



# Worcester

## CENTRAL SCHOOL

*Strive, Support, Succeed!*



### BUDGET At a Glance

PROPOSED BUDGET

**\$12,158,746**

SPENDING INCREASE

**2.3%**

PROPERTY TAX LEVY INCREASE

**2.19%**

#### What is on the Ballot?

This year, the Worcester CSD ballot will include:

A proposition to open a Vehicle Purchase Reserve Fund. Voters will decide whether or not to open the reserve for future purchases of student transportation vehicles and related equipment.



### Budget VOTE

**Tuesday May 16, 2023 | 12-8 p.m.**

Worcester Central School Library,  
198 Main Street

## Voters to decide on \$12.1 million proposed budget, proposition, board election

### Budget preserves opportunities for students, stays below tax levy limit

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Worcester Central School voters will decide on a \$12,158,746 budget proposal for the 2023-2024 school year that maintains all academic and extracurricular programming for students as they currently exist. The proposed budget is a 2.3% increase in spending year-over-year.

"Our goal is to continue providing excellent educational opportunities to our students," said Superintendent Tim Gonzales. "We work hard to be fiscally responsible, keeping our taxpayers in mind, and believe this budget proposal is a reflection of this." Voters will also vote on a vehicle purchase reserve proposition, and to elect two members of the Board of Education.

## Merger and Capital Project Update

A majority of Schenevus voters cast "no" ballots on a proposed merger on Wednesday, Feb. 15, ending a process that began more than two years ago.

The vote was the final say in the proposed annexation merger, which would have combined the two districts into one under the leadership of the Worcester CSD Board and superintendent. Had the vote been positive, Worcester would have annexed Schenevus, effective July 1, 2024.

"The voters have made it clear that this is not the direction they want our districts to go, but the partnership we have built with Schenevus can still continue," Worcester CSD Superintendent Tim Gonzales said. "We look forward to continuing to collaborate and work together in the future."

Worcester's capital project is still underway despite the outcome of the merger vote, and at the April 12th board meeting, William H Lane Incorporated was named as the winning bidder for construction management. Construction will begin late Spring of 2024.



## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Designation

Worcester Central School has received its 2023-2024 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Designation and is proud to inform our community that we have achieved the designation of “Local Support and Improvement” (LSI), what was previously called “Good Standing”.

As you may recall, in 2016, Worcester Central School was designated as a Focus District based on performance of economically disadvantaged students in Grades 3-8 on the NYS ELA & Math assessments. Initially, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) reviewed our district, requiring both the school and district to create a School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) and a District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. SCEP and DCIP teams were created and those plans have since been maintained every year with the goal to improve academic improvement.

We celebrate this new designation and will continue to work diligently for our students in years to come!

### Makenna Ventuleth earns title of Valedictorian

Makenna Ventuleth has been named Worcester Central School’s Class of 2023 Valedictorian. Makenna is the daughter of Jessica and Adam Stoutenburg and Richard Ventuleth. She has attended Worcester Central School since Pre-K. She has been a member of the soccer and basketball teams and has participated in extracurricular activities including band, chorus, school musicals, the National Honor Society, and Wolverine Pride Club. Makenna has attended the New Visions Health Care Professions program this year. She plans to attend college, majoring in biology, and wants to pursue a career in medicine.



### Sophia Adams earns title of Salutatorian

Sophia Adams has been named Worcester Central School’s Class of 2023 Salutatorian. During her time at WCSD, she has participated in a variety of clubs including the National Honor Society, Student Council, SkillsUSA, Varsity Club, and is soon to be inducted to the National Technical Honor Society. Sophia is a class representative at Worcester and class president at Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES where she attends the New Visions Engineering program. Sophia has been accepted to Rochester Institute of Technology, Clarkson University, York College of Pennsylvania, and SUNY Broome. Sophia plans to pursue a Bachelor’s in mechanical engineering technology.



## Worcester CSD moving to SchoolTool

We are excited to announce that Worcester CSD is moving to SchoolTool for its student information system. Previously, the district has used PowerSchool, but starting in the 2023-24 school year, we will be using SchoolTool.

This new system will allow students, families and staff to access information on schedules, attendance, assignments and more, all presented in an easy-to-use format. SchoolTool also includes a Parent Portal that will enable parents/guardians to review information regarding students and their progress. We hope that the access to this information will increase communication between our district and home.

As we transition to using this tool, we will be in contact with parents/guardians to help explain the process for signing up for SchoolTool and any steps that need to be completed to obtain access to SchoolTool’s features.

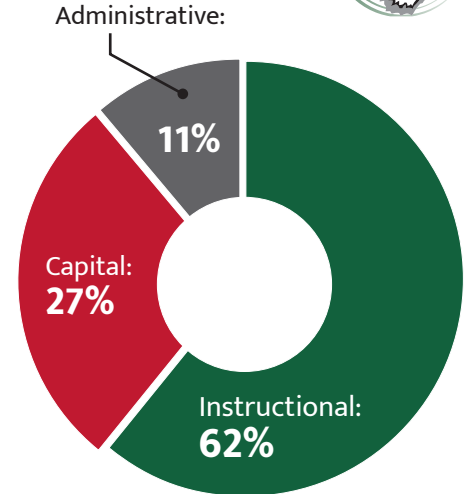


## 3-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

### Where does the money go?

#### A line-by-line look at Expenditures

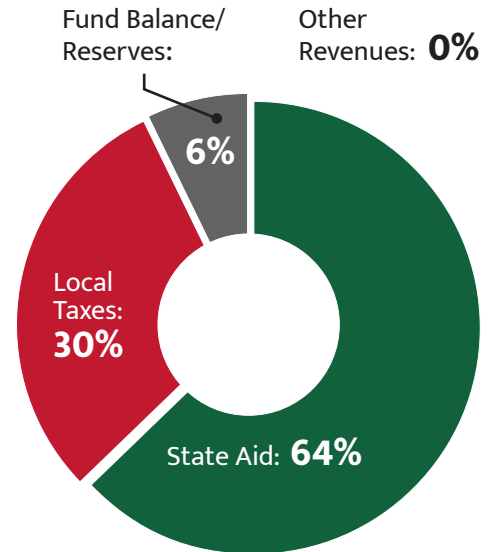
EXPENSES	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	% Change
Administrative	\$1,303,221	\$1,366,976	4.9%
Program	\$7,346,534	\$7,555,970	2.9%
Capital	\$3,235,251	\$3,235,800	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,885,006</b>	<b>\$12,158,746</b>	<b>2.3%</b>



### Where does the money come from?

#### A line-by-line look at Revenues

REVENUES	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed	% Change
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$685,000	\$675,000	-1.46%
Other Revenues	\$47,000	\$49,000	4.26%
State Aid	\$7,558,829	\$7,761,713	2.68%
Local Taxes	\$3,594,177	\$3,673,033	2.19%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$11,885,006</b>	<b>\$12,158,746</b>	<b>2.3%</b>



## Two seats on the Board of Education

On Tuesday, May 16, voters will elect candidates to fill two seats on the Worcester Board of Education. One seat is for a five year term, and one seat is for a two year term. The individual who receives the most votes will receive the longer term. **Visit the website for each candidate's full bio: [www.worcestercs.org/boardofeducation](http://www.worcestercs.org/boardofeducation)**

### James "Jim" Conroe

I graduated from WCSD in '93 and have lived in the community for many years. I represented Worcester on the merger committee, and learned about costs, budgets, enrollments, and other aspects for the success of WCS. If elected, I am committed to doing what is best for our children, staff, and our community taxpayers.



### Peter Kwiatkowski

I have been on the Worcester BOE for the last ten years and am seeking re-election. Together we have closed capital projects, updated our transportation needs, and enhanced communication. Even with these accomplishments, we still have work to do. I will continue to work with fellow board members on the issues that challenge our district.



### Justin Frost

I have lived in Worcester since 1986 and graduated from WCS in 2000. Both of my children attend WCS. My career with Springbrook ranged from early intervention and preschool through high school graduation for students with developmental disabilities. Thank you for considering me for such an important endeavor.



## Board of Education

William Fisher, *President*

Stacey Serdy, *Vice President*

Peter Kwiatkowski

Tanya Shalor

Jim Conroe

Tim Gonzales, *Superintendent*

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**Budget, 2023-24**

## Budget Vote Information

### What will I be voting on?

- \$12,158,746 budget proposal for 2023-24
- Vehicle Purchase Reserve Fund
- 2 school board seats (see p. 3)

### When and where do I vote?

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 12-8 p.m. at the Worcester CSD Library

### Who is eligible to vote?

District residents who are U.S. citizens, 18 years old or older and residents for at least 30 days prior to the vote; and are not otherwise disqualified under the Education Law.

### Do I need to register to vote?

No, but the WCSD may require all persons offering to vote to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to education law.

### How can I vote by absentee ballot?

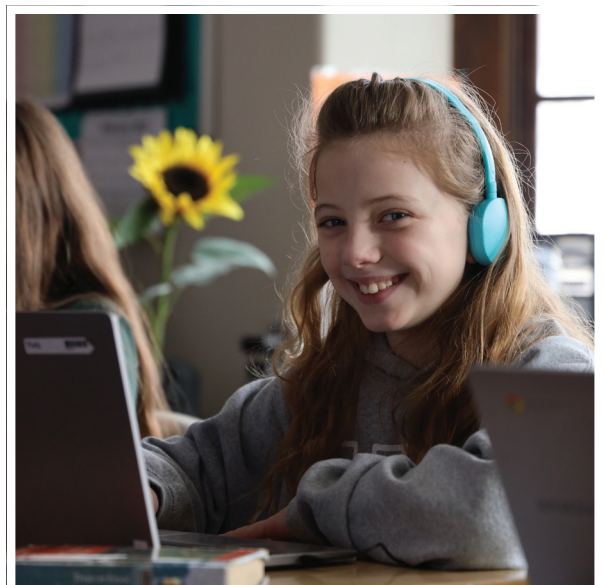
Absentee ballots are available by application for residents unable to vote on the day of the referendum. Absentee ballots should be requested at least two weeks prior to the vote date. To request an absentee ballot, please contact the district clerk, Wendy Elliott by phone at 607-397-8785 Ext. 116 or in-person at the district office, 198 Main St, Worcester, NY 12197. All ballots are due by 5 p.m. on May 16.

## WHAT IF THE BUDGET VOTE FAILS?

The Board of Education can adopt a contingent budget which would require WCSD not to increase the current levy by any amount.

To make up the \$78,856 incurred with a contingency budget, WCSD would look to possibly cut program expenses or increase the amount we would have to take from our fund balance.

Alternatively, the district may choose to hold a revote to be held on June 20th.



## Board of Education 2022-23 Meetings Schedule

May 3, 2023: Budget Hearing - Worcester Central School Library, 6:30 p.m.

May 24, 2023: Worcester Central School Library, 6:30 p.m.

June 21, 2023: Worcester Central School Library, 6:30 p.m.