



BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget Snapshot

JANUARY 12, 2026



Today's Agenda

- Budget Development Timeline
- Review of Current Year Budget
- Tax Levy & Budget History
- Revenue and Expenditure Trends
- Fund Balance & Reserve Overview
- FY 2027 Budget Development Goals
- Key Budget Drivers
- Next Steps & Contact Information



Upcoming Budget Development Timeline

January 12th

Budget Snapshot: Overview of long-range financial plan, fund balance, and reserves.

February 9th

Detailed budget presentations: Athletics, Technology, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation and Security.

March 9th

Detailed budget presentations: Curriculum & Instruction, Special Education, High School, Middle School, and Elementary Programs.

March 23rd

Superintendent's proposed budget presented.

April 13th

Board adoption of the FY 2027 budget.

April 20th

Nominating petitions due to the district clerk.

May 11th

Budget Hearing

May 19th

Budget Vote – Valley Central High School (6 a.m. to 9 p.m.).

MISSION & PRIORITIES

Our mission centers on curiosity, high expectations, and empowering every learner to achieve at high levels

At Valley Central, we champion curiosity and set high expectations. Our mission is to empower every member to achieve at high levels and embrace the joy of continuous learning.

OUR DISTRICT PRIORITIES

- Elevating Student Success & Engagement
- Community Belonging & VC Pride
- Clear & Transparent Communications



FY 2026 BUDGET REVIEW

Key investments in the current fiscal year

Instruction & Building Leadership

- ELA program upgrade (CKLA literacy program)
- Special education teacher
- Assistant Principal (new position)

Athletics

- Additional coaches & chaperones
- Athletic uniform replacements
- Hudl video platform

Technology & Cybersecurity

- Cybersecurity protection
- Summer help (new student employee positions)

Facilities & Capital

- District furniture replacements
- Maintenance Foreman (new position)



BUDGET & TAX LEVY

FY 2026 budget supported by the voters with tax levy below the tax cap



For
693

Against
329

Turnout
1,022

51%

BELOW TAX CAP

Approved levy of 2.49% vs.
allowable 5.1% cap
demonstrates fiscal restraint
and savings for taxpayers

TAX LEVY CAP

5.1%

Maximum

APPROVED LEVY

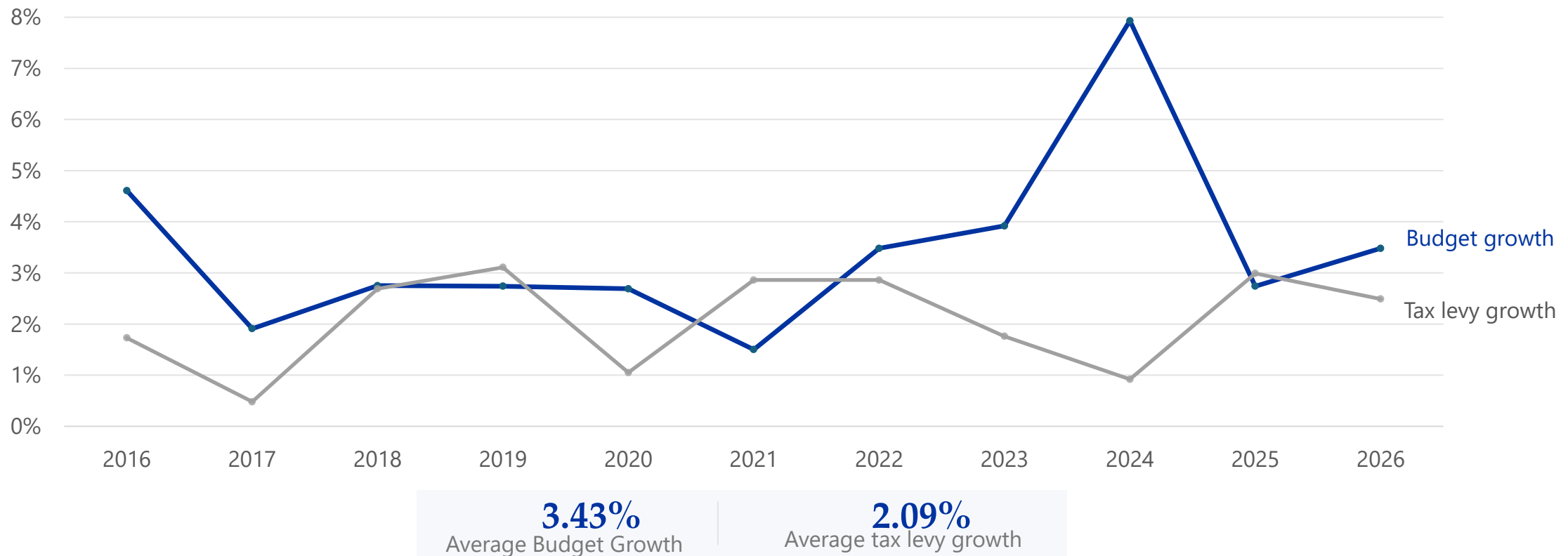
2.49%

Actual



BUDGET & TAX LEVY GROWTH

Budget grew 3.43% annually while tax levy averaged just 2.09%





BUDGET & TAX LEVY GROWTH GAP

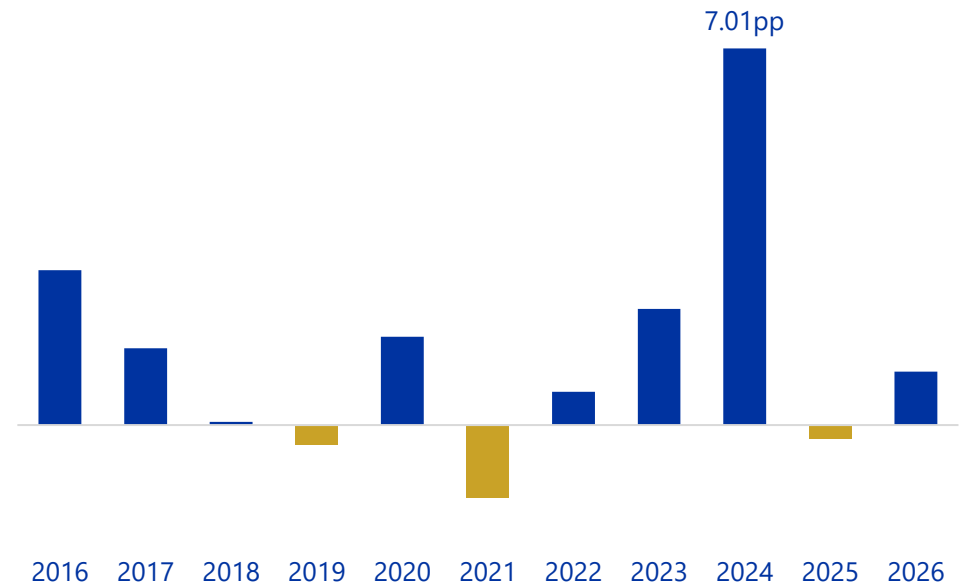
Budget growth has exceeded Tax Levy growth over the past 10 years

FY 2024 shows the most significant divergence (7.01 pp), with the Budget increasing by 7.93% while the Tax Levy increased by only 0.92%. The smallest gaps were in FY 2018 and FY 2025

Average Gap
1.35pp

Maximum
Divergence
7.01pp
FY 2024

Closest
Alignment
0.06pp
FY 2018





APPROPRIATIONS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

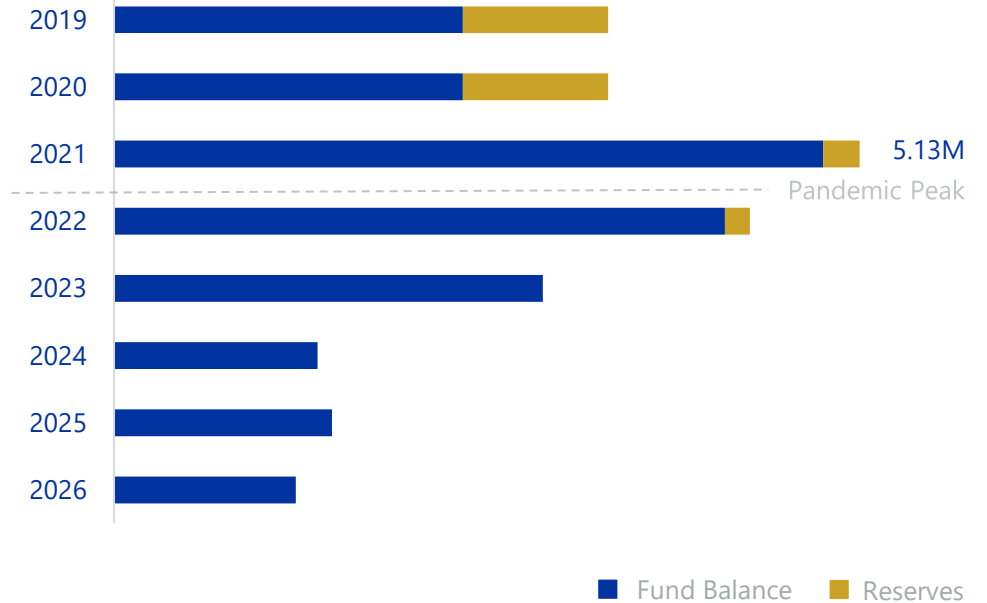
Fund Balance and Reserve appropriations declining after pandemic peak

Total appropriations reduced by 76% from the pandemic peak of \$5.13M (FY 2021) to the current \$1.25M (FY 2026)

Peak Year
\$5.13M
FY 2021

Current Year
\$1.25M
FY 2026

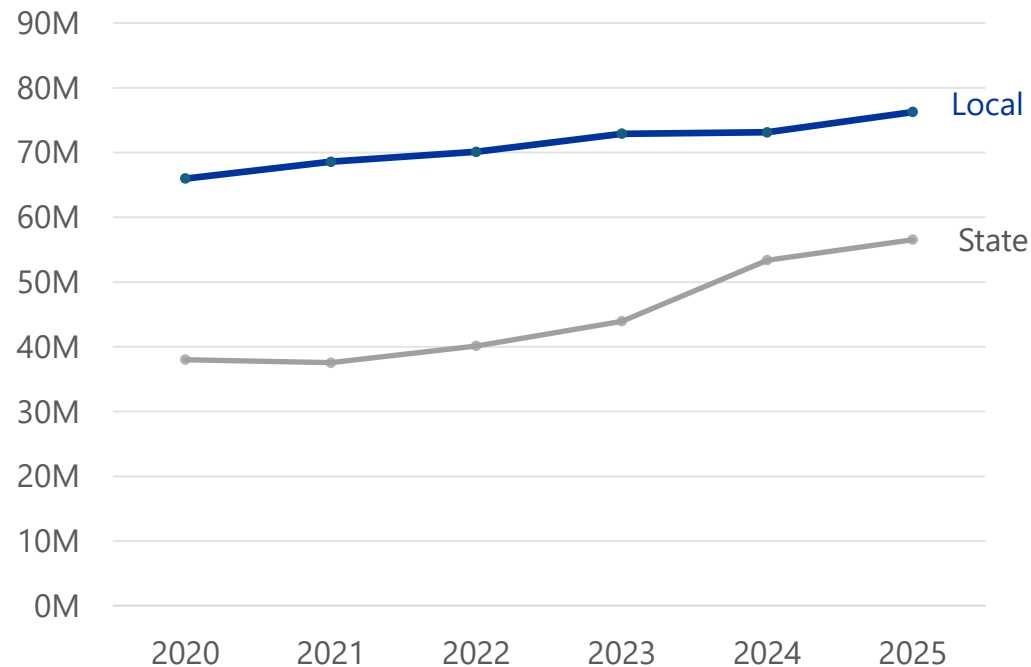
Decline from
Peak
-76%





REVENUE TRENDS

State aid increased 49% while local revenue grew 16% over five years



61.3%
LOCAL TAXPAYERS
\$426.9M over five years

38.7%
STATE
\$269.5M over five years



EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION

Instruction and Benefits account for 57% of five-year spending growth

FUNCTION	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	CHANGE	5-YEAR TREND
General Support	8.1M	8.0M	8M	9.4M	12.5M	12.8M	+4.7M (59%)	
Instruction	60.1M	59.6M	62.1M	64.6M	68.7M	72M	+11.9M (20%)	
Transportation	5.5M	4.7M	4.7M	5.7M	6.3M	6M	+0.5M (10%)	
Benefits	25M	25.6M	26.2M	26.8M	28.5M	30M	+5M (20%)	
Other (Transfers out – Capital & Federal Funds)	3.6M	3.3M	4.7M	20.7M	7.2M	11.2M	+7.6M (210%)	
TOTAL	102.2M	101.2M	105.8M	127.2M	123.1M	132M	+29.8M (36%)	

Five-year growth reflects recovery from depressed FY 2020 baseline during four-month pandemic shutdown



FUND BALANCE

General fund comprises 71% of total fund balance

The General fund houses most day-to-day financial activity, leading to the largest share of total fund balance.

FUND	NONSPENDABLE	RESTRICTED	ASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED	TOTAL
General <div>71%</div>	\$1.5M	\$21.2M	\$2.8M	\$5.3M	\$30.8M
School Lunch	\$79K	—	\$686K	—	\$765K
Capital Projects	—	\$7.6M	—	—	\$7.6M
Debt Service & Other	—	\$905K	—	—	\$905K
TOTAL	\$1.6M	\$29.7M	\$3.5M	\$5.3M	\$40.1M



RESERVES

Reserves provide financial stability and flexibility for strategic initiatives



\$21.8M
Total Reserves

\$13.60M
62.5%

Capital Reserve
Capital Improvements

\$2.57M
11.8%

Retirement Contribution
Retirement system

\$617K
2.8%

Debt Service
Debt Obligations

\$2.62M
12%

EBALR
Employee benefits accrued liability

\$2.3M
10.6%

Tax Certiorari
Prior year judgements and claims

\$56K
0.3%

Insurance
Uninsured losses



ENROLLMENT

District enrollment has remained flat over the past five years

BUILDING	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	CHANGE	5-YEAR TREND
Berea	450	461	477	500	497	467	+17 (4%)	
East Coldenham	291	289	295	312	339	331	+40 (14%)	
Montgomery	514	515	548	537	539	544	+30 (6%)	
Walden	422	420	411	424	447	424	+2 (0%)	
Middle School	984	947	983	952	945	942	-42 (-4%)	
High School	1,364	1,366	1,345	1,399	1,385	1,331	-33 (-2%)	
TOTAL	4,025	3,998	4,059	4,124	4,152	4,039	+14 (.34%)	As of BEDS day



STAFFING BY BARGAINING UNIT

District staffing has risen 0.8% over the past five years

BARGAINING UNIT	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	CHANGE	5-YEAR TREND
Confidential	14	11	12	13	15	15	+1 (7%)	
CSEA	50	45	50	46	51	49	-1 (-2%)	
Nutritional	35	31	39	39	38	39	+4 (11%)	
Paraprofessionals (SRP)	180	168	182	205	202	198	+18 (10%)	
Secretarial (SRP)	23	20	23	24	22	23	-	
Stand-alone	12	12	12	13	11	10	-2 (-15%)	
VCAA (Admins)	19	18	18	19	19	22	+3 (16%)	
VCTA (Teachers)	450	440	445	457	463	459	+9 (2%)	
Non-Affiliated (Subs, Tutors, Lifeguards, Others)	277	243	263	298	252	253	-25 (-9%)	
TOTAL (FTE)	1,059	988	1,043	1,113	1,072	1,067	+8 (0.8%)	As of June 30th



BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Budget development goals shape resource allocation and decision-making

- Maintain and strengthen programs that demonstrate positive student impact
- Adhere to the NYS tax cap while maximizing instructional value
- Manage fund balance and reserves to ensure long-term fiscal stability
- Reallocate resources based on enrollment and student needs
- Protect core instructional programs during economic uncertainty
- Enhance and upgrade facilities to support safety and learning environments
- Align spending with strategic plan priorities



BUDGET CONTEXT

Student needs and program demands shape budget development

- Enrollment trends
- Growth in special education placements and service needs
- ENL population and service demands
- Growing mental health and social-emotional support needs
- Class size targets and staffing allocations
- Program expansions, redesigns, or strategic reductions
- CTE participation



FINANCIAL VARIABLES

Financial and regulatory factors place external constraints on the budget

- State Aid projections and legislative changes
- Allowable tax levy growth factor (NYS formula)
- Transportation contract rebid — anticipated significant rate increase
- PILOT agreements and assessed valuation trends
- TRS and ERS employer contribution rates
- Health insurance premium increases
- BOCES administrative and capital charges



COST PRESSURES

Operational cost pressures and market forces influence baseline spending

- Inflation in instructional supplies, materials, and contracted services
- Utilities and energy costs (electricity, heating fuel, and demand charges)
- Maintenance, repair, and replacement needs for aging facilities
- Technology upgrades, device cycles, and cybersecurity investments
- Transportation fuel
- Special education tuition and service rate increases
- BOCES program costs and annual rate adjustments



COST PRESSURES

Emerging fiscal pressures present long-term risk considerations

- Potential volatility in State Aid tied to economic conditions
- Rising out-of-district special education tuition costs
- Increased competition for staff in hard-to-fill areas
- Aging facilities requiring capital investment
- Sustainability of COVID-era program enhancements



NEXT STEPS

Next steps in the budget process

- Board of Education engagement and public input
- Ongoing discussions with district and building administrators
- Refinement of personnel assumptions and financial variables
- Review of program needs to support instructional priorities
- Athletics, Technology, O&M, Transportation, and Security budgets presented to the Board on February 9th



CONTACT US

Connect with district leadership

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