

Questions & Answers



When is the budget vote?

VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 AM - 9 PM

Where can I vote?

Fishkill Elementary
 Fishkill Plains Elementary
 Gayhead Elementary
 Myers Corners Elementary
 Vassar Road Elementary
 Wappingers Junior High

Not sure where to vote? Need an absentee ballot?

Call the District Clerk at 298-5000, ext 145

How can I register to vote?

If you are not already registered either with Dutchess County or with the school district, please register on May 7, 1-6 PM at one of the schools listed above.

Who can I contact for answers to my specific questions or to get more information?

- E-mail your questions & comments to the board and superintendent at: WCSD.Board@WappingersSchools.org
- Call the District Clerk at 298-5000, ext 145
- Access the website: www.wappingersschools.org

The Adopted 2007-2008 School Budget

- \$165,829,939
- 5.48% spending increase over last year's budget

What does this mean in terms of the tax levy?

It would represent a 4.88% increase in the tax levy, which would be the lowest such increase in the last six years.

How does WCSD compare to the neighboring school districts?

WCSD is again among the lower half of the county's 13 school districts relative to property tax increases, expenditures, administration and employee benefit costs.

All districts are facing the same constraints and difficulties of shrinking financial resources, increased fuel and heating costs, increased student enrollments, soaring state mandated employer benefit costs, as well as state unfunded mandates.

***Dutchess County School Districts Fact Sheet Increase Comparisons Adjusted for CPI Five Years: 2001-2002 through 2005-2006**

CATEGORY	WCSD RANK IN COUNTY	WCSD % INCREASE	COUNTY AVG. % INCREASE
Property Taxes	7 th Lowest of 13 Districts	21.19%	25.48%
Total Expenditures Per Student	12 th Lowest of 13 Districts	3.61%	11.67%
Total Administration	11 th Lowest of 13 Districts	1.55%	12.65%
Employee Benefits	11 th Lowest of 13 Districts	38.06%	48.19%

* Published January 2007 - Dutchess County BOCES, Chief School Officers, and School Boards Association

What happens if the budget doesn't pass?

- As required by law, a Contingency Budget has also been adopted which could be implemented should the proposed budget be rejected by the voters.

What items will be excluded under the Contingency Budget plan?

ITEMIZED BUDGET REDUCTION MEASURES

Equipment	\$501,144
Student Supplies	\$41,250
Total	\$542,394

What are some current program highlights?

ACADEMICS

- Annually, at least 90% of WCSD students pass the 5 Regent exams required for graduation
- WCSD students take 40% more Advanced Placement (AP) courses today than four years ago
- Over 30% of all high school students take at least one honors or advanced placement course each year
- Over the last five years, WCSD students have scored above both state and national averages on AP exams
- Last year, 165 WCSD students earned recognition as AP Scholars
- Annually, approximately 200 eighth grade students take high school math and science Regents courses
- WCSD students' SAT scores consistently surpass both national and state averages
- For the last three years, both high schools have been recognized by *Newsweek's Challenge Index*

GRADUATES

- Approximately 90% of last year's high school graduates planned to go on to 2 or 4 year colleges
- Last year, 90% of our high school graduates earned a Regents Diploma with 40% earning an Advanced Regents Diploma

AWARDS

- Our Business Department recognized by NYS as "2006 Department of the Year"
- Four National Merit Scholarship finalists and one semi-finalist awarded
- English teacher receives "English Educator of Excellence Award" from NYS English Council
- Twenty-five athletic teams recognized as "NYS Scholar Athlete Teams"
- "2006 Best of New York Award" bestowed by Center for Digital Government for development of elementary report card system
- RCK student named "National Female Soccer Player of the Year"

Questions & Answers

What facilities enhancements does this budget offer for our schools?

One of our on-going budget goals is to provide a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. This budget dedicates \$401,198 to capital projects.

FACILITIES ENHANCEMENTS IN THE BUDGET

Roy C. Ketcham High School	
Widen Driveway for Third Lane.....	\$46,000
Oak Grove Elementary School	
Air Condition the Computer Server Room	\$8,750
Fishkill Plains Elementary	
Athletic Field Development.....	\$85,000
Sheafe Road Elementary	
Air Condition the Computer Server Room	\$8,750
Remove and Replace Library Carpet	10,000
Total ...	\$18,750
Evans Elementary School	
Resurface Entrance Ramp	\$3,000
Replace Restroom Mirrors.....	2,000
Total	\$5,000
John Jay High School	
Conversion of Trans Room.....	\$70,000
Pave Nick's Way.....	84,912
Parking and Access	45,286
Fence and Gate Around Dumpsters.....	1,500
Outdoor Restrooms	36,000
Total ..	\$237,698
GRAND TOTAL	\$401,198

What new initiatives will this budget offer?

This budget offers support for new and continued district initiatives.

NEW INITIATIVES

- **Primary Grade Early Intervention Program**
- **Restructuring of AIS Program**
- **Elementary ELA Coordinator**
- **Math/Science Enrichment**
- **Kindergarten Summer Institute**
- **Boy's Freshman Football**

- **Girl's Varsity Golf & Lacrosse**
- **Increase Substitute Teacher Per Diem Rate**
- **Increase Substitute Bus Driver Per Diem Rate**

CONTINUED INITIATIVES

- **Tri-State Accreditation**
- **Thinking Maps Training**
- **Smart Board Classrooms**
- **Wireless Laptop Labs**
- **Transitional Space Improvements**
- **Student/Teacher Ratio: Primary Grades**

What propositions are on the ballot?

SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase new buses and other transport vehicles, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,577,125, and that the maximum estimated cost of \$1,577,125, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to construct additions and reconstruct various school district facilities, including original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site improvements, and other incidental costs and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$10,152,366, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary after application of State EXCEL Aid, and other applicable State Aid, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

WAPPINGERS — Central School District

2007-2008 Budget

**BE INFORMED
GET INVOLVED
VOTE!**

For More Budget Information:

District Newsletter
WCSD IN PRINT
District Website
www.wappingersschools.org
Informational Videos on
Cablevision Ch. 21
**WCSD ON THE AIR:
MONDAYS@ 7:00 P.M.**

Polling Locations:

Fishkill Elementary School
Fishkill Plains Elementary School
Gayhead Elementary School
Myers Corners Elementary School
Vassar Road Elementary School
Wappingers Jr. High School

**Tuesday, May 15, 2007
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**