



Wallenpaupack Area School District



Budget Presentation 2026-2027

May 4, 2026

Budget Timeline



May 4, 2026 - Tentative Budget Adoption
by the School Board

June 8, 2026 - Final Budget Adoption by the
School Board



Pennsylvania's State Budget Adoption
Required by June 30, 2026

2026-2027 Budget



- Allocates resources to provide educational opportunities that meet the requirements of a comprehensive education for all students.
- Supports the district's Mission Statement:
The Wallenpaupack Area School District's mission is to provide an educational environment that promotes excellence for all students, thereby developing life-long learners who are responsible citizens.

2026-2027 Budget



- Addresses all state and federal requirements
 - Every Student Succeeds Act
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - Chapter 4 Curriculum Requirements
 - Act 1 of 2006 – Education Index
 - Board decision by Jan. 31st to live within the index

Act 1 Index vs Tax Increase



- The index is the average of percent increase in the Statewide Average Weekly Wage and Employment Cost Indexes.
- Five-year history:

	2026 - 27	2025 - 26	2024 - 25	2023- 24	2022- 23
Index	3.5%	4.0%	5.3%	4.1%	3.4%
Wayne	3.66%	3.29%	4.33%	2.11%	1.33%
Pike	1.39%	4.00%	5.32%	2.53%	2.75%

Act 1 Index vs. Tax Increase-5-Year Span



Summary:

2022-2027 averages:

Act 1 Index: 4.06%

Pike County: 3.19%

Wayne County: 2.94%

Annual Budget Issues



- State Approval Process
- Act 1 Education Index – 3.5%
- State Tax Equalization
- Gaming Revenues
- State, Federal and Local Revenues
- Pension
- Healthcare
- Special Education

New Budget Issues

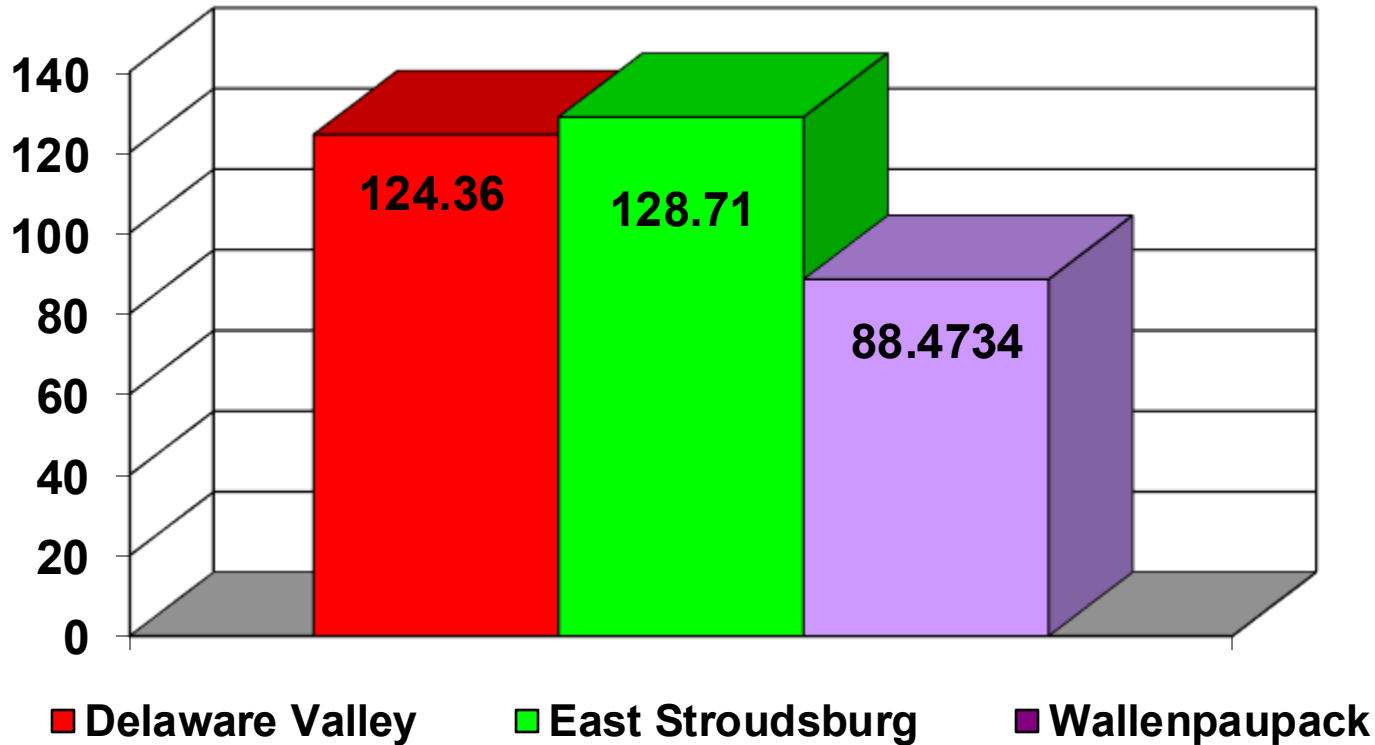


- Cyber education
- Increased fee for service
 - Staffing
 - Insurance
 - Contractors
- Increased fee for supplies

Pike County Millage Comparison



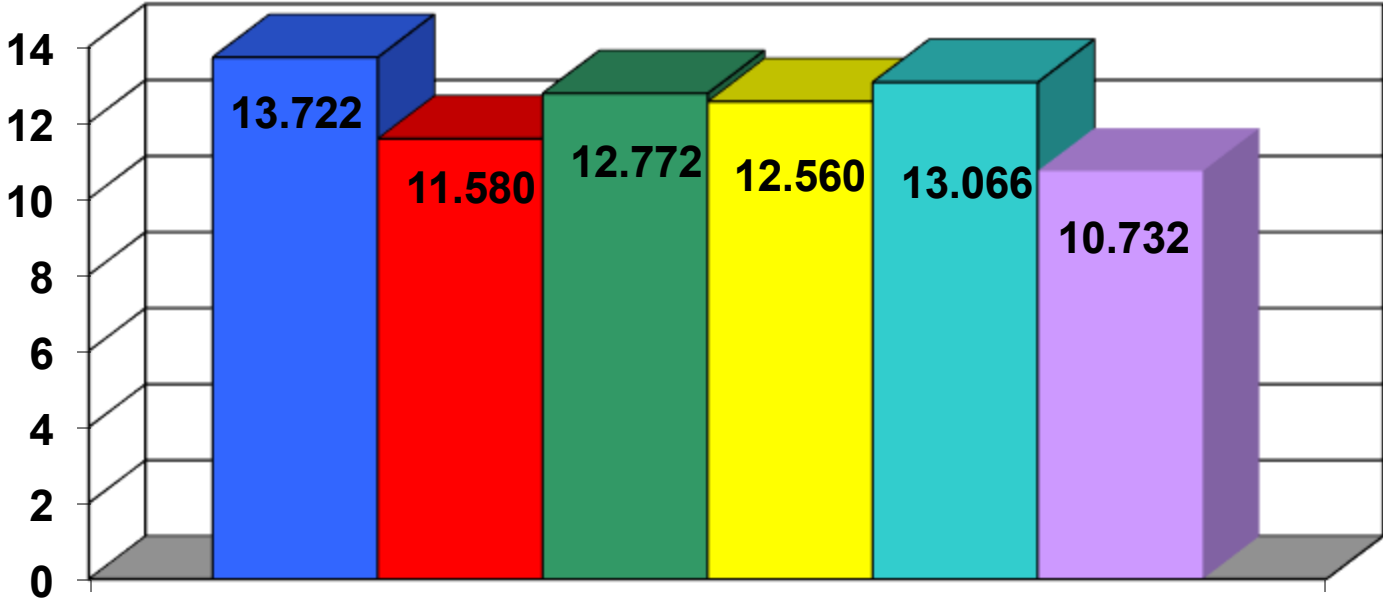
2025-2026



Wayne County Millage Comparison



2025-2026



North Pocono

Susquehanna

Western Wayne

Forest City

Wayne Highlands

Wallenpaupack

Additional Taxes



East Stroudsburg

Wage Tax

Forest City

Per Capita and Wage Tax

North Pocono

Wage Tax

Wayne Highlands

Per Capita Tax

District Fund Balance and Reserves



General Fund Balance	\$4,329,459
Committed Health Fund	\$4,932,231
Committed PSERS Fund	\$1,137,932
Committed GASB 45	\$1,399,982
Capital Reserve Fund	\$500,000

Fund Balance



Year	Fund Balance at June 30	Increase (Decrease) from Prior Year	% of Following Year's Budget
2020	\$5,962,088	1,265,407	7.81%
2021	\$6,287,095	325,007	7.64%
2022	\$5,039,868	(1,247,227)	5.92%
2023	\$3,961,581	(1,078,287)	4.46%
2024	\$4,111,807	150,226	4.41%
2025	\$4,329,459	217,652	4.65%

New Revenues



Property Taxes	\$3,162,046
Basic Education Funding	\$174,055
Special Education Funding	\$43,041
Pension/Social Security	\$248,191
Vocational Education	\$25,000

New Expenditures



Salaries	\$1,343,743
Pension	\$266,139
Social Security	\$92,900
Health Benefits	\$3,172,000
Transportation	\$200,000
Fund Balance Support (2026-2027)	\$2,759,679

Debt Schedule



2025-26

\$3,035,035

2026-27

\$2,935,050

Pension



Year	PSERS Cost	PSERS Rate	% of Rate Change	Annual Budget Increase
2019-20	\$11,395,099	34.29%	2.57%	\$466,206
2020-21	\$11,814,421	34.51%	.64%	\$419,322
2021-22	\$12,321,466	34.94%	1.25%	\$507,045
2022-23	\$13,009,223	35.26%	.92%	\$687,757
2023-24	\$12,917,579	34.00%	(3.6%)	(\$91,644)
2024-25	\$13,187,526	33.90%	(.29%)	\$269,947
2025-26	\$13,548,135	34.00%	.29%	\$360,609
2026-27	\$13,814,399	33.59%	(1.21%)	\$266,264

2026-27 Expenditures



Expenditures: \$99,212,540

Total – 6.5%

2026-27 Revenues



Local	\$73,675,609
State	21,585,466
Federal	<u>1,191,786</u>
Total	\$96,452,861

2026-27 Budget Summary



Expenditures \$99,212,540

Revenue \$96,452,861

Fund Balance

Support \$2,759,679

Tax Equalization



What is tax equalization?

Whenever a school district shall lie in more than one county, the total taxes levied on real estate within the school district in each county shall be subject to tax equalization as determined by the **State Tax Equalization Board**. Tax equalization means that everyone is assessed at the true market value of real estate and pays a fair share of tax.

Why is tax equalization necessary for the Wallenpaupack Area School District?

The Wallenpaupack Area School District receives real estate tax revenue from both Pike and Wayne Counties. Each county has determined assessed values in a different manner. As a result, state law requires the conversion of assessed value to market value.

Tax Equalization



How are the assessed values different in Wayne and Pike Counties?

If you own a property in Wayne County the assessed value is based on 100% of market value in 2024.

If you own a property in Pike County the assessed value is based on 25% of market value in 1996.

Because of the differences in assessed value determination, **state law** requires the tax equalization process.

How does state tax equalization calculate consistent values between the two counties?

Tax equalization is achieved by determining the market value of each parcel by dividing the assessed value by the latest ratio of assessed value to market value in each county as set by the State Tax Equalization Board.

Tax Equalization



What is the major factor in determining the ratio?

The State Tax Equalization Board determines the ratio based upon the sales value of property sold in the previous year. This information is furnished by the county assessor's office.

What are the 2026-2027 tax rates based upon?

The 2026-2027 tax rates are based on the **2024** market value information provided by the State Tax Equalization Board.

Tax Equalization



What are the 2024 market values?

Wayne County Market Value: \$1,841,538,140

Pike County Market Value: \$3,544,335,066

School District Total Market Value: \$5,385,873,206

What percentage of tax revenues is required from each county?

2025-2026

Wayne County	34.19%
Pike County	65.81%
Total	100.00%

Tax Equalization



Has the counties' share of tax revenues changed from last year

Yes, Wayne County's share of tax liability increased by 4.49% while Pike County's share of tax liability has decreased by 4.49%

Does the school district have the ability to change the equalization rates?

No, all information is provided to the school district by the State Tax Equalization Board.

State Gaming Funds Tax Reduction Allocation



Property Tax Reduction Allocation

\$2,364,889

Approved Homesteads:	7,153
Approved Farmsteads:	<u>18</u>
Approximate Total	7,171

Tax Relief per Homestead and Farmstead

Approximately \$331.71

\$.32 increase from prior year

Property Tax Rates 2023-2027



Year (Wayne)	Millage
2023-2024	9.9723
2024-2025	10.3900
2025-2026	10.7320
2026-2027	11.6062

Year (Pike)	Millage
2023-2024	80.2906
2024-2025	84.8400
2025-2026	88.4734
2026-2027	89.6999

Property Tax Calculation Process



Property Tax = Assessed Value \div 1,000 x millage rate



In Closing



- Grant opportunities
- Reduce financial burden on our community
- Final budget approval at our June board meeting