



PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# COMMUNITY REPORT

MAY 2024

## PROPOSED BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION SLATED FOR MAY 21, 2024

### BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Peru High School  
Community Room

12:00 noon - 9:00 pm



Peru Central School District’s Board of Education has established a **\$54,100,169 proposed expenditure plan** for voters to consider by **voting in person, requesting an absentee ballot because of a qualifying condition, or requesting an early mail voting ballot. Absentee/early mail voting ballots must be received by the District no later than May 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.** The proposed budget calls for **an increase in overall spending of 2.12%. The tax levy is forecasted to increase 2.84%** which doesn’t exceed the tax levy limit. This tax levy increase attempts to balance the costs of sustaining a school district with the inflationary pressures everyone is experiencing. Details regarding the budget proposal are featured within this Community Report.

#### ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
7:00 p.m.**

See [www.perucsd.org](http://www.perucsd.org) for info.

#### WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
12:00 Noon - 9:00 p.m.**

**High School Community Room  
17 School Street  
Peru, NY**

#### WHAT AM I VOTING ON

Budget Proposition No. 1  
Bus Proposition No. 2  
Board of Education Election

For more information on the 2024-25 Budget

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<http://www.perucsd.org>

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# PROPOSED 2024-25 BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education and the Peru Central School District have diligently crafted the proposed 2024-25 annual budget in the face of significant challenges. These challenges include the expiration of federal COVID-19 relief grants in September 2024, adjustments to State Aid calculations, and declining enrollment. In response, the Board and the District have prioritized creating a budget that considers the needs of our students, staff, and taxpayers.

Over the past three years, federal COVID-19 relief grants have been instrumental in expanding academic and social-emotional programs. With the expiration of these grants in September 2024, the District had to incorporate existing programming into the annual budget or eliminate it. Careful evaluation

led to necessary enhancements and reductions that support instruction and operations without sacrificing quality.

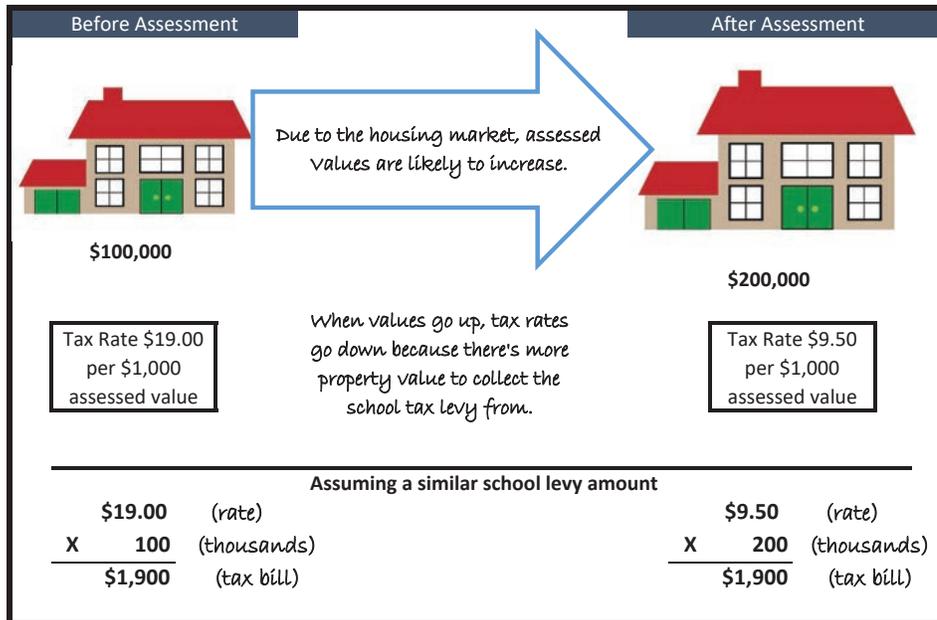
Enhancements to the proposed 2024-25 budget include the addition of an elementary associate principal and increased funding for building HVAC repairs. Additionally, the following positions or programs previously funded by COVID-19 relief grants have been incorporated into the proposed budget: PM School, a social worker, a school counselor, a grants coordinator, and a part-time custodial worker.

To maintain fiscal sustainability, the following positions or items have been reduced from the proposed budget: two elementary teaching positions, four subject area teaching positions,

two related service provider positions, one clerical position, a portion of instructional materials/supplies and Chromebook replacement parts, and the employee assistance program. Positions or programs previously funded by COVID-19 relief grants and not included in the enhancements listed above were also eliminated. Many of these reductions can be absorbed through employee attrition, ensuring minimal impact on the quality of education provided.

In presenting this budget, the Board of Education and the Peru Central School District aim to strike a balance between serving the best interests of our students and ensuring the financial health of our school community.

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND SCHOOL TAX RATE RELATIONSHIP



Increases in the assessed value of property will decrease the tax rate per thousand compared to a stagnant or decreasing property value. In a school district with increasing property values, the school tax levy amount is collected over a larger amount of property value. As a result, the tax rate per thousand decreases. The greater the total property tax assessment increase, the greater the tax rate decreases. The graphic above seeks to illustrate this relationship between assessed value and tax rates.



A Budget Notice will be released prior to the budget vote which should reflect tax rate estimates for each town within Peru Central School District. The updated assessed values and equalization rates were not available from Clinton County Real Property Office when this Community Report was printed.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*From the Desk of Scott Storms*

I am writing on behalf of Peru Central School District to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the years. Your commitment to our mission of providing a holistic education that goes beyond academics truly makes a difference in the lives of our students.

At Peru Central School, we firmly believe that education is not just about mastering subjects; it's about instilling a genuine love for learning and fostering intellectual growth. We are dedicated to preparing our students to become fulfilled, empowered individuals who actively contribute to their communities. This vision drives us to create an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning environment where every student can thrive.

We recognize that the success of our students is deeply intertwined with the support we receive from our community. Your partnership with us exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and dedication to educational excellence. Together, we are the heart of a vibrant learning community that nurtures growth, learning, and achievement for all.

The development of the 2024-2025 school budget presented significant challenges, particularly as we navigated the expiration of federal COVID-19 relief funds. Despite these challenges, our district remains steadfast in our commitment to providing the highest quality education for our students. We carefully evaluated programs and prioritized positions to ensure that we continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our students.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Peru Committee for your invaluable support. Your partnership is essential to our success, and we look

forward to continuing to work together to empower the next generation of leaders and learners.

In this year's budget, the allowable tax levy limit increase for the 2024-2025 school year is 2.84%, or an additional \$551,888 from the 2023-2024 school year. This year's increase is within the allowable tax levy limit formula which was implemented in 2012. If the Board of Education had proposed exceeding this limit, a supermajority (60% or above) of favorable votes would have been required in order to approve the budget. Since the Board did not elect to go above the allowable limit, a simple majority (above 50%) is what is needed to pass the budget.

Voting will take place Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in the High School Community Room, from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. The budget that will be placed before the taxpayers for the 2024-2025 school year is \$54,100,169. This budget signifies a dedication to the best possible education and support to Peru's students during a period of economic uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Scott Storms



***"We recognize that the success of our students is deeply intertwined with the support we receive from our community. Your partnership with us exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and dedication to educational excellence. "***

*Scott D. Storms - Peru CSD Superintendent*



# BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Peru High School  
Community Room

12:00 noon - 9:00 pm

## PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT

The property tax cap limit is an annual calculation unique to each school district which accounts for new development within the District and incorporates some exclusions. **The Board of Education has selected a levy increase of 2.84% - this is at Peru's 2024-25 Tax Levy Limit.**

The Board of Education has worked to balance educational programming and the long-term financial health of our school community.

# PROPOSED SCHOOL BUS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSITION(S)

## BUDGET PROPOSITION NO. 1

Authorize the adoption of the 2024-25 budget in the amount of \$54,100,169.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

There is one (1) vacant seat to be filled on the Board of Education for a three-year term.

## BUS PROPOSITION NO. 2

Authorize the purchase and, at the option of the Board, finance four (4) standard 65-passenger school buses, including related and ancillary equipment, at a maximum estimated cost of **\$178,398.63 each** for a total aggregate maximum cost of **\$713,594.52**. State transportation aid will **offset an estimated 90% of the expense** associated with the purchase of these buses.

For more information on the 2024-25 Budget



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Peru Central School District

## COMMUNITY REPORT

Peru Central School District  
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Peru, NY 12972-0068

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