

# CommunityLink

Budget 2019

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## Highlights of the Proposed Budget

- Retention of small class sizes and student/teacher ratios
- Safety and security upgrades to enhance the District's present procedures
- Continued support for social/emotional learning
- Enhanced parent communication
- Expansion of classroom libraries
- Expansion of higher-level science opportunities
- Support for the District's 21st Century learning initiatives
- Facilities upgrades to enhance the learning environment
- New opportunities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, social studies and enrichment
- Enhanced support for the arts, athletics and extra-curricular programming

## Budget: Fiscal Responsibility and Educational Excellence

Thoughtful long-range planning and a steadfast commitment to efficiency and sustainability are the backbone of our District's ability to provide high quality educational experiences for all 7,000+ students we serve. Each year's budget is built upon this foundation of fiscal and educational responsibility and developed through a collaborative and transparent process that engages community members, parents, teachers, and staff. We thank them for their input and feedback.

Under the leadership of the Board of Education and with the expertise of Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, we have developed a



budget that enhances opportunities for all types of learners, attends to the needs of our facilities and provides for enhanced safety and security, while identifying cost-savings and structural changes to capture future savings.

The 2019-2020 proposed budget totals \$226,588,509 and is tax-levy compliant, as prescribed by law. The tax levy increase is 3.44%. We are appreciative of the additional resources from our elected officials which will be used to strengthen programming.

**“ Long-term strategic planning has enabled us to present the community with a responsible budget that supports 100% of our current programming, keeps high quality teachers in every classroom and adds exciting new learning opportunities for our students. ”**

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

## Propositions for Voter Approval

In addition to approval of the overall budget, voters will be asked to approve two propositions:

### • Use of 2016 Capital Reserve Funds

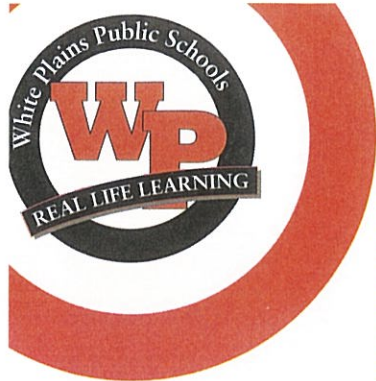
Proposition #1 asks for voter approval to use up to \$6.4 million from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for school improvement projects throughout the District, including: Parker Stadium artificial field replacement and new windows, lighting and other facilities upgrades at Highlands Middle School; and security, electrical, pool building, intercom/PA system and turf/drainage upgrades at the High School. ***These funds are already held in the***

***reserve balance, so this will not result in a tax increase and will reduce future taxpayer burden*** by saving \$1.25 million in serial bond interest and issuance costs.

### • Establish New 2019 Capital Reserve Fund

Proposition #2 asks for voter approval to establish a capital reserve fund with an ultimate amount of \$25 million to be used to pay for capital construction costs. ***There will be no extra cost to taxpayers and it reduces future taxpayer burden.*** The Reserve will be funded, over a period of 10 years, through annual appropriation of unexpended funds (savings) in the general fund and other legally available funds.





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

Expenditures Budget	2018-2019	2019-2020	\$ Change
General Support	24,099,106	25,607,984	1,508,878
Instruction	121,233,806	125,147,912	3,914,106
Pupil Transportation	10,008,524	10,238,272	229,748
Employee Benefits	53,058,225	55,347,032	2,288,807
Debt Service	9,893,359	9,897,309	3,950
Transfer to Other Funds	300,000	350,000	50,000
	<b>218,593,020</b>	<b>226,588,509</b>	<b>7,995,489</b>

### Revenue Budget

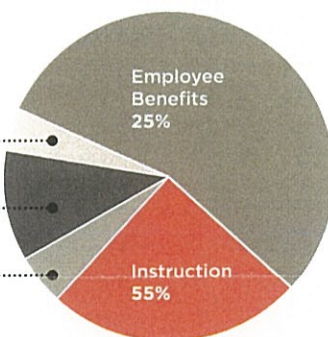
Real Property Tax Levy	183,020,061	189,320,203	6,300,142
State Aid	23,904,750	27,240,622	3,335,872
Other Tax Items	8,311,209	6,204,684	(2,106,525)
Charges for Service	1,445,000	1,210,000	(235,000)
Other Revenue	1,212,000	1,113,000	(99,000)
Transfer in	700,000	1,500,000	800,000
	<b>218,593,020</b>	<b>226,588,509</b>	<b>7,995,489</b>

**VOTE!**

Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Noon-9pm

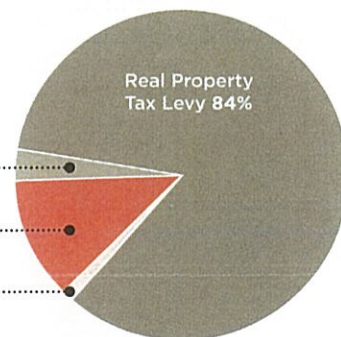
### Major Budget Areas of Expense

Dept Service 4% .....  
General Support 11% .....  
Pupil Transportation 5% .....

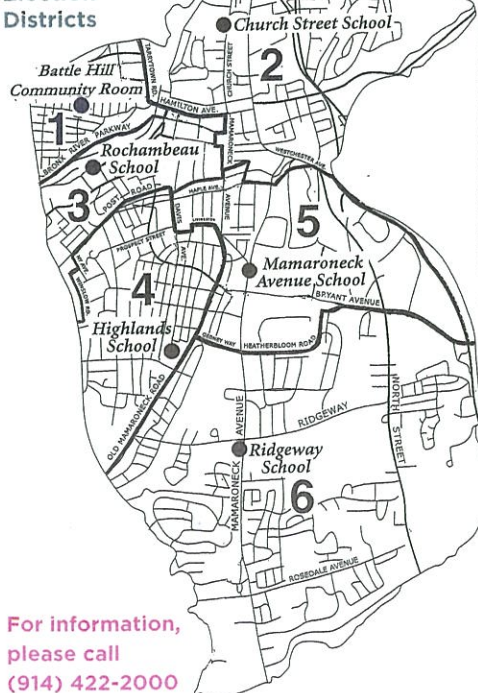


### Major Source of Revenue

Other Tax Items 3% .....  
State Aid 12% .....  
Transfer In 1% .....



### White Plains Board of Education Election Districts



For information,  
please call  
(914) 422-2000

## Voter Information

Voting will take place Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</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 21st and at least 18 years of age.

### Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who will not be in White Plains on May 21st 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 Dr. 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

Two 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, 2019. Candidates are incumbents Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris.



# MUSIC IN THE AIR

Throughout our District's schools, students have the opportunity to explore and develop their singing skills and perform for family and friends at school and for the public in some amazing venues. Here, we share a few recent highlights.



The Post Road Chorus earned the incredible opportunity to perform the national anthem at a NY Mets game on April 9th. New Music Teacher Rachel Axelrod presented the prospect and encouraged the children to work hard and audition. *"It's important for students to connect their learning in school to the real world. This exciting opportunity was an excellent reason to practice their singing skills,"* said Post Road Principal Jesimae Ossorio.

The MAS Chorus, comprised of 4th and 5th graders, rose to the challenge of learning songs in Hebrew and Spanish for their winter concert. They sang "Mi Yimalel" and "Duermete Mi Nino" as well as the popular hit "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" and an amusing rendition of "Percy the Puny Poinsetta." Robert DelGaudio is the MAS Chorus Teacher.



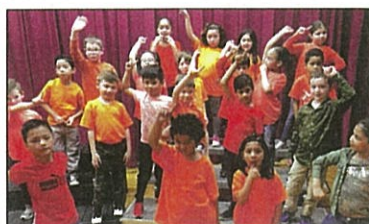
Led by Music Teacher Jennifer Irlen, Highlands 7th graders performed at the Westchester County School Music Association All County Festival at SUNY Purchase.

The White Plains High School Choir, under the leadership of Director Penelope Cruz, was once again invited to participate in the Children of Peace production at Carnegie Hall. Students were honored to be among 200 students from all over the country performing at one of the most prestigious halls in the world.



**"Choral music is not one of life's frills. All of those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony, which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world, when so much of the world is at odds with itself... that just to express, in symbolic terms, what it's like when human beings are in harmony."** Composer John Rutter

Under the leadership of Music Teacher Paul Mastalinski, George Washington School's second graders performed a play called *Friends*, which encouraged friendship and acceptance.



Ridgeway first graders recently performed *Bugz*, a musical play where children portray bugs who have to learn to work out their differences. Music Teacher Jennifer Hommez directed the performance.

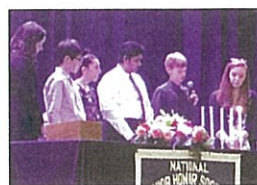
This year's *Eastview on Broadway* performance, directed by Music Teacher Matthew Hommez, included songs from *Mary Poppins*, *Annie*, *Hairspray* and *Hamilton*. The students sang complicated music and performed intricate choreography, while classmates served as emcees and contributed their skills to lighting, backstage management, makeup, costumes, photography and public relations.



The Church Street 5th grade chorus, led by Music Teacher Alyssa Mendes, sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" during the school's recent Arbor Day ceremony. They were accompanied on the ukulele by Music Teacher Jenny Pyne.



## National Junior Honor Society



149 Highlands 8th graders were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at a ceremony on April 24th. More than just an academic recognition, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Congratulations to all our hard-working middle schoolers!



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  
5 Homeside Lane  
White Plains, NY 10605  
www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

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Dr. Joseph L. Ricca  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Board of Education**  
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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 \$189,320,203 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.

**Q. What will the propositions cost me as a taxpayer?**

**A. NO** additional taxes will be incurred by either of these propositions.

## School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$218,583,020	\$226,588,509	\$220,288,367
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$ 8,005,489	\$ 1,705,347
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.66 %	0.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44 %	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$183,020,060	\$189,320,203	
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)	\$183,020,060	\$189,320,203	\$183,020,060
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,311,974	\$ 5,145,716	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <i>Excluding</i> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$176,708,086	\$ 184,174,487	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <i>Excluding</i> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$176,708,086	\$ 184,174,487	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 17,356,824	\$ 17,586,652	\$ 17,564,152
Program Component	\$ 171,364,448	\$ 178,225,622	\$ 175,447,180
Capital Component	\$ 29,871,749	\$ 30,776,234	\$ 27,277,035

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The contingency budget requires that the 2019-20 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's levy. Therefore, budget cuts totaling \$6,300,142 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 #1 Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$6,400,000 from its 2016 Capital Reserve Fund to be used for school improvement projects in the various buildings.	\$6,400,000
Proposition #2 Shall the White Plains City School District establish a capital reserve fund known as the "2019 Capital Reserve Fund," which is for the purpose of paying the costs of the renovations and reconstruction of the District's school buildings, to a maximum of \$25 million over a period of ten years from the annual appropriation of available fund balance and other legally available funds to such a Reserve Fund.	\$0

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgt@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the White Plains City School district, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Battle Hill Community Room, Church Street, Rochambeau, Highlands, Mamaroneck Avenue and Ridgeway Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 12 noon - 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or 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.