

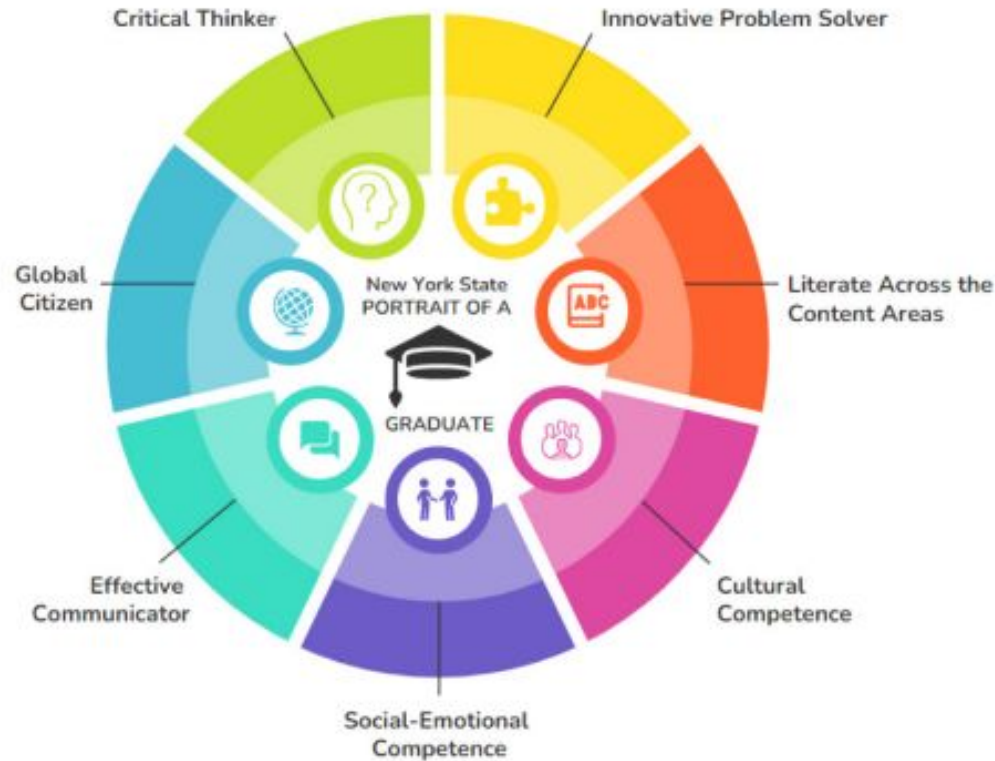


# Westhill Central School District



## 2025-2026 Budget Proposal

# Changing Landscape: Preparing Students For Their Future



# Strategic Priorities



- **Sense of Belonging:** Foster an affirming, welcoming, and supportive school community that promotes belonging and elevates the unique voices of students, families, and staff.
- **PK-12 Vertical Alignment:** Implement a comprehensive, PK-12 guaranteed and viable standards-aligned curriculum.
- **Mental Health:** Create a culture and environment of understanding, support and belonging for mental health and wellness across the school community.



# Strategic Priorities Continued



- **Opportunities for Students:** Increase equitable opportunities and engagement to meet the unique needs of all students.
- **Special Education:** All students with disabilities will have opportunities to engage in all aspects of their school (academic, social, athletic, and artistic) to facilitate their inclusion as a valued member of the school community.





# Academic Highlights

- Current Enrollment of 1,737
- 96% Regents Diploma (NYS: 84%)
- 70% Advanced Designation (NYS: 33%)
- 97% Graduation Rate (NYS: 86%)
- 23 College Courses currently offered
- Last year 225 High School students took at least one college course.



# Academic Highlights

- Westhill High School Academic Decathlon Team: 2025 2nd place NYS Championship.
- Westhill High School: Recognized as a 2025 *'Project Lead The Way'* Distinguished High School
- Westhill Senior nominated by the State Education Department for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. *(1 of 25 students in NY)*



# Fine Arts Accomplishments



- 2025 recipient of the “Best Communities for Music Education in America” designation by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation & National Association for Music Education for the 9th consecutive year.
- Students competed in the annual Scholastics Art Competition earning 1 Gold Key, 3 Silver Key, and 5 Honorable Mention Awards
- More than 30 Music Students selected to instrumental and vocal honor groups including:
  - NYSSMA Area All-State
  - Syracuse Youth Wind Symphony
  - Symphoria Youth Orchestra
  - OCMEA All County Band, Chorus
  - NYSBDA Honor Band
- 400+ students involved in Chorus (3-12)
- 300+ students involved in Band (5-12)



# Athletics Accomplishments

## Spring 2023 (8 sports)

- 328 Athletes (7-12)
- 102 NYS Scholar Athletes
- 8 out of 8 varsity teams recognized as NYS Scholar Team Winners
- 2 League Titles, 1 Section 3 Champion

## Fall 2024 (8 sports)

- 358 Athletes (7-12)
- 112 NYS Scholar Athletes
- 7 out of 8 varsity teams recognized as NYS Scholar Team Winners
- 2 League and 2 Section 3 Championships, 2 State Finalists





# Athletics Accomplishments

## Winter 2024-2025 (7 sports)

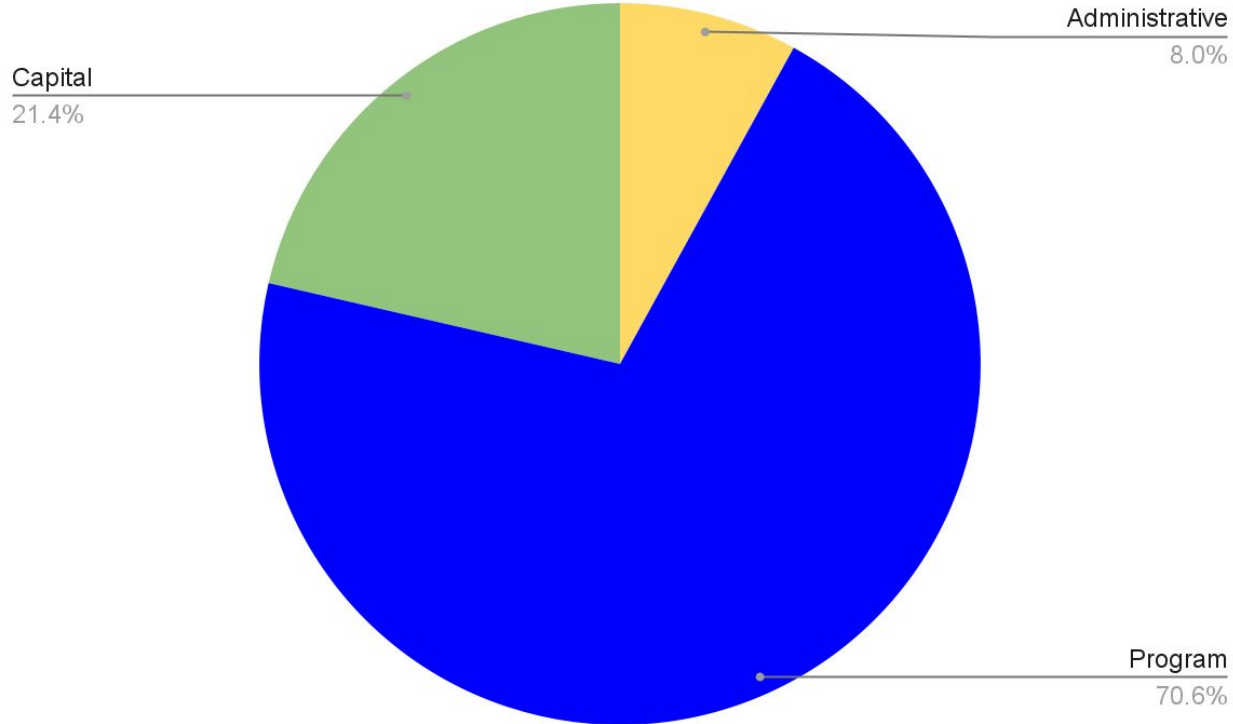
- 260 Athletes (7-12)
- 94 NYS Scholar Athletes
- 4 out of 7 varsity teams recognized as NYS Scholar Team Winners
- 2 League and 2 Section 3 Championships



# 2025-2026 Draft School Budget

Component	2024-2025	% of Budget	2025-2026	% of Budget
Administrative	\$ 4,094,238	8.2%	\$ 4,215,243	8.0%
Program	\$35,236,470	70.5%	\$37,053,357	70.6%
Capital	\$10,661,117	21.3%	\$11,262,211	21.4%
	\$49,991,824		\$52,530,811	

# 2025-2026 Budget \$52,530,811



<b>BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>DRAFT</b>
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			
Board of Education	\$20,656	\$16,088	\$16,682
Central Administration	\$277,659	\$280,465	\$288,568
Finance	\$476,643	\$522,876	\$522,275
Staff	\$102,056	\$115,688	\$116,859
Central Services	\$2,809,153	\$3,546,942	\$3,750,257
Special Items	\$314,750	\$352,679	\$366,203
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$4,000,918</b>	<b>\$4,834,737</b>	<b>\$5,060,843</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
Instr., Admin., & Improvement	\$1,560,053	\$1,603,775	\$1,629,219
Teaching - Regular School	\$11,194,464	\$11,798,176	\$12,221,471
Special Apportionment Programs	\$4,715,926	\$5,511,036	\$6,037,096
Occupational Education	\$313,063	\$359,273	\$407,895
Teaching - Special Schools	\$48,968	\$63,835	\$65,086
Instructional Media	\$1,177,673	\$1,330,861	\$1,394,866
Pupil Services	\$2,385,546	\$2,593,994	\$2,683,945
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$21,395,693</b>	<b>\$23,260,950</b>	<b>\$24,439,579</b>
<b>PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>			
District Transportation Services	<b>\$2,221,388</b>	<b>\$2,567,031</b>	<b>\$2,671,002</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED</b>			
Employee Benefits	\$11,235,607	\$12,719,496	\$13,356,447
Debt Service	\$6,772,071	\$6,492,610	\$6,831,540
Interfund Transfer	\$1,627,797	\$117,000	\$171,400
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$19,635,475</b>	<b>\$19,329,106</b>	<b>\$20,359,387</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$47,253,474</b>	<b>\$49,991,824</b>	<b>\$52,530,811</b>





# Estimated 2025-26 Appropriation Changes from Contractual Obligations

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	
Salaries	\$ 22,175,168	\$ 23,039,287	3.9%
FICA	1,731,073	1,777,200	2.7%
TRS	1,800,623	1,844,817	2.5%
ERS	776,274	884,343	13.9%
Health/Dental	<u>7,900,902</u>	<u>8,394,614</u>	6.2%
	\$34,384,040	\$35,940,261	4.5%
BOCES	3,858,621	3,952,091	2.4%
Debt Service	<u>6,492,610</u>	<u>6,831,540</u>	5.2%
	\$44,735,271	\$46,723,892	4.4%

# Estimated 2025-2026 Revenues

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	
State operating aid	\$ 17,703,462	\$ 18,247,095	3.1%
State building aid	<u>4,439,521</u>	<u>4,711,999</u>	6.1%
Total state aid	22,142,983	22,959,094	3.7%
Tax Levy	24,641,690	25,305,116	2.69%
Miscellaneous	1,350,139	1,311,973	-2.8%
Appropriated FB	<u>1,857,012</u>	<u>2,954,628</u>	59.1%
Total Budget	\$ 49,991,824	\$ 52,530,811	5.1%



# Tax Cap Calculation

2024-25 Tax Levy (\$24,641,690 - \$2,026 reserve)	24,639,664	
Tax Base Growth Factor	1.0090	
	\$24,861,421	
2024-25 capital exemptions	-1,373,880	
<b>Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy</b>	\$23,487,541	
Allowable Levy Growth Factor (lesser of CPI or 2%)	1.02	
Tax Levy Limit (to NYSOSC b4 3/1/2025)	\$23,957,292	
2025-26 capital exemptions	+1,347,824	
<b>2025-26 Maximum allowable tax levy</b>	\$25,305,116	<b>2.69%</b>
	\$663,426	

# Estimated 2025-26 Tax Bill

Full Market Value (0.6235 equalization rate)	200,000
Total Assessed Value	124,700
2024-25 Tax Rate (weighted average)	<u>32.061089</u>
Taxable Assessed Value	3,998.02
2024-25 Basic STAR Savings	<u>(649.22)</u>
2024-25 School Tax	3,348.80
2025-26 Projected School Tax Increase	+107.90



# Comparison of Recent Budgets

Dates	Budget Increase	Tax Levy Increase	Weighted Average Tax Rate Increase
2019-20	4.13%	2.93%	1.21%
2020-21	1.03%	2.62%	2.06%
2021-22	2.38%	1.33%	1.12%
2022-23	5.95%	2.01%	1.56%
2023-24	6.48%	2.42%	0.45%
2024-25	6.34%	4.02%	2.76%
2025-26 <sup>1</sup>	5.08%	2.69%	2.69%
Average	4.48%	2.57%	1.69%

<sup>1</sup>Assuming no change in property assessments

# Interfund Transfer

The general fund budget includes a \$100,000 capital outlay to remediate vinyl asbestos tile (VAT) from the band room at Onondaga Hill Middle School.

Approximately 83.2% of the capital outlay expenditure will be reimbursed to the district in 2026-27 as NYS building aid.



# Propositions

1. General Fund Budget
  2. Vehicle Purchase
  3. Onondaga Free Library Proposition
  4. One Board Of Education Seat
- 
- U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age and a resident of the district for 30 days prior to May 20, 2025

# Proposition II: Vehicle Purchase

One 66 passenger diesel	173,132
One 60 passenger w/ wheelchair	200,551
One 30 passenger cutaway	104,049
One minivan	62,269
Est. tariff (if applicable)	120,000
Interest expense (~4%)	69,294
<u>Approximate State Aid<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>-533,714</u>
Net cost to Local Taxpayers	207,555
Est. annual tax impact over 5 years	\$ 9.83
(\$200,000 full value assessment & Basic STAR)	

<sup>1</sup>Buses are state aided at approximately 72%





# Proposition III: Onondaga Free Library

- There will be a separate proposition to increase the levy for the Onondaga Free Library to \$189,085 which is an increase of \$5,507.



# **Proposition IV: Board of Education Candidates**

One, Five-Year Term, July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030

**Andrew Starowicz**



# Absentee Ballots

1. Ballot may be marked with a pen or pencil.
2. To vote on this ballot, make a single cross “X” mark or a single check “✓” mark in the voting square.
3. Any erasure or mark in a voting square other than a single cross “X” mark or a single check “✓” mark will render the ballot blank as to that item.
4. Any mark or erasure outside of a voting square, any defacing or tearing of the ballot, and any other extrinsic act such as enclosing paper or other article in the folded ballot is unlawful, and will render the entire ballot void.
5. If you mark this ballot wrongly, erase anything on it, tear, or deface it, promptly contact the District Clerk at 315-426-3272 or [LLowe@WesthillSchools.org](mailto:LLowe@WesthillSchools.org) to obtain another ballot.
6. Fold the completed ballot so as to conceal your votes and enclose it in the absentee ballot envelope provided. The envelope must be addressed and signed.
7. A ballot box will be available at the Westhill High School on May 20th for drop-offs.



# Voter Challenges

1. Upon request from the District Clerk, the absentee voter list is available for inspection by qualified voters.
2. Any qualified voter may “challenge” another voter’s qualifications.
3. Any voter’s qualifications may be challenged.
  - Voter is not 18 as of May 20, 2025.
  - Voter is not a United States citizen.
  - Voter has not lived in the District for 30 days prior to May 20, 2025.
  - Voter is disqualified from voting.
4. Challenges may be submitted in advance, by telephone or in writing, to the District Clerk.
5. Challenges will be accepted until 9:00 pm on May 20, 2025.





**2025-2026 BUDGET VOTE  
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025  
7:00 am to 9:00 pm  
WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM FOYER**

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN  
5:00 PM**

As a result of enhanced security procedures at the high school, **ALL VOTERS** are required to use the **GRAND AVENUE ENTRANCE**.

The District will be using the optical scanning machines as required by law. These are the same machines used in the primaries and general election.



# Thank You!

