

Commitment
to Excellence



Shenendehowa

Central School District

The \$213,771,893 budget for 2024-25 tax levy below tax cap

Education For Next Generation Learning

“Our proposed budget is innovative, strategic, and resourceful. It builds on our successes, provides new opportunities for students and staff, and strives to meet the needs of **all** Shen students. We have to stretch our imaginations so that we can help kids stretch theirs.”

- Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 21 on a proposed \$213,771,893 budget for 2024-25 that includes a spending increase of 3.47%. The tax levy of 2.83% is under the calculated New York state tax cap of 2.97%. The estimated true value tax rate would increase by an estimated 0.77%. A property with an estimated market value of \$300,000 would see an estimated increase of approximately \$31 in its tax bill.

2024-25 BUDGET VOTE

May 21, 2024 • 7am-9pm • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	\$213,771,893
Spending increase:	3.47%
NYS Tax levy limit cap:	2.97%
Proposed Budget Tax Levy Amount:	2.83%
Difference BELOW the tax cap:	0.14%
Est. true value tax rate change:	0.77%

A property valued at \$300,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of \$31.

BUS PURCHASE RESOLUTION

- (13) 66-passenger Type “C” School Buses
- (2) 30-passenger Type “A” School Buses
- (3) 24-passenger w/3 WC Type “A” School Buses
- (1) 30-passenger w/3 WC Type “C” School Bus
- (2) 42-passenger w/5 WC Type “C” School Buses
- (2) GMC Suburbans

Total Cost Not to Exceed: **\$3,674,102**

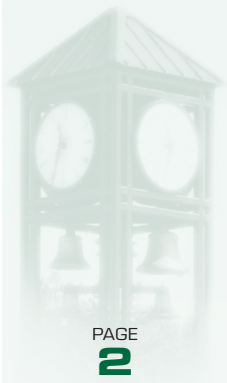
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Two seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Jason DiGianni and Stacy Pflomm. The incumbents are not running for reelection.

With all of our endeavors as a school district, we ask ourselves, “Does this support Shen’s Commitment to Excellence?” The Shenendehowa Central School District Budget is certainly no exception. Each element of our budget is thoughtfully and intentionally developed to best support education for next generation learning.

The 2024-25 school budget maximizes outside resources and places an emphasis on not taxing residents unnecessarily while still enhancing pedagogy and fostering innovation amongst students and staff. The budget supports special education, addresses evolving learning needs, especially when it comes to technology, creates equity in opportunity for all students, provides additional opportunities for student engagement, and much more. Some specifics include the following:

- Providing academic supports to bridge learning gaps for students grades K-12, with a keen focus on Special Education and English as a New Language students
- Enhancing district-wide mental health services and support
- Creating and expanding engagement initiatives like eSports, and added extracurricular activity (ECA) units to support student clubs
- Expanding field trip and community partnership opportunities
- Cybersecurity enhancements, including both hardware and software upgrades



Enhancing Pedagogy For ALL Learners

One of Shenendehowa Central School District's essential objectives is to provide a dynamic learning environment that supports engagement for all learners. Ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive is paramount. Engaging students and enhancing pedagogy means keen consideration is given to equity, accessibility, culture, mental health, and individual experiences.

"I'm the Deputy Superintendent of Shen, but first and foremost, I'm a parent of two young learners in the district. It's essential to me that all students have the opportunity to excel here at Shen." - Dr. Wilson-Turner

Recognizing that each student brings their own culture, experiences, strengths, challenges, and learning styles to the classroom, Shen uses a multifaceted pedagogical approach that takes into account student's unique learning needs.

In addition to academic support, we place a strong emphasis on social-emotional learning (SEL), recognizing the critical role it plays in student success. By nurturing the whole child, the school cultivates a supportive learning environment where students feel safe, connected, and empowered.

We regularly review, analyze, and enhance our curriculum for all learning levels. Through feedback, classroom observations, and multiple data sets, we make determinations about the needs of our students. This measured approach helps us to initiate targeted support to close learning gaps and identify areas where enrichment opportunities may be needed.

Through assessments like these, we identified and addressed needs such as additional special education classes at the Kindergarten level, innovative engagement opportunities outside of the classroom,

updated grading practices, increased support for English as a New Language (ENL) learners, and expansion of courses with transferable college credits.

As we look to the future of education at Shen, we will continue to champion the diverse needs and potential of every learner.



In one of the High School Special Education classes, students participated in hands-on activities to assist with motor skills and problem-solving.



Koda 7th graders learn about biology by participating in a dissection during science class.

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 preregistration is required. Official personal identification with a photo is required at the polls. It is a crime to falsify votes (i.e. voting twice or using false identification).

Three Candidates Vie For Two Seats On The Board Of Education

Two seats on Shenendehowa's Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Jason DiGianni and Stacy Pflomm, who will not be running for reelection. Board members are unpaid and run at large. The following candidates submitted petitions with the required 49 signatures to run. They are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot, based on names chosen by lot (blind drawing), as follows:



Joe Dragone, of Halfmoon, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Russell Sage College and a retired Senior Executive Officer from Capital Region BOCES. Joe holds a BS in Music Education and an MS

in Education, both from St. Rose. He also holds an MS and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from the University at Albany. Joe and his wife, Janet, have one child who currently attends Shen.



Carla Thompson, of Clifton Park, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is a retired teacher of thirty-three years at Lake Shore Central Schools and a retired Board Member of Lake Shore Central schools as well. She holds a BA degree in Teaching

and an MA degree in Linguistics - teaching English as a New Language, both from SUNY Fredonia. She and her husband, Douglas, are proud parents of two grown children.



Mary Colleen Liburdi, of Rexford, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is currently a Technical Product Manager at Cengage Learning. She holds a BA in Fine Art and Communications from Wells College and an MA in Fine Art from the University at Albany.

She and her husband, Scott, are proud parents of a child who is a current student at Shen.

Developing Good Digital Citizens

With the prevalence of technology in nearly all aspects of student's lives, Shen feels it's essential that we play a pivotal role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of young individuals towards digital platforms. By harnessing the power of technology, the school expands access to educational opportunities and prepares students for success in an increasingly digital world.

It's our responsibility to ensure that students have access to safe and efficient technology in order to support their learning needs. Through hardware and software upgrades, Shen continues to enhance our cybersecurity posture and provide students with the technology needed to communicate effectively, collaborate, and problem-solve in digital environments.

Teaching students about online safety, including privacy protection, recognizing and avoiding cyber threats, and understanding the consequences of their online actions is essential to safeguarding their well-being and creating good digital citizens.

By nurturing good digital citizens, Shen is not only preparing students for the challenges of today but also equipping them with the skills they need to thrive in the digital landscape of tomorrow.

Vote on May 21st 7 am - 9 pm at the Gowana Gym

2024-25 School Budget
Bus Purchase Proposition

Two Seats on the Board of Education

Absentee ballots are available at the district office at 5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park, or by calling the district clerk at 518-881-0623.



Bus Purchase Proposition

While Shen continues to move forward with transitioning the fleet to electric buses, there is a clear recognition that endeavor will happen over the course of several years. There are major hurdles to be overcome, namely adequate electrical (power) capacity and significant infrastructure changes. In the meantime, the district has an obligation to keep transportation vehicles in safe, working condition and decrease repair costs. As a result, the district has put forth the following proposition to continue replacing standard gas buses:

- (13) 66-passenger Type "C" School Buses
- (2) 30-passenger Type "A" School Buses
- (3) 24-passenger w/3 WC Type "A" School Buses
- (1) 30-passenger w/3 WC Type "C" School Bus
- (2) 42-passenger w/5 WC Type "C" School Buses
- (2) GMC Suburbans

The purchase cost for all of the items listed above will not exceed \$3,674,102.

Did you know...

Safety is always front of mind in all aspects of the Shen experience. To provide services for children with special needs, School Bus Attendants are certified through a mandated Pre-service course. All of our bus attendants are CPR-AED-EPIPEN certified.



Shen Transportation became a certified DMV "third-party testing site" authorized to administer CDL road tests to license new recruits.

Help Shape the Lives of Future Generations!



Now hiring for the
2024-25
School Year!

All different positions.

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone or visit shenet.org/employment to make a difference in the lives of our students, today.

Projected tax impact on homeowners

The following figures are based on estimated taxable assessment values (using the five year average). Property assessments are determined by the towns. Final data on assessments and equalization rates are not available to the district until August, prior to setting the tax levy and printing tax bills. These are merely estimates of the potential impact.

Town	Full Market Value*	Equalization Rate**	Taxable Assessed Value***	Est. Tax Rate Per \$1,000	Est. Total Tax Bill
Clifton Park	\$300,000	39.00	\$117,000	\$33.47	\$3,916
Halfmoon	\$300,000	42.50	\$127,500	\$30.72	\$3,916
Malta	\$300,000	100.00	\$300,000	\$13.05	\$3,916
Waterford	\$300,000	80.00	\$240,000	\$16.32	\$3,916
Ballston	\$300,000	70.50	\$211,500	\$18.52	\$3,916
Stillwater	\$300,000	67.00	\$201,000	\$19.48	\$3,916

*Full market value is the estimated potential selling price of a home.

**Equalization rates used above are the 2023-24 equalization rates. These rates are established by the NYS Office of Real Property Services and used to determine the percentage of the total tax levy each town must pay. They are usually finalized in August.

***Taxable assessed value is the amount used in calculating the actual tax bill once the equalization rates have been applied.

Working Towards Goals That Support Education For Next Generation Learning

At Shen, we've set key goals in the 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 achieving some of our goals, supporting the best outcomes for our students:

Organizational Culture and Environment

- Principals, principal aides, psychologists, counselors, and many staff members completed Restorative Practices training
- Audited student engagement by looking at participation rates within Extra-Curricular Activities
- Learned about and began implementing Grading for Equity through the refinement of grading practices
- Created a Unified PE class in the Middle Schools that combines general education and special education students
- Created a Girls Flag Football Program
- Students and staff engaged in Legislative advocacy for access to free meals for all students
- Initiated de-escalation training for teachers and staff

School and Classroom Experiences

- Implemented the Wit and Wisdom Literacy Program in Grades 3-5
- Continued use of data dashboard (STAR, State Assessment, and Quarterly Data) to identify student needs
- Upgraded classroom display technology to interactive panels
- Implemented enhanced summer programming and courses for all grade levels
- Implemented three Kindergarten special education programs
- Provided targeted instruction in ELA and Math AIS to reduce skill gaps and increase achievement
- Expanded college credit offerings in the High School in order to engage diverse students
- New courses added to the High School Program of Studies in Social Studies, Math, & Art
- Conducted an external safety audit and began implementing safety recommendation

Personnel & Professionalism

- Provided professional development to all teachers on STAR reporting and next steps for instruction based on data
- Awarded the NYSED grant in collaboration with Clarkson University MATesol program (ENL), allowing for five teachers per year to earn ENL certification
- Realigned IMS System roles and responsibilities to better support cybersecurity initiatives
- Provided training opportunities for teachers on supporting students through grief as well as suicide prevention

Fiscal Responsibility

- Received RECOVS grant funding to expand mental health education for students
- Utilized ESSA funding grants to provide future ready furniture for classrooms and collaborative spaces
- Renovated the MS complex, including two new Art rooms, one new Spanish room, two renovated Science rooms, and a new office suite
- Renovated music rooms and auditorium lighting system at the High School
- Used McKinney-Vento grant funds to meet the needs of students and families experiencing homelessness



Students from the High School Technology Department participated in the 36th annual programming contest at Siena College.



State-required School District Budget Notice

State law requires school districts to distribute this state-designed budget notice to district residents after the public hearing, but no later than six days prior to the school budget vote.

Overall budget proposal	Budget for the 2023-24 school year	Budget proposed for the 2024-25 school year	Contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$206,611,477	\$213,771,893	\$209,902,833
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$7,160,416	\$3,291,356
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.47%	1.59%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.4%	
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$136,953,651	\$140,822,711	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	NA	NA	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	NA	NA	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$136,953,651	\$140,822,711	\$136,953,651
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,510,033	\$3,738,479	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$133,443,618	\$137,084,232	
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)	\$133,443,618	\$137,084,232	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval (See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$18,479,165	\$19,440,220	\$19,088,371
Program component	\$162,781,855	\$167,569,562	\$164,536,721
Capital component	\$25,350,457	\$26,762,111	\$26,277,741

**Separate Propositions	
Description	Amount
Bus Purchase	\$3,674,102

*** CONTINGENT BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS:**

The contingent budget assumes no increase in the tax levy over the 2023-24 budget. Budget cuts would be pro-rated across all three component parts of the budget. Non-contingency items would be removed including: student supplies, community use of facilities, certain equipment purchases and certain non-contractual salary increases. In addition to this limitation, the percentage of the administrative component for the contingency budget cannot be greater than the percentage from the previous year.

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Average Basic STAR Tax Savings for 2024-25 Budget Proposal is \$513.85.

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit

Using an 8-step formula developed by the Office of the State Comptroller, Shen's 2024-25 maximum allowable tax levy limit is 2.97%. The proposed 2024-25 budget is below the NYS tax cap at 2.83%.



Touchdown! Shen makes a great catch and runs for a touchdown at the first-ever Shen Girls Flag football game.

Proposed 2024-25 Expenditures

Budgeted 2023-24 Proposed 2024-25

Program Budget: 78.39% of Budget

Instruction	\$100,333,319	\$103,545,461
Pupil Transportation	12,550,285	12,872,636
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,603,416	1,701,438
In-service Training	626,086	431,571
Community Service	17,650	17,650
Transfers	600,000	500,000
Employee Benefits	47,051,099	48,500,806
TOTAL	\$162,781,855	\$167,569,562

Capital Budget: 12.52% of Budget

Operation & Maintenance	\$12,389,664	\$12,694,343
Tax Certiorari	100,000	100,000
Debt Service-Building/Buses	9,500,000	10,500,000
Employee Benefits	3,360,793	3,467,768
TOTAL	\$25,350,457	\$26,762,111

Administrative Budget: 9.09% of Budget

Board of Education	\$62,385	\$62,385
Central Administration	519,771	535,741
Finance	1,424,869	1,492,970
Personnel/Records Mgmt	689,576	739,444
Central Svc & Legal Costs	835,312	986,551
Insurance	720,038	901,774
Public Information	150,911	154,634
Curriculum Development	426,794	471,886
School Supervision	6,213,195	6,437,251
Research/Evaluation/Planning	612,246	613,947
Employee Benefits	5,601,321	5,779,612
BOCES Administration/Facilities	1,215,247	1,256,525
Unclassified	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	\$18,479,165	\$19,440,220

Total Expenditures: \$206,611,477 \$213,771,893



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5th-grade students at Shatekon assisted 4th-graders in learning how to play their instruments.

Proposed 2024-25 Revenues

Budgeted 2023-24 Proposed 2024-25

Property Taxes: 65.88% of Budget

Property Taxes	\$136,953,651	\$140,822,711
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State Aid: 31.06% of Budget

Foundation Aid	\$45,194,840	\$46,098,356
Excess Cost Aid	1,437,331	1,576,178
Instructional Material Aid	929,002	919,128
BOCES Aid	2,841,201	3,215,609
Building Aid	3,974,098	3,571,885
Transportation Aid	10,702,874	10,969,351
Other State Aid	100,000	50,000
TOTAL	\$65,179,346	\$66,400,507

Other Items: 1.70% of Budget

Interest Earnings	\$300,000	\$2,000,000
Tuitions & Admissions	168,675	259,175
Rentals, Sales, Refunds & Other	392,250	366,500
Federal Reimbursements	200,000	340,000
Other Tax Items	507,555	673,000
TOTAL	\$1,568,480	\$3,638,675

Fund Balance: 1.36% of Budget

Appropriated	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Re-approp. Employee Benefits	660,000	660,000
Use of Retirement Reserve	750,000	750,000
TOTAL	\$2,910,000	\$2,910,000

Total Revenues: \$206,611,477 \$213,771,893

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Shenendehowa Central Schools



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The complete budget complies with the regulations set by the NYS Education Department requiring school districts to include salary information as well as student achievement. Copies are available on Shen's website (shenet.org), in the main office of each school and at the district office. If you have questions, please call the superintendent's office at 881-0610.

When is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
7 am to 9 pm
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. Falsifying votes (i.e., voting twice or using false identification) is a crime.

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 21.

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 polling place entrance.

What's On The ballot?

Proposition 1

A \$213,771,893 million budget for 2024-25 that includes a spending increase of 3.47%. The proposed budget is a tax levy of **2.83%**, which is below the New York State tax cap levy limit. The estimated true value tax rate would increase by an estimated 0.77%. A property value estimated at \$300,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of \$31.

Proposition 2

Bus Purchase Resolution:

- (13) 66-passenger Type "C" School Buses
- (2) 30-passenger Type "A" School Buses
- (3) 24-passenger w/3 WC Type "A" School Buses
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- (2) 42-passenger w/5 WC Type "C" School Buses
- (2) GMC Suburbans

Total Cost Not to Exceed: **\$3,674,102**

Proposition 3

Two seats on the seven-member Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The incumbents are Jason DiGianni and Stacy Pflomm. They are not running for reelection. The three candidates running for election are Joe Dragone, Carla Thompson, and Mary Colleen Liburdi.