

# WYOMING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2024-2025

### Message from Emily Herman, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Wyoming Central School Community,

As we navigate through another year of academic excellence and community engagement, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to every member of our school community. Your support and dedication continue to shape the success of our students and the vibrancy of our school. I have said time and time again, Wyoming is a wonderful place to work and I am thankful for the opportunity to be here.

I am excited to announce a significant milestone in our school's history: the unveiling of our new mascot, the Wyoming Eagle! A process that started almost a year ago with numerous meetings, surveys, and discussions, the decision to adopt the Wyoming Eagle as our official mascot was made possible by the collaborative efforts of everyone involved.

The Wyoming Eagle represents strength, resilience, and a spirit of soaring to new heights. As a symbol of our school community, it embodies the values of courage, determination, and excellence that we strive to instill in our students.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every individual who contributed to this exciting decision. Your input, feedback, and support have been invaluable throughout this process, and I am grateful for your dedication to our school community.

As we embrace the Wyoming Eagle as our new mascot, let us unite behind this symbol of pride and unity, rallying together to support our students, celebrate our achievements, and inspire greatness in everything we do.

#### **Program Highlights:**

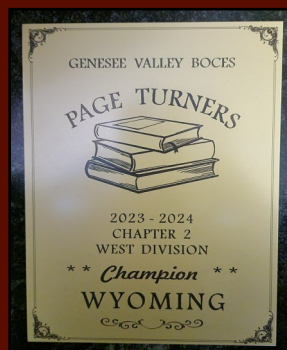
Thanks to the assistance and collaboration of various stakeholders of the district, we were delighted to announce the return of some beloved Wyoming CSD favorites this year, including the Holiday Luncheon and The Office of The Aging Halloween Luncheon and Parade! These cherished traditions bring our



...continued on Page 2

#### **Public Hearing:**

May 9, 2024  
6:00 pm  
School Conference  
Room



#### **Budget Vote:**

May 21, 2024  
1:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
School Front Hall

Absentee ballots may be returned by mail or in person.  
Absentee ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk  
by 5:00 pm on May 21, 2024 in order to be counted.

community together in celebration and fellowship, and we're grateful for the support that made it possible. We look forward to creating lasting memories and spreading joy in 2024!

***Federal Stimulus:***

As we wrap up our American Rescue Plan (ARP) spending, I am pleased to share some exciting updates regarding these funds as they support our school's reading instruction initiatives. A significant portion of the grant funds this year was dedicated to training our teaching staff, and procuring additional reading materials, specifically focusing on bolstering phonemic awareness and phonics instruction. A portion of these funds was allocated to the Heggerty Curriculum, although a program WCS historically utilized in our school to address phonemic awareness needs, the updated Heggerty program includes an explicit and systemized phonics curriculum, which aligns seamlessly with our literacy goals. This addition to our curriculum will equip our teachers with the necessary resources to effectively teach these foundational reading skills to our students, while also providing tailored interventions to address individual student needs. Furthermore, the incorporation of the Heggerty Program complements our existing Orton Gillingham Program.

The remaining funds were dedicated to building a resource library for our teachers, allowing for easy access to materials for reading activities in the classroom. These resources predominantly focus on center activities aimed at developing phonics skills and building speech and language proficiency, particularly for our youngest learners in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

By investing in these initiatives, we are taking proactive steps to enhance our reading instruction practices, ensuring that all students receive the support they need to become proficient readers. We are committed to providing our teachers with the tools and resources necessary to deliver high-quality, evidence-based instruction that meets the diverse needs of our student population.

***Capital Outlay Project:***

Overall, the purpose of a \$100K project in schools is to allocate resources strategically to address key priorities and enhance the overall educational experience for students, teachers, and the broader school community. By investing in areas such as facility improvement, schools can create a more enriching and supportive learning environment that fosters student success and well-being. The WCS 2023-2024 project allocated funding to improving safety and security measures of our building. This project replaced an existing concrete landing, removed the asphalt walkway and steps, as well as restored the area to harmonize with the existing lawn. In addition, a new concrete sidewalk was installed to link the area with the existing front loop. This new sidewalk enables the district to establish a secure pathway from the side entrance of the building to the front sidewalk.

The proposed 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Project aims to enhance safety and security within our school community by implementing the installation of security film on windows and doors throughout the building. This proactive measure is designed to provide an additional layer of protection against potential security threats, such as forced entry, vandalism, or natural disasters.

***Budget for Wyoming CSD 2024-2025:***

On April 11, 2024 The Wyoming Central Board of Education approved, for your consideration, the proposed 2024-2025 School Budget of \$6,155,494 for the 2024-2025 academic year, with a 3.5% tax levy increase.

Our school district remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering top-tier education to our students, ensuring their academic, social, and emotional growth. With this guiding principle, our budget has been meticulously crafted to uphold our existing programs and attract and retain skilled educators and staff, among other vital endeavors. We firmly believe that this proposed budget is imperative in guaranteeing our students receive the finest education attainable, preparing them adequately for the future and empowering them to reach their fullest potential.

At \$6,155,494, the proposed budget reflects our dedication to maintaining a delicate balance between investing in crucial educational programs and resources while upholding our responsibility to our taxpayers. We are unwavering in our commitment to ensuring that no student is deprived of essential programs and resources.

I urge you to engage in the forthcoming school board meetings, where we will delve deeper into the budget proposal. These meetings will provide an avenue for addressing any inquiries or concerns you may have regarding the budget.

Please take the time to review the information in this newsletter, and I extend an invitation for you to join us for the school budget public meeting on May 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the school conference room.

Thank you for your unwavering support in the future of our students!

Sincerely,

*Emily Herman*



# MEET THE CANDIDATES



## Jordan Wetherwax

Born and raised on a 4th generation dairy farm in Wyoming I learned at a very young age the importance of work ethic, determination, and family values. It was a pleasure being a student at Wyoming Central School, where I was mentored by an amazing group of faculty and staff members. To them I will forever be grateful. I am proud to be a 2013 graduate of Wyoming Central School where I received the knowledge and education that has positioned me in my current occupation today. I am a Mechanical Engineer looking to give back to the community and district where I currently live. I believe that my skillsets, background, and enthusiasm will enhance the institution to further the education of the young minds here in Wyoming. If elected, I look forward to working with educators to continue to improve the opportunities for students, staff, and the district. Lastly, I would like to thank the community for the opportunity to serve and give back.

## Jodi H. Chamberlain

Hello! My name is Jodi Chamberlain. I grew up in various parts of New England and met my husband Greg at Cornell University while pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. We married in 1987, and I have been grateful to call Wyoming home for nearly 40 years. Together with our son Ben, and his family, we own and operate Highland Farms, an 850 cow Jersey dairy on Fox Rd.

Wyoming Central School has always had a special place in my heart – all three of our children received a terrific educational foundation there. I enjoyed substitute teaching for several years, and later became a certified Teaching Assistant, working closely with the middle school from 2008-2013. During my years in Wyoming I also served as Athletic Director, Ski Club Advisor, and coached the Girls' Soccer Team. At present our three granddaughters are students in Wyoming, and it has been wonderful to reconnect with the happenings at WCS through their concerts and projects and tales of classroom excitement.

I know that a K-8 school with a small student body can present some real challenges, but I've always felt the children in our community truly benefit from small class sizes and close relationships with their teachers and the staff. For a long time Wyoming Central has been known as the small school with a big heart...I feel this is true, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a school board member.

## Desiree Fioramonte

I am a long time resident of Wyoming. I graduated from 8th grade at Wyoming Central in 2002, followed by attending Attica for high school. Afterwards, I ventured to the Buffalo area where I pursued a degree in Early Childhood Education, now utilized for my family childcare program. I returned to Wyoming 8 years ago and currently reside here with my husband and 5 children, Nikolai, Eli, Levi, Leo and Emilia. It has been an incredible experience having my own children attend the school that I grew up in and watch them grow to love my hometown as much as I have.

It has grown even more special to me now after having the ability to be involved as a parent and community member. I have been a member of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the past seven years and am the current acting PTO Treasurer. It has been so rewarding to participate in this organization and provide our students, teachers and community with educational resources, activities, assemblies and exciting events for all to enjoy! I am hoping to further expand my community involvement to now include the Board of Education as well.

Our little school is so unique and special with our small-town sense of community and has always held a special place in my heart. If elected, I look forward to continuing to encourage those values and working alongside the fellow board members and community to support our school and provide an exceptional environment for our children.

I am grateful to have this potential opportunity to further support our community.



2024 All County  
Chorus Concert

# Annual Budget Referendum 2024-2025

What's on the ballot?

## PROPOSITION #1: Annual Budget

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

YES       NO       **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Wyoming Central School District shall be authorized to expend the amount of \$6,155,494.00, to meet the expenditures for the fiscal year 2024-2025, AND FURTHER that said Board of Education shall be authorized to levy and collect a tax upon taxable property of the School District in an amount necessary therefore.

## PROPOSITION #2: Board Elections

**RESOLVED**, to elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for two (2) five (5) year terms commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2029 to succeed Jessica Merrill and Rudd Wetherwax, whose terms expire on June 30, 2024. All board positions are at-large.

Vote for two (2):

- Jordan Wetherwax
- Desiree Fioramonte
- Jodi H. Chamberlain

\_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Candidate

## PROPOSITION #3: Authorization to withdraw from the existing "2020 Vehicle, Machinery, & Equipment Purchase Capital Reserve Fund"

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

YES       NO       **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Wyoming Central School District is hereby authorized to withdraw from the existing "2020 Vehicle, Machinery, & Equipment Purchase Capital Reserve Fund" a sum of money not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) and to expend such funds for the purchase of a 65 passenger diesel engine school bus.

# PROPOSITION #4: Wyoming Free Circulating Library Association

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

YES  NO  **RESOLVED**, shall the sum raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Wyoming Central School District for the purpose of funding a portion of the operating expenses of the Wyoming Free Library Association be increased by Two Thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) from the annual amount of Forty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Five dollars (\$43,495.00) to the annual amount of Forty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$45,495.00) commencing with the 2024-2025 school year?

## CAPITAL OUTLAY EXCEPTION PROJECT

NYS Law provides that a district may receive building aid in the following aid year for one project each year in the district not exceeding \$100,000. Voter authorization for these projects is obtained by inclusion of funding in the budget presented to and approved by the voters; such must be paid by budget appropriation. Districts may not use borrowed money for these projects. Project components planned for the proposed 2024-2025 budget include flooring replacement and security film on exterior windows/doors at the main building.

## Voting Procedures

**How do I sign in?** On the day of the vote between the hours of 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm, go to the sign-in table where you will be required to sign your name and township in which you reside. You will also be asked for the correct spelling of your name, and your address by our election workers. Our Election Workers also reserve the right to ask for a photo ID.

**Where and how do I complete the ballot?** At the sign-in table, you will be given a paper ballot and privacy sleeve and then instructed to go to a privacy booth. Once at the privacy booth, review the paper ballot, and make your selection using the pen provided. Be sure to place a  or  in the square. Select either yes or no for each proposition and select two (2) candidates you would like to see on the Board of Education. After you have finished filling out the ballot, place your folded ballot in the ballot box.

If you have any problems on the day of the vote, please see one of the Election Workers at the main table. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Norton, District Clerk at 585-495-6222 or via email at [nnorton@wyomingcsd.org](mailto:nnorton@wyomingcsd.org)



# Three-Part Budget Summary

Proposed Program Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Increase / (Decrease)	Percent of Program Budget	Percent of Total Budget
General Education	1,422,265	1,477,847	55,582	34.26%	24.02%
Programs for Students with Disabilities <sup>(1)</sup>	936,290	805,394	(130,896)	18.68%	13.08%
Career and Technical Education	127,725	112,320	(15,405)	2.60%	1.82%
Teaching Special Schools	2,788	2,900	112	0.07%	0.05%
Library and Computer Technology	86,556	90,506	3,950	2.10%	1.47%
Pupil Services	292,513	302,574	10,061	7.02%	4.92%
Interscholastic Athletics	25,375	26,675	1,300	0.62%	0.43%
Transportation Services	536,073	557,548	21,475	12.93%	9.06%
Community Programs	3,500	700	(2,800)	0.02%	0.01%
Employee Benefits	896,067	918,273	22,206	21.29%	14.92%
Transfers	27,500	17,500	(10,000)	0.41%	0.28%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,356,652</b>	<b>4,312,237</b>	<b>(44,415)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>70.06%</b>

(1) Decrease in students expected to attend BOCES and other out-of-district special education programs

Proposed Capital Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Increase / (Decrease)	Percent of Capital Budget	Percent of Total Budget
Operations and Buildings	296,766	291,433	(5,333)	31.27%	4.74%
Maintenance and Security of Buildings & Grounds <sup>(1)</sup>	120,606	176,327	55,721	18.92%	2.86%
Refund of Property Taxes	2,000	2,000	0	0.21%	0.03%
Bus Purchases <sup>(2)</sup>	160,000	162,593	2,593	17.45%	2.64%
Debt Service <sup>(3)</sup>	121,219	112,969	(8,250)	12.12%	1.84%
Employee Benefits <sup>(4)</sup>	110,911	86,686	(24,225)	9.30%	1.41%
Transfers	100,000	100,000	0	10.73%	1.62%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>911,502</b>	<b>932,008</b>	<b>20,506</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>15.14%</b>

(1) Reclass of the SRO to capital component of budget

(2) We intend to purchase a 65 passenger diesel engine school bus.

(3) \$100k to be used for a capital outlay exception project in the 2024-25 fiscal year

(4) Reduction in health insurance obligations

Proposed Administrative Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Increase / (Decrease)	Percent of Admin Budget	Percent of Total Budget
Board of Education	20,770	21,658	888	2.38%	0.35%
Central Administration	190,128	203,276	13,148	22.31%	3.30%
Finance and Central Services	450,357	439,201	(11,156)	48.19%	7.14%
School Administration	53,390	58,051	4,661	6.37%	0.94%
Employee Benefits <sup>(1)</sup>	217,160	189,063	(28,097)	20.75%	3.07%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>931,805</b>	<b>911,249</b>	<b>(20,556)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>14.80%</b>

(1) Reduction in retiree contractual benefits being paid in 2024-25

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**TOTAL PROPOSED BASIC BUDGET**

6,199,959

6,155,494

(44,465)

100.00%

## What is the Three-Part Budget?

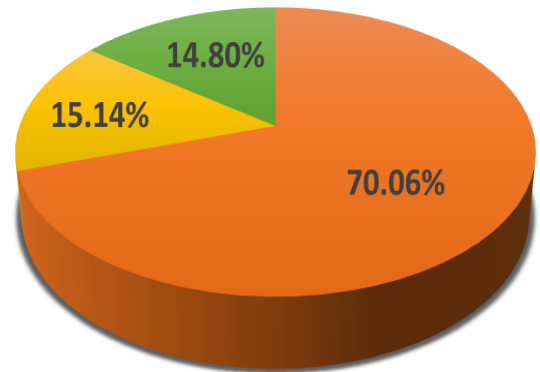
New York State law requires that all school districts present the proposed budget in three parts: Program, Capital and Administrative. The law also states that the Three-Part Budget must exclude any propositions or voter-authorized adjustment.

The Program component of the proposed budget includes expenses associated with our instructional program, teacher salaries and benefits, transportation costs, special education, legal services, and community services.

The Capital component contains building and grounds, maintenance, custodial services, utilities, administrative services, tax refunds and judgments, capital expenses, and debt services.

The Administrative component includes costs associated with running the Superintendent's/Principal's Office, Board of Education expenditures, finance/legal services, and personnel.

## Percent of Total Budget Information



■ Proposed Program Budget ■ Proposed Capital Budget ■ Proposed Administrative Budget

## Voter Qualifications

In order to participate in the voting process, you must be...

- A United States citizen;
- At least 18 years old;
- A resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the voting date.

## Absentee and Early Voting Ballot Information

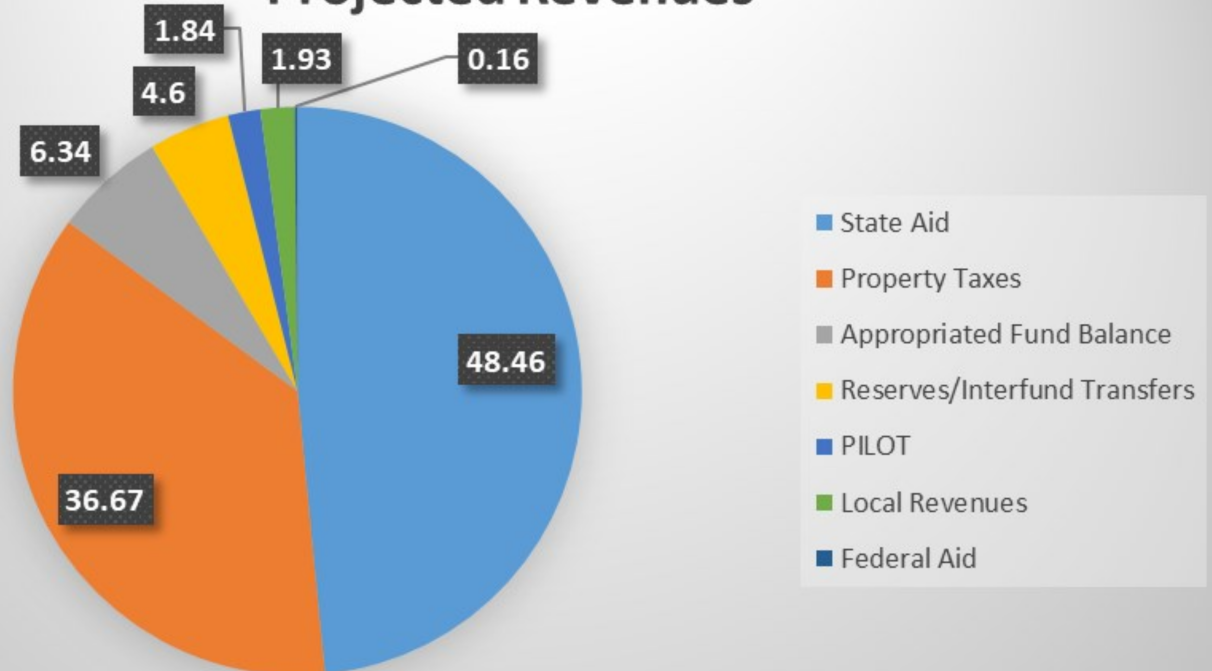
Applications for absentee and early voting ballots may be obtained from the District Clerk during school hours. The completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued in person.

The District Clerk must receive completed absentee ballots no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

# Projected Revenues

	Budgeted 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	2024-25 Increase / (Decrease)	2024-25 Percent Change	2024-25 Percent of Budget
Local Revenues (tuition, fees, rentals, interest, miscellaneous)	136,400	118,899	(17,501)	(12.83)%	1.93%
Property Taxes	2,181,220	2,257,562	76,342	3.50%	36.67%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	113,000	113,000	0	0.00%	1.84%
State Aid	2,968,515	2,982,743	14,228	0.48%	48.46%
Federal Aid	15,000	10,000	(5,000)	(33.33)%	0.16%
Reserves/Interfund Transfers	395,824	283,290	(112,534)	(28.43)%	4.60%
Appropriated Fund Balance	390,000	390,000	0	0.00%	6.34%
<b>Total Projected Revenues</b>	<b>6,199,959</b>	<b>6,155,494</b>	<b>(44,465)</b>	<b>(0.72)%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Projected Revenues





# Property Tax Report Card

Wyoming CSD #671002

	Budgeted 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	6,199,959	6,155,494
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>(1)</sup>	2,181,220	2,257,562
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable <sup>(2)</sup>	0	0
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	2,181,220	2,257,562
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	0	640
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>(3)</sup>	2,211,216	2,257,323
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	2,181,220	2,256,922
I. Difference: (G-H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) <sup>(2)</sup>	29,996	401
Public School Enrollment	142	144
Consumer Price Index	8.00%	4.12%

(1) Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

(2) Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

(3) For 2024-25, include any carryover from 2023-24 and exclude any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2023-24	Estimated 2024-25
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	3,688,971	2,511,618
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	390,000	390,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	247,997	246,200
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%



# Wyoming CSD 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	\$6,199,959	\$6,155,494	\$5,825,726
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2024-25 School Year		(\$44,465)	(\$374,233)
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		(.72%)	(6.04%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$2,181,220	\$2,257,562	
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)	\$2,181,220	\$2,257,562	\$2,181,220
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$640	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$2,211,216	\$2,257,323	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$2,181,220	\$2,256,922	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval — See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$29,996	\$401	
Administrative Component	\$931,805	\$911,249	\$905,474
Program Component	\$4,356,652	\$4,312,237	\$4,287,837
Capital Component	\$911,502	\$932,008	\$632,415
*Equipment and bus purchases, as well as transfers to the capital fund for capital construction projects, have been eliminated to arrive at a contingent budget.			
<p>**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)</p>		Description	Amount
		Library Proposition	\$45,495
		(vote to increase library levy by \$2,000, from \$43,495 to \$45,495)	

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$417 - \$457

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-2025 by the qualified voters of the Wyoming Central School District, Wyoming County, New York will be held at the school in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the Wyoming Central School District foyer, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by paper voting ballot.

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





"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt."

-- John Muir

Come join us at the  
**WCS Spring Concerts**

**3rd & 4th Grade**  
**May 14th @ 6:30**

**Middle School**  
**May 16th @ 6:30**



WYOMING CENTRAL PTO  
INVITES YOU TO OUR

**MOTHER-SON**  
**KICKBALL NIGHT**

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 @ 6PM

**WYOMING VILLAGE PARK**

FREE TO ATTEND

MUST RSVP - PIZZA WILL BE SERVED

RSVP AT [HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/241117405856051](https://form.jotform.com/241117405856051)



Wyoming Central School District  
1225 State Route 19  
PO Box 244  
Wyoming NY 14591-0244

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14591



### Board of Education

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Ben Chamberlain, President  
Barry True, Vice President  
Kaitlyn Bush  
Jessica Merrill  
Haley Tygart  
Rudd Wetherwax  
Nicole White

### Superintendent of Schools

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Emily Herman

### District Treasurer

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Joelle Stroud

