



DISTRICT News

Making Every Dollar Count - 2014-2015 Budget

The development of the District budget is a year-long process including careful long-term planning. This process is multi-faceted including budget preparation, presentation, review by the Board of Directors and community members, and formal budget adoption. During this process there are a variety of decisions made by the Board and administration.

Last December, the Board adopted a resolution indicating the District would not raise taxes beyond the 2.1% index for 2014-2015. In the following months, District administrators worked to review requests and make necessary revisions. In March, public sessions were held to review the details of both the

spending summary

Expenditures	2014-2015	% to Total
Instruction	64,706,283	63.95%
Support Services	28,817,246	28.48%
Non-Instructional Services	1,266,942	1.25%
Facilities	403,625	0.40%
Other Financing	5,991,135	5.92%
Total	\$101,185,231	100%

expenditure and the revenue budgets. In June, the budget, which included the recommended tax levy, was approved.

The total budgeted expenditures for 2014-2015 are \$101,185,231. More than 92% of the budget is focused on instruction and support services. These categories include classroom teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, classroom supplies, and other resources to support student learning.

The total budgeted revenues for 2014-2015 are \$101,116,352. The majority of the revenue budget comes from local sources, including real estate and earned income taxes.

sources of funding

Revenue	2014-2015	% to Total
Local Sources	71,441,900	70.65%
State Sources	27,100,922	26.8%
Federal Sources	1,006,730	1.00%
Other Sources	1,566,800	1.55%
Total	\$101,116,352	100%

In accordance with the Public School Code, school districts must approve a balanced budget. Therefore, the difference between the budgeted revenues and expenditures is offset by the fund balance. A fund balance is a reserve much like a homeowner's savings account. The District must plan carefully how it

uses the fund balance to ensure it does not run out and that sufficient funds are available to cover the cost of unforeseen expenses throughout the school year.

Additional information concerning the 2014-2015 budget may be found on the District's website on the Business Office department page. Information and presentations shared with the Board concerning the development of the 2015-2016 budget will also be made available on our website in the coming months. In an economic climate marked by decreasing revenues and increasing costs, the District is sensitive to the burden local taxpayers face and continues to explore ways to generate funds and reduce expenses without jeopardizing the integrity of West Shore's tradition of providing "Excellence in Education."



CPAVTS courses of study

Advertising Art
and Design

Automotive Collision
Technology

Automotive Technology

Carpentry

Child Care

Computer Information
Systems

Cosmetology

Criminal Justice

Culinary Arts

Dental Assisting

Diesel Technology

Electrical Construction
and Maintenance

Electronics Technology

Graphic Communications

Health Careers
Technicians

Horticulture

HVAC

Logistics and Warehouse
Management

Masonry

Nursing/
Nursing Assistant

Precision Machine
Technology

Welding

Opportunities Abound at Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School

For many years, the Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School (CPAVTS) has enrolled students in tenth through twelfth grade, from 13 participating school districts, including the West Shore School District.

Results from a student enrollment survey showed tenth grade students felt hesitant to leave their home based high school once they had completed their freshman year. In response to this information, in 2013-2014, CPAVTS launched a pilot program, working with one of the districts, where enrollment was expanded to ninth grade students. Based on the success of this pilot program and support from our Board of Directors, this school year, West Shore has partnered with CPAVTS to expand our own program and provide ninth grade students with the opportunity to attend CPAVTS.

In the past, West Shore has typically sent approximately 170 students to CPAVTS for the morning session to study in their chosen field, as well as social studies coursework. This year, West Shore is proudly sending approximately 210, including 13 ninth grade students. This increase is due in part to our continued efforts to promote the many opportunities available at CPAVTS to prepare for a career or trade, pursue post-secondary education, earn college credits, or enter the workforce in good paying jobs immediately after high school. Last spring, eighth grade students participated in a district-wide Middle School Career Awareness Day, visitations to CPAVTS, and presentations highlighting the programs offered at CPAVTS.

For ninth grade students who complete one of CPAVTS' programs in three years, several options are available for them during their senior year of high school. These include cross training in a related program at CPAVTS, enrolling in college courses, or returning to spend their final year of high school at Cedar Cliff or Red Land.

West Shore is excited to expand its long-standing partnership with CPAVTS and further enhance the options available for our students to pursue their future career goals.

If you would like additional information about the CPAVTS program, please contact your child's guidance counselor or Dr. Tammi Jones, Director of Secondary Education, tjones@wssd.k12.pa.us.

Property Tax Relief

With the passage of Act 1 of 2006, the Taxpayer Relief Act, school districts have the means to lower property taxes to homeowners via funding provided by gaming revenue.

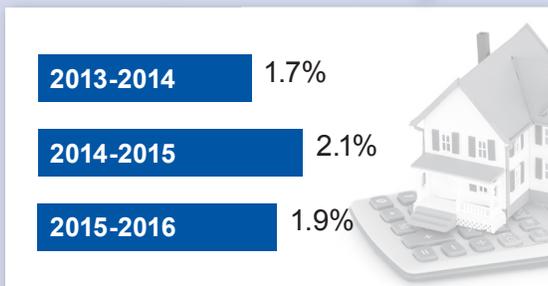
For the 2014-2015 school year, District taxpayers received \$81.99 in homestead/farmstead relief. The reduction in assessed value was \$8,470 for properties in Cumberland County and \$6,512 for properties in York County.

All approved properties are eligible to benefit from homestead/farmstead relief. Homeowners who are unsure if they qualify or if their home has been approved, should contact their county's assessment office. Participation in this property tax relief program is not mandatory nor is it automatic.

Another aspect of Act 1 is the base index. Each September, the Department of Education determines the West Shore School District's Act 1 base index by calculating the average of the percentage increase in the statewide weekly wage and the percentage increase in the Employment Cost Index for elementary and secondary schools for the preceding calendar year.

As mentioned on the front page, for 2014-2015 the District did not increase real estate tax rates above the 2.1% base index. The impact of the base index on tax rates for 2015-2016 has yet to be determined.

base index history



Keeping Up with Changes to School Meals and Smart Snacks



For the second year, the District is partnered with Whitsons School Nutrition to provide breakfast and lunch in all schools. This year, all students can look forward to promotional activities such as: Brunch for Lunch and Holiday Theme Meals.

Secondary students can look forward to Guest Chef Days and the return of tiered meal offerings, such as specialty sandwiches, salads, and Italian favorites. Elementary students can look forward to Lucky Tray and Safari Theme Days.

The Smart Snacks in School regulations issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) require the District to follow specific requirements related to the sale of a la carte items. These regulations are sensitive to age of the student, serving size, calories, fat, sodium, and other nutritional values, among other things. Detailed information about these requirements can be found on the USDA website at www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/smart-snacks-school.

The District continues to see increased participation in the free and reduced meal price programs. Families who may be experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to review the eligibility requirements for participation in these programs to see if they qualify. Information, including the necessary application, can be found on the Food Services department page on the District's website.



Mission Statement

The West Shore School District is committed to providing this generation with a quality education serving as a foundation for responsible and successful citizenship.

Board of School Directors

Anthony J. Tezik, Ed.D., President
Ronald L. Candioto, Jr., Vice President
Judith A. Crocenzi
Denise N. Grover
Brian K. Guistwhite
Frank J. Kambic
Abigail A. Tierney
Christopher D. Weidenhammer
Kelli C. Williamson

Administration

Todd B. Stoltz, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jamie A. Whye, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

West Shore School District

507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803
New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803
www.wssd.k12.pa.us

NON-PROFIT
CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
YORK, PA
Permit No. 600

The West Shore School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws governing educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577. Revised 7-2014

District Goals for 2014-2015

This school year, we invite you to join us in supporting our students, our programs, and our collective effort to achieve excellence as the District focuses on the following areas:

- **District and School Improvement/Growth** – Ensure the employment and implementation of a consistent process for District and school improvement/growth. This includes analyzing data and using it in a meaningful way to improve student learning, as well as developing and implementing plans for targeted improvement.
- **Management of District Resources** – Ensure the effective management of the District’s financial, human, and operational resources to provide a quality educational program that supports continuous District and school improvement/growth. This includes developing the annual budget to reflect the needs of the District and managing resources in a responsible, efficient, and effective manner.
- **Community Involvement** – Ensure the employment and implementation of a process that communicates and provides feedback of timely and relevant information to a variety of stakeholders, including students, in order to promote community involvement in the District’s educational program. This involves communication through a variety of means, incorporating print, electronic, and other technological means.

We welcome your questions and your input as members of the school community and encourage you to email us at contactus@wssd.k12.pa.us.