

# CommunityLink

Budget 2018

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## Highlights of the Proposed Budget

- More high level science opportunities
- Support for the district's 21st Century learning initiatives
- Facilities upgrades to enhance the learning environment
- New science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and enrichment opportunities
- Enhanced support for the arts, athletics and extra-curricular programming
- Retention of small class sizes and student/teacher ratios
- Safety and security upgrades to enhance the District's present procedures
- Transportation adjustments to provide busing to high school at no cost to the students

## Efficiency and Long-Range Planning Shape Budget

Each year's budget process is guided by the District's long-range plan and an ongoing commitment to pursue organizational efficiencies and focus on sustainability. This allows us to achieve our primary goal – providing the highest quality educational experiences for all 7,000+ students in the District – while remaining fiscally responsible. The 2018-19 proposed budget totals \$218,593,020.

We identified cost-saving efficiencies and structural changes to allow us to capture future savings, thus adding new and exciting learning opportunities for our children while containing the budget increase to 2.08% over the current year's budget. This will be supported by a tax levy increase that complies with the tax cap and translates to an estimated 2.88% increase in the tax rate.

Under the leadership of the Board of Education and with the expertise of Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, the budget process has once again been thoughtful, collaborative and transparent. We thank the community members, parents, teachers, and staff who provided input and feedback.

**“We believe this budget maintains the responsible budgeting approach that the White Plains community expects and deserves and it adheres to our admirable tradition of keeping resources in the classroom, supporting our students.”**

*Dr. Joseph L. Ricca*

## Propositions for Voter Approval

On May 15th, in addition to the 2018-19 Budget, voters will be asked to approve two propositions:

### • Use of Capital Reserve Funds

This proposition asks for voter approval to use up to \$10,000,000 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for school improvement projects throughout the district, including: lighting and plumbing improvements, roof repairs, student restroom renovations, ceiling replacements, and more. ***This will not result in a tax increase and reduces future taxpayer burden*** by saving an estimated \$2.3 million in serial bond interest and issuance costs.

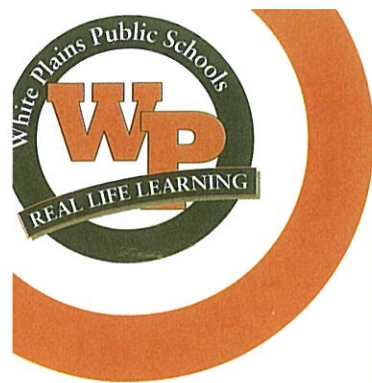
### • Transportation for Grades 9-12

This proposition asks for voter approval to provide transportation for students in grades 9-12 who live more than one mile



from their school, at no cost to families. Currently, that service is offered for a fee of \$1.75 each way. The cost for the new service is estimated at \$166,000 annually, but the District expects this will be offset by savings from routing efficiencies, based on a reduction in buses needed for regular transportation service, and that ***there will be no additional cost to taxpayers.*** These changes will also improve safety while maintaining reasonable busloads and ride times.





## Budget at a Glance White Plains Budget Expenses by Category

Expenditures Budget	2017-2018	2018-2019	\$ Change
General Support	21,618,016	24,085,706	2,390,915
Instruction	119,234,967	121,247,206	2,092,014
Pupil Transportation	9,766,204	10,008,524	242,320
Employee Benefits	50,374,608	53,058,225	2,683,617
Debt Service	10,192,059	9,893,359	(301,700)
Transfer to Other Funds	2,950,000	300,000	(2,650,000)
	<b>214,135,854</b>	<b>218,593,020</b>	<b>4,457,166</b>

### Revenue Budget

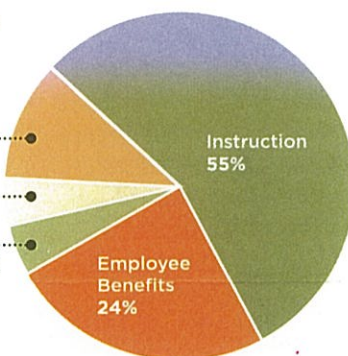
Real Property Tax Levy	176,975,345	183,020,061	6,044,716
State Aid	24,054,849	23,904,750	(150,099)
Other Tax Items	9,935,660	8,311,209	(1,624,451)
Charges for Service	1,895,000	1,445,000	(450,000)
Other Revenue	1,275,000	1,212,000	(63,000)
Transfer In	—	700,000	700,000
	<b>214,135,854</b>	<b>218,593,020</b>	<b>4,457,166</b>

**VOTE!**

Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Noon-9pm

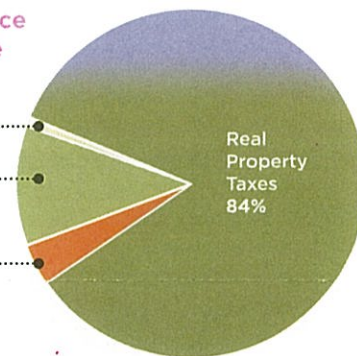
### Major Budget Areas of Expense

General Support 11%  
Debt Service 5%  
Pupil Transportation 5%

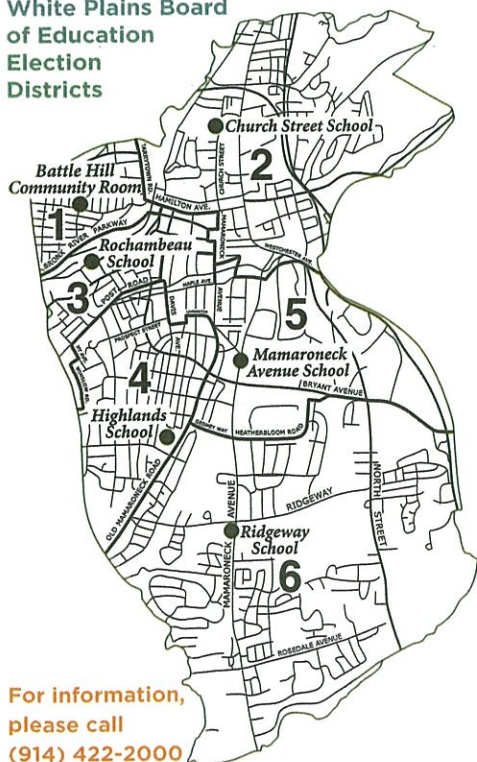


### Major Source of Revenue

Other Revenue 1%  
State & Federal Aid 11%  
Other Tax Items 4%



### White Plains Board of Education Election Districts



## Voter Information

Voting will take place Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon-9:00pm.

### Voting Qualifications

To vote in this election, an individual must be a registered voter, a resident of White Plains for 30 days prior to May 15th and at least 18 years of age.

### Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who will not be in White Plains on May 15th during voting hours may vote by absentee ballot.

Please call (914) 422-2000 to obtain an application or go online to [www.whiteplainspublicschools.org](http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org).

### Budget Information

- Call Dr. Joseph Ricca, Superintendent of Schools, at (914) 422-2019, or Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business, at (914) 422-2064.
- A copy of the proposed budget may be reviewed at any of our schools, the White Plains Public Library, Education House (5 Homeside Lane) or the Family Information Center on North Street.

### Candidate Information

Three seats on the Board of Education will be filled in this year's election, each with a three-year term of office beginning July 1, 2018. Candidates are James Hricay, Cayne Letizia and Rose Lovitch.



# SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

## Cultural Day at Ridgeway

Students used every sense to experience Ridgeway's school-wide Cultural Day celebration in April. Through various activities, they learned about the food, music, games, language, literature, and dress of cultures around the world. They painted cherry blossom trees and wrote Haikus, danced and sang with an African drum band, participated in winter Olympic events such as bobsledding,



hockey and speed skating, and tasted delicious dishes prepared by parents. The day ended with a parade of kindergarteners and first graders who displayed costumes and flags from all over the globe.

Ridgeway students standing in front of the flag of Ecuador, with food from Venezuela and Italy

## MAS Bonds at Westchester Knicks Game

More than 200 members of the Mamaroneck Avenue School community, including students, parents, staff and administrators, recently enjoyed an exciting basketball experience at the Westchester County Center. The day's fun, sponsored by the MAS PTA and the 5th Grade Committee, began with a parent/staff scrimmage before the Westchester Knicks took the court for an exciting game against the Erie BayHawks.



## Citywide Band Festival

The Citywide Band Festival took place on March 28th at White Plains High School with over 600 students participating. Every school was represented.

Coordinator of Fine Arts Gary West was the Master of Ceremonies and thanked all the band teachers: Kathryn Davis, Zachary May, Laura Mazziotti, Jennifer Pyne, Susan Shaw, William Tonissen, Timothy Veeder, and Alison Watkins.



Athletic Director Matt Cameron distributed Scholar-Athlete certificates at the Board of Education Meeting on April 9th. Coaches of 10 Winter Varsity Teams recognized 180 athletes from the Boys' & Girls' Basketball Teams, Cheerleading, Ice Hockey, Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' Swimming, Wrestling, and Boys' & Girls' Bowling.



## Church St. 2nd Graders Learn About Business

Through Junior Achievement's elementary school programs, volunteers from local businesses come to Church Street throughout the year to work with children to bring social studies lessons to life. Most recently, 10 volunteers from Merrill Lynch spent the day with second graders in JA's "Our Community" program and students learned about business and economics through simulations.

Professionals from Merrill Lynch working with Church St. students



## WPHS Students Travel to Peru

During spring break, 19 WPHS students who participate in the District's World Languages Program traveled with three teachers to Peru to practice their Spanish speaking skills and experience the local culture. As part of the trip, students and teachers spent a day with a community of indigenous people in the Sacred Valley of the Andes. While there, they dressed in traditional attire, harvested crops and helped prepare a three-course lunch. The students were moved by how friendly and joyful the residents were

– living simply with respect for the land and all it provides for them. In addition to language skills, the trip offered learning opportunities related to art, music, science, math, history, and social studies.



## Highlands Singers Perform in Oklahoma

Students from throughout the nation audition to be part of the youth choirs that perform at the annual OAKE (Organization of American Kodály Educators) National Conference. This year, four Highlands students were selected and traveled to Oklahoma in March. OAKE is an organization for music educators, and the conference is attended by teachers from all over the world.



Letisha Baker, Aleksei Sincerbeaux, Malisa Trueblood and Heather Liu-Silverstein in Oklahoma with music teacher Jennifer Irlen



The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



White Plains Public Schools  
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www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

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**Dr. Joseph L. Ricca**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Board of Education**  
*Rosemarie Eller, President*  
*Charlie Norris, Vice President*  
*Sheryl Brady*  
*James F. Hricay*  
*Cayne Letizia*  
*Rose Lovitch*  
*Randy Stein*

Postal Patron

## Community Link White Plains Public Schools

## Proposed Budget FAQs

**Q. Does the White Plains City School District comply with the New York Property Tax Law?**

**A. YES.** The estimated tax levy of \$183,020,060 is compliant with the tax levy cap, as prescribed by law.

**Q. Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?**

**A. NO.** The tax levy represents the amount of school district funding provided by local property taxes after taking into account other sources of revenue. The estimated tax rate is projected to increase 2.88%.

## School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-19 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 214,135,854	\$ 218,593,020	\$ 212,548,304
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$ 4,457,166	(\$1,587,550)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.08 %	(0.74%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13 %	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 176,975,345	\$183,020,060	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 176,975,345	\$183,020,060	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,606,593	\$ 6,311,974	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <i>Excluding</i> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$170,368,752	\$ 176,708,086	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <i>Excluding</i> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$170,368,752	\$ 176,708,086	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 17,763,215	\$ 17,356,824	\$ 17,151,908
Program Component	\$166,454,814	\$ 171,364,448	\$ 167,761,148
Capital Component	\$ 29,917,825	\$ 29,871,748	\$ 27,635,248

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-19 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The contingency budget requires that the 2018-19 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's levy. Therefore, budget cuts totaling \$6,044,716 would be required, resulting in significant impact to program offerings. In addition, adjustments to disallowed equipment, capital projects are included. Non-school groups using district facilities would be required to pay the full cost of operation.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	Description	Amount
	Proposition # 2 Board of Education be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 from its Capital Reserve Fund to be used for school improvement projects in various buildings.	\$10,000,000
	Proposition #3 Board of Education of the White Plains City School District is authorized to provide transportation within the boundaries of the City of White Plains to students in grades 9 to 12 who reside more than one (1.0) mile from the school which they attend within such boundaries for an estimated annual cost of \$166,000.00.	\$166,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup> \$ 1,716

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the White Plains City School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Ridgeway School, Highlands Middle School, Church Street School, Battle Hill Community Room, Rochambeau School, and Mamaroneck Avenue Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 12 noon and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine. For information about the exact location of your voting place, please call 914-422-2000.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.