



**WAPPINGERS** | Empower  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | Challenge  
Grow

# 2025-26 Superintendent's Recommended Budget #1

*Building Our Future Together*

March 10, 2025

# Wappingers Central School District

## Board of Education

Michael McFarland, President

Eddy A. Sloshower, Vice President

Virgil Capollari, Trustee

Cheryl Migatz, Trustee

Marie Johnson, Trustee

John S. Morgan, Trustee

Peggy Kelland, Trustee

Keith Odums, Trustee

John C. Lumia, Trustee

## Senior Staff Administration

**Dr. Dwight Bonk**, Superintendent of Schools

**Daren Lolkema**, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Information Systems

**Dr. Michelle Cardwell**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**Kristen Dainty**, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Development

**Richard Zipp**, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services

**Renee Harris**, Executive Director of Human Resources

**Ronald Broas**, Director of Facilities III

**Alberta Pedro**, District Clerk and Secretary to the Superintendent

# 2025-26 Budget Presentations



- 11/4/24 Superintendent's Video "Explaining the Budget Process"
- 2/10/25 Preliminary Budget Presentation #1
- 2/24/25 Superintendent's Video "Explaining the Budget Process" (*English & Spanish*)
- 3/10/25 Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation #1  
Transportation Proposition Presentation
- 4/7/25 Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation #2  
State Aid Update Presentation
- 4/22/25 Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation - Ballot Presentation  
Budget Adoption
- 5/5/25 Ballot Presentation to the Community - John Jay HS
- 5/12/25 Community Forum – State Mandated Public Hearing on the Budget - RCK HS

**BUDGET VOTE: MAY 20, 2025**

# Our **Proposed Budget** is Based on:



- ✓ WCSD Mission and Core Values
- ✓ Board of Education Values/Goals
- ✓ Senior Staff Discussion and Goals
- ✓ Community Input

*Building Our Future Together*

# 2025-26 Budget: Our Priorities



**Our goal is to maximize resources to benefit our schools and community!**

- Maintain our current educational program by providing academic supports, academic enrichment opportunities, and extracurricular activities, as well as professional development for staff
- Continued focus on safety, as well as the emotional and mental health of students and staff
- Continued support of career and technical education programs
- Contingent on New York State (NYS) aid finalization: NYS budget deadline is April 1, 2025

**BUDGET VOTE: MAY 20, 2025**

*Building Our Future Together*

# 2025-26 Budget: Special Education Initiative



## Expansion of the Language-Based Programs

- The language-based program provides support to students with severe reading disabilities, providing multi-sensory reading support embedded within core curriculum.
- The student ratio is 15-1-1.
- We will add two **additional Special Education teachers** and two **additional Teaching Assistants** to support the program.

## Other Special Education Needs

- Additional Special Education teachers added at elementary/secondary schools around the District based on need (up to 6)
- Professional Developer for Special Education added to assist in the ongoing training and implementation of program for WCSD teachers

*Building Our Future Together*

# 2025-26 Budget: Instruction



## English as a New Language (ENL) Program Expansion

- The English Language Learner (ELL) population continues to grow around the District.
- Addition of an ENL teacher at Gayhead Elementary School

## Reading Teachers at the Elementary Level

- To continue to meet the need of WCSD students, the addition of two Reading Teachers are included at the elementary level to provide supplemental instruction to identified students

## PTECH Teacher Additions

- To meet the increased section load as PTECH enters into the second year of the program, the District will add three additional teachers (Math, Science, and Technology)

*Building Our Future Together*

# 2025-26 Budget: School Safety



## Safety

- Increase the presence from our local law enforcement agencies in all of our school during the school day
- **School Resource Officers** (SROs) from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department will continue to be assigned to Wappingers JHS and Roy C. Ketcham HS, while officers from the East Fishkill Police Department will continue to be assigned to Van Wyck JHS and John Jay HS throughout the school day. Additional **School Safety Officers** (SSOs) will be added at Roy C. Ketcham and John Jay High Schools.
- We continue to advocate for funding from NYS for safety-related costs. We have yet to receive this funding, but our work will continue for this vital service.

*Building Our Future Together*



---

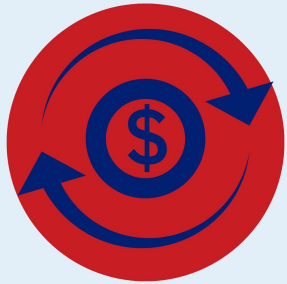
# Tax Levy & NY State Aid: What We Know

## Consumer Price Index (CPI) is 2.95 %

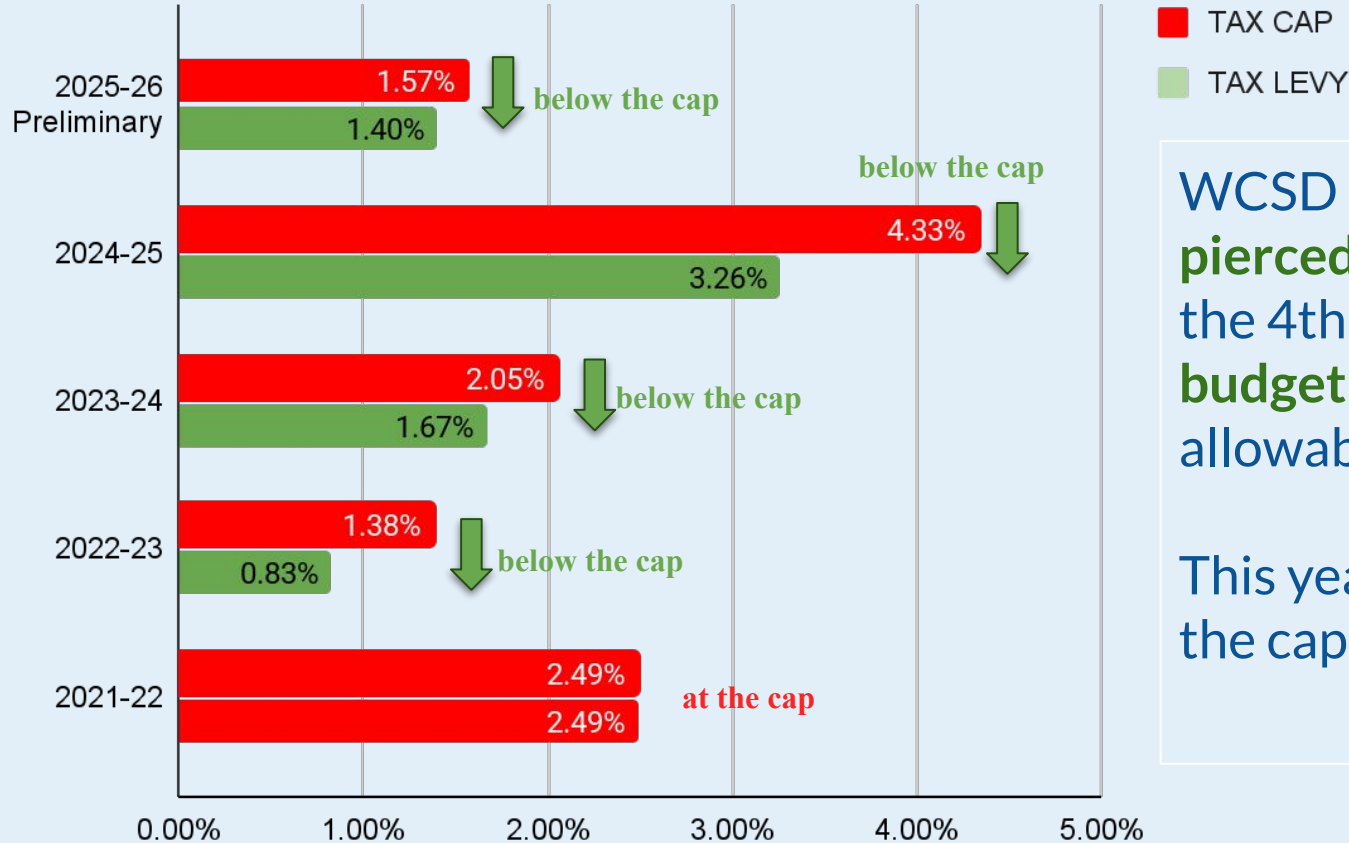
- Since CPI exceeds 2%, the District can utilize 2% in the tax cap formula
- Tax cap calculation = 1.57% maximum allowable tax levy increase
  - Our budget maintains programs and adds support with a tax levy increase of 1.40%: **below the tax cap!**

## We are currently using the NY State Governor's Executive Budget Proposal, which includes:

- Continuation of the Foundation Aid formula
- Universal Pre-K funding



# Fiscal Responsibility



WCSD budgets have **never** pierced the tax cap and for the 4th consecutive year, the budget will be **BELOW** the allowable tax cap.

This year, it is **.17%** less than the cap.



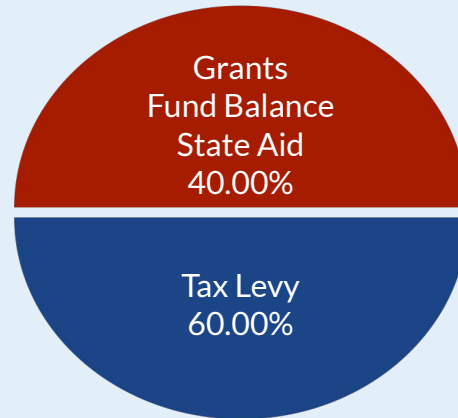
# 2025-26 WCSD Preliminary Budget

## By the Numbers

### TAX LEVY

2024-25	2025-26
Approved	Preliminary
<b>\$190,231,957</b>	<b>\$192,904,714</b>

Levy to Levy Change  
Amount: **\$2,672,757**  
Percentage: **1.40%**



### BUDGET

More information to follow as we continue to build a budget that meets the needs of students, staff and the community.

***The budget will NOT be the sole responsibility of the taxpayer.***

***Building Our Future Together***

# 2025-26 Budget: Tax Levy vs. Total Increase



What does the preliminary budget mean to a WCSD taxpayer?

The tax levy increase is what impacts WCSD taxpayers and is at 1.40% – **.17% BELOW the tax cap** of 1.57%.

**Maximizing Our Resources:** Our preliminary budget provides programs, supports, and opportunities for **ALL** students and staff **but it is not the sole responsibility of the taxpayer.** At this time, the District will be utilizing \$12,211,987 of General Fund Balance to offset the tax levy to continue to provide the services and programs to our students.

Mental  
Health

Special  
Education

Safety &  
Support

Instruction  
& Career  
Technical  
Education

# 2025-26 Budget: Fiscally Responsible!



**Wappingers Central School District** continues to be **fiscally responsible** to the taxpayer while providing necessary programs and services for our students.

The per pupil spending in the Wappingers CSD remains the lowest in Dutchess County!

Dutchess County Districts*	Per Pupil Spending
Other County District	\$33,500
Other County District	\$32,616
Other County District	\$32,038
Other County District	\$31,192
Other County District	\$29,910
Other County District	\$29,717
Other County District	\$28,137
Other County District	\$27,908
Other County District	\$27,680
Other County District	\$25,858
Other County District	\$25,597
Other County District	\$24,543
<b>WAPPINGERS</b>	<b>\$22,979</b>

\*2023 Numbers

Source: <https://www.newyorkupstate.com/schools/2024/07/see-the-25-upstate-ny-school-districts-with-the-highest-per-pupil-spending.html>

***Building Our Future Together***

# Help WCSD Build the 2025-2026 Budget



Opportunities to share your feedback, ask questions, and gain a further understanding through District-sponsored events:

**Superintendent's Video** - *Explaining the Budget Process*, presented twice per year

**Public Comment** at Board of Education Meetings & Budget Public Hearings

**E-mail us** with questions, concerns & comments: [budget@wcsdny.org](mailto:budget@wcsdny.org)

**Spring 2025** - Community Forums at each High School

Check out our **website**: [2025-2026 Budget](#)

***Building Our Future Together***



**WAPPINGERS** | Empower  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | Challenge  
Grow

# Thank you...

to the Wappingers CSD Community!

*Building Our Future Together*