

# PUTNAM VALLEY

Budget Newsletter 2026-2027



## Dear Putnam Valley Community:

For the last several months, the District has been preparing the budget for the 2026-2027 school year and working to provide residents with the information needed to make an informed decision when registered voters within the Putnam Valley Central School District cast their ballots on May 19. Please take a few minutes to review this newsletter, learn more about the proposed budget, and see highlights from across our schools. Additional updates from our buildings, detailed budget presentations, along with corresponding videos, are available on our website at [pvcpsd.org](http://pvcpsd.org).

We are proud to present a budget that prioritizes the District's instructional programs, maximizes savings opportunities, and maintains long-term fiscal stability. This proposal includes additional staffing to reduce class sizes at the Elementary School, enhance the Middle School World Language (Spanish) program, and strengthen support for students receiving Special Education services. For the 15th consecutive year, the proposed budget remains within the allowable tax levy limit. With a tax levy increase of 1.98%, this budget strikes a careful balance between meeting the financial needs of our community and sustaining a rigorous, well-rounded educational experience for all students.

This year's budget continues to support key instructional priorities, including:

- ▶ A strong emphasis on writing instruction and literacy development, Kindergarten through 12th grade
- ▶ Ongoing implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) at the Middle and High Schools
- ▶ Continued focus on science instruction at all grade levels
- ▶ Adoption of new graduation requirements as per the New York State Department of Education Inspires initiative

We encourage all community members to take advantage of the information available and participate in the vote on May 19 at Putnam Valley Elementary School. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Dr. Jeremy Luft  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Barbara Parmly  
*Board of Education President*



*Putnam Valley High School opened its doors in September 2000. We are proud to celebrate 25 years of learning, growth, and community.*

SPRING 2026

## Budget Highlights

- ★ **15th Consecutive Year Within the Tax Cap** Among the lowest tax levies in the region
- ★ **Use of Existing Reserves** Helps balance the budget & limit additional taxpayer impact
- ★ **Balanced, Responsible Budget** Sustains strong programs while maintaining fiscal responsibility
- ★ **Support for Student Success** Strong academic programs implemented by experienced and dedicated staff
- ★ **Revenue generated by welcoming Garrison students** Generates revenue without increasing expenses – utilizing existing resources and reducing taxpayer impact

## Savings Achieved

- ✓ Reduced outsourcing by leveraging the skills of our talented employees
- ✓ Geothermal heating/cooling and solar panels at all three buildings reduce our reliance on public utilities (electricity and oil)
- ✓ Strong fiscal health yields "AA" bond rating
- ✓ Shared services and community partnerships reduce costs
- ✓ Investment earnings generate additional savings

★ **VOTE** ★

**Tuesday,  
May 19, 2026**

**6 AM - 9 PM**

Putnam Valley Elementary School  
171 Oscawana Lake Road

# School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$63,331,741	\$65,254,332	\$64,409,969
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$1,922,590	\$1,078,228
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.04%	1.70%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 42,568,295	\$43,412,658	
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	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$42,568,295</b>	<b>\$43,412,658</b>	<b>\$42,568,295</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,195,647	\$2,232,557	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$41,012,647	\$41,180,101	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$40,372,648	41,180,101	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$639,999	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$6,510,602	\$6,757,751	\$6,757,751
Program Component	\$48,666,695	\$49,370,608	\$49,370,608
Capital Component	\$8,154,444	\$9,125,973	\$8,281,610

\*Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, in the case of a contingency budget, districts are constrained in three ways: determination of ordinary contingency budget appropriations, the administrative cap, and the restriction on the tax levy. Ordinary contingency expenses are defined as the expenditures absolutely necessary to operate and maintain schools.

\*\* 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
PROPOSITION 2 – Putnam Valley Free Library	\$514,500

## Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Carmel	\$960
Cortlandt	\$1,576
Putnam Valley	\$963

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Putnam Valley School District, Putnam County, New York, will be held at the Putnam Valley Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Putnam Valley School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

## Budget Fast Facts

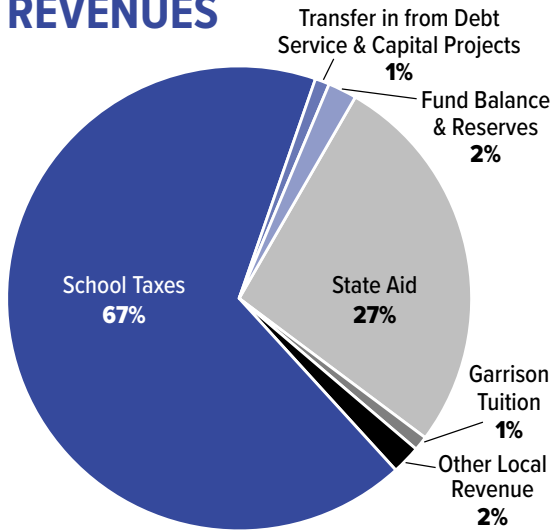
Budget..... \$ 65,254,332  
 Tax Levy Increase.....1.98%  
 Budget to Budget Increase.....3.04%

**For the 15th year in a row,  
 the annual budget tax levy is  
 within the state cap—despite  
 rising inflation.**

## CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: Summer Construction and Limited Campus Access

Following voter approval of the Capital Project in May, the District has worked closely with architects and engineers to expedite the timeline and begin approved work this summer, helping reduce future escalation costs. The project – which includes the nurse’s suite, expansion of the geothermal system and HVAC work at the Elementary school, as well as the parking lot, retaining wall, and drainage work on the Middle and High School campus – has received New York State Education Department approval and is currently out to bid. Pending contractor selection, limited portions of the project are expected to begin this summer. Please note: Access to the Middle and High School campus will be limited.

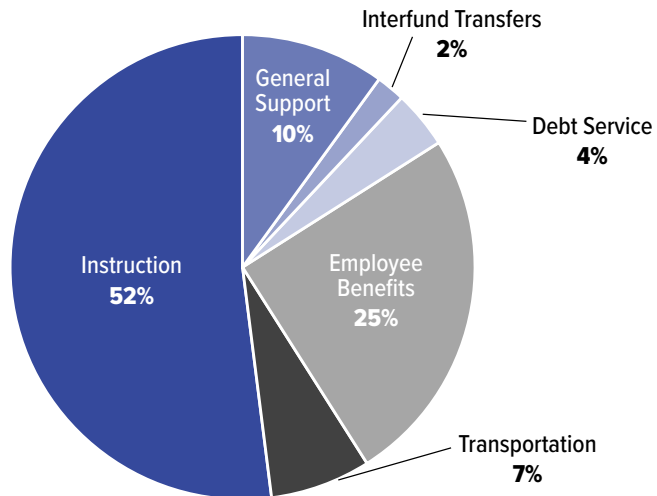
## REVENUES



### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

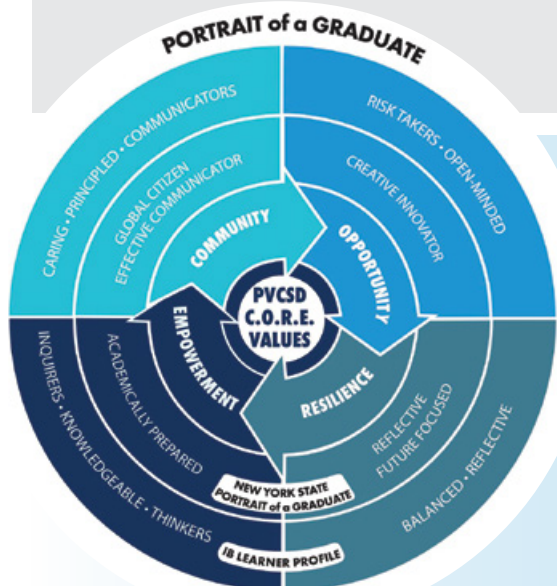
<b>REVENUES</b> .....	<b>\$65,254,332</b>
<b>Real Property Tax Levy 67%</b> .....	<b>\$43,412,658</b>
Derived from the assessed value of your property and the equalization rate.	
<b>State Aid 27%</b> .....	<b>\$17,808,162</b>
Anticipated State Aid.	
<b>Fund Balance &amp; Reserves 2%</b> .....	<b>\$1,355,112</b>
Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves.	
<b>Transfer in from Debt Service &amp; Capital Projects 1%</b> .....	<b>\$795,610</b>
Transfer in from Debt Service Fund to help offset current budget expenditures. Transfer in from Capital Fund to close out completed projects.	
<b>Other Local Revenues 2%</b> .....	<b>\$1,365,000</b>
Revenues from sources such as charges from outside groups, out-of-district tuition, sales tax, and interest on investments.	
<b>Garrison Tuition 1%</b> .....	<b>\$517,790</b>
Student tuition received from Garrison Union Free School District.	

## EXPENSES



### WHERE THE MONEY GOES

<b>EXPENDITURES</b> .....	<b>\$65,254,332</b>
<b>Instruction 52%</b> .....	<b>\$33,980,600</b>
Includes teacher salaries, instructional materials and supplies, library and media, computer assisted instruction, Special Education services, Pupil Personnel, BOCES Services, Athletics, and Health Services.	
<b>Employee Benefits 25%</b> .....	<b>\$16,003,000</b>
Includes mandated costs for Social Security, Medicare, retirement, health and other related insurance costs.	
<b>General Support 10%</b> .....	<b>\$6,395,917</b>
Covers the cost of central administration, finance and treasurer, personnel, public relations, and legal expenses.	
<b>Transportation 7%</b> .....	<b>\$4,819,097</b>
Reflects in-district and out-of-district school transportation, salaries, materials, and fuel.	
<b>Debt Service 4%</b> .....	<b>\$2,475,718</b>
Used to pay principal and interest on capital projects.	
<b>Interfund Transfers 2%</b> .....	<b>\$1,580,000</b>
<b>Transfer to Special Aid:</b> \$140,000 used to pay non-aidable portion of the Extended School Year Program.	
<b>Transfer to Capital Fund:</b> \$1,440,000 to be used for the projects listed below: handicap parking lot and driveway behind the High School, LED lights for turf, pedestrian walkway to the new stairs, outdoor fitness equipment, move the student support suite to the 2nd floor, and photovoltaic panels.	



## Showcasing Putnam Valley to State Education Leaders

We had the recent honor of welcoming Dr. Betty Rosa, New York State Commissioner of Education, to Putnam Valley. The visit provided a meaningful opportunity to showcase how our instructional programs and student experiences are preparing students to graduate confident, capable, and future-ready.

Putnam Valley continues to be recognized across New York State as a model district—an acknowledgment made possible by the dedication of our staff. Dr. Rosa was joined by members of her team, including Regent Fran Wills, former superintendent of Putnam Valley schools.



## Mason - Our Golden Retriever

Mason, our Blue Path Facility Dog, continues to make a positive impact throughout the school community. Made possible through a grant from the Putnam Valley Education Foundation, Mason provides comfort and connection to students and staff each day. He regularly visits classrooms and spends time with students in the library, helping create a calm and welcoming environment. We are grateful to our community partners, North Westchester Veterinary and Paw Prints Grooming & Boutique, for their ongoing support of Mason.

## A Tradition of Excellence in Music Education

Putnam Valley has a proud tradition of excellence in music education, providing students at every grade level with meaningful opportunities to explore and develop their musical talents. Beginning in elementary school, students engage in a rich general music program, including hands-on experience with instruments and

performance opportunities. Middle school students expand their skills through ensembles, musical theater, jazz, NYSSMA participation, and All-



County performances. At the high school level, students can participate in award-winning theater, jazz ensemble, pit orchestra, music production, guitar, and piano courses. Supported by a strong community commitment to the arts, Putnam Valley has been recognized by the NAMM Foundation as one of the Best Communities for Music Education for more than a decade.

We warmly welcome the community to witness the creative and exceptional talent of our high school performers and stage crew when PVHS TheatreWorks presents our fall dramas and spring musicals.

## 2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

**Congratulations to the Class of 2026 Valedictorian Massimo Cartategui and Salutatorian Kaitlyn Caruso**

### Valedictorian Massimo

**Cartategui:** "Don't be afraid to try new things. If you see a class you know nothing about, take it. If you see a club that might interest you, join it. The biggest opportunities we miss are the ones we never think twice about taking." Massimo will be attending Northeastern University and will major in Electrical & Computer Engineering.

**Salutatorian Kaitlyn Caruso:** "High school can be hard, but what matters most is that you stand with yourself and know that you are good enough." Kaitlyn will be attending Binghamton University to major in Chemistry.



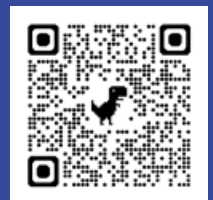
*Kaitlyn and Massimo pictured with Dr. Payne, High School Assistant Principal, Mrs. Davino, High School Guidance Counselor, and Mr. Mello, High School Principal*



## Universal Pre-K: Details and Lottery

The Putnam Valley CSD is partnering with the YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester to offer a Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program for 4-year-olds who reside in the Putnam Valley School District. Now in its inaugural year, the program is building a strong foundation for future learning and has quickly become a valued part of our school community.

UPK is housed in the modular building located behind our Elementary School. Students turning 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2027 are selected through a lottery which will open in January 2027. Please scan the QR code for more UPK information.



## ASPIRE Art Work

ASPIRE— Awareness, Safety, Perseverance, Integrity, Respect, and Empathy— represents the values embraced by Putnam Valley High School students and staff. Each year, juniors are invited to submit artwork for the annual ASPIRE contest, reflecting one or more of these core attributes. Julian Vazquez, a talented photographer and AP Art & Design student, was selected by a committee as the winner for the 2025–2026 school year.



## Celebrating Student-Athlete Opportunity and Resilience

- ★ **9 state championship appearances** including, swimmer Elisabeth Knuth (100m Breaststroke), Girls Volleyball (state finalists), Competitive Cheer Oliver Rzewicki (100-yard Backstroke), Girls Wrestling Maddy Keeler, Julia DiMichele, Delina Gritz, and Alexis Keeler, and Game Day Cheerleading who brought home a state championship once again!
- ★ **Nearly 100% of our varsity teams** were recognized as NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams.
- ★ **236 individual student-athletes** have been recognized as Individual Scholar-Athletes honor (90+ average)



*Cheer Coach Kelly Wilson named Section One Coach of the Year*

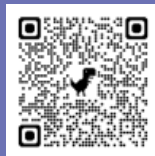


*Game Day Cheerleaders bring home another state title!*

## Middle School Career Fair



The Middle School Career Fair will take place on Thursday, May 21 from 8AM-12PM. This event provides our middle school students with the opportunity to explore various professions, learn about different career paths, and gain valuable insights from experienced professionals who live or work in our community. If you are interested in helping students connect their education to real-world opportunities, please contact us (845) 528-8101 or use the QR code.



*Volleyball - Section champs and state finalists*

## Athletic Hall of Fame

The Putnam Valley Athletic Hall of Fame honors the achievements, tradition, and lasting legacy established by outstanding athletes, coaches, contributors, and athletic programs. This year, we are proud to induct two remarkable individuals: Ryan Fitzgerald (Class of 2010) and Kim Kastuk (Class of 2007).

These inductees exemplify the excellence celebrated by our Hall of Fame, and we are excited to recognize their lasting impact on our schools and community. The entire community is invited to celebrate the inductees at the formal induction ceremony on June 15 in our Performing Arts Center, as well as during a special recognition at our Homecoming football game on October 9, 2026.



## CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR TIME?

Reach out to our amazing volunteer organizations:

Education Foundation at [pvefny@gmail.com](mailto:pvefny@gmail.com)

Putnam Valley PTA at [putnamvalleypta@gmail.com](mailto:putnamvalleypta@gmail.com)

Putnam Valley Booster Club at [putnamvalleyboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:putnamvalleyboosterclub@gmail.com)

Putnam Valley PTSA at [putnamvalleyptsa@gmail.com](mailto:putnamvalleyptsa@gmail.com)

*It takes a Valley!*



**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
Central School District  
171 Oscawana Lake Road  
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

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Crystal Hernandez, *Trustee*  
Sam Oliverio, *Trustee*

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Jeremy Luft  
  
*Published by Putnam Northern  
Westchester Board of Cooperative  
Educational Services*

[www.pvcasd.org](http://www.pvcasd.org)



**Vote Information**

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND EARLY VOTING BALLOTS**

Ballots can be mailed to you until May 12, 2026. To have a ballot mailed to you, applications must be completed and received no later than May 12, 2026. After that date, ballots are available for pickup at the District Office through 4 PM Monday, May 18, 2026. Absentee/early voting ballots must be received by Tuesday, May 19, 2026, by 5 PM.

**SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

All registered voters may vote for one candidate. Candidates who are seeking a three-year term are Crystal Hernandez and Jay Lee.

**Number of registered voters: 7,900 Average voter turnout: 850**

**Ballot Information:**

**Proposition#1:** Putnam Valley School District Budget  
**Proposition#2:** Putnam Valley Library Budget  
**Board of Education Trustee seat:** Vote for one

**What happens if the school budget fails?**

The Board of Education may be forced to adopt a budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied the prior year (contingency budget\* see budget notice) or put the same or revised budget before the voters again. A second defeat would require the adoption of the contingency budget, resulting in an \$844,363 reduction for the 2026-2027 school year and would compound required reductions for subsequent years.



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**pvcasd.org**

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**La traducción en español de esta información está disponible en la página web del distrito escolar ([www.pvcasd.org](http://www.pvcasd.org)). Copias en español se pueden encontrar en la oficina principal de nuestro distrito así como también en las oficinas de nuestras escuelas en el distrito.**

**BUDGET & TRUSTEE VOTE**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

6 AM - 9 PM ★ Putnam Valley Elementary School  
171 Oscawana Lake Road