

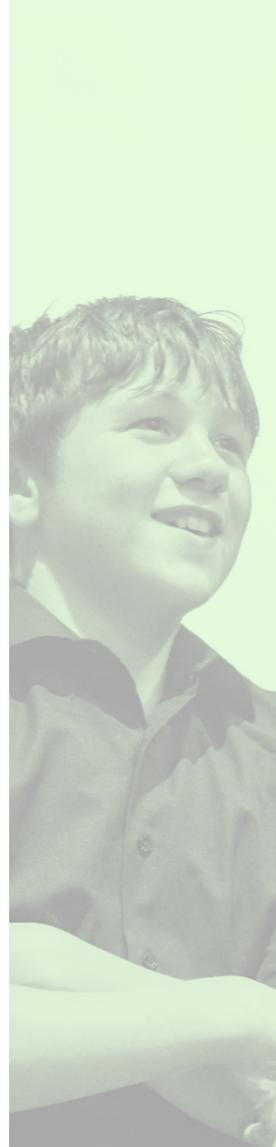


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BUDGET 2027

Winooski
School
District



VOTE!

March 3

Winooski Senior Center, 7AM – 7PM
123 Barlow St

To find information about voting in Winooski, available in multiple languages, visit this website: bit.ly/voteWinooski

A Year of Growth and Belonging

The community support for our schools has ensured that we persist in providing students with a robust and high-quality educational program right here in Winooski. From preschool to graduation, our students have achieved a lot in the past twelve months thanks to you. Not only have they grown in knowledge and readiness for the world, but they have done so in an extraordinarily welcoming environment created by a city and school district that does not put a price on the sense of belonging and love our youngest members feel here.

Healthy, Productive and Successful Lives

Our commitment to student well-being begins with our youngest learners and extends through graduation. The Early Learning Department promotes social-emotional health and self-regulation by embedding the Pyramid Model, which creates the nurturing, inclusive environments necessary for lifelong success. As students progress into Winooski Middle and High School, we have deepened this support through expanded mental health resources, restorative practices, and consistent advisory structures that foster resilience. To ensure every student can thrive, the district has strengthened alternative programming by utilizing Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) as a proactive approach for those struggling emotionally or behaviorally. Furthermore, we have strategically targeted federal grant money to enrich our 6th-grade academy through a circus residency program and provided dedicated coaching to support the ongoing development of our 9th-grade academy.



College and Career Ready

Academic excellence and future readiness are driven by a curriculum that is both rigorous and accessible. Now in its second year with four fully enrolled classrooms, our Early Learning Department builds the essential foundations in language and problem-solving that prepare students for long-term success. Across the district, we have seen a three-year trend of considerable progress toward proficiency, with state test scores increasing in seven out of eight tested grades—some even outpacing the state's rate of improvement. We continue to support this growth through targeted literacy tools like Readable English, new oral language pilots, and a partnership with the All Learners Network to improve universal math access. With the addition of a new science unified arts offering at JFK, we are proud to now provide regular science instruction for all students from kindergarten through grade 12. These efforts, combined with proficiency-based learning, dual enrollment, and CTE opportunities, ensure that every student is supported through an individualized graduation pathway.

Engaged in Local and Global Community

Winooski schools serve as a hub for civic engagement and community connection. We have expanded our curriculum to reflect our community's values, introducing a social justice and belonging offering at JFK and piloting an Ethnic Studies class in the middle school. Our students and staff continue to deepen their local impact through leadership roles, multilingual family outreach, and service-based learning that reflects our city's unique diversity. We are also focused on inclusive transitions; for the second year, select high school students are participating in the Bridging Program through Champlain Community Services, which helps students with intellectual disabilities and autism transition to adulthood through modules on independent living and advocacy. Finally, the expansion of our preschool program has allowed us to increase family engagement events and community field trips, strengthening the vital bonds between our children, their families, and the broader Winooski community.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 ADOPTED BUDGET

While there have been a lot of scary headlines the past few months about projected property tax increases statewide, we are happy to report that the Board's proposed budget, which is 4.6% higher than last year's budget, is projected to decrease Winooski homeowners' education property taxes by 1%.

	FY 26	FY 27	Diff.
Operational Budget	\$ 33,289,732	\$ 34,818,909	4.60%
Weighted Pupils	2005	2157	7.6%
Spending per Weighted Pupil	\$ 15,262	\$ 14,899	-2.4%
Homestead Tax Rate	1.25	1.23	-1.0%
Income Sensitized Property Tax Rate	2.51%	2.45%	-2.2%

How can Winooski's education property taxes be going down when our budget is increasing?

We saw an increase in our weighted student count by 7% this year, which is the actual number of students enrolled in the district, weighted for factors like English language proficiency, poverty, and grade level. This offset the increase in expenses and led to a projected decrease in the tax rate, from \$1.24 to \$1.23.

Is the district looking at reductions?

The Board's budget includes compromises. In order to comply with state class size guidelines, the Superintendent and his leadership team explored opportunities to reassign staff and take advantage of staff attrition. The budget does reduce the number of positions in the district by 10, but we anticipate that almost all of those reductions will be individuals who either retire or move on to other positions voluntarily.

Where can I find more information about the budget?

The full presentation with more details on the Board's Budget is available on the website at this link: <https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/>.

How does the district ensure that the quality of services is not affected by reductions?

Importantly, the reductions will not impact the District's ability to deliver strong academic and support programs. In fact, this budget allows us some improvement, like the expansion of our preK program from 4 to 5 days a week. We are seeing the benefits of our investment in preK in our students' readiness for kindergarten. This expansion will also allow for preK schedules that are aligned with our K-12 students, which has the bonus of access to unified arts courses for our preK students and reduced transportation costs for the district. We also increased our annual allocation for capital expenses by \$75,000, which is necessary in order to avoid deferred maintenance costs for our buildings. You may also see other new benefits for students, like being able to ride public transit for free and expanded student leadership opportunities.

Home Price	FY 2026 tax	FY 2027 tax
\$ 250,000	\$ 3,125	\$ 3,075
\$ 300,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,690
\$ 350,000	\$ 4,375	\$ 4,305
\$ 400,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,920
\$ 450,000	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,535
\$ 500,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,150
\$ 550,000	\$ 6,875	\$ 6,765
\$ 600,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,380
\$ 650,000	\$ 8,125	\$ 7,995
\$ 700,000	\$ 8,750	\$ 8,610
\$ 750,000	\$ 9,375	\$ 9,225
\$ 800,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,840

For Residents with Less than \$90,000 in Household Income:

Household Income	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 27
\$ 40,000	\$ 1,064	\$ 996	\$ 980
\$ 50,000	\$ 1,330	\$ 1,245	\$ 1,225
\$ 60,000	\$ 1,596	\$ 1,494	\$ 1,470
\$ 70,000	\$ 1,862	\$ 1,743	\$ 1,715
\$ 80,000	\$ 2,128	\$ 1,992	\$ 1,960
\$ 90,000	\$ 2,394	\$ 2,241	\$ 2,205
\$ 100,000	\$ 2,660	\$ 2,490	\$ 2,450

Publication of the Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

Voting Information

- **You can vote early beginning February 16** at Winooski City Hall (27 West Allen St), from 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday-Friday.
- **Call 802-655-6410 with questions** about voting in Winooski.
- **Vote Tuesday March 3, 2026** at the Senior Center at 123 Barlow Street, between 7 am and 7pm. You can also register to vote at the polls on the day of the vote.
- **All legal residents**, regardless of citizenship status, may vote on local, municipal, and school (Winooski only) ballot items. To vote on a state and federal ballot items, you must be a citizen of the US.

Help us Keep our Students Close

Federal law requires school districts to serve all of their resident students in the least restrictive educational environment. Students who require a more restrictive environment have exceptional needs that cannot be met without significant specialized instruction and environmental adaptations to ensure their safety and the safety of school staff. As a result, these students are often served in schools outside of the district at considerable expense. In addition to the exorbitant costs of these programs, most providers serving the districts in Chittenden County are already at capacity and have wait lists, which leaves our students receiving limited and less effective services.

We have a unique opportunity to purchase property adjacent to the school campus that will allow us to build our own program that will be more cost effective and keep our students in their community, connected to their school, and better positioned to transition back into the main campus environment when they are ready to do so.

The district is proposing to use up to \$380,000 in last year's surplus to purchase the property. **This purchase will not impact your property tax rates and is expected to reduce our costs in future years.**



DO YOUR PART
VOTE!