

## AT A *glance*

PROPOSED BUDGET  
**\$77,270,000**

BUDGET INCREASE  
**\$5,570,000 or 7.77%**

TAX LEVY INCREASE  
**\$1,036,436 or 3.20%**

## Proposed budget maintains all positions and programming

On Tuesday, May 19, Mohonasen voters will cast their ballots on the proposed \$77.27 million budget for the 2026-27 school year. The budget proposal includes a tax levy increase of 3.2%, which is at the district's state-mandated limit. As a result, a simple majority of voters is needed for approval.

Voting will take place in the Mohonasen High School Gym from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. **Please note:** The printed calendar lists incorrect voting hours due to a change this year. The correct time is 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Residents will also elect two candidates to the Board of Education and decide on a proposition to purchase four diesel buses: two 46-passenger wheelchair-accessible Type C buses, and two 70-passenger buses.

The proposed budget reflects a \$5.6 million increase over the current year, driven primarily by rising instructional, health insurance, and transportation costs. The transportation department continues to face staffing challenges, and is currently with 15 driver vacancies, and is actively recruiting new drivers. Visit

the district website for more information.

No staffing positions would be eliminated under the proposed budget. The plan also supports the addition of a new special education program at Draper Middle School, reflecting the district's continued commitment to meeting the needs of all learners.

In addition, capital project construction is still underway and is slated to be completed by the end of 2027. All school buildings are currently receiving major infrastructure improvements and preventive maintenance to support safe, efficient and high-quality environments for both students and staff.

"The proposed budget

stays within the tax cap while supporting robust academic programming and extracurriculars," said Superintendent Shine. "We remain one of the most cost efficient districts in New York State as measured by per pupil spending. I believe the proposed budget reflects wise fiscal stewardship of the taxpayers' money while maintaining a comprehensive program for all students," he added.

Residents are invited to learn more and ask questions about the budget proposal at the public budget hearing and Meet the Candidates Night at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, in the high school large group instruction room (LGI).

### BUDGET VOTE

**TUESDAY,  
MAY 19  
7 A.M. – 8 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GYM**

#### ALSO ON THE BALLOT

Bus purchase proposition and Board of Education election

#### MEET THE CANDIDATES/ BUDGET HEARING

Monday,  
May 11,  
6:30 p.m.  
High School LGI



## THE THREE-PART BUDGET

All public schools in New York State are required to report appropriations in three categories: administrative, program and capital. The following data show how Mohonasen's budget breaks down under this formula:

### PROGRAM BUDGET

2026-27	\$58,288,130	75.43%
2025-26	\$54,684,842	76.27%

**The Program Budget includes:** the salaries and benefits of all teachers, school counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and speech therapists.

Also included is in-service training, library costs, transportation, co-curricular programs and interscholastic athletics.

### CAPITAL BUDGET

2026-27	\$11,501,941	14.89%
2025-26	\$9,802,234	13.67%

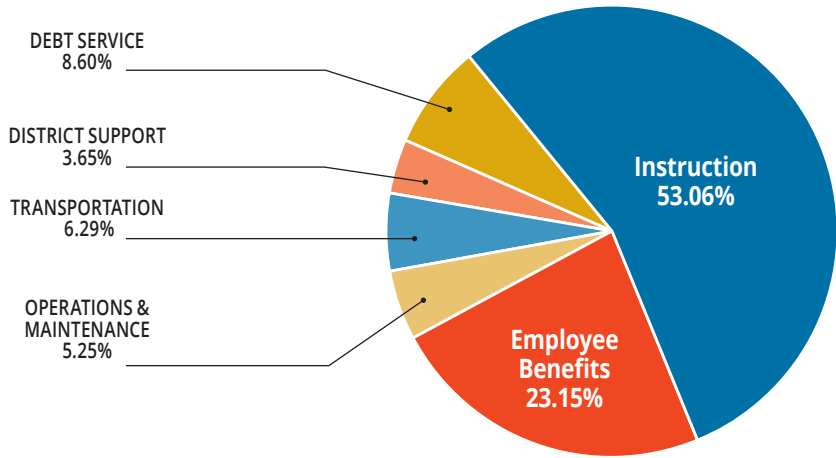
**The Capital Budget includes:** debt service on buildings, bus purchases, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, and operations and maintenance costs, including custodial staff.

### ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

2026-27	\$7,479,929	9.68%
2025-26	\$7,212,924	10.06%

**The Administrative Budget includes:** the salaries and benefits of all professional staff members who spend 50% or more of their time in administration and supervision. Also included are: clerical staff, public information, curriculum development and supervision, research, planning and evaluation, legal services, and school board-related costs.

## SCHOOL SPENDING BREAKDOWN



## APPROPRIATIONS SUMMARY

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	Dollar Increase/Decrease	% Change
Instruction	\$39,268,500	\$41,003,000	\$1,734,500	4.42%
Employee Benefits	\$16,787,000	\$17,887,000	\$1,100,000	6.55%
Operations & Maintenance	\$3,694,000	\$4,056,500	\$362,500	9.81%
Transportation	\$3,895,000	\$4,860,000	\$965,000	24.78%
District Support	\$2,690,500	\$2,818,500	\$128,000	4.76%
Debt Service	\$5,365,000	\$6,645,000	\$1,280,000	23.86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,700,000</b>	<b>\$77,270,000</b>	<b>\$5,570,000</b>	<b>7.77%</b>

## REVENUE SUMMARY

	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	Dollar Increase/Decrease	% Change
State Aid	\$36,080,000	\$39,350,000	\$3,270,000	9.06%
*Property Tax Levy	\$32,647,704	\$33,637,827	\$990,123	3.03%
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$1,000,000	\$2,150,000	\$1,150,000	115.00%
Reserve Appropriation	\$950,000	\$1,200,000	\$250,000	26.32%
BOCES Rental/Services	\$26,250	\$26,250	\$0	0%
Other Revenue (Interest, Fees, Cont. Ed., Admissions, Bldg. Use)	\$996,046	\$905,923	-\$90,123	-9.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,700,000</b>	<b>\$77,270,000</b>	<b>\$5,570,000</b>	<b>7.77%</b>

\*Note: Due to payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) payments the overall tax levy will only increase by 3.20%.

A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value on the final assessment roll or rolls used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, is included with the budget document, which is available in the district's business office at 2072 Curry Road, Schenectady, NY 12303 and on the district website at [www.mohonasen.org](http://www.mohonasen.org).

# Budget Q&A:

**Q. Can I vote early or by absentee ballot?**

**A.** Absentee ballot voting is available. The Early Mail Voter Act, effective Jan. 1, 2024, also allows for early voting via mail without needing a reason. You must fill out an application to vote early or by absentee ballot. There are separate applications for early voting and absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the district clerk at 518.356.8210.

If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 11, 2026. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 18, 2026. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

**Q. How will this budget affect individual tax bills?**

**A.** The budget proposal includes a 3.2% tax levy increase. The tax levy is the total amount to be collected from all taxpayers; however, this does not mean that individual tax bills will go up by 3.2%. Factors that affect individual tax bills include assessment levels and equalization rates between the towns. Assessments and equalization rates are finalized in the summer and then tax rates are set in August. Based on preliminary information, the district estimates a tax bill increase of approximately \$69 for a home in Rotterdam with a full assessed value of \$200,000 and approximately \$100 for a home in Rotterdam with a full assessed value of \$300,000.

**Q. If the district is receiving state aid, why is there still a need for a tax levy increase?**

**A.** Mohonasen’s main sources of income are state aid and local school taxes and these combine to pay for programs and services

for Mohonasen students. The state aid increase enables the district to continue to make investments in programs and services, including lowering class sizes, while keeping the tax levy at or below the state cap for the 15th consecutive year.

**Q. What happens if voters do not approve the budget on May 19?**

**A.** Under state law, if voters defeat a school budget proposal, districts can either hold another budget vote in June (on the same budget proposal or a revised plan) or adopt a contingent budget. If a second budget vote is not successful, a school district must adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, there are restrictions in spending in certain areas, including community use of school facilities, and there can be no increase in the tax levy. If a contingent budget were required, the district would need to reduce spending in areas such as staffing.



## Board of Education

Ericka Montagino, *President*  
Chad McFarland, *Vice President*  
Patrick Ryan  
Danielle Ciampino  
Theodore Perretta  
Nick Giardono  
Heather Lanaro

## Superintendent

Shannon Shine

## ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

*Produced in cooperation with the Capital  
Region BOCES Communications Service.*

## BUDGET EDITION NEWSLETTER 2026-2027

*A copy of the complete budget proposal  
is available at the district office  
at 2072 Curry Road,  
Schenectady, NY 12303.*

### Tuesday, May 19

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
in the Mohonasen High School Gym

#### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

#### ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND EARLY VOTING AVAILABLE

Applications for early mail ballots and absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk. Applications will be accepted beginning April 22, 2026. Completed applications must be received by the Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Early mail and absentee ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m., prevailing time, on May 19, 2026.



#### Bus Proposition

On May 19, Mohonasen residents will be asked to decide on a proposition to purchase four diesel buses: two 46-passenger wheelchair-accessible Type C buses at \$221,000 each, and two 70-passenger buses at \$205,000 each. Since the district pays off previous bus purchases each year, the net impact to Mohonasen taxpayers will be minimal in 2027-2028.

#### Board candidates featured in future brochure and online

Two of the seven seats on Mohonasen's Board of Education are up for election. Candidate information will be included in a budget brochure to be mailed out after the Budget Hearing on May 11. Their biographies will also be online at [www.mohonasen.org](http://www.mohonasen.org).

**Learn more at the Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates night, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, in the Mohonasen High School LGI.**