

# Central Valley News

SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET EDITION ⚡ 2016

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## 2016-17 Budget at-a-Glance

Proposed budget:  
**\$45,094,500**

Tax levy decrease:  
**-1%**

Budget-to-budget decrease:  
**-1% or  
-\$455,500**

Election to fill  
**three board seats**

Polls are open Tuesday,  
**May 17** from noon to 8  
p.m. at the Central Valley  
Academy small gym

## Spending down 1 percent tax levy decrease

On Tuesday, May 17, residents of the Central Valley School District will go to the polls to vote on the district's proposed \$45,094,500 budget for the 2016-17 school year. The proposal would *decrease* spending 1 percent or \$455,500 less than the current year. This would result in a 1 percent tax levy decrease while maintaining academic and extracurricular programs. Despite *reducing* spending and *lowering* the tax levy, the proposal's levy *decrease* is greater than the district's tax levy limit and will require a supermajority of greater than 60 percent of voters for approval.

"New York's school funding mechanism is broken when a district does everything correctly—it merges, controls spending, lowers taxes, and is still expected to seek a supermajority to approve its budget," said Business Official Ken Long.

Mr. Long said the board of education has steadfastly pursued the promises of the merger, long-term fiscal responsibility and improved student achievement.

"The financial challenges are great. The state's funding formula is still stacked against poorer communities," he said.

Buffalo's Business First magazine recently published the median household income for all upstate school districts. Central Valley ranked 345 out of 451.

"Districts such as ours lack the local resources to adequately fund the programs students need to prepare them for their futures, whether in college or careers," said Superintendent of Schools Rich Hughes.

"The state has an obligation to make sure a student in Herkimer County has the same chances for success as students from wealthier districts, especially those



downstate."

Dr. Hughes points to the way the state distributes school aid. Wealthy districts continue to receive aid that they use to enhance their already rich academic and extracurricular programs. Districts such as Central Valley use aid to provide students with the very basics.

"Despite the obstacles, our board remains committed to providing our students the brightest future we can support," he said.

"Our community is equally committed. Our voters have repeatedly proven that they want the best for students. They dared to merge and continue to come to the polls to make that dream a reality."

# Budget

## Q & A

### Q What exactly am I voting on?

A Residents will vote on a proposed \$45,094,500 budget for the 2016-17 school year, which calls for a 1 percent decrease in spending compared to 2015-16.

Residents will also vote to fill three seats on the Central Valley School District Board of Education.

Additional information about the budget is available on the district's website, [www.cvalleycsd.org](http://www.cvalleycsd.org).

### When and where is the vote?

The school budget vote will take place from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 at the Central Valley Academy small gym.

Q To be eligible to vote, you must be a US citizen, 18 years of age or older and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

### Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes, if you cannot be present to vote on May 17, you may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office. Completed ballots must be returned to District Clerk Marsha Griffith at the district office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17.

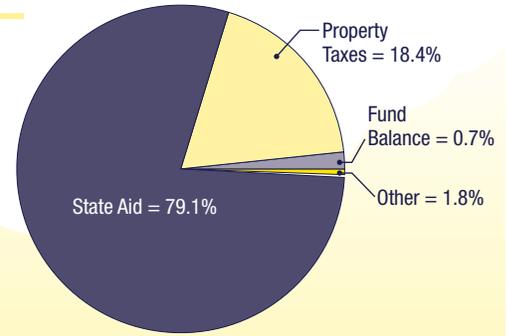
### What happens if the budget is voted down?

Q If voters reject the proposed school budget on May 17, the school board can either put up the same or a revised budget for a revote or go directly to a contingent budget. If residents do not approve a budget on a revote, the board must adopt a contingent budget.

### What is a contingent budget?

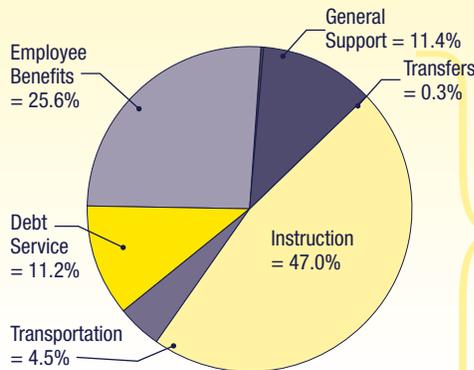
Q State law mandates that under a contingent budget a school district must adopt a budget with no tax levy increase and eliminate all non-contingent expenses such as certain student supplies, certain equipment purchases and the free community use of school facilities (the district must charge a fee). The administrative budget would also subject to certain restrictions.

## Where the money comes from...



### Projected Revenues

Revenues	Approved 2015-16	Proposed 2016-17	\$ Change	% Change
State Aid	\$36,348,985	\$35,678,125	-\$670,860	-1.85%
Property Tax	\$8,380,000	\$8,296,200	-\$83,800	-1.00%
Fund Balance	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	0%
Other	\$521,015	\$820,175	\$299,160	57.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,550,000</b>	<b>\$45,094,500</b>	<b>-\$455,500</b>	<b>-1.00%</b>



## ...and where it is spent

### Projected Expenditures

Revenues	Approved 2015-16	Proposed 2016-17	\$ Change	% Change
General Support	\$5,185,376	\$5,156,474	-\$28,902	-0.56%
Instruction	\$20,615,205	\$21,209,609	\$594,404	2.88%
Pupil Transportation	\$2,134,257	\$2,020,560	-\$113,697	-5.33%
Debt Service	\$5,983,053	\$5,028,811	-\$954,242	-15.95%
Employee Benefits	\$11,632,109	\$11,559,046	-\$73,063	-0.63%
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,550,000</b>	<b>\$45,094,500</b>	<b>\$455,500</b>	<b>-1.00%</b>

Looking for more **Budget Information?**

This newsletter offers an overview of the proposed 2016-17 school budget. More details are available online at [www.cvalleycsd.org](http://www.cvalleycsd.org), and in each school office and the district office.

# School District **Budget Notice**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingent Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$45,550,000	\$45,094,500	\$44,784,500
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		-\$455,500	-\$765,500
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-1.00%	-1.68%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
<b>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve</b>			
	\$8,380,000	\$8,529,966	
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>			
	\$0	\$0	
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>			
	\$0	\$0	
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>			
	\$0	\$233,766	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>			
	8,380,000	\$8,296,200	\$8,146,234
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>			
	\$753,052	\$285,575	
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>			
	\$7,626,948	\$7,492,397	
<b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>			
	\$7,626,948	\$8,244,391	
<b>I. Difference: G - H; (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)</b>			
	\$0	-\$751,994	
<b>Administrative Component</b>			
	\$4,821,902	4,850,466	4,850,466
<b>Program Component</b>			
	\$31,057,539	\$31,382,397	\$31,382,397
<b>Capital Component</b>			
	\$9,670,559	\$8,861,637	\$8,551,637

\* The contingent budget reflects the removal of the cash purchase of two school buses (\$230,000), as well as the elimination of equipment contemplated for the operations and maintenance of our facilities (\$80,000). The result is a decrease of \$310,000.

\*\* Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
N/A	N/A

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$544.63
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Central Valley Central School District, Herkimer County, New York, will be held at the Central Valley Academy small gym in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

## How would the proposed budget affect taxes?

Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by the county, and equalization rates for each municipality as provided by the state Office of Real Property Services.

The chart, right, estimates 2016-17 tax bills based on 2015-16 tax bills.

### Effect on Tax Bills<sup>1</sup>

	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
2015-16 school taxes paid	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Estimated 16-17 School Tax	\$495	\$990	\$1,485	\$1,980
Estimated Decrease	-\$5	-\$10	-\$15	-\$20

<sup>1</sup>Does not include changes in tax rolls and equalization rates.

## Board of Education

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# Central Valley

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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4 ⚡ 2016 Budget Edition

## “Teachnology” Technology that helps educate

### Technology can open the doors to personalized learning and growth

Smart phones, smart watches, notebooks—the list of technological devices grows daily. With them, we surf the Internet, monitor our health, pay our bills, and more.

While today’s students are fully immersed and tech savvy, some parents and grandparents struggle to simply log on to Facebook. Adult fears carry over into the classroom where many parents and educators worry that technology distracts from “real learning.”

“We have to change that perception. Properly used, technology becomes ‘teachnology.’ It opens all kinds of learning possibilities,” said Superintendent Rich Hughes.

Dr. Hughes said the board of education has committed to increasing technology access to each and every student. The district is also committed to make certain

that technology is not limited by a student’s lack of access to high speed Internet at home.

### Personalized learning

The goal in introducing technology in school is to open the door to personalized learning. Basically, this means tailoring instruction to meet the needs of each student.

“Personalized learning is practically impossible in the traditional lecture setting where a teacher speaks, students take notes, do homework, and take a test to show what they did or did not learn. The teacher simply doesn’t have the time to meet each child at his or her level,” said Dr. Hughes.

Technology changes that equation by empowering students and parents to play a greater part in learning.



Students can spend extra time on material or move ahead when ready. Parents can see the same material and help at home as needed. Teachers still teach and guide, but can focus their efforts on areas where students may need

extra help.

“Technology is a tool that can help our teachers leverage their time, find ways to reach every child, and help every child succeed,” he said.

Technology in the classroom also introduces skills that all students will need in their futures.

“Virtually every job today relies on computers, high tech equipment, and the Internet, from auto mechanics to computer coders. Our school must mirror that world if our Thunder are going to be ready for continued education and careers,” said Dr. Hughes.

“Our kids’ futures are at stake and we only have one shot to give them the education they deserve.”