

BUDGET 2024-2025

Westbury School District Newsletter

The Dragon Tales

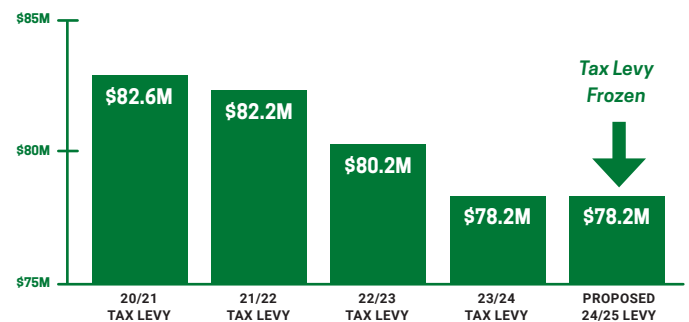


PROPOSED BUDGET FREEZES TAX LEVY, ENHANCES ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING AND INVESTS IN FACILITIES

The Westbury Board of Education and Administration are pleased to announce that the proposed 2024-2025 budget freezes the tax levy at last year's level. This is the fourth year in a row that the tax levy has been either reduced or maintained at existing levels. Since 2021-2022, the tax levy has been reduced 5.3 percent.

We are also pleased that we have been able to hold the line on taxes while continuing to enhance the overall academic program and make improvements to our facilities. Unlike many districts who have announced layoffs and cuts in services to balance their budgets, we will not have to incur disruptions in our staffing, academic programming or facilities maintenance. We will, instead, achieve cost savings from declining enrollment by not replacing staff who are retiring without incurring increases in class sizes.

TAXES REDUCED 5.3% SINCE 2020-2021



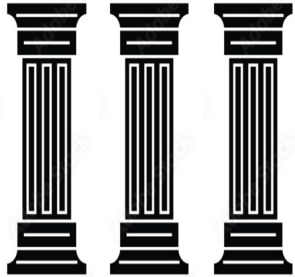
REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024
6 AM - 9 PM

Drexel Ave. School
Dryden St. School
Middle School
Park Ave. School

Westbury is one of only 11 schools on Long Island offering an IB Programme
and one of only 64 schools in New York. Read more on page 2.

Investments in Educational Excellence: Academic Highlights of the Proposed Budget



- The District's International Baccalaureate (IB) Authorization
- The Saturday WINS Academy
- Model PLC School Distinction

Westbury Is Expanding Globally with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Implementing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme represents a transformative step toward global academic excellence. This prestigious program elevates our scholars' educational experiences by immersing them in rigorous, world-class curricula. The global adoption of the IB Programme, with 5,500 schools in over 160 countries, underscores its worldwide recognition for preparing scholars for the competitive demands of the modern world.

The addition of the IB program at Westbury signals a commitment to providing top-tier educational opportunities for all. Colleges are beginning to trend toward replacing AP classes with IB courses as the standard of excellence. The IB offering provides an opportunity for our scholars to receive college credits while in high school, which translates into tuition cost savings for families.

A Win-Win with Saturday WINS Academy

Saturday WINS Academy offers six-days-a-week learning, boosting student success with a STEAM curriculum. It involves families, offers professional development, and collaborates with industry partners, benefiting everyone involved.

Professional Learning Community: Model School Distinction

Westbury School District is the only district in New York designated a Model Professional Learning Community (PLC) School. Model PLC Schools are dedicated learning communities where educators engage in continual collaborative efforts to consistently enhance outcomes.

Select 2023-2024 Highlights



- Scholars participated in a Policy Leadership Summit for High School Girls at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C., advocating for a national policy mandating health clinics in all high schools.
- As part of Westbury High School's My Brother's Keeper chapter, eight students, along with staff, embarked on a truly life-changing journey to Ghana, providing the young men with an educational and culturally immersive experience, enriched with elements of community service and enjoyment.

The Great Debaters: Westbury Middle School Achieves a Win!

Our great debaters continue to thrive and use the power of their voice! The Westbury Middle School debate team competed at Garden City Middle School, showcasing exceptional skills and knowledge as they debated critical topics such as "Should AI be restricted?" and "Should guns be illegal?"

Inclusivity, Education and Savings from All With STRIVE

Expanding the STRIVE program into Westbury School District's elementary levels promotes inclusivity by educating scholars with IEPs or unique learning paths within their community. This fosters belonging, improves social interactions, and provides tailored educational support. Economically, this program model could save the district money by reducing outsourcing costs for special education services, investing instead in internal resources. This benefits scholars and strengthens the district's educational system, showcasing innovative financial stewardship to taxpayers.

ATHLETICS

The athletes of the Westbury Union Free School District have been making waves in recent competitions and awards ceremonies, showcasing their talent, dedication, and sportsmanship.

- Thomas Fletcher and Donnell Lauriston from the Westbury Varsity Football team were selected to play in the Nassau County Football Senior Game.
- Nevaeh Moody, a sophomore, was honored with the Nassau County All-Conference Award in volleyball.
- The Westbury Varsity Boys Winter Track team won the Nassau County Conference 2 Championship.
- Angel Flores captured the Nassau County Wrestling Championship in the 190 lbs category.
- Westbury's Varsity Boys Track 4 × 200 relay team qualified for the New York State championship meet.
- The Varsity Boys Basketball team advanced to the Quarter Finals in the conference playoffs.
- Apollo Simmons was selected to the Nassau County Basketball Association All-County team as a junior.
- Wendarlin Charles, Brian Destrat and eighth grader Jordyn Troiano were named to the All-Conference team for 2024.
- Donnell Lauriston received the Unsung Hero Award at the Gridiron Banquet.



- Finally, the track and field at the high school was named the Donald R. Ross Track and Field Complex to honor Coach Ross for his 40-year tenure as a multi-championship winning coach and mentor to our scholar athletes.

The achievements of these athletes are a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the unwavering support of their coaches, families, and the Westbury Union Free School District. They serve as inspirations to their peers and a source of pride for the entire community.

ARTS

Westbury Annual Arts Contest

Our scholars showcased their creativity and talent, with select artworks earning the opportunity to be displayed in the Westbury Arts gallery. Additionally, winners enjoyed a memorable trip to New York City, complete with museum visits, a delightful lunch, and a Broadway show experience.

Bus Safety Poster Contest Winner

Westbury scholar Jeffrey Lindor-Dominguez clinched first prize in Division 2 (Grades 3-5) of the Bus Safety Poster Contest. Jeffrey's outstanding artistic efforts were recognized with a well-deserved certificate.

Five Towns College LI Media Arts Nominations

Morgan Belcher was nominated for the LI Media Arts award in Animation, while Marvin Cruz was nominated in Experimental Film. Their talents continue to shine brightly, earning them well-deserved recognition in the field of media arts.

Musical Marvels

- Scholars showcased their musical prowess at Westbury Met Day, singing our national anthem at Citi Field.
- Five Westbury musicians participated in the Nassau Suffolk Band, a significant milestone in our music program.
- NYSSMA All-State selections: Congratulations to Mekiyah Parker, Jayden Merino, Diego Monroy, Kyle Noble, Robert Wilson, and Bradley Armand for their outstanding achievements.



Vocal and Theater Excellence

- Talented vocalists from Drexel Avenue captivated audiences with their enchanting performances at the Westbury Public Library during the Hispanic Heritage Event.
- In March, Westbury High School staged a captivating rendition of *Beauty and the Beast*, showcasing the cast and crew's dedication. With enchanting musical numbers, elaborate costumes, and stunning sets, the production transported the audience to a magical world.



PROPOSITION 1: WESTBURY UFSD 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	2024 - 25 Proposed Budget	2023 - 24 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
STATE AID/FEDERAL AID	\$ 101,490,433	\$ 99,629,626	\$ 1,860,807	1.9%
SCHOOL TAX LEVY	78,218,042	78,218,042	-	0.0%
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE & RESERVES	13,050,000	13,050,000	-	0.0%
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	4,228,286	4,085,201	143,085	3.5%
MISC REVENUE ITEMS	1,931,450	1,717,584	213,866	12.5%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 198,918,211	\$ 196,700,453	\$ 2,217,758	1.1%

DESCRIPTION	2024 - 25 Proposed Budget	2023 - 24 Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 19,814,296	\$ 19,506,488	\$ 307,808	1.6%
INSTRUCTION	115,537,575	114,342,328	1,195,247	1.0%
TRANSPORTATION	13,495,191*	13,807,708	-312,517	-2.3%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	6,250	6,250	-	0.0%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	42,475,982	40,316,747	2,159,235	5.4%
DEBT SERVICE	4,955,632	5,015,932	-60,300	-1.2%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	2,633,285**	3,705,000	-1,071,715	-28.9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 198,918,211	\$ 196,700,453	\$ 2,217,758	1.1%

* Includes the second year of a five-year agreement for the transportation of scholars through First Student, at an estimated five-year cost of \$70,642,503.

** Includes an interfund transfer to capital in the amount of \$1,803,285 to support various capital projects in the district including but not limited to HVAC, electrical, plumbing, windows and doors, sitework and playgrounds.

STEM IN ACTION

Our Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Supports the Continuation of Signature STEM Programs, like Our Very Own Techno Dragons!

A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)-forward education is vital in a 21st-century classroom. Westbury has long promoted STEM initiatives for its scholars, and Park Avenue Elementary School's amazing robotics team, the Techno Dragons, demonstrate how successful this philosophy has been! The Techno Dragons have been making waves on Long Island. Recently, they competed at the first-ever LEGO League Challenge competition at Hicksville High School.

Who are the Techno Dragons?

The AMAZING scholars in the Techno Dragons are Park Avenue Elementary School's first-ever LEGO League competition team. Comprising fourth and fifth graders, the Techno Dragons learn how to build and program robots, use creativity to solve problems, and compete in fun competitions. Learn more—and meet the team—by scanning the QR code.

