

Lyncourt Union Free School District

2025-2026 Proposed Budget

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

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Superintendent. It is an honor to lead such a unique, diverse, and collaborative school community.

Lyncourt School offers a truly special educational experience—one built on strong relationships, inclusive values, and a commitment to academic excellence. Although our UPK–8th grade district is geographically small, we have experienced a 35% increase in student enrollment over the last 10 years. According to the U.S. Census, our community is also growing younger, with a 4% increase in households with school-age children. These changes reflect the continued appeal and strength of our school and community.

Over the past two years, we have maintained a 0% tax increase, even as we expanded and strengthened our programs to meet the evolving needs of our students. This year, after careful planning and consideration, we are requesting a modest 2% increase in the school tax levy. This increase will help us:

- Sustain and grow the high-quality programs our students rely on
- Support the needs of our increasingly diverse student population
- Ensure our facilities, resources, and staff are equipped to serve a growing community

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 our budget proposal reflects the values and priorities of the Lyncourt community while ensuring that our students receive the high-quality education they deserve. Your input and feedback are invaluable to this process, and I encourage you to attend our annual budget hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:30 pm. Thank you for your trust, partnership, and dedication to our students and school.

Mr. James J. Austin
Superintendent

Sample Voter Ballot

PROPOSITION No. 1 - 2025-2026 BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Lyncourt Union Free School District at Salina be authorized to expend the amount of Sixteen Million, Seven Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$16,705,000.00) as a general fund appropriation for the 2025- 2026 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 six thousand, four hundred, twenty two dollars (\$76,422.00) to the sum seventy eight thousand, five hundred, sixty two dollars (\$78,562.00) 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?

PROPOSITION No. 3 - PROPOSITION TO TRANSFER TO 2024 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Lyncourt Union Free School District shall be authorized to transfer an amount not to exceed \$2,415,907 currently in the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund to the 2024 Capital Reserve Fund for use in accordance with the purpose of the 2024 Capital Reserve Fund?

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION-VOTE FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO:

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

Hans Meyer
Richard Leonardo

Proposition #3: This proposition authorizes the District to transfer funds from the expiring 2015 Capital Reserve Fund to the 2024 Capital Reserve Fund. The 2024 Capital Reserve expires in 2034 and has a \$7M cap to account for inflation. There is zero cost to taxpayers if proposition #3 is approved.

Capital Outlay Project: The 2025-26 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 the following: auditorium improvements, interior upgrades and door replacements.



Lyncourt UFSD - Three Part Budget - 2025-26

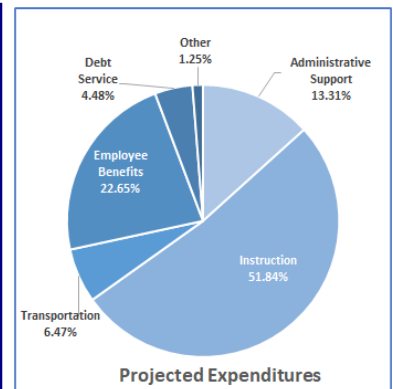
	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Board of Education	\$ 26,500			\$ 26,500
Central Administration	306,500			306,500
Finance	251,150			251,150
Legal	16,480	35,020		51,500
Personnel	48,700			48,700
Central Services	412,000			412,000
Operation of Plant			910,500	910,500
Security of Plant			76,000	76,000
Special Items	74,500			74,500
BOCES Admin, Rent & Capital	65,500			65,500
Curriculum Dev. & Supervision	165,500			165,500
Supervision	245,500			245,500
Research, Planning & Evaluation	2,000			2,000
Inservice Training		96,500		96,500
Regular Instruction		4,280,599		4,280,599
Special Educational Instruction		2,382,550		2,382,550
English Language Learners Instr.		222,300		222,300
Occupational Education		19,500		19,500
Summer School		59,500		59,500
Library and Media		138,006		138,006
Computer Aided Instruction		569,197		569,197
Guidance & Health Services		379,150		379,150
Co-Curricular Activities		43,000		43,000
Interscholastic Athletics		56,000		56,000
Transportation		1,081,000		1,081,000
Recreation & Fitness Center		74,500		74,500
Employee Benefits	306,441	3,185,449	291,308	3,783,198
Debt Service			749,150	749,150
Transfer to Special Aid Fund		35,000		35,000
Transfer to Capital Fund			100,000	100,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,920,771	\$ 12,657,271	\$ 2,126,958	\$ 16,705,000
% OF TOTAL	11.50%	75.77%	12.73%	100.00%
Prior Year Total (\$)	\$ 1,774,645	\$ 11,852,385	\$ 2,337,970	\$ 15,965,000
Change from Prior Year (\$)	\$ 146,126	\$ 804,886	\$ (211,012)	\$ 740,000
Prior Year Total (%)	11.12%	74.24%	14.64%	
Change from Prior Year (%)	0.38%	1.53%	-1.91%	

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.



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$15,965,000	\$16,705,000	\$16,571,250
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$740,000	\$606,250
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.64%	3.80%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$6,524,345	\$6,655,000	
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)	\$6,524,345	\$6,655,000	\$6,524,345
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,714,546	\$6,767,350	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,524,345	\$6,655,000	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$190,201	\$112,350	
Administrative Component	\$1,774,645	\$1,920,771	\$1,894,021
Program Component	\$11,852,385	\$12,657,271	\$12,650,271
Capital Component	\$2,337,970	\$2,126,958	\$2,026,958

*Note - Should the proposed budget be defeated, the Board of Education may choose to amend the budget for a re-vote. In the event voters reject the budget twice, the Board of Education must enact a contingent budget pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The contingent budget would eliminate all equipment purchases, transfers to capital, and the use of the school building by the public. Further reductions would be made to travel expenditures, non-collectively bargained salaries, athletics and co-curriculars, supplies, and new multi-year contractual arrangements.

Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:	Description	Amount
	There are no separate propositions which are not included in the total budgeted amount	\$0

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
\$783

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Lyncourt Union Free School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at Lyncourt Union Free School, 2707 Court Street, Syracuse, NY, in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the District Conference Room, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting paper ballot.

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

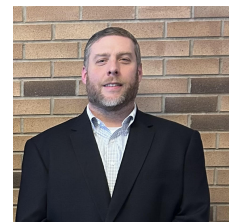
School Board Candidates

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.



Mr. Richard Leonardo

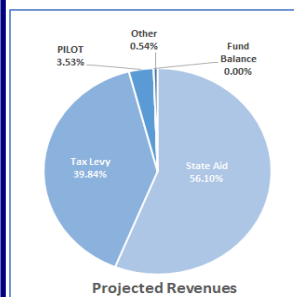
Richard Leonardo is seeking his first term on the Lyncourt School Board of Education. Mr. Leonardo has lived in the school district for 24 years. Mr. Leonardo was a former student at Lyncourt, as well as an employee for a year working as a substitute teacher and an assistant in the technology department. Mr. Leonardo is currently employed by The Hartford Insurance as a Workers Compensation Claim Adjuster and has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University at Buffalo. Mr. Leonardo has been a part of the Lyncourt community for his whole life, and looks forward to the opportunity of being able to represent the community he grew up in, in a meaningful way. Mr. Leonardo enjoys spending time on the golf course, participating in outdoor activities, and spending time with family.



Mr. Hans Meyer

Hans Meyer is seeking his second term on the Lyncourt School Board Of Education. Mr. Meyer has lived in the district for 20 years, residing with his wife and three children. Mr. Meyer is employed with SUNY Upstate Medical as an Operations Manager and holds his bachelor's degree in network administration from SUNY Alfred. Mr. Meyer has been involved with Bombers Little League (board member), United University Professions, and St. Daniels Church. He enjoys working around the house, fixing vehicles, and playing computer games.

Revenue Source	2024-25	2025-26	
State Aid	\$ 8,831,485	\$ 9,370,761	56.10%
Property Tax Levy	\$ 6,524,345	\$ 6,655,000	39.84%
PILOT	\$ 576,344	\$ 589,380	3.53%
Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Other Income	\$ 32,826	\$ 89,859	0.54%
Total Budgeted	\$ 15,965,000	\$ 16,705,000	100.00%



MISSION

**Building Foundations for
Lifelong Success**

VISION

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

Our district is home to families from over 23 countries, across 5 continents. U.S. Census data shows 31% of the households in Lyncourt speak a language other than English. Currently there are 18 different languages spoken by our students, with Nepali, Burmese, Arabic, and Spanish being the most common. Lyncourt's course offerings and programs have also grown, to both meet the needs of our changing population and to keep pace with evolving technology, Computer Science, and Next Generation Learning Standards. Students begin receiving instruction in Career and Technical Education in 5th grade and have opportunities to enroll in advanced courses in Civic Readiness, Accelerated Math, Algebra I and Living Environment/Biology in 7th and 8th grade.



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 13, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

➡ Ask questions and discuss next year's budget

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.

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 20, 2025

****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 20, 2025, 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 13, 2025, if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after May 13, 2025 will require the voter to personally appear at the District Clerk's office by 5/19/2025 at 5:00 p.m. Completed absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 P.M. on May 20, 2025.

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 20th, 2025 7:00A.M.-8:00P.M.



LYNCOURT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Newsletter