



"Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners."

Gates Chili Schools

Special Budget Edition - May 2015

Annual School Budget Vote

Budget Proposition - 2.28 % Tax Increase

Proposed Budget	\$99,703,885
Budget to Budget Increase	2.73%
Estimated Tax Rate Increase	2.28%
Tax Levy Increase	2.28%



The Gates Chili Central School District residents will vote on the annual school Budget on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM at the Gates Chili High School Field House. The budget proposition would authorize the appropriation of \$99,703,885 to meet estimated school district expenditures for the 2015-2016 school year. The Property Tax Cap limits the amount of taxes an entity may levy based on a formula. This formula calculated an allowable tax levy limit of 2.28% for the Gates Chili Central School District as submitted to the State Comptroller.



This budget newsletter provides information on the three-part budget, bus purchase proposition and Board of Education candidates.

The 2015- 16 Proposed Budget allocates funding consistent with the District's priorities:

Safety, Security and Wellness - Our most important job is to keep all members of the school community safe and secure in an environment that fosters overall wellness. We will continue to review and update our practices in these areas.

Early Childhood Programming - The recent addition of Universal Pre-Kindergarten provides an opportunity to offer four-year olds instruction that will enhance their overall readiness skills for learning. This is accomplished in a caring, active, play-based learning environment that

allows children to develop imaginations and strengthen their ability to work with others.

Rigorous Coursework for All Students -

Our programs offer all students opportunities to participate in rigorous course work. Students are challenged to develop higher order thinking skills, deep understanding of content, and college and career readiness skills to prepare them for life after graduation.

Instructional Technology - As a District we strive to effectively leverage the use of technology to transform teaching and learning and enhance our students' achievements.

Focus on Continuous Growth - As a District we strive to provide all learners with opportunities and experiences for learning that will inspire individual's personal and professional growth towards excellence.

VOTE Tuesday, May 19, 2015

6:00 AM - 9:00 PM | Gates Chili High School | 1 Spartan Way

May 2015

Dear District Residents,

The budget process in school districts across New York State has been nothing short of difficult and agonizing, and Gates Chili does not stand alone in this process. Governor Cuomo used a strong armed approach to get the legislature to agree to his Reform Agendas, specifically the ones focused on education and ethics, by refusing to provide state aid runs to districts looking to finalize their 2015-2016 budgets. Thankfully the New York State budget was passed on time and state aid runs were presented to the school districts on April 1, 2015.

On behalf of the Board of Education we present the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 academic school year. We continue to "keep kids first" as we review the projected decrease in revenue and plan for the increased expenditures associated with employee salaries and benefits comprising close to 65% of the budget. Our job is to balance the desire to provide an excellent education for all of our Gates Chili students while meeting their learning needs every step of the way, and maintaining fiscal responsibility to our local taxpayers. We are committed, dedicated, and determined to create an annual budget that sustains our fiscal health for many years to come. **The question that remains is...how do we do that?**

1. We **advocate** at the state level with our local Senators and Assemblymen to set politics aside and focus on providing opportunities for our students to excel and flourish by eliminating the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), providing state aid that is equitable throughout the state, and to help us with unfunded mandate relief.
2. We continue to work closely with our health insurance consortium and retirement benefit providers to **cap** the increases that have averaged between 10% and 18% over the last few years.
3. We look for opportunities to **share services** and consolidate costs with other school districts, with our BOCES, and with our local municipalities in the Town of Gates and Chili.
4. We take advantage of services and purchases that BOCES can provide so we can **maximize BOCES aid** which drives down some of our costs.
5. We focus on our "Bull's-eye" making decisions first around Health and Safety, second around the "Core" requirements needed to prepare every student for College and Career Readiness, and third on the "Non- Core" requirements that provide an extension of classroom learning that include elective courses and programs, extra-curricular activities, and athletic participation.

6. We look at all areas of our school district operations to find **"Belt Tightening"** opportunities to bring our expenditures down so as to not directly impact our student programs and staffing needs.
7. We have carefully responded to our enrollment declines and are making our **class sizes** throughout the district **more equal** (averaging between 18 and 25).
8. We have worked hard to reduce our expenditures by presenting a budget increase of **less than 3%**.
9. We have proposed a budget with a **Tax Cap Levy Limit of 2.28%**, reflecting the calculation that allows for us to level our debt without spikes in tax increases that burden our local residents.
10. We have a long range plan for the utilization of the Fund Balance that includes the **use of Reserves**. These reserves are created to cover liability costs that are often the most expensive. Reserves can only be used as they are designated, and once we allocate funds from these reserves they are gone. Thus, we continue to replenish reserves with any additional fund balance at the end of each fiscal year to remain solvent well into the future.

These are our commitments to our students and families that have trusted the Gates Chili School District to provide an excellent education for ALL.

Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Our work continues to focus on... investing our revenue on critical needs that ensure that every student graduates college and/or career ready, while meeting their individual learning needs impacted by changing demographics and the influences of poverty within our own communities. We are on a **Relentless Search for Better Ways** to improve academic achievement district wide. These three questions guide our work and help us establish targets that are realistic and attainable:

How does this benefit students?

Would I put my son or daughter in this situation?

Is this designed to improve student achievement?

Thank you for trusting me and our Board of Education in all that we do to ensure that the Gates Chili School District is a High Performing School District.

Sincerely,



Kimberle A. Ward, Superintendent

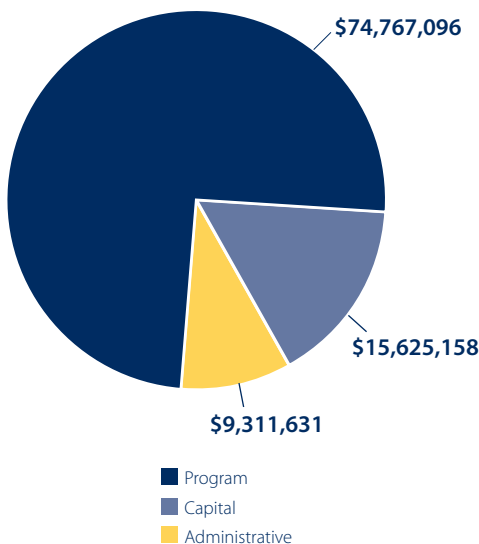
Proposition 1 General Fund Budget

SHALL the Board of Education of the Gates Chili Central School District be authorized to spend for school purposes during the 2015-2016 fiscal year \$99,703,885 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition 2 Bus Purchase Proposition

SHALL the Board of Education of the Gates Chili Central School District be authorized to undertake the acquisition of sixteen (16) school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$1,875,000, and that such sum or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be partially offset by state aid available therefore; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed such estimated maximum aggregate cost shall be issued, or the school district may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the school district to finance the purchase in that method?

15-16 Use of Educational Funding



Three-Part Budget Information Proposed Budget 15-16

Program Component \$74,767,096 or 74.99% of budget

The Program Component represents the largest portion of expenditures. This component maintains all current programs and services and supports the District's mission and vision. This component provides funding for instruction and educational support services for all students. Transportation, health, library, co-curricular activities, and athletics are also included in this component.

Function or Account	2014-15	2015-16	Increase/ Decrease
Instruction	\$47,577,691	\$49,859,690	4.80%
District Transportation	\$ 4,178,763	\$4,129,702	-1.17%
Community Services	\$232,518	\$134,629	-42.10%
Employee Benefits	\$ 21,341,957	\$20,643,075	-3.27%
Total	\$73,330,929	\$74,767,096	1.96%

Capital Component \$15,625,158 or 15.67% of budget

The Capital Component includes cost associated with the operation and maintenance of the District facilities, including utilities, building and equipment repairs and grounds maintenance. Funds are also included for principal and interest payments on capital projects.

Function or Account	2014-15	2015-16	Increase/ Decrease
Operation of Plant & Maintenance of Plant	\$5,162,096	\$4,978,872	-3.55%
Employee Benefits	\$1,775,293	\$1,629,181	-8.23%
Debt Service	\$7,223,000	\$9,017,105	24.84%
Total	\$14,160,389	\$15,625,158	10.34%

Administrative Component \$9,311,631 or 9.34% of budget

The Administrative Component provides for the general support and management of the school buildings and the District.

Function or Account	2014-15	2015-16	Increase/ Decrease
Board of Education	\$58,521	\$22,011	-62.39%
Central Administration	\$276,595	\$264,242	-4.47%
Finance	\$797,147	\$776,228	-2.62%
Staff	\$658,826	\$606,798	-7.90%
Central Services	\$583,820	\$538,661	-7.74%
Specialty Items	\$1,258,669	\$1,368,007	8.69%
Instructional Administration & Staff Development	\$761,821	\$918,635	20.58%
Supervision (Regular & Special School)	\$2,271,217	\$2,250,741	-0.90%
Supervision Students with Special Needs	\$645,358	\$470,830	-27.04%
Employee Benefits	\$2,249,358	\$2,095,478	-6.84%
Total	\$9,561,332	\$9,311,631	-2.61%

Total Three-Part Budget	\$97,052,650	\$99,703,885	2.73%
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Highlights from around

- 58 High School students were awarded Academic Varsity Letters.
- 10 student delegates represented Gates Chili in the Model United Nations regional conferences dedicated to examining world issues. Students individually prepared for their committee debates and developed solutions, according to their nation's diplomatic policy, on various global issues.
- 38 Middle and High School Latin students placed in the National Latin Exam. Gates Chili CSD is the only westside district to offer Latin in addition to Italian, French and Spanish.
- Disney Elementary awarded students with the Spartan Way Spirit Award for exceptional behavior.
- 100 High School students participated in the first Careers in Demands program to listen and learn as 33 employers presented on careers in technology, engineering, science, architecture, advanced manufacturing, information technology, culinary, health care, optics, welding and more.
- 50 Middle School students were inducted into the Junior National Honor Society.
- Brasser Elementary Family Association and teachers hosted its second annual Learning Fair giving students an opportunity to explore their interests and teach others.
- The Early Childhood Committee will host the second Reading Caravan in August to welcome incoming UPK and Kindergarten students.
- Middle School students continued the tradition and celebrated kindness week with the theme, We Are All Connected...Kindness Matters.
- Middle School Peer Ambassadors volunteered throughout the school year at various events.
- Neil Armstrong students and staff collected and donated 813 food items as part of their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- Middle School students raised more than \$7,000 to send veterans to see their perspective memorials in Washington, DC.
- Two High School students were selected for the first ever summer Monroe County Police Academy. The Academy teaches students about careers in law enforcement.
- 55 High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- Two High School students were selected for the nursing internship program at Strong Memorial Hospital.
- More than 50 High School students and staff members volunteered at Daniel's 5K to raise money for Golisano Children's Hospital.
- The Gates Chili Boys Junior Varsity and Varsity Basketball teams held a Coaches vs. Cancer event for Relay for Life.
- Middle School students learned to become Upstanders and speak out against bullying behaviors.
- The Paul Road Girls on the Run program, for third through fifth grade students, has invited Brasser Elementary students to join them to keep girls healthy and have fun running.



the District

- Paul Road Service Club students hosted a sock hop in the fall to collect socks for those in need in our community and in the spring made glass bead bracelets for sale to raise money for the Relay for Life committee at Gates Chili High School.
- Gates Chili hosted the first ever Unified Sports basketball game for students with intellectual disabilities and general education students who are willing to be a companion, friend, and teammate.
- Middle School and High School synchronized swim team students hosted a Waves of Music Show.
- Four seniors were selected to represent Gates Chili and competed in the Section V Senior Select Hockey Game.
- 70 High School students participated in the Monroe County Math League.
- High School Botany and Aquarium Club students gave fifth graders a tour of the science atrium with science activities to dispel common science misconceptions.
- Neil Armstrong students participated in the Global Hour of Code to learn about computer programming.
- Disney Elementary held their first Lunar New Year Celebration giving students an opportunity to share their cultures.
- Over 1,500 pieces of artwork graced the halls of Disney Elementary for their art and literacy night.
- A senior High School Band and Jazz Ensemble student performed in the All-Eastern Honors Ensemble.
- 28 Gates Chili Middle School students competed in the Geography Bee.
- The Gates Chili School District and the Gates community held the first ever Spartan Way Coat Drive to gather donations of coats, boots, hats, mittens and scarves for those in need and together distributed all of the donated items.
- Gates Chili provided Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) for 90 students and will increase to 108 students for the 2015-2016 school year.

RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT!

**June 5, 2015
5-10 PM**

Gates Chili Field House

Relay for Life brings together communities to raise awareness and much needed funds to save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

FREE Summer Meals Program July 6 - August- 14

The Gates Chili CSD is participating in the USDA funded Summer Meals Program. The meals will be served at Gates Chili High School, enter at door 50. All children in the community under the age of 18 are welcome. There is no income requirement or registration necessary.

For more information call 247-7213.



Kindergarten Registration is OPEN

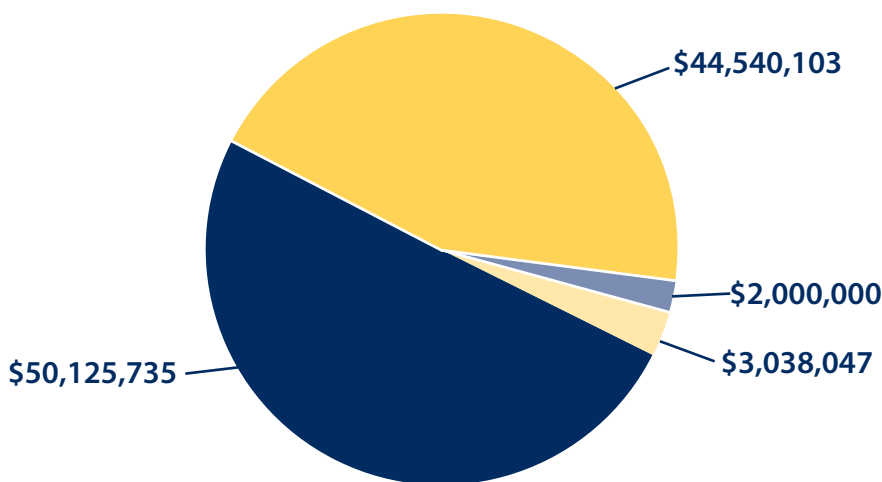
Contact Cathy Phillips,
registrar, at
247-5050 ext. 12224
to register your incoming
kindergarten student.

What's Included in the 2015-16 Proposed Budget?

As part of the 2015-16 budget development process, the District performed an exhaustive review of the programs and services that are provided in the Proposed Budget. Below are some of the highlights the District provides as resources that go above and beyond State mandates:

- Career and Technical Education Endorsed Diploma Programs
- Additional support for struggling learners
- Response to Intervention and Academic Intervention Services at all levels
- Targeted professional development for teachers and support staff
- Enrichment Opportunities P-12
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten program
- Instrumental and Choral music opportunities beginning at the elementary level
- P-12 summer school offerings
- BOCES STEM coaching and support
- Curricular and Co-Curricular field trips to extend and deepen students' learning
- Intramural opportunities
- Elementary STEM and Math Clubs
- Alternative education and credit recovery programming
- 19 Advanced Placement courses
- 34 Dual Credit courses
- Junior Achievement Programs
- BOCES Career and Technical Education programs
- Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection
- Arts in Education Opportunities
- Replacement of community fitness equipment
- Secondary Co-Op Work
- Community Service Learning Projects
- Counseling Services
- Career Shadowing and Internships
- Visual and performing arts program
- An interscholastic sports program promoting sportsmanship
- A wide variety of clubs and extracurricular activities at all levels
- Safety and security improvements

Sources of Education Funding



- Total Revenues Other Than Real Property Taxes (Excluding Tax Levy)
- Appropriate Fund Balance to reduce taxes
- Appropriated Reserves
- Total Real Property Tax Levy

Estimated Comparison of Taxes

	2014-15	2015-16	Change	
Tax Rates On Assessed Value:		Estimate	Amount	%
Gates Assessed Value (\$1,275,554,698)	\$25.98	\$26.57	\$0.59	2.28%
Chili Assessed Value (\$610,353,687)	\$25.98	\$26.57	\$0.59	2.28%
Tax Rates on True Value (\$1,885,908,385)	\$25.98	\$26.57	\$0.59	2.28%

Calculations are based on the following assumptions:

1. Assessed valuation in the Town of Gates will remain flat.
2. Assessed valuation in the Town of Chili will remain flat.
3. Equalization rates of 100% in the Towns of Gates and Chili were used to compute tax rates.
4. The budgeted tax levy is \$50,125,735 an increase of 2.28%

All other Residents with BASIC STAR benefits

Assessed Value	Est. yr/yr tax increase
\$60,000	\$20
\$80,000	\$33
\$100,000	\$44
\$120,000	\$56

Residents 65 and older with Enhanced STAR benefits

Assessed Value	Est. yr/yr tax increase
\$60,000	\$4
\$80,000	\$17
\$100,000	\$28
\$120,000	\$40

Board of Education Candidates

Three (3) candidates will be elected to serve three-year terms from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. Vote for any three (3):



Barbara Huether Clark

Barbara Huether Clark presently works as the General Manager/Human Resource Director for her family's 45-year-old heating company, Huether Heating and Cooling. She is a 1985 Gates Chili graduate who has earned an A.A. from Cazenovia College and a B.A. from National-Louis University. She lives in Chili with her husband of 25 years and her three daughters who have graduated or are attending Gates Chili Schools. Prior and during her participation on the Board, Barbara has volunteered in many capacities across the district and community: In classrooms, as book fair chairperson at Paul Road Elementary School, Community School Information Council (CSIC) representative, H.S. Academic Boosters, float building, Band Boosters, Relay for Life, and as President of Rochester Area Preschool for many years. Barbara is running for her fifth term on the Gates Chili Board of Education. As a parent and former teacher, who believes in local control, she feels she has a great deal to continue to offer our School Board and community. There is no better way to shape our community than to invest in the future of our children!



Jeffrey Pettenski

Jeffrey Pettenski has spent the majority of his life as a Gates resident and for the last 21 years, he and his wife Sandee have chosen Gates as the community to raise their three children. He has experienced the Gates Chili School District with many different viewpoints: as a student; a parent of three graduates; as a parent volunteer; and as a PTO member. Jeffrey is looking forward to utilizing these different perspectives to continue his role as a school board member.

Jeffrey holds an ICCP certification as a Certified Computing Professional and currently works as an Enterprise Integration Consultant for Opticca Consulting, a Canadian consulting and technology services company. Prior to that, Jeffrey has held the positions of Enterprise and Integration Architect for Carestream Health, Eastman Kodak and Xerox Corporation. In his spare time, Jeffrey has earned his 2nd degree black belt in Isshin-Ryu karate and continues to work on his tennis game.



Andrea Hinchey Unson

Andrea Hinchey Unson is a graduate of Gates Chili High School. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics with Secondary Education from Nazareth College, and a Master's Degree in Education from SUNY Brockport. She lives in Gates, in the house where she grew up, with her husband, John, a mathematics teacher at Gates Chili High School, and her two children Ian and Abigail. Ian is a 10th grader at the high school. Abigail is in the 5th grade at Walt Disney Elementary and will be going to the middle school next year. Andrea is a mathematics teacher with the Hilton Central School District. She is a member of the Gates Presbyterian Church where she is on the Spiritual Journey Committee and the Guatemala Partners Committee. Andrea is on the Gates Historical Society's Board. She has been a blood donor for the American Red Cross for many years. She is a Child Ambassador for World Vision and the Unson family sponsors two children from Kenya through that program. She also is a volunteer for the Gates Soccer Program. Andrea believes that she is called to make a positive difference in her community and feels serving on the Board of Education would be a wonderful way to continue to make that happen.

This year Gates Chili will be conducting an exit poll. When you have completed voting please consider taking a few minutes to participate.

High School students will help to facilitate the exit poll.



Gates Chili Central School District
3 Spartan Way
Rochester, NY 14624
585.247.5050

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Michael Bailey
Debra Bennett
Barbara Huether Clark
James Crider
Kelly Glover
Mary Frances Johnson
Jeffrey Pettenski

Superintendent of Schools

Kimberle Ward

Newsletter Design & Editing

Lisa Constantine and Jackie Finn

Are you eligible to vote? 2015-2016 BUDGET NOTICE

Voter Eligibility

Anyone who is at least 18 years old, a US Citizen, and a resident of the Gates Chili Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 19, 2015 vote is eligible. You do not need to be registered to vote, but you must bring identification and proof of residency.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person due to illness or disability. To receive a ballot you must first submit an absentee ballot application. For an application, contact the District Clerk's office by calling 585-247-5050 ext. 12101. Completed absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2014-15 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2015-16 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2015-16 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$97,052,650	\$99,703,885	\$98,588,418
Increase/Decrease for the 2015-16 School Year		\$2,651,235	\$1,535,768
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.73%	1.58%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.62%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$49,010,268	\$50,125,735	
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)	\$49,010,268	\$50,125,735	\$49,010,268
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$2,700,057	\$2,700,951	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$46,310,211	\$47,424,784	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$46,310,211	\$47,414,784	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$9,561,332	\$9,311,631	\$9,311,631
Program Component	\$73,330,929	\$74,767,096	\$73,651,629
Capital Component	\$14,160,389	\$15,625,158	\$15,625,158

Note: Proposition #2 proposed with the 2015-16 budget does not impact the proposed property tax levy limit.	Description	Amount
	Proposition #2 Bus Purchases	\$1,875,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$788

Tax Rate Increases

Tax Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation for the towns of Gates and Chili			
Actual 2014-15	Estimated 2015-16	Difference	
\$25.98	\$26.57	\$0.59	2.28%
* This is the rate per \$1,000 assessed value. The tax bill for a home in Gates/Chili valued at \$100,000 is estimated to increase \$44.00			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$788

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-16 by the qualified voters of the Gates Chili Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held at Gates Chili High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time in the Gates Chili High School Field House, 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. Maximum STAR savings amount is determined by NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.