



### Tartan Pride

A eureka moment, a surge of creativity, or a personal triumph—when we champion these experiences, we cultivate an environment where learning feels thrilling and inspiring!



## May 20 annual budget vote and school board election

Budget prioritizes essential student services and programs; requires 60% voter approval

### What to know before casting your ballot

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Scotia-Glenville residents will be asked to consider a \$67,128,658 budget for the 2025-26 school year. The plan maintains critical instructional programs, student support services, and key health and safety initiatives while investing in facility and equipment upkeep.

The proposed budget represents a 3.14% increase in spending over the current year, or \$2,043,464, and includes a 5.09% increase in the tax levy. Because the proposed tax levy exceeds the district's state-calculated limit of 3.25%, the budget requires a supermajority (60% voter approval) to pass.

For a home with an assessed value of \$160,000, the estimated tax increase would be approximately \$136 per year, or about \$11.33 per month, before any STAR savings are applied.

### What the budget supports

The proposed plan preserves existing programs and services, including two school resource officers, an athletic trainer, mental health services, and cybersecurity infrastructure. It also supports ongoing maintenance of district facilities and operations.

In addition to voting on the school budget, residents will consider a second proposition for an electric vehicle infrastructure upgrade project that will not impact the tax levy. The proposed referendum supports the district's transition to a zero-emission electric bus fleet by 2035, as mandated by the state.

Voters will decide among four candidates competing for two available seats on the school board. You can read about each candidate on page 6 and watch the Meet the Candidates Night on the district's YouTube channel. [ff](#)

## VOTE

Tuesday, May 20 • 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
High School B-wing Gymnasium

### Budget Snapshot

- ➔ Proposed Budget: **\$67,128,658**
- ➔ Spending Increase: **\$2,043,464 or 3.14%**
- ➔ Tax Levy Increase: **\$1,699,295 or 5.09%**

## INSIDE:

Budget exit poll.....	2
Proposition 2: EV Infrastructure Upgrade.....	2
Free school meals .....	2
Absentee, Early Mail, and other voter information.....	3
Projected revenue and expenditures.....	4-5
Candidates for two open seats on the Board of Education .....	6
Budget notice .....	7
Seven-year history of budgets, spending, and taxes .....	8



# S-G students impress judges at Olympics of the Visual Arts

## Glendaal wins second for architecture

On April 1, teams from Scotia-Glenville, including one elementary and three high school entries, exhibited remarkable creativity and quick thinking at the New York State OVA competition in Saratoga.

Glendaal Elementary's inventive architecture project and spontaneous creation from scraps earned them second place, while the high school entries excelled in the categories of architecture, drawing, and illustration. All the work and portfolios were entirely crafted by the students. You can take a closer look at their projects on Facebook and Instagram.



**Above:** Glendaal students with their Dragon Den Castle and on-demand design to build a town from scraps.

**Below:** After observing students prepare for the OVA since December, coaches Jessica Macherone, Heather Rush, and Kristin Bodden got to watch the magic unfold at the state competition.



# May 20: Your voice matters!

The purpose of the EV Infrastructure Upgrade Project reflects the district's commitment to sustainability and innovation and will have **no impact on the 2025-26 tax levy**, making it a fiscally responsible investment in our future.

**Proposition 2:** Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Project appears on the same ballot as the 2025-26 school budget and Board of Education election.

This \$2.6 million capital project is a vital step in transitioning to a zero-emission electric school bus fleet, as mandated by New York State by 2035. It includes parking lot reconstruction, installation of conduits, and upgrades to electrical services, ensuring our district is equipped to support up to 50 electric buses. These improvements will not only modernize our transportation infrastructure but also contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment for our students and community.

Additionally, the Beukendaal Building will be removed or demolished to create space for buses and chargers, further supporting this transition.

We encourage you to learn more by watching the briefings to the board on April 7 and Nov. 4 of this school year. Videos are available on the Board of Education page of our website.

Together, we can pave the way for a sustainable future while ensuring our students have access to safe and reliable transportation. **50**

## 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.



## 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.



# Q&A

## Budget, tax, and voting information

### Who is eligible to vote?

The district uses registration records from the Schenectady County Board of Elections.

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.

### How do I request an absentee or early voting ballot?

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

Applications for absentee and early mail in ballots cannot be accepted more than 30 days before the election. This year, that would be April 20.

Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting District Clerk Jill Busman at (518) 347-3600 ext. 7102, or [jbusman@sgcsd.net](mailto:jbusman@sgcsd.net).

Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20 in order to be counted.

### Does the 2025-26 budget plan stay within Scotia-Glenville's property tax levy cap?

No. The state-mandated maximum tax levy cap for Scotia-Glenville in 2025-26 is 3.25% according to the state's eight-step formula. The Board of Education opted to adopt a budget that exceeds the tax cap by \$614,115 or 1.84% and must be approved by 60% of the qualified voters present and voting.

### 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 2025-26 budget, the Glenville/Scotia tax rate would increase by an estimated 3.44%, to \$25.44 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from the current \$24.59 per \$1,000. This represents an 85-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 \$136 per year, or \$11.33 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. Three Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) are moving onto the tax rolls in 2025-26 (CDTI, Shady Lane and BelGioioso Cheese), and are estimated to generate an additional \$21.6 million increased assessed value to the tax rolls.

Tax rolls are not finalized until May 31. The Board of Education adopts the 2025-26 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 2025-26 will reduce school tax bills in Glenville by these amounts:

- Estimated \$502 for Basic STAR recipients. Property owners with incomes below \$500,000 are eligible.
- Estimated \$1,199 for Enhanced STAR recipients. Enhanced STAR is for property owners over age 65 with incomes of less than \$107,300.

### What happens if voters do not approve the budget on May 20?

Should the voters defeat the budget, the district can either submit a revised budget for a revote on June 17, the designated statewide budget revote date, or choose to adopt a contingency budget immediately. If the budget fails a second time, the BOE must adopt a contingency budget before July 1.

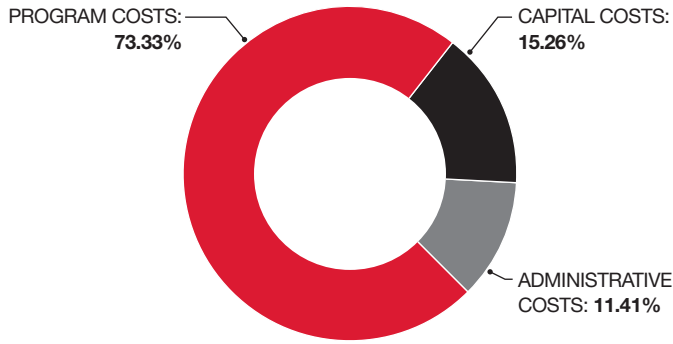
State law mandates that the contingent budget include no increase from the prior year tax levy and eliminate all non-contingent expenses such as supplies, materials, equipment and other expenditures. Plant and operations are contingent expenditures and do not have to be cut. Debt service cannot be cut. 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 2025-26 would require a \$1,699,295 reduction in the tax levy and school expenditures. The school district could not exceed the 2024-25 tax levy. 



## Three-part budget for 2025-26

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



### Program

#### 73.33% of the proposed 2025-26 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.

2024-25 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$47,374,296 (72.79%)	\$49,222,875 (73.33%)

### Capital

#### 15.26% of the proposed 2025-26 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.

2024-25 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$10,268,410 (15.78%)	\$10,242,116 (15.26%)

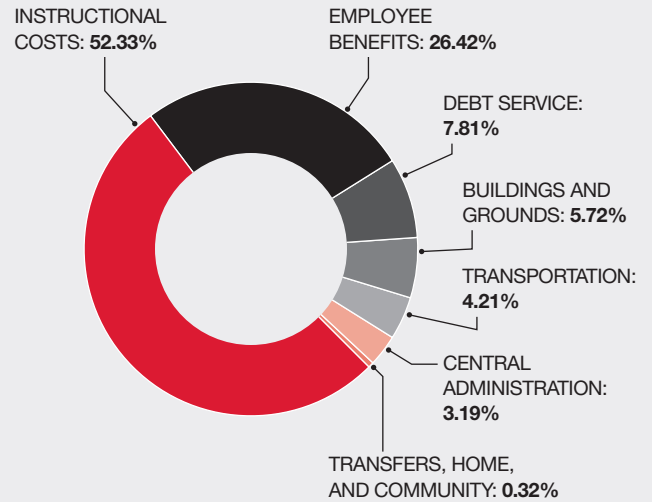
### Administrative

#### 11.41% of the proposed 2025-26 budget

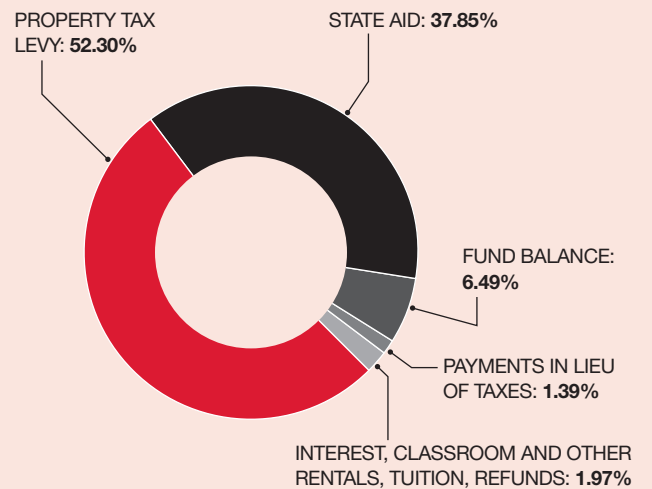
This part of the budget includes office and central administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified and non-certified administrators who spend 50% or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; supplies; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

2024-25 ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$7,442,488 (11.43%)	\$7,663,667 (11.41%)

## PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 2025-26



## PROJECTED REVENUES 2025-26



## Expenditures

CATEGORY	2024-25 ADOPTED	2025-26 PROPOSED	% OF 2025-26 BUDGET	\$/% CHANGE FROM 2024-25 TO 2025-26
Instructional costs	\$34,381,144	\$35,130,602	52.33%	\$749,458 (2.18%)
Employee benefits	\$16,273,802	\$17,737,826	26.42%	\$1,464,023 (9.00%)
Buildings and grounds	\$3,803,996	\$3,838,296	5.72%	\$34,300 (0.90%)
Debt service	\$5,320,989	\$5,242,511	7.81%	-\$78,478 (-1.47%)
Pupil transportation	\$2,828,770	\$2,827,938	4.21%	-\$832 (-0.03%)
Central administrative functions	\$2,250,227	\$2,139,002	3.19%	-\$111,225 (-4.94%)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.15%	\$0 (0.00%)
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	\$15,000	\$0	0.00%	-\$15,000 (-100%)
Transfer to special aid	\$99,000	\$100,000	0.15%	\$1,000 (1.01%)
Home and community	\$12,266	\$12,483	0.02%	\$218 (1.78%)
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$65,085,194</b>	<b>\$67,128,658</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$2,043,464 (3.14%)</b>

## Revenues

CATEGORY	2024-25 ADOPTED	2025-26 PROPOSED	% OF 2025-26 BUDGET	\$/% CHANGE FROM 2024-25 TO 2025-26
• Foundation aid	\$16,003,818	\$16,325,391	24.32%	\$321,573 (2.01%)
• Building aid	\$3,640,560	\$3,652,784	5.44%	\$12,224 (0.34%)
• Transportation aid*	\$1,981,339	\$2,133,749	3.18%	\$152,410 (7.69%)
• BOCES aid*	\$1,933,170	\$1,697,802	2.53%	-\$235,368 (-12.18%)
• High cost special ed. aid*	\$994,001	\$1,377,934	2.05%	\$383,933 (38.63%)
• Software, computer, textbook, library aid*	\$225,481	\$221,105	0.33%	-\$4,376 (-1.94%)
<b>Total New York State aid</b>	<b>\$24,778,369</b>	<b>\$25,408,765</b>	<b>37.85%</b>	<b>\$630,396 (2.54%)</b>
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)	\$1,352,077	\$935,350	1.39%	-\$416,727 (-30.82%)
BOCES rental, refunds, misc.	\$180,000	\$205,500	0.31%	\$25,500 (14.17%)
Interest, Medicaid, Medicare aid	\$810,000	\$865,000	1.29%	\$55,000 (6.79%)
Tuition, admissions, etc.	\$247,678	\$247,678	0.37%	\$0 (0%)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,308,558	\$4,358,558	6.49%	\$50,000 (1.16%)
Property tax levy	\$33,408,512	\$35,107,807	52.30%	\$1,699,295 (5.09%)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$65,085,194</b>	<b>\$67,128,658</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$2,043,464 (3.14%)</b>

\*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:

**Kimberly C. Talbot** serves as the current Vice President of the Board of Education and is seeking a third term. A 23-year resident of Scotia, Mrs. Talbot is deeply involved in the community. She and her husband Joe have three sons: one attending Schenectady County Community College, one at Scotia-Glenville High School, and the youngest at Scotia-Glenville Middle School. Mrs. Talbot is a respite worker at AIM Services, where she provides care and support to children with disabilities, helping their caregivers maintain routines and achieve a work-life balance. She studied elementary education at the Community College of Rhode Island's Lincoln and Warwick campuses, with minors in music education and fine arts. Mrs. Talbot co-founded The Fresh Table Pop-up Community Pantry in Scotia-Glenville and has been active in the PTA since 2009, including serving a term as president. She is a past president and current member of the Scotia Rotary Club, where she also serves as District Membership Chair and Rotary Zone Innovative Club Advocate. Her honors include the District 7190 Rotarian of the Year, the DeWitt Clinton Award, the PTA Founders Day Award, and recognition as one of 20 Outstanding Women.



**Kristina N. Coughlin** has been a Scotia resident for 13 years and is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. As a committed parent, she has two daughters—one attending Scotia-Glenville Middle School and another at Sacandaga Elementary School. Ms. Coughlin brings 25 years of experience in education and currently serves as the instructional coordinator at the North Greenbush Common School District. In this role, she oversees elementary and special education teachers, manages summer programs, and leads professional learning communities. Her civic involvement includes serving as a Schenectady County Human Rights Commissioner and as a member of the Scotia-Glenville Superintendent's DEI Advisory Council. She is also an active member of both the Sacandaga and Middle School PTAs. Ms. Coughlin holds an associate degree in early childhood education, a bachelor's degree in elementary education, and a master's degree in special education. She also completed the Educational Administration Certification Program at The College of Saint Rose. Her state certifications include building and district leader, childhood and special education, and Title IX coordination and investigation.



**Angela V. Piazza** of Glenville is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She and her husband, Nicholas, have lived in the district for 16 years and are parents to three daughters—one at Scotia-Glenville Middle School and two at Sacandaga Elementary School. Mrs. Piazza has been a public school educator for 19 years and currently works as a speech-language pathologist at North Colonie Central Schools. She serves on the Committee on Special Education, where she conducts evaluations, provides individualized therapy, implements interventions, and collaborates with a multidisciplinary team. Her expertise includes child development, special education, and school culture. She also owns AVP Speech Therapy, through which she contracts with Schenectady County to provide services for preschool children. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and maintains her state license and teaching certification through ongoing professional development. Mrs. Piazza earned her bachelor's degree from SUNY Cortland and completed her Master of Science in Education at The College of Saint Rose, focusing on communication sciences and disorders. Mrs. Piazza is actively involved in the PTA, serves her church community, and has coached girls soccer and basketball at the high school level.



**Michael J. Torelli** is a lifelong Scotia resident, a 1999 alumni, and is seeking a first term on the Board of Education. He and his wife, Susan, have three children: a son at Scotia-Glenville High School, a daughter at Scotia-Glenville Middle School, and another daughter at Lincoln Elementary. Mr. Torelli is the general manager and owner of Star Roofing, a full-service residential and commercial roofing company. He is also an Eagle Scout, reflecting his long-standing dedication to community service and leadership. Mr. Torelli holds a degree in actuarial mathematics from the University at Albany. His civic involvement includes serving on the administrative council of the First Reformed Church of Scotia and coaching various youth sports, such as Junior Tartans football, basketball, lacrosse, and soccer. He also served on the board of 50 FC. Through Star Roofing, he sponsors and supports local organizations such as St. Anne Institute, the Animal Protective Foundation, The Cure Foundation, and Albany Med Cares for Kids.



### 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



# State required school district budget notice

Overall Budget Proposal	BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR	CONTINGENCY BUDGET FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$65,085,194	\$67,128,658	\$65,429,363
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$2,043,464	\$344,169
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.14%	0.53%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$33,408,512	\$35,107,807	
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)	\$33,408,512	\$35,107,807	\$33,408,512
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,547,499	\$1,471,536	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$31,871,449	\$33,022,156	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$31,861,013	\$33,636,271	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$10,436	(\$614,115)	
Administrative Component	\$7,442,488	\$7,663,667	\$7,434,741
Program Component	\$47,374,296	\$49,222,875	\$47,752,506
Capital Component	\$10,268,410	\$10,242,116	\$10,242,116

\* 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 2024-25 levy amount. That would require reductions in staffing, supplies, equipment, public use of facilities 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
Electric vehicle infrastructure upgrade project	\$2,600,000
<b>UNDER THE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$502

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 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 20, 2025. 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 20. Voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age and a resident of Scotia-Glenville for 30 days immediately preceding the vote.

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



**Board of Education**

Harold M. Talbot  
**PRESIDENT**  
 Kim Talbot  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Kimberly Boucher Furnish  
 Pamela Carbone  
 Emily G. Orr  
 Chad Roberts  
 Karnjit Singh

**Scotia-Glenville**  
 CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 900 Preddice Parkway  
 Scotia, NY 12302

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 854  
 Albany, NY

**District Administrators**

Susan M. Swartz  
**SUPERINTENDENT**  
 Rick Arket  
**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
 FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**  
 Andrew M. Giaquinto  
**SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER**

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

**POSTAL CUSTOMER  
 ECRWSS**

**Scotia-Glenville** CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **News**  
 2025 - 26 BUDGET

**What will I see on the  
 May 20 ballot?**

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

- \$67.1M budget for 2025-26 – carrying a 5.09% tax levy increase.
- \$2.6M building proposition for the EV Infrastructure Upgrade Project with no impact on the tax levy.



**NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Award**  
 Seniors Logan Linck, Savannah Swiatocha, and Samuel Perkins were honored for their exceptional contributions and impressive achievements in physical performance, academic success, leadership abilities, and community service. Discover more about each student on the district’s website.

**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*
2025-26 (proposed)	\$67.1M	\$2,043,464	\$25.4M	\$25.44	\$4,070
2024-25	\$65.1M	\$2,125,612	\$24.8M	\$24.72	\$3,955
2023-24	\$62.9M	\$2,684,633	\$24.2M	\$24.26	\$3,882
2022-23	\$60.3M	\$1,147,524	\$22.2M	\$23.90	\$3,824
2021-22	\$59.1M	\$966,542	\$21.6M	\$23.66	\$3,786
2020-21	\$58.1M	\$1,205,143	\$21.0M	\$23.77	\$3,803
2019-20	\$56.9M	\$966,044	\$20.7M	\$23.36	\$3,738

**If the proposed 2025-26 budget is approved by the community on May 20:**

- Spending will have increased by \$10.2 million or 17.93% since July 2019 (2.99% per year on average).
- Typical tax bills will have increased by 8.9% or \$332 since September 2019 (1.48% 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.