

State Increases Foundation Aid

Superintendent grateful for community advocacy and lawmakers' consistent support for District



On Monday, April 12, 2021, North Syracuse Central School District officials presented their 2021-2022 school budget proposal to the Board of Education. The presentation was refreshingly positive considering the uncertainty of funding because of the COVID pandemic and its negative impact on the state economy.

This year's State budget includes a significant increase in Foundation Aid, along with the commitment to increase funding over the next three years and fully fund it thereafter. This news is encouraging because Foundation Aid shortfalls that have existed for more than a decade have negatively impacted our children's education.

Over those years, our community has advocated for the full funding of Foundation Aid. This year, however, our legislators were able to secure an additional \$3.5 million in Foundation Aid for our District. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their efforts and I wanted to use this platform as a way of expressing my own thanks.

To Assemblyman Al Stirpe and Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter, State Senator Rachel May and State Senator John Mannion, please accept my sincere thanks for advocating on behalf of our students.

Your efforts to address our student, teacher and staff needs by providing this additional funding, have been exceptional and are tremendously appreciated. Our District is lucky to have you working on our behalf.

To our community members, if you would like to join me in thanking these outstanding advocates, please find their contact information on our budget website at www.nscsd.org/budget.

Daniel D. Bowles

Daniel D. Bowles
North Syracuse Central School District Superintendent of Schools

Recovering from COVID

NSCSD carefully targets funds in budget proposal

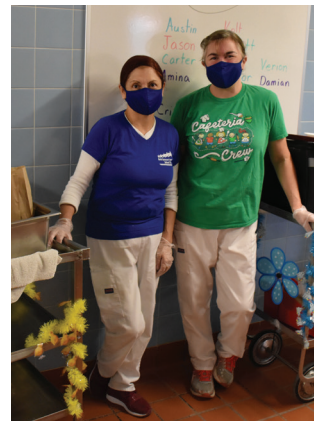
On Wednesday, April 14, 2021, the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education adopted a \$180,258,175 million budget proposal for the 2021-2022 school year. The proposed budget will be voted on by District residents on Tuesday, May 18.

This year's budget proposal carefully targets funding toward the academic and social-emotional impacts of COVID. For the past year, schools have been working through the many challenges associated with the pandemic. In the April 12 presentation to the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Bowles discussed additions to the budget in order to address the social-emotional needs of students.

"Many of our students have struggled academically over the past year, but the impact of not being in-person full-time has also caused emotional distress," Bowles said. "Our budget proposal prioritizes helping students and staff recover in all areas."

To address the social-emotional impact, the budget proposal includes the addition of two social workers at Cicero-North Syracuse High School, a school counselor at North Syracuse Junior High School, staffing enhancements throughout the District and several targeted trainings and initiatives.

The District's budget proposal also prioritizes support for student learning in response to COVID and the reduction of in-person learning, ongoing management of the disease through established health and safety protocols and continued support for technological best practices.



Throughout the COVID pandemic, food service staff have kept students fed by delivering meals to homes, providing pickup for remote students and serving meals in classrooms.

District Expenditures

Program	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$136,889,932	\$141,045,428	\$4,155,496	3.0%
Regular Instruction	\$44,978,159	\$48,733,856	\$3,755,697	8.4%
Special School Program	\$23,894,049	\$24,328,155	\$434,106	1.8%
Student Services	\$11,624,674	\$12,086,622	\$461,948	4.0%
In-Service Training	\$466,461	\$613,109	\$146,648	31.4%
Legal	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	0.0%
Transportation	\$9,043,175	\$9,297,360	\$254,185	2.8%
Employee Benefits	\$46,683,414	\$45,786,326	-\$897,088	-1.9%

The Program/instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for **78.3% of the entire budget**.

Administrative	2020-2021 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$13,769,282	\$16,284,624	\$2,515,342	18.3%
*Board of Education	\$188,191	\$189,228	\$1,037	0.6%
Central Administration	\$2,138,029	\$2,261,890	\$123,861	5.8%
Central Support	\$2,220,397	\$2,249,662	\$29,265	1.3%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$5,718,255	\$6,302,003	\$583,748	10.2%
Employee Benefits	\$3,504,410	\$5,281,841	\$1,777,431	50.7%

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up **9% of the entire budget**.

*Please note, Board members are volunteers. There is no compensation associated with these positions.

Capital	2020-2021 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$21,908,530	\$22,928,123	\$1,019,593	4.7%
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$11,032,710	\$11,489,397	\$456,687	4.1%
Central Support	\$183,140	\$200,000	\$16,860	9.2%
Employee Benefits	\$3,405,961	\$4,434,996	\$1,029,035	30.2%
Debt service	\$7,286,719	\$6,803,730	-\$482,989	-6.6%

Consistent with the past several years, the Capital component includes a \$100,000 special capital project.

The Capital component accounts for **12.7% of the entire budget**.

Total Expenditures	2020-2021 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	\$172,567,744	\$180,258,175	\$7,690,431	4.5%

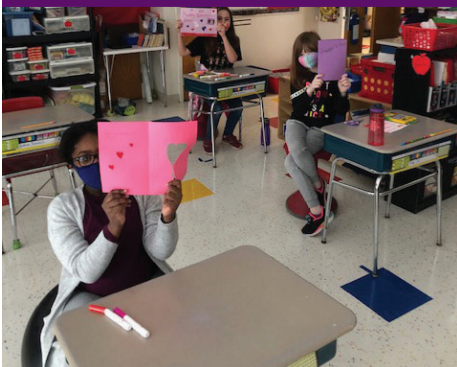
District Revenues

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
PILOTS	\$424,408	\$475,616	\$51,208	12.1%
Sales tax	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	0.0%
Interest	\$450,000	\$100,000	-\$350,000	-77.8%
Rent	\$404,000	\$404,000	\$0	0.0%
Fund balance	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$0	0.0%
Use of General Reserve	\$1,000,000	\$0	-\$1,000,000	N/A
Medicaid	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$2,150,000	\$2,595,703	\$445,703	20.7%
Subtotal	\$76,373,387	\$81,861,910	\$5,488,523	7.19%
General Aid	\$67,044,979	\$72,386,591	\$5,341,612	8.0%
Building Aid	\$3,649,402	\$3,030,833	-\$618,569	-16.9%
Aid Total	\$70,694,381	\$75,417,424	\$4,723,043	6.7%
Property tax levy	\$92,544,955	\$95,365,432	\$2,820,477	3.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$172,567,744	\$180,258,175	\$7,690,431	4.5%

“Picture” the Costs of Running a District

Each year, public schools in New York State are required to report spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital. The program, or instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget. Expenses in this area include transportation, regular and special education costs, student services, training and employee benefits. As a people-based business, the NSCS D spends the majority of money on the personnel required to ensure that students attend school and receive the best education possible.

Program - 78.3%



The **Program** is the largest portion of the North Syracuse Central School District budget. It consists of the costs associated with educating students. Expenses in this area include transportation, regular and special education costs, student services, training and employee benefits. As a people-based business, the NSCS D spends the majority of money on personnel.

Administrative - 9%



The **Administrative** portion of the budget is made up of costs associated with the Board of Education, District administration, support services and staff development. Board of Education members do not receive compensation for their service. This is the smallest portion of the budget.

Capital - 12.7%



The **Capital** component of the budget includes costs associated with the regular maintenance and upkeep of buildings and grounds, as well as special construction projects. Projects in the past few years have included security enhancements such as the creation of single point-of-entry to school buildings, like the one pictured above at the junior high school.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The Board is composed of nine members who are elected by District voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board. The terms of three Board members expire each June 30th. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote.

This year there are six candidates running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms and an additional vacant seat due to the passing of Board of Education Member Erin McDonald. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three (3) year terms (from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024) and the candidate receiving the 4th highest number of votes will be elected to fill the unexpired term (from May 19, 2021 through June 30, 2023).

Each Board of Education candidate is responsible for providing information for his or her own biography. The District does not endorse one candidate over another and reserves the right to edit biographies for space purposes. Candidate biographies are listed alphabetically below and onto the following page.

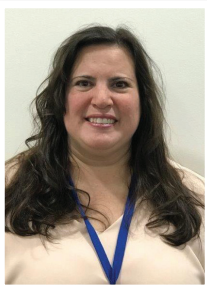


Paul Farfaglia is seeking reelection for a third term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. He has served as President of the Board since 2019.

Mr. Farfaglia has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for 32 years, currently residing in the District in Liverpool with his wife Rosemary. Their daughter, Courtney, is a 2006 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School and 2010 graduate of Niagara University.

Mr. Farfaglia is a retired teacher from the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District. He graduated from Canastota High School and earned degrees from Le Moyne College (BA in Biology with an education minor) and SUNY Oswego (Master of Biology).

Mr. Farfaglia is a proud donor and active member of North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars. He currently serves on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education Executive, Policy, Audit and Legislative Committees.



Michelle Henry is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education.

Michelle has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 18 years, currently residing in North Syracuse with her husband, Daniel, and their two children, Christina and Daniel. Christina is a student at Cicero-North Syracuse High School and Daniel is a student at North Syracuse Junior High School.

Mrs. Henry is a Registered Nurse Case Manager working for Fidelis Insurance, which is owned by the parent company, Centene.

She is a graduate of Liverpool High School and attended Onondaga Community College and Morrisville College taking science courses in nursing. She graduated from Crouse Hospital College of Nursing with an associate's degree in nursing and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Grand Canyon University.



Beth Kramer, Ed.D., is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education.

She has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 21 years, currently residing in Cicero with her two children, Raychel and Stephen, both graduates of Cicero-North Syracuse High School. Ms. Kramer is pre-deceased by her husband, Stephen J. Kramer.

Dr. Kramer is an elementary school principal at Walberta Park in the Westhill Central School District. She graduated from New Hartford High School and went on to earn degrees from Le Moyne College (BA in English Education) and Syracuse University (MS in Special Education) and St. John Fisher (Education Doctorate in Executive Leadership). She also earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration from Syracuse University.

Dr. Kramer is a former softball coach and religious education teacher at Sacred Heart Church of Cicero.



Xavier Moody-Wusik is seeking his first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education.

Xavier has been a resident of the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 11 years and is a graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School. After graduation from C-NS in 2018, he went to St. Bonaventure to study adolescent psychology. Following his freshman year, he transferred to Syracuse University, where he is currently enrolled studying social studies education.

Xavier currently volunteers as an assistant coach with the St. Rose Varsity Basketball team.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



Nicole Planty is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. She is a life-long resident of the North Syracuse Central School District, currently residing in Cicero with her husband, Josh, and their two children, Kane and Olivia. Kane is a student at Lakeshore Road Elementary School and Olivia is a student at Gillette Road Middle School.

Nicole currently works as a cosmetology instructor with high school juniors and seniors at East Syracuse Minoa High School and is the owner of a salon in North Syracuse. She graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School and attended SUNY Oswego for teacher preparation and the University of Phoenix for educational leadership.

Nicole is the varsity cheerleading coach in the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District.



Mark Thorne is seeking reelection for his second term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. Mr. Thorne has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 20 years, currently residing in Cicero with his wife Sandra, a teacher in the District, and their daughter Lillian, a junior at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. The Thornes have two older daughters, Lauren and Madeline, both graduates of Cicero-North Syracuse High School. Lauren is currently a senior at Canisius College and Madeline is a freshman at St. Bonaventure University.

Mr. Thorne is a web developer with Bloomberg Industry Group where he designs, develops and maintains internal and external websites.

Mr. Thorne graduated from Jamesville-DeWitt High School and holds a BA degree in computer science from SUNY Potsdam. He currently serves on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education Executive and Policy Committees.

Recovering from COVID (continued from cover)

Dr., Christopher Leahey, the District's Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, elaborated about the ongoing management of COVID and initiatives in that area.

"Throughout this pandemic, our staff have done a tremendous job managing COVID. They have kept us going by wiping down surfaces and taking temperatures, administering COVID tests and feeding our kids," Dr. Leahey said. "The proposal includes the addition of a District Nurse Supervisor to lead our nursing team and ensure access to a high quality in-school health care system."

While the budget does propose additions in some areas, it also includes a net reduction of 7 elementary teachers due to decreased enrollment, which will be offset by retirements. Other items impacting the budget include savings from a new prescription drug plan for retirees, increased maintenance and operations staffing and additional costs associated with equipment to support learning environments.



A detailed budget presentation outlining all items is available online by [clicking here](#) or going to www.nscsd.org/budget.

Over the course of the 2020-2021 school year, school nurses have been working to ensure the safety of all NSCSD students and staff and to prevent the spread of illness. Nursing and health office staff have worked tirelessly to care for sick students and staff, assist with contact tracing, administer COVID testing within buildings and for student athletes, and serve as a resource for students staff and families. The NSCSD 2021-2022 budget proposal includes the addition of a District Nurse Supervisor and plans to continue COVID testing and begin in-District vaccination.



Budget Proposal Prioritizes Support for Student Learning

District Prepares Additional Learning Supports for Students Who Have Struggled During Pandemic

Over the past year, with the majority of students learning remotely for at least a portion of the time, adjustments were made to ensure continuity of learning, but gaps are expected. The North Syracuse Central School District's 2021-2022 budget proposal includes funding to support student learning in response to COVID and the reduction of in-person instruction.

As the District continues to bring students back for more in-person learning, it will be assessing students' needs and potential deficits. Superintendent of Schools Daniel Bowles talked about the need to plan in this area. "We know for certain that students have suffered academically. We will be prepared to help our teachers meet students' needs," Bowles said. "We are proposing the addition of seven AIS [Academic Intervention Services] teachers and four teachers on special assignment to support our elementary and middle schools."

The District is also proposing the addition of a Director of Mathematics. This individual will coordinate the development of math curriculum and ensure that teachers have the support they need to develop critical academic skills in all NSCSD students. In addition, summer programs at both the primary and secondary levels will be expanded.

The State's budget includes a significant increase in Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) funding. While the parameters of that aid have not yet been defined, the District expects that it will provide a full day program for four year-old children, rather than the current half day program.

Regarding the NSCSD's proposed budget, Superintendent Bowles said, "We are incredibly fortunate, especially after the tumultuous past year, to be in a financial position to truly support our kids."



Pictured above: When North Syracuse Central School District's K-4 students returned to school five days/week on April 12, school staff celebrated the combining of Cohorts and the addition of previously fully remote students in a variety of fun and unique ways. Brianna Zinger, a third grade teacher at Allen Road Elementary School shared this picture of her students, Aris Frisina and Amelia Wright, showing their excitement for the change.

Pictured below: Kindergarten teachers at Allen Road Elementary School took a moment before students arrived for the first day of their first full week of the 2021-2022 school year on April 12 to take a socially distant picture with their school's welcome back "Gators" sign.



Pictured far left: Nicolas Prince and Laylani Mike are new kindergarten students at KWS Bear Road Elementary School. The students both started the 2020-2021 school year as fully remote students. When the NSCSD shifted to five days of in-person instruction for K-4 students on April 12, the "new" students excitedly took part in "welcome back" spirit activities at their school.

Pictured near left: Cicero Elementary School Mascot, Chipper the Eaglet, made an appearance at the school on April 12 to help welcome K-4 students back for five full days of in-person instruction. The popular mascot eagerly greeted students with hugs and high-fives! Thank you to Stacy Peffley for sharing her photos.

Information for Voters

Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in the May 18, 2021 election, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older and meet the following qualifications:

- A resident of the school District for at least 30 days prior to the vote;
- Not under sentence for a felony conviction and not adjudged mentally incompetent;
- Registered to vote in Onondaga County or the North Syracuse Central School District.

Registration Information

If you are not registered to vote, you must pre-register by May 13, 2021 to vote in the May 18, 2021 election.

When and Where








- ✓ Until May 13, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse
- ✓ On May 4, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cicero Elementary School, 5979 Route 31 in Cicero and at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse

Absentee Ballots

To apply for an absentee ballot, please check the District website at www.nscsd.org/budget or contact Connie Gibson, District Clerk by email at cgibson@nscsd.org or phone at (315) 218-2131.

NSCSD District-Level Communication Systems

The North Syracuse Central School District uses a variety of outgoing messaging systems to communicate with students, staff, parents and community members. The District recommends that families, staff and community members rely on its website, www.nscsd.org, as the primary source of District news.

	SchoolMessenger - Don't miss an urgent message or weather delay/cancellation again! SchoolMessenger uses the parent/guardian information you have on file in SchoolTool to send emails and text messages.
	SchoolTool - Did you know you have the ability to view your child's class schedule, attendance, report card, discipline history, test scores and more through SchoolTool? Log in at https://cns.schooltool.cnyric.org/SchooltoolWeb/ . Make sure your information is up-to-date by filling out your student's information forms at the beginning of the school year and calling the school with updates. SchoolMessenger and Peachjar pull parent guardian information from SchoolTool to send messages.
	Peachjar - All schools have "Peachjars" for student flyers. With Peachjar, families never have to rely on students bringing information home in their backpacks...everything is kept in one online location and will stay there for future reference. Peachjar uses the parent/guardian information you have on file in SchoolTool to send emails.
	YouTube - Make sure you check out our latest videos on the District's YouTube channel by going online to www.youtube.com/c/NorthSyracuseCentralSchoolDistrict . Board of Education meetings will be streamed on YouTube.
	Twitter -The District has a Twitter page and many of our schools do as well. Feel free to follow us and share your good news with @NSyracuseCSD or find your child's school on Twitter!
	Facebook (@NSyracuseCSD) - We use our Facebook page to share news about students, staff, alumni success and lots of other good news. We also share lots of event photos and love to be tagged in your good news, too!
	Tip411 - Do you have a tip that you'd like to submit to the District or one of our schools? Tip411 is a system through which anonymous tips can be emailed or text messaged to the District and schools. Learn more at www.nscsd.org/tips .



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North Syracuse, NY 13212

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

Please Vote!
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 6 AM to 9 PM

2021 - 2022 Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget \$180,258,175	Tax Levy increase \$2,820,477
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Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 3.05%

On the ballot:

- 2021-2022 school budget proposition: \$180,258,175
- Vehicle purchase proposition: \$1,709,850
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$480,181
- Four seats on the Board of Education

Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6 PM

The meeting will be held in-person at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building (5355 West Taft Rd., N. Syracuse) and will be Broadcast on the District's [YouTube Channel](#)

VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM

Each year, all school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. In accordance with the District's bus replacement program, we are purchasing new vehicles in order to maintain the average age of our transportation fleet with a limited number of vehicles over 10 years old and to reduce the cost of repairs and avoid problems associated with rusting frames that prevent the vehicles from passing D.O.T. inspection.

The 2021-2022 vehicle proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,709,850:

- Ten 65-passenger gasoline engine school buses;
- Two 42-passenger gasoline engine school buses with three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning;
- One bucket loader for use by Maintenance & Operations.

Vehicle Proposition
Annual tax increase for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
	\$1.73	\$1.73	\$1.73

TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$3,950	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$24.14	\$611.65	\$24.14
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,414	\$2,414	\$2,414
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$71/\$5.92	\$71/\$5.92	\$71/\$5.92

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR.