

## PROPOSED 2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET

### Budget Proposal Aligned with Strategic Plan

#### *Student Supports Remain Critical*

On April 17, 2023, the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education adopted a budget proposal for the 2023-2024 school year. The proposed amount of \$203,270,342 will be voted on by district residents on Tuesday, May 16. The proposal preserves all programs, provides additional supports for students, and honors our strategic plan.

Preparing this year's budget was extremely challenging. Although we will receive an increase in state aid due to full funding of foundation aid, it will not be enough to offset the impact of record high inflation and the loss of federal stimulus funding (CRRSA). To address the remaining deficit, the district eliminated 19 positions (due to retirements) and reduced non-instructional expenditures. Additionally, we are proposing a tax levy increase at the tax cap (3.22%) and will use \$5.6 million of fund balance.

Although the district's enrollment has declined slightly, the percentage of impoverished families and English language learners has risen.

*Continued on Page 4 "Funds"*



*With the addition of a Director of Mathematics in the 2022-23 school year, the NCSd has been able to make enhancements to its math curriculum. This included being able to support over 100 students who recently took part in a MathCON competition, a national online math competition.*




### 2023-2024 Budget at-a-glance

<b>Proposed budget</b> \$203,270,342	<b>Tax Levy increase</b> \$3,173,367
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**Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 3.22%**

**Vote: Tuesday, May 16 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

### TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
			
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$86,000	\$3,340	\$100,000
Est. Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$25.13	\$647.42	\$21.62
Est. Annual School Tax	\$2,162	\$2,162	\$2,162
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$67.41/\$5.62	\$67.41/\$5.62	\$67.41/\$5.62

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR

### POLLING LOCATIONS

For residents living SOUTH of 481 <b>Administrative Office Building</b> 5355 West Taft Road North Syracuse, NY	For residents living NORTH of 481 <b>Cicero Elementary School</b> Route 31 Cicero, NY
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# VOTE on May 16, 2023 From 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## DISTRICT EXPENDITURES: \$203,270,342

Program	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Regular Instruction	\$50,648,276	\$54,228,075	\$3,579,799	7.1%
Special School Program	\$25,269,407	\$27,480,587	\$2,211,180	8.8%
Student Services	\$12,824,764	\$13,149,754	\$324,990	2.5%
In-Service Training	\$696,683	\$908,923	\$212,240	30.5%
Legal	\$150,000	\$175,000	\$25,000	16.7%
Transportation	\$9,705,518	\$10,206,505	\$500,987	5.2%
Employee Benefits	\$46,792,719	\$51,041,215	\$4,248,496	9.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$146,087,367</b>	<b>\$157,190,059</b>	<b>\$11,102,692</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

The Program/instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for **77.3% of the entire budget**.

Administrative	2022-2023 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
*Board of Education	\$163,315	\$150,416	-\$12,899	-7.9%
Central Administration	\$2,274,097	\$2,354,947	\$80,850	3.6%
Central Support	\$2,662,212	\$2,999,686	\$337,474	12.7%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$6,248,522	\$7,401,771	\$1,153,249	18.5%
Employee Benefits	\$5,430,244	\$5,937,391	\$507,147	9.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,778,390</b>	<b>\$18,844,211</b>	<b>\$2,065,821</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up **9.3% of the entire budget**.

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

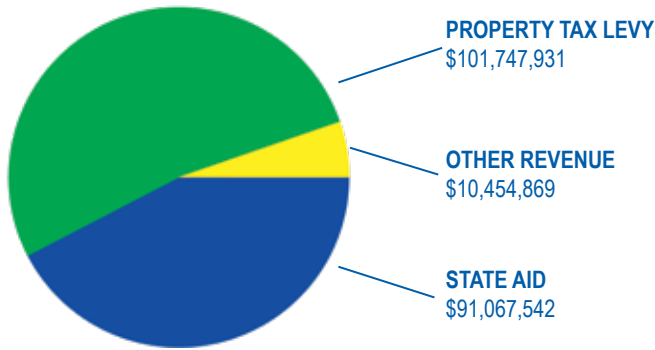
Capital	2022-2023 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$12,167,944	\$12,424,200	\$256,256	2.1%
Central Support	\$220,000	\$250,000	\$30,000	13.6%
Employee Benefits	\$4,575,607	\$4,947,792	\$372,185	8.1%
Debt service	\$8,538,547	\$9,614,080	\$1,075,533	12.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,502,098</b>	<b>\$27,236,072</b>	<b>\$1,733,974</b>	<b>6.8%</b>

This year's Capital component includes a \$100,000 special capital project.

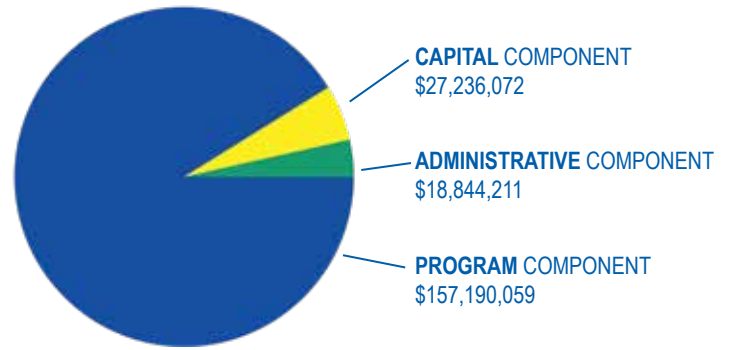
The Capital component accounts for **13.4% of the entire budget**.

Total Expenditures	2022-2023 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	<b>\$188,367,855</b>	<b>\$203,270,342</b>	<b>\$14,902,487</b>	<b>7.9%</b>

## REVENUES: SOURCE OF FUNDS



## EXPENDITURES: COSTS



## BUDGET EXPENDITURES

TOTAL BUDGET \$203,270,342

**PROGRAM COMPONENT:** \$157,190,059  
**PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET:** 77.3%

**CAPITAL COMPONENT:** \$27,236,072  
**PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET:** 13.4%

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT:** \$18,844,211  
**PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET:** 9.3%

The Program component includes 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 organization, the NSCSD spends the majority of money on personnel.

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.

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.

## DISTRICT REVENUES: SOURCE OF FUNDS

	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>STATE AID</b>				
General Aid	\$76,385,329	\$87,312,884	\$10,927,555	14.3%
Building Aid	\$3,441,852	\$3,754,658	\$312,806	9.1%
<b>Aid Total</b>	<b>\$79,827,181</b>	<b>\$91,067,542</b>	<b>\$11,240,361</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>				
PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes)	\$575,610	\$694,369	\$118,759	20.6%
County Sales tax	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	0.0%
Interest	\$200,000	\$450,000	\$250,000	125.0%
Rent	\$410,000	\$330,000	-\$80,000	-19.5%
Fund balance	\$5,250,000	\$5,650,000	\$400,000	7.6%
Medicaid	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$2,580,500	\$2,380,500	-\$200,000	-7.8%
<b>Other Revenues Total</b>	<b>\$9,966,110</b>	<b>\$10,454,869</b>	<b>\$488,759</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Property tax levy</b>	<b>\$98,574,564</b>	<b>\$101,747,931</b>	<b>\$3,173,367</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$188,367,855</b>	<b>\$203,270,342</b>	<b>\$14,902,487</b>	<b>7.9%</b>

## Annual Board of Education Member Election

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 30. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote. This year there are five candidates running for three vacant seats due to the

expiration of terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026).

*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 on the following page. If submitted, full, unedited bios are provided online at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget).*

## SEL Team Devoted to Getting Resources to Students and Families

In order to help students grow and sustain their emotional and cultural competencies, the NSCSD is committed to leveraging the supports and services already in place to ensure that our schools are welcoming, affirming and emotionally safe environments for all students, families, and staff.

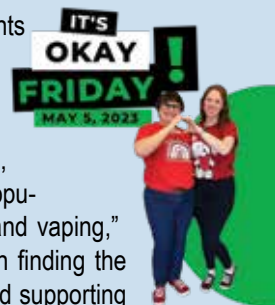
Over the past several years, in direct response to the pandemic, the district has built a comprehensive mental health network. We are now in the fortunate position of having more than 60 counselors, psychologists, social workers and mental health specialists on staff. With oversight and guidance from Lisa Goldberg, the district's Director of Social Emotional Learning, and Kristen Stanton, the School-Based Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, professional mental health personnel are housed in each of the district's 11 school buildings.

In addition to the increased number of staffing, the mental health team has taken on several initiatives to ensure that students and families have easy and immediate access to help and are not afraid to ask. Earlier this year, the district's wellness website was given a complete makeover. Stanton devoted hours of time to the site in order to ensure that students and families could easily access critical information. The redesigned site places all the important

information that families, staff and students are looking for regarding mental health and wellness in one, easy to use central location. "Information, like resources available within our district and the community at large, is available along with information on popular topics like test anxiety, peer pressure and vaping," Stanton said. "There are also resources on finding the right fit in a therapist, building resilience and supporting children's mental health."

The team of mental health staff are also in the midst of a campaign to build awareness and increase communication around the topic of mental health. Stanton said, "One of our goals this year is to just let students know that it is OK to ask for help."

On May 5, the district is asking for students, families and community members to rally around the theme "It's Okay Friday," by wearing a t-shirt with a positive message. Lisa Goldberg said, "We want to send the message that it is okay to ask for help." She added, "By wearing a positively messaged shirt on "It's Okay Friday" you will be sending a message of support and caring to everyone you see. Let's join together as a school community to "make the connection!"



## Funds Carefully Allocated (Continued from front cover)



Combining those factors with the gaps that developed due to the pandemic, our students have much greater needs - both academic and social emotional. It is essential that the district is able to maintain the critical academic and support programs put in place over the past several years.

This budget proposal allows for continued investment in our people and programs. It also includes the addition of a fine arts director and the implementation of a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for grades 5-8 and expanded math programming for grade 8 students.

In addition to voting on the budget, voters will elect three members to the Board of Education, and decide on some additional propositions: the purchase of school buses and maintenance vehicles, a change in polling locations and the option to have a student delegate on the Board

of Education. Additionally, voters in the Town of Salina will be asked to approve a Salina Free Library proposition.

The three main areas of our strategic plan are improving our graduation rate, ensuring reading proficiency and building emotional competencies. I am very pleased that despite fiscal difficulties, the proposal continues to honor the strategic plan. I invite you to learn more about our proposal prior to the public vote on May 16. This year we are hosting a series of public meetings, both in-person and online, to well-inform our community members. The meeting schedule is posted online at [www.nscsd.org/](http://www.nscsd.org/) budget with individual dates also listed in the online calendar on the district's website.

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



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## Board of Education Candidates



**Terri Krueger** is seeking reelection for a third term to the Board of Education. Terri has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for 14 years and owns a business in the community. Terri has three grown children, Lex, Parker and Brittany.

Ms. Krueger is the owner and senior financial advisor of Krueger Advisors, LLC, a female owned and operated company, offering a full suite of services catering to families, LGBTQIA+, women and small businesses. Terri graduated from the New Hartford Central School District and attended Mohawk Valley Community College and Utica College of Syracuse University. She earned certification as a Chartered Financial Consultant from the American College of Financial Services and is New York State registered in securities.

Ms. Krueger is a Cicero Youth Board member, US Community Leader for the Million Dollar Round Table, Country Chair for the MDRT for the Business Strategy and Planning Task Force and Board Member for The Kanikapila Project. She previously served on the VERA House Elder Justice Committee, was Vice President of Plank Road Chamber of Commerce, a capital committee member for Rescue Mission Alliance and a therapy dog handler for PAWS of CNY, Inc. She also formerly served as a court appointed children's special advocate for Onondaga County and was treasurer for Greater North Syracuse Chamber of Commerce.

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**Joshua Ludden** is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. Joshua is a life-long resident of the North Syracuse Central School District and a graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School. He has a degree in Political Science and Religious Studies from American University and is currently employed by the New York State Senate as an External Relations Associate assisting the office of Senator John W. Mannion in constituent relations and community affairs.

Joshua served on the NSCSD Legislative Committee from 2015-2017 and is currently a member of the NAACP.

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**Michael Mirizio**, currently vice president of the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education, is seeking reelection for his fifth term on the Board. He is a life-long resident of the district and graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School. Mirizio holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Le Moyne College.

Mr. Mirizio is the Director of Technology for OCM BOCES, the Onondaga Cortland Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services. He is currently involved with several committees for the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education, including the Policy, Executive, Audit and Technology Committees. Additionally, he is the founder and executive director of North Syracuse Junior High School's 4D Productions, a registered 501(c)(3) that operates out of North Syracuse Junior High School, where he works with students on live event production and community service. He is a supporter of and donor to North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars.

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**David Monahan** is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. David and his wife Michelle have lived in the district for almost three years. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. David is a retired Navy Surface Warfare Officer and retired educator. He graduated from Paul V. Moore High School in Central Square with a Regents Diploma and from SUNY Brockport with a Bachelor of Science degree in Earth Science. He holds a Master of Science degree in Applied Science from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. David earned teaching licensure from Virginia while working as a full-time middle school earth science teacher.

Mr. Monahan is currently the chairperson for the Paul V. Moore High School Alumni Golf Benefit Committee. He currently volunteers for the Humane CNY and Walk to End Alzheimer's and is a donor to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He also volunteered for North Area Meals on Wheels (NAMOW) during segments of 2021 and 2022.

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**Xavier Moody-Wusik** is seeking reelection for his second 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 14 years and is a graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School. He works as a substitute teacher in the Baldwinsville Central School District and is currently enrolled as a student at Le Moyne College, studying history with certification in childhood education and special education.

Xavier currently volunteers as a coach for youth AAU Basketball for Syracuse Hoops and helps run all of the C-NS Basketball camps over the summer and school breaks.

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# On the Ballot Explained:

## PROPOSITION #1 2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET



Shall the proposed 2023-2024 budget for the North Syracuse Central School District in the amount of \$203,270,342, approved by the Board of Education on April 17, 2023, be adopted? Each year, school boards must develop a balanced school budget proposal for the following school year and put it to a public vote. In New York, this requirement for a voter-approved annual budget is unique to public schools. The school budget is the only government spending plan that residents can impact directly by voting.

## PROPOSITION #2 VEHICLE BONDING PROPOSITION



Earlier this school year, a group of Lakeshore Road Elementary School students made a special school bus driver appreciation basket and certificate of appreciation for Mr. Mike, who they say is the #1 Driver! After presenting him with their gift, the students and then Principal Chmielewski took pictures with the (surprised but) all smiles driver. Thank you to our Transportation Department staff who work hard every day to ensure the safe delivery of our students!

Each year, district buses safely transport thousands of students to school and home, and back and forth to extra-curricular activities and events. All school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. In accordance with the district's bus replacement program, the proposal includes the purchase of new vehicles. Maintaining an updated fleet of vehicles helps reduce the cost of repairs and avoid problems associated with rusting frames that prevent the vehicles from passing necessary inspections.

The 2023-2024 vehicle proposition includes the following at a total cost not to exceed \$2,251,201:

- Ten (10) 65-passenger gasoline engine school buses;
- Two (2) 42-passenger gasoline engine school buses with three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning;
- One (1) plow truck with wing and salter; and
- Two (2) three-quarter ton service vans including, for each, necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto.



This year's **Vehicle Proposition** would result in an annual tax increase of approximately \$3.21 annually for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR.

## PROPOSITION #3 EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Shall the Board of Education (the "Board") of the North Syracuse Central School District (the "District") be authorized to have a high school student serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the school board?

This year, the North Syracuse Central School District is asking voters if they would support the addition of a student member to the Board of Education. In New York State, student board of education members are allowed in districts if voters approve the resolution. The student member would be a non-voting representative and student board membership must be reapproved by voters every two years.

Districts that decide to include a student member on their Board of Education are legally required to appoint a high school senior, but the law doesn't dictate how that individual is selected. If NSCSD voters approve a student board member, the district would plan to appoint a Cicero-North Syracuse student currently involved with the school's Principals' Cabinet. The student would be asked to begin volunteering in their new role for the new school year.

### Why is this being proposed?

The district is proposing the addition of a student board member in order to provide an additional voice on the Board of Education. School can be a place where children learn to think critically, cooperate and express themselves. More so, school should be where students learn about being part of a democratic society. Although the student will not be allowed to attend executive sessions or to vote, they will be strongly encouraged to voice their opinion on any topic being discussed at the board table.

## PROPOSITION #4 CHANGE IN POLLING PLACES

Shall the Board of Education (the "Board") of the North Syracuse Central School District (the "District") be authorized to move the polling location from Cicero Elementary School to the Cicero-North Syracuse High School?

Many staff and community members have been advocating to have the district's polling location at Cicero Elementary School relocated. Advocates have cited that moving the voting location would minimize contact between visitors to the schools and students. In order for this change to be approved, voters must support the proposition.

## LIBRARY PROPOSITION (TOWN OF SALINA ONLY)

Shall the annual appropriation for the Salina Free Library within the district be increased from \$489,304 to \$500,558 such sum to be raised by levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the district located in the Town of Salina in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law?

Each year, residents of the Town of Salina have the opportunity to cast their vote for the Salina Free Library proposition. This proposition is only available for Town of Salina residents.

## C-NS High School Greenhouse Renovation Capital Outlay Project



Each year, the North Syracuse Central School District is authorized by New York State and our voters to support a small capital project with operating budget funds. This year's project will allow the greenhouse at Cicero-North Syracuse High School to be renovated.

*The greenhouse at C-NS is utilized by science teachers to provide students with hands-on learning experiences. Pictured is Science Teacher Shirley Neumeister with a student in her Forensics Class utilizing the greenhouse as part of their lesson. Renovations to the greenhouse will enhance students' knowledge of ecosystem health and ecological restoration.*

## Voter Information

### Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in the May 16, 2023 election, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older and meet the following qualifications:

- A resident of the 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 11, 2023 to vote in the May 16, 2023 election.

### When and Where Can I register to vote?

- ✓ Until May 11, 2023 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
- ✓ The District will hold an evening voter registration on May 2, 2023 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](http://www.nscsd.org/budget) or contact Jilian Herrera, District Clerk, by email at [jherrera@nscsd.org](mailto:jherrera@nscsd.org) or phone at (315) 218-2131.

### Polling Locations

Residents who live SOUTH of Rt. 481– Vote at the Administrative Office Bldg.  
Residents who live NORTH of Rt. 481 – Vote at Cicero Elementary School





5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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SYRACUSE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 4

# NORTH SYRACUSE CSD RESIDENT ECR WSS

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

## On the Ballot:

- ✓ \$203,270,342 Budget Proposition
- ✓ \$2,251,201 Vehicle Proposition
- ✓ \$500,558 Salina Library Proposition (only on ballots for Town of Salina residents)
- ✓ Three Board of Education Seats
- ✓ Ex-Officio Non-Voting Student Board Member
- ✓ Change in Polling Location from Cicero Elementary to C-NS High School



# VOTE

## May 16, 2023



Earlier this school year, two NSCSD middle school students attended a mini Micron Chip Camp event in conjunction with the organization's major announcement to invest in Central New York. In June, more than 100 NSCSD students will attend a full, three-day Micron Chip Camp. With the new Micron plant to be built entirely within NSCSD boundaries, the district looks forward to working with the company to bring more opportunities to our schools.

**Scan to Learn More**



## Where Do I Vote?

Residents who live SOUTH of Rt. 481 – Vote at the Administrative Office Bldg.  
Residents who live NORTH of Rt. 481 – Vote at Cicero Elementary School

**NSCSD.org/budget**