

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 16 from noon to 9pm. Absentee ballots are also available.

MAY 2023

2023-2024 School District Budget Proposal

Exciting New Courses and Expanded Support Services; Increased Focus on Health, Arts and Sports; Reduction in Allowable Tax Levy

The community's support of the White Plains City School District helped us emerge strong from the pandemic, fiscally and educationally. Our commitment to long-range planning and continual pursuit of efficiencies has allowed us to not only sustain our instructional programs, but to enhance educational experiences for all students and continue to ensure this District is an exceptional place to learn, teach, and work.

Over the past six years the District has returned more than \$120 million to taxpayers by reducing the allowable tax levy by \$16 million, funding capital projects, funding debt service, and being self-funded for refund payments for Tax Certiorari claims, employee payments for accrued leave, and support of one-time-only expenses. This is coupled with the New York State's 2021-22 commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid, with the final amount to be received in 2023-24, for a total of \$14 million in additional State Aid. The Board of Education is extremely thankful for the advocacy work by our legislators, PTA, unit representatives and staff.

As a result, the 2023-24 budget year will be the third year that the District will reduce the allowable tax levy as prescribed by law: from 4.46% to 1.91%, or \$5,018,279. This is a 2.55% reduction.

This year's proposed budget of \$256,645,394 reflects a fiscally sound spending plan predicated on the District's annual update to our Long-Range Strategic Plan and Annual Budget Process.

The 2023-2024 Proposed Budget includes important instructional program expansions and supports funded through a reallocation of resources. That is, no new monies or additional spending! These include the following (and many more):

- Expansion of the Pre-K program for four-year-olds within the WPCSD
- New Courses
 - > English 4 Early College Experience
 - > Science Fiction and Literature and Film
 - > English as a New Language (ENL) Emergent Literacy and English
 - > Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) African American History
 - > Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Environmental Engineering
 - > SUPA Introduction to the Art and Craft of Animation
 - > Foundations of Elementary Education
- Literacy K-5: dual language improvements, additional support of foundational reading skills
- STEM K-5: Expand STEM and PLTW
- Science and Engineering K-5: Implement Science 21, integrate 4 science investigations in grades 3-5
- Math K-5: New assessment tools, more intervention and enrichment
- Expansion of ENL K-12, including partnerships with Hudson Valley Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network and Clarkson University
- Social Studies: New partnerships to expand curriculum and professional development opportunities; continued development of continuum of Holocaust instruction K-12
- Computer Science Pathways K-12: Implementation of NY Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards
- Math 6-12: Algebra I Regents Prep Tools
- Expanded Dual Language programming K-8+
- Updated fitness rooms 6-12; new health education textbooks/digital resources for high school

(cont'd on page 2)

Additional Proposition for Approval – No cost to taxpayers

On Tuesday, May 16, community members will be asked to approve the use of \$13.5 million additional funding from the 2019 and 2022 Capital Reserve Funds, for the districtwide construction of ventilation, filtration, and air conditioning improvements per the District's Master Facilities Plan approved by voters in May 2022. The additional funding is necessary due to the unprecedented increase in costs associated with raw materials, fuel, transportation, electronic-chip shortages, and changes in the Federal Energy Code requirements. **There will be no cost to taxpayers.**

District Budget Proposal (cont'd from page 1)

The budget also includes:

- Athletics & Academics: Support for increased student participation, recruitment of quality coaches, exploration of emerging sports, summer academics/athletics opportunities
- Security and Safety improvement, including New Alert Notification system, cloud-based camera system, and exploration of additional Student Resource Officer
- Increased cyber security
- New facilities management software, districtwide maintenance and operations projects, \$1.5m transfer to capital projects fund for HS Security Doors and HVAC projects
- New chef and registered dietician services, plant-based meal menu options, increase in fresh fruits and vegetables, Spanish-speaking support staff to assist parents, expansion of summer meals and after school programs
- Transportation: Installation of Zpass Verify on all buses, continuing to explore with bus contractor implementation of zero emissions buses by 2035

We are excited about these plans and the positive impact they will have for all of the 6,500+ students in our District.

The Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election will take place on May 16, 2023. Please participate! You can do so in person or through an absentee ballot. Additional information about the budget can be found on the District's website: www.whiteplainspublicschools.org.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Eller

Ms. Rosemarie Eller
Board President



Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools



Proposed Budget FAQ's

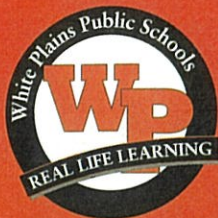
Does the White Plains City School District comply with the New York Property Tax Law?

YES. The proposed tax levy increase of 1.91% is below the maximum allowable tax levy limit of 4.46% that is calculated for 2023-24 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. While the final tax rates for 2023-24 cannot be determined until June when final assessments and equalization rates are available, the City of White Plains estimates a tax increase of 3.59% or \$30.87 monthly for a home in the District with an average property tax assessed value of \$15,000 due to a loss in taxable property assessments.

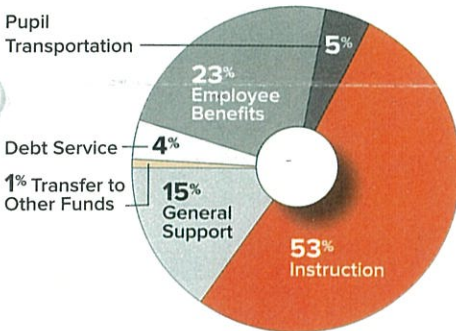


Budget at a Glance

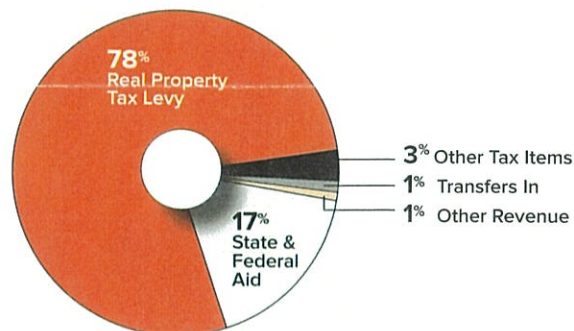
WHITE PLAINS BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY

Expenditures Budget	2023-2024	2022-2023	\$ Change
General Support	\$ 39,230,647	\$ 35,689,667	\$ 3,540,980
Instruction	134,984,652	130,459,192	4,525,460
Pupil Transportation	11,633,575	11,308,046	325,529
Employee Benefits	59,020,116	55,628,585	3,391,531
Debt Service	9,876,404	9,861,156	15,248
Transfer to Other Funds	1,900,000	1,900,000	-
	\$256,645,394	\$244,846,646	\$11,798,748
Revenue Budget			
Real Property Tax Levy	\$ 201,010,602	\$ 197,235,072	\$ 3,775,530
Other Tax Items	6,917,535	6,264,542	652,993
Charges for Service	1,060,000	1,060,000	-
Other Revenue	1,630,000	1,230,000	400,000
State & Federal Aid	44,008,978	36,938,753	7,070,225
Transfers in	2,018,279	2,118,279	(100,000)
	\$256,645,394	\$244,846,646	\$11,798,748

Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Source of Revenue



Voter Information

School Budget Vote In-person voting will take place Tuesday, May 16, 12pm-9pm. To determine your voting location, go to <https://es.findmypollplace.com/whiteplainscsd/>

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 16, 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. Absentee ballot applications may be requested from the District Clerk, due to absence from the city on election day, temporary or permanent illness or physical disability, among other reasons. For more information, call 914-422-2071 or email elections@wpcsd.k12.ny.us.

Board of Education Election Voters will elect two members to serve a three-year term on the Board, beginning July 1, 2023. Candidates include incumbent Rosemarie Eller and Valerie Daniele.

Vote

Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rosemarie Eller, *President*
Cayne Letizia, *Vice President*
Sheryl Brady
James F. Hricay
Rose Lovitch
Charlie Norris
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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www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$244,846,646	\$256,645,394	\$252,869,865
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$11,798,748	\$8,023,219
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.82 %	3.28%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$197,235,072	\$201,010,602	
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	\$201,010,602	\$197,235,072
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$3,847,493	\$4,405,575	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$197,659,841	\$199,605,027	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$193,387,579	\$196,605,027	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$4,272,262	\$3,000,000	
Administrative Component	\$18,182,604	\$19,269,245	\$18,943,191
Program Component	\$188,485,443	\$196,424,739	\$196,390,222
Capital Component	\$38,178,599	\$40,951,410	\$37,536,452

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The contingency budget requires that the 2023-24 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's tax levy. Therefore, budget reductions totaling \$3,775,529 would be required, resulting in a significant impact to program offerings. In addition, further reductions would be required per law for non-contingent expenses, such as community use of the school facilities, non-health and safety maintenance projects, certain equipment, capital projects, and various administrative costs.

** 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 Board of Education be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$13,500,000 from its Capital Reserve Funds 2019 and 2022 to provide additional funding for construction of ventilation, filtration, and air conditioning improvements to various District school buildings?	\$13,500,000
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,473

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the White Plains City School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at Battle Hill Commu 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 16, 2023 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.