



WAPPINGERS | Empower
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | Challenge
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2025-26 Budget Process

Building Our Future Together

October 15, 2024

Wappingers Central School District

Board of Education

Michael McFarland, President

Eddy A. Sloshower, Vice President

Virgil Capollari, Trustee

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Marie Johnson, Trustee

John S. Morgan, Trustee

Peggy Kelland, Trustee

Keith Odums, Trustee

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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

Julia Montoya, Executive Director of Special Education

Ronald Broas, Director of Facilities III

Alberta Pedro, District Clerk and Secretary to the Superintendent

Superintendent's Videos: Explaining the Budget Process

November 4, 2024 | 5:30 pm

- Virtual Presentation Released

February 24, 2025 | 5:30 pm

- Virtual Presentation Released
- Presented in English & Spanish

**BUDGET VOTE
MAY 20, 2025**

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Budget Calendar: First Steps

Official work begins on the 2025-26 budget after approval of the Budget Development Calendar by the Board of Education (BOE).

- Preliminary equipment requests
- New staffing
- Curriculum proposals
- In-service
- Summer work

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Compilation & Review: Next Steps

- Refer to BOE goals when building the budget
- Reflective of the Mission Statement and Core Values
- Account for Administration goals when building the budget
- Awareness of community expectations of WCSD schools
- Evaluation of overall economic climate, both locally and nationally
- Long-term financial planning based on available information and prudent estimates

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Compilation & Review: Next Steps



- Utilize Board of Education meetings for community input
- Information sharing with Board of Education
 - Allows for administration to build a preliminary budget, component by component, with BOE study sessions, as needed
- Include pertinent revenue funding sources in the General Fund Budget discussions
 - i.e.: tax cap compliance, federal stimulus dollars, New York State (NYS) projections, alternative funding sources, such as Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS), etc.
- Discussion on possible referendums to be added to the ballot

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Compilation & Review: Next Steps

- Questions from the Board of Education and community are welcome as we move through the budget process
- Budget email address to gather community data and feedback: budget@wcsdny.org
- Information-sharing with local municipalities through quarterly meetings
- Information sharing process with the community
 - Superintendent Videos & Meetings to share budget-building knowledge
 - State Mandated Budget Public Hearing: May 12, 2025 @ RCK

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Building & Finalizing a Budget

- Build components of the budget
 - General Support, Instruction, Transportation & Undistributed
- Utilize BOE and community feedback to refine the budget document
- Respond to information as it is provided by NYS and other funding sources
- Provide pertinent information to the BOE and community that is clear, concise and transparent
- Work continuously with the Administrative team to refine data and estimates
- Final Step: Evaluate and reflect on the budgetary process

Past 8 Years of Budget Information is Available on Our Website.

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Upcoming 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



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Thank you...

to the Wappingers CSD Community!

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