

QUEST *A* R III

TENTATIVE 2026 2027 BUDGET

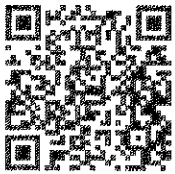
ANNUAL BUDGET & BOARD ELECTION 4/21/26



'26-'27

ANNUAL BUDGET AND BOARD ELECTION VOTE

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOCES & SCHOOL BUDGET? SCAN OR FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW FOR A VIDEO THAT EXPLAINS.



www.questar.org/about-us/business-finance/

At its annual meeting on April 1, Questar III BOCES will present its 2026-2027 tentative administrative budget in advance of the annual vote by the boards of education of the 21 component school districts in Rensselaer, Columbia, and Greene counties on April 21. Questar III's tentative administrative budget for 2026-2027 is \$7,687,882, which is an increase of \$226,873 or 3.04 percent from the previous year's budget.

However, the actual administrative charge to districts is \$6,198,182 representing an increase of \$148,832 or 2.46 percent from the previous year. The administrative charge is reduced by \$1,489,700 in revenues earned from administrative fees for statewide services, indirect costs from grants and contracts, and interest income.

These revenues reduce the local share of the administrative budget by nearly 19 percent. As our statewide district support services grow, so does our administrative revenue, which in turn reduces administrative charges to our component districts.

The Questar III administrative budget contains two components, which both account for approximately 50 percent of this budget. This includes 1) other post-employment benefits (OPEB) for retiree health insurance, which are mandated by the state to be covered in this budget, and 2) the general administrative operations.

The general administrative operations support the management, coordination and leadership provided by the BOCES. It includes the Office of the District Superintendent, central administrative expenses, Board of Education expenses, and regional planning necessary to carry out the administrative duties of the BOCES.

2026 – 2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET: DISTRICT IMPACT

CHARGE TO DISTRICTS:
\$6,198,182

↑ FROM 2025-2026:
2.46%

REVENUE OFFSET:
\$1,489,700

↓ IN LOCAL SHARE:
19%

The administrative budget also contains funding to support activities associated with implementation of regional initiatives in advocacy, certification, communications, district strategic planning, emergency management, grant research, superintendent searches, and professional development for school boards and superintendents.

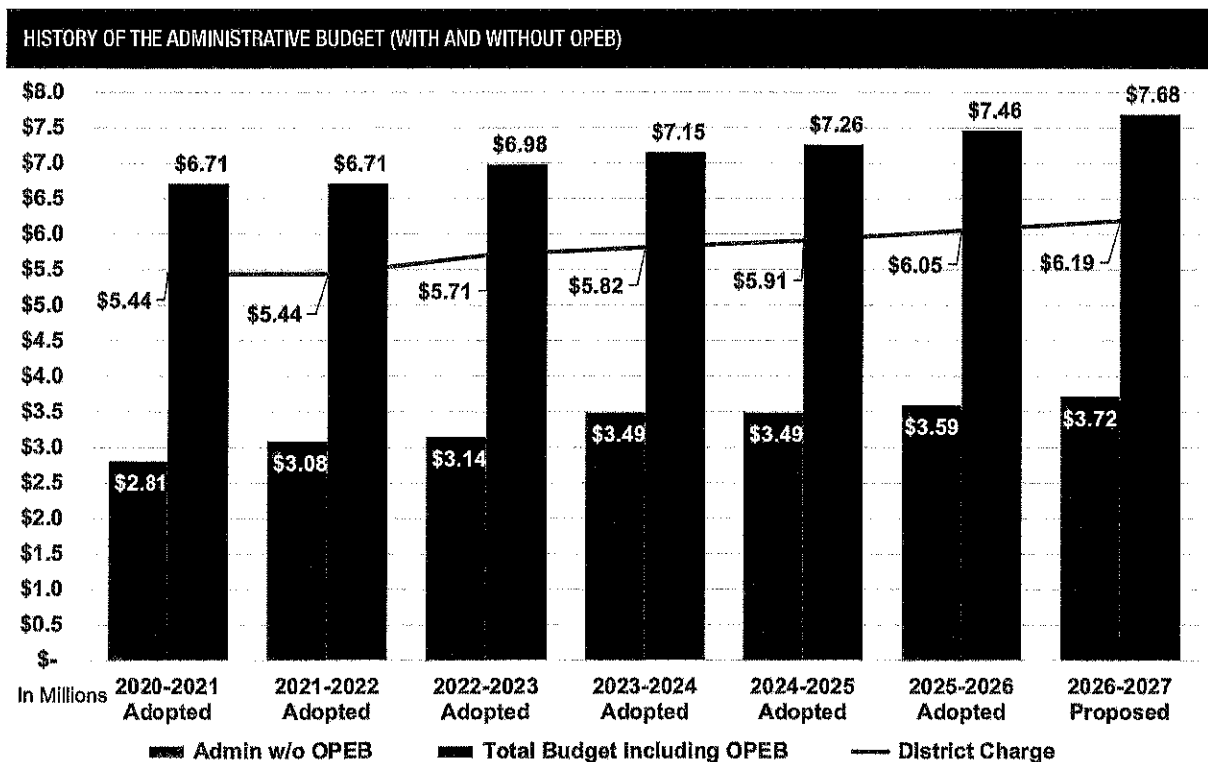
Increases to OPEB and fringe benefits account for most of this budget's increase next school year.

Sections 1950 and 1951 of the NYS Education Law established BOCES and the requirement of component districts to pay a proportionate share of the administrative, rent and capital costs. School districts pay an annual assessment toward the support of these budgets based upon their Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA).

TENTATIVE BUDGET: ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2025-25 Actual Expenditures	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Adjusted Budget	2026-27 Tentative Budget
INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	\$389,633	\$382,076	\$382,076	\$403,173
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	953,768	1,011,900	993,500	1,037,732
EQUIPMENT	10,113	12,000	160,847	10,800
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	129,327	123,113	127,324	90,850
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	243,534	296,452	323,863	336,720
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS	185,579	364,100	431,367	333,080
INTEREST ON REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES	86,444	125,000	120,000	175,000
EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	520,555	709,246	705,246	767,225
OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	3,766,834	3,863,883	3,863,883	3,972,085
TRANSFER CHARGES FROM OPERATIONS & MAINT.	129,852	67,891	128,295	61,173
TRANSFER CHARGES FROM OTHER SERVICES	466,143	505,348	512,426	500,044
TOTAL	\$6,881,782	\$7,461,009	\$7,748,827	\$7,687,882

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Tentative Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total Administrative Budget	\$7,461,009	\$7,687,882	\$226,873	3.04%
Less: Other Revenues	(1,411,659)	(1,489,700)	(78,041)	5.53%
Administrative Charge to Components	\$6,049,350	\$6,198,182	\$148,832	2.46%



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHY DO DISTRICTS ONLY VOTE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE PORTION OF THE QUESTAR III BUDGET?

Chapter 295 of the Laws of 1993 specifically limits the vote to the administrative portion. Each board casts one vote on Questar III's proposed administrative budget and one vote for each vacant board seat at the April 21 BOCES vote.

WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SALARY AND BENEFITS PAID TO THE BOCES DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT?

The District Superintendent serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Questar III BOCES and is the representative of the New York State Commissioner of Education in the Questar III BOCES Supervisory District. The District Superintendent's salary is paid by New York State and Questar III BOCES. The BOCES Reform Legislation of 1993 limits the salary and mandates the separate reporting of the District Superintendent salary and benefits as follows:

State of New York portion of salary and fringe:

District Superintendent Salary \$43,499
Plus all Medicare and Social Security taxes

BOCES portion of salary and fringe:

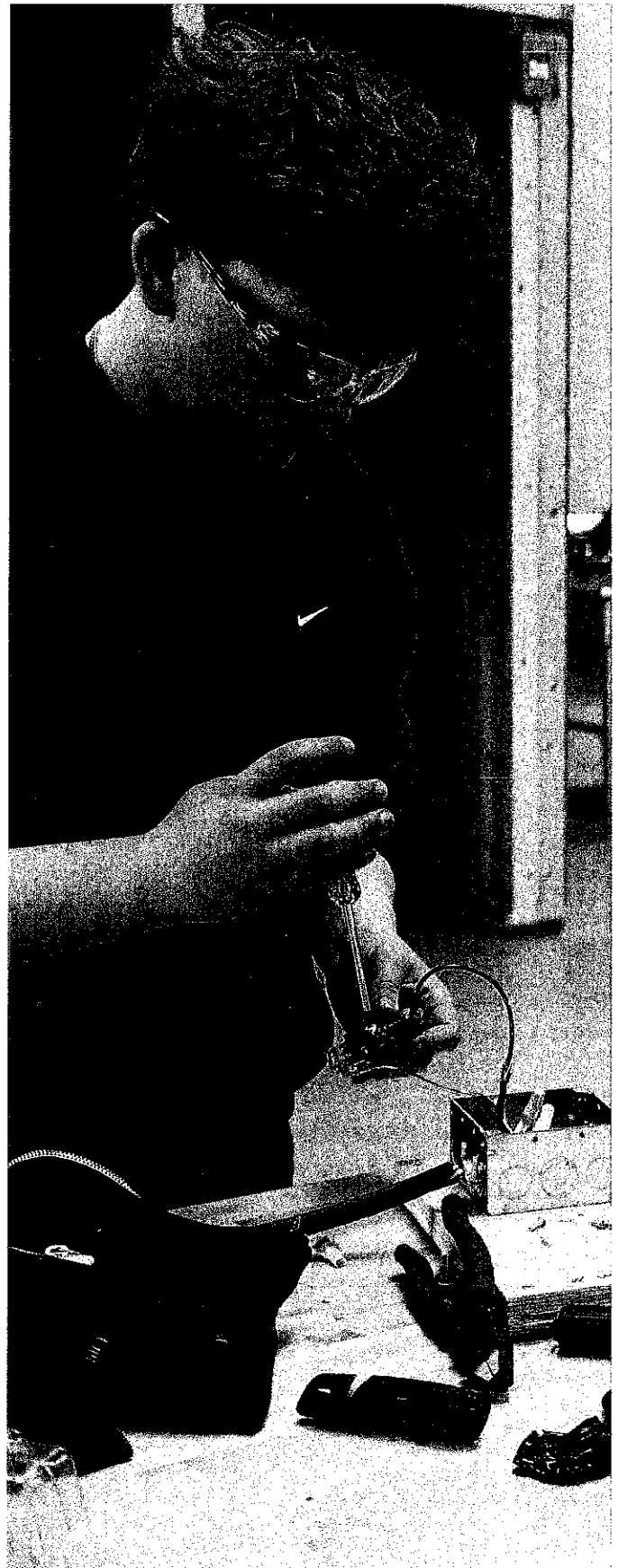
District Superintendent Salary \$164,751
New York State Teacher Retirement \$15,137
Health, Dental & Disability Insurance \$45,324
Workers' Compensation Insurance \$2,595
Unemployment Insurance \$519

WHAT ARE THE REVENUES THAT REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS?

The revenues from administrative fees charged to non-component districts for statewide services, indirect costs and other miscellaneous revenues help Questar III contain administrative costs for its 21 component districts. These statewide services include State Aid & Financial Planning, GASB75, Internal Audit, STAC, and the new Medicaid reimbursement services which are purchased by hundreds of districts.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE QUESTAR III ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

If the majority of boards vote no, Questar III is legally required to adopt a contingency administrative budget. Unlike a local district, there is no second vote allowed for the BOCES administrative budget. Under a contingency budget, Questar III's total administrative budget cannot exceed the dollar amount of the previous year. Expenditures for health insurance benefits for retirees are exempt. The contingency budget is \$7,569,211.

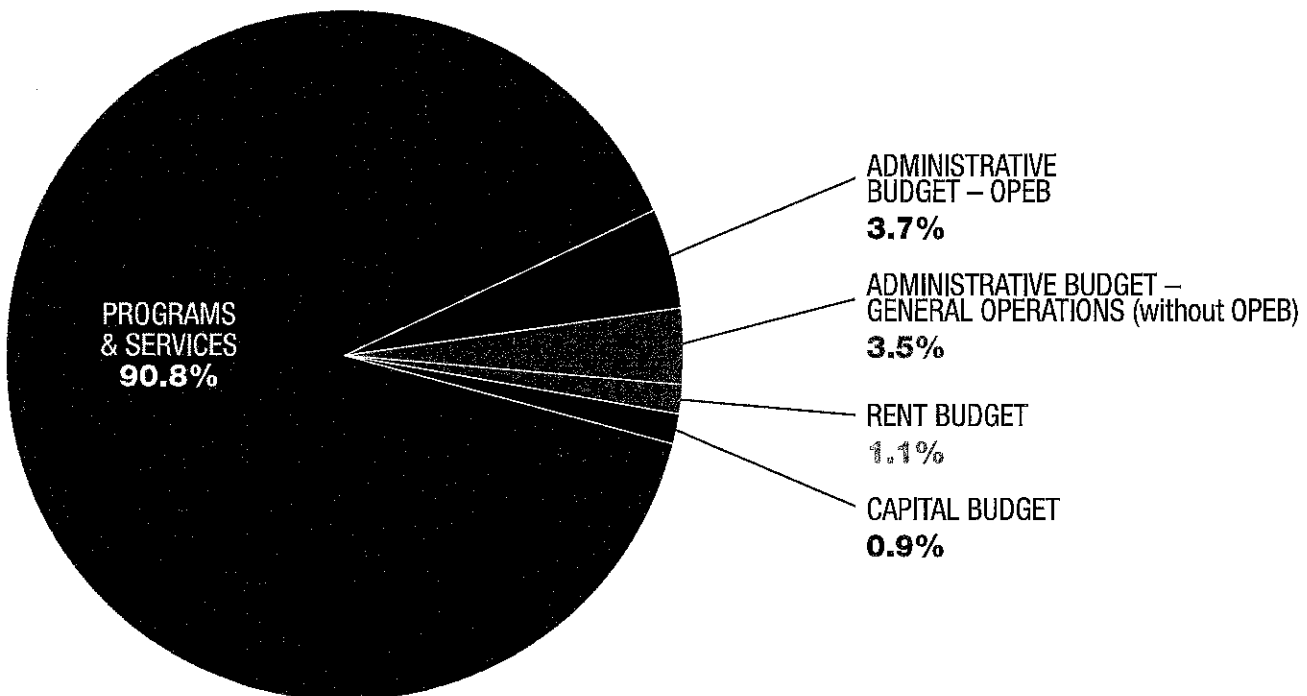


IMPACT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE, RENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS

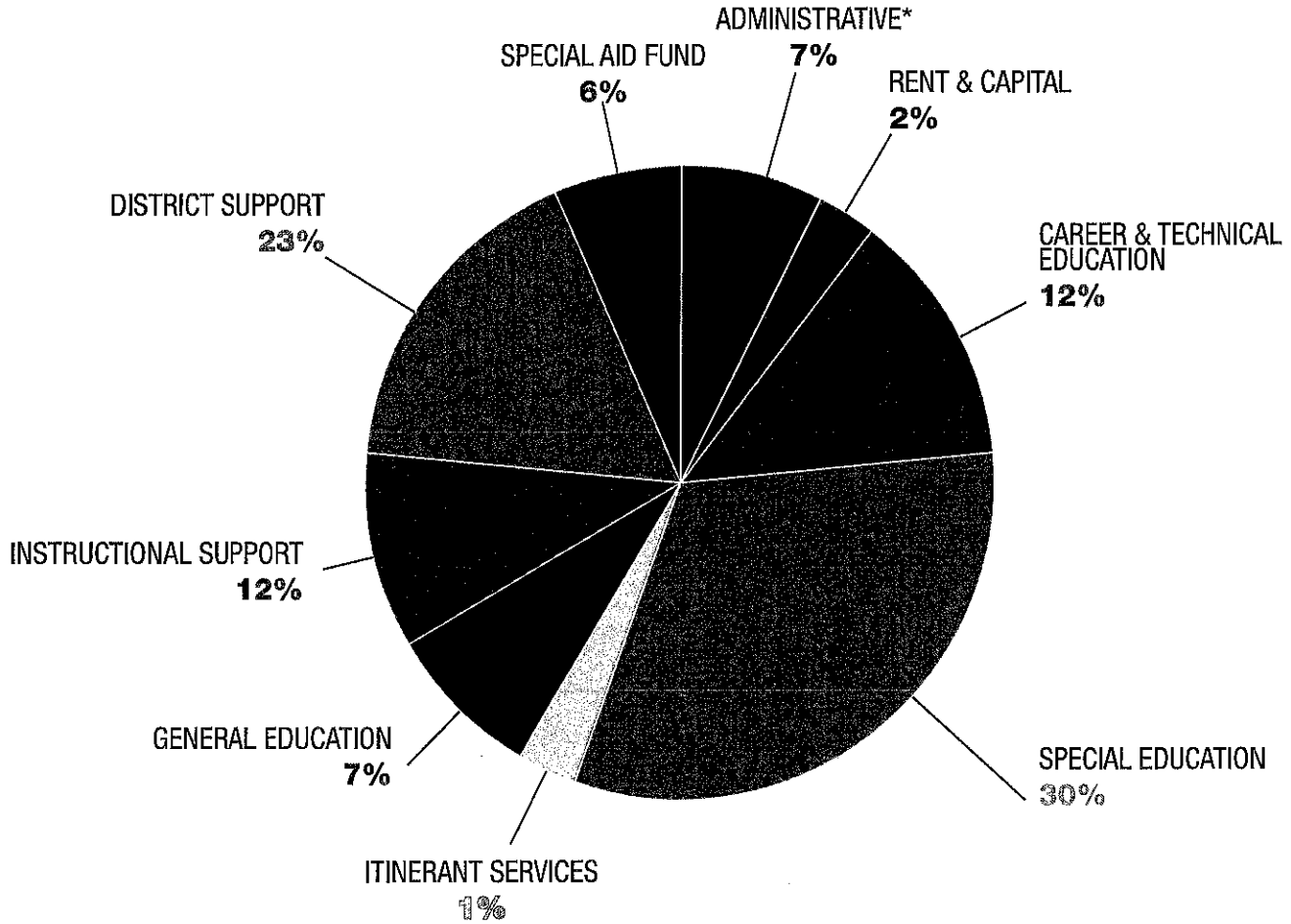
School districts' annual allocation of the administrative, rent, and capital budget is based on their Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA). District charges vary based upon increases or decreases in RWADA. In summary, the total administrative rent and capital budget will increase by 2.34 percent for a total combined budget of \$9,907,099. The net administrative, rent and capital charge to components, after other revenues are applied, will increase by 1.8 percent for a total combined charge of \$8,411,549 for 2026-2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE, RENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS & CHARGES TO COMPONENTS	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2026-27 Tentative Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total Administrative Budget	7,461,009	7,687,882	\$226,873	3.04%
Total Rent & Capital Budget	2,219,217	2,219,217	-	0.00%
Total Administrative, Rent and Capital Budgets	\$9,680,226	\$9,907,099	\$226,873	2.34%
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Total Administrative Charge	6,049,350	6,198,182	\$148,832	2.46%
Total Rent & Capital Charge	2,213,367	2,213,367	-	0.00%
Total Administrative, Rent & Capital Charge to Components	\$8,262,717	\$8,411,549	\$148,832	1.80%

Together the administrative, rent and capital budgets equate to 9.2 percent of the total Questar III BOCES Tentative Budget. The remaining 90.8 percent represents the programs and services purchased by districts and other BOCES.



TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET



PROGRAM/SERVICE CATEGORY	2024-25 Actual Expenditures	2025-26 Adopted Budget	2025-26 Adjusted Budget	2026-27 Tentative Budget
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$6,881,782	\$7,461,009	\$7,748,827	\$7,687,882
RENT & CAPITAL	2,202,602	2,219,217	2,219,217	2,219,217
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	12,363,668	12,252,861	15,420,415	12,456,288
SPECIAL EDUCATION	29,396,330	31,932,127	32,639,501	32,289,833
ITINERANT SERVICES	1,843,049	1,786,955	2,044,119	1,519,086
GENERAL EDUCATION	7,117,223	7,156,029	7,270,425	6,998,794
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	13,885,834	12,305,130	14,215,934	13,069,433
DISTRICT SUPPORT	20,614,799	22,755,162	24,497,033	24,241,167
SPECIAL AID FUND	7,013,466	6,968,399	6,817,562	6,702,224
TOTAL	\$101,318,753	\$104,836,889	\$112,873,033	\$107,183,924

* The Administrative Budget is the only portion of the budget that component boards vote upon on April 21, 2026.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS CONTINUED

HOW DO SCHOOL DISTRICTS PURCHASE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES? All services and programs must be requested, in writing, through a final service request (FSR) process approved by superintendents each year. Every May, districts have the option to renew or not renew, increase or decrease any service. Questar III and districts enter into formal contracts through these final service requests. Specified in each contract are the number and types of services to be furnished by the BOCES, the number of students to be served and the amount to be paid to the BOCES. Districts only pay for their share of requested programs and services.

HOW MUCH AID DO SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECEIVE FOR PURCHASING BOCES SERVICES? The amount of state aid that a district receives on BOCES purchases is determined by a formula that reflects its wealth. The state provides BOCES Aid to reimburse districts for a portion of what they spent the previous year. The reimbursement ranges from 36 to 78 percent in the Questar III region.

WHY DOES QUESTAR III'S BUDGET CHANGE DURING THE YEAR? We set our rates in January so districts can plan their budgets. However, we do not receive final program/service requests until May 1st. This means the initial program and service budgets are built on historical trends and projections. It's only after May 1st that we know how many students will be enrolled in our programs and how many services have been purchased. Budgets are then adjusted based on actual purchases. The Adopted Budget is the spending plan adopted by the Questar III Board in June, based on initial service requests. The Adjusted Budget reflects additional requests made by component and non-component districts and BOCES after May 1st. The final budget is based on actual expenditures after the fiscal year has closed.

HOW DOES QUESTAR III SEEK TO MITIGATE COST SERVICES FOR DISTRICTS? Questar III mitigates costs through a combination of collaborative governance, strategic management, and rate containment. Questar III uses a shared-decision-making process involving superintendent subcommittees. Through this process, programs and services are developed, eliminated or refined to better meet district and student needs. This allows Questar III to gain a better understanding of what districts need and value. The chart to the right demonstrates how cost containment and strong participation results in the majority of program/service rate increases within the districts' tax cap limitations.

YEAR	% of Programs & Services with <u>no</u> rate increase	% of Programs & Services with a rate increase of <u>2% or less</u>
'22-'23	68.64%	79.79%
'23-'24	70.44%	82.85%
'24-'25	66.36%	78.50%
'25-'26	54.92%	76.53%
'26-'27	60.33%	73.14%

HOW DOES A BOCES BUDGET DIFFER FROM A SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET?

	Local District Budget	Questar III BOCES Budget
Taxing Authority	Yes	No
Budget Structure	A three-part budget (Administrative, Program, Capital).	A collection of independent budgets (Administrative, Rent/Capital, and numerous individual program budgets).
Financial Basis	Expenditure-based (Budget is determined by projected costs).	Revenue-based (Final program budgets are determined by the revenue generated from district requests).
Voter Approval	Subject to a public vote by district residents.	Component school boards vote only on the Administrative budget
Funding Model	Primarily by local property taxes and state aid.	Districts only pay for the specific programs and services they use. Administrative, Rent/Capital costs are allocated based on RWADA.

Mary Dowd Daly

Ms. Mary Dowd Daly is a past member of the Hudson City School District Board of Education, serving from 2006 through 2012, including one year as president.

She is a graduate of Hudson High School in Hudson, New York and attended Hollister Jr. College and College of St Rose. Ms. Daly served on the board of Hudson Dollars for Scholars as well.

Ms. Daly currently serves on the Board of Directors at Columbia Golf & Country Club and Administrative Assistant at Keeler Precast Concrete Co. Inc., a family-owned precast concrete business in operation since 1949.

She and her husband, John, are the parents of three children who are all graduates of Hudson High School.

January 2026

John C. Hill

Mr. John Hill has been a resident of the Village of Valley Falls for over 80 years and has served as Trustee for the Village from 1968 to 1974. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, John Jr., Chief Technology Officer at G.E. Healthcare, Waukesha, WI, and Diana, a physical therapist with a practice in Greene and Columbia Counties.

Mr. Hill graduated from Hoosic Valley Central School in 1958 and Hudson Valley Community College in 1960, earning an associate's degree in Highway Technology. While at Hudson Valley, he was elected Treasurer of the Student Council and President of the Senior Class.

He presently serves on several committees of the Valley Falls Methodist Church, Coordinator of Volunteers for the Volunteers in Mission in the Albany District and was the Project Manager for the Middleburgh (NY) Flood Recovery Effort. He is Treasurer of the Victor Masonic Temple Association, of which he is a four-time Past Master.

Currently, John is retired Vice President and Sales Manager for Midland Asphalt Materials of Tonawanda, NY. He has been active in the industry associations where he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Liquid Asphalt Distributors Association (LADA) of New York, serving as Treasurer from 1980 to 2010 and as President from 1993 to 1996. John was Executive Director of LADA from 2010 to 2013. He was recently awarded "Lifetime Membership" in the NYS County Highway Superintendents Association.

As a member of the Hoosic Valley Central School District Board of Education from 1972 through 1997, John served as President of this Board five times and was active in the Budget Development, Negotiations and Building Committees and acted as the District Negotiator for two contracts. He is currently a member of the Audit Committee of Questar III.

Mr. Hill was first elected to the Questar III Board of Education in 1996 and continues to diligently serve. His association with the BOCES has been an experience filled with joy and excitement witnessing the difference that Questar III makes in the lives of the students, and he is humbled by the magnitude of support shown for its amazing programs.

January 2025

Joseph (Seph) Garland

Joseph "Seph" Garland devoted 27 years to the Coxsackie-Athens Board of Education and has served on the Questar III Board for 18 years, including as Vice President since 2021.

Working in close partnership with the superintendent, Garland helped guide the development of a new strategic plan that positioned Coxsackie-Athens as a local leader in education. Among these efforts was the creation of "dashboard lights," a

tool designed to keep both the Board of Education and the community better informed about student performance and school outcomes.

As chair of the district's facilities committee, Garland played a key role in the process that led to the construction of a new grades 5-8 middle school in 2001. He also helped oversee projects to expand the library and implement critical improvements across the district, from classrooms to athletic fields.

For more than 13 years, Garland chaired the negotiating committee, leading contract negotiations with teachers, administrators, clerical staff, and custodians. This work provided him with deep experience in labor relations and a proven ability to achieve fair and balanced agreements that served both employees and the district.

In addition to his public service, Garland has 44 years of business experience as a residential property manager, with expertise in property oversight, insurance, finance, and working with employees and the public.

A lifelong resident of Coxsackie and a graduate of the Coxsackie-Athens School District, Garland is the parent of four alumni of the district, with five of his ten grandchildren currently attending.

January 2026

Mary Yurista

I am honored to be supported as a nominee for a third term on the Questar Board. I have found Questar III BOCES to be an innovative educational institution which is a leader in offering services that offer support to many of the current and future challenges of the cultural and educational environment. Its partnership with component districts and other organizations is admirable and valued by all who participate.

As a member of the Schodack Central School District Board of Education, I've had the privilege to serve the Schodack community for 12 years. I am a member of the Technology and Audit Committees. Following the passing of long-time board

member Paul Puccio, the Schodack Board felt that it was important to continue to maintain a presence on the Questar Board. I am humbled to follow Paul's legacy.

Retired from American National Insurance (aka Farm Family) in Glenmont, I worked in the insurance industry in various technical capacities for over 40 years leading and participating in projects that have brought innovation and improvement to business processes. I hold various industry certifications as well as an MBA from SUNY Albany and a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from SUNY Oswego. From those experiences, I believe the private sector offers beneficial guidance and progressive ideas that will allow us to sustain and improve the quality of education and everyday life for all.

My husband and I have lived in the Capital Region for over 40 years and have been residents of Schodack for over 35 years. Together we have raised three sons, all of whom graduated from Maple Hill. As a parent (and grandparent), I want the same success for every student that my children have been able to enjoy. As a professional, I hope to be able to assist in the advancement of education at QUESTAR III BOCES to facilitate the future success of students in a 21st century economy.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

January 2026

**2026-27 Questar III Election Ballot & Administrative Budget Ballot
for meeting held on April 21, 2026, in the school district listed below**

(Choose School Name from Dropdown)

1. Election of Members of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services: There are four incumbent nominees for four BOCES expiring board term positions.

Each component district is entitled to one vote for each position to be filled (4).

**2026-27 Questar III Election Ballot & Administrative Budget Ballot
for meeting held on April 21, 2026, in the school district listed below**

North Greenbush

(Choose School Name from Dropdown)

1. Election of Members of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services: There are four incumbent nominees for four BOCES expiring board term positions.

Each component district is entitled to one vote for each position to be filled (4).
Please indicate the NUMBER of FOR/AGAINST votes cast by your board in the boxes following the resolutions below as applicable.

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education casts its vote for the election of **Ms. Mary Daly**, Columbia County, NY (District of Residence: Hudson City School District), as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

3
For

Against

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education casts its vote for the election of **Mr. Joseph Garland**, Greene County, NY (District of Residence: Coxsackie-Athens Central School District), as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

3
For

Against

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education casts its vote for the election of **Mr. John C. Hill**, Rensselaer County (District of Residence: Hoosic Valley Central School District), as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

3
For

Against

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education casts its vote for the election of **Ms. Mary Yurista**, Rensselaer County, NY (District of Residence: Schodack Central School District), as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

3
For

Against

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2. Administrative Budget for 2026-2027 Fiscal Year

RESOLVED: that the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties is authorized to expend the sum set forth in the 2026-27 Tentative Administrative Budget document in the amount of \$7,687,882.

3
For

Against

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the accuracy of the foregoing results of votes on resolutions for the election of members to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties and on the resolution to approve the 2026-27 Administrative Budget of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties taken by the Board of Education of the

North Greenbush

(Choose School Name from Dropdown)

School District at a meeting held on April 21, 2026.

Ann Meister (Ann Meister)
Board/District Clerk Signature District Clerk

4/24/2026

Date

Sworn to before me this

24 day of April, 2026

Jashay A. Jones
Notary Public

Jashay A. Jones
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Rensselaer County
No. 01JO046437
Commission Expires February 4, 2030

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