



AKRON

Central School District

Budget Issue 2025

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

NOON - 9:00PM

GYM 3

Adjacent to the Upper HS Parking Lot

Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00PM

Edward Allen Auditorium

Voter Qualifications: You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident within the Akron Central School District for a period of 30 days prior to the vote. **Please bring identification.**

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Seneca language student shows off the corn husk doll she made!



Intro to Business students make product pitch for Market on Main.



Fire Safety Week with Akron & Newstead Fire Companies. We thank you!



Fifth graders help kindergarteners learn BINGO game.



Grade 8 CDE students at the band saw.



ACS reps for the N-O League Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) with Bills Elvis.

Budget Vote • Tuesday, May 20, 2025

www.akronschools.org

#OneAKRON

Akron Central 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	\$43,926,821	\$39,044,762	\$38,652,660
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		-\$4,882,059	-\$392,102
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-11.1%	-12.0%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,475,471	\$10,684,980	
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)	\$10,475,471	\$10,684,980	\$10,475,471
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$411,125	\$416,329	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,456,277	\$10,355,017	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$10,064,346	\$10,268,651	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$391,931	\$86,366	
Administrative Component	\$4,217,122	\$4,444,941	\$4,444,941
Program Component	\$25,983,835	\$28,071,342	\$27,923,240
Capital Component	\$13,725,864	\$6,528,479	\$6,284,479
The Capital Component of this budget includes \$100,000 to fund a Capital Outlay Project.			
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
A CONTINGENT BUDGET FOR 2025-26 IS ANTICIPATED TO RESULT IN A DECREASE OF \$292,102 IN CONTINGENT EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES. OTHER NON-CONTINGENT EXPENDITURE LINES THAT TOTAL \$100,000 WILL ALSO BE REDUCED IF NECESSARY. FINAL CONTINGENT BUDGET DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN LATE JUNE IF REQUIRED.			
** 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
	Purchase and Financing of School Buses		\$554,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$272

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the AKRON CENTRAL school district, ERIE County, New York, will be held at the High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 12:00PM and 9:00PM, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



Media Production class gets Channel 7 tour.



8th graders participate in Manufacturing, Construction & Trade activities at SUNY ECC.



Chinese lantern-making at the Lunar New Year Celebration.



Traditional Native dress clothes described at social dancing assembly.



We have a new athletic logo following a community vote!

A Message from our Board President & Superintendent

As we share the proposed 2025 - 2026 school budget with our Akron Schools community, we begin with a heartfelt THANK YOU! Your continued support, trust, and partnership mean a great deal. This budget reflects our shared commitment to our children and our belief in their potential, rooted in our mission to nurture the unique gifts, dreams, and strengths of every student.

We remain focused on thoughtful, responsible budgeting that sustains high-quality academic programs, maintains our facilities, and supports a fund balance to meet long-term goals. This proposition is guided by our District Strategic Plan - shaped by the voices of students, families, and staff - while centered on student growth and opportunity. Built with care and collaboration, it reflects a transparent process of identifying needs, weighing priorities, and finding a balance. We remain committed to minimizing tax increases while delivering rich educational experiences our students deserve.

This year's budget expands learning opportunities. For middle schoolers, new enrichment opportunities in cooking, nutrition, and debate, are designed to help students discover their aptitudes and build real-world skills. At the High School, new math electives and a course in business arts support student interests and future readiness by encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and entrepreneurship.

We're also investing in the arts with funds dedicated to replacing aging musical instruments, helping to ensure students have access to inspiring, high-quality programming.

A proposition before voters to acquire two new diesel 66-passenger buses and two smaller gasoline buses is part of the ongoing bus replacement strategy to keep the District's fleet dependable and safe while avoiding large-scale replacements.

We encourage the community to attend the annual Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM in the Edward Allen Auditorium. It will be live-streamed via YouTube from our website link. The annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election is May 20th from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Gym 3. For absentee ballot inquiries, please contact the District Office at (716)542-5006 or email districtclerk@akronk12.org. Visit our website for further details.

Sincerely,

Erik Polkowski
Board of Education President

Andrea S. Kersten
Superintendent of Schools



Erik Polkowski
President, Board
of Education



Andrea S. Kersten
Superintendent

PS - We're excited about the progress in Phase 1 of our Capital Improvement Project! Work is well underway at the transportation facility, improving safety and efficiency. At the High School, upgraded entrances and hallways will transform shared spaces into welcoming, student-centered environments that honor our history while looking to the future. Phase 2, beginning in the coming year, includes a secure entry vestibule to enhance safety, additional facility improvements, and a new turf athletic field and complex to serve our students and the wider community for many years to come!

Photo highlights of another fantastic school year at Akron

The 2024-25 school year at Akron Schools was filled with student success and enriching opportunities, a glimpse of which is captured by dedicated faculty and staff at akronschools.org or on our Facebook page [@AkronCentralSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/AkronCentralSchoolDistrict).



Elementary friends at the bus loop.



Indigenous students explore The Big Woods.



Construction Career Day at the Operating Engineers Training Facility.



Elementary students perform at "Homegrown" assembly.



Juniors experience Bank on Buffalo's Financial Reality Fair.



Santa's Helpers Band performs with Santa at Galleria Mall.



Friends from The Music Man production.

in these photos. Discover more stories and photo galleries highlighting the achievements of our students and the commitment of our



Team-building exercise at High School Leadership Conference.



Interact Club members are tech coaches at Newstead Senior Center.



Day of the Dead celebration in the LMC.



"Balloons over Bloomingdale" by our 4th graders returns for Thanksgiving.



Wampum creation and use explained at the US History Fair.



Keeping it fun at Freshmen & New Student Orientation.



Golf team goes undefeated! N-O League Champs and winners of All-League Tournament.



Scholastic Bowl enjoys a winning season in both GV BOCES and WLVL leagues.

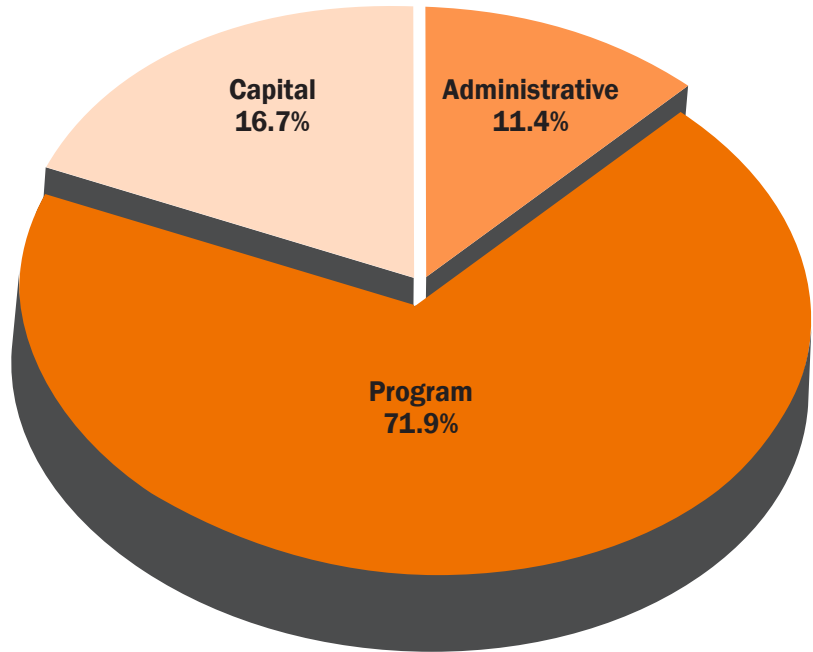


Red Ribbon Week - Students Too Bright to do Drugs!

2025-2026 General Fund Appropriations

Tripartite Budget

Total: \$39,044,762



Middle schoolers collaborate at bullying prevention workshop.



Elementary students learn archery in PE.



Basketball teams make toy donations for patients at Oishei Children's Hospital.

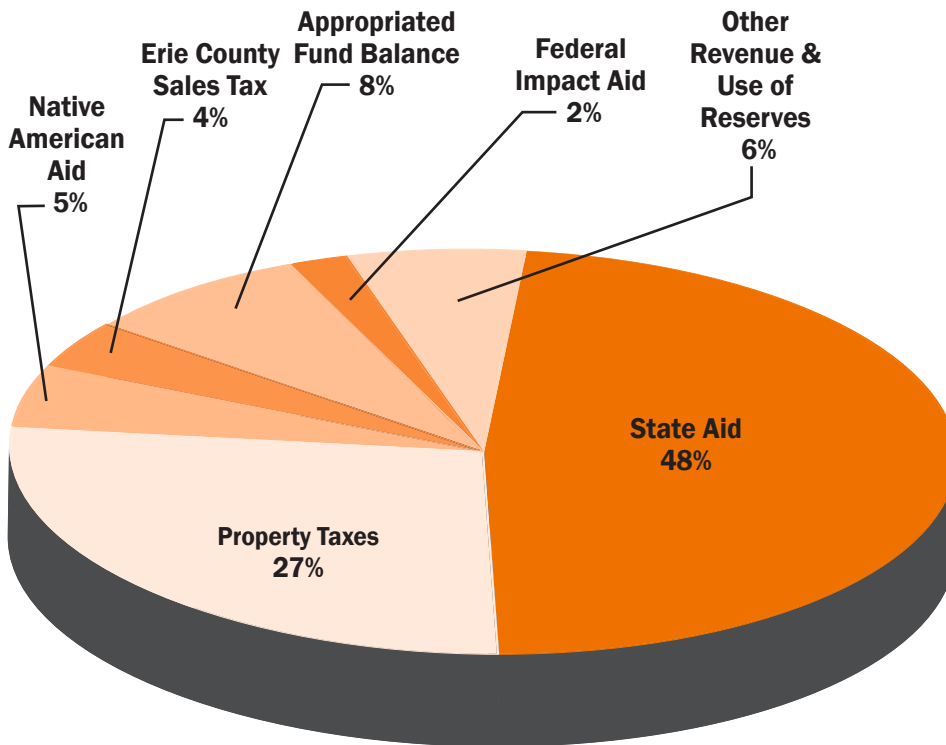


MS & KDG Tech Buddies teaching and learning with Ozobots.

	Adopted 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	\$ Change
Administrative Component			
Board of Education/District Clerk	\$ 49,468	\$ 46,670	\$ (2,798)
Central Office/District Services	\$ 1,629,725	\$ 1,637,198	\$ 7,473
Legal & Personnel	\$ 223,500	\$ 233,500	\$ 10,000
Instructional Administration	\$ 1,460,228	\$ 1,524,585	\$ 64,357
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 854,201	\$ 1,002,988	\$ 148,787
	\$ 4,217,122	\$ 4,444,941	\$ 227,819
Program Component			
Instruction	\$ 11,415,838	\$ 12,004,920	\$ 589,082
Exceptional Education	\$ 5,705,315	\$ 6,101,334	\$ 396,019
Co-Curricular & Athletics	\$ 873,594	\$ 931,896	\$ 58,302
Transportation	\$ 1,854,877	\$ 1,920,348	\$ 65,471
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 6,134,211	\$ 7,112,844	\$ 978,633
	\$ 25,983,835	\$ 28,071,342	\$ 2,087,507
Capital Component			
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 2,647,331	\$ 2,469,571	\$ (177,760)
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$ 3,555,833	\$ 1,746,541	\$ (1,809,292)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ 6,886,629	\$ 1,668,618	\$ (5,218,011)
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 636,071	\$ 643,749	\$ 7,678
	\$ 13,725,864	\$ 6,528,479	\$ (7,197,385)
Total Expenditures	\$ 43,926,821	\$ 39,044,762	\$ (4,882,059)



2025-2026 Proposed General Fund Revenues



Contingent Budget Spending

Contingency budget estimates are based on Section 2023 of the Education Law. A contingency budget for Akron CSD for 2025-26 is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$392,102 from the original budget of \$39,044,762.

Under a contingency budget, state law allows a school district to operate the regular instructional program, preserve the health and safety of students and staff, and protect the district's property. Districts are prohibited from spending money on items such as new equipment or nonessential maintenance projects. In addition, a district would be required to charge for public use of their facilities, except when there is no cost to the district.

	Adopted 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	\$ Change
State Aid:			
Foundation Aid/General Aid	\$ 11,546,649	\$ 11,749,722	\$ 203,073
Excess Cost Aid	\$ 732,348	\$ 754,972	\$ 22,624
BOCES	\$ 1,541,387	\$ 1,360,814	\$ (180,573)
Hardware and Technology	\$ 21,129	\$ 19,561	\$ (1,568)
Textbook, Software, Library	\$ 99,677	\$ 100,016	\$ 339
Transportation	\$ 1,656,711	\$ 1,819,281	\$ 162,570
Building	\$ 2,894,694	\$ 1,254,633	\$ (1,640,061)
Native American Building Aid	\$ 1,717,998	\$ 1,568,618	\$ (149,380)
	\$ 20,210,593	\$ 18,627,617	\$ (1,582,976)
Other Revenue:			
Native American Aid	\$ 2,074,000	\$ 2,074,000	\$ -
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ (100,000)
Federal Impact Aid	\$ 650,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 150,000
Other Revenues	\$ 958,126	\$ 1,072,165	\$ 114,039
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,940,000	\$ 2,940,000	\$ 1,000,000
Use of Reserves/Transfers In	\$ 6,118,631	\$ 1,446,000	\$ (4,672,631)
	\$ 13,240,757	\$ 9,732,165	\$ (3,508,592)
Real Property Tax Levy:	\$ 10,475,471	\$ 10,684,980	\$ 209,509
Total Revenues:	\$ 43,926,821	\$ 39,044,762	\$ (4,882,059)



Art Club members make a spooky Halloween decoration using cheesecloth and glue.



Grade 5 Ancient Artifact Museum.

STAR Program Information

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides New York homeowners with partial exemptions from school property taxes. For information on how the relief program works or how calculations are made, please contact the Town of Newstead Assessor's Office, 5 Clarence Center Road, P.O. Box 227, Akron, NY 14001 or call (716) 542-5473 Option 4 or visit www.tax.ny.gov/star.

Akron Central School

47 Bloomingdale Avenue
Akron, NY 14001

Board of Education

Erik Polkowski, President
Phillip Kenline, Vice President
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Andrea S. Kersten

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SAMPLE BALLOT



PROPOSITION NO. 1 2025-2026 Budget

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Akron Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated, and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Board of Education Members

Three (3) Seats Vacant

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill three (3) at-large vacancies. All seats are for three (3) year terms, 7/1/2025-6/30/2028.

VOTE FOR ANY THREE

Chandra Jagielo Julie Matusek Heather Cayea
Connor Borchert Kristy Pingitore

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Acquisition of School Buses (and Related Equipment)

Shall the following resolutions be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Akron Central School District (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase school buses and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the District, including two (2) sixty-six (66) passenger buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$170,000 each and two (2) van-type buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$107,000, (with such estimated maximum cost reflecting the value of any trade-ins), and to expend therefor an aggregate sum not to exceed \$554,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$554,000 (which may include certain up-front financing costs), plus an amount for interest thereon, shall be funded by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in anticipation of such tax, bonds or other obligations in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$554,000 (including, without limitation, obligations arising under leases, lease/purchase contracts or installment purchase contracts) of the District shall be issued or entered into in accordance with applicable provisions of New York State law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State Transportation Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 • 12:00 Noon - 9:00PM

High School Gymnasium #3 (Orange Gym)