline engine wheelchair accessible school buses to support students with special needs (\$375,886);
  - ✓ Ten (10) 65-passenger gasoline engine school buses (\$1,616,547);
  - ✓ M&O vehicles including one (1) flat bed truck and two (2) service vans (\$160,000).
- ➔ This year's vehicle proposition would result in an annual tax increase of approximately \$2.84 annually for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR.



NSCSD bus drivers are an important part of keeping the district "running" every day. They're committed to our students and their safety. Earlier this year, Denise Hoag, a retiring bus driver, was recognized by students and staff of Lakeshore Road Elementary School for going above to welcome a new student.

## 3 PROPOSITION #3 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF CAPITAL RESERVE

On May 21, voters will be asked to authorize the use of \$3,000,000 and \$1,400,000 from the district's capital reserve and debt service funds respectively to be added to the previously voter-approved budget for Structured for Success projects already in progress.

## 4 PROPOSITION #4 LIBRARY PROPOSITION (TOWN OF SALINA ONLY)



Each year, residents of the Town of Salina have the opportunity to cast their vote for the Salina Free Library proposition. This proposition is only available for Town of Salina residents. The 2024 proposition asks voters to approve an increase from \$500,558 to \$510,565 with the amount to be raised by levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District located in the Town of Salina in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law.

## Voter Qualifications



In order to vote on the May 21 school budget and election, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older and meet the following qualifications:

- ✓ A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote;
- ✓ Not under sentence for a felony conviction and not adjudged mentally incompetent;
- ✓ Registered to vote in Onondaga County or the North Syracuse Central School District.

## Registration Information

If you are not registered to vote, you must pre-register by May 16, 2024 to vote on May 21.

## Absentee/Early Voting

New this year: All qualified voters in the North Syracuse Central School District are eligible to vote with a mail-in ballot. The district is accepting applications for both early voting and absentee ballots.

Absentee ballots: If a voter is requesting an absentee ballot, they must complete the application and state the reason they will not be able to appear in person on the day of the district election/vote. A qualified voter in the district may use an absentee ballot if, on voting day, they are a patient in a hospital or unable to appear personally because of illness or physical disability; is required to be outside the country because of duties, occupation or studies; is on vacation outside the country; or is detained in jail awaiting conviction of an offense other than a felony.

If you are registered as a permanently disabled absentee voter with the Onondaga County Board of Elections, an absentee ballot will be provided to you after April 22, 2024, without having to request an application.

To request an application for an absentee ballot, please contact District Clerk Jilian Herrera by email at [jherrera@nscsd.org](mailto:jherrera@nscsd.org) or call (315) 218-2131. Upon receipt and approval of the application, a ballot will be mailed to the requesting voter.

Early vote ballots: All qualified voters in the North Syracuse Central School District are eligible to vote early with a mail-in ballot for ANY reason. To request an application for an early, mail-in ballot, please contact District Clerk Jilian Herrera by email at [jherrera@nscsd.org](mailto:jherrera@nscsd.org) or call (315) 218-2131.

Completed applications for absentee and/or early voting ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election/vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election/vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

All completed ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024.

For more information, contact Jilian Herrera by email at [jherrera@nscsd.org](mailto:jherrera@nscsd.org) or call (315) 218-2131.

## Budget Presentations

May 2 at Gillette Road Middle School (6150 South Bay Rd.) in Cicero at 6 p.m.

May 7 Public Hearing at Jerome F. Melvin Admin. Office Building (5355 West Taft Rd.) in North Syracuse at 6 p.m.

May 7 Virtual meeting at 7 p.m. (link posted on [www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org))

May 9 at North Syracuse Junior High School (5353 West Taft Rd.) in North Syracuse at 6 p.m.

May 14 Virtual meeting at 7 p.m. (link posted on [www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org))

## CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT CONTINUED RENOVATION OF GREENHOUSE AT CNS HIGH SCHOOL

Each year, the North Syracuse Central School District is authorized by New York State and our voters to support a small capital project with operating budget funds. This year's funding will allow continued renovations to the greenhouse at Cicero-North Syracuse High School.



The greenhouse at CNS is utilized by science teachers to provide students with hands-on learning experiences and enhance students' knowledge of ecosystem health and ecological restoration. With funding from last year's capital outlay project, the greenhouse roof is in the process of being replaced. With this year's funding continued work would include interior renovations, replaced waterproofing and updated lighting and power systems.





# North Syracuse Central School District

5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

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## NORTH SYRACUSE CSD RESIDENT ECR WSS



Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES  
Engagement & Development Services.

## WHERE DO I VOTE ?

(\* ) 2023 voter approved polling location change



- ✓ (\* ) For residents living NORTH of 481:  
Michael J. Bragman Stadium at C-NS High School - 6002 Route 31, Cicero, NY
- ✓ For residents living SOUTH of 481:  
Administrative Office Building - 5355 West Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [NSCSD.ORG/BUDGET](https://NSCSD.ORG/BUDGET).



# ✓ VOTE on MAY 21, 2024

From 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## ON THE BALLOT :

- ✓ 2024-25 School Budget
- ✓ Vehicle Bonding Proposition
- ✓ Authorization for use of Capital Reserve
- ✓ Library Proposition (Town of Salina only)
- ✓ Three Board of Education Seats