



**Cazenovia Central School District**  
31 Emory Ave | Cazenovia, NY 13035

cazenoviacsd.com

Christopher J. DiFulvio  
Superintendent

cdifulvio@caz.cnyric.org  
(315) 655-1317

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Dear Rockefeller Institute researchers,

Thank you for taking the time to look closely at New York state's current Foundation Aid formula. We know this study will have long-term impacts across the state and specifically on our students, staff, and community.

The Cazenovia Central School District serves the village and town of Cazenovia, town of Nelson, town of Fenner, town of Sullivan, and town of Lincoln in Madison County. The district also serves the town of Pompey in Onondaga County. Our district is committed to nurturing every student's maximum personal, intellectual, and civic potential in a safe and stimulating environment for all that fosters creativity, innovation, and readiness for a dynamic world.

Despite being located in what is perceived as an affluent community, we still face financial challenges. Our administration and Board of Education needed to close a \$1.85 million gap while developing the 2024-25 budget. Taxpayers rejected our initial \$38.8 million budget proposal that included a 5.9% tax levy increase intended to help close the gap between our revenue and expenses. They approved our revised \$38.4 million budget, which included a reduction of \$400,000 and a tax levy limit of 4.02%. Things aren't expected to get any easier. Early projections indicate we may face a \$1.6 million deficit for the 2025-26 school year. Despite these financial difficulties, we're committed to sustaining our excellence and preserving our identity.

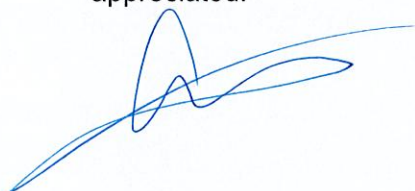
The Cazenovia Central School District has also felt the financial impacts of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). Since the 2009-10 school year, the state has deducted from each school district's state aid allocation to help fill the state's revenue shortfall. The state must stop shifting its costs to local school districts. The impact has been detrimental to students in the form of cuts in personnel, programs and services and the depletion of district reserves.

A process should be built into the State Aid Formula system to restore losses to particular districts who felt greater financial impacts than others due to the way the withholding of GEA aid was structured by county.

We also hope you look beyond financial standing when deciding how state aid is distributed. Districts need adequate and equitable funding to maintain education standards while providing a robust learning experience and supportive environment for students.

Our students perform at high levels, and we want to continue offering programs that make our community proud and Cazenovia a desirable place to live. Over the past year, the high school has been recognized as the top-performing school in Central New York for its English Regents exam scores, ranked among the top high schools according to U.S. News & World Report, and named one of the nation's best communities in music education. Our student accomplishments are diverse and range from high S.A.T scores and CTE endorsements to art awards and athletic accolades. The diversity of our programming aims to meet all student needs and future goals.

We've included some additional district data to assist your research. Your efforts in reviewing the financial needs of all public schools across the state, including CCSD, are greatly appreciated.



Christopher DiFulvio  
CCSD Superintendent of Schools

CCSD Board of Education

### **Cazenovia Central School District Data**

Student enrollment: 1,312  
4-year graduation rate: 94%  
Student attendance rate: 93%  
Economically disadvantaged: 29%  
Students with disabilities: 11%  
([Data: NYSED](#))

Academic rank: region, state: 3rd in Syracuse Metro Area in High Schools, 98th in All New York State Schools

Administrative spending per pupil: \$2,998 per pupil (budgeted)

Total expenditures per pupil: \$29,289 per pupil (budgeted)

Grants: 2024-2025 Preliminary Allocations:

- IDEA 611: \$356,042
- IDEA 619: \$8,905
- Title I: \$140,972
- Title II: \$26,633
- Title III: \$1,218
- Title IV: \$10,735
- UPK: \$504,000
- TOTAL Allocation: \$1,048,505

Energy conservation efforts: \$1.704M district-wide EPC project recently completed

The school district is also implementing:

- SEL curriculum, Mental Health Services and BiMasII screening
- New ELA and Math curriculum K-8
- Upgrading IT to meet current infrastructure and security needs
- Implementation of safety related expenses like school resource officers