South Lewis Central School District Newsletter

The Proposed 2025-26 Annual Budget Newsletter

One District. One Building. One Family.



Celebrating our future. Honoring our past.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:30 PM Board Room

Voting

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:00 PM-8:00 PM Auditorium

2025-26 Budget News

1.75% Tax Levy Increase

The Board of Education recently adopted the 2025-26 budget. **This budget will have a 1.75% tax increase.** This year, once again, we are below the allowable tax cap limit which has been in place since 2012. The District has worked extremely hard to adopt a budget that is responsible to the taxpayer while continuing to provide strong programs, services, opportunities and facilities for our students and school community.

Over the past 10 years our average tax increase has been 1.76%. This average tax increase is inclusive of all associated costs with the nearly $70 million in capital improvements to our facilities and campus over this time period and the many increased supports and opportunities for our students and staff. Additionally, we are proud to offer assistance to our families that save thousands of out-of-pocket expenses each year by providing free breakfast and lunch to all students, free school supplies and free school-based health clinic and dental program services. The 2025-26 school budget also includes a new High School Science position to expand our STEAM offerings and program (STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics). This new position and program will be held in our state-of-the-art STEAM lab that is part of the construction project with groundbreaking this Spring. We will have new offerings in robotics, drone technologies, and computer science.

This year we will have two school district propositions on the ballot in May. The first proposition is for the 2025-26 South Lewis overall school budget of $31,837,132. The second is to finance the purchase of five 65-passenger diesel school buses for a total maximum aggregate cost of $777,221.

In addition to these two propositions, the voters of South Lewis CSD will also elect two Board of Education members to five-year terms. The expiring seats are currently held by Paul Campbell and Richard Ventura. There are three candidates, incumbent Richard Ventura, Lucy Austin and Patrick D'Ambrosi, for the two spots. The District will be sending out an informational "Meet the BOE Candidates" flyer prior to the vote.

A Public Hearing for the budget and the two propositions will be held before the Board meeting on Tuesday, May 13th in the South Lewis Board Room at 6:30 PM. The annual budget vote and Board of Education election will be held the following Tuesday, May 20th from Noon to 8:00 PM in the South Lewis Auditorium.

Lastly, if you are interested in learning more about the South Lewis Central School budget or would like a speaker at your organization, please call me at 315-348-2500.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo
Superintendent of Schools

Levy or Rate?

People often confuse the words **tax levy** and **tax rate**. The levy is the amount of money the district needs to generate from the local taxpayer to meet its budget demands. We are projecting that the local levy will be $ 9,797,138 (1.75% increase over last August's levy). We cannot state accurately what tax rate that levy will require until August.

Why? The tax rate required to yield the tax levy is dependent upon state-provided assessments, which are not completed until late summer. Please remember that the school district does not generate those rates. Therefore, though we can calculate a levy with some certainty, we can only estimate a rate.

Mini-Renovation Project

South Lewis Central School District seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the district's tax dollars. Continuing a strategy from last year, a mini-renovation project is again being proposed this year that will include Flooring Replacement at the Elementary-Middle-High School building. This mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project, the district would incur the full cost of the work. By including the $100,000 budget for this work in a mini-capital project within the proposed annual budget, the district will receive approximately $85,000 in additional aid during the 2026-27 school year. This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the district's budget.

Information from the New York State School Report Card is not in the 2025-26 Budget Brochure. The information is available at the South Lewis website:

www.southlewis.org
or
by contacting the South Lewis Central School District Office
315-348-2500

PROPOSED COMPONENT BUDGET

2025-26 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

BOARD OF EDUCATION	$ 17,520
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	312,155
FINANCE	457,937
LEGAL SERVICES	5,000
PERSONNEL	46,000
PUBLIC INFORMATION	104,774
OTHER CENTRAL SERVICES	68,000
BOCES ADMIN., PROPERTY INS., DUES	378,300
CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT	366,188
SUPERVISION	845,622
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	568,670
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	$3,170,166
2024-25 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	$3,015,209

Administrative Budget:

The Administrative component of the budget includes salaries and benefits for all certified school administrators; expenditures associated with the district's central administrative offices, including the school board, superintendent, school business office, and principals; as well as other administrative activities.

2025-26 PROGRAM BUDGET PROPOSAL

LEGAL SERVICES	$ 15,000
INSTRUCTION	14,055,617
TRANSPORTATION	1,620,496
BUS GARAGE	60,650
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	5,652,239
OTHER TRANSFERS	70,000
COMMUNITY SERVICES	8,000
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	$21,482,002
2024-25 PROGRAM BUDGET	$20,374,368

Program Budget:

This component of the budget includes salaries and benefits of teachers, supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties, and operating expenses for instructional and transportation programs.

2025-26 CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

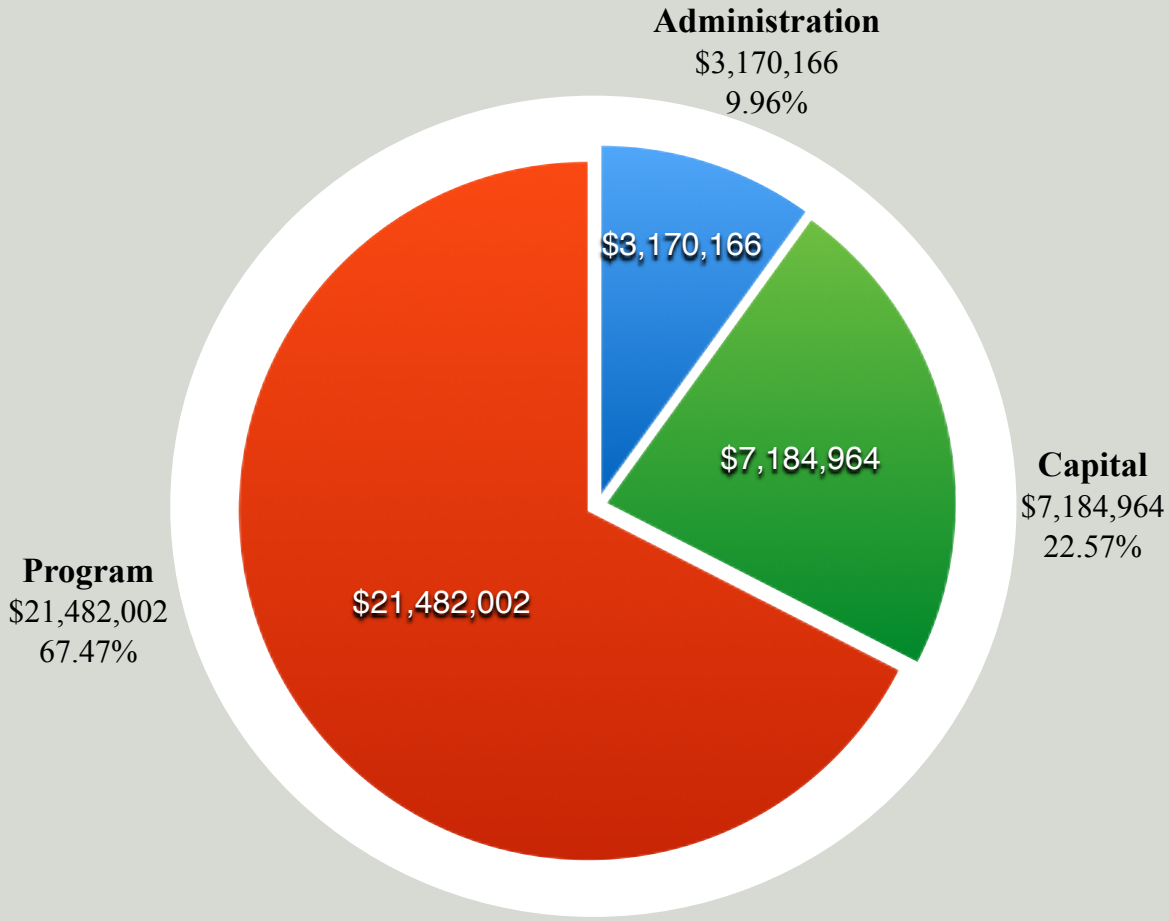
Capital Budget:

This component of the budget includes funds for the purchase of school buses, principal and interest payments on debt service, and all operational, cleaning, and maintenance costs for district facilities, including salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, and utility costs.

OPERATION OF FACILITIES	$1,976,000
MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES	306,319
JUDGMENTS AND CLAIMS	3,000
REFUND OF TAXES	10,000
BUS PAYMENTS	555,079
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	672,066
DEBT SERVICE	3,562,500
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND	100,000
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET	$7,184,964
2024-25 CAPITAL BUDGET	$7,608,855



2025-26 PROPOSED COMPONENT BUDGET



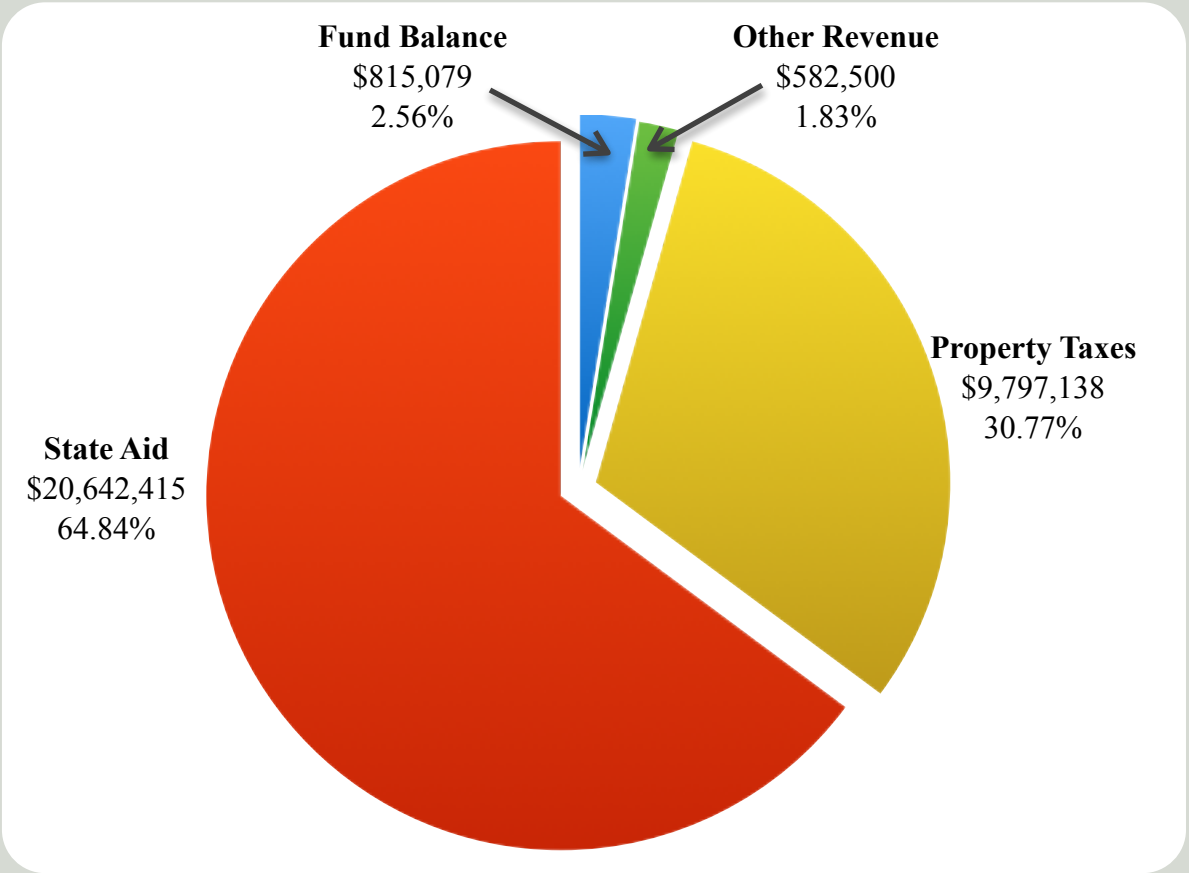
School District Tax Report Card

	Budgeted 2024-25	Budgeted 2025-26	Percent Change
Total Spending	$30,998,432	$31,837,132	2.71%
Estimated School Tax Levy	$9,628,637	$9,797,138	1.75%
Enrollment	1052	1068	1.52%
Consumer Price Index			2.95%

PROPOSED BUDGET REVENUE COMPARISON

	2024-25 Estimated Revenue	2025-26 Estimated Revenue	Dollar Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase/ Decrease
Property Taxes	$9,628,637	$9,797,138	$168,501	1.75%
State Aid	$19,947,232	$20,642,415	$695,183	3.49%
Other Income	$600,847	$582,500	-$18,347	-3.05%
Fund Balance	$821,716	$815,079	-$6,637	-0.81%
Total	$30,998,432	$31,837,132	$838,700	2.71%

ESTIMATED REVENUE & FUND BALANCE FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR







VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Voters at a school election must have all of the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least eighteen (18) years of age
- A resident within the district for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to the day of the vote

If the budget is defeated, the School Board's options are to:

- **Put the same budget up for vote a second time,**
- **Submit a revised budget to the voters, or**
- **Adopt a contingency budget and seek voter approval directly on non-contingent expenditures.**

SOUTH LEWIS

ONE DISTRICT · ONE BUILDING · ONE FAMILY

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Sitting left to right: Jessica Carpenter, Dawn Ludovici, Richard Ventura, Mark Lemieux, Blake Place
Back row: Andrew Liendecker, BOE President, Justin Szucs, BOE Vice President, Thomas Burmingham, Paul Campbell

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term Expires

Andrew Liendecker, President	June 30, 2027
Thomas Burmingham	June 30, 2028
Paul Campbell	June 30, 2025
Jessica Carpenter	June 30, 2026
Mark Lemieux	June 30, 2029
Dawn Ludovici	June 30, 2027
Blake Place	June 30, 2026
Justin Szucs, Vice President	June 30, 2029
Richard Ventura	June 30, 2025

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Qualifications

- Must be able to read and write
- Must be a qualified voter of the district
- Must be and have been a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year
- May not be a current employee of the school board
- May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office

Candidates for the two (2) five-year term seats on the Board of Education will be listed on the ballot. Voters will vote for two candidates to fill the two seats.

SEATS EXPIRING	CANDIDATES
Paul Campbell	Lucy Austin
Richard Ventura	Patrick D'Ambrosi
	Richard Ventura

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITIONS WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING BALLOT





PROPOSITION #1

Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Lewis Central School District, Lewis County, New York, be authorized to levy the necessary tax for and appropriate a sum not to exceed $31,837,132 for the purpose of the General Fund Budget for the 2025-26 school year.

PROPOSITION #2

Shall the Board of Education of the South Lewis Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance five (5) 65-passenger diesel student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed $777,221, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed $777,221, shall be issued.

SOUTH LEWIS CS



SOUTH LEWIS CENTRAL SCHOOL
District Office
P.O. Box 10
Turin, NY 13473

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Turin, New York
Bulk Rate
Permit No. 4
CAR-RTE-SORT

Occupant or Box Holder

South Lewis Central School

Home of the Falcons