

BUDGET BREAKDOWN



The St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Medical Plan has converted the Medicare primary retirees over to an Employee Group Waiver Program (EGWP). This new structure will allow the plan to take advantage of federally negotiated RX rates and rebates while retaining the benefit control of the plan. As a member of the plan, BOCES should experience lower premium increases in the future due to the EGWP conversion.

Retiree healthcare comprises over 3/4 of the administrative budget. By coding these costs to the admin budget, the cost for all retirees is shared and eligible for BOCES aid. It also ensures that we are in compliance with SED regulations.



The administrative budget supports the cost of all BOCES central offices, including the business office, the department of human resources and central administration.

UNDERSTANDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

ST. LAWRENCE-LEWIS BOCES

BOCES provide shared educational programs and services to school districts across the state. Sharing services through BOCES is an economical way for districts to provide cost-effective programming that is still rich in quality. BOCES is an Educational Service Agency (ESA), not a school district. Consequently, it operates and is funded in a different way.

The BOCES budget differs from school district budgets in that it is a series of separate budgets. The administrative budget represents approximately 13.8% of the total BOCES budget. 76% of the administrative budget consists of retiree costs. The administrative budget for 2026-27 will increase by 3.4%. Component districts only vote on the administrative budget. With the exception of the administrative budget, all other BOCES charges reflect services each district has selected.

Component school districts "vote" on the rest of the proposed budget by deciding whether or not to participate in BOCES services. Most of the budget is an estimate based on the interest of districts in services. The funds spent will increase or decrease depending on district participation. The only other part of the budget that districts do not vote on is the capital budget, which includes rental fees for facilities. By law, the capital budget is not submitted to vote, rather, it is part of the annual assessment that districts pay to BOCES.

KEEPING THE COSTS DOWN

For 2026-27, the administrative budget comprises 13.80% of the total BOCES budget. The BOCES has reconfigured staffing structures whenever possible instead of making new hires.

