



Liverpool Central School District and Liverpool Public Library 2024-2025 Budget Proposals



DISCOVER • LEARN • GROW



LIVERPOOL PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Where the Community Connects

VOTE:

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wetzel Road Gym

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Budget Message from the LCSD Superintendent of Schools

Preparing Our Students For Tomorrow... Today

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank the Liverpool community for its support of the 2024 Liverpool Central School District Capital Project. Your approval will allow the district to continue to make programmatic and infrastructure improvements necessary to serve the Liverpool community into the future.

New York State approved their budget late again this year. What does this mean for schools? Without a state budget, school districts across the state dealt with many unknowns as we worked on proposed budgets. Inflation is more than 5% in so many important areas and most of our key revenues are less than a 3% increase. This means in an era where our students have more unique needs than ever before, the district has the challenge to do more with less.

Before I get into specifics in regards to the proposed budget, I would like to highlight several accomplishments over the last year.

- ✓ The Liverpool High School staff created a High School Planning Guide that highlights the different paths to graduation for our students. You can view the document on our Web site at <https://tinyurl.com/m7pecpw6>. The district also is working on Parent Handbooks for our families at the K-8 level.
- ✓ Based on feedback from the staff, the district created additional K-2 classroom support positions to help our youngest population.
- ✓ The district is the first district in Onondaga County with multiple campuses to have armed security on every campus.



The Liverpool Central School District's draft budget was presented to the Board on April 17; the proposal demonstrates our collective commitment to our students as the primary focus for all of our work. Specifically outlining the budget changes, we received an increase in state aid (most of that specifically impacting foundation aid) of approximately 1.96% (including other expense-driven aids). Given these adjustments, the Liverpool CSD proposed operating budget has a budget-to-budget increase of approximately 4.23 percent with an estimated local levy increase of approximately 2.10 percent.

The 2024-2025 Budget Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, May 9, at 5:30 p.m. The public will have the opportunity to see and comment upon the proposed spending plan. If you are unable to attend, additional budget information will be posted on the District's Web site as an additional resource to the community.

Community members will have the opportunity to vote on the 2024-2025 budget on Tuesday, May 21, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Wetzel Road Gymnasium (4246 Wetzel Road). Voters also will have the opportunity to cast their ballots for Board of Education representation - there are three (3-year) board seats available - as well as a proposition focusing on school buses.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Henner

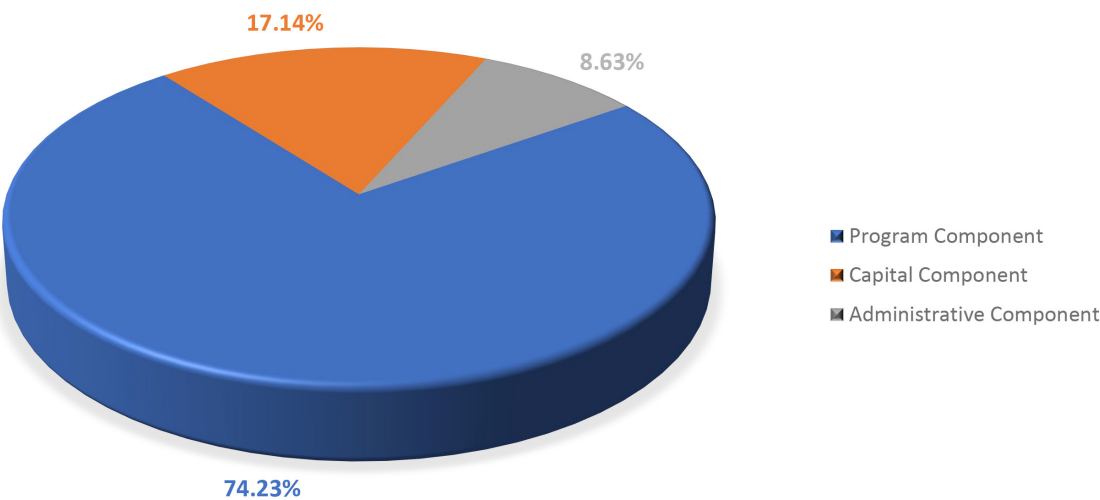
LCSD Superintendent of Schools

Proposed Budget: \$192,158,276

Percent Change: 4.23%

Three Part Budget Summary*

Program Component			
The program component is the largest part of a school district budget & represents 74.23 percent (\$142,634,470) of the 2024-2025 budget. This component includes expenses related to instructional personnel and programs, pupil transportation, and co-curricular activities & athletics.			
	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Percent Change
Administration & Improvement	\$292,299	\$294,849	0.87%
This category includes expenses related to in-service training and instruction for district teachers and staff members.			
Regular School	\$43,912,577	\$43,490,611	-0.96%
This category includes expenses related to legal services and class-room instruction.			
Special Schools	\$23,756,888	\$25,552,940	7.56%
This category includes expenses related to programs for students with disabilities, occupational education, the needs for special school enrollment and English as a New Language.			
Instructional Media	\$5,661,989	\$5,769,175	1.89%
This category includes expenses related to school libraries and audio-visual services, as well as computer-assisted instruction.			
Pupil Services	\$7,808,124	\$8,514,844	9.05%
This category includes expenses related to regular school attendance, guidance, health services, psychological services, social work services, co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics.			
Pupil Transportation	\$8,005,428	\$8,997,650	12.39%
This category includes expenses related to district transportation services, Transportation Center operations and contract transportation.			
Employee Benefits	\$47,554,502	\$49,644,401	4.39%
Interfund Transfers	\$370,000	\$370,000	0.00%
PROGRAM COMPONENT TOTAL	\$137,361,807	\$142,634,470	3.84%



***According to statewide regulations, the district must provide a budget summary showing three components: administrative, program and capital.**

Capital Component

The capital component represents 17.14 percent (\$32,945,270) of the 2024-2025 school budget. It includes expenses related to operation and maintenance of district facilities, debt service and employee benefits.

	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Percent Change
Central Services	\$12,278,191	\$13,676,976	11.39%
This category includes expenses related to the operation and maintenance of district facilities.			
Special Items	\$97,650	\$99,000	1.38%
This category includes expenses related to the assessment of school property.			
Employee Benefits	\$4,344,248	\$4,464,771	2.77%
Debt Service	\$14,369,431	\$14,604,523	1.64%
This category includes expenses related to principal and interest payments on debt service.			
Interfund Transfers	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.00%
CAPITAL COMPONENT TOTAL	\$31,189,520	\$32,945,270	5.63%

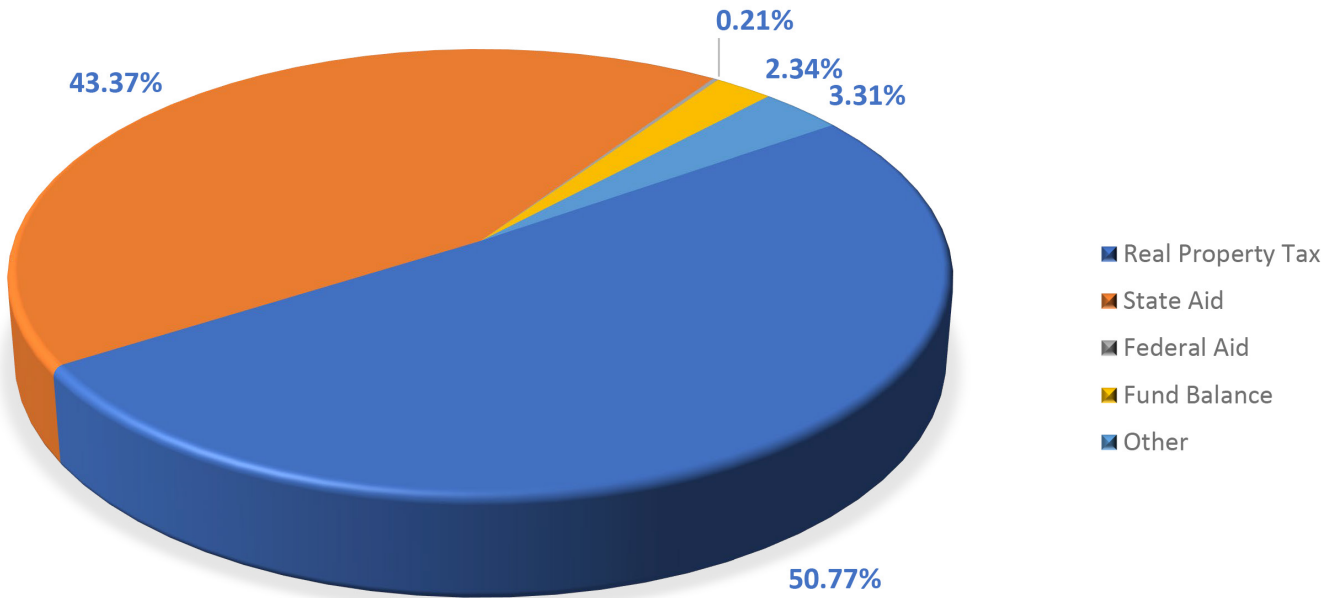
Administrative Component

The administrative component is the smallest part of the budget and represents 8.63 percent (\$16,578,536) of the 2024-2025 budget. It includes expenses related to the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, finance, legal services, central services (excluding operations & maintenance) and employee benefits.

	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Percent Change
Board of Education	\$58,446	\$117,019	100.22%
This category includes expenses related to the Board of Education, the District Clerk and District meetings.			
Central Administration	\$369,055	\$370,054	0.27%
This category includes expenses related to the Chief School Administrator.			
Finance	\$1,227,514	\$1,345,353	9.60%
This category includes expenses related to the Business Administrator, auditing, treasurer, tax collection, purchasing and fiscal agent fees.			
Staff	\$1,740,493	\$1,608,486	-7.58%
This category includes expenses related to legal, personnel, records management, public information and services.			
Central Services	\$754,054	\$782,034	3.71%
This category includes expenses related to central printing and mailing, as well as central data processing.			
Special Items	\$1,316,255	\$1,411,299	7.22%
This category includes expenses related to insurance, school association dues and BOCES charges.			
Administration & Improvement	\$5,511,625	\$5,834,746	5.86%
This category includes expenses related to curriculum development and supervision, as well as regular school supervision.			
Employee Benefits	\$4,835,696	\$5,109,545	5.66%
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT TOTAL	\$15,813,138	\$16,578,536	4.84%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$184,364,465	\$192,158,276	4.23%

Budget Revenue 2024-2025

Revenue Summary			
	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Percent Change
Real Property Tax	\$95,541,686	\$97,550,331	2.10%
State Aid	\$81,725,892	\$83,333,113	1.97%
Federal Aid	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.00%
Includes:			
ARRA	\$0	\$0	0.00%
FEDERAL CARES RESTORATION	\$0	-	100%
Medicaid Aid	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$3,627,389	\$4,516,594	24.51%
Other	\$3,069,498	\$6,358,238	107.14%
Includes:			
Sales Tax	\$250,000	\$250,000	0.00%
Interfund Transfers	\$42,275	\$672,913	1491.75%
Use of Reserves	-	\$2,500,000	0.00%
PILOTS	\$904,163	\$958,265	5.98%
Charges for Services	\$191,010	\$191,010	0.00%
Use of Property	\$775,500	\$879,500	13.41%
Sale of Property/ Loss Comp.	\$46,550	\$46,550	0.00%
Miscellaneous	\$860,000	\$860,000	0.00%
Total	\$184,364,465	\$192,158,276	4.23%





Newsletter Information

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Liverpool Central School District
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District Office (Main Number):
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District Web site:
www.liverpool.k12.ny.us

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Meghan Piper, Editor

Contributors:
Nori Gartner-Baca, Catherine Morabito and Jennifer Woody.

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Budget 2024

Also on the Liverpool CSD Ballot

Proposition #2: Bus & Vehicle Purchase - \$2,481,944

Each year, Liverpool Central School District voters are presented with a proposition to purchase new buses and vehicles for the Transportation and Operations & Maintenance departments.

Why?

The purchases are part of the district's planned vehicle replacement program that keeps its fleet of vehicles in safe, working order and in line with New York State safety standards.

Each day, Liverpool Central School District buses safely transport more than 6,800 students to 38 buildings throughout Central New York, which can result in a great deal of wear and tear over the years.

Typically, the Liverpool Central School District utilizes these school buses and vehicles for approximately 10 years. Like personal vehicles, school buses boast new features every year. By the 10-year mark, older school buses will likely need significant investment in parts and repairs to meet the safety standards of the newer buses.

Proposition #2 Ballot Text:

Shall the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Liverpool Central School District (the "School District") be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles, at a total combined maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$2,150,544; and other motor vehicles, at a total combined maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$331,400 for a total combined maximum estimated expenditure of \$2,481,944, and shall the Board be authorized to raise the specified sum for these purposes, or so much thereof as may be necessary, by levying a tax upon the taxable property of the School District, to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law; and in anticipation of such tax, to issue up to \$2,481,944 of obligations of the School District?

Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 9, 2024
at 5:30 p.m.

District Office
195 Blackberry Road

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wetzel Road Gymnasium
4246 Wetzel Road



Candidates for Board of Education

Three terms of office on the Liverpool Central School District Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2024. Successors to these offices will be elected to three-year terms, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, at the annual school district election on May 21, 2024. These board seats currently are held by Joseph Morawski, Richard Pento and Katherine Roberts.

My name is **Matt Jones**. Liverpool is my home, where I graduated in 2007 as School-Wide President, fostering a deep sense of pride and connection to our community. Recognizing my passion for education and public service, I earned a bachelor's in political science and a master's in education. Driven by a lifelong commitment to public service, I served in AmeriCorps, engaged with local nonprofits, and worked in the NYS legislature before becoming a teacher. For five years, I taught middle school Social Studies in both North Carolina and Liverpool, advocating for better schools as a member of the North Carolina Association of Educators. Recognizing our district's many challenges - ranging from safety threats to inadequate state funding and a lack of trust in district leadership - I felt compelled to run for the School Board. My commitment lies in ensuring the safety of our students and staff, securing adequate state funding, and rebuilding public trust by enhancing oversight and holding leadership to higher standards. I believe my combined experience in the classroom and the halls of government has prepared me to be an effective champion for our students, faculty, and community. Despite the challenges we face, I remain confident that our best days are still ahead of us, because there is nothing we cannot accomplish when we come together as Liverpool Warriors!



My name is **Kimberly Melnik** and I am a lifetime resident of Liverpool and a proud alumni. My children have attended the district, the last will graduate in 2029. I earned degrees from SUNY Oswego and Le Moyne College in elementary and special education. I have taught 3rd, 5th and 6th grade. In 2011, I moved out of the traditional classroom and began working strictly with Special Education Students aged birth through five years, eventually becoming a preschool director. I joined the team at Southside Academy Charter School, in Syracuse, 7 years ago. I have dedicated the last 30 years to ensuring that all students have equal opportunities for quality education regardless of background or circumstances. As a member of the Board of Education, I would like to continue to enrich the curriculum to meet the needs of a diverse student body. I will support educators in delivering high-quality instruction. By strengthening partnerships between schools and families, we develop a stronger educational environment. Our world and community have faced many challenges since 2020, I support increasing initiatives to address the mental health and physical well-being of our students and educators. These priorities will guide my efforts in driving positive change and improvement of our District.



My name is **John Solazzo**. I am a lifetime Liverpool resident, a graduate of the Liverpool High School Class of 2005, and the son of a retired teaching assistant of 24 years in the district. My wife and I made Liverpool our home because we believe it is one of the best communities to raise our kindergartener that attends our local elementary school. My 15 year career has always been focused on education. I have a Master's Degree in Education and worked as a residence life administrator at the University of South Florida and Utica University. I have built educational support programs, counseled students, oversaw residential facilities, and served as a lead for emergency on-call teams. I went on to work at Bristol Myers Squibb as a Training and Education Specialist and I currently work at National Grid as a Training Developer. I want to do more to advocate for our students and educators through increasing staffing needs where necessary, reduction of shared services and having dedicated resources at each school, increasing the opportunities in the music and fine arts, creating better standards for the CTE programs, and fixing the struggles caused by Education 2020. Thank you for your support.



Budget Vote

2024-2025

LIVERPOOL PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Where the Community Connects

Current Board of Trustees:

Ashley Gouger
President

John Hluchyj
Vice President

Dennis McLaughlin
Secretary

Kay Budmen

Yvette Hewitt

Veronica Mainville

David Wood

Susan Reckhow
LPL Director

Trustees serve a five-year term and are elected by the residents of the Liverpool Central School District.

A Message From the Liverpool Public Library Board President

The Liverpool Public Library (LPL) exists to empower and enrich the lives of our residents. We believe in fostering a vibrant community space where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect. Your continued support allows us to fulfill this mission. Over the past few years, libraries worldwide have faced unprecedented challenges. Through these times, the LPL remained a constant source of support, adapting our services to meet your evolving needs. We're deeply grateful for your unwavering partnership, and we look forward to continuing this strong bond.

From our engaging children's programs to our ever-evolving technology collection and digital resources, we strive to provide the highest quality services to our community in the most efficient manner possible.

To maintain this level of service and cater to the ever-changing needs of our community, the LPL budget requires a 2.84% increase for 2024. This increase falls within the New York State property tax cap guidelines and ensures the LPL can continue to offer and expand the vast array of programs, books, e-materials, technology, databases, and more that you rely on. This decision was made with careful consideration for our taxpayers and their ability to contribute. We extend a heartfelt thank you for your unwavering support of the LPL. We look forward to serving you in the years to come. If you are not currently utilizing all that the LPL has to offer, we invite you to visit us in person or online (LPL.org), to see the many resources we have to share.

Your voice is important, please vote!

Ashley Gouger, President, Liverpool Public Library Board of Trustees



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2023

- **Let's Read Liverpool Engages 374 Children During Summer Months**— Our summer program offered more than 250 events and activities.
- **Sparking Imagination with Stories**— Story Times captivated children and enhanced early literacy skills, as well as kindergarten readiness. Teen and tween programming drew impressive participation.
- **Spooktacular Fun at Haunted Garage**— Donned in costume, hundreds of children and their families walked through the garage for the fourth annual event.
- **Giving Back to the Community**— We held multiple collection drives and coordinated volunteer trips to area non-profit organizations.

A Public Hearing will be held at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8** in the **Liverpool Public Library's Carman Community Room**.

Liverpool Public Library
310 Tulip St,
Liverpool, NY
13088

LPL.org
315-457-0310

Voter Information

What are you voting for?

The proposed 2024-2025 Liverpool Public Library Budget

Where will the voting be held?

In the gymnasium of the former Wetzel Road Elementary, 4246 Wetzel Road. This is the same time and place as the Liverpool Central School District vote, but the library is an independent entity and has a separate line on the ballot.

Who is a qualified voter?

A qualified voter is someone who is a citizen of the United States; 18 years of age or older; resident of the Liverpool CSD for at least 30 days before May 21, 2024, either as a renter or property owner; and registered with the Board of Voter Registration or the Onondaga County Board of Elections.

How do you know if you are registered to vote?

You are registered to vote if you are already registered with the Onondaga County Board of Elections to vote in the general election; or you have been previously placed on the register and voted in the last four years. For more information, go to liverpool.k12.ny.us/budget/index.

Where is there more information? What does the budget provide?

Budget information can be found in this pamphlet, at the library or online at LPL.org.

2.84%
Tax Impact

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 • 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Former Wetzel Road Elementary Gymnasium • 4246 Wetzel Road

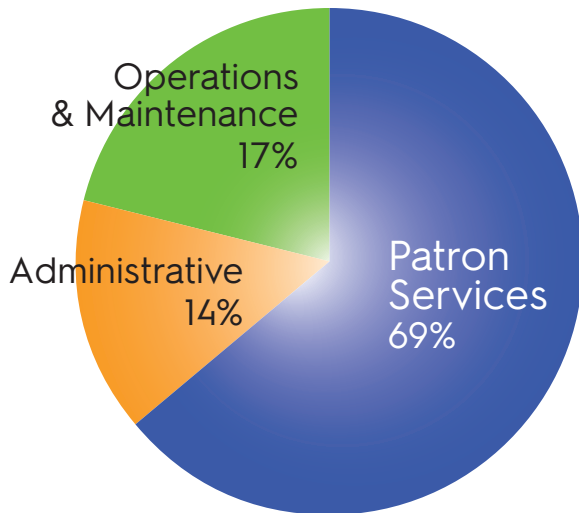
2024-2025 Proposed Library Budget

BUDGET OVERVIEW

	Adopted 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Expenses	\$860,000	\$824,000
Salaries	\$2,346,000	\$2,449,000
Benefits	\$1,155,000	\$1,205,000
Total Budget	\$4,361,000	\$4,478,000
Tax Impact	3.4%	2.84%

REVENUES

	Adopted 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Property Taxes	\$4,122,744	\$4,239,802
Contribution in Lieu of Tax	\$55,000	\$40,000
Library Charges	\$15,000	\$5,000
Interest Earnings	\$2,000	\$28,198
Gifts and Donations	\$18,000	\$21,000
Other than LLIA Grants		
System Cash Grant	\$39,000	\$40,000
State Aid for Libraries	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other Unclassified	\$48,000	\$48,000
App from Fund Balance	\$60,256	\$55,000
Sub-total	\$238,256	\$238,198
Total Revenue	\$4,361,000	\$4,478,000



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Patron Services and Programs at 69% represents a major portion of the 2024-2025 budget. This includes expenses related to books, DVDs, CDs, program presenter fees, computer database and software programs and patron service staff.

Administrative represents 14% of the 2024-2025 budget. Administrative costs include legal, consultation and insurance expenses along with office and administration staff.

Operations/Maintenance represents 17% of the 2024-2025 budget. Included in this portion of the budget are building and equipment maintenance and rental fees, service contracts, computer hardware, network software, support staff, maintenance supplies and equipment.

PATRON SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

	Adopted 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Audio and Video Media	\$90,000	\$92,000
Audio Visual Supplies	\$4,000	\$4,000
Computer Hardware	\$25,000	\$20,000
Computer Software	\$10,000	\$10,000
Conference	\$8,000	\$8,000
Consultant and Professional Fees	\$24,000	\$24,000
Continuing Education	\$3,000	\$3,000
Database/Software Maintenance	\$60,000	\$60,000
Data Processing Supplies	\$8,000	\$4,000
Electronic Databases	\$40,000	\$30,000
General Supplies	\$6,000	\$6,000
Library Books, eBooks	\$135,000	\$140,000
Library Supplies	\$35,000	\$40,700
Mileage and Travel	\$3,800	\$3,800
Postage	\$5,000	\$2,500
Selected Projects	\$11,000	\$12,000
Subscriptions	\$12,000	\$12,000
Tuition Reimbursement	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Patron Expenses	\$480,800	\$473,000
Salaries/Social Security/Medicare	\$1,638,920	\$1,746,839
Benefits	\$807,617	\$859,511
Patron Services Total	\$2,927,337	\$3,079,350

ADMINISTRATIVE

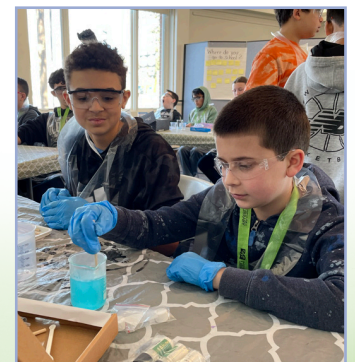
	Adopted 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Board Expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000
Consultant and Professional fees	\$16,000	\$16,000
Database/Software Maintenance	\$7,000	\$7,000
Election Expenses	\$1,000	\$1,000
Fees	\$4,000	\$4,000
Insurance Director's & Officers	\$3,000	\$4,000
Memberships	\$800	\$800
Mileage and Travel	\$200	\$200
Total Administrative Expenses	\$34,000	\$35,000
Salaries/Social Security/Medicare	\$393,540	\$400,317
Benefits	\$193,559	\$196,971
Administrative Total	\$621,099	\$632,288

OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE

	Adopted 23/24	Proposed 24/25
Cloud Service Hardware	\$9,000	\$10,000
Computer Software	\$5,000	\$5,000
Computer Hardware	\$25,000	\$20,000
Custodial Supplies	\$22,000	\$19,000
Database/Software Maintenance Fees	\$29,000	\$29,000
Electric and Gas	\$48,700	\$50,000
Fees	\$28,000	\$28,000
Insurance	\$28,000	\$31,000
Maintenance and Large Equipment Repair	\$28,000	\$10,000
Network Software	\$17,000	\$15,000
Other Equipment Repair	\$22,000	\$15,000
Rentals	\$28,000	\$28,000
Telecommunication Service	\$22,000	\$24,000
Water	\$3,500	\$2,000
Workers Compensation	\$25,000	\$25,000
Unemployment Insurance	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Operations Expenses	\$345,200	\$316,000
Salaries/Social Security/Medicare	\$313,540	\$301,844
Benefits	\$153,824	\$148,518
Operations Total	\$812,564	\$766,362

LIBRARY USAGE AT LPL IN 2023

Items Checked Out (Physical & Electronic)	427,485
Participants for "Let's Read, Liverpool!" Summer Reading	374
Reference Questions	13,655
Children's Programs Offered	640
Total Children's Program Attendance	15,428
Adult Programs	462
Adult Program Attendance	10,617
One-on-One Programs	995
WiFi Use	16,592 Sessions
Website Sessions	228,411 Visitors



Liverpool CSD Earns School Safety Excellence Award

The Liverpool Central School District is one of at least 160 school districts and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State to receive the Utica National Insurance Group's "School Safety Excellence Award" for 2024 at the Titanium with Honors level.

This is the 12th year in a row the district has earned this honor, which

is presented annually and recognizes school districts' safety efforts as they work to help keep students, staff and visitors safe.

The district received its award at Utica National's 42nd school safety seminar, one of seven such seminars the company hosts in the state. For 50 years Utica National has kept kids and school staff safe and currently insures more

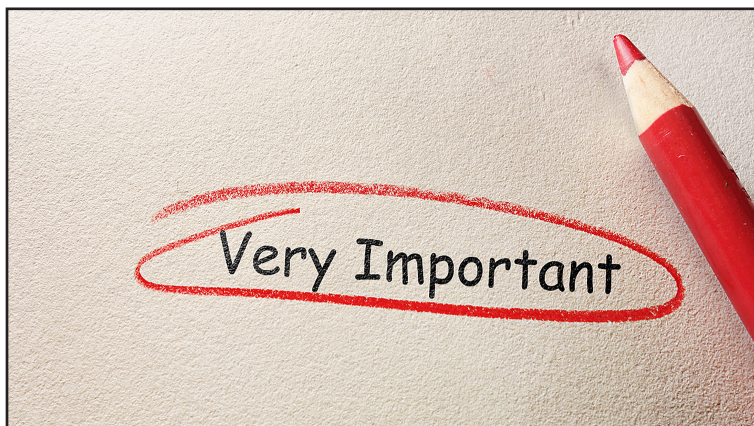
than 300 school districts in upstate New York alone.

Liverpool CSD officials accepted a certificate to commemorate the district's safety efforts and a \$500 award for use in furthering those efforts from Utica National representatives.

Utica National's School Safety Excellence Award Program has three levels - titanium, platinum, and gold - in which schools can earn a meritorious distinction by meeting specific criteria to enhance overall safety. Through the program, schools with their own transportation, schools

with contract transportation, and BOCES are evaluated. Categories covered include bullying prevention programs, playground safety and other areas, and are measured using specific, quantifiable surveys.

"Safety and health concerns continue to be a priority in our school districts," explained Brian Saville, senior vice president in Utica National's Educational Institutions Unit. "Districts that go 'above and beyond' to provide a safe, healthy and focused culture for learning are to be applauded, and we're pleased to count the Liverpool Central School District among them."



Changes to the 2023-2024 Liverpool CSD Calendar

The Liverpool Central School District Board of Education recently revised the District Calendar for the current (2023-2024) school year.

Since the district only utilized two of its emergency/snow days provided under regulations in New York State Education Law, the board approved an extension to the Memorial Day weekend. **School will now be closed for students and staff on Friday, May 24**, as well as the regularly scheduled Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 27.

In addition, the schedule for the last week of school has been revised. **Elementary and middle school students no longer need to report to school on Tuesday, June 25, and Wednesday, June 26**. Instead, those dates will now be full-day K-8 Professional Development Days for staff.

Please note that in the event the district needs to use an additional emergency/snow day prior to the end of the school year, the district will need to reinstate one of those dates as a full day of school.

Liverpool Central School District

Community Engagement Event

Welcomes all community members, staff, and neighboring community members too!

STUDENT ANXIETY AND MENTAL HEALTH

MAY 13, 2024

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Liverpool High School Auditorium

4338 Wetzel Road
Liverpool, NY 13090

DR. KEVIN ANTSEL

- Clinical Psychologist and professor of Psychology at Syracuse University.
- Director of Clinical Training in the College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University.
- His research focuses on developmental psychopathology with emphasis on attention-deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).



DDE Recognized as a Model PLC Community

At Donlin Drive Elementary, the mission is to inspire growth for all – focusing on academics, social-emotional learning and whole-body wellness.

It's because of this mission that DDE recently was recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work.

The teachers and staff at DDE were recognized for their sustained success in raising student achievement by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work (PLC) process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of DDE students.

DDE is one of only 13 New York State schools to receive this recognition. Of those 13 schools, only five are elementary schools.

PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. PLCs call on educators to focus on learning, build a collabora-



orative culture and create a results orientation.

"As a community, we have worked systematically and collaboratively to ensure all students achieve at a maximum level," said DDE Principal Heather Silvia. "We are honored to be recognized for the dedication to this commitment of continuous growth and achievement."

Schools are recognized based

on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

LCSD Named One of the Best for Music Education

For the 15th time in 17 years, the NAMM Foundation has named the Liverpool Central School District one of the "Best Communities for Music Education."

Districts were chosen for this honor because they demonstrate outstanding achievement in their efforts to provide music access and education to all students. This year, 975 school districts from across the country received this honor.

LCSD offers a comprehensive music program that presents students with a wide range of opportunities to receive high quality instruction in classroom music,

as well as join numerous performing ensembles. Several community groups also help support the district's efforts to provide music education to all students.

The "Best Communities" designation recognizes collaborative, from-the-ground-up efforts for teachers, administrators, students and parents who continually work to keep comprehensive music education as an integral part of the core curriculum. These districts also lead the way with learning oppor-

tunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

The NAMM Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its more than 10,000 members around the world, sponsored the survey.





School Bell

Budget Edition 2024

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Who is Eligible to Cast Ballots on May 21, 2024?

Residents living in the Liverpool Central School District can vote during the LCSD School Budget & Board of Education election, as well as the Liverpool Public Library and Board of Trustees election, on May 21, 2024.

Voters must be:

- ☒ Citizens of the United States;
- ☒ 18 years of age or older;
- ☒ Residents of the school district for at least a 30-day period immediately preceding the election; and
- ☒ Registered with the district Board of Voter Registration or the Onondaga County Board of Elections.

Residents who have registered to vote with LCSD, and have maintained that registration by voting in a school district election within the last four calendar years, are properly registered to vote. **Residents**

who are not registered with the district can do so on Tuesday, May 14, at the District Office (195 Blackberry Road in Bayberry) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Those who currently are registered to vote with the Onondaga County Board of Elections also may vote in school and library elections with no further registration. However, those who are not also entered in the school district register of voters may experience a slight delay at the polls because they will be asked to execute poll records for the district voter file before they will be permitted to vote.

Qualified voters who wish to vote early, will be away from home, or are otherwise unable to vote in person may vote by absentee or early ballot.

Absentee and early ballots can be mailed to residents until May 14.

After May 14, residents must pick them up in Room 1 of the District Office. To obtain an absentee or early ballot application, or for more information, contact the Office of the Deputy Su-

perintendent at 315-622-7148.

The District Clerk must receive absentee or early ballots no later than 5 p.m. on the Liverpool Central School Budget Vote Day (May 21).

Property Tax Exemptions for Seniors & the Disabled

The sliding scale exemptions are as follows:

Exemptions	If income is less than:
50%	\$50,000
45%	\$50,999.99
40%	\$51,999.99
35%	\$52,999.99
30%	\$53,899.99
25%	\$54,799.99
20%	\$55,699.99
15%	\$56,599.99
10%	\$57,499.99
5%	\$58,399.99

For more information about possible property tax exemptions, contact your local town tax assessor at 315-451-3231 (town of Salina) or 315-652-3800 (town of Clay), or visit the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Web site at www.tax.ny.gov, then click on the "Individuals" tab.