



ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.ichabodcrane.org

MAY 2024

SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

TUESDAY

May 21, 2024

8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Ichabod Crane
High School Gymnasium

2024-2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

\$50,187,013

Budget-to-Budget Increase:

\$1,599,389 (3.29%)

Estimated Tax Levy
Increase:

2.95%

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON THREE PROPOSITIONS:

1. Proposed Budget
2. Proposed Bus Purchases
3. Proposed Student Board Member

Sustaining Our Vital Support Systems

Ichabod Crane CSD leaders and the Board of Education collaboratively developed a 2024-25 proposed budget that focuses on significant investments in mental health, academic and social-emotional supports. The proposed spending plan sustains these vital systems for our students and staff, previously funded by stimulus grant funding.

Over four years, the district used federal grants to explore ways to strengthen our academic and social-emotional support systems. Following thorough deliberation, five pivotal positions were added: **literacy coach, school psychologist, High School AIS teacher, school counselor and K-12 school social worker.**

As the federal grants end, the proposed budget maintains these five support positions with funds from the local budget. District and Board leaders prioritized these roles, while also maintaining current positions and programs, all while emphasizing prudent fiscal planning for the future.

These support systems are integral to our holistic approach to educating the whole child. Through this evidence-based method, we cultivate nurturing environments for our approximately 1,700 students to foster academic, social-emotional, mental health and wellness development.

"This proposed budget truly exemplifies the district's and the Board of Education's unwavering dedication to preserving the support structures essential for the success and well-being of our students and staff, both during their time at Ichabod Crane and as they transition beyond our district," Superintendent Marie Digirolamo said.

The literacy coach plays a key role in K-6 literacy instruction. The role involves coaching cycles, research, intervention, collaboration and coordination.

The four remaining positions offer necessary student counseling, addressing mental health and wellness needs, driven partly by the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and a revised student support approach focusing on academic and social-emotional needs.

• **Our school psychologist** performs formal



student evaluations, develops behavior intervention plans and supports teachers with research-based interventions.

- **Our school counselor** supports at-risk students in the Middle and High Schools, fostering organization, accountability and communication between home and school.
- **Our full-time social worker** serves as a link between students, families and external resources, like the county Mental Health Center and NYS Office of Children and Family Services.
- **Our High School academic intervention position** offers essential support to students facing academic challenges.

"These roles serve as leaders in prioritizing academic success and social-emotional learning at ICCSD. Their work is crucial in maintaining our supportive, inclusive school community where both students and staff thrive," said Peg Warner, Director of Special Education, who oversees the Counseling and Psychology Departments.

5 SUPPORT POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY GRANT-FUNDED

- School Counselor
- School Psychologist
- K-12 Social Worker
- HS AIS teacher
- Literacy Coach

Budget Proposal Upholds Focus on Literacy

The 2024-25 budget proposal supports sustained efforts to improve literacy instruction across the district.

New programs, rooted in the Science of Reading, equip our youngest students with essential literacy skills necessary for comprehending complex texts, effective communication and critical thinking across subjects.

The proposed budget allocates funds for instructional materials and professional learning sessions for our core literacy programs: **CKLA at the Primary School (grades K-3)** and **Benchmark Advance at the Middle School (grades 4-6)**. CKLA was implemented in 2022, followed by Benchmark in 2023.

Additionally, the 2024-25 budget maintains funding for the literacy coach position.

"Support from our literacy coach continues to be a central part of our shifts in literacy instruction," Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen said. *"This role is one of the key factors contributing to the success we've seen so far in both CKLA and Benchmark. Going forward, we are excited to expand the scope of this position into other areas of teaching and learning at ICC."*



Our Primary School teachers have effectively integrated CKLA into their classrooms, as evidenced by increases in student proficiency. They continue to utilize i-Ready, an online reading and math program for both instruction and assessment, which is also funded in the proposed budget.

"The literacy coach has encouraged teachers to expand their instructional methods and to experiment with new strategies," Primary School Principal Andrea Williams said. *"Consistent with research and best practice, we have thoughtfully provided a wide range of support for teachers throughout the implementation, including professional learning, aligned materials, ongoing training and time to plan together."*

In its first year, Benchmark continues to be explored by our teachers as they delve into the materials, with administrators and staff noting positive outcomes thus far.

"Our students are tackling sophisticated vocabulary in ways that require them to do more than just learn definitions. This approach fosters a deep comprehension of language and more effective written expression," Middle School Co-Principal Tim Farley said.

Excelling in Academics and Athletics



The Ichabod Crane Athletics Department, its teams and individual athletes had a year of outstanding athletic and academic achievement. During the fall and winter seasons the New York State Public High School Athletics Association named 13 of our teams and 157 of our individual athletes as Scholar-Athlete Teams and Individuals, a distinction which requires maintaining an academic average above 90.

ICC By the Numbers...

- 2.95** Percent tax-levy increase in the proposed 2024-25 budget
- 14** Performing ensembles in grades 4-12
- 38** Sports teams available to students in grades 7-12
- 64** Acres of property on our three-school campus
- 76** Riders inducted into Junior National Honor Society and National Honor Society
- 91** Graduation rate (%) for economically-disadvantaged students in 2023
- 93** Graduation rate (%) for students with disabilities in 2023
- 98** Graduation rate (%) for all students in 2023
- 1,679** Students enrolled K-12
- 5,685** People following Ichabod Crane CSD on Facebook and Instagram
- 218,860** Breakfasts and lunches served across K-12
- 624,000** Miles traveled by district's fleet of 55 buses annually



360° View of our Pathways to Success

Leaders and staff at Ichabod Crane CSD understand the value of providing an array of pathways for our students to achieve academic, social and emotional success.

The budget proposal sustains this commitment by maintaining and expanding upon the positions and programs essential for our students to achieve a key measure of success – **high school graduation**.

Our district’s strategic priorities, outlined in the Board of Education’s **Rider Goals**, guide our efforts. Project 95 aims to maintain the High School’s graduation rate at 95% or higher, a target consistently met since the Riders’ Pathways to Success initiative started in 2019. **In fact, the state confirmed our graduation rate for the 2022-23 school year at 98%!**

Moreover, **our graduation rates among economically-disadvantaged students and students with disabilities consistently surpass state, county and regional averages.** In 2023, 91% of economically-disadvantaged students and 93% of students with disabilities graduated.

“Once again, our district leaders, including our administration, Board of Education, faculty and staff, came together to craft a budget for next year that puts our students first,” Superintendent Marie Digirolamo said. “The drafted budget sustains essential positions and effective, long-standing systems, ensuring all of our students learn in nurturing and supportive environments. This fosters academic achievement and overall well-being, aligning with our approach to educating the whole child.”

The proposed spending plan maintains current staffing levels and programs, along with the five previously grant-funded positions: High School AIS teacher, literacy coach, school psychologist, school counselor and K-12 social worker.

High School Principal Craig Shull stressed the importance of the school’s new AIS instructor. *“This teacher identifies students needing extra support and provides a small-class setting for personalized instruction. As a result, students progress toward their academic and CTE goals, meeting graduation requirements and staying on track for timely graduation.”*

The proposed budget funds ongoing and new courses for student enrichment. At the High School, STEAM classes like Metals I and II continue, introducing welding and materials processing. Advanced Drafting Techniques, a new course, meets requests for expanded AutoCAD. Also, a new Spanish Heritage class delves into literature, film, culture and history.

Next year’s proposed budget supports continued investment in technology, replacing another third of the Chromebook fleet, as well as professional learning opportunities for all departments.

“Ichabod Crane leaders have long recognized the strength of our school community lies in its interconnectedness and its people working together. It is truly an example of how collective impact exceeds individual contributions,” Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen said. “Next year’s budget proposal ensures the sustainability of the teams and systems crucial for ongoing student success in 2024-25.”

ARTS IN EDUCATION

During this academic year, the district used Arts in Education funding to enhance students’ educational experiences through partnerships with outside arts organizations. This included Flying Deer, our K-4 nature-based program, and workshops led by artist and educator Sasha Sicurella for our fifth graders at the Middle School. Additionally, the Traveling Lantern Theatre Group staged a captivating play about space travel at our Primary School. The proposed budget for the upcoming year maintains a strong emphasis on Arts in Education initiatives, underscoring our commitment to integrating the Arts into ICC in new and innovative ways.

RIDER GOALS 2027

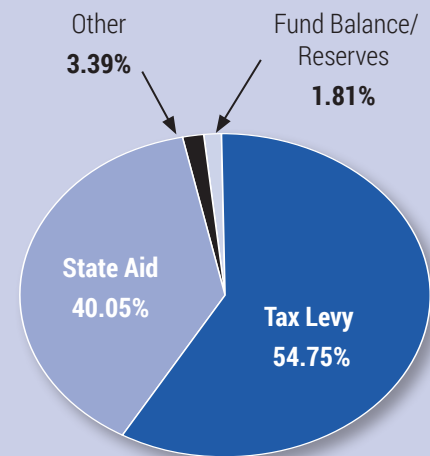
District leaders are shaping our next strategic plan, **Rider Goals 2027**, with support from the proposed budget. We value community input to create a roadmap grounded in research and data.

Postcards were sent to all residents, urging them to participate in a short survey online or by mail by June 1. Community engagement is essential for creating a shared vision for teaching and learning at ICCSD. Scan the QR code to complete the survey online or, to complete by mail, contact Mackenzie Rigg, Communications Specialist, at mrigg@ichabodcrane.org or 518-758-7575 ext. 3017.



REVENUES:

Revenue Budget	2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy	\$26,689,850	\$27,477,201	\$787,351	2.95%
State Aid	19,684,607	20,100,543	415,936	2.11%
Other: Rents, Tuition, Misc.	1,392,167	1,703,000	310,833	22.33%
Fund Balance/ Reserves	821,000	906,269	85,269	10.39%
Grand Totals	\$48,587,624	\$50,187,013	\$1,599,389	3.29%



Collaborative Partnerships Foster Student Success

Partnerships, both internal and external, provide opportunities for our students to explore their diverse interests within and beyond the ICCSD campus. These collaborations forge individualized pathways that equip them with the knowledge, skills and experiences for success at ICC and beyond.

The 2024-25 budget proposal supports the district's many impactful partnerships. External partnerships include CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs offered by Questar III and Capital Region BOCES spanning many topics, including aviation, health care, construction, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary arts, education and visual and performing arts.

ICCSD Class of 2024 Salutatorian Grace Perito described her decision to apply and enroll in the New Visions' STEM program as highly rewarding. It has given her the opportunity to take college-level physics courses at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

"I applied for the program because I enjoyed taking math and science classes, but I didn't know what I wanted to do with that for my future career. The program has not only given me confidence in my major of chemical engineering, but it has made me feel prepared for my future studies in college," Grace said.

For these partnerships to remain effective and sustainable over time, coordination efforts require collaboration among staff from different departments, as well as outside community members and institutions.

High School teacher Heather Scarano said her students gain work-based learning opportunities through the district's special class, "Introduction to Employment." Each year, the students tour approximately 30 local businesses and intern at ICC schools and non-instructional departments.

"Our program owes much of its success to the partnerships within and beyond the district," Mrs. Scarano said. "Local businesses generously offer insights into their operations and what they seek in employees, providing invaluable real-world experiences that classroom instruction alone cannot replicate."

Also, the district partners with Columbia-Greene Community College and other higher education institutions to provide collegiate-level courses to our students, such as **Introduction to Automotive Repair in our STEAM Wing, Advanced Biology, Ceramics and Sculpture, Software Development, Spanish IV and V, Music Theory and Precalculus.**

We are partners in the regional distance learning program, which allows us to share programs with other school districts and BOCES through distance-learning technologies.

Our internal Career Exploration Internship Program (CEIP), run by High School teacher Cori Drummond, connects students with adult mentors in various workplaces, in and out of the district. This includes students interning in **Education, Psychology, Maintenance and IT** within the district, and externally in the fields of **Real Estate, Nursing, Insurance, Carpentry, Sports Management and Chiropractic.**

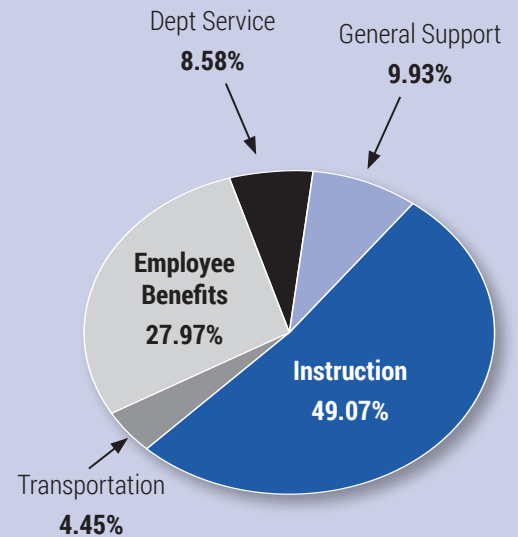
"This program allows our students to explore potential careers early on, empowering them to make informed decisions about their future educational and professional paths," Mrs. Drummond said. "We're immensely thankful for the individuals who've supported our students, providing real-life experiences in their areas of interest. These partnerships are instrumental in making this program a success."



ICHABOD CARES: The ICCSD safety net program supports our students and families. At the Primary and Middle Schools, staff coordinate the Backpack programs, distributing bags of food weekly. Ichabod's Table supplies food for High Schoolers, and Ichabod's Closet offers clothing, shoes and toiletries. The Middle School provides Take What You Need Bins and the Middle School Closet, offering various essential items. <https://www.ichabodcrane.org/ichabod-cares/>

EXPENSES:

Account Group	2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$5,000,959	\$4,983,898	-\$17,061	-0.34%
Instruction	23,818,166	24,628,286	810,120	3.40%
Transportation	2,188,870	2,233,750	44,880	2.05%
Employee Benefits	13,312,529	14,035,479	722,950	5.43%
Debt Service/Transfers	4,267,100	4,305,600	38,500	0.90%
Grand Totals	\$48,587,624	\$50,187,013	\$1,599,389	3.29%



THREE-PART BUDGET:

By law, school districts must divide their budget into three components—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to last year’s amounts. Ichabod Crane’s three-part budget breaks down as follows:

PROGRAM	2023-24	2024-25
Amount	\$35,832,605	\$37,731,121
% of total	73.75%	74.46%

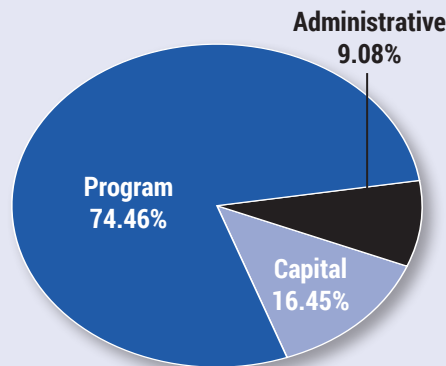
INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of teachers, school counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks, library and instructional computer funds, athletics and transportation (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE	2023-24	2024-25
Amount	\$4,560,967	\$4,558,632
% of total	9.39%	9.08%

INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing; insurance costs, legal expenses and Board of Education expenses.

CAPITAL	2023-24	2024-25
Amount	\$8,194,052	\$8,257,260
% of total	16.86%	16.45%

INCLUDES: debt service on buildings, bus purchases, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, operation and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits of custodial staff, supplies, utilities, repairs and renovations.



BUS PURCHASES: Proposition 2, if approved, authorizes the district to purchase five buses (three large and two small), totaling \$665,654.

2024 Board of Education Candidates

There are four vacancies that may be filled at the District’s Annual Election to be held on May 21, 2024. Running for seats, in the order they will appear on the ballot are Valerie Spensieri, Cal Waits and Anne Schaefer. Voters can vote for up to four candidates by utilizing the write-in space(s).

Further candidate information can be found online: www.ichabodcrane.org/board-of-education

VOTER INFORMATION

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to vote in the district’s annual budget vote and Board of Education election if you are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You must be registered before you are permitted to vote. You are already registered if you have:

- Voted in a district election, such as the budget vote and Board of Education election, within the last four (4) years.
- Voted in a general election as a district resident within the last four (4) years.

ICCSID district residents may register to vote with the District Clerk from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the district’s Central Office. To vote in a district election, including the annual budget vote and Board of Education election, registration must be completed at least five days prior.

ABSENTEE & EARLY MAIL VOTER BALLOTS

Any district resident who wishes to vote early, or who will be unable to vote in person, may request an absentee ballot or early mail voter ballot.

Applications for absentee/early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk by May 14, 2024, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter – or by May 20, 2024, if the ballot will be picked up at the district’s Central Office. **Completed absentee ballots and early mail voter ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024.**

For assistance, please contact District Clerk Mindy Potts at 518-758-7575 ext. 3001 or mpotts@ichabodcrane.org.



ICHABOD CRANE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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- Matthew Nelson, *President*
- Elizabeth Phillips, *Vice President*
- Jennifer Allard
- Kelly Firmbach
- Meghan Lafferty-Brown
- Megan Pelizza
- Anne Schaefer
- Christopher Scoville
- Jared Widjeskog

Postal Customer

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

- Marie Digirolamo, *Superintendent*
- Lucas Christensen, *Assistant Superintendent*
- Michael Brennan, *Business Manager*

DISTRICT OFFICE

518-758-7575
www.ichabodcrane.org

NON-DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT: The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Compliance Officer, Lucas Christensen, and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Peg Warner, at 758-7575, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184. A copy of the "In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)" is available in the Superintendent's Office.

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 48,587,624	\$50,187,013	\$49,288,262
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,599,389	\$700,638
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.29 %	1.44%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$26,689,850	\$27,477,201	
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)	\$26,689,850	\$27,477,201	\$26,689,850
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,080,737	\$1,317,567	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$25,609,113	\$26,164,484	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$25,609,113	\$26,164,484	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$4,560,967	\$4,558,632	\$4,475,374
Program Component	\$35,832,605	\$37,371,121	\$36,704,969
Capital Component	\$8,194,052	\$8,257,260	\$8,107,919

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** 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
5 BUSES	\$665,654
	\$
	\$
	\$

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year \$512
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Kinderhook Central school district, Columbia County, New York, will be held at the Ichabod Crane high school gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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