

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



Scan for voting locations

MAY 2026

2026-2027 School District Budget Proposal

New Classes – More Supports – No New Spending

The Annual White Plains City School District Budget Vote and School Board Election will take place on May 19, 2026, and we encourage you to participate. We thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work to maintain both academic and fiscal strength while remaining mindful of the impact on taxpayers.

The 2026-2027 proposed budget of \$284,932,300 reflects a fiscally responsible spending plan grounded in the District’s Strategic plan, sustained commitment to long-range planning, annual goals, and multi-year financial projections. This approach allows us to proactively address future challenges, identify efficiencies, and reallocate resources in ways that enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Over the past several years, comprehensive long range forecasting and prudent use of savings have enabled the District to reduce future obligations while funding capital projects, tax certiorari claims, employee accrued leave payments, and debt service. As a result of these efforts, combined with increased State aid and continued advocacy, the District has been able to moderate tax levy growth while sustaining programs that directly benefit students.

For 2026-2027, the proposed budget includes a 1.60% tax levy increase, which remains within the New York State Tax Levy Cap and reflects the District’s continued focus on fiscal stability, efficiency, and long term sustainability.

This year’s proposal includes important instructional enhancements and supports with a focus on strengthening teaching and learning at every level, funded through a reallocation of resources. **That is, no new money or additional spending!**

Instructional highlights include:

Prekindergarten:

- Purchase of instructional materials and supplies to ensure consistency across classrooms
- Continued alignment of learning centers to thematic curriculum units
- Professional learning in early literacy, phonemic awareness, and foundational skills
- Preparation for expanded access to full day Pre K for eligible four-year-olds

Elementary Schools – Grades K–5:

- Continued implementation of high quality English Language Arts resources, including Arts and Letters (Great Minds)
- Professional learning in data informed instruction, The Writing Revolution, and phonics based literacy practices
- Ongoing support for Dual Language programming and Spanish language proficiency monitoring
- Strengthening of mathematics instruction through professional learning and evidence based strategies
- Continued implementation of NYS Science Investigations and Science 21

- Advancement of Computer Science and Digital Fluency standards
- Refinement of the Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS) with a focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions
- Continued use of NWEA MAP to monitor student growth and achievement
- Instructional design aligned to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles

Middle Schools – Grades 6–8:

- Adoption of an evidence based Grade 6 ELA resource to strengthen literacy instruction
- Professional learning in small group instruction, conferencing, and expository writing
- Program evaluation and curriculum review in mathematics
- Alignment of science curriculum to NYS Science Learning Standards
- Continued use of digital social studies resources and literacy rich classroom materials
- Ongoing MTSS implementation and data analysis using NWEA MAP
- Continued focus on UDL and instructional coherence

(continued on page 2)

District Budget Proposal (cont'd from page 1)

High School – Grades 9–12:

- Continued alignment of instruction to new Regents examinations
- Expansion of course offerings, including: Dance II, AP Business with Personal Finance, AP Cybersecurity, Cooperative Games (Physical Education)
- Increased opportunities for students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and Seal of Civic Readiness
- Continued exploration of Career and Technical Education pathways in partnership with BOCES
- Professional learning focused on executive functioning skills, problem based learning, and student engagement

Special Education:

- Expansion of the continuum of services through the addition of 8:1:2 programs at Highlands Middle School and White Plains High School
- Reallocation of existing staff to meet the needs of students requiring intensive supports

The budget also includes funding for:

- **Athletics:** Increased participation opportunities, continued facility improvements, and support for scholar athletes
- **Safety and Security:** Ongoing training, drills, and enhancements to safety infrastructure
- **Transportation:** Continued transition to a new bus provider, implementation of efficiency

recommendations, and planning for NYS zero emission mandates

- **Food and Nutrition Services:** Continued focus on student wellness, menu quality, and expanded access to meals
- **Facilities and Operations:** Ongoing capital improvements, maintenance projects, and energy efficiency initiatives
- **Information Technology:** Continued investments in cybersecurity, network infrastructure, and system efficiencies

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

The Board of Education and Administration sincerely appreciate the advocacy and collaboration of our legislators, PTA leaders, staff, and community partners. Your engagement is essential to the continued success of our schools and students. Thank you.



Rosemarie Eller
Ms. Rosemarie Eller
Board President



Joseph L. Ricca
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 1.60% is within the Tax Levy Cap as prescribed by law.

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 2026-27 cannot be determined until June when final assessments and equalization rates are available, the City of White Plains estimates a tax increase of 2.90% or \$26.94 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.

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.

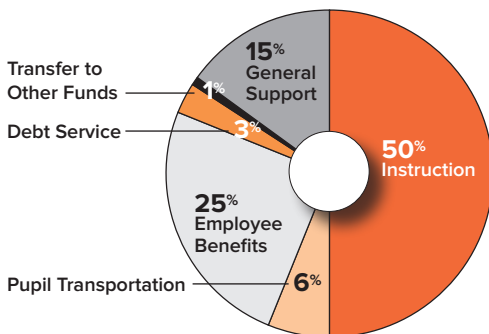
La versión en Español de este boletín está disponible en el sitio web del Distrito en www.whiteplainspublicschools.org ("Todo Sobre el Presupuesto"), y en edificios escolares, bibliotecas y sitios de votación.

Budget at a Glance

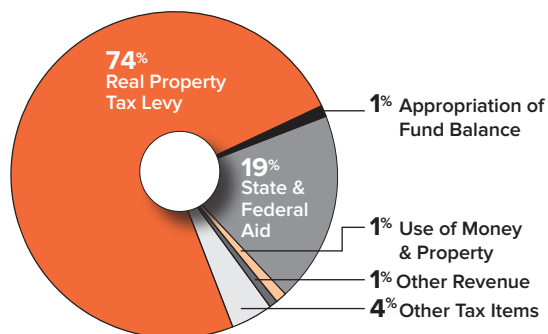
WHITE PLAINS BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUE BY CATEGORY

Expenditures Budget	2026-2027	2025-2026	\$ Change
General Support	\$ 43,512,466	\$ 42,288,810	\$ 1,223,656
Instruction	142,906,194	140,926,712	1,979,482
Pupil Transportation	16,234,831	14,286,603	1,948,228
Employee Benefits	70,625,119	68,572,470	2,052,649
Debt Service	9,696,690	11,540,905	(1,844,215)
Transfer to Other Funds	1,957,000	350,000	1,607,000
	\$284,932,300	\$277,965,500	\$6,966,800
Revenue Budget			
Real Property Tax Levy	\$209,822,066	\$206,526,129	\$ 3,295,937
Other Tax Items	12,538,826	11,233,181	1,305,645
Charges for Service	1,060,000	1,060,000	-
Use of Money & Property	3,520,000	3,520,000	-
Other Revenue	1,040,756	1,030,250	10,506
State & Federal Aid	55,350,652	49,655,615	5,695,037
Transfers in	-	3,340,325	(3,340,325)
Appropriation of Fund Balance	1,600,000	1,600,000	-
	\$284,932,300	\$277,965,500	\$6,966,800

Major Budget Areas of Expense



Major Sources of Revenue



Voter Information

School Budget Vote In-person voting will take place **Tuesday, May 19, Noon to 9:00 PM**. 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 19, and at least 18 years of age. Registration for qualified voters new to the City, or those who are not registered to vote in general elections, will take place on **Saturday, May 2nd, Noon to 5:00 PM**, at Mamaroneck Avenue School, 7 Nosband Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605. Residents who moved within White Plains during the last year may also change their voting address at that time.

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 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, 2026. Candidates, in the order they appear on the ballot, are: Rosemarie Eller* and Valerie Daniele*.

*incumbents

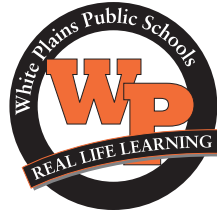
Scan for voting locations



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

Residential Patron

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 ECRWSS



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$277,965,500	\$284,932,300	\$281,636,363
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$6,966,800	\$3,670,863
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.50%	1.32%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$206,526,129	\$209,822,066	
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)	\$206,526,129	\$209,822,066	\$206,526,129
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$4,369,347	\$4,667,002	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$202,156,782	\$205,155,064	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$202,156,782	\$205,155,064	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$21,310,115	\$22,202,555	\$21,826,295
Program Component	\$213,317,524	\$218,891,604	\$218,453,611
Capital Component	\$43,337,861	\$43,838,141	\$41,356,457

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The contingency budget requires that the 2026-27 tax levy be no greater than the previous year's tax levy. Therefore, budget reductions totaling \$3,295,937 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: emscmgt@snyed.gov

Under the Budget
 Proposed for the
 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,340.00
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 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 19, 2026 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.