



**2026-27 SCHOOL
BUDGET VOTE &
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELECTION**

**Tuesday,
May 19, 2026
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

AT HORNELL HIGH SCHOOL
134 SENECA ROAD
HORNELL, NY 14843

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

2026-27 Budget
(Proposed)
\$49,897,993

2025-26 Budget
\$44,978,293

Spending Increase
\$4,919,700
10.94%

Tax Levy Increase
(Proposed)
\$229,573 or 2.94%

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE
TAX LEVY INCREASE =
\$341,453 OR 4.37%

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hornell BUDGET
EDITION
2026
HIGHLIGHTS

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Families
and Community Members,

Each year, the development of our school budget reflects both our responsibility to be fiscally sound and our commitment to providing the very best opportunities for our students. The proposed 2026–27 budget of \$49,897,993 represents a thoughtful balance between these priorities, ensuring that we continue to move forward as a district while remaining responsive to the needs of our community.

This year, we are proud to highlight the success of our K–4 STEM program. What began as an exciting new initiative has quickly become an integral part of the elementary experience, encouraging curiosity, problem-solving, and hands-on learning for our youngest students. Building on that momentum, we also expanded our Forest School program to the entire North Hornell building, creating even more opportunities for experiential learning and connection to the outdoors.

Equally important is the growing partnership between our schools and families. We have seen a meaningful



increase in volunteerism across the district, strengthening the sense of community that makes Hornell such a special place. This engagement plays a vital role in supporting student success both inside and outside the classroom.

As we look ahead, this budget also reflects an increased investment in BOCES services. These services allow us to meet the diverse needs and interests of all students, supporting both academic achievement and expanded vocational programming. Hornell remains deeply committed to creating an environment where

every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support of the Hornell City School District and the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Jeremy P. Palotti
Superintendent



A New Era Takes the Field: Girls Flag Football Kicks Off in Hornell

There's something special about being first, and this spring, Hornell is doing just that with the launch of its first-ever girls flag football team.

At Hornell Jr.-Sr. High School, the new program has quickly built excitement, bringing together a diverse group of student-athletes ready to take on a new challenge. The inaugural roster includes one seventh grader, two eighth graders, two sophomores, seven juniors, and nine seniors, creating a team built on both leadership and fresh energy.

Led by Physical Education teacher Mike Wilkinson, the team has embraced the process of building something from the ground up. While facing more experienced opponents has been a challenge, it has also fueled growth.

"What excites me most is how much the girls are enjoying it," Wilkinson said. "They're working hard every day to get better, but they're also having fun with the game and with each other."

Community support has followed closely behind. At the team's first game, played in snowy conditions with temperatures in the 20s, fans still showed up to cheer them on, a clear sign that Hornell has embraced its newest team.

With growing national momentum behind girls flag football, including support from the NFL, the expansion of collegiate programs, and its inclusion in the 2028 Olympics, the future is bright. In Hornell, that future is already taking shape.

"It's been a very unique experience," Wilkinson said. "Not having any preexisting notions about how we can and should play allowed us to explore different styles and create something that fits our athletes. It really shows the benefit of coming into this without a set idea of how things have to be done."

As the season unfolds, the impact of this new program is already reaching beyond the field. Girls flag football in Hornell is creating new opportunities for students to try something different, build confidence, and represent their school. Just as importantly, it's strengthening the connection between the school and community, bringing people together on the sidelines, in the stands, and in support of something new.



TAX IMPACT

Projected tax rate impact of 2.94% tax levy increase*

A home with a fair market value of \$100,000 would have a projected total dollar increase of \$39.53 (without STAR) for 2026-27.

* TAX RATE INCREASE IS A PROJECTION BASED ON CURRENT EQUALIZATION RATES AND ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.



THREE-PART SUMMARY

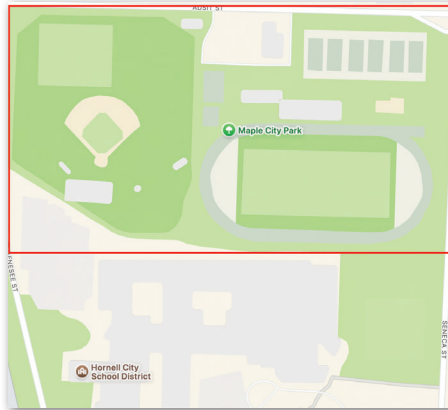
New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year's costs. Hornell's three-part budget is as follows:

CATEGORY	2025-26 BUDGETED*	2026-27 PROJECTED
Program Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).	\$29,648,726 65.9% OF BUDGET	\$32,773,681 65.7% OF BUDGET
Administrative Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.	\$5,536,947 12.3% OF BUDGET	\$6,182,839 12.4% OF BUDGET
Capital Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.	\$9,792,620 21.8% OF BUDGET	\$10,941,473 21.9% OF BUDGET
TOTAL	\$44,978,293	\$49,897,993

*Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Purchase of Maple City Park

For decades, Maple City Park has been a leased space, used and maintained by the Hornell City School District but not fully owned by it. That long-standing arrangement has meant added layers of coordination, planning challenges, and shared liability with the city. Now, the district has an opportunity to bring the entire property under one owner, simplifying decision-making and opening the door for future improvements. The proposed purchase would transfer the land to the district for \$52,234, a one-time cost built into a broader financial agreement. With full ownership, the district can more efficiently manage, maintain, and enhance a space that already plays an important role for students and the community.



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram to keep up with the latest news from the Hornell City School District!



@hornellcsd
#RedRaiderStrong

WE ARE RED RAIDER STRONG

Students participate in **1,130 hours of community service** each year.

113 students attend the GST BOCES Wildwood Campus for career and technical education.

75 students in grades 9-12 take college-level courses.

The Hornell CSD has a **graduation rate of 88%**.

The Intermediate School book giveaways have added **17 books to each student's at-home library**.

In the fall and winter seasons, all varsity athletic teams were named Scholar-Athlete Teams: **9 fall teams & 10 winter teams**.

Students who maintain an average of 90% or higher are named Scholar-Athletes.

This year, HHS athletes have received **124 individual awards**.

6 athletes have broken school records in 2025-26.

North Hornell students have spent **103 hours in Forest School**.

REQUIRED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$44,978,293	\$49,897,993	\$49,648,593
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$4,919,700	\$4,670,300
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.94%	10.38%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount			
	\$7,805,123	8,034,696	
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)			
	\$7,805,123	\$8,034,696	\$7,785,296
F. Total Permissible Exclusions			
	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions			
	\$7,877,123	\$8,146,576	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)			
	\$7,805,123	\$8,034,696	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**			
	\$72,000	\$111,880	
Administrative Component			
	\$5,536,947	\$6,182,839	\$6,118,839
Program Component			
	\$29,648,726	\$32,773,681	\$32,734,281
Capital Component			
	\$9,792,620	\$10,941,473	\$10,795,473

*The contingency budget removes all spending for equipment, except as provided by separate voter-approved expenses from reserve accounts and maintains the administrative portion of the budget at or below the percentage of the combined administrative and program budget total of the previous year, as required by law or regulation.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Expend Transportation Reserve Funds	\$600,000
Establish 2026-36 Transportation Reserve Fund	\$1,000,000
Hornell Public Library Budget	\$454,734
Maple City Park Purchase	\$52,234

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

PLEASE NOTE: The Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings for school districts were not available at the time the school budget newsletter was sent to print. When the NYS Taxation and Finance Department makes the data available, we will post it on the Budget & Finance web page, or you may also find it at www.tax.ny.gov.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Hornell City School District, Steuben County, New York, will be held at the Hornell High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Hornell High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES
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**2025-26 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE &
BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

AT HORNELL HIGH SCHOOL
134 SENECA ROAD, HORNELL, NY 14843



VOTER INFORMATION

Who may vote?

You may vote if you are 18 years old or older, a U.S. citizen, a district resident for at least 30 days, and a registered voter for either a general election or a school board election.

How do I register?

If you are registered to vote for the general election through the county, you are also registered for school votes. If you are not a registered voter for the general election through the county, an application may be picked up at the district office. If you have questions, contact the district clerk by phone at (607) 324-1302 ext. 1450.

Absentee ballots and early mail ballots

Absentee ballot and early mail voting is available. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot, and while there are separate applications for each, the application process and deadlines are the same. To receive an absentee ballot or early mail ballot by mail, voters must submit the required application to the district clerk by May 12, 2026. Applications can be requested by contacting the district clerk or obtained in person at the district office. Voters who choose to pick up the application at the district office have until one day (May 18, 2026, 5 p.m.) before the election to submit it in person to the district clerk. Pursuant to election law, persons designated by the Steuben County Board of Elections as "permanently disabled" will automatically receive an absentee ballot. All ballots must be returned to the district clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote, May 19, 2026. The district office is located at 120 Raider Rd., Hornell, NY.

On the ballot

Voters will elect three candidates to serve a five-year term on the Board of Education. The term will begin on July 1, 2026, and will expire June 30, 2031.

Proposition #1

The general fund budget of the Hornell City School District of \$49,897,993 for the 2026-27 school year.

Proposition #2

Authorization to expend up to \$600,000 from the 2017-2027 and 2024-2034 Transportation Reserve Funds to purchase school buses and/or student transportation vehicles by June 30, 2027.

Proposition #3

Authorization to establish a 2026-2036 Transportation Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$1,000,000, to support the purchase of school buses, transportation vehicles, and related equipment.

Proposition #4

Approval of the Hornell Public Library budget in the amount of \$454,734.

Proposition #5

Authorization to expend \$52,234 from the general fund to purchase approximately 12.032 acres of land at Seneca Street – Adsit Maple City Park, including any improvements, for district use.

For more budget information, visit the district website at www.hornellcityschools.com.