

# Meet Your School Budget

People make our school district a special place. From the health and wellness staff who care for students each day, to the teachers who engage and educate over 4,800 students, to the office staff who make our buildings hum, the more than 950 GCSD personnel are the lifeblood of the district. Approximately 75 percent of the 2023-24 spending plan goes to employ this hard working staff. Here's a small glimpse into a few of the many positions that are essential to supporting the youth of Guilderland.

## Transportation

The school day starts and ends with the transportation team. They get GCSD students to school in the morning and return them safely home at the end of the day – and in between, they maintain and service the fleet of Guilderland vehicles.



## Health and Wellness

Each school building is staffed with nurses who attend to students' health needs; however our wellness staff also encompasses social workers, counselors, trainers and therapists. This group of dedicated professionals work to ensure the total health of GCSD students so they are ready to learn.

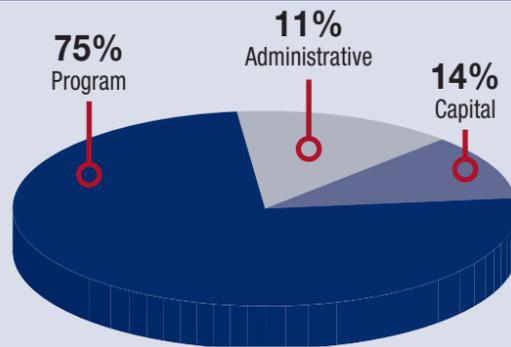


## Instructional staff

Teachers, teaching assistants, aides and substitute teachers are the personnel responsible for guiding GCSD students through their educational experience. They engage, motivate and inspire our students to learn and grow, making a direct impact on students' lives and affecting positive change — all in a day's work.

 Visit the GCSD Facebook page to see the social media posts that highlight the district personnel.

## 3-PART BUDGET AT A GLANCE



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**Guilderland**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
8 School Road / PO Box 18  
Guilderland Center, NY 12085



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### EDITOR

Patrice Vivirito

### DESIGNER

Ryan Novak

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*Published by the Guilderland Central School District in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.*

**Don't Forget to Vote!**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**  
**7 A.M. TO 9 P.M. AT YOUR HOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.**

### Voter Eligibility

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Guilderland Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Voter registration is required in GCSD. If you are not registered with the school district or the county, you must do so before the vote. You can register to vote with the Albany County Board of Elections. For more information, please contact the district clerk at 518-456-6200, ext. 0125.

Qualified voters who need to vote by absentee ballot must submit an application to the district clerk at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed. Find more information, including the absentee ballot application, under "Budget & Taxes" on the district website.

### Postal Patron

Empowering all students to succeed in the 21st Century.

# Guilderland

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



# 2023-2024

## BUDGET VOTE

### Budget At A Glance

**Budget total:**  
\$119,772,194

**Spending increase:**  
\$9,884,349/8.99%

**Tax levy increase:**  
\$2,083,783/2.66%

### Also on the ballot:

- Proposition to purchase one maintenance vehicle and eight school buses
- Elect three members to the board of education

**Voters to decide on \$120 million proposed budget, board elections on Tuesday, May 16**

**Budget targets class size reduction, preserves programs, focuses on academics and safety and stays under tax cap**

On May 16, 2023, residents of the Guilderland Central School District will go to the polls to vote on the proposed \$119,772,194 budget for the 2023-24 school year. This represents a \$9,884,349, or 8.99 percent, increase in spending over the current year. If approved, the tax levy would increase by 2.66 percent, which is below the district's levy limit as defined by New York State's tax levy cap legislation.



A separate proposition will appear on the ballot to purchase school buses and a maintenance vehicle at a total cost of \$1,206,000. The purchase would include six 65-passenger buses, three with chains and three without, two 35-passenger buses and one dual-wheel chassis, one-ton pickup truck. The new buses will replace aging vehicles.

The proposed budget meets GCSD's needs and aligns with the district's goal of educating the whole student, ensuring each and every student is ready for future achievements. In addition to rigorous academics, this budget sustains the programs that contribute to the social and emotional well-being of GCSD students, such as music, the arts and athletics.

Find more information on the proposed 2023-24 budget and board of education candidates visit the "budget and taxes" tab at [www.guilderlandschools.org](http://www.guilderlandschools.org).

## Budget proposal supports GCSD's commitment to the whole student

### Academic growth and success are top priorities

The proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year aligns with the district's objective of empowering each and every Guilderland Central School District student to succeed in the 21st century. We want students to thrive now, while they attend GCSD schools, and in the future. The proposed budget gives them access to rigorous academics balanced with programs that contribute to social and emotional well-being, such as music, arts, athletics and other co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. A Guilderland education strives to engage students in meaningful ways, encouraging a lifelong love of learning; this budget upholds that.

### The proposed budget focuses on the following areas:

#### SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

A top responsibility for the district, safe and secure environments enable students and staff to feel more at ease and to be more engaged, resulting in a positive educational experience.



#### EXTRACURRICULAR

The 2023-24 budget maintains and preserves all current interscholastic and extracurricular opportunities while supporting cross country and track coaches at the modified level and adding eSports and unified bocce teams.



#### INSTRUCTION

The budget preserves robust academic offerings at all levels with a commitment to address a stakeholder priority of reducing class size, particularly at Farnsworth Middle School. Additional instructional staff and stronger data capabilities will help the district target instructional resources in all seven schools. This budget targets literacy, serving an increase in ENL needs, providing adequate resources to high-needs students and supporting students who are not meeting or at risk of not meeting standards.



#### OPERATIONAL

Transportation, technology, human resources, maintenance and facilities are just a few of the many departments necessary to operate the Guilderland Central School District on a daily basis. These departments provide clean, safe, engaging and empowering learning experiences for the more than 4,800 students; this budget aims to sustain this work while enhancing productivity and efficiency.



#### INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET

- Additional positions to promote wellness and safety, including a FMS school resource officer, expanded monitor coverage at FMS and GHS, new teacher positions in Special Education and ENL
- Increased athletic programming
- Expansion of extracurricular activities
- Operational services, upgrades and enhancements
- BOCES services
- 6.8 full-time equivalents (FTEs) for FMS class size reduction
- 2.7 FTEs for additional elementary teaching positions
- .5 FTEs for additional high school teaching positions
- Increased teaching/TA staff in the areas of special education, ENL and reading
- Tableau data reporting services to analyze academic, achievement and attendance data
- Expanded Career and Technical Education opportunities
- FTE increases in science, business and World Languages

## The Arts at GCSD

This school year, the Guilderland school community was treated to three spectacular productions; the GHS Guilderland Players staged "Love/Sick" and "Beauty and the Beast" and FMS Mask performed "Mathilda Junior." These drama presentations are just a small part of GCSD's commitment to the arts. Students have ample opportunities to express themselves creatively through music, band, choir and fine arts. The proposed 2023-24 budget preserves these opportunities, as studies show participation in the arts boosts students' academic achievement, social engagement, attendance and readiness for the future.



## Robotics

Just one of several STEM-related clubs offered in the district, GHS Robotics challenges small groups of students to design, construct, program, redesign and drive a robot that must complete tasks. At competitions, the students program their robots from scratch and record their successes and failures in an engineering notebook for review by judges. Preparing students to become future innovators, robotics encourages creativity, teamwork, leadership and problem solving. The students' hard work has earned them a spot at the World Championships held in late April; congratulations to all!



## Academic Success

Rigorous academics is the foundation for everything that happens in Guilderland schools. Providing our students with programs, services, opportunities and resources helps them to learn and achieve success. The 2023-24 spending plan strengthens this commitment with additional instructional staff at every level and stronger data analysis capabilities. This enhanced software will enable building and instructional leaders and teachers to evaluate how students are doing, to develop insights into academic strengths as well as areas where more attention is needed.



Proficiency rates for GCSD students are above the New York state average in both ELA and math.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$109,887,845	\$119,772,194	\$117,688,411
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$9,884,349	\$7,800,566
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.99%	7.10%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$78,218,651	\$80,302,434	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$220,619	\$422,800	
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)	\$78,439,270	\$80,725,234	\$78,218,651
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,633,220	\$2,153,898	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$76,715,746	\$78,422,191	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$76,585,431	\$78,148,536	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$130,315	\$273,655	
Administrative Component	\$12,541,724	\$13,204,296	\$12,619,936
Program Component	\$84,722,979	\$89,815,075	\$88,512,652
Capital Component	\$12,623,142	\$16,752,823	\$16,555,823

\*Should the district be faced with a contingency budget, the district would be subject to restrictions and limitations in areas where money could be spent. Reductions would be in the areas of capital expenditures, staffing, supplies, equipment, maintenance, staff development and contracted services.

\*\*List 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).

Proposition	Amount
School Buses, Vehicles & Equipment	\$1,206,000

Estimated basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Guilderland	\$513
Bethlehem	\$503
Knox	\$521
New Scotland	\$519

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Guilderland Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at five elementary schools in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Guilderland Central school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. \*Districts should include information according to Executive Orders and as advised by legal counsel.\*

### The Budget at a Glance

SPENDING		
	2022-23	PROPOSED 2023-24
Instruction	\$59,437,458	\$62,116,543
Employee Benefits	\$28,229,490	\$29,587,960
Transportation	\$6,462,158	\$7,336,653
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,492,951	\$5,643,599
Debt Service	\$5,580,387	\$8,218,259
Administration	\$3,080,007	\$3,378,852
Other General Support	\$1,605,394	\$2,960,147
High-Impact Tutoring Set-Aside	-	\$530,181
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109,887,845</b>	<b>\$119,772,194</b>
REVENUES		
	2022-23	PROPOSED 2023-24
Estimated Local Property Taxes	\$78,218,651	\$80,302,434
State Aid	\$29,604,807	\$37,643,032
Federal Aid	\$125,000	\$125,000
Other Local Revenue	\$949,474	\$1,181,214
Interfund Transfer	\$250,000	\$350,000
Fund Balance and Reserves	\$739,913	\$170,514
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$109,887,845</b>	<b>\$119,772,194</b>