

# Budget News

Winter 2026

## Annual Meeting April 14; Budget/Trustee Vote April 21

The proposed Western Suffolk BOCES Administrative and Capital Budgets for the 2026-27 school year will be presented at the April 14, 2026 Board of Education meeting. The Boards of Education in the 18 component school districts will vote on the budget proposal on April 21, 2026 in their respective districts.

The Western Suffolk BOCES Administrative Charge increase for 2026-27 is projected to be 2.2 percent. The increase in the charge is due primarily to increases in the costs of health insurance as well as contractual salary increases. The total Administrative Charge is distributed to the 18 component districts of Western Suffolk BOCES based on a weighted 3-year average of their daily student attendance.

Enrollment in special education programs operated by Western Suffolk BOCES continues to grow beyond the capacity of agency-owned schools and resulting in the need to lease additional classroom space. Currently, Western Suffolk BOCES leases some classroom space in the Chestnut Hill School in Half Hollow Hills and all of Forest Avenue in West Babylon for the operation of special education elementary programs. Additionally, the agency continues to lease Brennan High School in North Babylon and space in two other locations for Alternative Learning Center classrooms. Together, these rental costs result in an increase in the BOCES Capital Budget of approximately \$295,648, which, when combined with capital projects, brings the total Capital Budget increase to \$420,648 for 2026-27. This increase will be shared by all 18 component



Western Suffolk BOCES is now providing elementary special education at Forest Avenue School to accommodate increasing enrollment.

school districts according to their Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA).

### 90.8% of Budget Supports Programs/Services

The proposed tentative 2026-27 budget targets nearly 91 percent of its \$253,352,527 toward the programs and services Western Suffolk BOCES provides to school districts in special education, career and technical education and instructional support services.

Other budgetary categories and their portion of the overall budget are:

- Capital projects, including the cost of renting four buildings as well as support of facilities owned by BOCES: 1.9%
- Central Administrative Budget: 2.4%
- Post-retirement benefits for 857 retirees: 4.9%

### Annual Meeting & Annual Vote

The 2026-27 Administrative and Capital Budgets will be presented at the Western Suffolk BOCES Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in the Large Conference Room at the Central Administration Office, 507 Deer Park Road, Dix Hills. The 18 component school district Boards of Education will vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. In accordance with law, local Boards will vote on the candidates seeking a total of two seats on the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education as well as the Administrative Budget during meetings held in their respective districts on that date.



Western Suffolk BOCES provides comprehensive Career & Technical Education to high school students in a number of career clusters.

# Administrative & Capital Budgets

## Western Suffolk BOCES Budget

Copies of the entire budget including details on the administrative, capital and program budgets are available in the Superintendent's office of each of the component districts; in the office of the BOCES District Clerk; or at: [wsboces.org/budget](http://wsboces.org/budget).

### Western Suffolk BOCES Board & Officers

- Brian J. Sales  
President
- Mary Ellen Cunningham  
Vice President
- Debbie Adams-Kaden
- Ilene Herz, Esq.
- Jeannette Santos
- Robert Scheid
- Peter Wunsch
- Michael Flynn  
Chief Operating  
Officer
- April E. Poprilo  
District Superintendent



631/549-4900  
[wsboces.org](http://wsboces.org)

|  | 2025-26        | 2026-27        |              |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Central Administration</b>            |                |                |              |
| <b>Personnel</b>                         |                |                |              |
| Executive Officer                        | 167,340        | 167,340        |              |
| Other certified personnel                | 509,903        | 478,434        |              |
| Non-certified personnel                  | 2,478,172      | 2,578,566      |              |
| Benefits for active employees            | 1,447,113      | 1,534,767      |              |
| <b>Non-Personnel</b>                     |                |                |              |
| Equipment                                | 2,000          | 2,500          |              |
| Supplies and materials                   | 18,000         | 18,000         |              |
| Contracted Services                      | 523,450        | 567,450        |              |
| BOCES internal services                  | 637,000        | 654,250        |              |
| Subtotal Central Admin.                  | 5,782,978      | 6,001,307      | +\$320,614   |
| <b>Post-Retirement Benefits</b>          |                |                |              |
| Other Post-Retirement Benefits*          | \$11,557,847   | \$12,456,853   | +\$886,330   |
| <b>Total Administrative Budget</b>       | \$17,360,825   | \$18,458,160   | +\$1,206,944 |
| <b>Revenues</b>                          |                |                |              |
| Charges to Non-Comp. Dist.               | 180,000        | 180,000        |              |
| Interest on Deposits                     | 670,000        | 800,000        |              |
| Rental of Facilities                     | 3,500          | 3,500          |              |
| Special Aid Funds                        | 42,000         | 42,000         |              |
| Miscellaneous                            | 165,000        | 150,000        |              |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                    | \$1,060,500    | \$1,175,500    |              |
| Transfers from Program Budgets*          | 11,577,847     | 12,456,853     |              |
| <b>Total Revenues &amp; Transfers</b>    | (\$12,638,347) | (\$13,632,353) | (\$994,006)  |
| <b>Total Admin. Charge to Districts</b>  | \$4,722,478    | \$4,825,807    | +\$212,938   |
| <b>Capital Budget</b>                    |                |                |              |
| Rental of Facilities                     | 1,513,182      | 1,808,830      |              |
| Capital Projects Fund                    | 3,000,000      | 3,125,000      |              |
|  | 4,513,182      | 4,933,830      |              |
| <b>Revenues</b>                          |                |                |              |
| Transfers from Program Budgets           | (150,000)      | (150,000)      |              |
| Unexpended Funds                         | (600,000)      | (600,000)      |              |
| <b>Total Capital Charge to Districts</b> | \$3,763,182    | \$4,183,830    | +\$420,648   |

\*The costs for Other Post-Retirement Benefits are funded from program budgets in current/prior years.



## The following answers are meant to clarify the most frequently asked questions about the BOCES budget.

**Q. What are the main parts of the BOCES Budget?**

- A.** The BOCES Budget is really three different budgets:
- Administrative Budget contains the costs of central administration and the post-retirement benefits for retirees from the agency.
  - Capital Budget contains the costs for rental of facilities and the capital projects fund.
  - Program Budgets contain all costs associated with staffing the BOCES programs and services that districts request.

**Q. How much state aid do districts receive for BOCES services?**

- A.** Based on last year's use of BOCES services, districts will directly receive \$48.8 million in state aid this year.

**Q. Why do districts only vote on the administrative portion of the BOCES budget?**

- A.** Chapter 295 of the Laws of 1993 specifically limits the vote to the administrative portion.

**Q. How is my district's share of the Administrative Charge calculated? Why does my share change?**

- A.** By agreement with our participating school districts, the charge for the administrative function is distributed among the 18 districts based upon the 3-year average of their Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA). Any change is based on the change in the percentage of a district's student attendance compared to the other 17 districts. Districts with the greatest growth in enrollments may see the largest increases.

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## What's my district's share?

\*based on 3 year average of Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA)

|                    | BOCES Admin Charges* |                    |                  | BOCES Capital Charges* |                    |                  | Total Change     |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                    | 2025-26              | 2026-27            | Diff             | 2025-26                | 2026-27            | Diff             |                  |
| Amityville         | 177,323              | 181,269            | 3,946            | 141,303                | 157,155            | 15,852           | 19,798           |
| Babylon            | 97,781               | 99,920             | 2,139            | 77,918                 | 86,627             | 8,709            | 10,848           |
| Cold Spring Hbr    | 102,381              | 103,109            | 728              | 81,584                 | 89,392             | 7,808            | 8,536            |
| Commack            | 361,313              | 367,498            | 6,185            | 287,918                | 318,610            | 30,692           | 36,876           |
| Copiague           | 304,509              | 315,683            | 11,174           | 242,653                | 273,688            | 31,035           | 42,209           |
| Deer Park          | 248,900              | 260,617            | 11,717           | 198,340                | 225,947            | 27,607           | 39,324           |
| Elwood             | 128,645              | 130,975            | 2,330            | 102,513                | 113,552            | 11,039           | 13,369           |
| Half Hollow Hills  | 465,761              | 476,401            | 10,640           | 371,149                | 413,025            | 41,876           | 52,516           |
| Harborfields       | 182,267              | 186,104            | 3,837            | 145,243                | 161,347            | 16,104           | 19,941           |
| Huntington         | 256,743              | 263,118            | 6,375            | 204,590                | 228,115            | 23,525           | 29,900           |
| Kings Park         | 170,980              | 172,077            | 1,097            | 136,248                | 149,186            | 12,938           | 14,035           |
| Lindenhurst        | 358,962              | 371,312            | 12,350           | 286,044                | 321,916            | 35,872           | 48,222           |
| North Babylon      | 288,276              | 298,530            | 10,254           | 229,717                | 258,816            | 29,099           | 39,353           |
| Npt-East Northport | 294,984              | 294,361            | (623)            | 235,063                | 255,202            | 20,139           | 19,517           |
| Smithtown          | 508,541              | 505,435            | (3,106)          | 405,239                | 438,197            | 32,958           | 29,852           |
| South Huntington   | 370,128              | 379,128            | 9,000            | 294,942                | 328,693            | 33,751           | 42,751           |
| West Babylon       | 234,613              | 242,233            | 7,620            | 186,955                | 210,009            | 23,054           | 30,674           |
| Wyandanch          | 170,371              | 178,038            | 7,667            | 135,763                | 154,354            | 18,591           | 26,258           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$4,722,478</b>   | <b>\$4,825,807</b> | <b>\$103,329</b> | <b>\$3,763,182</b>     | <b>\$4,183,830</b> | <b>\$420,648</b> | <b>\$523,977</b> |

Note: Figures rounded to the nearest dollar

## Remember these April dates!

| Sun. | Mon. | Tues.     | Wed.   | Thur. | Fri. | Sat. |
|------|------|-----------|--|-------|------|------|
| 5    | 6    | 7         | 8  | 9     | 10   | 11   |
| 12   | 13   | <b>14</b> | Annual Meeting Budget Presentation & Meet-the-Candidates |       |      |      |
| 19   | 20   | <b>21</b> | BOCES Budget Vote & Election                             |       |      |      |

The 2026 Annual Meeting of Western Suffolk BOCES will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in the Large Conference Room at BOCES Central Administration, 507 Deer Park Rd., Dix Hills, at which time component board members may ask questions about the BOCES budget. A Meet the Candidate session will also be scheduled that evening for Board members to listen to and question those seeking to fill two seats on the Western Suffolk BOCES Board. Board members of the 18 school districts in Babylon, Smithtown and Huntington townships will vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and elect two members to the BOCES Board on Tuesday, April 21. Voting takes place in each district.

## Per Pupil Charges Remain Below State Average

Western Suffolk BOCES had consistently kept its combined administrative and capital charge per pupil below the average for BOCES in New York State, according to New York State Education Department summaries. "Throughout the budget process, we remained aware of the financial challenges our district's phase and prepare this budget with those challenges in mind," said Brian J. Sales, Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education President. For copies of the 2026-27 Tentative Budget, call 631-549-4900, ext. 224 or visit [wsbores.org/budget](http://wsbores.org/budget) for a downloadable copy.



### Q. What has impacted the administrative budget?

A. The modest increase in the Administrative Budget is primarily a result of contractual Salary increases.

### Q. What happens if the BOCES administrative budget is defeated?

A. The Western Suffolk BOCES Board must adopt a contingency administrative budget that may not exceed the amount in the previous year. Expenditures for health insurance benefits for retirees are exempt.

### Q. How does a BOCES fund capital projects?

A. The BOCES Board must authorize the funds for each specific capital project which are accounted for in the Capital Projects Fund. Unlike local districts, BOCES does not have the authority to issue bonds or to create capital reserve funds to finance unspecified future renovations or other capital projects. BOCES must pay for repairs through annual charges to school districts in the Capital Budget or through appropriations from program budgets. In general, BOCES capital projects are smaller than those in the local districts.

### Q. What capital projects are planned?

A. Proposed capital projects in the 2026-27 proposed budget include window replacements, upgrading electrical panels and fire alarms, work on rooftop HVAC units, paving projects at two campuses and renovations.

### Q. How are program budgets determined?

A. Program budgets change throughout the year to accommodate districts' requests for services. Each district pays ONLY for the services it requests. For 2026-27, tuition for secondary career and technical education programs at Wilson Tech and for special education programs will see an average increase of 3.2%.

