

Superintendent's Forum – A Budget Conversation

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

What is a school district budget?

- Provides for the educational needs of students while maintaining compliance with NYS
- An aggregate view of all the financial numbers that drive the District's operations for the following year
- Created in alignment with the Board of Education annual goals
- More than a collection of numbers;
it is a reflection of the mission and core values of the WCSD community



Annual Budget (spending plan)

=

Tax Levy that is compliant with the Property Tax Cap legislation

+

New York State Aid

+

Other Revenue

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 3rd Tuesday in May.

Property Tax Cap

What is it?

- 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.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Property Tax Cap

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



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.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Property Tax Cap

What is a tax levy limit?



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.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Property Tax Cap

What does the property tax law mean for your tax bill?



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.

Wappingers CSD 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.

Year	Rate used – CPI or 2%, whichever is lower
2012-2013	2.0%
2013-2014	2.0%
2014-2015	1.46%
2015-2016	1.62%
2016-2017	.12%
2017-2018	1.26%

Textbooks

Instructional Computer
Hardware & Equipment

Computer Software

Library Materials

These Aids are generated by expenses reported by the school district on State Aid Claim Forms at the end of each fiscal year.

Instructional Material Aids or Reimbursable Aids

State aid slides!!!! None included in Feb 2017 presentation!

Textbook Aid

up to \$58.25 reimbursement per student based on prior year expenses

Expenses must meet eligibility requirements for Textbook Aid

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.

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

Payments in Lieu of Taxes
(PILOT)

Interest Earnings

Continuing Education

Tuition – Foster Care

Health Services billing

Insurance Recoveries

Gifts & Donations

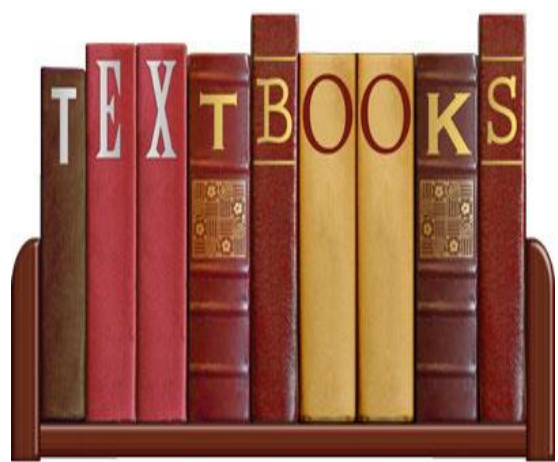
Miscellaneous

Other Revenue

What does a budget allow WCSD to provide?



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