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 20 from noon to 9 P.M. Absentee ballots are also available by calling the District Clerk at 914-422-2071.

MAY 2025

2025-2026 School District Budget Proposal

Program Enhancements • Facility Upgrades • Reduced Tax Levy • No New Spending

The Annual White Plains City School District Budget Vote and School Board Election will take place on May 20, 2025, and we encourage you to participate. Your support of the White Plains City School District helps us provide excellent academic, athletics and arts opportunities for our Tigers and maintain fiscal strength. We thank you!

This year's proposed budget of $277,965,500 reflects a fiscally conservative spending plan based on the annual update to our Long-Range Strategic Plan and Annual Budget Process, which enabled us to successfully forecast budget shortalls, find efficiencies to close potential gaps and contend with rising costs while offering exciting, high-quality educational programming for all students.

This planning process includes comprehensive multi-year projections which, over the past eight 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 and the adoption of certain recommendations of the Rockefeller Study, the District has reduced the tax levy below the maximum allowable by law for the fifth year in a row. This year's reduction is 50%: from 3.31% to 1.67%. The Board of Education sincerely appreciates the advocacy efforts of our legislators, PTA, unit representatives, and staff.

The 2025-2026 Proposed Budget contains important instructional program enhancements and support, funded through a reallocation of resources. That is, no new money or additional spending!

Some highlights of plans for 2025-2026 include:

- **Elementary Schools:** Expanding Math & Movement K-1 and incorporating Math Enrichment K-5, advancement of Computer Science & Digital Fluency standards K-5, continued implementation of Science 21 & NYS Science Learning Standards 3-5 (highlighted in our previous newsletter), and using new tools to analyze and track student growth and achievement
- **Middle Schools:** Purchasing texts to enhance literacy-rich learning environments, aligning the science sequence with NYS Science Learning Standards, advancement of Computer Science & Digital Fluency Standards, developing extended day opportunities to accelerate learning, continued focus on school culture, climate and community-building, and a comprehensive review of master schedules
- **High Schools:** Adding new options to the science course sequence, continuing to shift content and instructional practices for new Regents exams, increasing the number of students earning the Seal of Biliteracy and/or the Seal of Civic Readiness, advancement of Computer Science & Digital Fluency Standards, and shifting professional learning support to design instructional plans with intentional focus on fostering executive functioning skills and promoting student engagement

NEW COURSES

- Introduction to Robotics I, grades 9-12
- Introduction to Dance, grades 9-12
- Intermediate Ceramics (restructuring), grades 9-12
- Climate Change and Natural Hazards, grades 10-12
- Farm to Table: the Economics and Government of Food, grade 12
- Financial Literacy, grade 12
- Introduction to Business Law, grades 10-12
- PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Environmental Sustainability – in the PLTW Pathways to Engineering strand
- Physical Education: various, all grades

(continued on page 2)

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

The budget also includes funding for:

- **Athletics:** Efforts to increase student participation in interscholastic sports and the Summer Sports Academy, grow the number of Scholar Athletes, improve summer retention and recruitment of coaches, and continued improvement of athletic facilities
- **Security & Safety:** Installation of Diamond Defense Ballistic Film at all school vestibules, and continuation of annual drilling, testing and training with students, staff, SROs, and local emergency management teams
- **Transportation:** Transition to Durham Bus Services, 70 new buses, implementation of 2023-24 Efficiency Study recommendations, assisting parents/guardians and students in transition of Church Street bell times, and continued efforts to implement NYS Zero Emissions mandates
- **Food Service (self- funding):** Continuing the culinary focus, expanding vegetarian protein offerings and access to meals and after school snack/meal programs, and engaging students in menu planning and recipe selection
- **Facilities & Operations:** Continued work on capital and various maintenance projects, and working with NYSERDA and their On-Site Energy Manager, and completing energy audits at several schools
- **Information Technology:** Enhanced cybersecurity, implementation of Parent Square communication platform, upgrades to network, phone system, and security cameras

Additional information about the budget can be found on the District's website: www.whiteplainspublicschools.org ("All About the Budget").



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 1.67% is below the maximum allowable tax levy limit of 3.31% that is calculated for 2025-26 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 rate for 2025-26 cannot be determined until June when final assessments and equalization rates are available, the City of White Plains estimates a tax increase of 1.94% or $17.69 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.

Did the District reduce any programs or services to students?

NO. Through the District's commitment to long-range planning and pursuit of greater efficiency, we have not only been able to sustain our instructional programs, but also further enhance the educational opportunities for all students through the reallocation of resources, **no new monies.**

Why did the District change Church Street arrival and dismissal times?

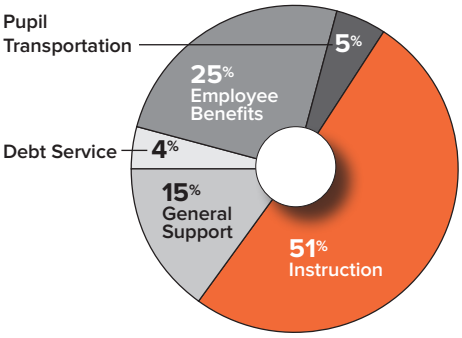
The District commissioned an Efficiency Study in 2023-24 to evaluate the existing transportation program and to determine next steps to find a new provider. As part of that analysis, it was identified that Church Street arrival and dismissal times should be aligned with the District's other elementary schools in order to comply with NYS Pupil Transportation Department recommendations that routes should be designed and buses scheduled so each bus can make two or more morning and afternoon trips. If the District were to continue stand-alone buses, expenses would increase by $2.1m.

Budget at a Glance

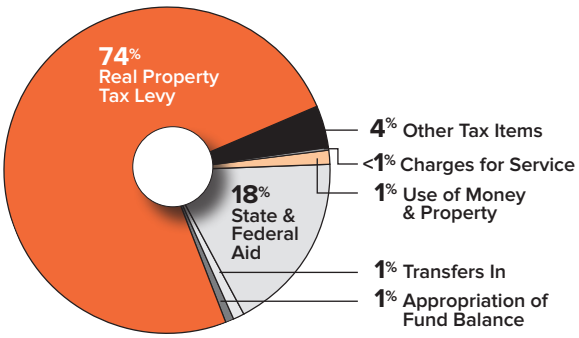
WHITE PLAINS BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY

Expenditures Budget	2025-2026	2024-2025	$ Change
General Support	$ 42,288,810	$ 41,651,866	$ 636,944
Instruction	140,926,712	138,089,074	2,837,638
Pupil Transportation	14,286,603	12,107,356	2,179,247
Employee Benefits	68,572,470	62,316,599	6,255,871
Debt Service	11,540,905	9,885,105	1,655,800
Transfer to Other Funds	350,000	1,850,000	(1,500,000)
	$277,965,500	**$265,900,000**	**$12,065,500**
Revenue Budget			
Real Property Tax Levy	$ 206,526,129	$ 203,140,013	$ 3,386,116
Other Tax Items	11,233,181	10,041,565	1,191,616
Charges for Service	1,060,000	1,060,000	-
Use of Money & Property	3,520,000	1,800,000	1,720,000
Other Revenue	1,030,250	1,030,000	250
State & Federal Aid	49,655,615	44,818,966	4,836,649
Transfers in	3,340,325	2,409,456	930,869
Appropriation of Fund Balance	1,600,000	1,600,000	-
	$277,965,500	**$265,900,000**	**$12,065,500**

Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Source of Revenue



Voter Information

School Budget Vote In-person voting will take place Tuesday, May 20, Noon to 9pm. To determine your voting location, go to https://lh.findmypollplace.com/whiteplainscsd/. Note: Voters who previously voted at the Battle Hill Community Room will now vote at El Centro Hispano, 245 Central Ave.

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 20, 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 two members to serve a three-year term on the Board, beginning July 1, 2025. Candidates, in the order they appear on the ballot, are: Julia Olivia, Charlie Norris*, Mohammed S. Chowdhury, and Sheryl Brady*.

*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
Jessica Buck
Valerie Daniele
Craig Mondschein
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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #47
White Plains, NY
ECRWSS

Residential Patron

#wpproud

www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	$265,900,000	$277,965,500	$274,579,384
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		$12,065,500	$8,679,384
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.54%	3.26%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$203,140,013	$206,526,129	
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)	$203,140,013	$206,526,129	$203,140,013
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$4,430,565	$4,369,347	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$198,709,448	$202,156,782	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$198,709,448	$202,156,782	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	$0	$0	
Administrative Component	$20,407,582	$21,310,123	$21,032,721
Program Component	$202,693,530	$213,317,516	$212,497,302
Capital Component	$42,798,888	$43,337,861	$41,049,361

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The contingency budget requires that the 2025-26 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's tax levy. Therefore, budget reductions totaling $3,386,116 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.

	Description	Amount
** 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)	N/A	$0.00

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS:
Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]	$1,340

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 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, El Centro Hispano - 295 Central Avenue in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 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