



Together as one

Embracing differences and celebrating diversity with fun activities during Unity Week.



May 21 annual budget vote and school board election

Proposed budget preserves all programs and focuses on student safety and mental health

➔ What to know before casting your ballot

On Tuesday, May 21, Scotia-Glenville residents will be asked to consider a \$65,085,194 budget for the 2024-25 school year. The proposal maintains all current programs and services for students and preserves critical health and safety features of the current budget, including cyber security, two school resource officers, an athletic trainer, and increased mental health services.

The proposed spending plan increases by 3.38% or \$2,125,612 from the current year, and includes a tax levy increase of 2.83% or \$919,347. With an estimated tax rate increase of 1.92%, the tax bill on a \$160,000 home would increase by an estimated \$74.40 per year or \$6.20 per month before STAR.

Residents will also have the opportunity to select candidates for two open seats on the Board of Education. You can read about each candidate running for the school board on page 6.

In addition to the 2024-25 budget, voters will also be asked to decide on three additional propositions. The proposed propositions are presented to the community with **no increase** to 2024-25 tax levy.

- **Proposition 2: Bus Purchases** – The anticipated purchase of three new buses, totaling \$329,000, is presented to the community with no additional cost due to the payoff of old debt.
- **Proposition 3: Electric Bus Proposal** – An electric bus proposal, again, at no increase to the 2024-25 tax levy, is contingent on receipt of state or federal funding to offset purchase.
- **Proposition 4: Capital Improvement Project** – The proposed \$12.5 million building proposition will have no additional tax impact for voters. The project will focus on safety and other necessary upgrades to buildings throughout our six schools. The project will have no impact on the tax levy due to debt service reserve funds, building aid, and debt from other projects falling off the books.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

VOTE

Tuesday, May 21 • 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
High School B-wing Gymnasium

Budget Snapshot

- ➔ Proposed Budget: **\$65,085,194**
- ➔ Spending Increase: **\$2,125,612 or 3.38%**
- ➔ Tax Levy Increase: **\$919,347 or 2.83%**

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Bus purchase proposal on the May 21 ballot

Three buses to be purchased for \$329,000

The Scotia-Glenville community will be asked to consider a proposition to purchase one 30-passenger bus with 4-wheel drive and two 30-passenger buses.

The school district has historically replaced buses with deteriorating body condition after 10 years. However, the district is taking into consideration bus repairs and high maintenance costs, as well as downtime as part of its bus replacement plan.

The three small buses will be replaced due to increasing maintenance costs, increased time out of service, body condition and mileage.

Three buses being replaced

The buses being replaced are #210, #211 and #212 (unleaded fuel). All three buses are 10 years old. The mileage on the buses exceeds 125,000 miles.

It is expected that the new buses will be delivered in September. The three retired buses will be auctioned off and the proceeds will be used to mitigate the related debt service payments.

The debt for this purchase will not affect the budget until the 2025-26 school year. The district will pay the bond off over five years. After transportation aid reimbursement from the state, the net effect of this total purchase will be \$19,992 each year from 2025-26 to 2029-30. That net effect of \$19,992 will be offset each year by bus debt falling off the books.

Voters are also being asked to consider an Electric Vehicle Bus Proposition associated with the district's grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for five electric buses. The grant would provide up to \$250,000 toward the purchase of each bus. The \$1,000,000 authorized by the proposition would provide the local share for those five buses. The local share is eligible for transportation aid over 12 years. The debt for this will not affect the 2024-25 budget. **5f**

Free School Meals

All S-G students in all schools will be provided with free breakfast and lunch through June 30, 2028. This was made possible through the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Program.

May 21 annual budget vote and school board election

As the district prepared to adopt a spending limit for the next year, Superintendent Susan Swartz explained the need to start moving towards planning for our actual and anticipated enrollment – understanding that those numbers could fluctuate. Scotia-Glenville enrollment, like many schools in the region and state, has been declining.

The Board of Education approved a budget of \$65,085,194 with a 2.83% tax levy increase at a BOE meeting on March 25. This was after weeks of working sessions to refine the total carry-forward budget of \$65,691,829 that carried a tax levy increase of 5.08%. The maximum allowable increase under the tax cap calculation is 2.86%.

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at the middle school to inform the community about the proposed spending plan.

All board meetings and budget working sessions were conducted in an open process and streamed live on the district's YouTube page. Video links and presentation documents can also be found on the district website Budget & Taxes page. **5f**

Sharing passion to experiment



Sacandaga visionaries presented unique masterpieces at a Genius Hour Open House.



Budget Exit Poll

After you vote, please take a brief survey from our student volunteers before you leave the polling place. The district will assess voter feedback to further inform our policies and spending plan.



Search Scotia-Glenville CSD for:

- **YouTube** – BOE meetings, sports, special events
- **Website** – stories, school information, calendar
- **Instagram** – photos and videos of our school community
- **Facebook** – accomplishments and announcements

Q&A

Budget, tax, and voting information

Who can vote on the school budget and Board of Education candidates?

Community members who are U.S. citizens may vote in the school elections if they:

- Have been a resident of the district for at least 30 days immediately preceding the vote.
- Are at least 18 years old.

The district uses registration records from the Schenectady County Board of Elections. The vote will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the B-wing gymnasium at the high school.

How do I request an absentee ballot to vote?

New this year — early mail voting is also available.

Qualified voters who will be out of town or unable to vote in person due to illness or disability can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive a ballot. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting District Clerk Bobbie DeLong at (518) 347-3600 ext. 7302, or bdelong@sgcsd.net. Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21 in order to be counted.

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 also fill out an application to vote by early voting. There are separate applications for voting by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

Does the 2024-25 budget plan stay within Scotia-Glenville's property tax levy cap?

Yes. The state-mandated maximum tax levy cap for Scotia-Glenville in 2024-25 is 2.86% according to the state's eight-

step formula. The Board of Education was able to keep the tax levy increase just below that level.

What is the difference between the tax LEVY and the tax RATE?

The tax levy is the total amount of money the district raises in taxes each year from all property owners. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value. The tax rate is used to calculate individual tax bills.

Under the proposed 2024-25 budget, the Glenville/Scotia tax rate would increase by an estimated 1.92% or \$24.72 per \$1,000 (from the current \$24.26 per \$1,000) of assessed value. That is a 46 cent increase in the per \$1,000 assessed value tax rate.

A home with an assessment of \$160,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of \$74.40 per year, or \$6.20 per month before factoring in the STAR rebate (see next question).

The percentage increase in the tax levy does not typically align with the tax rate. This is attributable to the changes in assessed values from the prior year related to the change in the tax levy. The Target strip mall moving onto the tax rolls in 2024-25, combined with additional construction (Dutch Meadows), is estimated to generate

\$12M in increased assessed value to the tax rolls.

Tax rolls are not finalized until May 31. The Board of Education adopts the 2024-25 final tax rates in August.

How does the state's STAR program affect my tax bill?

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) is paid by the state to the school district and is not administered by Scotia-Glenville. It is reflected as a smaller amount due on homeowner's school tax bills. This STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners.

Newer homeowners and others who have opted for it receive the STAR tax credit. They receive a check from the state in the STAR amount, usually in October or November.


The STAR program in 2024-25 will reduce school tax bills in Glenville by these amounts:

- Estimated \$551 for Basic STAR recipients. Property owners with incomes below \$250,000 are eligible.
- Estimated \$1,199 for Enhanced STAR recipients. Enhanced STAR is for property owners over age 65 with incomes of less than \$98,700.

What if the budget were defeated on May 21?

Should the voters defeat the budget, the district has the option of offering a revised budget to voters for a revote, or immediately adopting a contingency budget. If the budget fails a second time, then the BOE must adopt a contingency budget before July 1.

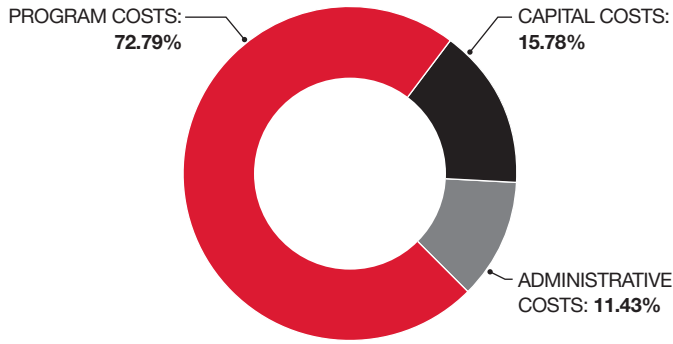
State law mandates that the contingent budget include no increase from the prior year tax levy and eliminate all non-contingent expenses such as supplies, materials, equipment and other expenditures. Plant and operations are contingent expenditures and do not have to be cut. Debt service cannot be cut. The administrative component of the contingent budget shall not comprise a greater percentage of the contingent budget exclusive of the capital component than the lesser of the (1) percentage the administrative component had comprised in the prior year budget exclusive of the capital component; or (2) the percentage the administrative component had comprised in the last proposed defeated budget exclusive of the capital component.

A contingent budget in 2024-25 would require a \$919,347 reduction in the tax levy and school expenditures. The school district could not exceed the 2023-24 tax levy. 



Three-part budget for 2024-25

New York state requires school districts to show their proposed annual budgets divided into three categories: Program, Capital and Administrative.



Program

72.79% of the proposed 2024-25 budget

This part of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers, teaching assistants, teacher aides and supervisors who spend a majority of their time teaching; instructional costs such as supplies, equipment and textbooks; and transportation operating costs.

2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$45,946,109 (72.98%)	47,374,296 (72.79%)

Capital

15.78% of the proposed 2024-25 budget

This part of the budget includes all purchases of buses; legal judgments and settled claims; salary and benefits for custodial and maintenance staff; all facilities costs, including service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, repairs, construction, renovation and debt; leasing costs; and capital transfers.

2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$9,906,953 (15.74%)	\$10,268,410 (15.78%)

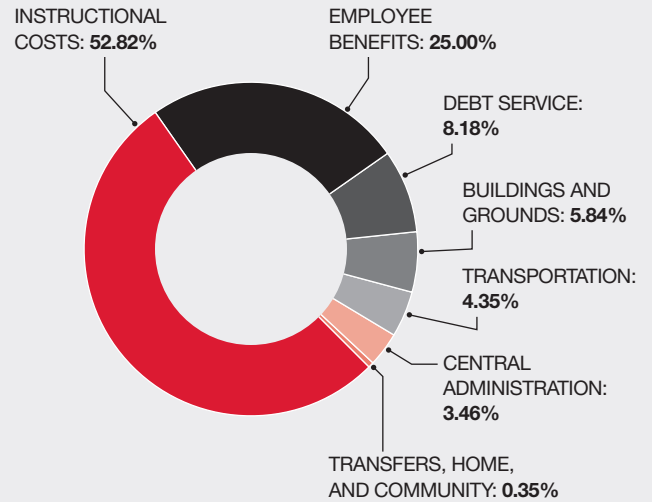
Administrative

11.43% of the proposed 2024-25 budget

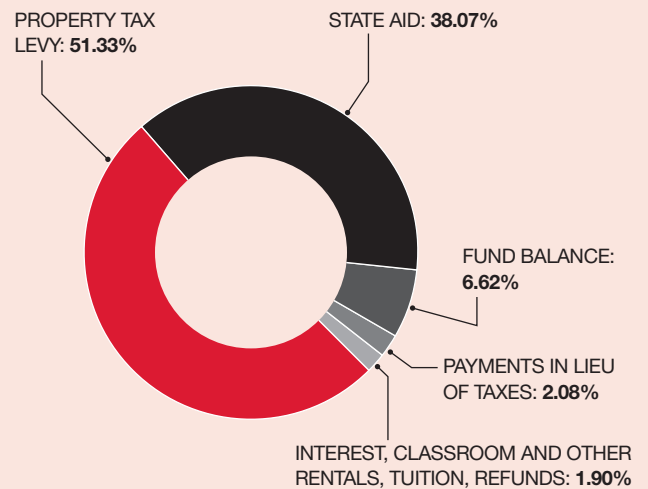
This part of the budget includes office and central administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified and non-certified administrators who spend 50% or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; supplies; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

2023-24 ADOPTED BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$7,106,520 (11.29%)	\$7,442,488 (11.43%)

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 2024-25



PROJECTED REVENUES 2024-25



Expenditures

CATEGORY	2023-24 ADOPTED	2024-25 PROPOSED	% OF 2024-25 BUDGET	\$/% CHANGE FROM 2023-24 TO 2024-25
Instructional costs	\$33,496,665	\$34,381,144	52.82%	\$884,479 (2.64%)
Employee benefits	\$15,791,305	\$16,273,802	25.00%	\$482,497 (3.06%)
Buildings and grounds	\$3,592,909	\$3,803,996	5.84%	\$211,087 (5.88%)
Debt service	\$5,181,292	\$5,320,989	8.18%	\$139,697 (2.70%)
Pupil transportation	\$2,466,702	\$2,828,770	4.35%	\$362,068 (14.68%)
Central administrative functions	\$2,189,650	\$2,250,227	3.46%	\$60,577 (2.77%)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.15%	\$0 (0.00%)
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	\$30,000	\$15,000	0.02%	-\$15,000 (-50.00%)
Transfer to special aid	\$99,000	\$99,000	0.15%	\$0 (0.00%)
Home and community	\$12,059	\$12,266	0.03%	\$207 (1.72%)
Total expenditures	\$62,959,582	\$65,085,194	100.00%	\$2,125,612 (3.38%)

Revenues

CATEGORY	2023-24 ADOPTED	2024-25 PROPOSED	% OF 2024-25 BUDGET	\$/% CHANGE FROM 2023-24 TO 2024-25
• Foundation aid	\$15,545,941	\$16,003,818	24.59%	\$457,877 (2.95%)
• Building aid	\$3,718,305	\$3,640,560	5.59%	-\$77,745 (-2.09%)
• Transportation aid*	\$1,994,000	\$1,981,339	3.04%	-\$12,661 (-.63%)
• BOCES aid*	\$1,681,112	\$1,933,170	2.97%	\$252,058 (14.99%)
• High cost special ed. aid*	\$1,068,803	\$994,001	1.53%	-\$74,802 (-7.00%)
• Software, computer, textbook, library aid*	\$232,802	\$225,481	0.35%	-\$7,321 (-3.15%)
Total New York State aid	\$24,240,963	\$24,778,369	38.07%	\$537,406 (2.22%)
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)	\$1,273,218	\$1,352,077	2.08%	\$78,859 (6.19%)
BOCES rental, refunds, misc.	\$180,000	\$180,000	0.27%	\$0 (0%)
Interest, Medicaid, Medicare aid	\$485,000	\$810,000	1.25%	\$325,000 (67.01%)
Tuition, admissions, etc.	\$247,678	\$247,678	0.38%	\$0 (0%)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,043,558	\$4,308,558	6.62%	\$265,000 (6.56%)
Property tax levy	\$32,489,165	\$33,408,512	51.33%	\$919,347 (2.83%)
Total revenues	\$62,959,582	\$65,085,194	100.00%	\$2,125,612 (3.38%)

*These are for reimbursement of services that S-G has already paid out.



Candidates for two open seats on the Board of Education

Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the B-wing gym at the high school. The seats each carry three-year terms and are unpaid. Candidates will be in this order on the ballot based on a random drawing:

David Massaro is seeking a third term on the board. He is a Deputy Chief in the City of Schenectady Fire Department. Mr. Massaro holds associate degrees in Emergency Management and Fire Protection Technology from SUNY Schenectady, an associate degree in Emergency Medicine from HVCC, and an associate degree in Fire Science from Eastern Gateway Community College. He has coached several youth athletic groups, including Little League Baseball, S-G Girls Softball, Tartan Youth Lacrosse, Tartan Basketball, S-G Junior Tartans Youth Football, and Highland Youth Soccer. He is currently the assistant scoutmaster for Scout Troop 3062 at Sacandaga and serves as the county coordinator for the Capital Region Toys for Tots Campaign. Mr. Massaro has been recognized for his service on multiple occasions, including receiving the Liberty Mutual Firemark Award for Heroism in 2009, the Harriet C. Weber EMS Leadership Award in 2000 and 2016, the S-G Founders Day award in 2020 and the Jacob Morton Masonic Award for Community Service in 2021. He and his wife, Sherry, have two children, Ayla and Jacob, who both attend Scotia-Glenville. Mr. Massaro has been living in the community for 20 years.



Chad Roberts is a retired Army military police officer and a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan. He is running for his first term on the board and has been a resident of Scotia since 2019. Currently, Mr. Roberts is the Scotia-Glenville PTA Council President and the Glen-Worden PTA President. Previously, he served as the Glen-Worden Elementary PTA Vice President and has also volunteered at the NYS PTA level as a communications secretary. Mr. Roberts is an active member of the SGCSO Committee on Special Education and dedicates his time to his community as a Scotia Rotarian. He has been awarded several military honors, including the Combat Action Badge, Iraqi Campaign Medal (with three campaign stars), Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with one campaign star), and the Air Assault Badge. Mr. Roberts graduated from Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville, SC and is an honor graduate of United States Army leadership schools. He has one child in the district named Evan, who is a 4th-grade student at Glen-Worden Elementary.



Harold "Hal" Talbot is currently serving as the Board of Education President in his second term and is seeking re-election for a third term. He has lived in Scotia-Glenville for more than 30 years. Mr. Talbot is a 2023 recipient of the PTA Council's Honorary Life Membership Founders Day Award for student advocacy. He is actively involved in sports, serving as the Director of Football for the S-G Junior Tartans and he coaches the S-G Junior Tartans team. Mr. Talbot works as the General Sales Manager at Fogg's Automotive in Burnt Hills. Through his work, he volunteers and helps raise money and awareness for Things Of My Very Own, the City Mission of Schenectady, Double H Ranch, the American Cancer Society, and various veterans organizations. Mr. Talbot graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School in 1989 and holds an associate degree from Schenectady County Community College. He has also studied at SUNY Albany and has earned several business certifications. He and his wife, Jodi, have two children and a black lab, Milo. His son Dylan is studying business at Siena College, and Austin "AT," is a junior at SGHS.





State required school district budget notice

Overall Budget Proposal	BUDGET ADOPTED 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	\$62,959,582	\$65,085,194	\$64,165,847
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$2,125,612	\$1,206,266
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.38%	1.92%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$32,489,165	\$33,408,512	
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)	\$32,489,165	\$33,408,512	\$32,489,165
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,320,255	\$1,547,499	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$31,594,464	\$31,871,449	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$31,168,910	\$31,861,013	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$425,554	\$10,436	
Administrative Component	\$7,106,520	\$7,442,488	\$7,222,256
Program Component	\$45,946,109	\$47,374,296	\$46,675,181
Capital Component	\$9,906,953	\$10,268,410	\$10,268,410

* Under state law, boards of education typically may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. The Board of Education may adopt a contingent budget and set the tax levy at the 2023-24 levy amount. That would require \$919,347 in reductions in staffing, materials, supplies, equipment, public use of the buildings and other expenditures.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Purchase one 30-passenger bus with 4-wheel drive and two 30-passenger buses.	\$329,000
Purchase five electric vehicle buses. (local share after grant subsidy)	\$1,000,000
Capital improvement project.	\$12,500,000

UNDER THE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$551
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Scotia-Glenville Central school district, Schenectady, Montgomery and Saratoga Counties, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the B-wing gymnasium at the High School, Sacandaga Road, Scotia, NY. Absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on May 21. Voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age and a resident of Scotia-Glenville for 30 days immediately preceding the vote.

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

Board of Education

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Scotia-Glenville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

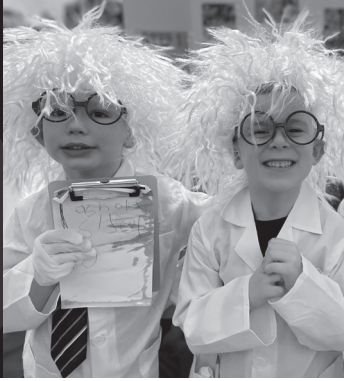
Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES
Engagement & Development Services.
Communications Specialist: Julia Lilkendey

Scotia-Glenville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **News**
2024 - 25 BUDGET

What will I see on the May 21 ballot?

From 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school B-wing gym, Scotia-Glenville residents will vote on these proposals:

- \$65,085,194 budget for 2024-25 – carrying a 2.83% tax levy increase.
- \$12.5M building proposition for safety and other necessary building upgrades throughout our six schools.
- \$329,000 to purchase three 30-passenger school buses, one of which will be 4-wheel drive.
- \$1,000,000 to provide the local share for up to five electric buses, which were applied for under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant.



“You’re a scientist, a writer, a reader, an artist. You did all these things together,” said G-W teacher Mr. Lippiello at the first districtwide K-5 Sciencepalooza.

Seven year history of school budgets, spending and taxes at S-G

SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET TOTAL*	BUDGET SPENDING INCREASE/DECREASE	TOTAL NET NY STATE AID	GLENVILLE TAX RATE PER \$1,000 ASSESSED*	TAX BILL FOR \$160,000 HOME ASSESSMENT*
2024-25 (proposed)	\$65.1 million	\$2,125,612	\$24.8 million	\$24.72	\$3,955
2023-24	\$62.9 million	\$2,684,633	\$24.2 million	\$24.26	\$3,882
2022-23	\$60.3 million	\$1,147,524	\$22.2 million	\$23.90	\$3,824
2021-22	\$59.1 million	\$966,542	\$21.6 million	\$23.66	\$3,786
2020-21	\$58.1 million	\$1,205,143	\$21.0 million	\$23.77	\$3,803
2019-20	\$56.9 million	\$966,044	\$20.7 million	\$23.36	\$3,738
2018-19	\$55.9 million	\$2,582,710	\$21.2 million	\$22.74	\$3,638

If the proposed 2024-25 budget is approved by the community on May 21:

- Spending will have increased by \$9.2 million or 16.46% since July 2018 (2.7% per year on average).
- Typical tax bills will have increased by 8.7% or \$317 since September 2018 (1.45% per year on average).

* Final tax rates are set by the Board of Education in August. Percentages and dollar amounts are rounded.
Typical tax bills are BEFORE savings from the state’s STAR school tax reduction exemption, veterans’ and income exemptions.