



# Your Schools



## A Message From Your BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Residents,

After months of careful planning and deliberation, the West Babylon Board of Education adopted a proposed budget totaling \$100,893,074 for the 2015-2016 school year, representing a tax levy increase of 1.89 percent, **which remains under the allowable tax levy limit** of 1.96 percent.

Maintaining our educational programs and services for our students is important to the members of the Board, administration and staff, as well as the community members who provided feedback at budget meetings. As the proposed levy increase is below the district's allowable limit, the proposed budget requires a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one) to pass, as per New York State's tax levy cap law.

Through careful analysis and efficient streamlining of costs, the proposed budget maintains all current instructional and non-instructional programs and reinstates athletics and clubs, currently being funded through a generous grant from New York State Senator Phil Boyle. Also included in the proposed budget is the appointment of three new special education teachers, three new English as a Second Language teachers and one new buildings and grounds personnel. The district is also able to increase one part-time psychologist to a full-time position.

**The proposed budget remains under the allowable tax levy limit.**

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is important. Therefore, the proposed budget also includes the district's ability to transfer funds to capital in order to fund important and necessary buildings and grounds maintenance.

The district has made every effort to provide the community with the information necessary to make an informed decision at the polls on May 19. We hope you become more informed voters by taking the time to read the information in this newsletter. We also encourage you to visit the district website at [www.wbschools.org](http://www.wbschools.org) for all budget-related information and presentations, as well as for voter information and locations.

Sincerely,

The West Babylon Board of Education  
and Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly

## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

**School Budget Vote:  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015  
7 a.m.-9 p.m.**

# 2015-2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

Description	2014-15 Approved Budget	2015-2016 Proposed Budget	Increase \$	(Decrease) %
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
General Support	\$8,670,372	\$8,702,938	\$32,566	0.38%
Instruction	\$54,429,460	\$56,862,767	\$2,433,307	4.47%
Transportation	\$3,282,954	\$3,270,430	(\$12,524)	-0.38%
Community Service	\$39,590	\$39,590	\$0	0.00%
Undistributed	\$32,886,512	\$32,017,349	(\$869,163)	-2.64%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$99,308,888</b>	<b>\$100,893,074</b>	<b>\$1,584,186</b>	<b>1.60%</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
State Aid	\$27,910,921	\$29,812,260	\$1,901,339	6.81%
Other Revenue	\$1,242,802	\$1,577,134	\$334,332	26.90%
Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserves	\$3,200,000	\$1,282,464	(\$1,917,536)	-59.92%
Property Tax Levy	\$66,955,165	\$68,221,216	\$1,266,051	1.89%
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>\$99,308,888</b>	<b>\$100,893,074</b>	<b>\$1,584,186</b>	<b>1.60%</b>
<b>THREE-PART BUDGET</b>				
Administrative Component	\$7,870,504	\$7,936,015	\$65,511	0.83%
Program Component	\$80,261,573	\$81,634,881	\$1,373,308	1.71%
Capital Component	\$11,176,811	\$11,322,178	\$145,367	1.30%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$99,308,888</b>	<b>\$100,893,074</b>	<b>\$1,584,186</b>	<b>1.60%</b>

## Budget Highlights

### Proposed Tax Levy Increase of 1.89% Remains *Below* the Tax Levy Cap

Through effective planning and efficient spending, the proposed budget will allow the district to:

- Maintain all current instructional and non-instructional programs, including Advanced Placement courses and full-day kindergarten.
- Reinstate athletics and clubs currently being funded through a grant from New York State Sen. Phil Boyle.

The proposed budget also allows the district to:

- Add three new special education teachers.
- Add three new ESL teachers.
- Add one new buildings and grounds personnel.
- Increase one psychologist position from a part-time to a full-time position.
- Establish a transfer to capital to fund buildings and grounds maintenance.





# Your Tax Dollars at Work

- 92% of the Class of 2014 received Regents diplomas.
- 46% of the Class of 2014 received Advanced Regents diplomas.
- 77 students in the Classes of 2014 and 2015 were recognized as Advanced Placement Scholars for receiving a score of 3 or higher on AP exams; 10 students received the AP Scholar with Honor Award, 20 students received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, and nine students were named National AP Scholars.
- 38 high school students were selected to participate in the SCMEA All-County Festivals, two students were selected to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Music Festival, and eight students represented the district in Long Island String Festival Association concerts.
- One student was named a National Merit Commended Student and one student was selected to participate in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for outstanding Black American high school students.
- The senior high school was named a WISE Blue Start School, and four economics teachers were named Blue Star Teachers.
- Six senior-athletes signed National Letters of Intent to continue their sports on the college level.
- Art students districtwide received numerous regional and state awards and had their artwork displayed in a variety of community venues.
- Brittany Korsah is the first female from West Babylon to qualify for the winter track and field state finals.
- The varsity cheerleading team placed sixth nationally in their division at the UCA National High School Cheerleading Competition.
- The Robotics team competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge in the New York City/Long Island FTC Championship Tournament.
- The Science Olympiad team competed at the New York State Finals.
- Science students competed in the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair.
- For the second consecutive year, the junior high school Mock Trial team was undefeated.

## Questions and Answers

### **Q: What is the tax cap?**

A: In June 2011, New York State enacted a law that restricts the amount of money that municipalities and school districts can raise through their annual tax levies. This is often referred to as the "2 percent tax cap."

### **Q: What does the proposed budget support, and is the tax levy increase above the cap?**

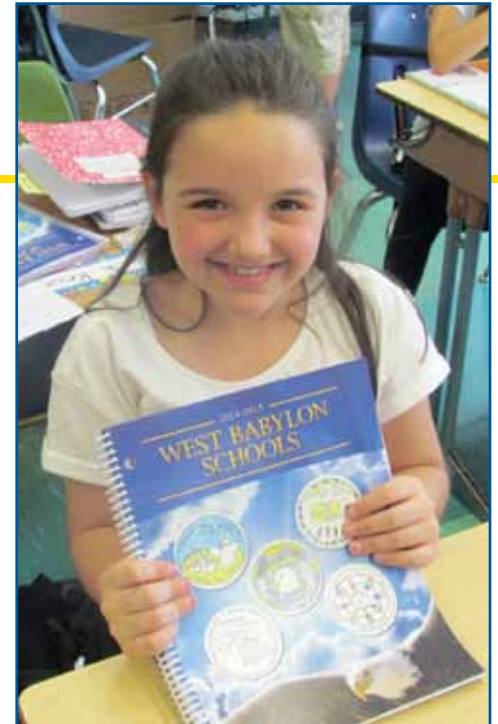
A: The proposed 2015-2016 budget preserves all current instructional and non-instructional programs, athletics, clubs, additional personnel and the establishment of a transfer to capital to fund buildings and grounds maintenance. The proposed budget's tax levy increase is within the allowable limit, therefore only requiring the approval of a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one).

### **Q: Why does the increase in the tax levy cap vary from district to district rather than be a consistent limit for all levels of government?**

A: Each district must complete a tax levy worksheet based upon a formula provided by New York State to calculate its individual tax levy cap. Factors that impact the cap calculation include the tax base growth factor, received PILOT payments, debt service for capital projects and other exemptions, which vary among districts.

### **Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?**

A: Should the proposed budget not receive the required approval by a simple majority, the Board would have the following options: present the same or a revised budget for revote or immediately



adopt a contingency budget. A budget that fails to receive approval at a revote will call for the implementation of a contingency budget.

### **Q: Where can I acquire more information about the district's proposed budget?**

A: Complete copies of the 2015-2016 proposed budget are available in the district office and can be downloaded on the district's website, [www.wbschools.org](http://www.wbschools.org).

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
Residential Customer

## How Do I Estimate My Monthly Change in Taxes?

**\*Based on Estimate of Town of Babylon Certified Taxable Assessed Value of 33,380,139. ASSESSED VALUE FOR 2015/16 UNKNOWN**

Taxable Assessed Value	Tax Rate @ 1.89% Tax Levy Increase	\$ Change from Prior Year \$200.58	Annual School Tax Increase	Monthly School Tax Increase	Annual School Tax Increase with Basic STAR Savings	Monthly School Tax Increase with Basic STAR Savings	Annual School Tax Increase with Enhanced STAR Savings	Monthly School Tax Increase with Enhanced STAR Savings
3,000	\$204.38	\$3.80	\$114.00	\$9.50	\$90.00	\$7.50	\$66.00	\$5.50
3,250	\$204.38	\$3.80	\$123.50	\$10.29	\$99.50	\$8.29	\$75.50	\$6.29
3,500	\$204.38	\$3.80	\$133.00	\$11.08	\$109.00	\$9.08	\$85.00	\$7.08
3,750	\$204.38	\$3.80	\$142.50	\$11.88	\$118.50	\$9.88	\$94.50	\$7.88
4,000	\$204.38	\$3.80	\$152.00	\$12.67	\$128.00	\$10.67	\$104.00	\$8.67

## VOTER INFORMATION

### VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Through Thursday, **May 14**, every school building will serve as a registration site during regular operating hours. Voters may also register to vote at the district clerk's office in the administration building. To verify your registration status, please call the district clerk's office at 631-376-7008.

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots can be obtained at the district clerk's office until May 12 (if the application is to be mailed) or May 18 (if picked up at the district clerk's office). Absentee ballots **MUST** be returned by 5 p.m. on May 19.



### BUDGET VOTE

**Date:** May 19, 2015

**Time:** 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

**Place:** Residents north of Sunrise Highway will vote at Santapogue Elementary School. Residents south of Sunrise Highway will vote at the administration building.

**For further information, please call the district clerk's office at 631-376-7008.**



Scan this code to go directly to the budget page on our website.

**YOUR VOTE MAKES  
A DIFFERENCE.**

**School Budget Vote:  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 • 7 a.m.-9 p.m.**



Publication Coordinator: Elizabeth Sobell/Syntax

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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