

Lyncourt Union Free School District

2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of the Lyncourt School Community,

Our district continues to grow, both in enrollment and in the school families choosing to call Lyncourt home. This steady growth reflects the strength of our programs and the welcoming nature of our community. While we remain a small school district, we are proud of the meaningful impact we make each day—proving that a small community can truly make a big difference.

As we look ahead, we are focused on expanding opportunities for our students while continuing to meet the evolving needs of our community. This includes strengthening student-centered learning experiences that prepare our students for the growing career opportunities in technology and other in-demand fields. We are committed to ensuring that every student is equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed for high school and future success.

We are also excited to continue offering our community fitness center, which is open to adult Lyncourt residents. This space reflects our belief that our school serves as the heart of the community—supporting not only our students, but also the health and well-being of our families.

This year, after careful planning, we are proposing a modest 2.99% increase in the school tax levy. This increase will allow us to:

- Sustain and enhance the high-quality programs our students rely on
- Support the evolving needs of our increasingly diverse student population
- Maintain small class sizes and individualized student support
- Ensure our facilities, resources, and staff are well-equipped to serve a growing community
- Continue investing in opportunities that prepare students for future careers, particularly in technology and emerging fields

Our goal is to preserve the vibrant, inclusive, and student-centered environment that makes Lyncourt such a special place to learn and grow. Your continued support allows us to build on our successes and keep Lyncourt moving forward.

It is my sincere hope that this budget proposal reflects the values and priorities of our community while ensuring our students receive the high-quality education they deserve. Your input and feedback are an important part of this process, and I encourage you to attend our annual budget hearing on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and dedication to our students and our school.

MISSION

**Building Foundations for
Lifelong Success**

Mr. James J. Austin
Superintendent

VISION

**Lyncourt: A Thriving Learning
Community for All**

Sample Voter Ballot

PROPOSITION No. 1 - 2026-2027 BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Lyncourt Union Free School District at Salina be authorized to expend the amount of Seventeen Million, Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$17,450,000.00) as a general fund appropriation for the 2026 - 2027 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore upon the taxable property of the District?

PROPOSITION No. 2 - SALINA FREE LIBRARY PROPOSITION

Shall the annual appropriation for the Salina Free Library within the Lyncourt Union Free School District be increased from the sum seventy eight thousand, five hundred, sixty two dollars (\$78,562.00) to the sum eighty thousand, three hundred, sixty nine dollars (\$80,369.00) to be appropriated annually for the Salina Free Library, such sum to be raised by levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District located in the Town of Salina in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law?

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION-VOTE FOR A MAXIMUM OF ONE:

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a 3-year term as a Member to the Board of Education.

Kenda Carfagno

Capital Outlay Project: The 2026-27 budget includes the budgetary appropriation of \$100,000 for a capital outlay exception project or "mini project" with building aid expected from the State in the following school year. The work will consist of capital work, including but not limited to auditorium and interior improvements, and exterior sign upgrades.



Lyncourt UFSD - Three Part Budget - 2026-27

	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Board of Education	\$ 37,500			\$ 37,500
Central Administration	330,500			330,500
Finance	264,400			264,400
Legal	16,960	36,040		53,000
Personnel	10,300			10,300
Central Services	486,000			486,000
Operation of Plant			940,500	940,500
Security of Plant			81,000	81,000
Special Items	79,750			79,750
BOCES Admin, Rent & Capital	85,500			85,500
Curriculum Dev. & Supervision	162,500			162,500
Supervision	250,000			250,000
Research, Planning & Evaluation	2,500			2,500
Inservice Training		93,500		93,500
Regular Instruction		4,353,599		4,353,599
Special Educational Instruction		2,670,200		2,670,200
English Language Learners Instr.		248,800		248,800
Occupational Education		13,000		13,000
Summer School		61,000		61,000
Library and Media		146,006		146,006
Computer Aided Instruction		601,646		601,646
Guidance & Health Services		453,200		453,200
Co-Curricular Activities		43,000		43,000
Interscholastic Athletics		61,000		61,000
Transportation		1,277,500		1,277,500
Recreation & Fitness Center		45,000		45,000
Employee Benefits	318,239	3,308,087	302,523	3,928,849
Debt Service			535,250	535,250
Transfer to Special Aid Fund		35,000		35,000
Transfer to Capital Fund			100,000	100,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,044,149	\$ 13,446,578	\$ 1,959,273	\$ 17,450,000
% OF TOTAL	11.71%	77.06%	11.23%	100.00%
Prior Year Total (\$)	\$ 1,920,771	\$ 12,657,271	\$ 2,126,958	\$ 16,705,000
Change from Prior Year (\$)	\$ 123,378	\$ 789,307	\$ (167,685)	\$ 745,000
Prior Year Total (%)	11.50%	75.77%	12.73%	
Change from Prior Year (%)	0.21%	1.29%	-1.50%	

Three-Part Budget: All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories: Administrative, Program and Capital.

Administrative: Relates to expenses for management and overall support of the district. Examples include expenses for the Board of Education, central administration, building administration, business office, legal fees and auditing services.

Program: Expenses related to students and their programmatic needs. Examples include educational programs, transportation, athletics and extracurricular activities, as well as teacher salaries and employee benefits.

Capital: Deals with all equipment, supplies, materials and personnel for the operation and maintenance of the district. It also includes payments on principal and interest on short and long-term debt.

How do Taxes Compare to Inflation?

School Year	Local Tax Increase	Inflation
2022-23	3.18%	8.0%
2023-24	0.0%	4.1%
2024-25	0.0%	3.2%
2025-26	2.00%	2.9%
2026-27 *Proposed	*2.99%	*Not Yet Available
3 Year Average	1.66%	3.20%
5 Year Average	1.63%	4.46%

How do Taxes Compare to Inflation?

Costs today look very different than they did just a few years ago. From groceries and gas to child care and utilities, prices have steadily increased across the board.

This rise in the cost of goods and services is known as inflation. Inflation affects households, businesses, and schools alike, reducing overall purchasing power and making it more challenging to maintain the same level of services over time.

Like many organizations, schools must make thoughtful decisions when facing rising costs. Options often include reducing expenses—potentially impacting student programs and services—or increasing taxes to sustain the quality of education and support.

At Lyncourt, we take great pride in the responsible financial decisions made over the past five years. As illustrated in the chart above, local taxes have increased by an average of just 1.63% per year during that time. In comparison, inflation has averaged 4.46% annually.

This comparison highlights our continued commitment to managing rising costs carefully while minimizing the impact on our taxpayers, all while maintaining the high-quality educational experience our students deserve.

School Board Candidates

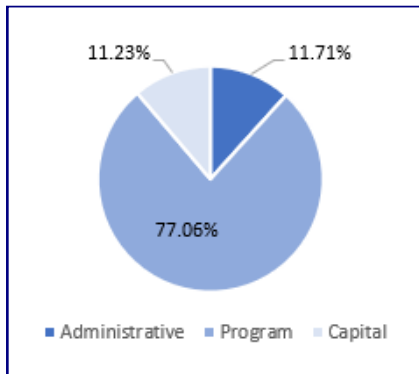
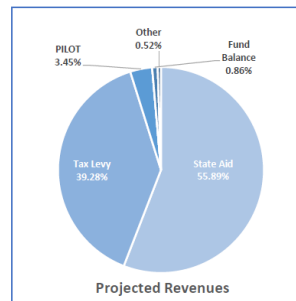
The Board is the official policy-making body of the Lyncourt Union Free School District. The Board is composed of five members who are elected by District voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board.



Mrs. Kenda Carfagno

Kenda Carfagno is seeking reelection for her second full term on the Lyncourt Union Free School District school board. Mrs. Carfagno has lived in the district for 11 years, residing with her husband and 3 children. Mrs. Carfagno is employed by Visions Federal Credit Union as a Financial Wellness Officer, supporting branches in the Syracuse, Cicero, Rochester, Cortland, Ithaca, Spencer, and Norwich regions with financial literacy. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Oswego in Business Administration, is a Financial Services Certified Professional from the American College of Financial Services, and is completing the Chartered Financial Consultant designation by the end of the year, also from the American College of Financial Services. Mrs. Carfagno graduated from FOCUS Greater Syracuse's Fall Citizens Academy in 2025, an organization that promotes civic readiness. She also is a member of various community boards such as Junior Achievement of CNY, House of Psalms 23, CNY Women's Fund, and the David's Refuge Advisory Board. Mrs. Carfagno enjoys traveling, gardening, and the occasional round of golf.

Revenue Source	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27
State Aid	\$ 9,370,761	\$ 9,753,320	55.89%
Property Tax Levy	\$ 6,655,000	\$ 6,854,000	39.28%
PILOT	\$ 589,380	\$ 602,678	3.45%
Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 150,000	0.86%
Other Income	\$ 89,859	\$ 90,002	0.52%
Total Budgeted	\$ 16,705,000	\$ 17,450,000	100.00%



How Can I Learn More About the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget?

The public hearing on the proposed budget is Tuesday, May 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Lyncourt UFSD DeAngelis Auditorium 2707 Court Street, Syracuse N.Y. Budget information will be posted on the Lyncourt UFSD webpage at least 14 days before the vote.



LYNCOURT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2707 Court Street
Syracuse, New York 13208
315-455-7571
FAX 315-455-7573
www.lyncourtschool.org

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Syracuse, NY
Permit No. 581

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kimberly Vespi, President
Hans Meyer, Vice-President
Richard Leonardo, Trustee
Kenda Carfagno, Trustee
Judy Wilsch, Trustee

James J. Austin, Superintendent

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

VOTER INFORMATION

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING will be conducted in the Lyncourt DeAngelis Auditorium

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.

➔ Ask questions and discuss next year's budget

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Noon - 8:00 PM

Lyncourt School in the District Conference Room, 2707 Court Street, Syracuse, NY

➔ The opportunity to vote on the Lyncourt School proposed budget

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS—WHO CAN VOTE?

If you meet the following New York State requirements you are eligible to vote:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- You are a resident of the school district for at least thirty (30) days prior to May 19, 2026

****You can vote if you rent and live in the Lyncourt School District.**

ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

Individuals interested in obtaining an absentee ballot for the upcoming school budget vote on May 19, 2026, may do so at the District Office during business hours, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m Monday-Friday. Qualified district voters must request in advance an application for an absentee ballot. The voter must complete the application and state the reason he/she will not be able to appear the day of the election. Requirements in order to obtain an absentee ballot are those involving an illness or physical disability, business responsibilities which require travel on the day of the vote, vacation, or students away at college.

Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. on May 12, 2026, if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after May 12, 2026 will require the voter to personally appear at the District Clerk's office by 5/18/2026 at 5:00 p.m. Completed absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 P.M. on May 19, 2026.

Applications for early mail ballots may be applied for at the office of the clerk of the district. A list of all persons to whom early mail ballots shall have been issued, will be available in the said office of the clerk on each of the five days prior to the day of the election except Sundays, and that such list will also be posted at the polling place or places.

If you have any questions, you may contact the District Clerk at 315-455-7571, Option #7.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, May 19th, 2026 Noon-8:00P.M.



LYNCOURT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Newsletter