

Community Link

White Plains Public Schools
Unlocking the infinite and unique potential of each student, every day.

VOTE!

In-person voting will take place Tuesday, May 18th from noon to 9 pm. Absentee ballots are also available.

2021-2022
BUDGET

2021-2022 Budget EXTRAORDINARY YEAR LEADS TO DECREASED SPENDING



This has been an extraordinary year. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives and we have remained strong as a community, committed to the health and safety of all. Staff, students and parents have done an incredible job of pivoting and adapting and we are overcoming the challenge. Our students have returned for in-person instruction and the majority of our staff has been vaccinated. We look forward to having our students vaccinated in time for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

During the current fiscal year the District has been able to reallocate resources to support students and faculty in order to provide a safe environment. It is estimated by year-end, we will have spent more than \$6 million in COVID-related expenses, such as personal protective equipment and disinfecting equipment, temperature scanners, analysis of ventilation systems, redesign of classroom space, 1:1 technology devices for the entire student population, Wi-Fi access where needed, and much more.

Immediately following the start of the pandemic, the District took decisive steps to hold up on adding any new, non-mandated initiatives and contingencies, as provided for within the 2020-21 adopted budget, responding to the economic downturn, the potential loss in State aid, and the concern there would be no Federal stimulus. As a result, the District saved \$3 million in the 2020-21 school year and did not build these initiatives into the 2021-22 budget. These savings, along with the significant economies related to the reduction in spending due to the constraints of COVID, were used to support one-time only expenses in 2020-21 related to COVID expenses, additional infrastructure projects, technology equipment replacements, and funding of future debt service payments that would reduce tax levy burden through 2025-26.

These actions have enabled the District to reduce the 2021-22 Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit of 3.88%, as prescribed by law, to 1.23% and present a 2021-22 fiscally sound spending plan that reflects a decrease of \$3.62 million or 1.55% from the prior year's adopted budget, while still preserving and protecting all existing programs and services for our students. The 2021-2022 proposed budget totals \$229,627,400.

The Board of Education is extremely thankful for the advocacy work by our legislators, PTA, bargaining unit representatives and staff. We are appreciative that the District will receive additional Foundation aid and one-time only Federal Stimulus aid. We will now begin the work of developing comprehensive plans for this additional funding to ensure that it is used to continue to advance the District's long-range instructional priorities and goals and maintain a healthy and safe environment.

We encourage the community to participate in the Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election on May 18, 2021. Additional information about the budget can be found on the District's website; www.whiteplainspublicschools.org.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Eller

Ms. Rosemarie Eller, *President*
White Plains Board of Education

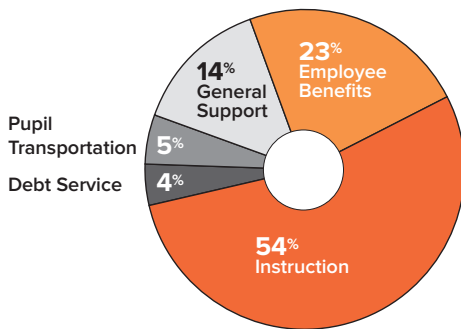
Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

Budget at a Glance

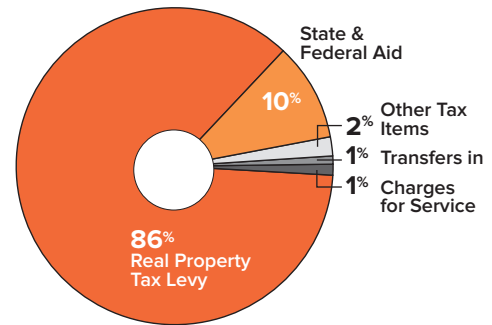
WHITE PLAINS BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY

Expenditures Budget	2021-2022	2020-2021	\$ Change
General Support	31,554,696	31,948,815	(394,119)
Instruction	124,193,607	124,569,060	(375,453)
Pupil Transportation	10,790,232	10,676,719	113,513
Employee Benefits	52,840,461	56,738,081	(3,897,620)
Debt Service	9,848,404	8,911,375	937,029
Transfer to Other Funds	400,000	400,000	-
	229,627,400	233,244,050	(3,616,650)
Revenue Budget			
Real Property Tax Levy	197,235,072	194,838,558	2,396,514
State & Federal Aid	22,282,104	28,519,477	(6,237,373)
Other Tax Items	5,454,945	5,348,007	106,938
Transfers in	2,118,279	1,200,000	918,279
Charges for Service	1,360,000	1,160,000	200,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	-	1,000,000	(1,000,000)
Other Revenue	1,177,000	1,178,008	(1,008)
	229,627,400	233,244,050	(3,616,650)

Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Source of Revenue



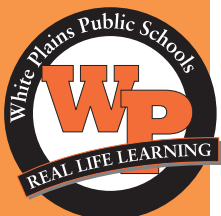
Voter Information

In-person voting will take place Tuesday, May 18th, Noon to 9:00 pm. Social distancing measures will be in effect and all voters will be required to wear masks. To determine your voting location, go to Announcements on the District's website, whiteplainspublicschools.org, "Polling Places."

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 18th and at least 18 years of age.

Absentee Ballots Registered voters who choose to vote by absentee ballot need to submit an absentee ballot application. These may be requested from the District Clerk, due to absence from the city on election day, temporary or permanent illness or physical disability, including the risk of contracting/spreading a disease that may cause illness. Applications are also available on the District's website. For additional information, please call 914-422-2071.

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, 2021. Candidates are James Hricay, Raina Kadavil, Rose Lovitch and Cayne Letizia.



sports

Sports in the Spotlight

Men's Swimming and Diving

Competing virtually for sectionals, the White Plains Men's Swimming and Diving team set two new school records and had several outstanding performances. The team of Kevin Euyoque, Michael Weinstein, Cooper Lang and Dillon Montee set a school record in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:42.07. Cooper Lang also set a school record in the 100 fly, with a time of 53.55.

Achievements on Ice

WPHS Senior and Hockey Captain John Myers broke a WPHS record by scoring his 194th point and was named League MVP. Assistant Captain Dan Cardozo scored his 100th point and scored 15 goals and five assists in four games.

We're Bowled Over

Sean Eybers, a WPHS Senior, was the High Game (270) and High Series (1280) champion at the Regional Finals.

Walking Away with a Track Record

Junior Mia Priore set the White Plains High School record for the 1500-meter walk with a time of 8:06.08, breaking the previous record of 8:09.43.



Record-breaking walker Mia Priore. ▶



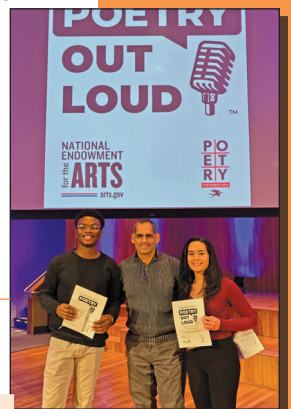
Music Program at Rochambeau Flourishes

Class Piano and Music Technology courses,

taught at Rochambeau Alternative High School by Gary Casity, are held in recently installed music technology labs, cutting-edge spaces designed to facilitate learning. In Class Piano, students acquire keyboard proficiency, explore culturally relevant musical styles, practice using accompaniment tracks, and learn to read musical notation. In Music Technology, students create imaginative compositions including a piece of music inspired by a visual work of art, a ringtone and a remix of an existing composition.

Poetry Out Loud Champions

Zaida Polanco and Nathaniel Fields made it to the NYS championship and Zaida won for the second year in a row – a feat never before accomplished by any U.S. state teenager. In May, Zaida will compete in the National Finals. *Nathaniel and Zaida with English Teacher Dennis Polanco.* ▶



Women in Music at Post Road

Every March music educators across the country celebrate **Music In Our Schools Month**. March is also Women's History Month. To celebrate them this year, Post Road's Music Teachers, Rachel Burstein and Rob Guilford, combined the two themes into a schoolwide unit of study. The result was four weeks of joy as students discovered the voices of female musicians from around the world.

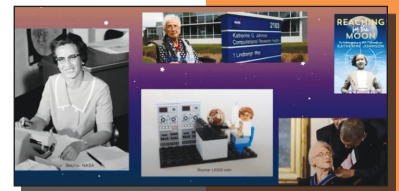


Post Road students moving to a compilation playlist of the musicians who were featured during Music In Our Schools Month/Women's History Month.

Highlands Students Discover "Hidden Figures"

In celebration of **Black History Month**, Highlands students created short videos which were shared with the entire school community during morning advisory classes. The month culminated in a schoolwide viewing and discussion of the film "Hidden Figures." Special thanks to the Highlands Equity Committee, especially Ms. Benitez, Ms. Ciofalo and Ms. Eidelman, for facilitating this project.

7th grader William McDermott chose to research Katherine Johnson, a NASA Research Mathematician. ▶



Eastview Meets Shakespeare



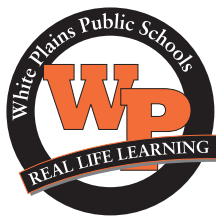
Eastview students practicing scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Eastview students got a taste for theater and Shakespeare, working with Artist in Residence Wendy Baker this spring. Via Zoom, students did improv activities and learned and performed scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which helped them enhance their speaking skills, build confidence, and learn how to use gestures to help communicate emotion and meaning.

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

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

Residential Patron

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White Plains, NY
ECRWSS



Proposed Budget FAQ's

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

A. YES. We reduced the Maximum Allowable Tax Levy, as prescribed by law of 3.88% to 1.23%.

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. Tax bills are determined by several other factors that are out of the District's control, including assessment levels, which vary by municipality, and equalization rates, which are set by the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$233,244,050	\$229,627,400	\$227,230,886
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$ (3,616,650)	\$ (6,013,164)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-1.55%	-2.58%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 194,838,558	\$ 197,235,072	
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)	\$ 194,838,558	\$ 197,235,072	\$194,838,558
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 4,033,627	\$ 4,438,920	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 190,804,931	\$ 195,846,135	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 190,804,931	\$ 192,796,152	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 0	\$ 3,049,983	
Administrative Component	\$ 17,923,149	\$ 17,562,938	\$ 17,508,430
Program Component	\$ 182,385,807	\$ 178,385,003	\$178,294,226
Capital Component	\$ 32,935,094	\$ 33,679,458	\$ 31,428,229

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The contingency budget requires that the 2021-22 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's levy. Therefore, budget reductions totaling \$2,396,514 would be required, resulting in significant impact to the 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
N/A	\$0
Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,523.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the White Plains City School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Battle Hill Community Room - 55 McKinley Avenue, Church Street School - 295 Church Street, Highlands Middle School - 128 Grandview Avenue, Mamaroneck Avenue School - 7 Nosband Avenue, Ridgeway School - 225 Ridgeway, Rochmabeau School - 228 Fisher Avenue, in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Please visit the District's website <https://es.findmypollplace.com/whiteplainscsd/> to determine your voting location.

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