West Valley School Budget 2025-2026

February 11, 2025

Executive Budget Proposal

Foundation Aid

The Executive budget proposes $26.4 billion in Foundation Aid for the 2025-26 School Year, an increase of $1.5 billion or 5.9% over School Year 2024-25 and makes the following changes:

- Adds a 2% minimum annual increase for each school district in FY 2025-26.
- Our projected Foundation Aid increase is 2% or $73,376.

Executive Budget Proposal

Expense-Based Aids

The Executive budget funds expense –based aids using current statutory formulas.

November Database Freeze

The Executive budget proposes to cap aid as of the November state aid database. For example, 2025-26 Aid projected on November 2024 School Aid runs would serve as the maximum that each district would receive for each aid type.

Distraction Free Learning

To address smartphone use in schools, requiring schools to implement policies restricting internet-enabled devices during the school day to create a distraction free environment.

Executive Budget Proposal

Other Items

- Changes STAR exemption and STAR credit eligibility and requirements.
- The creation and digitization of youth working papers.
- School districts are report cybersecurity incidents and demands of ransom payments to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services within 72 hours of discovering the incident.

Items Not Included

- Changes to Zero-Emission Bus Implementation
- Increase to BOCES Career and Technical Education Salary Cap
- Increase to Capital Outlay Exemption
- Retiree Salary Cap Waiver (Set to expire June 30, 2025)

Tax Cap Calculation – Due 3/1

Total Tax Cap

• Current year levy is	$3,102,325
• New year max levy without an override	$3,186,268
• NYS allowable levy growth factor	2.0%
• Tax base growth factor	1.0060%
• Anticipated Pilots	300,404
• There are no exclusions this year (ERS, TRS, Capital)	
• **Percentage increase**	**2.705%**
• **Dollar increase**	**83,943**

Continuing Analysis

Reviewing all potential cost saving opportunities

Can we look at staffing differently?

- Shared opportunities
- Virtual Learning

Further analysis of purchasing procedures

Taking advantage of State Contract pricing, competitive bidding and BOCES purchases.

Review of all potential revenue streams

Future Meeting Agenda's

- March Meeting
  - We will have recommendations for a proposed budget and tax levy
  - Still pending NYS budget approval
- April Meeting
  - Final budget proposal will be approved
- May 20, 2025
  - Budget Vote
  - BOE Candidates Vote
  - Full Size Bus Purchase – From Transportation Reserve