White Plains Public Schools
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 21 from noon to 9pm. Absentee ballots are also available.

MAY 2024

2024-2025 School District Budget Proposal

Fiscally Conservative · Focused on Student Outcomes · Lower Tax Levy

The Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election will take place on May 21, 2024 and we hope you will participate. Your support of the White Plains City School District helps us maintain fiscal strength, sustain and enhance educational opportunities, and focus on achieving the best possible outcome for each student. Thank you!

This year's proposed budget of $265,900,000 reflects a fiscally sound spending plan based on the annual update to our Long-Range Strategic Plan and Annual Budget Process, and our commitment to improved efficiency. This planning process includes comprehensive annual projections which, over the past seven years, have allowed us to utilize savings to fund capital projects, tax certiorari claims, employee payments for accrued leave, debt service, and one-time only expenses – thus reducing future taxpayer obligations. Along with New York State's commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid, this has enabled the District to reduce the tax levy below the maximum allowable by law. **In fact, 2024-2025 will be the fourth year that the District will reduce the allowable tax levy**: from 2.26% to 1.06% or $2,409,456. This is a 1.20% reduction. We thank our legislators, PTA, unit representatives and staff for their advocacy work!

The 2024-2025 Proposed Budget contains important instructional program expansions and supports funded through a reallocation of resources. That is, **no new monies or additional spending!**

Some highlights include:

- PreK: Enhance classroom libraries and learning centers
- Literacy K-6: explore ELA programs supported by evidence-based research in the science of reading, use assessment tools to monitor student achievement and growth
- ELA 6-12: grow partnerships and student opportunities with local and regional organizations
- ENL K-12: partner with Hudson Valley Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network & Clarkson University
- Social Studies 6-12: new books, implement investment simulator for economics classes
- World Languages 6-12: align with new curriculum standards, support students earning Seal of Biliteracy
- DW College Readiness – AVID: growth of special events including college & career fairs, increase college exposure for all students, promote executive functioning skills
- Instructional Technology, Business & Library Media Services K-12: build digital citizenship and literacy skills, expand INCubatoredu entrepreneurship program
- Math K-5: expand extended-day learning and partnerships with families
- Math 6-12: offer Algebra I Regents Prep Academy and Middle School Mathematics Skills Prep Academy
- STEM K-5: expand STEM learning opportunities and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering & Computer Science pathway
- Science & Engineering K-5: explore learning opportunities in partnership with Liberty Science Center, NY Hall of Science, NY Botanical Gardens, Bronx Zoo, and colleges & universities
- Science & Engineering 6-12: Regents exams in physical sciences, all students take Intermediate Level Science in 8th grade, offer PLTW Environmental Engineering
- Fine Arts K-12: Continue Beyond Broadway Dance Program and SUPA Art and Craft of Animation course

(cont'd on page 2)

Additional Proposition: Capital Reserve Fund

No cost to taxpayers

As part of the School Budget Vote on May 21, community members will be asked to approve a new Capital Reserve Fund to support future capital projects per the District's updated Building Condition Survey & Master Infrastructure Long-Range Plan.

- ✓ *No cost to taxpayers*
- ✓ *Funded through unspent funds (savings) in general fund and other legally available funds*
- ✓ *Funded over 10 years, to a maximum of $50 million*
- ✓ *Reduces future taxpayer burden*

District Budget Proposal *(cont'd from page 1)*

- Wellness, Physical Education & Health K-12: update fitness equipment, purchase new high school health textbooks and digital resources, increase emphasis on critical thinking skills
- Pupil Support & Services: add K-2 self-contained class, complete Special Education Program Assessment Audit
- Computer Science Pathway K-12: Implement NYS K12 Computer Science & Digital Fluency Standards, K-6 Amazon Future Engineer computer science grant & STEM Ambassador Program

The budget also includes:

- Athletics: Additional LocalLive for Field 12, 2nd team for Modified Girls Basketball, Fall & Winter Assistant Cheer Coach
- Security and safety improvements, including training and technology upgrades
- Collaboration with families and partners to extend health services beyond school hours
- Increased cyber security and installation/upgrades of information technology tools
- Various maintenance and improvement projects
- Additional staff and communications efforts to increase student participation in meal and nutrition programs
- Bus safety and emissions improvement initiatives, including Stop Arm Cameras

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 1.06% is below the maximum allowable tax levy limit of 2.26% that is calculated for 2024-25 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?

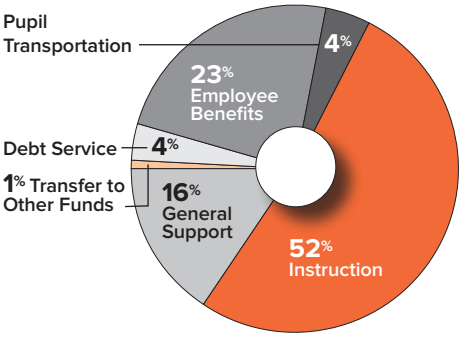
While the final tax rates for 2024-25 cannot be determined until June when final assessments and equalization rates are available, the City of White Plains estimates a tax increase of 2.18% or $19.39 monthly for a home in the District with an average property tax assessed value of $15,000 due to a loss in taxable property assessments.

Budget at a Glance

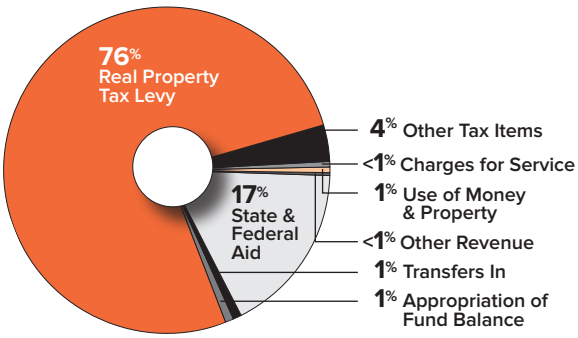
WHITE PLAINS BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY

Expenditures Budget	2024-2025	2023-2024	$ Change
General Support	$ 41,651,866	$ 39,230,647	$ 2,421,219
Instruction	138,089,074	134,984,652	3,104,422
Pupil Transportation	12,107,356	11,633,575	473,781
Employee Benefits	62,316,599	59,020,116	3,296,483
Debt Service	9,885,105	9,876,404	8,701
Transfer to Other Funds	1,850,000	1,900,000	(50,000)
	$265,900,000	**$256,645,394**	**$9,254,606**
Revenue Budget			
Real Property Tax Levy	$ 203,140,013	$ 201,010,602	$ 2,129,411
Other Tax Items	10,041,565	6,917,535	3,124,030
Charges for Service	1,060,000	1,060,000	-
Use of Money & Property	1,800,000	600,000	1,200,000
Other Revenue	1,030,000	1,030,000	-
State & Federal Aid	44,818,966	44,008,978	809,988
Transfers in	2,409,456	2,018,279	391,177
Appropriation of Fund Balance	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
	$265,900,000	**$256,645,394**	**$9,254,606**

Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Source of Revenue



Voter Information

School Budget Vote In-person voting will take place Tuesday, May 21, 12 to 9pm. To determine your voting location, go to **https://es.findmypollplace.com/whiteplainscsd/.** Note: Voters who previously voted at the Battle Hill Community Room will now vote at Rochambeau School.

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 21, and at least 18 years of age.

Absentee & Early Mail Ballots Registered voters who choose to vote by absentee or early mail ballot need to submit an application, which may be requested from the District Clerk. For more information, call 914-422-2071.

Board of Education Election Voters will elect three members to serve a three-year term on the Board, beginning July 1, 2024. Candidates, in the order they appear on the ballot, are: Craig Mondschein, Jessica Buck, Donna Giambalvo, Rose Lovitch*, Cayne Letizia*, Ferenc Tasnady, Vincent Orlando and Leslie Hickey. **Incumbents*

A Spanish version of this newsletter is available on the District's website at **www.whiteplainspublicschools.org** ("All About the Budget") and in school buildings, libraries and voting sites.

La versión en Español de este boletín está disponible en el sitio web del Distrito en **www.whiteplainspublicschools.org** ("Todo sobre el presupuesto"), y en edificios escolares, bibliotecas y sitios de votación.

vote

Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

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

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 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	$256,645,394	$265,900,000	$263,770,589
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		$9,254,606	$7,125,195
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.61%	2.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$201,010,602	$203,140,013	
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)	$201,010,602	$203,140,013	$201,010,602
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$4,405,575	$4,430,565	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$199,605,027	$198,709,448	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$196,605,027	$198,709,448	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	$3,000,000	$0	
Administrative Component	$19,246,255	$20,407,582	$19,860,999
Program Component	$196,450,230	$202,693,530	$202,693,531
Capital Component	$40,948,909	$42,798,888	$41,216,059

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The contingency budget requires that the 2024-25 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's tax levy. Therefore, budget reductions totaling $2,129,411 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 establish a capital reserve fund known as the "Capital Reserve Fund 2024," 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 plus interest earnings, over a period of ten 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
	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]	$1,473

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the White Plains City School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at 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 21, 2024 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.

Design: Jill Singer Graphics • Writing: Hillary Millman