

the
great
plains

Shenendehowa

Central School District

The \$206,611,477 budget for 2023-24 tax levy below tax cap

Innovation and Engagement...Positioned Windward

“This proposed budget positions Shen to preserve programs, better meet needs, and provide high-quality experiences for students...in the face of inflection points with the economy, price escalations, and increasing demands on schools.”

- Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 16 on a proposed \$206,611,477 budget for 2023-24 that includes a spending increase of 6.31% (\$12,255,425). The tax levy of 2.72% is under the New York state tax cap of 3.15%. The estimated true value tax rate would increase by an estimated 0.70%. A property with an estimated market value of \$300,000 would see an estimated increase of approximately \$32 in its tax bill.

2023-24 BUDGET VOTE

May 16, 2023 • 7 am-9 pm • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	\$206,611,477
Spending increase:	6.31%
NYS Tax levy limit cap:	3.15%
Proposed tax LEVY change (below the tax cap):	2.72%
Est. true value tax RATE change:	0.70%

A property valued at \$300,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of \$32.

BUS PURCHASE RESOLUTION

Purchase 4 electric buses, 1 level-3 charger, and 5 standard buses to replace aging buses.

Total Cost Not to Exceed:	\$2,450,646
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CAPITAL PROJECT RESOLUTION

Renovation of 5 Maxwell Drive into an Early Learning Center for full-day Kindergarten, pre-K, alternative education options, and consolidation of district operations.

Total Cost Not to Exceed:	\$55,000,000
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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Two seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Naomi Hoffman and Gusta Miller. The incumbents are running unopposed.

Program enhancements

Each year there are many different budget requests for potential program enhancements. A value-added perspective is used to review requests. These proposals and/or requests for funds are reviewed and analyzed based on the following key factors:

- Engagement - Student voice and choice, fostering a passion for learning
- Innovation - Personally relevant learning opportunities
- Cultural Competence - Preserving equity in opportunities and outcomes
- Global Collaboration - Self-directed, civic-minded learners
- Collective Work and Responsibility - School and community partnerships

The proposed 2023-24 budget preserves current programs and services with a strategic focus on the needs of all students. It provides key program enhancements to provide innovative and creative experiences in and out of the classroom, as well as services that support student safety and well-being. Some specifics include the following:

- Creating a Middle School theater program, expanding modified sports and extra-curricular options to enhance engagement.
- Expanding contractual services with Saratoga Center for the Family to provide additional mental health supports.
- Providing additional academic supports at the Middle School for students struggling in ELA.
- Additional special education staffing at the Elementary School Level to meet growing needs.
- Expansion of Health Science course options at the High School.

Setting Goals that Create a Learning Environment Where All Can Excel

At Shenendehowa, our focus is on the students and how we can create the best outcomes for them and their education. We've set key goals in areas of Organizational Culture and Environment, School and Classroom Experiences, Personnel and Professionalism, and Fiscal Responsibility. Here are just a select few ways that we are reaching some of our goals, focused on continued improvement:

Organizational Culture and Environment

- Onboarded Behavioral Specialist in Elementary School focused on students in crisis, providing supports for students not identified as needing special education.
- Implemented the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to help address both the academic and social emotional needs of students.
- Addition of a student support counselor at the Middle School Level to address social emotional needs of identified students.
- Enhanced safety protocols and the ability to identify potential online threats, and respond effectively.

School and Classroom Experiences

- Enhanced literacy teaching methods through targeted professional development at the Elementary School level, using data to drive targeted instruction.
- Used Shen Learning Framework to better activate student learning at the Middle School Level.
- Continued focus on equitable grading practices, bias-resistant and motivational grading practices.
- Expansion of college credit-bearing courses at the High School Level.

Personnel and Professionalism

- Continued focus on recruiting, hiring, retaining a diverse workforce, and cultivating a strong candidate pool.
- Systematized professional development offerings for both instructional and non-instructional personnel.
- Succession planning and cross-training to proactively preserve organizational viability.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Used Federal COVID funds to expedite purchasing of instructional resources and upgrading instructional technology.
- Made changes in Medicare and drug plans to yield millions in current savings and future cost containment.

When/where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

7am to 9pm

Gowana Middle School Gym

Who can vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and have been a Shenendehowa district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No pre-registration is required. Official personal identification with photo is required at the polls. It is a crime to falsify votes (i.e. voting twice or using false identification).

Can't get to the polls?

Absentee ballots may be used by any resident who will not be available to come to the campus to vote. They are available at the district office, 5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park. For information, call the district clerk at 881-0623. By law, absentee ballots are mailed to any resident who is certified by Saratoga County as disabled. If you are disabled and did not receive one, please call the district clerk's office. Ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5 pm on May 16.

Directions to the polls

Gowana Middle School is located on Shen's main campus. Enter the campus using the Route 146 entrance and then bear left. Gowana is on the right. Follow the signs to the entrance of the polling place.

Five-year Budget Increase History

5 Year Average	3.55%
Proposed 2023-24	6.31%
2022-2023	3.85%
2021-2022	3.03%
2020-2021	2.21%
2019-2020	2.33%