

FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

November 2025

PETITION PROCESS

A long-standing New York State Education Department (NYSED) procedural requirement in the school district reorganization process is the initial assessment of public support. While not a statutory mandate, this assessment serves as an important preliminary step in determining whether the process should advance to the more formal community vote on reorganization.

The Wynantskill and Troy School Districts began the petition process on November 21, 2025. Both districts will collect signatures from qualified voters indicating their support for reorganization.

The Wynantskill and Troy Districts will follow the NYSED guidelines outlined below:

- Both Wynantskill and Troy will utilize the same petition method to assess public support.
- Petitions are considered a district action. Therefore, each Board of Education passed a resolution authorizing the use of petitions to assess community support for reorganization.
 - * For Wynantskill, at the November 20, 2025 Board of Education meeting.
 - * For Troy, at the November 19, 2025 Board of Education meeting.
- Signature counts must exceed the average total ballots cast (for + against) in the three most recent school district budget votes.
 - * Wynantskill must collect a minimum of 176 signatures.
 - * Troy must collect a minimum of 712 signatures.
- One copy of the petition must be available for signing at each District Clerk's Office during normal operating hours:
 - * **Wynantskill: 25 East Ave, Troy — Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**
 - * Troy: District Office, 475 First Street, Troy — 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- The Boards of Education have authorized the superintendents to designate one or more District residents to represent and assist the District in gathering signatures at sites, events, or other locations outside of District property.
- All signatures must be verified by the District Clerks to ensure that they belong to legally qualified voters of the district. After verification, the District Clerks will deliver the final tally, indicating whether the required threshold has been met, to the Board of Education. The Board must then adopt a resolution accepting the results.

If you would like to sign the petition but are unable to travel to Gardner-Dickinson during school hours (8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.), and would like a petition brought to you, please call (518) 283-4600 ext. 250.

If you are interested in assisting the district with gathering signatures for this petition, please call (518) 283-4600 ext. 250.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

At the previous Community Committee Working Groups, the following topics and information were discussed and presented. **Here's what you need to know:**

Tax Implications

If the reorganization does **not** move forward, Wynantskill would need to choose between two unsustainable financial paths. Under Option One, the district would be limited to a 2% annual tax levy increase, carry over approximately \$600,000 each year, and rely on district reserves, which would be fully depleted within two years. Even with these measures, the district would still face significant reductions, including the rapid phase-out of high school choice as well as cuts to staffing and programming.

Option Two would require a 6.4% annual tax levy increase, which would need a 60% supermajority voter approval. This option also carries over approximately \$600,000 per year and utilizes district reserves, which would be fully depleted within four years. Despite the higher tax levy limit, this option still results in substantial reductions, including the phase-out of high school choice and cuts to staffing and programming.

Alternatively, the Wynantskill and Troy School Districts could pursue reorganization and take advantage of the \$241 million in reorganization incentive aid available through New York State, following the five-year proposed tax plan announced by the Troy City School District.

2027-2028 – 5% **reduction** in school tax levy
2028-2029 – 0% school tax levy increase
2029-2030 – 0% school tax levy increase
2030-2031 – 0% school tax levy increase
2031-2032 – 0% school tax levy increase

Compared to the projected 6.4% tax levy increase each year over five years, Troy's proposal (a 5% reduction followed by four years of no increases) would **save the average home approximately \$5,968.**

Facilities

In Troy's Preliminary Reorganization Plan, they have announced the following plans for the Gardner-Dickinson Campus:

- Gardner-Dickinson School **remains OPEN as a PK-8 school.**
- Construction and technology infrastructure upgrades would be completed (gym floor, security enhancements, and more).
- \$5.4M in immediate building improvements at **NO COST TO TAX PAYERS.** The enhanced Building Aid (98%) will enable long-term, state-of-the-art building improvements, including site work and athletic fields.

School Choice

- Students currently enrolled in high school would continue in that high school through graduation.
- Troy is open to a school choice transition period that is reasonable, practical, and sustainable.
- Community input about this topic is important: please email troywufsdfeasibility@gmail.com to tell us your thoughts.

Troy's track-record of low tax levies over the last 10 years:

2016-2017 – 0.00%
2017-2018 – 0.45%
2018-2019 – 1.54%
2019-2020 – 1.00%
2020-2021 – 1.99%
2021-2022 – 0.00%
2022-2023 – 0.00%
2023-2024 – 0.00%
2024-2025 – 0.00%
2025-2026 – 1.75%

\$241 MILLION STATE AID PRELIMINARY REORGANIZATION PLAN

FACILITIES



- Gardner-Dickinson School stays open.
- Gardner-Dickinson remains a PK-8 school.
- Construction and technology infrastructure upgrades would be completed (gym floor, security enhancements, and more).
- The enhanced Building Aid (98%) will enable long-term, state-of-the-art building improvements, including site work and athletic fields, at no cost to taxpayers.

TAX IMPACT

- Proposed five-year tax plan is a 5 percent reduction in the school tax levy the first year, followed by four consecutive years of no tax levy increase.
 - 2027-2028 - 5% reduction in school tax levy
 - 2028-2032 - 0% school tax levy increase



PROGRAMMING



- Increases in instructional staffing, programs and resources.
- *Details forthcoming at the December 2nd Community Committee Working Group***
 QUESTAR III - 10 Empire State Blvd, Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033 - 6:00 - 8:00pm

STAFFING

- No reductions in current Gardner-Dickinson staffing levels.
- Operations at Gardner-Dickinson would remain largely unchanged, with the capacity for additional supports, programs and positions.



SCHOOL CHOICE



- Students currently enrolled in high school would be able to continue in their programs through graduation.
- We are open to a school choice transition period that is reasonable, practical, and sustainable.
- We value the community's input around this topic.

Wynantskill UNION
FREE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Gardner-Dickinson School

25 East Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

Non-Profit ORG
US Postage
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit #164

Superintendent
Dr. Mary Yodis

Principal
Shannon E. Toomey

Board of Education
Nichole Hurbanek, *President*
Cathleen Castle, *Vice-President*
Eric Strang
Michael Femia
Jennie Brown

STAY CONNECTED

Questions and comments are welcomed at
TROYWUFSDFEASIBILITY@GMAIL.COM
until December 31, 2025



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FEASIBILITY STUDY
RESOURCES



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