



CommunityLink

Budget 2017

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Highlights of the Proposed Budget

- Expanded STEM enrichment and elective opportunities in Grades 2 & 3 and at the High School
- Elementary Math specialists to support student progress
- Increased capacity in our Fine Arts program to support student demand for instrumental music lessons
- Reallocation of expenditures to support more in-district programs for special needs students
- Increased support for elementary recess supervision and key curriculum-based field trips
- Strengthening of interscholastic athletics program offerings and safety measures
- Improved security systems and procedures
- Playground improvements, roof replacement work and a new HS intercom system

A Balanced Approach in the Pursuit of Excellence

The history of careful fiscal stewardship that has enabled our school district to maintain a balanced budget has also created the opportunity to focus on providing our students with an even more balanced range of opportunities for the 2017-18 school year. A strategic reallocation of resources allows us to support these expanded opportunities while containing the budget increase to 2.58% over the current year's budget.

This rate of increase is typical for school districts in our region and also is consistent with the rate of inflation in our region. The resulting proposed budget of \$214,135,854 will be supported by a tax levy increase that complies with the tax cap and translates to an estimated 1.75% increase in the tax rate.

The annual school budget in White Plains has traditionally been developed with an eye

towards future sustainability and the proposed budget for 2017-18 is no exception. After input was gathered both internally and via a community forum, the resulting recommendations were evaluated based on their compatibility with the District's long-range plan and their impact on the long-term sustainability of that plan. STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) emerged from this process as a particular area of need for greater emphasis and this is reflected in our budget proposal.

While fiscal uncertainties lie ahead for school districts throughout the state, we are confident that the proposed 2017-18 budget sustainably balances our tradition of conservative fiscal management with our ongoing pursuit of excellence in the opportunities we provide to our students.

Ricca Named New Superintendent of Schools

The White Plains Board of Education has announced that Dr. Joseph L. Ricca will become Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2017. Dr. Ricca was expected to be appointed at the May 8th Board of Education meeting, after this newsletter went to print. He succeeds Dr. Howard W. Smith, current Acting Superintendent.

Rosemarie Eller, Board President, said **“We believe that Dr. Ricca's experience, record of success and enthusiasm qualify him to provide outstanding leadership for the district.”**

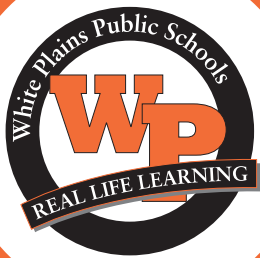
Dr. Ricca has eight years' experience as a Superintendent – the last four in the Elmsford Union Free School District and, prior to that, in East Hanover, New Jersey.

He also has experience as a teacher and principal. He has a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University, two master's degrees – from Harvard University and Caldwell College – and an Educational Doctorate from Walden University. He also did advanced studies at Oxford University in England.



Applications were received from 40 candidates in 10 states and after initial interviews with top candidates, the Board narrowed the list and expanded the interview team. It included representatives from staff associations, parents and the community.

“I am honored to have the privilege to serve the students and the community of White Plains. I look forward to committing myself to our children's future success and supporting our outstanding educational community members as we continue to offer our students real life learning experiences in a high performing 21st-century learning environment.” Dr. Joseph L. Ricca



Budget at a Glance White Plains Budget Expenses by Category

Expenditures Budget	2016-2017	2017-2018	\$ Change
General Support	\$ 20,152,608	\$ 21,694,791	\$ 1,542,183
Instruction	116,858,426	119,155,192	2,296,766
Transportation	9,459,463	9,766,204	306,741
Employee Benefits	49,707,000	50,374,608	667,608
Debt Service	12,122,503	10,195,059	(1,927,444)
Transfer Other Funds	450,000	2,950,000	2,500,000
	\$208,750,000	\$214,135,854	\$5,385,854

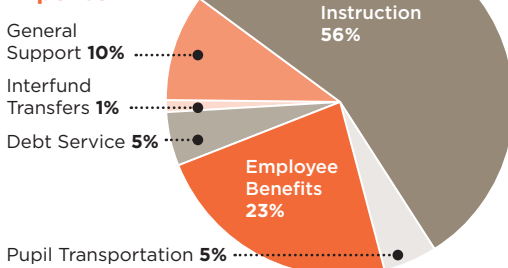
Revenue Budget

Real Property Tax Levy	170,975,098	176,898,823	5,923,725
State Aid	22,357,240	25,429,849	3,072,609
Other Tax Items (PILOTS, Utility Tax)	12,156,662	9,087,182	(3,069,480)
Charges for Service	1,986,000	1,820,000	(166,000)
Other Revenue	1,275,000	900,000	(375,000)
	\$208,750,000	\$214,135,854	\$5,385,854

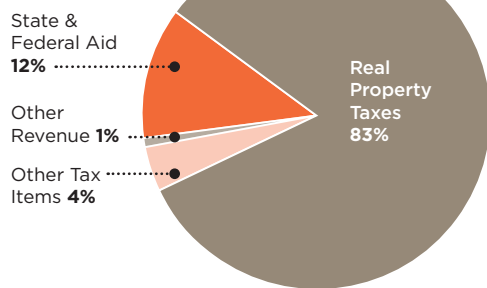
VOTE!

Tuesday, May 16
Noon-9pm

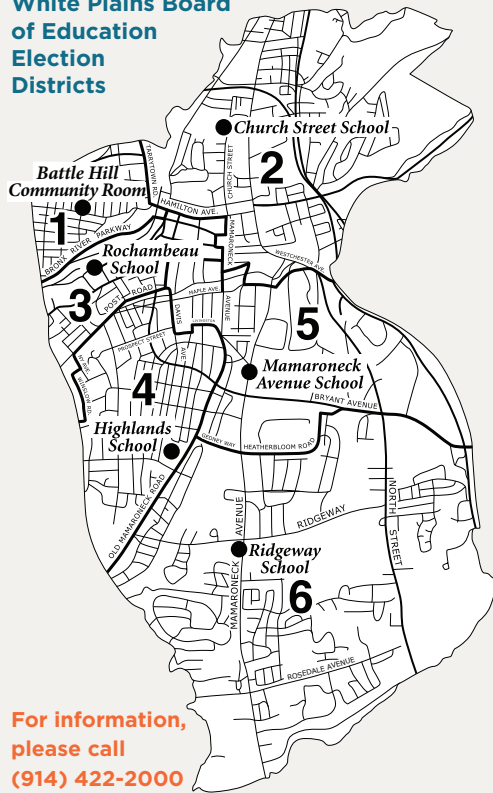
Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Source of Revenue



White Plains Board of Education Election Districts



For information, please call (914) 422-2000

Voter Information

Voting will take place Tuesday, May 16th, Noon-9pm.

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 16th and at least 18 years of age.

Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who will not be in White Plains on May 16th during voting hours may vote by absentee ballot. Please call (914) 422-2000 to obtain an application or go online to www.whiteplainspublicschools.org.

Budget Information

- Call Dr. Howard Smith, 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

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, 2017. A Candidates' Meeting, sponsored by the White Plains League of Women Voters, will be shown on Channels 46 and 77 and repeated until election day. Consult the district's channel guide for specific dates. At printing time, candidates were the two incumbents, Rosemarie Eller and Randy Stein.

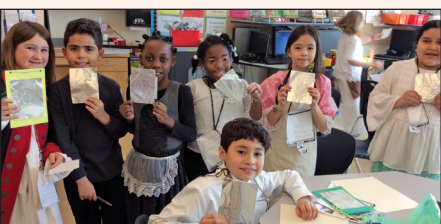
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Colonial Day at Post Road

Each spring 4th graders at Post Road participate in Colonial Day, an experiential exploration of history. Students and staff dress up in period clothing and take part in various workshops, learning about life in America during Colonial times. Hands-on activities this year included tin-smithing, making potpourri and colonial medicine, writing with ink and a quill, cooking (johnnycakes), playing games and candle-making.

“This event brings to life all that the children have learned in books,” said Post Road Principal Jesimae Ossorio. “They are able to empathize with what people experienced during this time period and

because it is hands on, it is memorable. When interviewed for the yearbook, Colonial Day is their favorite day of school in their career at Post Road!”



Mathletes Victory

The White Plains High School Math Team placed 8th in the Westchester Interscholastic Math League for 2016-2017. Seniors Noah Lichtblau and Rose Gebhardt repeated as All-County Mathletes. Rose placed 30th out of 500 students with a score of 24 out of 30 correct answers. Noah was Co-Mathlete of the Year, scoring 29 out of 30.

Rose is captain of the Girls Varsity Swim Team, trumpet section leader of the marching band and a member of the High School's Math and Academic Teams. (Read more about Noah in the National Merit story.)



Photo by John Sheppard

Choral Festival

The Citywide Choral Festival on April 5th featured approximately 430 students in grades 5-12, led by WPHS Coordinator of Fine Arts Gary West. Five groups performed separately: 5th grade, 6th grade, 7th grade, the Highlands Select Choir, and the High School choirs. Everyone sang together in the exciting grand finale!



National Junior Honor Society

One hundred and seventy Highlands students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at a ceremony on April 19th. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Congratulations to all of our hard-working middle-schoolers!



Photos by John Sheppard

Bringing Broadway to White Plains

Nearly 50 students participated as cast and creative crew in the 4th annual “Eastview on Broadway” performance, directed by Jody Kennedy and Matt Hommez. Numbers included *On Broadway*, *Let the Sunshine In*, *Corner of the Sky*, *Singing in the Rain*, and *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*. For the first time, the show was livecast so performers were able to share it with family members all over the country and world.

National Merit Finalists

Congratulations are in order for White Plains High School students Elana Hausknecht, Nicholas Crino and Noah Lichtblau. They are among the 15,000 National Merit Finalists nationwide, selected from 1.5 million entrants. They are now eligible to earn one of the 8,000 National Merit Scholarships.

Nicholas maintains a 5.4 grade point average and attained a nearly perfect score on the ACT. He is an Eagle Scout, a member of the Cross Country Track Team and participates in the Science Research Program.

Elana is a gifted musician, playing the euphonium and trombone. She played in the All-State Wind Ensemble last winter, won a concerto competition with the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra and was selected for the 2016 All-National Band.

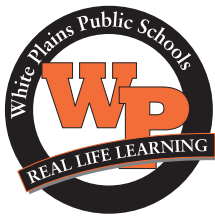
Noah took three science courses at once his junior year (AP Chemistry, Physics Honors and Science Research) and as a senior worked with our Math Coordinator to take an online course in Multivariable Differential and Integral Calculus through the Stanford Online High School.

Musical at Highlands

The Highlands Middle School production of “13 the Musical” was attended by approximately 650 people and received rave reviews. Director and teacher Jennifer Irlen credits the “outstanding cast and crew” of 48 students for that acclaim.



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

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage Paid
 Permit #47
 White Plains, NY
 ECRWSS

Dr. Howard W. Smith
Acting 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

**School District Budget Notice
 Overall Budget Proposal**

	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$208,750,000	\$ 214,135,854	\$208,212,129
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$ 5,385,854	\$ (537,871)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.58 %	-0.26 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26 %	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 170,975,098	\$176,898,823	
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)	\$ 170,975,098	\$176,898,823	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,856,043	\$ 6,606,593	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 164,119,055	\$170,292,230	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 164,119,055	\$170,292,230	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 17,164,112	\$ 17,763,215	\$ 17,280,215
Program Component	\$ 163,382,900	\$ 166,454,814	\$164,437,814
Capital Component	\$ 28,202,988	\$ 29,917,825	\$ 26,494,100

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated twice, pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law: The contingency budget requires that the 2017-18 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's levy. Therefore, budget cuts totaling \$5,923,725 would be required, resulting in significant impact to program offerings. In addition, adjustments for disallowed equipment, capital projects are included. Non-school groups using district facilities would be required to pay the full cost.

** 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.

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹ \$ 1,682

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 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.

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 \$176,898,823 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 1.75%.