

# Wappingers Central School District

## Superintendent's Forum - A Budget Conversation

*February 11, 2019*

*The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.*

### WE BELIEVE...

- ...the collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust and respect.*
- ...embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience.*
- ...health and quality of a community are dependent on the responsible contributions of all its members.*
- ...that active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish.*
- ...everyone can realize their potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.*



# What is a school district budget?

A school district budget...

- provides for the educational needs of students while maintaining compliance with New York State.
- is the annual spending plan for the District.
- is an aggregate view of all the financial numbers that drive the District's operations for the following year.
- is created in alignment with the Board of Education annual goals.
- is more than a collection of numbers; *it is a reflection of the Mission and Core Values of the WCSD community.*



*We believe the collaboration needed for meaningful change  
is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

# Annual Budget

The annual budget is based on recommendations from the buildings and offices, Board of Education and the community.

The Board of Education adopts a budget in April that is put forth before the voters on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in May (April 23, 2019).



*We believe embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience.*

# Property Tax Cap

## The Property Tax Cap is:

- In June 2011, New York State officials enacted a law that limited the increase in property taxes for municipalities and school districts (Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011).
- The first year the tax cap legislation was enforced for school districts was 2012-2013.
- While this is often labeled a “2% tax cap” it is misleading as the law does not limit a property tax increase to 2%.
- The law does require for 60% voter approval IF the proposed levy exceeds a specific amount (called the tax levy limit) in the calculation.



*We believe the health and quality of a community are dependent on the responsible contributions of all its members.*

# Property Tax Cap Calculation

The Property Tax Cap calculation is made up of eight steps to determine the *Allowable Tax Levy*:

- Starting with the prior year tax levy Step 1
- Application of factors for growth and consumer price index Steps 2 & 5
- Addition and subtraction of current and prior year items such as Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT's) Steps 3, 4, 6 & 7
- Inclusion of items as calculated and in accordance with the legislation such as Capital Tax Levy and NYS retirements system adjustments Step 8



*We believe that the active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish.*

# Frequently Asked Questions – Tax Cap

**Q1. Does the tax cap law mean school tax levies can't increase by more than 2%?**

*A1. To put it simply – No. Each district prepares their own tax levy calculation that consists of 8 factors. The 2% factor is only 1 of the 8 factors to consider in this calculation.*

**Q2. What is a tax levy limit?**

*A2. The tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy (before exclusions) that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget that requires 50% approval by the taxpayers. The law does allow for some exceptions (ie: exclusions) such as some pension costs and capital expenses.*

**Q3. What does the property tax law mean for your tax bill?**

*A3. This law does not limit property tax rate increases to 2% or any other value. This law changed the parameters of what voter support is needed to pass a budget.*

**Q4. Did the approval of the State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT-D) legislation have any impact on the Tax Cap calculation?**

*A4. There was no impact to school district tax cap calculations as a result of SALT-D.*



*We believe everyone can realize their potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.*

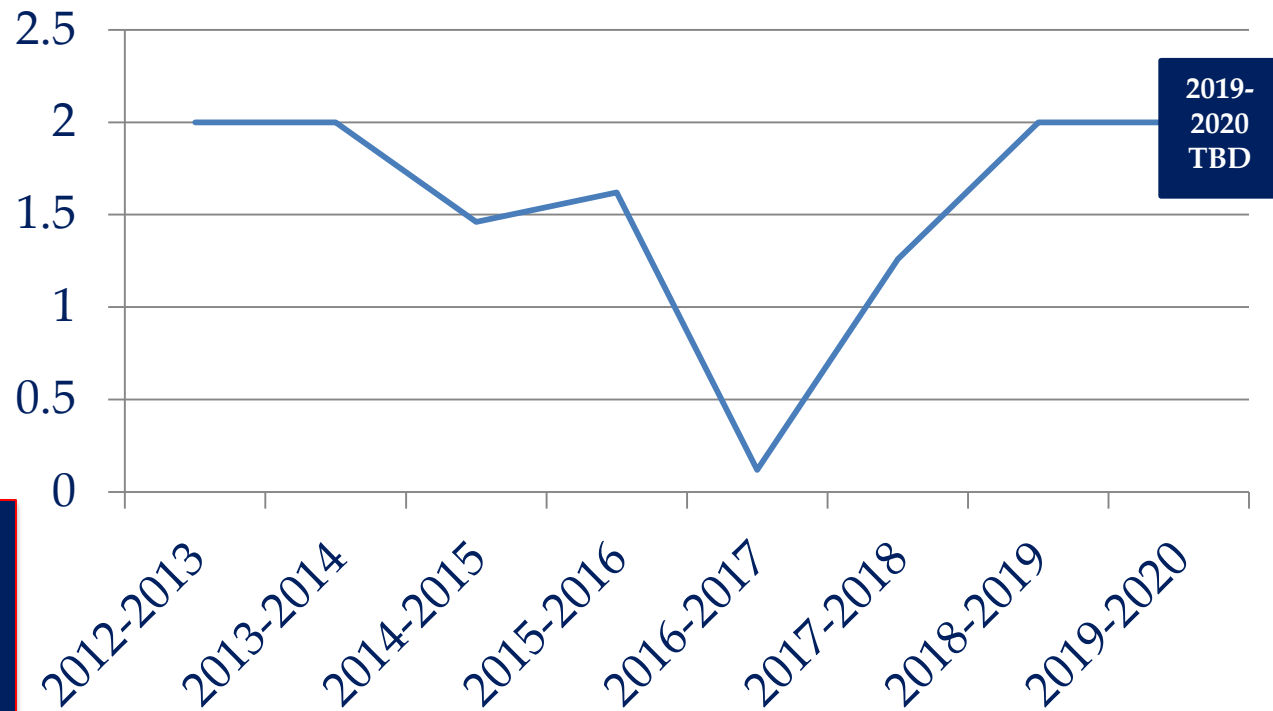
# WCSD and the Tax Cap

The law provides for an 8 step formula that must be used to calculate the tax levy limit.

The calculation uses a growth factor that is based on the local tax base.

The calculation uses the rate of inflation (Consumer Price Index or CPI) or 2%, whichever is lower.

## Tax Cap Rate History by %



*We believe the collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

# New York State Aid

- All school aid awarded to the state's 691 school districts is determined annually by an act of the state legislature, through the state budget process.
- The state's funds come from two principal sources; general fund accounts (88%) and lottery funds (12%).
- The Superintendent generally submits claims for aid to the Office of Management Services at the NYS Education Department.

*-School Law, 36<sup>th</sup> Edition NYSSBA*



*We believe embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience.*



# New York State Aid

## Types of New York State Aid:

- Foundation Aid
- Full Day K Conversion Aid
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- BOCES
- High Cost Excess Cost Aid
- Private Excess Cost Aid

*Driven by NYS formula & data  
on enrollment*

- Hardware & Technology
- Software, Library & Textbook
- Transportation Aid
- Building Aid

*Calculation driven by WCSD  
expenses*



*We believe the health and quality of a community are dependent on the  
responsible contributions of all its members.*

# Reimbursable Aids

## Reimbursable Aids are:

Textbook Aid: *up to \$58.25 reimbursement per student based on prior year applicable expenses*

- Definitions of Textbook
  - Aidable – hard covered books, courseware or electronic based instructional materials, novels used to support the textbook, et al
  - Non-Aidable – encyclopedias, newspapers and magazines as periodicals, generic computer software, et al

Instructional Computer Hardware & Equipment Aid: *the lesser of prior year expenditures OR \$24.20 reimbursement per student x Resident Average Daily Attendance (RWADA) Aid Ratio*

- Expenses eligible for aid are for those used in serving the computer-based needs of the instructional program.
- In instances where hardware serves as both instructional and non-instructional, ONLY the instructional portion can be claimed for aid purposes.



*We believe that the active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish.*

# Reimbursable Aids

## Reimbursable Aids are:

Computer Software: *up to \$14.98 reimbursement per student based on prior year expenses*

- Expenses must meet eligibility requirements for Computer Software Aid
  - Aidable – purchase price of educational program software, annual licensing for software purchases, et al
  - Non-Aidable – lease expenses for educational program software, et al

Library Materials Aid: *up to \$6.25 reimbursement per student based on prior year expenses*

- Expenses must meet eligibility requirements for Library Materials Aid
  - Aidable – materials that are catalogued for inclusion in the school library/media center, materials with a useful life of over one year, materials that are not eligible for textbook aid or computer software aid
  - Non-Aidable – online databases



*We believe everyone can realize their potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.*

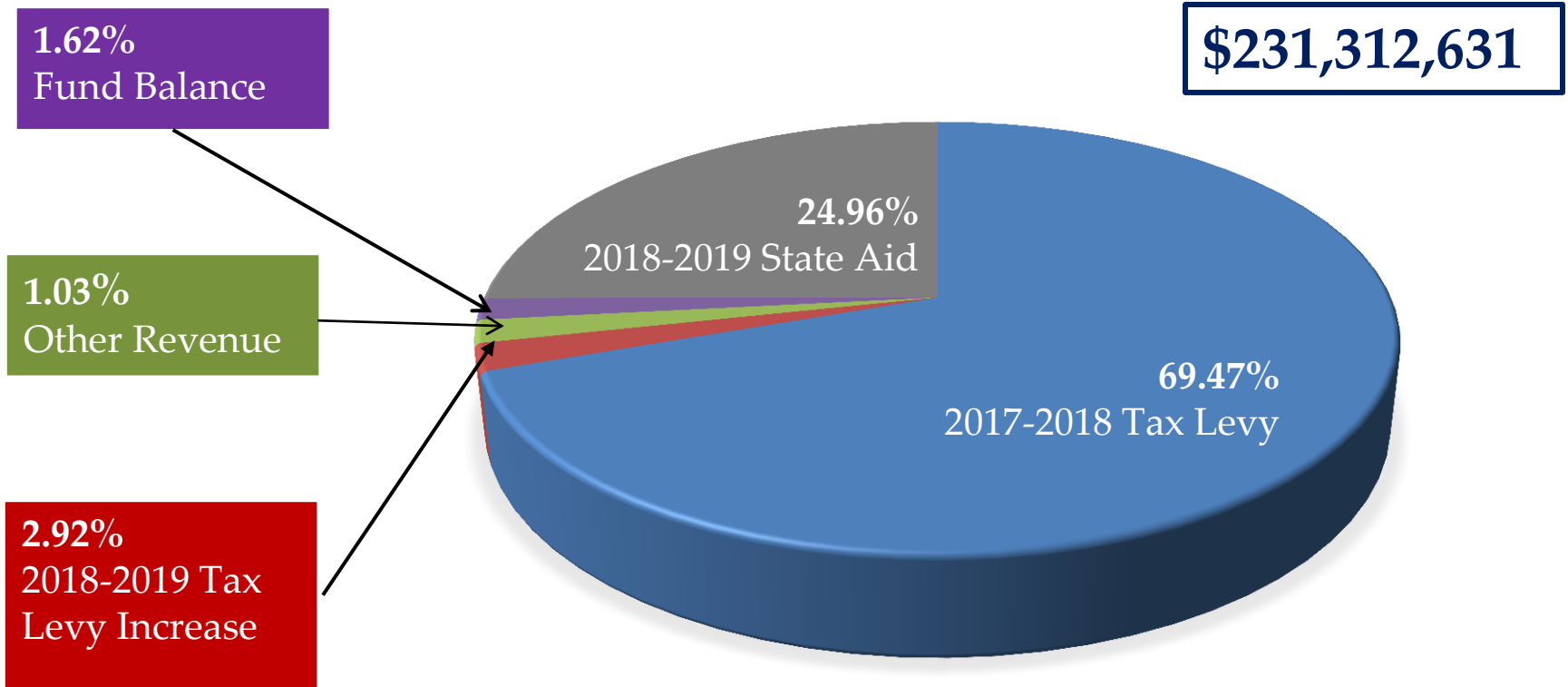
## Other Revenues

- Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)
- Interest Earnings
- Continuing Education
- Tuition – Foster Care
- Health Services billing
- Insurance Recoveries
- Gifts & Donations
- Miscellaneous



*We believe the collaboration needed for meaningful change  
is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

# 2018-2019 Revenue Summary



*We believe embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience.*



**WAPPINGERS**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

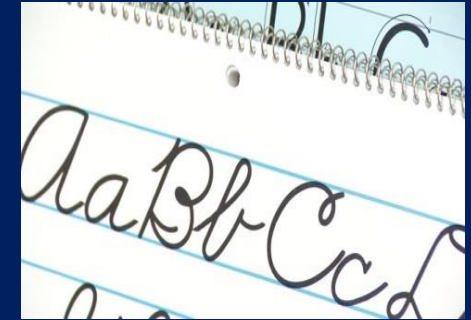
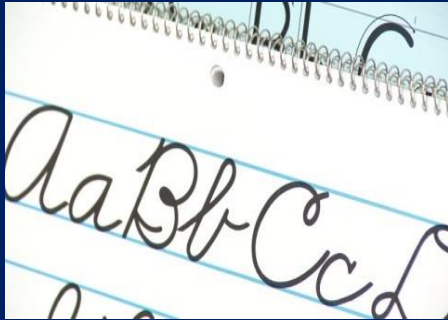
Empower  
Challenge  
Grow

# SUPERINTENDENT'S FORUM A BUDGET CONVERSATION

**FEBRUARY 11, 2019**  
**5:30PM - WJHS - ROOM 105**

**JANUARY 7, 2019**  
**(PRESENTED IN SPANISH)**  
**5:30PM - WJHS - ROOM 105**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2018**  
**5:30PM - WJHS - ROOM 105**



Are you interested in learning more about the budget process?

All community members are invited to learn how WCSD:

- ✓ gathers information to develop the annual budget
- ✓ uses estimates in the budget
- ✓ arrives at the final budget number that is proposed to the voters

## All are Welcome!

A video recording will be made of this conversation and posted to the WCSD website if you cannot attend.

