

Community Link

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

VOTE!

In-person voting will take place on May 17 from noon to 9pm. Absentee ballots are also available.

MAY 2022

2022-2023 Budget Proposal:

Expanded Programming, Excellent Education, No Tax Levy Increase

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, in 2021-22 the State of New York fulfilled its commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid and comply with the court's ruling for the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit. This means that the White Plains City School District will receive an additional \$14.1 million in State aid: \$3.3 million in 2021-22, \$5.4 million in 2022-23, and \$5.4 million in 2023-24.

Finally, an equitable distribution of State Aid to our state's schools! The Board of Education is extremely thankful for the advocacy work by our legislators, PTA, unit representatives and staff.

As a result, for a second year, the District will not seek to raise the maximum allowable tax levy of 3.24% (or \$6.4 million), as prescribed by law. For 2022-23, the District will be reducing the maximum allowable tax levy increase to ZERO percent (0%). **That is, \$0.00.** Therefore, the tax levy to be raised will remain at the 2021-22 levy amount.

This reflects a fiscally sound spending plan, predicated on the District's annual update to our Long-Range Strategic Plan and Annual Budget Process.

The 2022-23 Proposed Budget includes critical instructional programs and supports, such as:

- Social Emotional Learning
- K-5 Math program enhancement
- Elementary Science and Engineering resources
- Integrated Co-Teaching expansion at George Washington
- English Language Arts
 - > Bilingual reading specialists at Eastview and Highlands
 - > New middle school course: The Writer's Workshop
- English as a New Language, World Languages, and Dual Language program resources

- Fine Arts programming additions
- K-12 Instructional Technology best practices
- Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers partnership at WPHS
- New High School courses: Economics Personal Finance, U.S. Constitution in Today's World, INCubatoredu Entrepreneurship and Enterprise, Introduction to Computers and Online Communication Tools, Intermediate Music Technology, and Senior Internship
- New "East House" at WPHS
- New WPHS Freshman Seminar

The plan also includes:

- New sports teams: Boys & Girls Modified Basketball
- New Summer Sports Academy
- Expanded safety and security: staffing, traffic controls and camera replacements
- Energy conservation: LED replacements, pipe insulation, controls automation
- Various facilities maintenance projects
- Loucks track replacement
- Allowances for anticipated utility cost increases

As part of the budget vote, the District will also seek approval for our Master Facilities Plan Phase I, detailed on page 2.

We encourage the community to participate in voting this year, whether it be in-person or through absentee ballots. The Budget Vote and School Board Election will take place on May 17, 2022. Additional information about the budget can be found on the District's website: www.whiteplainspublicschools.org.



Sincerely,
Rosemarie Eller
Ms. Rosemarie Eller



Joseph L. Ricca
Dr. Joseph L. Ricca

Bond Vote and Capital Reserve Authorization

On Tuesday, May 17, community members will be asked to approve Phase 1 of the District’s Master Facilities Plan:

Ventilation, Filtration & Air Conditioning	FUNDING: Federal & State Grants - \$13.65 million and the request to use 2019 Capital Reserve Funds for \$12.65 million	Zero cost to the taxpayer
High School Track Replacement	FUNDING: 2022-23 General Fund Operations Budget for \$1.5 million	Zero cost to the taxpayer
Renovations, Improvements & Educational Program Space	FUNDING: Request to use 2019 Capital Reserve Funds for \$11.4 million and the authorization to issue Serial Bonds for \$60 million for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Street: Library Innovation Lab, Corridor, ADA, Cafeteria/Kitchen upgrades • George Washington: Gym Ventilation, Cafeteria/Kitchen upgrades • Mamaroneck Avenue: Library Innovation Lab, Corridor, ADA, Roof, Cafeteria/Kitchen upgrades • Ridgeway: Innovation Lab, Cafeteria/Kitchen upgrades • Eastview: Innovation Lab • Rochambeau: Building-Wide Interior Renovations, Air Handler replacement, Boiler Plant upgrades, Cafeteria/Kitchen upgrades • Replacement of Dammann House with NEW High School Addition - New Program Space: Life Skills, Vocational, SEL, Science Labs, Music, Visual Arts, Dance Studio • High School: Multipurpose Lighted Turf Field, Air Handler, Ceilings, Casework, ADA, Project Lead the Way upgrades 	Tax Neutral to Taxpayers <i>(The issuance of debt will replace expiring debt, resulting in no increase to taxpayer burden)</i>
Establishment of New Capital Reserve for Phase II of Master Plan - \$0.00	FUNDING: Unexpended funds (savings) in General Fund and other legally available funds, for a total reserve of \$50 million funded over 15 years	Zero cost to the taxpayer

Proposed Budget FAQ's

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

YES. The proposed tax levy increase of zero percent (0.00%) is below the maximum allowable tax levy limit of 3.24% that is calculated for 2022-23 through a prescribed state formula.

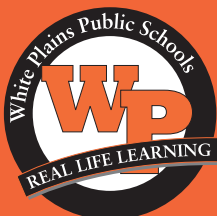
Does the tax levy indicate whether my taxes will rise?

NO. The tax levy only represents the amount of school district funding provided by local property taxes after taking into account other sources of revenue.

Residents’ tax bills are determined by several 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.

How would the proposed budget affect taxes?

While the final tax rates for 2022-23 cannot be determined until June when final assessments and equalization rates are available, the City of White Plains estimates a tax decrease of -.59% (or -\$61.24 annually) for a home in the District with an average property tax assessed value of \$15,000.

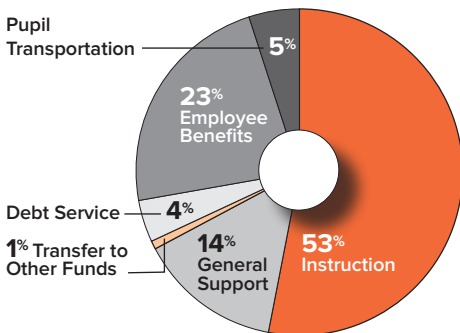


Budget at a Glance

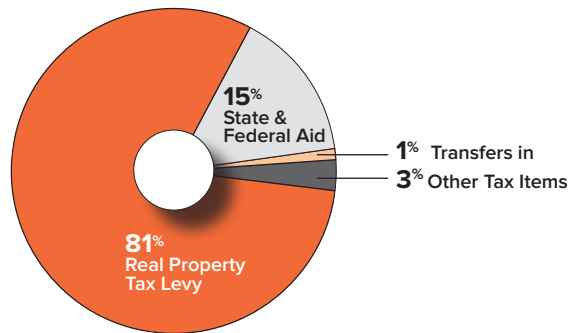
WHITE PLAINS BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY

Expenditures Budget	2022-2023	2021-2022	\$ Change
General Support	\$ 35,689,667	\$ 31,554,696	\$ 4,134,971
Instruction	130,459,192	124,193,607	6,265,585
Pupil Transportation	11,308,046	10,790,232	517,814
Employee Benefits	55,628,585	52,840,461	2,788,124
Debt Service	9,861,156	9,848,404	12,752
Transfer to Other Funds	1,900,000	400,000	1,500,000
	\$244,846,646	\$229,627,400	\$15,219,246
Revenue Budget			
Real Property Tax Levy	\$197,235,072	\$ 197,235,072	0.00
State & Federal Aid	36,938,753	22,282,104	14,656,649
Other Tax Items	6,264,542	5,454,945	809,597
Transfers in	2,118,279	2,118,279	0.00
Charges for Service	1,060,000	1,360,000	(300,000)
Other Revenue	1,230,000	1,177,000	53,000
	\$244,846,646	\$229,627,400	\$15,219,246

Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Source of Revenue



Voter Information

School Budget Vote In-person voting will take place Tuesday, May 17, 12pm-9pm. To determine your voting location, go to www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/Page/22835 and scroll down to "School budget vote."

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 17 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, or temporary or permanent illness or physical disability, including the risk of contracting/spreading a disease that may cause illness, among other reasons. For additional information, call 914-422-2071.

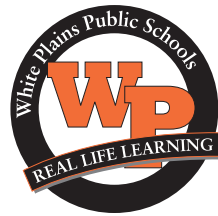
Board of Education Election Voters will elect two members to serve a three-year term on the Board, beginning July 1, 2022. Candidates are incumbents Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris.

Vote

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

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School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 229,627,400	\$244,846,646	\$243,821,077
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$15,219,246	\$14,193,677
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.63 %	6.18%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$197,235,072	\$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)	\$197,235,072	\$197,235,072	\$197,235,072
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$4,438,920	\$3,847,493	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$195,846,135	\$197,659,841	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$192,796,152	\$193,387,579	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$3,049,983	\$4,272,262	
Administrative Component	\$17,297,879	\$18,072,659	\$18,067,659
Program Component	\$178,954,377	\$188,596,849	\$188,562,276
Capital Component	\$33,375,144	\$38,177,138	\$37,191,142

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:

The contingency budget requires that the 2022-23 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's levy. The district's proposed budget includes a tax levy equal to the prior year, as a result there are no further reductions required for a contingent budget except the required reductions per law for non-contingent expenses, such as community use of the school facilities, non-health and safety maintenance projects, and certain equipment. This requirement results in a further reduction in the proposed budget of \$1,025,569, for a contingent budget of \$243,821,077.

** 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
Shall the Bond Resolution adopted by the Board of Education on February 28, 2022 that authorized expending an amount not to exceed \$11,400,000 from its Capital Reserve Fund 2019 and authorized the issuance of not to exceed \$60,000,000 Serial Bonds for construction of renovations, improvements, and educational program space enhancements to District buildings and/or sites, be approved?	\$71,400,000
Shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend after July 1, 2022 an amount not to exceed \$12,650,000 from its Capital Reserve Fund 2019 for construction of ventilation, filtration, and air conditioning improvements to various District school buildings?	\$12,650,000
Shall the Board of Education establish a capital reserve fund known as the "Capital Reserve Fund 2022," which is for the purpose of purchasing land and/or buildings and for the purpose of constructing improvements, alterations, enhancements and/or additions to all District facilities and/or sites, to a maximum of \$50 million over a period of fifteen years to be funded through budgetary appropriations, appropriations of undesignated fund balance, transfers when warranted and authorized from other reserve funds, revenues not required by law to be paid into any other fund or account?	\$0.00

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
	\$1,474

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 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 17, 2022 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.